



United Nations Development Programme

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

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

A judge of the Special Criminal Court
in the Central African Republic.

Photo: UNDP CAR
NIYI FAGBEMI



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¹ Country profiles marked as GFP detail results achieved under the framework of the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law, a UN partnership mechanism coordinated by UNDP and the UN Department of Peace Operations.

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² References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

FOREWORD

Breakthroughs in science, technology, and other fields have opened up incredible opportunities – showing what we can achieve when we work together. Yet, rising inequality, democratic backsliding, and growing mistrust in institutions have left many people cut off from the promise of development.

At this critical time, advancing the rule of law and human rights is essential. They are a bridge to rebuild trust, strengthen resilience, and ensure progress reaches everyone, everywhere.

This 2024 annual report of UNDP's Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development shows how we are responding to some of the most pressing challenges of our time. It details UNDP's work across more than 100 countries and territories. That includes supporting national partners to expand access to justice, strengthen human rights protections, and build institutions that serve people with fairness and dignity.

As of 2024, UNDP's efforts have helped to advance access to justice for over 58.7 million people.

This report highlights how innovation, partnerships, and people-centered approaches are driving meaningful change. In *South Sudan*, for example, over 17,000 people accessed justice through courts and police protection units. In *Kyrgyzstan*, sustained engagement helped increase the national legal aid budget more than ninefold between 2018 and 2024, expanding services to thousands.

Through platforms like the UN Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law and the Gender Justice Platform, we are fostering new collaboration across the UN system and beyond.

Our expertise has also contributed to shaping global norms. That includes the European Union's Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive, which calls on companies to avoid harming human rights and peace in conflict-affected areas.

This report reflects the dedication of countless people and institutions working to uphold the principles of justice, security, and human rights. Together with our partners and donors, we are proving that progress is within reach when it is grounded in principles that leave no one behind.



Haoliang Xu
Acting Administrator, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



INTRODUCTION

As we launch this global report on rule of law and human rights, I'm reminded of the people behind the numbers – those living through war, displacement and climate shocks. I've met many of them, from Syria to South Sudan, Ukraine to the Central African Republic (CAR). Despite unimaginable challenges, they continue to seek justice and rebuild their lives. In 2024, one powerful moment stood out: the Special Criminal Court in CAR awarded financial reparations to victims for the first time. A milestone in the fight against impunity.



In every crisis, justice, human rights and the rule of law are essential tools for recovery and peace. Through our Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development, UNDP supported over 100 countries and territories last year. In *Ukraine*, more than 254,000 people, including displaced persons and survivors of war-related crimes, received legal aid through the Free Legal Aid System. In *the State of Palestine*, over 13,500 people accessed legal assistance through our [joint programme with UN Women and UNICEF](#).

We've adapted to complex and fragile environments by supporting national systems that are fair, inclusive and grounded in local realities. In *Myanmar*, land disputes are being resolved through a Collaborative Dispute Resolution mechanism, with more local mediators trained to handle civil conflicts. In *Yemen*, women mediators and paralegals resolved over 1,300 grassroots disputes, mostly family-related, working closely with civil society and formal institutions. These efforts are often the only accessible form of justice for many.

Security is another area where we've seen tangible progress. In *Somalia*, over 4,000 people – 1,700 of them women – shared their concerns and ideas directly with security officials. This participatory approach helped shape police reform and rebuild trust. In *Mali*, local residents were involved in security initiatives that led to a noticeable drop in attacks in previously high-risk areas.

Reducing armed violence is also central to our work. Through SALIENT, our joint initiative with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, six countries made significant progress in 2024. *Ghana* passed a new Arms Bill aligned with international standards. *Kyrgyzstan* piloted a digital weapons registry to improve firearm traceability. In *Jamaica* and *Honduras*, young people, some of whom used to carry firearms even in schools, learned to resolve conflicts peacefully. These are the kinds of changes that ripple through communities.

A strong rule of law is a powerful antidote to the root causes of conflict, forced migration and instability. In situation of forced displacement, we support displaced people and host communities alike. In *Lebanon* and *Moldova*, Syrian and Ukrainian refugees received legal support, while we worked to strengthen social cohesion in host areas. In *Bangladesh's* Cox's Bazar, we aim to improve local security through safe plans designed jointly by the police and the communities. In *Moldova*, UNDP piloted a system to monitor and respond to social tensions in refugee-hosting communities.

Our commitment to inclusion remains strong. In *Guatemala*, Indigenous women and youth were empowered to become community tourist guides, preserving historical memory while gaining economic independence. In *Fiji*, police reform included a community policing model tailored to Indigenous coastal communities, blending formal governance with traditional practices.

At the policy level, we launched the [Human Rights-Based Approach Toolkit](#), a practical guide for using human rights to solve problems, anticipate risks and build resilience.

I am grateful for the continued support of our partners that drives our work to ensure human dignity, rights and justice for a safer world. In 2024, the Global Programme operated thanks to the generous contributions

of Austria, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Japan, The Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States.

This report is a reflection of the courage and determination of people working for justice in the most difficult circumstances. Women leading community dialogues. Youth reimagining justice. Institutions striving to reform. We stand with them, not just in recovery, but in the heart of crisis. Their resilience is what drives us forward.



Shoko Noda,
UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator, Crisis Bureau Director

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This is the 2024 annual report of UNDP's Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development (the Global Programme), UNDP's primary mechanism for programming in these areas. The Global Programme is implemented by the Rule of Law, Security and Human Rights team, which in 2024 was integrated into the newly established Governance, Rule of Law and Peacebuilding Hub, co-managed by UNDP Crisis Bureau and the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS).

In 2024, the Global Programme provided financial, technical and expert support to over 100 countries and territories worldwide. Nearly 40 of these are featured in this report, offering an overview of UNDP's integrated work on rule of law, human rights, justice and security in conflict-affected, crisis, fragile or post-conflict contexts: in the Balkans, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Myanmar, the State of Palestine, Ukraine, Venezuela, Yemen and beyond.

In addition to highlighting the Global Programme's achievements, this report outlines UNDP's broader contributions to advancing the rule of law, justice, security and human rights. It focuses on contexts where sustained and, in many cases, long-term support from the Global Programme has enabled the continuity of programming and/or catalysed additional resources and expanded efforts.

Beyond country and territory level results, the report also presents progress under the Global Programme's three core workstreams: people-centred justice and security; human rights; and business and human rights.

A key emphasis of the report is the Global Programme's unique role as a platform for partnerships across the UN system and beyond, in line with UNDP's designated role as an 'integrator' and in support of the One-UN approach.

The Global Programme continues to invest in improving how it captures, understands and communicates its impact – stimulating learning and facilitating knowledge sharing among partners and rule of law practitioners. A new feature of this year's report is a dedicated Lessons Learned section, summarizing key insights from UNDP's policy and programming work.

In 2024, as conflicts intensified, political instability deepened and civic space continued to shrink, UNDP remained unwavering in its commitment to advancing the rule of law, justice, human rights and security. These pillars are not only essential safeguards in times of crisis, they are the foundation for peace, protection and recovery. As global governance faces unprecedented challenges, the need for these lifelines is acute. UNDP continues to stand with national partners, civil society and communities to uphold multilateral values, deliver inclusive and rights-based solutions and expand the pathways to justice and accountability for all.

In 2024, the Global Programme operated thanks to the generous contributions of Austria, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Japan, The Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States.

IMPACT. RESULTS BY COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

AFRICA

Regional overview

In 2024, Africa experienced significant developments in rule of law, security and human rights. It was a super-election year, with [25 percent of the world's elections](#) occurring on the continent, testing democratic resilience and governance. Peaceful transitions in Ghana and [Namibia](#) showcased democratic progress, while [Mozambique's](#) disputed election highlighted vulnerabilities, underscoring the fragility of electoral processes.

Africa continued to follow the global pattern of declining rule of law. According to [the World Justice Index](#), 57 percent of nations showed a downward trend. This global decline is often characterized by diminished constraints on government powers and weakened protection of fundamental rights, issues that are prevalent in politically unstable regions of Africa, such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia and Mali.

A worrying rise in military coups d'état and unconstitutional power transitions continues to challenge the rule of law in Africa, notably in countries such as Chad, Gabon and Guinea, and several members of the Alliance of Sahel States (AES). These actions destabilize political systems, erode public trust and hinder democratic processes. In several countries, political polarization and weak institutional frameworks have exacerbated tensions, limiting progress on democratic governance and human rights protections. UNDP's work remains focused on strengthening resilience, supporting inclusive dialogue and ensuring that justice institutions remain functional and accessible despite these challenges.

Transitional justice processes played a critical role in addressing Africa's legacies of conflict and human rights violations. The [African Union's Transitional Justice Policy](#) guided efforts to embed transitional justice into national contexts, prioritizing inclusive processes that engaged youth and women. South Sudan and the Gambia, for example, advanced in establishing truth-telling, reparations and institutional reform mechanisms.¹

UNDP remained at the forefront of advancing the rule of law, justice and human rights across Africa. Its partnerships with the African Union (AU), African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR), International Development Law Organization (IDLO), Cordaid, UN Women and the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies (Pathfinders) have strengthened efforts to promote inclusive, people-centred justice and transitional justice initiatives across the continent. For example, UNDP and the AU jointly launched regional training on transitional justice policy implementation and collaborated with ACHPR to support state reporting on human rights compliance.

At the country level, UNDP worked with national governments and civil society organizations to implement programmes that address critical justice and human rights challenges. In Madagascar, UNDP supported the development of frameworks to improve human rights due diligence in the mining sector, addressing governance challenges tied to natural resource management. Liberia's justice system received targeted support to advance transitional justice and strengthen the rule of law, while in Kenya, efforts focused on comprehensive police reform to enhance accountability and community trust. In Guinea-Bissau, justice initiatives prioritized accessibility and inclusivity, ensuring marginalized groups have greater access to legal remedies.

¹ Further information is available through the African Union Transitional Justice Policy (2019) and national truth commission reports, such as those from The Gambia's Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission.

In 2024, transitional justice remained a cornerstone of UNDP's work, providing a pathway to reconciliation, accountability and sustainable peace. UNDP collaborated with the AU on a joint work plan to guide the implementation of the transitional justice processes across Africa. Such platforms as the African Youth for Transitional Justice (AY4TJ) and African Women for Transitional Justice were established, amplifying the voices of youth and women in shaping transitional justice strategies and fostering inclusive participation.

UNDP's focus on people-centred justice underscored the importance of tailoring justice systems to the realities of local communities. In Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Tanzania, UNDP supported national partners to align national justice systems with global and regional frameworks, prioritizing inclusivity and accessibility for marginalized populations. Collaboration with UN Women and other partners ensured a gender-sensitive approach to justice reforms, while Pathfinders resources supported evidence-based policy development to foster just and inclusive societies.

The Business and Human Rights (B+HR) agenda continued to gain momentum, reflecting Africa's growing commitment to align with international responsible business standards, such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). Liberia followed Ghana, Kenya and Uganda in adopting a National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (NAP), while Ethiopia, Malawi and Tanzania advanced their NAP processes. These efforts align with broader regional frameworks such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the African Union's Agenda 2063, underscoring the need to harmonize NAPs with economic and governance priorities.

The following examples illustrate the results achieved on Business and Human Rights through the direct support from UNDP's Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development (the Global Programme).



In Rwanda, young women are entering professions that were once dominated by men, including roles like machine operation.

Photo:
UNDP Rwanda

In **Rwanda**, an assessment of the status of business and human rights was conducted in 388 private companies, this served as a basis for a capacity building programme and provided critical information for the ongoing preparation of the NAP on B+HR. In collaboration with the National Commission for Human Rights (NHRC), UNDP organized training for 90 participants, of whom 33 were women, including NCHR staff and private sector representatives. Furthermore, an inclusive and gender-sensitive communications strategy was developed to increase awareness on B+HR among diverse audiences. Finally, UNDP supported a workshop on the NAP process in Rwanda, engaging the NHRC, trade unions and civil society.

In **Senegal**, the Human Rights Department of the Ministry of Justice, in partnership with the National Human Right Commission, organized national consultations on business and human rights in the strategic regions of Thiès, Saint-Louis, Kédougou and Fatick, where allegations of human rights violations linked to business activity are rife. These inclusive consultations engaged businesses, workers, representatives of administrative, judicial and religious authorities, community leaders, civil society organizations (CSO's), and communities, associations or groups of people affected by business activities. This approach was instrumental in identifying the issues and challenges in the regions and approaches to developing the relevant policies to address them.

In **Tanzania**, UNDP supported the National Baseline Assessment to inform the NAP development. Broad consultations in various regions engaged communities affected by negative business practices, workers, small-scale miners and fisheries, trade unions, vulnerable groups, CSOs, businesses, government and development partners. In addition, the Government established thematic working groups, creating a platform for local communities and small- and medium-scale enterprises to share information and recommendations. With UNDP's support, the Commission on Human Rights and Good Governance drafted the NAP which was presented to the National Steering Committee.

Looking forward

In 2025, Africa's regional priorities will include deepening efforts in transitional justice, people-centred justice and business and human rights. Opportunities lie in strengthening regional collaboration, scaling innovative programmes and integrating digital technologies into justice systems. Such challenges as political instability and resource constraints will need to be mitigated. By fostering innovation and leveraging partnerships, Africa can continue shaping global conversations on justice and human rights, advancing its steadfast commitment to accountability, sustainability and equitable development.

Burkina Faso

Key results

- UNDP supported the revision of the Criminal Procedure Code of Burkina Faso and the law on judicial organization, streamlining case processing, reducing prison overcrowding and expanding district courts' jurisdiction to improve access to justice.
- Over 560 individuals, including 290 women and survivors of gender-based violence, received legal aid through legal clinics, while awareness campaigns and media broadcasts reached approximately 880,000 people, including internally displaced persons.
- Fourteen mobile court hearings were conducted, benefiting nearly 4,000 individuals and issuing over 4,400 legal documents, thereby enhancing trust in the justice system and enabling access to public services.
- Following a successful pilot, the digital system for issuing criminal records was expanded to all 27 district courts, serving over 86,300 individuals and improving access to essential services and employment opportunities.

In Burkina Faso, the security situation remains volatile, with continued conflict and an acute humanitarian crisis. The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) [remains high](#),² despite the return of 1,010,136 people from 165,375 households with 697 places of origin, according to information provided by the Government in January 2025. In addition to distrust, access to justice is impeded by logistical and financial barriers, as well as insecurity and complexity of procedures. Due to the financial constraints that make it difficult to move to cities, rural women in particular face serious barriers in accessing justice, as the courts are located in cities.

In this context, UNDP's Social Cohesion, Security and Rule of Law Programme³ (CoSED, 2019-2025) continued to facilitate access to justice in areas facing security challenges, strengthen national human rights institutions, security actors and civil society. In 2024, a new initiative under the CoSED Programme was designed, based on its mid-term assessment, to address the urgent justice needs of vulnerable and remote communities, as well as to develop the new programmatic framework for the rule of law portfolio in Burkina Faso. This new initiative was implemented through UNDP's Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development.

To support IDPs, survivors of conflict-related sexual violence and communities affected by injustices, UNDP collaborated with the Ministry of Justice and Human rights, the Burkinabè Movement for Human and People's Rights (MBDHP), the Centre for Information and Training on Human Rights in Africa (CIFDHA), civil society and international partners. In cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights and under the Sectoral Framework for Dialogue on Justice and Human Rights, UNDP convened partners for enhanced coordination on justice and human rights.

To improve the delivery of justice, the CoSED programme supported the revision of the Criminal Procedure Code, aiming to streamline case processing and reduce prison overcrowding. The reform ensures that defendants have timely access to justice. The programme also contributed to revising the law on judicial organization, aligning it with the updated Criminal Procedure Code. Key innovations include expanding the jurisdiction of district courts to cover labor, criminal and administrative matters, bringing justice services closer to communities.

² On March 31, 2023, the country had 2,062,534 internally displaced persons (IDPs), according to statistics from the National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR). Since then, new displacements have been reported due to security shocks, but official data are not available.

³ A multi-partner programme that brings together government institutions and civil society organizations coordinated by the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights.

To support internally displaced women who became victims of gender-based violence, the project, in synergy with other activities implemented under the CoSED framework, enabled psychosocial, legal and judicial support provided through legal clinics.

A strong partnership with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) helped to identify cases requiring immediate assistance. Over 560 individuals, including 290 women, received legal aid services, while over 11,000 people benefited from awareness raising sessions.

To further raise public awareness on legal rights and the justice system, the CoSED programme collaborated with 30 local civil society organizations to conduct six awareness campaigns and five media broadcasts, reaching approximately 880,000 people.

The CoSED programme invested in building the skills of justice professionals. Forty judicial police officers, including seven women, were capacitated to better handle gender-based violence cases. The dedicated focal points provided support to 43 gender-based violence survivors, including 15 children.

In addition, 54 magistrates and court clerks were trained in managing complex cases, including those related to terrorism and financial crimes. The programme strengthened the capacity of 24 officers from eight district courts to improve public-facing and information services. Five Reception and Information Offices were equipped and served over 222,000 users, helping to reduce psychological barriers to accessing justice.

Under the overall framework of the CoSED programme, 14 mobile court hearings were organized, benefitting nearly 4,000 individuals, almost a quarter of whom were women. Over 4,400 legal documents were issued, including criminal records, nationality certificates and civil status rectifications. Three of these hearings were supported through the Global Programme. During these sessions, the presence of the magistrates enabled three civil servants in charge of land registry service and presidents of departmental courts to take oath and start delivering justice on the ground. Overall, the mobile court hearings improved access to justice, fostered trust in the judicial system and enhanced understanding of legal processes. With their new identity documents, individuals will become eligible for public services and will be able to travel around the country without restrictions. Notably, the mobile courts localities were selected in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and Human rights to maximize impact.

In addition, four criminal sessions were held in the Appeal Courts of Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso, enabling legal assistance for over 100 accused individuals, including seven women. These sessions contributed to reducing case backlogs and improving the efficiency of the criminal justice system.

Digital innovation for justice was one of the project priorities. Initially, UNDP planned to expand the system for electronic issuance of criminal records which was rolled out through the CoSED Programme in four pilot courts. In Burkina Faso, criminal records are necessary to obtain identification documents, access basic services or to apply for a job. Due to the pilot's success, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights secured internal resources to expand the system to all 27 district courts. In 2024, the system served over 86,300 individuals, including almost 26,000 women. Given the expansion was completed nationally, UNDP worked with the IT department and the Minister to redirect the funds towards digitizing the delivery of nationality certificates, a critical document for Burkinabe citizenship, enabling access to ID cards, passports and employment. The system was piloted in four different courts.

Looking forward

In 2025, UNDP will continue supporting the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights in Burkina Faso through key initiatives. Thirteen mobile court hearings will bring justice services closer to remote and vulnerable communities. Legal clinics will be strengthened with a new operational guide to ensure effective legal assistance and long-term sustainability. In line with national priorities, UNDP will help establish a digital system for issuing nationality certificates—vital for accessing ID cards, passports and jobs. Special attention will be given to facilitating civil status documentation for internally displaced persons, particularly women. As the CoSED programme concludes, UNDP will lead the design of a new Rule of Law programme, engaging stakeholders in a strategic planning process that began in late 2024.

The CoSED programme in Burkina Faso has made significant strides in strengthening access to justice, building institutional capacity and supporting legislative reforms to ensure a more inclusive and effective justice system.

Burundi

Key results

- Over 550 detainees were released and nearly 600 detainees received legal and psychosocial assistance as a result of interventions by Burundi's national human rights institution (CNIDH), inspections by the Public Prosecutor's Office and civil society, supported by UNDP. These interventions improved human rights for detainees and strengthened human rights infrastructure for the most vulnerable.
- UNDP expanded access to civil justice and legal recourse for people living in Burundi. Through targeted legal aid and institutional engagement, over 7,500 individuals received access to justice in relation to land disputes in rural areas, mediation between the public administration and population, or for socioeconomic reintegration for sexual and gender-based violence survivors.
- Institutional capacity-building was central to driving long-term change and promoting people-centred justice and security. This includes training for 200 local mediators, 200 police officers, 74 judges, and 85 court and correctional officers. These efforts streamlined human rights-based approach, ethics, support to sexual and gender-based violence survivors, and laid the foundation for digital trials.

Burundi remains low on the [Human Development Index](#), ranking 187 out of 193 countries, and 43rd out of 53 countries⁴ on the [Mo Ibrahim African Governance Index](#). In 2024, Burundi faced additional challenges, such as a fuel shortage and severe flooding which forced many people out of their homes and led to a 25 percent increase in the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs). These challenges were exacerbated by foreign exchange deficits, limiting the country's ability to import essential goods and reinforcing economic hardship for the population.

In 2024, to contribute to transformative governance reforms and improve people's access to human rights and justice, UNDP launched two governance portfolios with UNDP's new portfolio approach, convening a wide range of national partners to maximize adaptability and impact. In particular, UNDP brings together the Prime Minister's Office, Court of Accounts and General Inspection of the State, the Ministry of Justice, the judiciary and security sector, as well as the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) and the Ombudsperson. The portfolios were designed with the support of UNDP's Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development (the Global Programme) to ensure access to justice for those most left behind, including pre-trial detainees, survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, and people in rural areas facing civil justice issues such as land disputes.

The rule of law and access to justice portfolio reflects a renewed political will to build public trust in the rule of law, justice and security, and facilitates joint efforts towards a people-centred justice sector, including criminal and civil justice chains as well as the penitentiary system. Under this approach, UNDP pilots justice sector reforms to enhance social cohesion, community security, prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence, along with digitalization of the justice chain and joint learning and co-creation by all actors. These efforts link to the governance portfolio on effective institutions to promote transparency, accountability and the fight against corruption. UNDP also supports land titling so that land ownership is formalized to reduce disputes and enhance women's access to land.

The portfolio also includes delivery of the UN Joint Human Rights Programme to strengthen the human rights infrastructure in Burundi with the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR), UN Women, UNICEF and UNESCO, co-

⁴ Mo Ibrahim African Governance Index. Burundi. Available at <https://iiag.online/fr/locations/bi.html>.

funded by the Netherlands and Switzerland. Building on the portfolio's work on rule of law and its convening capacity, including the Global Programme's catalytic funding, a new Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) project for 2025-2027 was designed to promote dialogue between ethnic groups and different generations, and contribute to healing of trauma resulting from past violence and crises. Similarly, another PBF programme will soon be finalized on youth, peace and security, given that more than 40 percent of Burundians are under 15, and to promote young people as actors for peace and justice and the implementation of the [African Union strategy on Youth, Peace and Security](#).

UNDP promoted access to civil justice for 7,503 individuals through various channels. A total of 2,637 beneficiaries, including 1,300 women, obtained rulings issued by the Supreme Court. Additionally, 4,344 beneficiaries received rulings from the Special Court for Land and Other Property through mobile court hearings, with 2,320 women among them. The Ombudsperson's office facilitated the resolution of 450 dispute cases between individuals and public administration, meaning 1,356 people, including 533 women, obtained a satisfactory resolution to their disputes without resorting to courts. These efforts ensured greater access to legal recourse, enhanced the protection of rights, and promoted social cohesion. In partnership with two national non-governmental organizations (NGOs), UNDP supported 280 sexual and gender-based violence survivors by providing psychosocial services and socioeconomic reintegration in their communities.

On the promotion and protection of human rights, especially for detainees, the NHRI (the CNIDH) and the Public Prosecutor's Office visited places of detention, while civil society reported on the human rights situation, leading to immediate progress in individual cases, as well as to improved detention conditions in view of a corrections policy. Given the important role of the NHRI supported in 2024, its A-status was renewed in 2025. In 2024, the NHRI visited 224 detention cells of the judicial police and ten prisons, leading to the release of 757 persons (including 104 women and 11 girls). In parallel, the Public Prosecutor's Office



In Nyanza-Lac (Southern Burundi), the Special Court for Land and Other Property is enforcing a ruling on a land dispute during a mobile court session.

Photo:
UNDP Burundi /
Tatien Nkeshimana

carried out three prison inspections to review detainees' files and evaluate the progress in their cases. Finally, UNDP supported a national NGO to identify legal and other needs in five prisons, to provide direct assistance and inform policy development. As a result, 250 detainees benefitted from legal assistance, while 330 individuals received psychosocial support. In 30 cases where unlawful detention was identified, the accused were either released or their sentences were adjusted. Additionally, 80 prison officers were trained on detainee rights and detention practices.

To strengthen the capacities of rule of law institutions, UNDP delivered training for 329 hill-level⁵ community leaders known as “notables collinaires” in Burundi, including 100 women, on their new formalized role as mediators. Furthermore, 200 national police officers, including judicial police as well as community police, were capacitated on investigating sexual and gender-based violence and human rights-based approach. Over 70 judges improved their knowledge on ethics, and 85 judicial personnel and corrections officers upgraded their skills in holding digital trials.

Looking forward

In 2025 and beyond, UNDP will continue to improve access to justice at the local level through support to service delivery and human rights monitoring, while aiming at opening space and commitment for broader political will and structural reforms.

Some of the concrete actions will entail supporting the NHRI's early warning system and their enhanced presence across the country; promoting a more integrated approach to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence; establishing of a national legal aid mechanism; designing community security plans; and partnering with civil society organizations to promote women's leadership in the rule of law and social cohesion. In an election year, and given the regional political and security context, this will be particularly relevant.

A broader focus will require resource mobilization and diversification of contributions in a context of global reduced funding and extreme economic hardship in Burundi.

⁵ The smallest administrative unit in Burundi's local governance framework.

Central African Republic

GFP

Key results

- The Special Criminal Court issued its second judgment in the Ndélé massacre case, convicting four individuals for crimes against humanity and war crimes (the judgment is currently under appeal). In another case (Paoua massacre), nine direct victims (including five sexual violence survivors) and 32 families affected by the attack on the villages, received financial reparations, marking a historic milestone in the fight against impunity in the Central African Republic (CAR).
- UNDP's support to national institutions helped increase access to justice for girls and women in CAR. For instance, the number of beneficiaries of the Joint Rapid Intervention and Repression Unit for Violence Against Women and Children increased by almost 2,000 compared to the previous year. Over 21,000 people, most of them women and girls, received protection and legal aid.
- To support the security sector reform and to ensure that security forces adopt community policing, UNDP delivered training for the internal security forces and strengthened legal frameworks to enhance transparency, accountability and oversight.

Since 2020, the Central African Republic (CAR) has seen gradual improvements in governance, security and the rule of law, following decades of violent conflict. Many regions formerly controlled by armed groups have been reclaimed, and state authority has slowly returned. However, residual insecurity, underdevelopment and a fragile institutional environment remain.

The crises of the past, particularly in 2013 and the recent crisis in 2021, negatively affected CAR's development trajectory. Armed groups systematically targeted state officials and infrastructure, disintegrating justice and security institutions. These dynamics, compounded by poor governance, politicized security forces and regional inequalities, created widespread feelings of marginalization and contributed to a cycle of impunity.

In 2024, CAR took key steps to strengthen its path to sustainable development. The adoption of the National Development Plan (NDP) for 2024-2028 marked a strategic shift from humanitarian assistance to long-term development, serving as the blueprint for CAR's development path, including in justice and security sectors. Despite these gains, resource mobilization remained difficult due to global crises, including instability in neighboring Sudan and overall decline in development funding.

The Joint Rule of Law Programme in CAR is one of the flagship UN joint programme modalities operationalized through the UN Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law (GFP). The programme is implemented by UNDP and the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in CAR (MINUSCA) in cooperation with the Team of Experts on Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict (ToE). This 'One-UN' approach facilitates resource mobilization and allows the UN to leverage the comparative advantages of different agencies and work towards common objectives.

In 2024, UNDP's Rule of Law, Justice and Security portfolio in CAR focused on reinforcing justice institutions, strengthening transitional justice and supporting security sector reform as part of efforts to restore state authority and build sustainable peace. Despite sociopolitical and security constraints, the portfolio made critical contributions through both technical and financial support, in close coordination with the Government and key partners.

UNDP played a central role in advancing transitional justice through continued support to the Special Criminal Court (SCC) which delivered its second judgment in the crimes against humanity and war crimes case (Ndélé 1 case) in December 2024, and launched its third trial (in Ndélé 2 case) in June 2024. In the Paoua case, financial reparations were paid to victims of war crimes and crimes against humanity, including five survivors of sexual

violence and 32 families. For the first time, the SCC awarded financial reparations to victims, contributing to breaking the cycle of impunity and responding to the long-standing demands for justice and accountability in CAR. In parallel, legal aid was provided to 15 victims, and 48 detainees received medical assistance.

UNDP also supported the implementation of the national Justice Sector Policy (extended to 2027), coordinated thematic working groups, and contributed to effective investigations and court operations through capacity-building. Thanks to the support provided to the Joint Rapid Intervention and Repression Unit for Violence Against Women and Children (UMIRR), a total of 2,289 complaints were registered, including 998 cases of sexual violence, over 1,000 cases of gender-based violence, and 357 case files were submitted to the judiciary. This support to UMIRR, along with the operationalization of the National Legal Aid Committee, helped increase the number of gender-based violence survivors accessing justice in CAR in 2024.

With support from UNDP and MINUSCA, criminal court sessions were organized in Bangui, Bouar and Bambari, leading to the processing of over 120 cases. These efforts strengthened the ordinary justice system and advanced the fight against impunity.

UNDP prioritized accountability and technical reinforcement of internal security forces (police and gendarmerie), while also strengthening collaboration with UN Police, Security Sector Reform (SSR) Unit and national actors under the GFP umbrella. To ensure that security forces adopt community policing, a training was organized for 20 trainers and 16 officers from the Internal Security Forces (ISF). Moreover, the legal framework was strengthened through the development, validation and submission of two regulatory texts and two draft laws related to governance and accountability within the Ministry of the Interior and Public Security. These legal frameworks will enhance transparency, accountability and oversight within the internal security forces.

Looking forward

The UN joint programme modality implemented under the Global Focal Point arrangement will continue its efforts in restoring the state authority and breaking the cycle of impunity in CAR through investing in people-centred justice, security, sustainable peace and development.

The portfolio will also strengthen its support to accountability and transitional justice process in CAR through providing support to the SCC as well as to the Truth, Justice, Reconciliation and Reparation Commission (CVJRR). As we hope to suggest the SCC to accelerate its work, it will be essential to mobilize the resources and secure sustained political support to ensure the court operates effectively and delivers high-impact results.



Judges of the Special Criminal Court in the Central African Republic.

Photo:
UNDP CAR /
Niyi Fagbemi

Côte d'Ivoire

Key results

- 1,710 people obtained official civil documents, including birth certificates, nationality certificates and national identity cards. This includes 1,600 people in eight villages of Tchologo and Bounkani who received IDs and were enabled to exercise civil, political, social and economic rights.
- More than 8,000 people, including 5,200 women, were reached through two community awareness campaigns designed to promote the importance of civil documentation and encourage participation.
- Four community dialogue meetings were organized between the Defense and Security Forces (FDS) and local communities, with the participation of over 400 people, including 105 women, to strengthen trust and build a framework for community security.
- Two training sessions were organized for the FDS representatives, community, women and youth leaders on human rights, including freedom of movement and preventing abuse from the side of security forces.

In Côte d'Ivoire, UNDP promoted the right to identity, as well as equal access to justice and public services in the northern border areas of the country. Communities in these territories (in particular, the Tchologo and Bounkani regions) have long suffered from an unstable security situation, exacerbated by the instability in neighboring Mali and Burkina Faso. Recently, cross-border movement has surged, including the influx of [over 60,000 asylum seekers](#). Upscaled security measures around the northern borders which included intensified security checks created additional obstacles for people without identification documents (IDs), bringing more relevance and urgency to the project supported through UNDP's Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development (the Global Programme).

As the issue of access to administrative documents is a cross-cutting challenge involving several national and local actors, UNDP developed an integrated approach, partnering with the National Identification Office (ONECI), the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Economy, the mayors of the communes, regional councils and the National Human Rights Council (CNDH), engaging also with media and youth organizations. The leadership of the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Economy was instrumental in the success of this national effort. Combined with ONECI's technical expertise, it laid a solid foundation for the results achieved. This collaborative approach strengthened national ownership at every stage and enhanced coordination among all partners.

The project was made possible thanks to the financial support of Germany, through a larger programme aimed at promoting youth and women's engagement to reduce conflicts and consolidate peace in northern Côte d'Ivoire.

The project's close cooperation with UNICEF allowed it to reach youth and families, including children from the Fulani ethnic group, most of whom had no administrative documents.

As the key achievement of the initiative, 1,710 people, almost a third of them were women, received personal documents, such as identification documents (issued for 1,600 people in eight villages in the Tchologo and Bounkani regions), birth certificates and nationality certificates.

“I am so happy. It used to be very difficult for me to travel. Sometimes they asked me to show my identity card, and I felt shame. I was afraid of the police because I didn’t have a card. But today, everything changed,”

– said one of the beneficiaries from the locality of Nassian.

With identification cards, people will be able to exercise their civil, political, social and economic rights, including to move freely, open bank accounts, apply for income-generating state grants that will ultimately ensure their empowerment.

To leave no one behind, UNDP and ONECI set up mobile teams that visited the elderly and persons with disabilities in their homes to issue and certify the documents. In addition, during the rainy season, the team went to the locality of Nafoungolo in the sub-prefecture of Diawala, as residents could not leave due to flooding.

To inform communities about the registration benefits and encourage participation, UNDP supported ONECI in organizing two awareness raising campaigns in Niéllé, Kaouara, Tehini and Nassian (Tchologo region), targeting mostly young people and women. Community and civil society leaders, as well as religious guides, were successfully engaged as intermediaries. More than 8,000 people were reached, including over 5,200 women. To ensure a smooth registration process, two workshops were organized for gendarmerie brigades, police, traditional community chiefs, local peace committees, and community volunteers.

The CNDH was UNDP’s key partner in the awareness-raising and capacity building activities. It also worked directly with the communities to follow up on the rejection appeals, ensuring that no one was denied an ID due to discriminatory practices. As a result, 94 rejection claims were resolved. To ensure that security measures in the cross-border regions do not affect the rights of the local population, UNDP organized four meetings between the



Over 1,700 people in Côte d'Ivoire obtained official civil documents, including birth certificates, nationality certificates and national identity cards, enabled to exercise civil, political, social and economic rights.

Photo:
UNDP
Côte d'Ivoire

Defense and Security Forces (FDS) and communities to develop a dialogue framework for community security. Over 400 people participated, including 105 women. Finally, two training sessions were organized for the FDS and community representatives, women and youth leaders on human rights, including freedom of movement and preventing abuse from the side of security forces. In a few statements made during public events, the FDS officials called on the ranking officers to avoid negative or harmful behaviour to maintain peaceful social climate.

Following a needs-assessment exercise, UNDP provided equipment for civil-military committees that will contribute to awareness-raising and improve early warning mechanisms and community dialogue, preventing conflicts between security services and communities.

Looking forward

The need for identification documents remains high. At its next stage, the project will reinforce its focus on women and youth, establishing a climate of peace and trust between communities and the FDS, benefitting from the funding opportunities offered by the Government.

UNDP will strengthen the material resources of civil registry structures and provide administrative support to facilitate connection between remote communities and urban administrative centres.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

GFP

Key results

- The introduction of four groundbreaking digital tools in the criminal justice chain enhanced transparency, efficiency and record-keeping, reducing case processing times and corruption risks.
- Efforts to reduce prison overcrowding included mobile court hearings, resulting in over 100 case considerations and detainee releases, with fair trial guarantees and financial compensation for victims.
- UNDP strengthened collaboration between alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and the formal justice system, enhancing the legitimacy and sustainability of mediated outcomes, and trained local mediators in conflict resolution with a focus on human rights and gender considerations.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), UNDP coordinated the implementation of the UN Joint Programme to Support Justice Reform (2020-2024). Developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and the Supreme Council of the Judiciary (CSM), the programme strengthened the rule of law through a holistic and multidimensional approach to supporting the criminal justice chain. The efforts to improve governance and coordinate the National Justice Reform Policy are implemented at the central level in Kinshasa, the capital, while interventions for accountability and access to justice cover Kasai Central, Tanganyika and North Kivu.

The Joint Programme is strategically aligned with key UN, national, and regional frameworks guiding peacebuilding, governance and human rights in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It contributes directly to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF 2020–2024), particularly Strategic Priority 1 on peace consolidation, human rights, protection of civilians, social cohesion and democracy. It also aligns with the Integrated Strategy for the Stabilization of the East (ISSSS), the UN Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) regional strategies and UN Security Council Resolution 2502. The programme contributes to the achievement of SDG 16 and UNDP DRC's Country Programme Document (CPD 2020–2024).

Under the CSM supervision, the programme was implemented by MONUSCO, the UN Joint Human Rights Office (UNJHRO), the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict (ToE) and UNDP. The UN Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law (GFP) has supported the programme since its inception, through UNDP's Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development. For sustainability and national ownership, the programme operated in partnership with the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Human Rights, the Supreme Council of the Judiciary, Bar Association, and other agencies at national and provincial levels.

In 2024, the complex political and security context in the DRC affected the programme's implementation. On the political front, following the President's re-election for a second term, major reforms were initiated to strengthen the rule of law and judicial independence. The Prime Minister presented an ambitious programme aimed at restoring public confidence in institutions, with the judicial sector among the priorities. At the same time, the security situation in the east of the country, marked by armed conflicts and the state of siege in provinces such as North Kivu, severely impacted access to justice and programme operations. Furthermore, within the framework of MONUSCO's transition, the programme had to ensure sustainability of the progress achieved in the field of justice, particularly in areas where the mission has disengaged.

As a breakthrough achievement, four digital tools were developed and introduced in the criminal justice chain, in collaboration with judicial authorities. These tools enhance transparency and efficiency across judicial and penitentiary systems. A *Prisoner Management Information System* was deployed in 12 cities to streamline detainee record-keeping. Judicial and prosecution offices benefited from a *Judicial Activities Management System*, which reduced case processing times and improved oversight through real-time performance dashboards. The *Magistrates Management System* brought greater transparency to the handling of magistrates' records, while the *Criminal Record Management System* simplified digital access to archives and strengthened the management of criminal records. Together, these tools support real-time monitoring, accurate data reporting and better record-keeping, while also helping to detect procedural errors and reduce corruption risks.

One of the programme's key priorities was to reduce prison overcrowding, exacerbated by the state of siege and the expanded jurisdiction of military courts. At Goma Central Prison, for example, 4,000 people were held in pre-trial detention despite its capacity being approximately 350. To expedite case consideration, the programme organized mobile court hearings in North Kivu, Kasai-Central and Tanganyika. Over 100 cases were considered, including related to war crimes, sexual violence and child conscription. Over 100 detainees were acquitted and released. Fair trial guarantees were observed, with lawyers providing legal assistance to all the defendants. In Kasai-Central, for example, 232 victims, 60 percent women and young girls, participated in the hearings as civil parties, assisted by legal counsel. For all of them, the court awarded individual financial compensation as reparation for their suffering. To guarantee consistent legal assistance for vulnerable individuals, UNDP signed an agreement with the Tanganyika Bar Association.

During regular judicial proceedings, three priority cases related to international criminal law violations were considered at the appeal level in Kasai-Central, resulting in two final rulings on the merits. To achieve this, UNDP coordinated the collaboration among many national and international partners, including national



Mobile court hearing of the Military Court in Kasai Central.

Photo:
UNDP DRC

military justice actors, the Kasai-Central Bar Association, a public body for protection and reparation (FONAREV), the UN Human Rights Office and TRIAL International.

Over 320 civilian and magistrates, including 85 women, in North Kivu, Kalemie, Kasai Central, Tanganyika and Kinshasa strengthened their competencies in ethics, professional conduct and anti-corruption measures. This intervention aimed to promote transparency and reduce misconduct in the judicial system by raising magistrates' awareness of their responsibilities. Furthermore, 750 copies of an updated practical guide on magistrates' disciplinary procedures were handed over to the CSM to further build the magistrates' capacity.

Under the framework of the Joint Programme, UNDP made efforts to strengthen collaboration between alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms and the formal justice system, promoting their integration and the validation of mediation records. While litigants in the DRC often prefer ADR mechanisms for their accessibility and cultural relevance, they lack enforceability. To address this, UNDP supported the recognition of mediated outcomes by the courts, aiming to enhance the legitimacy, effectiveness and sustainability of ADR processes while ensuring alignment with legal standards and human rights principles. In the provinces of Kasai and Tanganyika, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) workshops were conducted for 50 local mediators (including 17 women and 17 youth), enhancing their skills in conflict resolution with a specific focus on integrating human rights and gender-sensitive approaches into their practices.

In parallel to the implementation of the joint justice reform programme, the Global Focal Point supported the review of the Police Programme in DRC. A series of technical review sessions were convened to update the programme document in close collaboration with MONUSCO, UN Police/Security Sector Reform, the UN Human Rights Office, International Organization for Migration, the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS), and national authorities. The participatory process allowed for the substantive enrichment of the document, ensuring alignment with national priorities and coherence with the mandates of involved stakeholders. All partners have formally endorsed the new programme document. When this report was drafted, preparations were underway to convene the Steering Committee for the formal launch and further coordination.

Looking forward

Building on lessons from the 2020–2024 phase, the 2025–2029 UN Joint Programme for Justice Reform will consolidate gains and scale up impactful initiatives. It will expand digital justice tools to improve transparency, efficiency and case tracking across the criminal justice chain. The success of mobile court hearings will be reinforced, with continued efforts to reduce pre-trial detention and prison overcrowding, while ensuring fair trial guarantees and victim compensation. The programme will deepen the integration of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms into the formal justice system, promoting legal recognition and sustainability. Training for local mediators will be strengthened, with a strong focus on gender and human rights, to enhance access to justice for vulnerable groups and support national justice reforms.

The Gambia

Key results

- Mobile legal aid clinics reached 50 communities in the Upper River Region, providing 2,500 people, including 1,500 women, with access to legal services and rights awareness through community dialogues.
- Community dialogues have resulted in a 50 percent decrease in conflict-related inquiries to the governor's office, as participants gained a better understanding of how and where to access legal support through local justice institutions.
- Gender-based issues were the focus of dialogue sessions for women, leading to the documentation of nine cases of gender-based violence, including domestic and intimate partner violence.

Since 2017, The Gambia has been transitioning to democracy. The Recovery Focused National Development Plan (2023-2027) prioritizes good governance and equitable justice services. However, the 2024 Conflict and Development Analysis highlighted barriers to justice such as inequalities, patriarchy, resource constraints and entrenched social norms.

To address this, UNDP funded the National Agency for Legal Aid (NALA) to set up mobile legal aid clinics and community dialogues in 50 Upper River Region communities aimed at supporting vulnerable groups and educating them on human rights and available legal aid.

The community dialogue sessions were designed to foster partnerships between communities, legal and justice actors, including NALA, the Alternative Dispute Resolution Secretariat (ADRS), the Gambia Police Force, the Judiciary, Justice Defenders, the Cadi Court, National Council for Civic Education, the social welfare unit and the Ministry of Justice.

Through this initiative, 1,011 men, 1,532 women, 180 children and 21 persons with disabilities received knowledge about their rights and duties through legal awareness campaigns. Thirteen women obtained one-on-one legal assistance related to land disputes, marriage and divorce, domestic violence and inheritance. Additionally, 36 men received legal assistance with bail applications and general legal advice at Basse Police station. This support helped individuals manage the high cost of legal services and overcome geographic obstacles to accessing justice.

The engagement of women resulted in an increased understanding of human rights, family and succession law, jurisdictions of various courts, basics in criminal and civil procedure, women's rights, rights of persons with disabilities, domestic violence, sexual harassment, and children's rights. The sessions also provided a forum for women to discuss and address gender-based issues, leading to the documentation of nine gender-based violence cases.

According to the Governor of Basse, community dialogues have contributed to a decrease in the number of people seeking his office's help to resolve disputes by at least 50 percent. He attributes this to the improved understanding among participants about where to seek assistance in cases of conflict, emphasizing the effectiveness of the outreach efforts. The involvement of local justice institutions in these dialogues has enhanced understanding of their mandate and encouraged the use of legal services.

Looking forward

The project will continue to strengthen the NALA, review the NALA Act to formally recognize paralegals, improve local capacity for legal aid provision and alternative dispute resolution, enhancing justice access for vulnerable groups. It will launch nationwide legal awareness campaigns via radio and TV and train 50 paralegals across 14 districts in the Upper River Region. These initiatives which support community engagement also align with the new flagship Access to Justice Project that seeks to expand regional legal services.

Guinea-Bissau

Key results

- UNDP, UNICEF and national partners brought legal and registration services directly to remote communities through a mobile justice initiative. Over 3,200 people (including 1,569 women) received civil registration documents. Among them, over 2,000 people gained legal identity. The campaign resulted in a mindset shift towards the systematic registration of new births, enhancing access to judicial and administrative services.
- With the Bar Association of Guinea-Bissau and grassroots civil society organizations, UNDP conducted awareness-raising campaigns in 70 rural communities, involving 8,360 people, including 3,940 women.
- A Gender Audit was conducted, generating concrete recommendations to improve gender inclusion in public policies and strengthen women's empowerment. The audit has laid a strong foundation for future efforts to advance gender equality in the country.
- A national network of women legal professionals in Guinea-Bissau was established, providing a platform for women in the legal field to exchange experiences, insights and best practices.

In 2024, Guinea-Bissau continued to face a complex sociopolitical context. The Supreme Court operated under interim leadership, pending the appointment of a new president. Legislative elections were scheduled for November 2025, with preparations underway including efforts to encourage broader political participation. These dynamics presented ongoing challenges for governance and the consolidation of the rule of law.

In this challenging environment, the interventions funded by UNDP's Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development (the Global Programme) enhanced access to justice, particularly in remote areas, and advanced women's empowerment in Guinea-Bissau. UNDP's innovative approach combined efforts from the Bar Association of Guinea-Bissau (OAGB, acronym in Portuguese) and grassroots civil society organizations (CSOs) to prevent gender-based violence and support the survivors, particularly in rural and marginalized communities. Extensive outreach campaigns led by women's organizations played a crucial role in raising awareness and enhancing access to justice for women, promoting gender equality and ensuring the inclusivity of legal reforms.

Through strategic collaboration with the OAGB, Judicial Police, Centres of Access to Justice (CAJ) and CSOs such as *Rede Nacional de Luta Contra Violência baseada no Género e Criança na Guiné-Bissau* (RENLUV) and the Association of Women Jurists of Guinea-Bissau, UNDP conducted awareness-raising campaigns in 70 rural communities, involving 8,360 people (4,420 men and 3,940 women). The campaigns covered women's and children's rights, mechanisms for reporting sexual and gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health, female genital mutilation, early and forced marriage, avenues for traditional and formal justice, and law, with a focus on women's rights to access land.

To bring legal and registration services directly to remote communities and to promote a culture of justice and active citizenship, UNDP and partners launched a mobile justice initiative. Over 3,200 people (including 1,569 women) received civil registration documents. Among them, over 2,000 people gained legal identity. The campaign resulted in a mindset shift towards the systematic registration of new births, enhancing access to judicial and administrative services. UNDP's partnership with UNICEF was instrumental in expanding access to justice services for children and youth in remote areas.

Within this mobile justice initiative and to further promote a people-centred approach, UNDP engaged local community leaders in radio shows broadcasted via 25 community radio stations across the country. Religious

leaders and human rights activists from grassroots CSOs added their voices to the awareness-raising campaign, informing people about their rights, available services, specific events and meetings under the mobile justice initiative. It is estimated that over 150,000 listeners were reached and sensitized nationwide.

In addition, CAJ maintained a strong presence through its seven offices spread across various regions of the country, ensuring constant availability and continued assistance for access to justice. From January 2023 to August 2024, CAJ assisted 7,263 individuals, including 3,253 women.

To identify and address gender equality gaps within the judiciary, a Gender Audit was conducted through a participatory approach that increased stakeholder engagement, contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of gender disparities in the justice system. Despite resource limitations and political instability, the Gender Audit outlined structural barriers for women's access to justice and generated concrete recommendations to improve gender inclusion in public policies and strengthen women's empowerment. The audit has laid a strong foundation for future efforts to advance gender equality in the country.

A national network of women legal professionals in Guinea-Bissau was established, providing a platform for women in the legal field to exchange experiences, insights and best practices related to gender equality, women's empowerment and human rights within the legal sector. Overall, these initiatives feed into the implementation of UNDP's [Gender Equality Strategy](#) and are supported through the [Gender Justice Platform](#), a UNDP and UN Women partnership.

The support provided by UNDP's Global Programme had a catalytic effect. The results achieved through this project facilitated greater resource mobilization, particularly with the upcoming €5.85 million support from the European Union to sustain and expand access to justice efforts.



UNDP's joint mobile justice initiative with UNICEF and national partners resulted in a mindset shift towards the systematic registration of new births, enhancing access to judicial and administrative services.

Photo:
UNDP
Guinea-Bissau

Looking forward

The upcoming Rule of Law project, starting in 2025 for four years, will play a crucial role in sustaining the progress made in access to justice, especially through CAJ and the OAGB. These institutions, which have been key in providing legal aid and support to marginalized communities, will receive further technical and financial support, ensuring their continued operation and expanded reach.

The project will also integrate mechanisms for the recognition of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) systems, further promoting sustainable access to justice for rural and underserved populations. Through continuous collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and civil society, UNDP will foster national ownership and ensure that these services and reforms are institutionalized, thereby maintaining their impact over time.

Kenya

Key results

- The E-Judiciary Mobile Application is set to transform access to justice in Kenya. This potential is directly linked to the longstanding physical and financial barriers that have prevented marginalized communities and small business owners, including women, from fully accessing the judicial system. By offering a user-friendly platform for e-filing and case tracking, the application simplifies the judicial process and improves efficiency and accountability.
- UNDP supported the two civil society organizations (CSOs) in Mombasa County (Kituo Cha Sheria and Sisters for Justice) in addressing barriers that hinder women traders' access to justice. This was achieved through nine strategic engagement forums with women-based and women-led organizations and by creating a dedicated platform for women traders to openly discuss the obstacles they face in accessing justice and how Small Claims Courts (SCCs) can help overcome these challenges.
- Other interventions that were designed to raise awareness and deepen public understanding of the SCCs included legal aid clinics, community dialogue forums and capacity-building workshops, which in total, reached almost 900 individuals, half of them women. In addition, eight radio talk shows, which reached nearly 5.3 million listeners were conducted.

In Kenya, the need for accountability and the desire to increase citizens' knowledge of how the court system works and their capacity to demand quality services have always been at the heart of judicial reforms. However, this process has often been stifled by chronic underfunding, thereby denting the national justice actors' commitment to fulfill their mandates. For the past six years, the judiciary's budget allocation has consistently been below one percent of the national budget, well short of [the 2.5 percent recommended by the 2010 Task Force on Judicial Reforms](#). This financial shortfall has limited the judiciary's ability to expand services and reduce case backlogs. UNDP interventions funded by the Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development played a crucial role in mitigating these constraints, particularly by improving access to justice for vulnerable groups.

In 2021, Small Claims Courts (SCCs) were instituted in the country, bringing with them the promise of significantly improving access to justice by simplifying procedures and offering affordable legal mechanisms. SCCs are specialized commercial and civil courts whose jurisdiction is limited to claims of a maximum of 1,000,000 Kenyan shillings (approximately US\$7,752) and capable of expeditiously determining matters within 60 days. By early 2024, the SCCs had resolved over 50,000 cases, and [injected 9.3 billion Kenyan shillings](#) (approximately US\$71 million) back into the Kenyan economy, thereby reinforcing the courts' role as a vehicle for social transformation and economic empowerment.

In 2024, in a bid to accelerate awareness about SCCs among vulnerable populations, particularly women, UNDP provided technical and financial support to the Judiciary to develop the E-Judiciary mobile application for SCCs. This application provides accessible e-filing and case tracking systems, thereby removing physical and financial barriers to justice, especially for small businesses and vulnerable groups. It aligns with the judiciary's vision of "*Social Transformation through Access to Justice*", which seeks to harness technology to improve access to justice and reach an additional 20 million Kenyans by 2031. The E-Judiciary application was developed in collaboration with the Office of the Registrar Magistrates Court. The mobile application is set to be launched in May 2025.

UNDP facilitated the SCCs Adjudicators Symposium, which brought together justice stakeholders from across Kenya. The symposium served as a vital platform for the exchange of knowledge on legal reforms, case management and the digitalization of court services. The symposium provided essential legal training

as well as an opportunity to emphasize the need for adherence to the Adjudicators Code of Conduct, which is important to enabling adjudicators to handle cases more efficiently and uphold the quality of justice delivery.

The partnership between UNDP and the Judiciary led to the establishment of Court Users Committees (CUCs) for Mombasa's SCC, the first SCC in Kenya to have a formalized CUC. This committee brings together justice actors, civil society organizations, the business community and administrative representatives. It serves as a structured forum where regular users of the SCC can share best practices, provide feedback, address emerging issues and collectively resolve challenges. The CUC has also established a Community of Practice (COP) which is acting as an online knowledge sharing platform for the members. Beyond supporting transparency, accountability and improved access to justice, the CUCs also play a critical role in resolving administrative issues that affect court operations. More broadly, the general functions of these committees encompass the identification and resolution of both administrative and justice-related concerns faced by the court. This collaboration has enhanced the Judiciary's institutional capacity and ensured the effective integration of digital tools, such as the SCC mobile application, into the justice system, ultimately reducing case resolution time and improving overall efficiency.

To address capacity gaps among judicial officers, UNDP's Accelerator Lab is developing e-learning content in partnership with the Kenya Judiciary Academy (KJA). Additionally, strong partnerships with key stakeholders, including the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), has enabled UNDP to leverage broader initiatives to enhance access to justice for Kenya's most vulnerable populations, including youth, minority groups and persons with disabilities.

To empower women and marginalized groups to better access and utilize the SCCs services, UNDP supported CSOs in Mombasa County in addressing barriers that hinder women traders' access to justice. Nine strategic engagement forums with women-based and women-led organizations were held in 2024, which provided a platform for women traders to openly discuss the obstacles they face in accessing justice through the SCCs. This process is a critical step towards achieving gender equality and supporting



Representatives of the National Legal Aid Services and the Law Society of Kenya reflect on the Small Claims Court opportunities at the meeting in Mombasa County organized by Sisters for Justice and UNDP.

Photo:
Sisters for Justice

women's economic empowerment, since many of these women serve as the primary breadwinners for their households.

Other interventions designed to raise awareness and deepen public understanding of the SCCs and their processes, targeting small business owners and vulnerable communities, included legal aid clinics, community dialogue forums and capacity-building workshops that reached almost 900 individuals, half of them women. Five legal aid clinics, for example, provided critical legal tools to small-scale traders on the operations of the SCCs, with a focus on debt recovery and self-representation. In addition, eight radio talk shows, which reached an estimated audience of over 5.3 million listeners, were held. This large-scale awareness effort has significantly contributed to increased public confidence in accessing justice through the SCCs.

Looking forward

While UNDP SCC interventions have targeted CUCs, and through legal aid clinics and other strategic engagements reached out to other targeted groups such as small business traders and women as primordial users, the potential to scale and expand is enormous. The SCCs are poised to meaningfully impact access to justice and foster transparency and accountability within the justice system. Noting that the SCCs application design is scalable and adaptable to other judicial contexts or regions, it has the potential to serve as a model for integrating technology into other areas of the justice system. It also has the capacity to improve access to justice by reducing case backlogs and increasing overall efficiency across Kenya's judicial system.

Key results

- PROSMED supported major national reforms, including the adoption of a new Penal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure, and strengthened justice institutions, contributing to improved access to justice and alignment with international human rights standards.
- Land commissions (CoFos) were empowered, leading to the peaceful resolution of 433 land disputes and the official recognition of 81 conciliation agreements by courts, while over 106,000 people were sensitized on land rights and justice mechanisms.
- Community-based security initiatives helped to reduce crime and rebuild trust between citizens and security forces, with residents reporting a significant drop in attacks in previously high-risk areas.
- Through training and media engagement, PROSMED promoted alternative narratives to violent extremism, enabling journalists and influencers to disseminate messages aligned with the National Policy on the Fight against Violent Extremism, contributing to more peaceful and inclusive public discourse.

In 2024, UNDP in Mali continued to play a pivotal role in strengthening the rule of law and promoting conflict prevention through the PROSMED joint programme (Support Programme for the Stabilization of Mali through the Strengthening of the Rule of Law). The programme, jointly implemented by UNDP, UN Women and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), operates within the framework of the UN Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law (GFP), which in turn facilitates the coordinated UN support to rule of law institutions in crisis-affected settings.

This year was marked by significant political and security developments, including the organization of the Inter-Malian Dialogue for Peace and National Reconciliation, which aimed to provide solutions to restore peace and social cohesion through national consultations. This dialogue resulted in key recommendations, including the proposal to extend the transition period and creating conditions to hold inclusive national elections. These developments occurred in the context of Mali's effective withdrawal from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the formation of the Alliance of Sahel States (AES) with Burkina Faso and Niger.

Against this backdrop, PROSMED continued the implementation of its activities and achieved results. One of the programme's most impactful contributions was its support to implement and operationalize several national strategies that had been developed with its assistance in previous years. These include the National Strategy for Security Sector Reform, the National Strategy for Reconciliation and Social Cohesion, and the 2022-2026 Action Plan of the National Policy for the Prevention and Fight Against Violent Extremism and Terrorism. This support significantly enhanced the coherence and coordination among national and international actors working to strengthen the rule of law in Mali.

A major milestone in 2024 was the programme support to the reform of the justice sector. UNDP supported the National Transitional Council (CNT) in reviewing and adopting the new Penal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure, which were promulgated by the President of the Transition in December 2024. These legal texts introduced major innovations that improve access to justice and align Mali's legal framework with international human rights standards.

In addition to legal reforms, PROSMED continued its support to the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights to implement the Justice Sector Orientation and Programming Act. This partnership has led to improved planning and coordination among justice sector stakeholders. The programme also strengthened the

operational capacities of the Specialized Judicial Centre for Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime Repression by equipping it with a solar power backup system and furnishing a courtroom to enable regular and well-conducted hearings. Furthermore, seven missions were conducted to monitor the indictment chambers, with recommendations for improvement submitted to the authorities.

At the community level, PROSMED made significant strides in promoting access to justice and conflict resolution. The programme revitalized land commissions (CoFos) and strengthened their role in resolving land disputes. Over 106,000 people, including 38,000 women and youth, were sensitized on the relationship between CoFos and the justice system. These efforts led to the peaceful resolution of 433 disputes and the official recognition of 81 conciliation reports by the courts. The programme also supported local initiatives to empower CoFos through peace infrastructures established in previous years, thereby reinforcing their legitimacy and contributing to social stabilization.

PROSMED also played a key role in supporting the deployment and integration of security forces in local communities. The construction of the Yelimane police station is ongoing, with provisional acceptance expected by the end of May 2025.

Through the construction and rehabilitation of security infrastructure and the organization of over 36 community engagement activities, including sports events, road safety campaigns and monthly meetings of security advisory committees, the programme helped rebuild trust between citizens and security actors. A testimonial from Koutiala highlighted a significant reduction in local crime due to increased community vigilance and cooperation with security forces.

“Before, in our town - especially around municipal stadium- there were attacks almost every day. But now, thanks to the awareness sessions from PROSMED, people in the community - men, women and youth - have really stepped up. Everyone’s more alert and ready to report anything suspicious.”

In the fight against violent extremism, PROSMED supported alternative narratives by training 50 journalists, bloggers and influencers on the National Policy for the Prevention and Fight against Violent Extremism and Terrorism. As a result, 12 media professionals, including five women, began promoting the policy through radio and blog content, while national television aired two programmes on the subject. These efforts contributed to a noticeable improvement in religious discourse, which became increasingly free of extremist language.

Access to justice for vulnerable populations remained a priority. In partnership with the Mali Bar Association, the programme provided legal aid to pre-trial detainees and survivors of gender-based violence. In Mopti prison, three in four of identified detainees received legal assistance, resulting in a resolution of over 83 percent of cases. Additionally, 387 litigants, most of them women, received legal support from trained paralegals, and 32 victims of human rights violations, including 23 women, were assisted by legal professionals.

PROSMED adopted a people-centred approach, with a strong emphasis on gender and youth inclusion. At least 30 percent of all project activities involved women and young people. A total of 595 CoFo members, nearly half of whom were women and youth, received training on their roles and responsibilities.

To ensure local ownership and sustainability, PROSMED partnered with the National Centre for the Promotion of Volunteering to deploy community volunteers in each intervention area. These volunteers supported local authorities in monitoring project activities. The programme also collaborated with local civil society organizations to follow up on the actions of state authorities.

The catalytic funding from UNDP’s Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development helped bridge financial gaps in the justice sector, particularly in combating impunity for terrorism-related crimes. With additional support from the Netherlands, PROSMED expanded its interventions in preventing and countering violent extremism. Continued resource mobilization efforts led to the approval of new funding for 2025–2026, ensuring the sustainability and expansion of these critical initiatives.

Looking forward

Despite the relatively difficult sociopolitical and security context, the program has been able to make important achievements and obtain significant results, particularly in relation to improving access to justice, security and social cohesion through the effective operationalization of endogenous mechanisms for social stabilization, the prevention and fight against violent extremism, and collaborative security. This support will continue in the target localities to strengthen ownership to consolidate the gains made during this period. Preliminary evaluations have shown a good link between social cohesion, through dialogue, access to justice, respect for human rights and the rule of law. All these factors have contributed to defusing the process of radicalization into violent extremism and terrorism.

Mauritania

Key results

- Access to justice for women in prisons was improved through legal aid services and mobile legal clinics, enabling them to better understand their rights and to exercise their right to a fair trial.
- Female inmates were empowered through reintegration programmes and in-prison training, helping them gain skills, rebuild confidence and prepare for life after incarceration.
- Communities became more engaged in restorative justice, with over 500 people, including women and youth, participating in awareness campaigns and workshops that promoted alternatives to incarceration and fostered inclusive dialogue.

In 2024, Mauritania experienced a politically sensitive period marked by presidential elections and subsequent peaceful demonstrations contesting the results. This context underscored the urgency of reinforcing democratic institutions, promoting transparency and ensuring respect for human rights. Against this backdrop, UNDP launched a project under the Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development. The initiative aimed to improve access to restorative justice for the most vulnerable populations, particularly incarcerated women, through the innovative “House of Justice” approach.

UNDP focused on addressing critical gaps in the justice system, such as the lack of effective mediation and conflict resolution mechanisms and the limited capacity of local actors to manage electoral tensions and civil rights issues. It sought to promote inclusive and accessible justice, contributing to national stabilization efforts and aligning with Mauritania’s broader judicial reform agenda.

Implementation progressed steadily, with several impactful activities. Legal aid services were established to support women, especially detainees, ensuring fair trials and improving their access to justice. In parallel, socioprofessional reintegration programmes were introduced in prisons, preparing female inmates for life after incarceration. These efforts were complemented by awareness-raising campaigns and training sessions, which saw strong participation from detainees and stakeholders alike.

Workshops held in Nouakchott, Nouadhibou and Akjoujt brought together judges, clerks, lawyers and civil society representatives to discuss community service as an alternative to incarceration. These discussions not only fostered collaboration but also led to concrete recommendations for integrating restorative justice into the national legal framework. The workshops were notably inclusive, with 81 percent of participants being youth and 75 percent women, ensuring that the voices of vulnerable groups were central to the dialogue.

The awareness campaign on community service reached 500 people, including a significant number of women and young people. It played a crucial role in challenging stereotypes about female incarceration and promoting a more humane and rehabilitative approach to justice. Participants expressed strong support for restorative justice, recognizing its potential to enhance social cohesion and reduce recidivism.

A key innovation was the deployment of mobile legal clinics, which brought legal services directly to detention centres. These clinics provided legal advice, informed women of their rights and demystified judicial procedures, significantly improving access to justice for incarcerated women.

UNDP’s impact extended beyond legal support. It empowered women through targeted awareness and reintegration programmes, contributing to their economic independence and social reintegration. By focusing on young women, women with disabilities and those from rural or marginalized communities, UNDP embodied the Leave No One Behind principle and promoted gender equality in line with UNDP’s [Gender Equality Strategy](#).

Strong partnerships were central to the project's success. UNDP collaborated with the Ministry of Justice, local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community actors to ensure that interventions were grounded in local realities. These partnerships enabled the establishment of a post-detention support framework and strengthened the capacity of local actors to advocate for women's rights.

The project also catalysed a broader movement around women's rights in Mauritania. Training workshops and the dissemination of practical legal guides helped raise awareness among legal professionals and the public. These efforts contributed to changing perceptions, enhancing the quality of legal services and fostering a more inclusive justice system.

Looking forward

The sustainability of the project is underpinned by an integrated approach that emphasizes local ownership, continuous training and institutionalization of best practices. By reinforcing strategic partnerships and mobilizing resources, the project has laid the groundwork for lasting reforms in the justice sector. Its catalytic impact is expected to influence public policy and governance well beyond the project's duration, contributing to a more equitable and resilient society in Mauritania.

Mozambique

Key results

- A comprehensive assessment of 55 community courts across four provinces identified critical gaps in infrastructure, staffing and legal services, guiding future investments to enhance grassroots justice delivery, particularly for women and vulnerable groups.
- In collaboration with national institutions, UNDP launched a rehabilitation programme in Cabo Delgado prisons, equipping 100 inmates and five officers with vocational skills and introducing a de-radicalization workshop and handbook to prevent violent extremism within the prison system.
- UNDP significantly strengthened the National Human Rights Commission by delivering foundational training to new commissioners, supporting four monitoring missions, and facilitating civil society engagement in the Universal Periodic Review process to enhance accountability and human rights governance.
- In December 2024, UNDP's workshop in northern Mozambique brought together 47 stakeholders to identify gaps in legal and health services for women and girls affected by insurgency, leading to commitments to restore integrated support and establish a collaborative network.

Mozambique experienced several challenges in providing legal services and fulfilling human rights obligations. In 2024, the sociopolitical landscape was defined by the general elections and subsequent governmental transitions. This context presented both opportunities and challenges that influenced the design, implementation and adaptation of interventions supported through UNDP's Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development. The interventions focused on closing critical gaps in legal services and improving human rights protection for marginalized groups, particularly women affected by conflict, internally displaced persons and youth. It prioritized expanding access to justice, advocating for legal reforms in conflict-affected areas and reinforcing National Human Rights Institutions.

Through partnerships with civil society organizations (CSOs), most notably the We Belong Africa (WBA) project, the initiative strengthened advocacy and capacity building efforts, fostering resilience and promoting more equitable legal frameworks. Amid the heightened political activity of the election year, strategic engagement with stakeholders ensured the project's visibility and alignment with evolving government priorities. This led to greater inclusion of marginalized voices in policy discussions and created momentum for legal and social reforms. By addressing institutional gaps and amplifying the rights of vulnerable populations, UNDP has advanced a more inclusive and sustainable approach to justice and human rights. Serving as a catalyst for change, the initiative continues to bridge the gap between policy and practice, facilitating dialogue among communities, civil society and government actors. It is laying the foundation for long-term improvements aligned with national rule of law and human rights priorities, even in the face of political uncertainty.

UNDP made significant strides in strengthening access to justice and promoting human rights in Mozambique, particularly in regions affected by conflict and socioeconomic instability. A major milestone was the comprehensive mapping and needs assessment of community courts across four provinces: Maputo, Nampula, Niassa and Cabo Delgado. This exercise provided detailed insights into 55 community courts, highlighting critical gaps in infrastructure, staffing and legal support services. The data, including gender-disaggregated information, is instrumental in guiding future investments in community-based justice systems, which are vital for rural populations, especially women and vulnerable groups.

Building on this foundation, UNDP supported the drafting of a revised regulation for community courts. This draft, currently under review, aims to formalize and standardize court operations, enhancing transparency, fairness and legitimacy at the grassroots level. These efforts are expected to significantly improve justice delivery in conflict-affected areas.

In Cabo Delgado, UNDP launched a rehabilitation programme for women in conflict with the law, introducing vocational training in cutting, sewing and locksmithing. The initiative, implemented in partnership with national institutions such as the Ministry of Justice, Free Legal Aid Institute (IPAJ) and Alberto Cassimo Institute of Professional Training and Labour Studies (IFPELAC), benefited 100 inmates and five prison officers. Targeting young adults aged 18 to 30, including those convicted of terrorism, theft and domestic violence, the programme promotes social reintegration through skill-building and is set to be replicated in other facilities.

To further strengthen local justice mechanisms, UNDP facilitated roundtables in Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Niassa, bringing together government officials, civil society and community leaders. These discussions addressed judicial and extrajudicial conflict resolution, early marriage prevention and other pressing sociocultural issues.

In Tete province, a regional workshop was held under the framework of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. Organized by the Mozambique Police Force, the event gathered 60 participants, including 26 women, to address community-specific conflicts and strengthen trust between law enforcement and local populations. The workshop focused on identifying vulnerabilities of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict zones, improving gender-based violence prevention and enhancing community policing.

UNDP also addressed the growing concern of violent extremism through a dedicated workshop on preventing radicalization, particularly within the prison system. Conducted in collaboration with the National Corrections Service (SERNAP), the workshop equipped participants with tools to identify risk factors and implement effective interventions. A comprehensive handbook on de-radicalization was published, offering practical guidance for prison staff and inmates to support rehabilitation and reduce the risk of radicalization.

UNDP has played a pivotal role in strengthening Mozambique's national human rights architecture, with a focus on enhancing the capacity and effectiveness of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and related institutions. Following the appointment of a new Human Rights Commissioner and the election of nine commissioners to a five-year mandate, UNDP, in partnership with the UN Human Rights Office, delivered



Workshop on strengthening access to justice for women and girls victims of terrorism and violence, Nampula Province, Mozambique.

Photo:
UNDP
Mozambique

a foundational training to equip the new leadership with a solid understanding of human rights principles, governance frameworks and international human rights mechanisms.

To reinforce the Commission's operational capacity, UNDP supported four monitoring missions to investigate human rights violations, including those linked to business practices and gender-based violence in Cabo Delgado. These missions informed recommendations to local authorities, civil society and the private sector, promoting accountability and systemic change.

UNDP also worked with the Ministry of Justice to advance Mozambique's commitments under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Through seminars in Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane, the government disseminated its UPR Action Plan, reviewed past recommendations, and gathered data for its Fourth National Report. Complementing this, UNDP supported the CSO-led Monitoring Forum of the UPR (FMMRPU), a coalition of around 120 non-governmental organizations. This platform has been instrumental in tracking implementation, engaging in dialogue with the government, and preparing shadow reports, ensuring that civil society plays a central role in promoting transparency and accountability in human rights governance.

To advance the business and human rights agenda in Mozambique, UNDP partnered with the UN Human Rights Office, UNICEF and the European Union to support inclusive consultations for the development of the Government's National Action Plan (NAP), aligned with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. In 2024, the NAP was officially validated during a seminar led by the Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs, which brought together representatives from various government institutions, human rights focal points, CSOs, representatives of the extractive industries and UN agencies.

Together, these initiatives reflect UNDP's holistic and community-centred approach to justice reform in Mozambique, reinforcing the rule of law, promoting human rights and building resilience in vulnerable communities. The project is fully aligned with Mozambique's national plans and sectoral priorities, ensuring that its activities are integrated into government systems.

Looking forward

UNDP Mozambique will continue supporting the work of the Government, National Human Rights Commission, CSOs and the Ombudsperson. Key support will focus on the preparation to the fourth cycle of the UPR process, Business and Human Rights work in the North, the decentralization of the NHRCs through the establishment of its sub-office in Pemba, support to legal reform (revision of the NHRCs law aimed at better alignment to Paris Principles) and the establishment of a case management system in the NHRC to strengthen its capacity on complaint handling and case monitoring. For the first time, work will begin on human rights in the context of climate change, violent extremism and COVID-19 in Mozambique in partnership with CSOs.

Nigeria

Key results

- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Human Rights Observatory Dashboard processed over 324,000 complaints, helping identify abuse patterns and catalyse state-level reforms. In parallel, NHRC adjudicated 210 human rights cases across six states using quasi-judicial powers, providing redress for victims and reinforcing accountability.
- Public awareness-raising efforts on business and human rights reached over 63,000 people, (40 percent women), resulting in a 35 percent increase in business-related rights complaints to NHRC. State Working Groups on Business and Human Rights were established in Borno and Katsina to promote corporate accountability.
- A nationwide policing field survey was conducted across 37 police commands, gathering over 3,000 data points to inform Nigeria's first evidence-based National Policing Plan. To ensure data quality, 25 police officers were trained in data collection and analysis, contributing to improved strategic policing decisions.
- A total of 628 police officers (including 110 women) were trained in detective work, intelligence management, gender-sensitive policing and response to gender-based violence. In addition, UNDP provided mobile health clinics to 10 police training schools across nine states, benefitting over 50,000 people through improved healthcare access and community relations.

In 2024, Nigeria continued to face grave security challenges, particularly in the North West and North Central regions, where mass killings, abductions and other violent crimes were perpetrated by terrorist groups and non-state armed actors. The Terrorism Index for Nigeria [saw a slight increase](#) compared to the previous year, reflecting the deepening insecurity. The rule of law remained severely undermined, and human rights protections continued to erode, contributing to a climate of fear, instability and weakened trust in state institutions. Economic pressures further exacerbated inequalities, while the justice system and security sector remained overburdened by the scale of criminality and rights violations.

To strengthen institutional responses and promote practices that uphold the rule of law and human rights, UNDP partnered with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to enhance national capacity for monitoring, reporting and addressing human rights violations. With financial and technical support from the Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development, UNDP provided targeted support to build the capacity of NHRC staff at the state level, developed and operationalized the Human Rights Observatory Dashboard, and facilitated inclusive dialogue among key justice and human rights stakeholders.

Through the Tripartite Partnership to Support National Human Rights Institutions, the Human Rights Observatory Dashboard, launched in January 2024, processed over 324,000 complaints nationwide, enabling the identification of systemic abuse patterns and prompting reforms in affected states. In parallel, NHRC adjudicated 210 human rights cases across six states using its quasi-judicial powers, securing redress for victims and reinforcing state-level accountability mechanisms.

Public awareness efforts on business and human rights reached over 63,000 people across six states through 63 targeted town hall sessions and training workshops. These campaigns were conducted in collaboration with the Nigeria Bar Association, Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry, NHRC and the Kenya Bar Association, and aimed to advance the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). Women comprised 40 percent of participants, ensuring gender-balanced engagement in dialogues on corporate accountability and access to justice. As a result of the campaigns, NHRC recorded a 35 percent

increase in reports of alleged business-related human rights violations, reflecting improved citizen trust in its mechanisms. To further drive state-level accountability, UNDP supported the establishment of State Working Groups on Business and Human Rights in Borno and Katsina.

UNDP also supported the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) in conducting a nationwide field survey across all 37 police commands, including the Federal Capital Territory, to inform the country's first evidence-based National Policing Plan (NPP). The survey gathered over 3,000 data sets on crime trends, hotspots and resource availability. To ensure data quality and enhance institutional learning, 25 police officers were trained on data collection and analysis. These efforts strengthened NPF's ability to make strategic policing decisions, contributing to better security planning nationwide.

Gender inclusion and police capacity-building were also advanced through a mentoring initiative for 29 senior women police officers, conducted in collaboration with the NPF Department of Training and Development. In total, 628 police personnel, including 110 women, received training in detective work, intelligence analysis, gender-sensitive policing and the management of gender-based violence cases. UNDP also provided mobile health clinics to 10 police training schools across nine states, benefiting over 30,000 police recruits and 20,000 community members annually by improving access to healthcare and community engagement.

Looking forward

In 2025, UNDP will deepen its commitment to advancing the rule of law and human rights in Nigeria by continuing to strengthen the NHRC, expanding the use of the Human Rights Observatory, and finalizing and supporting the implementation of the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights. A national dialogue will be convened in collaboration with NHRC, the UN Human Rights Office and the UN Global Compact to foster inclusive engagement on responsible business conduct. UNDP will also promote regional peer learning and South-South cooperation through forums and capacity-building on the UNGPs. Additionally, efforts will be made to engage businesses directly in strengthening human rights due diligence across supply chains, supported by baseline assessments and supply chain analysis to inform evidence-based policymaking.

South Sudan

Key results

- Key transitional justice mechanisms were established, including the Commission on Truth, Reconciliation and Healing and the Compensation and Reparations Authority. Forty-five new victim support groups were established, comprising 2,326 members, including over 1,160 women.
- Over 17,000 individuals received access to justice through courts and police protection units, and over 8,000 people (half of them women) benefitted from legal aid.
- Community safety was strengthened by operationalizing 259 Police and Community Relationship Committees, including 38 led by women, contributing to crime reduction and improved police-community collaboration.

In 2024, South Sudan continued to experience a number of challenges: economic, political complexities, worsening humanitarian conditions and intensified inter- and intra-communal conflicts across the country. The implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) remained slow, with the transitional period extended to 2026, delaying key milestones. Critical institutions such as the National Elections Commission (NEC), National Constitution Review Commission (NCRC) and Political Parties Council (PPC) were reconstituted, while progress on certain transitional justice mechanisms was yet to be accelerated.



A court session in Terekeka, South Sudan.

Photo:
UNDP South
Sudan

Under Phase III of its Access to Justice, Security and Human Rights Strengthening Programme, UNDP supported transitional justice, human rights, constitution-making and judicial reforms in South Sudan as part of the R-ARCSS implementation.

UNDP engaged in advocacy and preparatory work to promote a people-centred and gender-responsive constitution. The Reconstituted National Constitutional Review Commission became operational with 57 members nominated and sworn in. The next steps will include nationwide civic education and the formation of the bodies that would draft and validate the text of the constitution.

To further support the judicial reform, UNDP mobilized joint assistance to nationwide consultations coordinated by the ad hoc Judicial Reform Committee. The Committee's final report was validated as one of the strong sources that will inform the permanent constitution.

UNDP also contributed to the transitional justice process by supporting the presidential assent of the Commission on Truth, Reconciliation and Healing, as well as the Compensation and Reparations Authority Bills. To ensure inclusive participation, 45 new victim support groups were created in 2024, comprising 2,326 members, including over 1,160 women, bringing the total to 127 victim support groups with over 6,400 participants, including 2,146 women, ready to engage in the transitional justice process.

Efforts to expand access to legal information and redress mechanisms reached over 8.1 million people (40 percent women) through community engagement, in-person outreach and radio broadcasts. To achieve that, UNDP partnered with 31 civil society organizations and media outlets.

A total of 17,147 individuals, including over 4,180 women, accessed justice services via specialized Gender-Based Violence Courts, County and High Courts, Police Special Protection Units, as well as pretrial release mechanisms. Additionally, over 8,000 people (53 percent women) received legal aid services, with many women seeking advice on culturally sensitive issues such as divorce, property rights and gender-based violence. Over 2,600 women reported gender-based violence at Special Protection Units and received legal, prosecutorial and psychosocial support.

To further support vulnerable groups, UNDP delivered vocational training to 1,247 inmates, including 189 women, across three prison-based centres, contributing to rehabilitation and reintegration. Over 3,000 individuals have been trained to date, with no recorded recidivism among graduates.

UNDP advanced community security by operationalizing 259 Police and Community Relationship Committees in collaboration with communities and the police. Notably, 38 committees were led by women, contributing to crime reduction and improved safety.

All efforts were designed to be nationally owned, rights-based and gender responsive, and were implemented in collaboration with government institutions, civil society, media, UN agencies and regional bodies including the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), UN Women, OHCHR, UNHCR, the African Union (AU) and the Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

Looking forward

UNDP will advance nationally led, sustainable and rights-based initiatives to strengthen justice and protection for vulnerable groups. It will focus on building accountable and gender-responsive justice and security institutions, ensuring equal access to justice, especially for women, girls and violence survivors, and improving community safety in conflict-affected areas. Additionally, UNDP will support national human rights systems and further contribute to establishing transitional justice mechanisms to address past abuses and the root causes of conflict.

ARAB STATES

Regional overview

The Arab States region experienced continued upheaval in 2024. The Gaza war entered its second year, pulling Lebanon further into the conflict and exacerbating regional instability. Meanwhile, Houthis in Yemen [increased their attacks](#) in the Red Sea in response to the war in Gaza. In Sudan, [conflict spread to new areas, displacing millions of civilians](#), while [tensions in and around Somalia](#) continued to rise.

Political developments across the region presented both challenges and opportunities. In Syria, the end of more than five decades of authoritarian rule has given [rise to much hope](#), alongside demands for justice and accountability. The year 2024 also witnessed elections in Algeria, Jordan, Kuwait and Tunisia. However, civic space across the region remained constrained or entirely closed, [continuing a troubling trend of decline](#). Whether these political shifts will lead to meaningful advancements in the rule of law and human rights remains uncertain.

Despite these challenges, UNDP stayed and delivered. Technical and financial assistance from the Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development (the Global Programme) has enhanced the delivery of efficient and accessible rule of law services to vulnerable populations.

Access to justice

UNDP continued to support people-centred access to justice through country-level activities in Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Tunisia, and beyond. In the State of Palestine, the [Sawasya III joint programme](#) provided legal aid to over 13,000 individuals, of whom 88 percent were women. Targeted legal awareness sessions reached over 21,000 individuals, including 16,433 women, equipping them with critical knowledge about legal rights and available remedies. In Yemen, UNDP and UNICEF provided legal assistance to women detainees and their children as well as expanded woman- and child-friendly spaces in justice and security institutions. In Djibouti, UNDP supported the development of a Statistical Information System to enhance the



A workshop on Digital Transformation for the Rule of Law.

Photo:
UNDP

reliability of access to justice data. To expand access to environmental justice, UNDP Iraq raised awareness of the right to a healthy environment among the justice and law enforcement institutions.

Digital justice

Human rights-based digitalization enhances the efficiency and transparency of justice administration. In response to the growing interest in digital justice, the Moroccan institutions, with support from UNDP, hosted an international e-justice conference, bringing together representatives from the Arab States and Africa. Building on this momentum, UNDP organized a regional exchange on digital transformation for the rule of law, showcasing digital solutions for justice, human rights and security. Through its Global Programme, UNDP provided technical assistance to identify and implement digital tools, including in Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Libya and Palestine. In the State of Palestine, the UNDP-supported Mizan court management system was [awarded second place](#) in the 2024 SDG Digital Game Changers Award under the “Peace” category for its impact on justice services. In 2024 alone, the electronic court management system served 164,661 beneficiaries, including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff and the public.

Business and Human Rights

In October 2024, UNDP hosted the [Inaugural Dialogue on Business and Human Rights in the Arab States Region](#) in Doha, in collaboration with the Qatar National Human Rights Commission, the Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions and UN agencies. Attended by over 300 stakeholders, the event focused on addressing challenges and promoting responsible business practices through the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). The dialogue raised awareness, established a network of engaged parties and culminated in the adoption of the Doha Declaration.

With support from the Global Programme, a regional Business and Human Rights strategy was developed to enable programming across diverse political and economic contexts. In line with the proposed strategy, the Global Programme provided technical assistance to the National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in Bahrain and Djibouti, focusing on the practical implementation of the UNGPs.

Strengthening National Human Rights Systems

Through the Tri-Partite Partnership with the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR) and the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), UNDP launched a new project in Jordan to strengthen the capacities of the National Centre for Human Rights in alignment with the Paris Principles. Additionally, UNDP collaborated with the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions to facilitate several knowledge-sharing events, including the above-mentioned Regional Dialogue on Business and Human Rights and a regional gathering on the role of NHRIs in planning and monitoring the implementation of national visions.

Looking forward

In 2025, UNDP will continue prioritizing support in crisis and conflict settings to sustain rule of law, security and human rights initiatives. This will involve developing a crisis response package based on the lessons learned from the ongoing crises. UNDP will also continue advancing digital transformation in the rule of law sector with the introduction of a Digital Readiness Assessment Tool and a comprehensive offer on e-justice. Furthermore, UNDP will focus on strengthening the rule of law and justice programming as a driver of economic development, particularly expanding efforts on civil justice and Business and Human Rights. Lastly, UNDP will enhance its work on environmental justice within the broader climate change agenda in the region.

Algeria

Key results

- To promote equitable representation in the judiciary, UNDP supported the development of a gender equality analysis framework tailored to Algeria's judicial system which identified structural barriers and informed a comparative study offering actionable recommendations for reform.
- UNDP delivered targeted capacity-building programmes for over 240 women magistrates, including all female prosecutors and the majority of the female court presidents, enhancing their leadership, communication and management skills to support their advancement into senior judicial roles.
- Through awareness-raising and training activities at the School of Higher Education for the Judiciary, UNDP engaged future magistrates to foster a culture of gender parity early in their careers and build a more inclusive pipeline for judicial leadership.

In 2024, Algeria continued to make strides in strengthening its legal and institutional frameworks in the areas of rule of law, justice, security, gender equality and human rights. These efforts included significant reforms such as the restructuring of the High Council of the Judiciary and amendments to judicial career management policies. While Algeria stands out globally for its high representation of women in the judiciary, nearly 48 percent of magistrates are women, but according to data communicated by the Ministry of Justice in December 2024, only 25 percent of them hold leadership positions. This disparity underscored the need for targeted interventions to address structural and cultural barriers that hinder women's advancement within the judicial system.

In response to this challenge, UNDP, in close partnership with the Ministry of Justice, launched a strategic initiative to support the career development of female magistrates. This intervention aimed to identify the key obstacles preventing women from accessing leadership roles and to propose evidence-based reforms that would promote gender equality and institutional inclusivity. The initiative was designed not only to empower individual women judges but also to contribute to broader structural changes within Algeria's judicial system.

One of the central achievements was the development of a gender equality analysis framework tailored to the Algerian judiciary. This framework served as a foundation for understanding the internal dynamics of court operations and identifying the specific challenges faced by women magistrates. It also informed a comparative study that examined best practices from other countries, particularly those that had successfully implemented the [Gender Equality Seal for Institutions](#). The study provided actionable recommendations for Algeria, offering a roadmap for reform that is both context-specific and aligned with international standards.

The initiative also placed a strong emphasis on capacity-building. More than 237 women magistrates participated in specialized training programmes designed to enhance their leadership, communication and human resource management skills. These sessions were tailored to the unique demands of the judiciary and aimed to equip participants with the tools needed to pursue and succeed in senior roles. Notably, 100 percent of female prosecutors and 84 percent of female presidents of administrative and ordinary courts took part in these trainings, reflecting a high level of engagement and commitment among the target group.

In addition to technical training, the initiative included a communication campaign to raise awareness about the importance of gender parity in the judiciary. This campaign targeted both current magistrates and students at the School of Higher Education for the Judiciary, fostering a more inclusive and supportive institutional culture. By promoting a shared understanding of the value of diversity in leadership, the campaign helped to create an environment more conducive to women's advancement.

The project's people-centred approach ensured that the specific needs and aspirations of women judges were at the heart of its design and implementation. It recognized the importance of addressing both institutional and individual barriers to career progression and sought to empower women through a combination of skills development, mentorship and advocacy.

A particularly innovative aspect of the initiative was the inclusion of real-life success stories to inspire and motivate participants. One such example was the involvement of a former Algerian judge who rose to become the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on Peace Issues and later served as a Minister in charge of Strategic Partnerships. Her testimony provided a powerful example of what is possible and offered practical insights into overcoming institutional barriers. This model of combining mentorship with capacity-building proved highly effective and is considered scalable to other sectors and contexts.

Looking forward

The initiative laid the groundwork for a more ambitious, multi-year project set to launch in 2025. Building on the achievements of 2024, it aims to institutionalize sustainable mechanisms for supporting women's leadership in the judiciary. It will focus on structural reforms, continued capacity-building and enhanced international cooperation.

This forward-looking vision is grounded in the evidence-based narrative that a more inclusive judiciary not only benefits women but also strengthens the legitimacy and effectiveness of the entire legal system. By fostering diverse perspectives and promoting equitable decision-making, the judiciary becomes better equipped to serve all segments of society. UNDP's intervention in Algeria has thus contributed not only to gender equality but also to the broader goals of justice, inclusion and human rights.

Iraq

Key results

- UNDP interventions strengthened inter-agency coordination on environmental governance among the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) and the Supreme Judicial Council, leading to the establishment of a formal working group and a joint enforcement protocol on environmental law.
- Increased awareness of environmental and climate justice among institutions led to enhanced capacity building, legislative reforms and community engagement in reporting environmental violations.
- The Iraqi police successfully assumed full security responsibilities in six governorates: Babel, Wasit, Najaf, Diwaniyah, Thi-Qar and Muthanna. This marked a milestone in the implementation of the Ministry of Interior's strategy designed and operationalized with UNDP support.

Iraq is among the countries [most vulnerable to climate change and environmental degradation](#), facing extreme temperatures, water scarcity, pollution and desertification – factors that disproportionately affect marginalized populations and contribute to displacement, health issues, economic hardship and national security risks. In response, and at the request of national institutions, UNDP, in partnership with the UN Human Rights Office and the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq, launched a programme to strengthen enforcement mechanisms for environmental protection and advance UNDP's [Environmental Justice Strategy](#). Based on a multidisciplinary mission in June 2023 that engaged stakeholders across sectors, the initiative addressed key challenges, including institutional fragmentation, outdated legal frameworks and weak enforcement. This project, supported through UNDP's Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development marks a foundational step toward a broader environmental justice agenda in Iraq, integrating governance, rule of law and environmental efforts in a climate-vulnerable, post-conflict setting.

UNDP interventions significantly strengthened inter-agency coordination on environmental governance in Iraq, leading to the establishment of a formal working group between the Ministry of Environment (MoE), Ministry of Interior (MoI) and the Supreme Judicial Council. This collaboration resulted in a joint enforcement protocol on environmental law. In addition, a draft Memorandum of Understanding was designed outlining roles and responsibilities for field-level cooperation between the two ministries.

Awareness of environmental and climate justice increased notably among justice and law enforcement institutions, generating stronger interest in capacity building and collaborative enforcement of environmental regulations. This shift helped address a key gap – limited coordination among institutions responsible for environmental protection. In addition, the draft Law for the Protection and Improvement of the Environment was revised, incorporating stakeholder feedback from government, judiciary and parliament.

A major legal milestone was the completion of a comprehensive review of Iraq's environmental and climate justice legal framework, aligning it with international environmental and human rights standards. The findings and recommendations were submitted to the MoE to guide future legislative reform. In parallel, institutional capacity was enhanced through the training of 23 environmental inspectors, including three women, and 23 environmental police officers on investigation procedures related to environmental violations.

The judiciary's engagement was strengthened through targeted consultations involving 23 representatives (including four women) from the Supreme Judicial Council, MoE legal department and Kurdistan Region Government (KRG) judiciary. This led to concrete recommendations, including the proposal to establish

specialized courts or designate judges for environmental cases. A separate consultation in the KRG identified regional-specific priorities and next steps for environmental governance.

The project applied a people-centred and rights-based approach by enabling community members to report environmental violations and involving civil society and local activists in consultations. Voices from 21 civil society actors in the KRG were documented to ensure grassroots perspectives informed institutional reforms. This inclusive approach fostered greater ownership.

Overall, the project adopted a two-pronged strategy to advance the right to a healthy environment: (1) enhancing institutional capacities and legal frameworks, and (2) integrating civil society voices into policy dialogue. This comprehensive approach laid the groundwork for a broader environmental justice agenda in Iraq.

In parallel, UNDP in Iraq continued its engagement with national stakeholders to address critical gaps in the justice and security sectors made possible through the generous funding by the Government of Denmark. On a policy level, key strategies were adopted and operationalized with UNDP technical support, including the strategy of the Ministry of Interior and the Security Sector Reform Strategy, both guided by a people-centred approach. In addition, UNDP supported the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in six core policing areas, ensuring alignment with international policing standards. These SOPs aim to standardize practices across Iraqi police forces, improve operational consistency and further embed the principles of rights-based policing. As a milestone in the strategy implementation, in 2024 the police successfully assumed full security responsibilities in six governorates: Babel, Wasit, Najaf, Diwaniyah, Thi-Qar and Muthanna.

As part of its commitment to fostering trust between communities and law enforcement, UNDP facilitated 16 open house days at the Model Police Stations (MPS) across five governorates. These events provide



Open Door Days at the Model Police Stations in Iraq help to align police service delivery with community needs, fostering trust between the local population and the police force.

Photo:
UNDP Iraq

community members with a direct platform to engage with MPS Chiefs, fostering open and constructive discussions. These open house days have proven instrumental in shaping police service delivery to align with community needs, fostering trust between the local population and the police force.

Finally, in 2024, UNDP significantly enhanced the capacity and cooperation of stakeholders in financial crime investigations and anti-money laundering efforts. Through various workshops, training sessions and strategic initiatives, UNDP improved skills, knowledge and collaboration among national actors, including the judiciary and private sector. Key achievements included the development of training materials, the use of advanced software and the promotion of sustainable practices to ensure effective financial crime investigations and compliance with anti-money laundering requirements.

Looking forward

Looking ahead to 2025, the programme will focus on critical priorities, including climate change awareness, its integration into provincial security policies and incorporation of the fragility assessment results into policy frameworks.

Further priorities include strengthening policing capabilities through a people-centred approach and supporting the transition from military to civilian security leadership. Additionally, the establishment of a third learning and development hub and the expansion of the case management initiative to two more police stations will enhance transparency and modernize workflows. Finally, in collaboration with the MoI and justice sector stakeholders, UNDP will continue its targeted interventions to address systemic barriers for women in policing.

Lebanon

Key results

- UNDP delivered legal aid services to meet the needs of internally displaced persons fleeing conflict-affected areas. Three legal aid helpdesks provided uninterrupted support, benefitting a total of 4,732 individuals, including 2,815 women in 45 municipalities.
- The support to the mobile helpdesks provided by UNDP's Global Programme had a catalytic effect. The project secured additional funding from the Government of Canada to meet the growing needs of vulnerable populations.
- UNDP supported national authorities in collecting debts from the quarrying sector. The UNDP-facilitated dialogue between the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Environment culminated in designing a formal procedure for collecting dues, which was approved by the State Council and enacted into a law.
- UNDP is piloting audio and video recording of interrogation sessions in six police locations, as well as free legal assistance during preliminary investigation. These efforts are a breakthrough in Lebanon as they enable transparency and increased human rights protection.

In 2024, the situation in Lebanon deteriorated, with a series of crises that deepened inequalities and vulnerabilities. On 27 November 2024, a [cessation of hostilities agreement](#) between Israel and Lebanon took effect, ending over 13 months of escalating violence. The conflict caused over 3,961 deaths, 16,520 injuries, and severe damage to infrastructure. More than 1.25 million people were displaced. The hostilities unfolded amid Lebanon's deepening governance, economic and financial crises, resulting in profound human suffering and heightened potential for conflict, insecurity and instability. [Lebanon continues to host the highest number of refugees per capita globally](#), facing an increasingly complex situation due to new arrivals, deportations, and a rise in smuggling and risky journeys to Europe.

This polycrisis is threatening the core functioning of rule of law institutions, hindering UNDP's efforts to deliver on justice sector reform and underscoring at the same time the growing relevance of this work. This past year, through its Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development (the Global Programme), UNDP in Lebanon (1) expanded legal aid services through mobile help desks, (2) supported national progress towards enforcing environmental laws, (3) enhanced human rights guarantees during preliminary investigation phase. These initiatives form a part of UNDP's integrated [three-track security and justice programming in Lebanon](#), implemented in close coordination with other UNDP teams and built on strategic partnerships with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the European Union (EU).

1. Expanded legal aid services through mobile help desks in the North and Baalbek-Hermel Governorates

Despite the escalation of hostilities, UNDP delivered its services to meet the growing needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) fleeing conflict-affected areas in South Lebanon. Three legal aid helpdesks provided uninterrupted support, expanding to the South, North and Baalbek El Hermel governorates, in close collaboration with the Access to Justice Working Group under the Ministry of Justice, and in partnership with the Bar Associations in Beirut and Tripoli.

The primary focus of legal aid was to safeguard the rights of and empower vulnerable groups in remote areas, with a strong emphasis on gender-related issues. Through its mobile legal services, UNDP

provided critical support to Syrian refugees, persons with disabilities, migrant workers and older persons, the groups disproportionately impacted by Lebanon's multidimensional crisis. UNDP worked jointly with UNHCR to ensure successful implementation of the mobile helpdesks to cater effectively to the legal needs of Syrian refugees.

A total of 4,732 individuals, including 2,815 women in 45 municipalities benefitted from free legal aid services through mobile helpdesks supported by the Global Programme.⁶ Over 80 awareness raising sessions on gender-related issues were conducted for 926 individuals of which 628 were women in the North, and 497 individuals of which 395 were women in the Baalbek El Hermel Governorate. Both mobile helpdesks have had a profound impact, raising legal awareness and helping foster change on critical issues, particularly gender-based violence.

The support to the mobile helpdesks provided by UNDP's Global Programme had a catalytic effect. The project secured additional funding from the Government of Canada to meet the growing needs of vulnerable populations, including IDPs fleeing conflict-affected areas.

2. Accelerated national progress towards enforcing environmental laws

In 2024, UNDP continued its efforts to help national authorities collect debts from the quarrying sector as a part of its environmental justice initiative. The [UNDP-facilitated dialogue between the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Environment](#) culminated in the development of standard operating procedures (SOPs) to address the collection of unpaid penalties for quarrying regulation violations, which amount to over two billion US dollars. The representatives of the two ministries received comprehensive training on the implementation of the SOPs.

A primary implementation concern was the reluctance of quarry business owners and operators to pay their dues to the National Treasury. Discussions focused on exploring potential strategies to streamline the payment process and address this issue effectively. With UNDP support, the Ministry of Environment drafted a decision outlining the procedure for collecting dues from the quarrying sector which was subsequently approved by the State Council and enacted into a law.

Following consultations with UNDP and the Ministry of Environment, Saint-Joseph University (USJ), a leading law school in Lebanon, agreed to spearhead the initial phase of the dues collection process.

3. Enhanced human rights guarantees during preliminary investigation phase

UNDP worked with the General Prosecutor's Office and the Internal Security Forces (ISF) to operationalize human rights guarantees during the preliminary investigation phase. These guarantees were introduced in 2020 when a landmark law amending the Criminal Procedure Code was passed. However, lack of resources and political will impeded their implementation. Due to its holistic approach and partnership with national authorities, UNDP secured consent from national security and justice stakeholders to pilot initiatives to enforce these protection guarantees. Notably, in addition to protecting individuals under preliminary investigation, these provisions seek to protect security forces by shielding them from unsubstantiated allegations of mistreatment.

At this pilot stage, UNDP is focusing on audio and video recording of interrogation sessions in six police locations. The software solution is safe, cost-effective and adapted to Lebanese justice and security architecture, covering not only the actual recording but also the transfer of the data and access rights. In addition, UNDP developed SOPs to define the roles and responsibilities of the judiciary, security forces and lawyers in operationalizing protection guarantees. When this report was drafted, the SOPs were under review.

As part of UNDP's holistic approach, the new committees were established at the Tripoli Bar Association (TBA) and the Beirut Bar Association (BBA) to provide legal assistance during preliminary investigations, both in-person and through the hotlines. In total, 160 individuals, including 14 women, 73 Syrian refugees

⁶ This includes 1191 Syrians, 171 foreigners and 11 stateless individuals.

and two stateless individuals, received legal support. These efforts are a breakthrough in Lebanon as they enable transparency and increased human rights protection.

Looking forward

With a cessation of hostilities agreement in place and largely holding, the installation of a reform-oriented government and key appointments to critical posts, including the Judicial Inspection Authority and the Director General of the ISF, the foundations are being laid for transformational change in Lebanon. These developments present a unique window for UNDP to scale up its comprehensive efforts to strengthen the independence, effectiveness and accessibility of rule of law institutions. At this pivotal juncture, such engagement is vital to restoring people's confidence in the State and advancing the broader agenda of peace and stability.

Libya

Key results

- UNDP, in collaboration with the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), facilitated consensus among Libyan institutions on an amended draft reconciliation law aligned with international standards, marking a significant step toward accountability and the establishment of a National Reconciliation Commission.
- A vocational training centre at Jdaida Women's Prison certified trainers and equipped inmates with sewing and IT skills, thereby promoting rehabilitation and reintegration.
- Based on assessments in Benghazi, Sabha and Gharyan, UNDP plans to expand legal aid services to the Greater Tripoli Area, ensuring broader geographic coverage and access to justice across Libya.

Libya continued to face institutional fragmentation due to a power struggle between the West and the East, with intermittent but regular armed clashes contributing to economic and political instability and insecurity. In August 2024, [the UN report](#) published by the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and the UN Human Rights Office highlighted gross human rights violations and abuses, as well as serious violations of international humanitarian law, committed between 2013 and 2022. The report urged for comprehensive transitional justice and reparation for victims, with guarantees for non-repetitions and prevention.

Despite high demands for accountability, the country has not yet developed a comprehensive transitional justice and reconciliation process. In March 2024, the High Council of State rejected a reconciliation draft law designed by the Presidential Council (PC) two years ago in line with the 2020 Roadmap, adopted by the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum. In November 2024, the House of Representatives started the examination of a new reconciliation draft law, modelled around the one previously proposed by the PC, but with important amendments.

In cooperation with UNSMIL, UNDP supported the preparation of this new transitional justice law and facilitated cooperation among national partners, such as the House of Representatives, the Presidential Council and the High Council of State, to align it with international standards and best practices. This was a part of wider efforts to address political tensions and reduce the politicization of the national reconciliation process. As a result, all parties agreed on the amended draft law on reconciliation to strengthen the independence and legitimacy of the future National Reconciliation Commission. While challenges remain with regards to the law's adoption, this represents a significant step towards accountability.

UNDP and UNSMIL built strong and credible relationships with the authorities of the West and East, as well as with civil society and the communities, including the families of missing persons. Considering the sensitivity of the file of missing persons, UNDP promotes a survivor- and rights-centred approach to transitional justice and reconciliation, prioritizing the needs of affected communities. The collaboration between UNDP and UNSMIL was vital for coordination efforts.

In addition to the transitional justice interventions, UNDP improved conditions for women inmates, in line with the priorities of its five-year rule of law and justice project funded the Governments of Italy and the Netherlands. In collaboration with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and the Ministry of Interior (MoI), the project aims to strengthen rule of law institutions to address the people's needs in Libya, build trust and create an enabling environment for the rule of law.

UNDP established a vocational training centre at Jdaida Women Prison to support correction and reintegration efforts. Applying a Training of Trainers (ToT) approach, the programme certified five sewing

trainers who then trained 17 inmates. Additionally, an IT training programme provided 12 inmates with essential computer skills. Beyond skill-building, the initiative empowered inmates, fostering self-sufficiency and preparing them for a future beyond prison. By offering vocational training, the programme helps inmates regain confidence and take control of their lives, reinforcing the prison's rehabilitative mission.

Looking forward

At policy level, UNDP will support the drafting of a new comprehensive legislation to address the file of missing persons and capacitate Libya's forensics institutions to respond to the increased needs of families looking for their missing loved ones. With partners, UNDP will continue to advocate for the implementation of a transitional justice process that addresses the grievances of victims and promotes their right to truth, justice, reparations and guarantees of non-repetition.

At community level, UNDP will support the establishment of the national network of civil society organizations and families of missing persons. Also, the nation-wide campaign to raise awareness on the rights of families of missing persons will be rolled out.

Based on the results of a rule of law assessment in Benghazi, Sabha and Gharyan, UNDP will provide legal aid services bringing solutions at municipal level. The same rule of law assessment will be conducted in the Greater Tripoli Area, expanding this initiative to the capital and thereby covering East, West and Southern Libya.

Somalia

GFP

Key results

- UNDP launched the Joint Police Programme Phase II (2024–2026) and the Building Accountable and Sustainable Security (BASIS) project (2024–2025), marking a significant shift toward a people-centred approach to security by integrating community needs into security planning and improving coordination among federal and state institutions.
- Community consultations were conducted across four Federal Member States with a total of 4,472 participants, including 1,725 women, to inform the design of inclusive police and security sector reforms based on local needs and perspectives.

In 2024, Somalia continued to face complex challenges in its justice, police and security sectors, marked by fragile institutions, limited state presence outside urban centres and ongoing threats from Al-Shabaab. Despite these obstacles, incremental progress was noted in the federalization of the justice system, with steps taken toward harmonizing legal frameworks and increasing coordination between federal and member state institutions. The Somali Police has expanded community policing initiatives and undertaken capacity-building efforts, although structural weaknesses, resource constraints and human rights concerns persist. Security conditions remain volatile, particularly in southern and central regions, where conflict and displacement continue to undermine access to justice and the rule of law. International and national partners have maintained support for justice and security sector reform, but sustained political will and long-term investment remain critical to ensuring accountability, strengthening public trust and enhancing the delivery of equitable justice and security services.

Against this backdrop, UNDP launched the Joint Police Programme Phase II (JPP II, 2024-2026) and the Building Accountable and Sustainable Security project (BASIS, 2024-2025) in the Somali Federal Member States. Bringing the two under one UNDP rule of law and security portfolio ensured better coordination with and among national partners, as well as with the police and security sections of the United Nations Transitional Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNTMS). These initiatives marked a shift towards a people-centred approach to security, emphasizing the integration of community needs into security planning.

The projects are designed to enhance the ownership and accountability of both state and federal police and security institutions. By involving key stakeholders, including ministers from state and federal Ministries of Internal Security, the governance model ensures more comprehensive decision-making processes. This approach not only strengthens collaboration between different levels of government but also fosters more inclusive and sustainable reforms within the Somali Police and security apparatus.

Until recently, security development in Somalia has primarily focused on force generation and militarization. Through the project supported by the Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development, UNDP encouraged Federal Member States (FMS) Ministries of Internal Security to integrate community needs into future planning for permanent policing services. The capacity of ministerial staff was improved through training on data collection, community engagement and planning.

To better understand local security needs, community assessments were launched in key locations involving direct interaction with community members through focus groups, town halls and questionnaires. This process highlighted the need for a more inclusive security response. The assessments were conducted across four Federal Member States (Southwest State, Galmudug, Hirshabelle and Jubaland), with a total of 4,472 participants, including 1,725 women. Civil society, displaced communities, elders and women have all been engaged in shaping local security priorities. Notably, the programme helped place female coordinators

within state-level institutions to ensure the voice of women is reflected during security discussions and decisions, gender advisors were a part of the ministerial assessment teams, and the questionnaires had specific gender-based questions.

A cornerstone of the JPP II success has been the strategic collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), particularly through the Nadadaynta programme, which focuses on community reconciliation and strengthening trust between security actors and local populations. This partnership has enabled the integration of locally driven conflict resolution mechanisms with formal policing efforts, contributing to enhanced community safety and social cohesion, especially in fragile and hard-to-reach areas.

Looking forward

The second phase of the JPP II continues to play a pivotal role in advancing inclusive, accountable and community-oriented policing in Somalia. As it progresses, the continued alignment between national priorities and international support remains critical to sustaining gains in policing reform and reinforcing long-term stability and rule of law in Somalia. The JPP II implementation will include multiple steps to increase women's participation in the Somali Police, such as gender mainstreaming plans, career development pathways and women-specific investigative training courses. It will also address major concerns reported by women, such as lack of access to female police officers, inadequate facilities and security issues.



In Somalia, through the Joint Police Programme (JPP), UNDP, UN Women and UNTMIS are working together with the federal and state level governments to enhance capacity of the police and build strong community-police ties.

Photo:
UNDP Somalia

State of Palestine

Key results

- The UN joint programme Sawasya III improved access to justice for vulnerable communities across Palestine. Over 13,500 Palestinians, including 11,182 women, received legal aid and psychosocial support. This support allowed them to claim rights and seek protection through existing justice systems. Mediation services helped 396 women resolve disputes outside of court, and 1,164 juvenile cases benefitted from mediation services.
- The Mizan court management system has emerged as a model of innovation in justice sector reform. Amid widespread movement restrictions, Mizan enabled remote case management and facilitated judicial proceedings for 164,661 users, including judges, prosecutors and litigants. Mizan's success was recognized internationally when it secured second place in the 2024 SDG Digital GameChangers Award under the "Peace" category.
- In 2024, Sawasya III deepened its partnerships with civil society, working with 59 civil society organizations (CSOs) and academic institutions across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem and Gaza. Of these, 30 CSOs were directly contracted to deliver legal aid, psychosocial support and legal awareness services. These partnerships played a critical role in ensuring that services were context-sensitive and accessible to those most in need, particularly women and children, reinforcing inclusive justice at the local level.

In 2024, the State of Palestine experienced severe challenges that significantly hindered access to justice and complicated efforts to strengthen the rule of law. In the West Bank, heightened military operations, rising settler violence and restrictive movement policies disrupted daily life, preventing many from reaching courts, legal assistance and protective services. Vulnerable groups, including women and children, were particularly affected, as their avenues for support became increasingly limited.



Legal awareness session in the Middle Area, Gaza Strip.

Photo:
Sawasya, UN joint programme

Meanwhile, the conflict in Gaza triggered a deepening humanitarian crisis and resulted in the widespread destruction of judicial infrastructure, police stations and detention centres. The loss of these critical facilities weakened the provision of essential legal protections and magnified existing inequalities. Women faced especially harsh conditions, with many experiencing violence and losing vital legal or civil documentation, further undermining their rights and access to humanitarian aid. Children also endured heightened risks of exploitation, abuse and psychological trauma due to the damage sustained by protective services and educational institutions. As a whole, these developments underscored the urgent need for comprehensive interventions to restore the rule of law and safeguard the most vulnerable members of Palestinian society.

To reinforce equal access to justice, the [Sawasya III](#), a five-year joint programme implemented by UNDP, UN Women and UNICEF, focused on assisting to create a protective, inclusive and responsive justice system. To uphold human rights and promote gender equality, the Sawasya III tailored its interventions to the specific needs of different regions, including Area C, East Jerusalem, Hebron 2 in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

To align its efforts with national legal frameworks and contribute to the capacity development of local institutions, UNDP partnered with leading judicial institutions such as the Ministry of Justice, the High Judicial Council, the Attorney General's Office, the Supreme Judge Department and the Palestinian Judicial Institute. Additionally, a wide network of CSOs and academic institutions were engaged.

In 2024, Sawasya III supported meaningful progress in two key areas of the justice sector: expanding legal aid services and advancing digital reform within the justice system. Through the programme, 13,517 Palestinians, including 11,182 women, gained access to legal aid and psychosocial support, significantly strengthening their capacity to claim rights and engage with justice mechanisms. Targeted legal awareness sessions reached over 21,000 individuals, including 16,433 women, equipping them with critical knowledge about legal rights and available remedies. Additionally, mediation services supported 396 women in resolving disputes outside the courtroom, while 1,164 juvenile cases benefitted from mediation services. These efforts were instrumental in empowering vulnerable groups, especially women and children, to seek justice and protection.

Simultaneously, the Mizan court management system⁷ continued to lead digital justice reform. In a context marked by movement restrictions that often limit physical access to courts, Mizan enabled remote case management and judicial proceedings for 164,661 users, including judges, prosecutors and litigants. By digitizing 86,200 legal documents, the system enhanced efficiency, transparency and accessibility across the justice sector. Mizan's transformative impact received international recognition when it was [awarded second place](#) in the 2024 SDG Digital GameChangers Award under the "Peace" category, with special acknowledgement for its contributions to SDG 16 and SDG 5. Mizan demonstrated that digital tools, when contextually adapted, can strengthen institutional resilience and support inclusive justice delivery.

Looking forward

In 2025, Sawasya III will continue collaborating with CSOs and universities to expand legal representation, consultation and awareness services, with a particular focus on Israeli jurisdiction and Family Courts. Efforts to promote alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms will intensify, aiming to address bottlenecks in mediation and arbitration. This includes supporting the Ministry of Justice in securing approval for both the Mediation Law and the Arbitrators' Code of Conduct, offering litigants more efficient alternatives to the formal judicial system while reducing case backlogs.

Depending on the evolving conflict context in Gaza, the programme will expand its activities, with a focus on facilitating access to justice for women and children.

Initiatives for child justice will grow to include free legal assistance, awareness-raising campaigns and rehabilitation services, complemented by improved access to birth registration in Gaza.

⁷ Mizan II, an integrated digital court management system, was developed by the High Judicial Council of the State of Palestine with UNDP support. Mizan enhanced the justice delivery, increased efficiency and transparency of the judicial system.

Sudan

Key results

- UNDP has initiated a robust assessment of the justice needs in conflict-affected communities, focusing on the effectiveness of existing and potential accountability mechanisms.
- Drawing from the assessment findings, UNDP will propose short-term, medium-term and long-term strategies to address the justice needs articulated by affected populations. These strategies will leverage existing accountability mechanisms and outline innovative pathways for victims and survivors to fulfill their justice needs.
- Consultations will be organized in Port Sudan and Khartoum States, directly informed by the key findings of the assessment, ensuring that the voices of communities are central to future initiatives.

The ongoing armed conflict between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has propelled Sudan into an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, critically degrading the already fragile human development landscape. Longstanding and escalating conflicts have placed immense pressure on vulnerable communities, resulting in the world's largest displacement crisis, compromised livelihoods, widespread disease outbreaks and escalating protection risks. These dire circumstances, exacerbated by profound societal divisions and limited resources, have significantly eroded resilience and social cohesion, intensifying governance challenges.

The conflict has led to a catastrophic collapse of the rule of law. The human rights situation has deteriorated sharply, characterized by a marked increase in attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure. Reports of conflict-related sexual violence, gender-based violence, extortion, looting, property destruction, enforced disappearances and the exploitation of children—including forced recruitment and trafficking—have surged. The breakdown of the formal justice system has entrenched a culture of impunity, leaving affected populations without recourse. Despite these challenges, both SAF and RSF have publicly professed their commitment to protecting civilians in accordance with international humanitarian and human rights law. Advocacy efforts by Sudanese civilians and international actors persist in holding these forces accountable.

In this turbulent environment, UNDP has remained resolute in its commitment to fostering inclusive governance and peacebuilding initiatives. The organization's response has been strategically reframed to align with the UN Common Approach for Sudan, emphasizing the rule of law and human rights, particularly accountability. Objectives focus on bolstering community resilience and supporting dialogue initiatives that address local grievances exacerbated by the 2023 conflict, effectively filling critical gaps in justice and accountability mechanisms. The inclusive governance and peacebuilding pillar serves as a catalyst for locally led peace initiatives aimed at fostering reconciliation and promoting inclusive governance.

UNDP's intervention, funded by the Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development, aims to identify and address the urgent justice needs of the Sudanese population facing extreme adversity. Active incorporation of local perspectives and solutions is essential for informing accountability mechanisms in forthcoming peace processes and transitional negotiations. This initiative prioritizes survivor voices in the design and implementation of justice mechanisms, with a particular focus on the needs of women and girls affected by conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence.

The volatile political, humanitarian and security landscape poses formidable obstacles to project implementation. Despite these challenges, UNDP is conducting a critical assessment of the justice needs of conflict-affected communities, analysing existing and prospective accountability mechanisms. This

assessment aims to gain a comprehensive understanding of the justice needs expressed by the population while evaluating the effectiveness of current and potential mechanisms. The findings will produce actionable, evidence-based recommendations that enhance accountability measures, promote gender equality and address the specific concerns of women regarding justice and accountability mechanisms. Additionally, support for women and women-led civil society organizations remains a priority. Given that Sudan is experiencing the world's largest internal displacement crisis, the assessment will also gather testimonies from refugees and internally displaced persons.

Looking forward

Partnerships with national stakeholders will expand to ensure a comprehensive, nationally owned approach to assessing justice needs across Sudan. Analysis and recommendations will be consolidated in collaboration with key partners within the UN Country Team, particularly with the UN Human Rights Office and the Team of Experts on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence. Insights from this assessment will inform a forthcoming review of the UN Joint Rule of Law Programme, paving the way for a context-specific, people-centred realignment of its activities.

Yemen

Key results

- UNDP significantly improved conditions for 261 women detainees and 41 accompanied children in custody through infrastructure upgrades, legal aid, and psychosocial support, in partnership with UNICEF, reinforcing the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus.
- Legal empowerment initiatives led by the Yemen Women Union, supported by UNDP, assisted 450 legal cases, directly benefiting 145 women and contributing to systemic improvement in both formal and informal justice systems.
- UNDP strengthened inclusive justice mechanisms by institutionalizing community-based platforms and formalizing cooperation between civil society and government through endorsed Standard Operating Procedures, promoting sustainable, people-centered access to justice.

In Yemen, where the crisis is deepening and poverty is raging, UNDP emphasized the importance of development to address the key drivers of the conflict and to avoid irreversible losses. In 2023-2024, UNDP in Yemen implemented a project “Planning a Comprehensive Approach to Prison Programming” supported through UNDP’s Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development (the Global Programme).⁸ The project contributed to the achievements of the broader rule of law portfolio in Yemen, proving that promoting people-centred justice remains a crucial avenue for development-oriented crisis response.

Through integrated responses and the interagency collaboration between UNDP and UNICEF, the project improved the lives of women detainees and children who stay with them in a prison. This partnership strengthened the Humanitarian, Development and Peace (HDP) Nexus, highlighting the need to protect detainees through early development interventions.

Based on a joint needs assessment of 261 women detainees and their 41 children who stay with them, essential infrastructure improvements ensured 24-hour water supply to the women’s section and increased bathroom capacity by 70 percent. In addition, a UN Service Building was successfully constructed to provide life-sustaining services. The project has catalysed a longer-term commitment by UNICEF to provide health, psychosocial and educational services together with UNDP-led legal and economic empowerment.

By addressing the immediate needs of women detainees, the project boosted actions to overcome systemic obstacles for women seeking justice in Yemen, who have long been suffering from unaccountable informal justice channels, as well as expensive and inaccessible formal mechanisms.

Through legal empowerment services, women lawyers from the Yemen Women Union (YWU), in collaboration with community justice workers and relevant authorities, assisted 450 legal cases from February to July 2024. Women were beneficiaries in 145 of these cases. To assess the quality of legal help, women lawyers were also appointed as monitoring agents.

In one case, the mother of a female detainee visited the prison every day, mistakenly believing that the prison staff has the power to release her daughter. Lacking the financial means to hire a private lawyer, she was misled by people who exploited her situation, resulting in a significant loss without a solution. The YWU’s legal empowerment team discovered that the female detainee had already been proven innocent and received a release order, but nobody took action to release her. Through the YWU’s tireless efforts, the detainee was finally released and her mother was saved from hopelessly waiting at the prison gate.

⁸ The summary of the 2023 project midterm report is available [here](#).

Many imprisoned women had been charged with “Az Zina’a” (adultery), an accusation often used by men to silence women’s voices. In addition, families tend to reject these women, and they cannot be released without a family member taking them home. One woman spent additional seven years in a prison after completing her sentence. In coordination with penitentiary authorities, UNDP supported the legal empowerment team at the YWU to reconcile the woman with her family. Eventually, she was released when her two sons came to receive her. In another similar case, the YWU obtained a referral letter from the Prosecutor’s Office, which enabled the detainee to be released and accommodated at a women’s shelter run by the YWU.

To improve gender justice in Yemen, UNDP undertook a comprehensive approach across informal and formal justice systems. An informal community-based justice platform became more inclusive, with almost quarter of its 400 members represented by women, internally displaced persons, persons with disabilities and individuals belonging to Muhamasheen caste group. To guarantee the sustainability of this inclusive approach, a Community Charter was developed incorporating mandatory quotas for diversity, as well as accountability measures, such as a code of conduct and a complaint mechanism.

Through a Joint Committee platform, comprising key civil society and public authorities, including the YWU and the local branches of the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, UNDP improved a policy framework for access to informal and formal justice at the governorate level. While the committee initially faced reluctance from formal institutions, particularly in moving beyond their conventional roles, the focus on the transformative impact of legal empowerment eventually gained their support. The committee successfully developed and endorsed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for legal empowerment, emphasizing community mediation and people-centred access to justice. This collaborative process stands as a valuable lesson in overcoming initial resistance to achieve meaningful system-level change.



A community mediator is providing restorative justice service to a beneficiary.

Photo:
Afaq Shababia
Foundation
(Youth Horizon
Foundation)

The targeted interventions funded by the Global Programme boosted UNDP's understanding of and collaboration with prison authorities, unlocking case referrals from the formal rule of law institutions to informal legal empowerment initiatives based on civil society and communities. In addition, gender justice capacity was strengthened at district courts by operationally activating the Women Litigant Units, providing office equipment, establishing referral pathways to social services, such as the YWU, and facilitating the inauguration by the Ministry of Justice.

Looking forward

UNDP launched follow-up activities with the YWU to continue its protection services for vulnerable women and children, including through a new women's shelter, while UNICEF has committed its resources to commence health and educational services at the UN Service Building. The inter-agency partnership and service referral pathways it fostered are expected to grow beyond the funding duration from the Global Programme. At the end of the project, having witnessed the life-changing impact of legal empowerment assistance, authorities represented at the Joint Committee also shared a consensus about the importance of people-centred services.

ASIA-PACIFIC

Regional overview

In 2024, the Asia-Pacific region continued to grapple with rule of law deficits, with several countries, including Afghanistan, Cambodia and Myanmar facing persistent challenges, ranking among the lowest in the World Justice Project's [Rule of Law Index](#).

[Progress on SDG16 \(Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions\)](#) remained slow, justice gaps deepened and [human rights violations](#) intensified, particularly for women, minority groups, LGBTIQ+ individuals, Indigenous Peoples, human rights defenders and environmental activists. A 112 percent rise in [female incarceration](#), driven by punitive drug laws and excessive pre-trial detention, highlighted the disproportionate impact of justice policies on marginalized communities.

Amid these challenges, 11 countries held critical elections, reflecting increased civic engagement. While Sri Lanka saw a [peaceful transition](#), in Bangladesh, following a month of deadly anti-government protests, August 2024 saw the establishment of an Interim government.

With the region hosting [over 40 percent of the world's migrants](#), [humanitarian crises](#) are worsening. Myanmar's Rakhine State faces [famine](#), while 42 million people across the country live near or well below subsistence levels. In Afghanistan, 75 percent or 32 million people cannot meet their daily basic needs. 90 percent of the households lack a cushion for economic shocks, compared to 65 percent in 2023. By 2025, 18.9 million people are [projected](#) to be displaced, including those in the world's largest refugee settlement in Bangladesh.

Climate action remains stalled, as extreme weather, biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation – identified by the [World Economic Forum](#) as long-term risks – pose serious repercussions for climate and environmental justice

The business and human rights (B+HR) landscape is evolving amid new global regulations like the European Union's Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD). Malaysia and Thailand are advancing



Young artists paint a Collaborative Peace Mural, a powerful tribute to their commitment to promoting tolerance, harmony, and justice in Bangladesh.

Photo:
UNDP Bangladesh

sustainability policies, but shrinking civic space, economic-driven policy and high [compliance costs](#) challenge small and medium enterprises.

In 2024, UNDP implemented rule of law, justice and human rights initiatives across 14 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, supporting justice sector reforms, legal aid mechanisms, alternative dispute resolution, environmental justice, and the protection of housing, land and property rights for displaced communities. UNDP also played a pivotal role in expanding access to justice in crisis settings, addressing business-related human rights abuses and strengthening gender-responsive justice systems.

Enhancing access to justice and legal empowerment

In Bhutan, UNDP supported the establishment of the country's first legal aid centre, providing [access to justice](#) to over 100 indigent individuals. The [Justice Sector Strategic Plan II](#), supported by UNDP's Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development (the Global Programme), secured an additional €1 million from the European Union to enhance access to justice and civil society engagement.

In Viet Nam, with the Global Programme's support, UNDP strengthened legal awareness, mediation and access to justice for women, children and ethnic minorities, while enhancing the country's engagement with [international human rights mechanisms](#).

In Sri Lanka, the UNDP justice reform programme ([JURE](#)) supported by the European Union, is accelerating the digitalization efforts in the country illustrated by the launch of the Commercial High Court [digital platform](#) which provides transparency and access to information for court users.

Advancing people-centred justice

Across the region, people-centred justice approaches have expanded access to justice in rural communities. In Bangladesh, [Village Courts](#) provide efficient and affordable dispute resolution, while [mediation](#) offers a measure of cohesion for the Rohingya living in Cox's Bazar. In Myanmar, collaborative dispute resolution mechanisms continue to support ethnic communities in Kachin and Rakhine states.

A key milestone was the Regional Conference on "Achieving Just Societies", hosted by UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub with 300 participants from 27 countries. The conference focused on [people-centred justice, including](#) climate and environmental justice, digital justice and gender justice, and marked the launch of the Regional Community of Practice on Governance, Rule of Law & Peacebuilding, engaging 18 UNDP Country Offices in strategic collaboration.

Strengthening national human rights systems

In partnership with the Asia Pacific Forum (APF) and the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR), UNDP advanced national human rights institutions (NHRIs) under the Tri-Partite Partnership (TPP).

In [Timor-Leste](#), UNDP supported a human rights and justice perception survey, shaping policy responses. In Maldives, efforts focused on institutional capacity-building for NHRIs, strengthening their effectiveness and alignment with international human rights standards. The [capacity assessment](#) of the National Human Rights Commission in Nepal will further enhance human rights oversight.

As co-chair of the Asia-Pacific Human Rights Working Group, UNDP facilitated inter-agency coordination on business and human rights, access to justice and human rights protections.

Advancing Business and Human Rights (BHR)

In 2024, UNDP expanded its BHR programming from nine to 14 countries, deepening engagement with governments and the private sector.

UNDP's Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) training supported institutions in India, Indonesia, Mongolia and Thailand, equipping stakeholders with HRDD implementation tools. Additionally, labour inspectors in Bangladesh and India benefitted from gender equality and HRDD training, while financial institutions and regulators in Malaysia and Thailand integrated HRDD into sustainability and climate action, reinforcing long-term regulatory impact.

Looking forward

In 2025, UNDP will expand access to justice and strengthen human rights protections, with a focus on gender justice, environmental and climate justice and digital innovation, including addressing community security priorities in crisis-affected settings such as Afghanistan, Myanmar and Papua New Guinea, as well as in contexts of political transition like Bangladesh.

At the regional level, UNDP will enhance policy dialogues on women's representation in the judiciary, environmental justice, and business and human rights. It will also invest in further strengthening the community of practice across the governance, peacebuilding and rule of law thematic areas in the region and strengthen peer learning and cross-country collaboration on justice and human rights.

UNDP will deepen partnerships with APF and OHCHR to strengthen national human rights institutions, reinforcing institutional capacity and compliance with international human rights standards.

Under the B+HR portfolio, regional platforms will amplify Global South perspectives, shaping corporate accountability frameworks across Asia-Pacific.

Bangladesh

Key results

- The Digital Witness Deposition Mechanism established in five courts in Cox's Bazar allows for recording, reviewing and analysing witness testimonies, laying the groundwork for sustained improvements in judicial efficiency.
- To offer a sustainable community-driven conflict resolution mechanism and build on practices embedded in Bangladeshi rural culture, UNDP revitalized Mediation Forums in six unions of Ukhiya and Teknaf, ensuring their transparency and inclusivity. A total of 723 mediators, including 203 women, were trained, and 164 disputes were resolved in 2024.
- UNDP developed five evidence-based and people-centred Community Safety Plans in consultation with key stakeholders. These plans are a roadmap to reduce crime and social disorder in five sub-districts of Cox's Bazar. They prioritize the needs of vulnerable groups, ensuring their concerns are addressed when undertaking security and justice measures.

In Bangladesh, UNDP's Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development supported efforts to enhance community safety, peaceful coexistence and access to justice in Cox's Bazar district. The influx of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar has placed significant pressure on the local communities, contributing to challenges around access to public



Community consultations to design community safety plans in Cox's Bazar district of Bangladesh.

Photo:
UNDP Bangladesh

services, land ownership disputes and growing inter-community tensions. These issues compromised safety and security, placing additional strain on the already overburdened judiciary and police. With just 24 judges in the district, over 95,000 cases were filed, exacerbating the challenge.

In response, UNDP focused on strengthening the capacity of judges and lawyers, improving mechanisms for community dispute resolution and enhancing community security and policing. After [the July 2024 government transition](#), UNDP adapted its approach in Cox's Bazar, working closely with the interim government and local host communities. This helped maintain trust and ensured continued support.

To strengthen the judicial system of Cox's Bazar, UNDP built the capacity of 188 legal practitioners, including nine women: 69 civil lawyers, 75 criminal lawyers and 44 public prosecutors. Through targeted training, legal professionals were equipped with necessary skills to uphold due diligence, improve case management and advance access to justice, while fostering critical dialogue on legal reforms and witness protection.

One of the outcomes most seconded by national stakeholders is the establishment of the Digital Witness Deposition Mechanism in five courts in Cox's Bazar. This system allows for recording, reviewing and analysing witness testimonies, laying the groundwork for sustained improvements in judicial efficiency. Based on the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs' request, UNDP and partners are exploring the nationwide rollout of the system.

To ensure that people in rural communities have access to justice and human rights, UNDP established Legal Aid Corners at Union Parishad (Union Councils) offices.⁹ Integrated into the local governance structure under the National Legal Aid and Services Act, these legal aid corners became nationally owned avenues for marginalized groups to access justice and legal services.

To further modernize and bolster the judicial system, UNDP convened partners to discuss legal reform, justice needs, and victim and witness protection. Two inclusive dialogues were organized in 2024, with broad participation from the judiciary, law enforcement, legal practitioners, civil society, UN agencies and other international stakeholders.

To offer a sustainable community-driven conflict resolution mechanism and to build on practices embedded into Bangladeshi rural culture, UNDP revitalized Mediation Forums in six unions of Ukhiya and Teknaf, ensuring their transparency and inclusivity. In 2024, a total of 723 mediators, including 203 women, were trained, and 164 disputes were resolved. While women showed initial interest in this initiative during consultations, their involvement was limited in the beginning, mostly due to cultural barriers. UNDP engaged with community and religious leaders to ensure greater female participation, particularly in gender-based violence prevention efforts. As a result, a specialized training on gender-sensitive conflict resolution and gender-based violence was provided to 45 women mediators, improving their capacity to address these issues and support survivors.

UNDP conducted 40 sensitization campaigns promoting social cohesion and enhancing community participation in mediation and peacebuilding across six sub-districts, focusing on gender-based violence, conflict resolution and free legal aid services. The campaigns reached 2,356 participants, including 668 women and 162 persons with disabilities.

To reduce crime and social disorder in Cox's Bazar, UNDP developed five evidence-based and people-centred Community Safety Plans in consultation with key stakeholders such as the district police, Community Policing Forum (CPF), and community and religious leaders. These plans will be implemented in five sub-districts, prioritizing the needs of vulnerable groups and ensuring their concerns are addressed when undertaking security and justice measures. Community Policing Forums, which UNDP operationalized with national partners, have contributed significantly to preventing crime and promoting community safety, showing how cross-sectoral collaboration can create sustainable and locally owned solutions.

Notably, the youth of Cox's Bazar was integrated into all these platforms, including Mediation Forums, Community Policing Forums, Legal Aid Committees and Union Parishad. Engaging young people as leaders

⁹ The lowest tier of local administration in Bangladesh is the Union Parishad (UP), also known as the Union Council.

and equipping them with knowledge of law, community cohesion and peaceful coexistence can strengthen peacebuilding efforts, paving the way for a more secure and prosperous society.

This UNDP project in Bangladesh benefitted significantly from an integrated approach. Close collaboration with other UNDP teams, national and international partners enabled the delivery of holistic solutions, tailored to the specific challenges faced by the host communities in Cox's Bazar. The key partners included UNDP's Cox's Bazar Analysis and Research Unit (CARU), the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). This multi-agency collaboration was essential in addressing the challenges of social cohesion, crime prevention and community resilience, leveraging the strengths of each organization to deliver more impactful results

The catalytic impact generated by this project will extend beyond its current scope. The government is interested in replicating Community Policing Forums and Mediator Forums in other areas, contributing to broader security and access to justice reforms.

Looking forward

UNDP aims to develop further initiatives based on the lessons learned and recommendations from the dialogues and outreach initiatives with justice and security stakeholders. It will focus on strengthening the Community Policing Forum, emphasizing independence, integrity and depoliticization through active community involvement. Integrating youth and women will be a priority. Additionally, to align with UNDP efforts at the national level, synergies will be built in mediation, community policing and strengthening of the judiciary.

Key results

- The police shifted from a “warrior” to a “guardian” approach, prioritizing protection and engagement. This included reforms in community policing strategies, emphasizing respect for human dignity and building trust within communities.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration increased the budget of the Fiji Police Force by US\$41 million (18 percent) compared to the previous budget period to ensure its full reset and modernization.
- To leave no one behind, a community policing model was designed for Indigenous coastal communities, such as I-Taukei villages in the rural areas, to prevent crimes and enhance security at the coast and surrounding maritime areas. This new model integrates formal governance structures with traditional customary practices.

For decades, the security sector in Fiji had faced issues with the law enforcement sector, amid overall public distrust towards security institutions. The 2022 general elections and consecutive leadership changes within the Fiji Police Force (FPF) and the Ministry of Home Affairs brought a new national vision and priorities that included transparency, police professionalism and accountability, as well as community engagement. To respond to this political and societal demand, UNDP launched the Restore Blue Review project funded through the Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development. The aim of this intervention was (1) to facilitate confidence building between the people of Fiji and the FPF through community-oriented policing, and (2) design and operationalize polices and structures that would create an environment for human rights-based policing and good governance in the FPF.

Comprehensive research was conducted to identify key challenges within the FPF and propose culturally appropriate reforms that align with modern policing standards. The research entailed close consultation with communities, including Indigenous traditional leaders, women, youth and faith-based organizations. In addition to community engagement sessions, a survey was conducted in Suva City, where over 100 citizens



Police-community consultations at Nakasi police station in Fiji.

Photo:
UNDP Fiji /
Nicholas Turner

provided feedback to gauge public perception of policing. This inclusive approach ensured that diverse perspectives, including from rural and remote areas, shaped the proposed policy directions.

The research also touched on the importance of gender balance within the FPF, emphasizing the need for more equitable recruitment and retention practices. It highlighted the criticality of increasing women's representation in both rank and leadership positions to foster more inclusive and effective policing. This effort to ensure gender-sensitive law enforcement aligns with Fiji's broader national priorities for gender equality and human rights. The recommendations include targeted recruitment strategies aimed at increasing female participation in policing, particularly in decision-making roles, which will enhance the FPF's ability to address community safety issues more holistically.

The findings emphasized the need for a shift from enforcement-focused policing to a "guardian" model that prioritizes protection and engagement. Having formally accepted the research, the Ministry of Home Affairs directed it to the FPF for the implementation of recommended reforms, supported by dedicated budget allocations. Notably, the FPF budget for 2024-2025 [was increased](#) by US\$41 million (18 percent) compared to the previous budget period to ensure its full reset and modernization.

This step demonstrates a high-level commitment to reform, ensuring that the changes are institutionalized within the FPF. This commitment is critical for sustaining the momentum of reform efforts and aligning the FPF with national and international standards for democratic policing. Ultimately, the transition to a guardian model sets the foundation for long-term improvements in public trust, safety and the overall effectiveness of law enforcement in Fiji. The research findings and recommendations will be also used as the foundation for developing the Fiji Police Academy's community policing training curriculum as well as the human rights-based policing curriculum.

The implementation of the Restore Blue Project has benefited significantly from the collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration and the FPF, ensuring the project's alignment with national priorities and fostering a sense of ownership among key local partners. In addition, UNDP engaged with civil society organizations, such as the Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS) and the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre to gather essential feedback on policy development for policing. These collaborations have provided valuable insights into community perspectives and needs, particularly concerning gender equality and social justice issues.

The project has also advanced specific policies aimed at reforming the FPF, including the Community Policing Policy, which focuses on fostering trust and collaboration between the police and communities. The Review of FPF Human Resource and Administration Processes aims to enhance operational efficiency, while training initiatives such as Police Training and Human Rights and the Eight-Step Guide to Implement Human Rights-Based Policing in the FPF equip officers with the skills to uphold human rights standards in their practices. Furthermore, the emphasis on police leadership seeks to develop leaders committed to democratic principles and community engagement. Collectively, these policies and training programmes reflect a comprehensive approach to institutional reform, targeting both operational effectiveness and the promotion of human rights within Fiji's policing framework.

To adapt the police reforms to Fiji's unique context, a community policing model was designed for Indigenous coastal communities, such as I-Taukei villages in the rural areas, to prevent crimes and enhance security at the coast and surrounding maritime areas. This new model integrates formal governance structures with traditional customary practices.

A significant milestone in 2024 was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Governments of Australia and Fiji to support further implementation of Restore Blue. The MoU reinforces bilateral cooperation on democratic policing, institutional strengthening and community safety, and serves as a key platform for scaling successful elements of the project nationally. The agreement further reflects international confidence in the Fiji Police Force's reform trajectory and underscores the strategic importance of Restore Blue as a flagship model for Pacific policing transformation.

Looking forward

To continue the police reform and to emphasize community-centred policing, the Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration launched the Restore Blue Phase 2, a nationally owned blueprint towards rights-based policing. UNDP will provide support to its national partners, including government agencies and civil society, to encourage greater citizen involvement in safety and security initiatives, leading to a more responsive and accountable police force.

Myanmar

Key results

- Access to justice and legal empowerment was expanded through legal counselling, assistance and representation provided to 2,753 individuals, over 60 percent of them women, across 92 villages in 17 townships.
- Community resilience and gender-inclusive peacebuilding were strengthened through Collaborative Dispute Resolution mechanisms in 59 villages, training 1,233 individuals, including women mediators, in mediation and conflict resolution and fostering local ownership and trust. UNDP supported civil society to implement initiatives that improved digital literacy and access to technology for over 2,394 individuals, primarily women, including the establishment of pilot e-hubs in conflict-affected areas and a nationwide social media campaign reaching 3.9 million people.

Four years after the 2021 military takeover, people in Myanmar continued to face the severe impact of conflict, which continued to contribute, inter alia, to the deepening of the economic crisis. It is estimated that more than 3.5 million people have been displaced, losing their homes and land. Internet shutdowns, as well as the disruption of communication lines, limited access to certain areas due to the escalated conflict led UNDP to re-prioritize in-person activities and/or shift their location to ensure the safety of local actors and direct beneficiaries.



A social media campaign in Myanmar promoted inclusion and non-discrimination.

Photo:
“I am me”
campaign

UNDP has continued to work with local partners to enable service provision in a plurality of legal systems. The Collaborative Dispute Resolution (CDR) programme continued to support and empower local actors and communities at the village level. UNDP developed an interim approach to Housing, Land and Property (HLP) rights protection adapted to the local context which includes access to justice for women living in rural areas, including engagement with informal mechanisms.

In 2024, UNDP provided legal counselling, assistance and representation to individuals and groups across 92 villages in 17 townships, supporting 2,753 people, with over 60 percent being women. Labour rights were promoted in 134 villages across 66 townships, benefiting over 100,000 individuals, almost three-quarters (73 percent) of whom were women. UNDP focused on promoting gender equality and non-discrimination through community engagement, conducting 204 awareness sessions on legal aid, HLP rights and labour rights, reaching 4,658 participants, 68 percent of whom were women. The “[I am Me](#)” social media campaign promoted social inclusion, non-discrimination and gender equality, reaching individuals through videos and posts in six local dialects. This multimedia campaign reached 3.9 million people across the country.

UNDP championed women’s digital empowerment by increasing access to technology and strengthening digital literacy skills in rural and conflict-affected communities. Over 2,394 individuals, primarily women, benefited from these initiatives through in-person communication, including the establishment of pilot e-hubs in Kachin State.

CDR assistance was provided with training and technical support on mediation and other forms of dispute resolution offered to civil society organizations (CSOs) in 59 villages across 24 townships. Women mediators were empowered to participate in village-level conflict resolution processes, enhancing women’s representation in peacebuilding activities. This initiative benefited 1,233 people, fostering gender equality, community trust and inclusion.

Finally, UNDP contributed to high level advocacy on fundamental rights and gender equality through cooperation with other UN entities. UNDP’s support for local actors in Myanmar follows an approach grounded in sustainability and local ownership, aiming to help them become more resilient and effective, both technically and organizationally, while fostering network-building, dialogue and resource mobilization to reinforce the catalytic impact of these initiatives.

Looking forward

Amid ongoing conflict, economic instability and climate shocks, UNDP will continue prioritizing access to justice, digital empowerment and protection of HLP rights, especially for displaced women, vulnerable farmers and conflict-affected communities. UNDP will expand legal aid, strengthen community-based justice systems and promote gender equality and social inclusion by supporting women’s leadership in CDR and peacebuilding with a focus on minority groups. UNDP will continue to invest in local actors through tailored capacity building, ensuring sustainability and community ownership. Digital empowerment will be enhanced through digital literacy initiatives and information access in hard-to-reach areas. UNDP will also sustain high-level advocacy for inclusive governance, fundamental rights and equal access to services in partnership with UN agencies.

Nepal

Key results

- The rollout of the Integrated Legal Aid Software and Mobile Application by the Central Legal Aid Committee significantly improved transparency and efficiency in legal aid delivery, with 699 cases documented by 58 district legal aid lawyers by the end of 2024.
- Legal aid services reached over 37,700 individuals nationwide, with a strong focus on inclusion, as 57 percent of beneficiaries were women and 36 percent were youth, supported by the proposed Integrated Legal Aid Bill to institutionalize and decentralize access.
- The judicial committees under local governments demonstrated enhanced effectiveness in community-level dispute resolution, resolving over 45 percent of cases through mediation, with Karnali province increasing its settlement rate from 59 percent in 2023 to 72 percent in 2024.

In 2024, Nepal continued to advance democratic consolidation and post-conflict recovery, with a renewed focus on justice, human rights and inclusive governance. The country continued efforts to advance transitional justice following its decade-long conflict. The government demonstrated political will by appointing a Transitional Justice and Human Rights Advisor and initiating the revival of the Search Committee tasked with nominating leadership for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Commission of Investigation of Enforced Disappearance. These developments signaled a critical step toward moving forward with a more inclusive and accountable justice system.

Despite these advances, the gap between policy and practice [remained a persistent challenge](#), particularly for marginalized communities and conflict-affected populations. Women, Dalits,¹⁰ Indigenous Peoples and ethnic groups, and other vulnerable segments of society continued to face barriers in accessing justice, including social stigma, limited legal literacy and inadequate institutional support. In this context, UNDP, through its [Enhancing Access to Justice through Institutional Reform \(A2J\) Project-II](#), played a pivotal role in strengthening Nepal's justice sector and promoting equitable access to legal remedies.

The A2J Project, implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, focused on institutional reform, legal empowerment and digital innovation. One of the most transformative achievements was the rollout of the Integrated Legal Aid Software and Mobile Application by the Central Legal Aid Committee (CLAC). This digital platform streamlined data collection, case tracking, and reporting, significantly enhancing transparency and accountability in legal aid delivery. By the end of 2024, 699 cases had been documented by 58 district legal aid lawyers, marking a substantial improvement in service delivery and oversight.

Legal aid services expanded dramatically, reaching over 37,700 individuals across the country. Women accounted for 57 percent of beneficiaries, and youth made up 36 percent, reflecting the project's inclusive approach. The proposed Integrated Legal Aid Bill, which was pre-approved by the cabinet, further institutionalized these gains by expanding eligibility criteria to include social, cultural and vulnerability factors. This legislative initiative aimed to decentralize legal aid services, aligning them with Nepal's federal structure and ensuring that justice is accessible at the local level.

UNDP's efforts also focused on building the capacity of justice sector professionals. More than 2,500 professionals, including judges, prosecutors and legal aid providers, 41 percent of whom were women, received training in areas such as investigation, law formulation, information technology, as well as gender and social inclusion. These capacity-building efforts contributed to a nine percent increase in the disposal of

¹⁰ The lowest strata in the traditional Hindu caste hierarchy in South Asia.

backlog cases in the judiciary and an almost 67 percent increase in the performance rate for the Office of the Attorney General, as noted in the mid-term review of its five-year strategy.

At the community level, local judicial committees demonstrated improved performance, resolving over 45 percent of disputes through mediation. In Karnali province, the case settlement rate rose from 59 percent in 2023 to 72 percent in 2024, underscoring the effectiveness of decentralized dispute resolution mechanisms. Local governments also showed increased commitment to justice sector development, with 172 municipalities across four provinces allocating a combined budget of US\$1.36 million for law and justice initiatives.

Community engagement was central to the project's strategy, combining broad outreach with targeted legal empowerment. Through partnerships with civil society organizations and academic institutions, over 374,000 people were reached via media and community events, using creative methods like street dramas, song competitions and justice dialogues to raise awareness on legal and human rights issues. Complementing this, the Community Legal Education (CLE) initiative, in partnership with universities, mobilized 191 law students and interns, over half of them women, from Purbanchal and Far-West Universities, to deliver legal education and aid to more than 5,700 individuals. Additionally, 19 young lawyers from marginalized backgrounds provided legal support to 386 people and assisted local judicial committees in resolving disputes.

The project's inclusive outreach was reflected in its demographic impact. Of those directly reached, 51 percent were women, 20 percent were Dalits and 29 percent belonged to Indigenous and Madhesi communities. The project also engaged 290 individuals from Muslim communities and 47 from LGBTIQ+ groups.

Strategic partnerships amplified the project's impact. Collaborations with the Supreme Court, Office of the Attorney General, Nepal Bar Association and local governments facilitated systemic reforms. The project also partnered with UN Women, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF and other UNDP governance initiatives to ensure a coordinated and holistic approach to justice sector reform.

By enhancing institutional capacity, expanding access to legal aid and fostering community engagement, the A2J Project contributed meaningfully to building a more just, equitable and resilient society. These achievements not only addressed immediate needs but also laid the groundwork for sustainable, long-term transformation in Nepal's rule of law landscape.

Looking forward

UNDP aims to endorse the integrated Legal Aid Act and support its effective implementation. The support will be focused on the implementation of integrated legal aid services at the sub-national level by establishing and strengthening the secretariat. Support will also be focused on strengthening accountability, judicial integrity, rule of law and an online case management system. The online case management system will be further enhanced at the special court along with online court client desks.

Support to the transitional justice mechanisms will also be one of the focused areas of support in Nepal in 2025.

Pakistan

Key results

- Through targeted capacity-building, the Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Protection Tribunal and National Commission for Human Rights enhanced their capacities to implement environmental policies and deliver justice in Balochistan province.
- UNDP's inclusive approach helped amplify marginalized voices in environmental decision-making, ensuring the participation of women, persons with disabilities and transgender individuals in all capacity-building activities.
- Over 50 companies across Pakistan were capacitated on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, as well as human rights due diligence. Eighteen companies benefitted from individual technical guidance sessions on integrating human rights due diligence into their operations.

In Pakistan, UNDP continued [implementing the environmental justice project it started in 2023](#) in Balochistan province. The broader national and provincial context in which this project unfolded remained complex and challenging. Pakistan's climate vulnerability persisted, with the country maintaining its position in the medium performance category in [the 2024 Climate Change Performance Index](#). Coordination challenges across government institutions hindered effective implementation of environmental laws and policies. In Balochistan, despite complex security dynamics marked by regional and inter-communal conflicts, provincial departments demonstrated notable willingness to engage in climate and environmental policymaking. This was exemplified by the development of the Provincial Climate Change Policy, a direct outcome of UNDP interventions. However, institutional capacity gaps continued to limit access to environmental justice, particularly for marginalized communities.

Against this backdrop, the UNDP-led environmental justice project focused on enhancing the capacity of key institutions, including environmental protection agencies, environmental protection tribunals and the national human rights institution, to deliver inclusive and people-centred services. It also aimed to improve community engagement with these institutions, ensuring that environmental justice was not only a policy goal but a lived reality for those most affected by environmental degradation.

A cornerstone of the project's success was its strong network of partnerships. UNDP worked closely with provincial government departments, civil society organizations such as Aurat Foundation and Shirkatgah, and international partners including the UN Human Rights Office and the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights. These collaborations enriched the project's design and implementation, bringing in diverse expertise and ensuring alignment with international standards. The project also benefited from synergies with other UNDP initiatives, such as the [Huqooq-e-Pakistan II programme](#) (focusing on human rights promotion) and the Community Stabilization Programme in Gwadar, which helped integrate environmental justice into broader governance and human rights efforts.

As one of the key results, a comprehensive training module on environmental rights was developed and used in capacity-building workshops for the Environmental Protection Agency and Tribunal in Quetta. High-level meetings and two consultative sessions were held with the National Commission for Human Rights and its provincial counterparts to address issues such as solid waste management and the implementation of the Provincial Climate Change Policy.

Research reports were produced on topics including the impact of environmental issues on coastal livelihoods, the role of women in waste management, and the normative framework for environmental

justice in Pakistan. These knowledge products not only informed policy discussions but also empowered environmental human rights defenders with critical legal and procedural knowledge.

UNDP's extensive capacity-building efforts strengthened the ability of institutions like the National Commission for Human Rights and various provincial departments to fulfill their mandates effectively. They also supported environmental human rights defenders and civil society actors in advocating for environmental rights. Gender considerations were integrated throughout the project, with targeted efforts to include women, persons with disabilities and transgender individuals in all activities. The inclusion of the Balochistan Commission on the Status of Women and the engagement of 21 female environmental human rights defenders underscored UNDP's commitment to inclusive environmental justice.

In 2024, UNDP also continued implementing Phase II of the Business and Human Rights project, raising awareness and building capacity of Japanese companies and their partners operating in Pakistan to enable responsible business practices and strengthen human rights standards in value chains. This Japan-funded project had catalytic effect on business and human rights agenda in Pakistan, as additional resources were mobilized. In particular, the support from the Government of Norway will further advance the business and human rights agenda, while a larger project on human rights promotion funded by the European Union will have a dedicated business and human rights pillar. The interventions will focus on the implementation of the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights, training on human rights due diligence, improving access to remedy, and other issues.

UNDP's work on business and human rights in Pakistan has been closely intertwined with efforts to advance environmental justice. Recognizing the environmental dimensions of responsible business conduct, UNDP integrated environmental justice considerations into its broader human rights and governance initiatives. This included targeted support under the Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development, which enabled capacity-building for Environmental Protection Tribunals and Agencies. These efforts led to more streamlined and responsive administrative processes in environmental governance.

Building on the progress achieved through earlier Global Programme funding, UNDP enhanced resource mobilization to advance policy development, implementation and advocacy for responsible business practices in collaboration with the Government, the private sector and civil society. Additionally, it supported sustainable livelihoods and increased rights awareness among women home-based workers, reinforcing the connection between inclusive economic development and human rights.

Looking forward

The momentum generated by this project offers a strong foundation for continued progress. The integration of project interventions into ongoing UNDP programmes ensures sustainability, while the self-sustaining network of environmental human rights defenders provides a platform for continued advocacy and knowledge sharing. As Pakistan navigates its environmental and political challenges, the lessons and partnerships forged through this project will remain vital in advancing equitable and effective access to environmental justice in Balochistan and beyond.

Sri Lanka

Key results

- The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka conducted independent field inquiries and established a sustainable evidence repository, significantly enhancing its ability to respond swiftly and effectively to address allegations of human rights violations during public protests.
- Over 400 justice sector professionals and 1,600 local officials and community workers were trained under the Victims and Witnesses Protection Act, improving the protection and support mechanisms for vulnerable individuals across the country.
- More than 6,600 individuals participated in legal awareness programmes and over 8,100 accessed legal aid services through the JURE project, promoting equitable access to justice, especially for marginalized groups.

In 2024, Sri Lanka was still recovering from its worst economic crisis that hit the country in March 2022, triggering public unrest and culminating in a political crisis that plunged Sri Lanka into fragility. Recommendations stemming from a governance diagnostic study by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) informed the Government's Action Plan (2023-2025). UNDP designed a framework offer on economic governance to accelerate Sri Lanka's recovery and meet national priorities. The rule of law portfolio focused on greater public political engagement and oversight, justice reforms and anticorruption measures, laying the groundwork for democratic checks and balances, as well as improved accountability and transparency.

Following an increase in complaints related to human rights violations during public protests, UNDP supported the Human Rights Commission (HRC) of Sri Lanka in conducting independent field inquiries and fact-finding missions across the country. This included assistance in analysing video and photographic evidence, which proved critical in identifying victims and perpetrators and expediting investigations. To ensure long-term effectiveness, UNDP helped the HRC establish a sustainable repository for storing and managing evidence. A coordination network between civil society organizations and the HRC was established to help identify and respond to human rights violations in several high-priority districts. These efforts allowed the HRC to act more quickly and effectively in protecting victims and promoting accountability.

In 2024, UNDP also helped strengthen the capacity of oversight institutions and mechanisms. In particular, further support was provided to enhance the HRC's ability to manage complaints and reduce legal delays. This included deploying rapid response units and conducting a Pulse Survey on the Impact of the Economic Crisis on Women's Rights, which generated actionable recommendations to improve the HRC responsiveness. UNDP also facilitated a strategic partnership between the HRC and the Right to Information Commission of Nepal, resulting in a formal agreement to share knowledge and best practices.

Furthermore, the HRC was enabled to develop guidelines for police conduct during public protests, consistent with international standards.

UNDP supported critical initiatives aimed at improving anti-corruption measures and upholding human rights within the justice system. In 2024, over 6,600 individuals (including 3,900 women) benefited from legal awareness programmes, while more than 8,100 people (including 5,280 women) accessed legal aid services through UNDP's Support to Justice Sector – JURE project. More than 1,900 justice sector personnel, including 787 women and 65 persons with disabilities, received training to better serve the public. Through these efforts, UNDP promoted equitable and responsive justice delivery, ensuring that marginalized groups can engage effectively with the legal system.

Building on the momentum for digital transformation in the justice sector, UNDP designed a comprehensive plan to modernize key institutions, including the Legal Aid Commission, the police, the Government Analyst's Department and the Prisons Department. This was a continuation of earlier efforts to support remote court hearings during the COVID-19 pandemic and in response to growing demand for more efficient and accessible justice services. The plan was approved by national authorities, and an inter-agency committee was set up to start with the implementation.

UNDP also worked to improve protection for victims and witnesses of crime. In collaboration with the judiciary and the National Authority for the Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses, UNDP supported training for judges and magistrates on how to better assist and protect vulnerable individuals. This included promoting the use of victim impact statements and awarding compensation. To support the implementation of the Victims and Witnesses Protection Act, UNDP trained over 400 justice sector professionals, including judges, lawyers, police officers and medical officers. An additional 1,600 local officials and community workers were reached through awareness sessions, helping to ensure the law is applied effectively and consistently across the country.

Looking forward

In 2025, UNDP will focus on expanding access to justice for vulnerable groups by strengthening coordination across the justice sector and supporting the implementation of the National Legal Aid Policy. A new Justice Coordination Committee will bring together key institutions to improve collaboration and ensure more inclusive, effective responses.

Improving justice for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence will remain a priority. UNDP will develop practical tools and integrate them into training for judges, prosecutors and police. It will also support the rollout of the National Action Plan to Address Sexual and Gender-Based Violence at all administrative levels, introduce a reporting platform for technology-facilitated violence, and develop standard procedures for relevant institutions.

Timor-Leste

Key results

- Women prisoners benefitted from the renovation of correctional facilities, while gender sensitivity training, as well as vocational and financial literacy programmes, reached inmates of all genders and correctional officers.
- Access to justice was improved through strengthened alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms. A network of ADR officers was established, 193 community leaders were capacitated.
- The national Ombudsperson (PDHJ) monitored the implementation of the Disability Action Plan across 11 government institutions and four municipalities, laying the groundwork for institutional reforms. Over 330 civil servants, including 75 women, received training in human rights and good governance.

In Timor-Leste, despite progress in stabilization, significant challenges remain, particularly for women and girls. Institutional capacity constraints in the formal justice system continue to limit its ability to meet the diverse needs of the people. To improve access to justice for all in the country and to enhance human rights protection for the most vulnerable, UNDP's Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development supported three projects in Timor-Leste: (1) Human Rights-Oriented Prison Enhancement for Gender Equality (HOPE); (2) Strengthening alternative dispute resolution to increase access to justice; and (3) Advancing Equality and Inclusion: Fostering Human Rights Capacities. The third initiative was designed and implemented under the Tripartite Partnership to Support National Human Rights Institutions (the TPP).

All the initiatives fostered collaboration with key government entities, including the Ministry of Justice, the Ombudsperson for Human Rights and Justice, the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion, as well as the Land and Property Commission. Additionally, partnerships were established with civil society, local authorities and community leaders.

The HOPE project has contributed to meaningful improvements in the lives of female prisoners, better living conditions, promoting gender sensitivity and equipping them with tools for successful reintegration into society. Central to the initiative was the renovation of correctional facilities in Gleno in line with international human rights standards. As a result, all female inmates reported feeling safer and more protected in the upgraded environment. Vocational and financial literacy training, along with legal aid services, provided female pre-trial detainees, inmates and former prisoners with essential life skills. All participants in the financial literacy programme felt they had gained valuable knowledge, and 93 percent reported improved skills through vocational training.

Gender sensitivity training was delivered both for correctional officers and inmates, with 95 percent of the correctional officers reporting better understanding of gender equality, while 81 percent of inmates acknowledged that violence against men and women was unjustifiable.

To complement the formal justice system and reduce the burden on courts, UNDP strengthened alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms. By promoting community-based solutions, the ADR project has enhanced access to justice, particularly in underserved areas. Targeted training on impartiality, human rights and non-discriminatory practices was delivered for 193 community leaders, including 54 women, and a network of ADR officers was created to support informal justice processes at the grassroots level. The ADR process for land disputes was also improved through capacity building in human rights, gender sensitivity and conflict resolution. The production of a casebook, containing essential mediation guidance, ensured

the sustainability of knowledge transfer and continued impact beyond the project's duration. Through these integrated efforts, UNDP has laid a solid foundation for a more inclusive, accessible and community-driven justice system.

Under the TPP, UNDP supported the national Ombudsperson (PDHJ) in monitoring the implementation of the Disability Action Plan across 11 government institutions and four municipalities. The process identified areas for improvement in institutional access and service delivery and laid the foundation for institutional reforms to uphold disability rights. In parallel, over 330 civil servants, including 75 women, were trained in human rights and good governance. A national perception survey revealed low public awareness of the PDHJ's mandate (31 percent), prompting renewed efforts to expand outreach and enhance access to remedies and protection.

Looking forward

UNDP will continue implementing its two ongoing initiatives: the *Integrated Strategy for Social Cohesion*, funded through the Governance, Peacebuilding, Crisis and Resilience Funding Windows, and *Advancing Equality and Inclusion*, supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs via the TPP. In the coming year, UNDP also plans to collaborate with the National Police to strengthen public safety and security by supporting capacity development in road safety and community policing. These efforts aim to lay the groundwork for lasting peace, resilience to climate-induced natural disasters and long-term poverty reduction.

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Regional overview

Europe and Central Asia (ECA) remains confronted with significant challenges and a prolonged crisis. [The rule of law and human rights are in steady decline](#), marked by deepening division and polarization. [In several countries and territories, civic space is severely restricted. Across much of the region, peace and security are deteriorating](#). The ongoing war in Ukraine further undermines regional stability. Meanwhile, millions of displaced people still face serious gaps in access to effective legal assistance. Systemic rights violations by public and private entities, including companies involved in extracting transitional minerals and their environmental impact, [remain a cause for concern](#). On a positive note, the start of the European Union (EU) accession negotiations with [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), [Moldova](#) and [Ukraine](#), as well as granting candidate status to [Georgia](#), created favourable conditions for accelerating rule of law reforms. However, there have been setbacks in some cases, where the adoption of restrictive legislation has [resulted in political crises](#).

In this challenging context, UNDP up-scaled its support, providing effective and accessible rule of law services, including through the Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development (the Global Programme).

Environmental justice

UNDP continued supporting UNDP Offices in expanding their environmental justice programming in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia and also Kosovo.² In Georgia, for example, UNDP completed an advocacy campaign promoting the right to a healthy environment with an online reach exceeding 300,000 people. UNDP Georgia also supported the development of a specialized training module on environmental justice for the High School of Justice to be incorporated into the judicial training curriculum. To advance the environmental justice agenda and offer guidance, UNDP delivered a side event on environmental crimes in the framework of the [Ninth Criminal Justice Forum for Central Asia](#) in Astana, Kazakhstan.

Business and Human Rights (B+HR)

UNDP achieved important milestones in the area of business and human rights in the ECA region in 2024. In Kazakhstan, UNDP provided technical expertise to the government-led working group to support the development of policy recommendations, and the Kyrgyz Government adopted the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights, the first policy document of its kind in the region with a political commitment from the authorities to effective implementation. Azerbaijan and Serbia had their first baseline assessments on B+HR. [The fourth regional event on business and human rights](#) in Budva, Montenegro, emphasized the importance of strategic regional work in the context of the EU's new environmental and human rights due diligence obligations.

Support to national human rights institutions (NHRIs)

To reinforce the institutional foundations for upholding human rights and the rule of law, UNDP, in partnership with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the European Network of NHRIs (ENNHRI), assisted the NHRIs in Georgia, Moldova, North Macedonia and Ukraine. NHRIs strengthened their capacities in the areas of strategic planning, the right to a healthy environment and climate justice, and became better equipped to provide effective assistance to people. For example, in Georgia, the NHRI was supported in promoting the right to safe water and enhancing access to it.

² References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Transitional justice in the Western Balkans

In the Western Balkans, UNDP continued its cooperation with the EU to promote accountability for war crimes, improve mechanisms to support victims and promote cross-border cooperation and reconciliation. Montenegro adopted its first four-year war crimes prosecution strategy. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and also in Kosovo, more than 230 justice professionals received training on war crimes investigations. Through a network of local civil society organizations (CSOs) supported by UNDP, direct psychosocial, medical and economic assistance has been provided to over 2000 victims of war crimes.

The following examples highlight the results achieved with direct support from UNDP's Global Programme. Additional achievements for each context can be found in the Impact section of this report.

In *Albania*, UNDP supported the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) in the sustainable delivery of free legal aid (FLA) services. There are 20 FLA centres in Albania, 12 of which were set up with UNDP support and are now fully funded by the state. Over 2,400 people, including 1,441 women, received free legal aid. A total of 1,751 individuals were informed about their rights and gained skills to navigate digital platforms for legal aid. To further improve access to information about e-government services, UNDP supported civil society-led dialogue between marginalized communities and local public service providers. By supporting vulnerable groups, including low-income individuals, gender-based violence survivors, persons with disabilities, as well as Roma and Egyptian communities, UNDP facilitates access to legal aid and public services, fostering a greater trust in the institutions.

In *Moldova*, UNDP, in partnership with civil society, has helped 5,156 people (3,670 women, 1,486 men) access justice through legal counselling, assistance and information. Nearly 3,600 Ukrainian refugees (2,653 women, 947 men) have received support navigating Moldova's temporary protection system. UNDP's technical and digital assistance has enabled innovative solutions—from a multilingual chatbot informing refugees of their rights to a tele-assistance platform linking detainees with legal aid. Five UNDP-supported mobile teams have also reached over 1,000 women and girls with grievance redress and support services.



Photo:
UNDP /
Duško Miljanić

In *North Macedonia*, UNDP supported the integration of environmental justice in the [first-ever National Development Strategy 2024-2044](#), a key document outlining the country's long-term development priorities and ensuring the country meets its sustainable development targets. A comprehensive baseline assessment on access to environmental justice was drafted. Public awareness among official decision-makers was raised. Over 280 people took part in various workshops, training sessions, study visits and other events to improve understanding of environmental justice issues among local stakeholders. Furthermore, the project “Increasing the Role of the Ombudsman in Environmental Justice” explored innovative approaches to upholding environmental justice across the region. UNDP, in collaboration with OHCHR and the European Network of NHRIs, improved NHRI capabilities to monitor and address environmental rights violations. The project also helped advance the regional network of the NHRIs in the area of environment and human rights. A mentorship programme was implemented to enable Ombudsperson staff to handle environmental justice cases more effectively. Partnerships with CSOs were formalized to improve cooperation in the prosecution of environmental justice violations.

Looking forward

UNDP will promote rights-based approaches to just transition, digitalization and inclusive economic models that are fairer to people and the planet. It will support targeted sub-regional initiatives on environmental justice and responsible business conduct, including in the extractives sector, in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and EU sustainability regulations. These efforts will include advancing environmental justice and integrating human rights impact assessments in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI).

Strategic rule of law programming will be implemented to support EU accession processes, where they align with the SDGs, in Moldova, Ukraine and the Western Balkans, and promote access to justice in Georgia.

UNDP will also seek to strengthen regional partnerships to address the engagement needs of NHRIs on conflict prevention, environmental justice, displacement and securitization.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Key results

- UNDP collaborated with the Office of the Ombudsperson to highlight environmental rights violations across the country. In response to a growing number of complaints, the Ombudsperson established a dedicated register to address environmental justice issues.
- Through its partnership with the Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces, UNDP significantly improved ammunition management and disposal, reducing risks to public safety. The destruction of illicit weapons further contributed to community security.
- Following the successful certification of the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council, UNDP will support the Ministry of Security in initiating the Gender Equality Seal process, advancing gender mainstreaming in the security sector.

In 2024, Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted to the UN Human Rights Council [the Fourth Universal Periodic Review on the Human Rights Situation](#). The UN Country Team, in its [submission](#), indicated discrimination, impunity for hate crimes, concerns about judiciary independence and limited access to free legal aid as challenges in the country. These challenges were compounded by broader governance and human rights issues, such as political polarization and a lack of harmonized laws across the country. Despite these obstacles, UNDP's efforts enabled meaningful progress in advancing justice and security, gender equality and local governance.

UNDP's work has helped to improve the quality and accessibility of public services for more than 523,000 people, including over 205,000 women. These services spanned water and sanitation, healthcare, education, waste management, energy efficiency and social inclusion, with a particular focus on vulnerable populations. In supporting the advancement of rights-based governance, UNDP contributed to enhanced performance and public finance management at the local level, improving accountability and transparency as well as citizen participation in local governance affairs in almost 80 percent of local governments. These milestones reflect ongoing efforts to support the country in overcoming systemic challenges and support sustainable development.

Environmental justice was another key focus. UNDP organized training for over 50 judges and prosecutors on the environmental law of the European Union (EU) and relevant case law from the European Court of Human Rights. Recognized as a key partner by the Judicial and Prosecutorial Training Centres for both of the Entities, UNDP signed [memoranda of understanding](#) to expand specialized training delivery through its Green Transition Portfolio.

In partnership with UNDP in Kosovo, a joint study on gender-inclusive environmental justice was presented at the 2024 Gender and Climate Coalition meeting. The findings will inform future programming and collaboration with civil society and institutional partners. An updated report on gender and environmental data for Bosnia and Herzegovina is planned for 2025.

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One of the year's milestones was the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina becoming the first public institution in Europe and the region to earn the Silver Gender Equality Seal, recognizing its commitment to institutional gender equality.

To combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons (SALW), UNDP facilitated joint exercises for 202 police and customs officers from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro and worked with 33 prosecutors to develop an investigative guide. These efforts improved cross-border cooperation and investigative capacity.

UNDP's support to the Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina led to infrastructure upgrades at three weapons storage sites and the environmentally safe disposal of 72 tons of unstable ammunition, reducing surplus stockpiles by 3.4 percent. Nearly 4,200 illicit SALW were destroyed by law enforcement agencies, contributing to safer communities.

Cybersecurity was strengthened through the design of pilot master's programme on cyber security at Sarajevo University. Moreover, in cooperation with civil service agencies, UNDP designed and delivered a cyber security training to 164 civil servants, including 80 women. An online safety campaign launched under the framework of UNDP's partnership with the Korean National Police Agency (KNPA), it reached over 6,000 people. Women made up 78 percent of participants in UNDP's cybersecurity initiatives.

To promote transitional justice, social cohesion and human rights, UNDP supported ten grassroots civil society organizations, benefitting over 2,000 victims of war crimes and other vulnerable groups. Twenty-four young people, most of them women, were trained in transitional justice, building a new generation of peacebuilders.

Looking forward

In 2025, UNDP will continue to support Bosnia and Herzegovina in strengthening the rule of law, improving access to justice and promoting inclusive governance. Priorities include harmonizing arms and ammunition legislation with the EU directives, enhancing investigative capacities for SALW-related crimes, and expanding cooperation with civil society and government institutions.

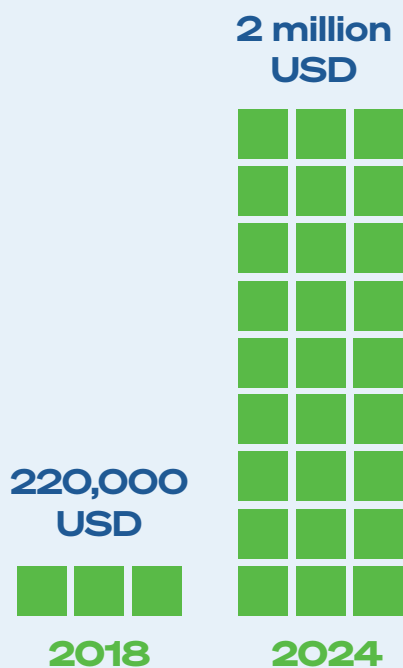
To address hate speech and societal polarization, UNDP, UNESCO and UN Women will launch a joint programme funded by the Peacebuilding Fund. The initiative aims to counter divisive narratives and foster long-term reconciliation. Additionally, UNDP worked with UN Women, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNICEF to develop the Gender Assistance Programme to standardize survivor-centred responses across justice, security and social services. In partnership with UN agencies, UNDP is developing two joint programmes to address the issue of "Dealing with the Past" and access to free legal aid for the most vulnerable.

Kyrgyz Republic

Key results

- The adoption of Kyrgyz Republic's first National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights marked a landmark achievement, institutionalizing corporate due diligence, grievance mechanisms and human rights protections in economic governance.
- UNDP's support through the Saving Lives Entity (SALIENT) initiative positioned Kyrgyzstan as a regional frontrunner in small arms and light weapons (SALW) control, with the launch of a digital Weapons Registry System and training of 14 government institutions on international arms control standards.
- With UNDP's technical assistance, the Supreme Court adopted a resolution providing authoritative guidance on adjudicating environmental disputes, Kyrgyzstan's first such measure, ensuring more consistent, transparent and legally sound decisions in environmental justice cases.

In 2024, the Kyrgyz Republic demonstrated notable progress in promoting social inclusion and strengthening human rights protections through legislative and policy reforms. In June, the National Parliament adopted amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code to ensure that persons with visual impediments can access judicial case materials in accessible formats, including Braille, large print and audio, in line with international standards on access to justice set forth in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



The Global Programme's investments in legal aid catalysed the support from other donors and increased national investments. The national budget for legal aid services grew from approximately US\$220,000 in 2018 to approximately US\$2 million in 2024, enabling vulnerable groups to access justice and get human rights protection.

Furthermore, the Government approved a comprehensive national programme to strengthen the State-Guaranteed Legal Aid System for 2024–2028. National budget allocations for the system have significantly increased, from approximately US\$220,000 in 2018 to US\$2 million in 2024. This investment is expected to enhance access to justice for vulnerable and marginalized groups and contribute to the development of a more inclusive and rights-based justice system.

By the end of the year, 24 district Free Legal Aid bureaux and the national hotline had delivered 83,795 primary legal consultations and 16,092 instances of qualified legal assistance. These services reached women, rural communities and persons with disabilities through both stationary offices and mobile outreach via the “Bus of Solidarity” initiative, enhancing equitable access to justice across the country.

In 2024, UNDP, with support from the Government of Japan, significantly advanced the national Business and Human Rights (B+HR) agenda. Technical assistance to the Ministry of Economy and Commerce, as well as to the Ombudsperson’s Office, including peer-learning events, media advocacy and inter-agency consultations, led to the adoption of the country’s first National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights, marking a key milestone in aligning national policies with international human rights standards. Its implementation is expected to drive responsible investment, reduce rights violations and contribute to more inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

Under the Saving Lives Entity (SALIENT) project, the country established an inter-agency working group, conducted a comprehensive legislative review and submitted its national report under the UN Programme of Action (PoA) on small arms and light weapons (SALW). Fourteen government institutions were trained on international arms control standards. A major milestone was [the pilot launch of the digital Weapons Registry System](#), developed in partnership with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Prosecutor General’s Office. Once scaled, the system will significantly improve the traceability of civilian firearms, enhancing public safety and crime prevention.

UNDP also contributed to a major advancement in environmental justice. In partnership with the General Prosecutor’s Office, the Ministry of Natural Resources and legal experts, UNDP facilitated a comprehensive judicial review on the adjudication of environmental cases. This process led to the adoption of a Supreme Court Plenum Resolution, which standardizes judicial practice in applying environmental legislation. The resolution is expected to enhance legal remedies for environmental harm and empower communities, civil society and local governments to hold polluters accountable, contributing directly to stronger environmental governance and sustainable development.

Looking forward

In 2025, UNDP will build on 2024 achievements by advancing gender equality, strengthening monitoring systems and supporting national rule of law and justice policies. This includes developing impact indicators and disaggregated data for evidence-based policymaking. Proven models, such as client-centred legal aid, environmental justice training and support for the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights, will be scaled up. UNDP will also foster regional peer learning across Central Asia. Subject to funding, continued support will target disability rights, environmental justice and small arms control. These efforts aim to consolidate reforms, expand access to justice and embed inclusive, rights-based governance as a foundation for sustainable development in Kyrgyzstan and the region.

Moldova

Key results

- UNDP provided legal counselling, assistance and information to 5,156 individuals, including 3,670 women. This includes 3,600 Ukrainian refugees (2,653 women), helping them to navigate the temporary protection mechanism.
- A multilingual chatbot assisted refugees in understanding their rights and the associated legal implications in Moldova. In addition, the [Social Tensions Monitoring Mechanism](#) was piloted as a scalable model for conflict prevention.
- Gender-based violence survivors benefited from stronger legal safeguards. A new Safe Space centre in Ungheni region provided multidisciplinary services to 599 women and accommodation to 106. Five mobile teams helped over 1,000 women and girls address grievances and access support services. Additionally, 77 women, including refugees from Ukraine, were assisted in finding employment through local civil society organizations (CSOs).

In 2024, Moldova made significant progress in its European Union (EU) accession process, demonstrating the country's commitment to reforms in democracy, justice, and public administration. However, societal divisions were underpinned by low trust in institutions and the 2024 election results, as well as the lack of social cohesion, particularly in the South and North. These divisions have been amplified by hybrid threats that could undermine the democratic stability and jeopardize reform efforts. In addition, Moldova continued to accommodate large numbers of refugees and had to contain inflationary pressure, linked also to the persistent threats to its energy supplies and security.

Moldova's polarized political landscape underscored the need for governance reforms focused on rule of law, transparency and institutional strengthening. Ensuring the integrity of the justice system remained a



Refugees from Ukraine benefitting from legal assistance and advice on temporary protection mechanism in Moldova.

Photo: UNDP Moldova

priority for the Government, with the vetting of justice professionals expanding to engage judges at the Court of Appeal as well as the prosecutorial branch. Contested by justice cadre, the vetting process advanced slowly, leading to the resignation of nearly half of the Court of Appeal judges as a form of protest against this measure. The effects of these resignations are yet to be assessed.

In 2024, Moldova approved a new National Human Rights Action Plan for 2024-2027, reaffirming its commitment to the international human rights standards. Concerns remain about detention conditions and the treatment of persons with mental disabilities in state care.

With support from Germany, Japan and Sweden, UNDP employed diverse approaches to advance the rule of law portfolio in Moldova. Through partnerships with CSOs, UNDP helped 5,156 individuals, including 3,670 women, access justice and support services by providing legal counselling, assistance and information. Nearly 3,600 refugees, including 2,653 women, from Ukraine were assisted in navigating the complexities of the temporary protection mechanism provided by the Moldovan Government.

Technical assistance and technology support from UNDP led to the adoption of various solutions to expand access to legal remedies and information, empowering people to protect their rights. A multilingual chatbot helps refugees to understand their rights in Moldova and the associated legal implications. A tele-assistance platform connects detainees with legal aid service providers to solve legal matters unrelated to their detention. As of December 2024, the National Legal Aid Council was piloting mobile teams to reach more people in need of legal assistance, particularly in remote areas.

The Social Tensions Monitoring Mechanism (STMM) was successfully piloted in 2024, involving local stakeholders and vulnerable groups, and operationalized as a scalable model for conflict prevention and social stability. This evidence-based tool supports trend analysis and enables targeted interventions, demonstrating its value in identifying and addressing social tensions, especially in communities with high refugee populations.

UNDP facilitated the implementation of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes to enhance the quality and compatibility of crime and criminal justice data produced by national stakeholders. On the policy side, UNDP supported the alignment of Moldova's legislation with the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention). A compliance analysis carried out under the strategic partnership with the CSO Women's Law Centre revealed critical areas needing improvement, including technology-facilitated gender-based violence. Amendments to 20 national laws were drafted with UNDP support and submitted to the Ministry of Justice for review.

Gender-based violence survivors benefited from stronger legal safeguards, including the revised Regulation on Medical Assessment of the Severity of Bodily Injuries, which now considers the psychological effects of violence and includes mandatory reporting of domestic violence cases. A new Safe Space centre providing multidisciplinary services to gender-based violence survivors was established in Ungheni region in 2024, benefiting 599 women and providing accommodation to 106. Five mobile teams, operationalized with UNDP support, helped over 1,000 women and girls address grievances and access support services. Additionally, 77 women, including refugees from Ukraine, were assisted in finding employment through local CSOs. These civil society-led services complement the work of national authorities, including the National Employment Agency, by providing tailored support and bridging gaps in access to job opportunities.

Looking forward

UNDP will continue to strengthen access to justice and legal remedies for the most vulnerable by expanding legal aid tools, promoting mediation and supporting legal empowerment initiatives. Forensic capabilities will be further strengthened to ensure justice users have access to reliable expertise compliant with international standards. UNDP will assist Moldova in implementing comprehensive justice reforms, incorporating a people-centred perspective into future justice policy documents. The STMM will be further operationalized to support conflict prevention and social stability, helping Moldova to build a robust rule of law system and promote human rights.

Serbia

Key results

- UNDP played a central role in embedding the business and human rights agenda into Serbia's national discourse by fostering dialogue, raising awareness and building momentum for sustainable and inclusive change.
- UNDP supported the development of Serbia's first National Baseline Assessment on Business and Human Rights, offering a comprehensive analysis of the legal and institutional landscape and identifying key challenges and opportunities through inclusive stakeholder consultations.
- A draft National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights was prepared to guide Serbia's alignment with international standards, reflecting strong government commitment and setting the stage for future policy and regulatory reforms.

In 2024, Serbia made significant progress in advancing the Business and Human Rights (B+HR) agenda, aligning its national frameworks with international standards and responding to the growing global emphasis on corporate responsibility. As the European Union (EU) continues to develop mandatory human rights due diligence regimes, Serbia's close economic ties with the EU have made it imperative for the country to harmonize its domestic legislation with these evolving standards. Recognizing this, UNDP supported a comprehensive initiative aimed at assessing Serbia's current legal and institutional landscape in relation to the [United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#) (UNGPs), while also laying the groundwork for the development of a National Action Plan (NAP) on Business and Human Rights.

The cornerstone of this initiative was the development of Serbia's first National Baseline Assessment (NBA) on Business and Human Rights. This assessment was the result of extensive legal analysis and inclusive consultations with a wide range of stakeholders, including government representatives, civil society organizations (CSOs), academia, international partners and the private sector. This approach ensured a comprehensive understanding of the current state of business and human rights in Serbia, identifying key challenges, gaps and opportunities for reform. The NBA also paid particular attention to vulnerable groups, including women, persons with disabilities, Roma communities and youth, highlighting the specific barriers they face in the labour market and workplace.

The project successfully elevated the discourse on business and human rights within Serbia's policy-making environment. Two major public events were organized to foster dialogue and raise awareness. The first, a National Conference on Business and Human Rights, brought together around 80 stakeholders from various sectors and served as the first national platform for discussing the integration of human rights into business practices. Co-hosted by the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue and the Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, the conference marked a pivotal moment in building consensus and commitment among national actors. The second event, a public discussion on the NBA findings, gathered approximately 40 participants and received national media coverage, further amplifying the conversation and encouraging broader public engagement.

A key outcome of the project was the drafting of Serbia's National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights. This strategic document outlines the country's vision and priorities for embedding human rights into business operations and regulatory frameworks.

The project's gender-sensitive approach was particularly noteworthy. The NBA highlighted systemic challenges faced by women in Serbia, including discrimination in hiring, underrepresentation in leadership roles, and concentration in low-wage or informal employment. It also addressed the lack of support for balancing professional and family responsibilities. These findings informed the project's activities, which

ensured equal participation of women and men and, in fact, saw a higher representation of women in consultations and events. This focus on gender equality aligns with broader efforts to promote inclusive and equitable labour practices.

In numerous consultations initiated by the project, the interests of the private sector were represented through associations such as the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia and the Association of Employers. These organizations play a crucial role in promoting corporate due diligence and responsible business conduct. The project also engaged with other key partners, including the Commissioner for Equality, UN Global Compact, labour unions and over 80 stakeholders from various sectors, creating a robust network for future collaboration.

Looking forward

The sustainability of the initiative is underpinned by the strong foundation laid through the NBA and the inclusive dialogue it fostered. The assessment provides a clear roadmap for policy development, ensuring that future strategies are grounded in evidence and responsive to real-world challenges. The established partnerships and stakeholder networks are expected to continue driving progress, promoting decent work, labour rights and ethical business practices. By integrating human rights into the core of economic development, Serbia is positioning itself to meet international expectations while fostering a more just and sustainable society.

Ukraine

Key results

- UNDP's interventions improved access to justice and human rights protection amidst the war. Over 254,000 individuals (54 percent women), including displaced persons and survivors of war-related crimes, received legal assistance through the Free Legal Aid System (FLAS) across the country.
- The Ombudsperson's Office expanded its regional network, improving human rights protection in remote war-affected areas and monitoring the human rights situation in 87 percent of formally established communities (*hromadas*). Over 5,900 individuals were consulted in both urban and rural areas.
- To support businesses in adhering to human rights standards, UNDP trained over 1,000 business representatives, including over 700 women. A total of 256 companies used the [BHR self-assessment tool](#), with 97 receiving tailored guidance to enhance their human rights due diligence practices.

The war continued to shape Ukraine's security landscape as well the situation with the rule of law and human rights. Large-scale aerial attacks on critical infrastructure severely disrupted essential services, worsening humanitarian conditions and forcing thousands to flee. [According to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees \(UNHCR\)](#), as of December 2024, an estimated 6.3 million people were recorded as refugees across Europe, while over 4.6 million people were officially registered as internally displaced persons (IDPs) by the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine.

The Ombudsperson's Office, Free Legal Aid System (FLAS) and law enforcement bodies face mounting challenges due to the significant scale of grave human rights violations. Gaps in technical capacity, legal expertise and investigative skills hinder legal proceedings and victim support.

Despite these hardships, Ukraine has showed resilience across many fronts, including advancing toward European Union (EU) integration. The official launch of EU membership negotiations on 25 June marked a key milestone, with legislative alignment and structural reforms underway. However, EU accession, while an accelerator of change, also presents challenges, demanding comprehensive legal and administrative reforms amid wartime constraints. [The European Commission's 2024 Enlargement Report](#) positively assessed Ukraine's progress, paving the way for further accession steps in 2025.

All these challenges require a long-term, comprehensive response, including strengthened access to legal aid for war-affected populations. In Ukraine, UNDP plays a crucial role in supporting justice institutions and legal service providers to ensure that individuals in need receive timely and high-quality legal assistance.

UNDP applied a comprehensive, multi-pronged approach to strengthening the rule of law and human rights institutions amid the ongoing war through institutional capacity development, digital transformation and policy alignment to ensure a more resilient and responsive justice system.

UNDP's interventions improved access to justice and human rights protection amidst the war. Over 254,000 individuals (54 percent women), including displaced persons and survivors of war-related crimes received legal assistance through FLAS across the country.

To enable FLAS to deliver high-quality legal services, UNDP strengthened the capacity of legal professionals through advanced training methodology. A pool of qualified internal trainers was established, ensuring continuous learning and skill development to address the complex legal needs of those impacted by the war. Sixty new FLAS trainers (42 women, 70 percent) and 422 lawyers and managers (352 women, 83.4 percent)

were trained in critical areas, including communication with vulnerable groups and psychosocial support under martial law.

To further improve access to justice, UNDP supported law enforcement and forensic bodies in enhancing their investigative capabilities for human rights violations and crimes. This included investments in integration of victim-centred approaches and providing forensic technologies (such as rapid DNA identification), ensuring more effective prosecution of human rights violations.

UNDP's continued support to the Ombudsperson's Office, including through the Tripartite Partnership funded by the Government of Norway, bolstered its capacity to address human rights challenges. In 2024 the Ombudsperson's Office processed over 123,000 human rights claims, one third more than last year. These efforts contributed to a positive evaluation of the Office by a recent Human Rights Progress Study. According to its results, almost half of surveyed human rights defenders noted improved performance by the Ombudsperson's Office.

Furthermore, the regional network of the Ombudsperson's Office expanded, improving human rights protection in remote war-affected areas and monitoring the human rights situation in 87 percent of formally established communities (*hromadas*). Over 5,900 individuals were consulted, and awareness raising initiatives reached more than 4,000 representatives of local authorities throughout the country.

Through the Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development, in partnership with the Ministry of Digital Transformation and the Ministry of Economic Development, UNDP advanced the Business and Human Rights (B+HR) agenda, promoting corporate responsibility and alignment with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Over 1,000 business representatives, including over 700 women, were engaged through targeted capacity-development efforts. A total of 256 companies used the [BHR self-assessment tool](#), with 97 receiving



The delivery of free legal aid in Ukraine.

Photo:
UNDP Ukraine

tailored guidance to enhance their human rights due diligence practices. Over 147,000 individuals were reached through digital awareness campaigns. UNDP also provided technical assistance to the Government of Ukraine in embedding BHR approach in key national recovery strategies.

Looking forward

In 2025, UNDP will further strengthen the institutional capacity of FLAS to ensure sustainable, high-quality legal aid for war-affected populations. Given the evolving legal needs of displaced persons, veterans and other vulnerable groups, tailored training and methodological support will remain essential. Additionally, institutionalizing best practices and developing FLAS's internal training capacity will reinforce long-term sustainability.

UNDP will continue providing comprehensive support to the Ombudsperson's Office, focusing on regional outreach, ensuring uninterrupted access to the Ombudsperson's services.

To improve the capacity of national institutions to document and respond to human rights violations—including conflict-related sexual violence, destruction of infrastructure and civilian casualties—UNDP will support the development of standardized investigative protocols.

Kosovo¹¹

Key results

- To improve access to justice and language rights through digital transformation, UNDP supported digitization of approximately 143,000 court files, along with the establishment of a modern archive facility in the city of Gjakovë/Djakovica.
- Communities engaged strongly in environmental justice through inclusive workshops in northern municipalities, where residents developed actionable recommendations on water pollution and deforestation, leading to an Environmental Justice Action Plan adopted by the Ombudsperson Institution.
- Institutional capacity to control small arms and light weapons was bolstered through specialized training for over 850 police and public safety personnel, the deployment of advanced detection equipment and regional cooperation initiatives, including study visits and training.
- Public safety awareness and responsible firearm behaviour improved as a result of the Celebrate with Heart, Not Your Gun campaign, which increased reporting of celebratory shootings by 40 percent.

During 2024, UNDP in Kosovo made substantial progress in strengthening the rule of law, justice and human rights. A major focus was on improving access to justice and language rights through digital transformation. In collaboration with the Kosovo Judicial Council (KJC), courts and the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), UNDP digitized approximately 43,000 civil cases and 100,000 minor offence decisions, significantly improving case management and accessibility. A modern archive facility was also established in the city of Gjakovë/Djakovica, enhancing long-term access to legal records.

UNDP also prioritized environmental justice, creating a platform for inter-community dialogue and social cohesion. Through workshops and tailored sessions in the northern municipalities, 86 community members, including 41 women, identified environmental recommendations addressing issues such as water pollution, illegal landfills and deforestation. These initiatives empowered communities to propose sustainable solutions, including eco-patrols, reforestation and improved environmental education. In partnership with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and civil society organizations, UNDP supported the Ombudsperson Institution in developing an Action Plan on Environmental Justice and trained its 20 staff members in environmental rights advocacy. A joint study with UNDP in Bosnia and Herzegovina highlighted the need for more effective enforcement of gender quotas in environmental decision-making, emphasizing the importance of inclusive governance.

In the area of security, UNDP advanced efforts to control small arms and light weapons (SALW), preventing firearm misuse including in domestic violence cases. A comprehensive training curriculum was finalized for police cadets and community policing officers, and a Train-the-Trainer programme equipped 12 police instructors (including two women) with expertise in addressing arms trafficking and intelligence-led policing. Over 500 officers and public safety committee members, including 33 women, received specialized training, while 350 border police officers, including six women, were trained in firearms trafficking detection. These efforts were bolstered by the provision of advanced equipment, including thermal cameras and dismantling tools, enhancing operational capacity at border points.

International cooperation played a key role in these advancements. Kosovo Forensic Agency experts participated in study visits to forensic centres in Austria and Croatia, gaining valuable experience in ballistic

¹¹ References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

analysis. Joint training sessions with Albanian law enforcement facilitated knowledge exchange on weapons categorization and legal frameworks. Additionally, 72 secure weapon storage cabinets were distributed across police stations, reinforcing safe firearms management.

Public awareness campaigns were instrumental in promoting responsible behaviour and reducing firearm misuse. The Celebrate with Heart, Not Your Gun campaign used multimedia outreach to educate the public on the dangers of celebratory gunfire and pyrotechnics. The campaign's creative elements, including a community mural, were well-received and contributed to a 40 percent increase in reporting of celebratory shootings by September 2024. During the same period, 182 cases were opened, marking a 28 percent increase from the previous year. Complementing these efforts, 993 illegal firearms were destroyed in a public ceremony, with the melted materials repurposed into manhole covers, symbolizing transformation and safety.

UNDP's work also emphasized inclusion, particularly for persons with disabilities. In June 2024, a Braille Display device was provided to a blind legal professional at the Basic Court of Gjakovë/Djakovica. This assistive technology significantly improved his efficiency and accuracy in legal drafting, enhancing his contribution to the judiciary and setting a precedent for inclusive workplace practices.

Looking forward

Looking ahead, UNDP aims to build on these achievements by continuing to support access to justice, language rights and the digital transition of the judiciary. Priorities include completing the digitization of court archives, expanding environmental justice initiatives and enhancing SALW control through training, equipment upgrades and regional cooperation. The expected adoption of new firearms legislation aligned with the European Union directives presents further opportunities for reform. Sustained investment and collaboration will be essential to consolidate progress and ensure long-term impact.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Regional overview

In 2024, Latin America and the Caribbean remained the most democratic developing region, although political polarization, inequalities and the escalation of violence fueled by [organized crime, drug trafficking and climate change threatened judicial independency and affected people's trust in the institutions](#). Less than one third of the population in the region trusts the judiciary which is below the trust levels in the armed forces and the police.

According to the [World Justice Project Rule of Law Index](#), the rule of law deteriorated in 20 countries in the region, while those with peaceful power transitions in 2023 and 2024 showed improvements. The homicide rate in the region remained [one of the highest in the world](#), disproportionately affecting youth and Afro-descendant men. Increasingly, justice systems failed to respond effectively to the needs of historically excluded populations, such as Indigenous Peoples, women, youth and Afro-descendant communities. [Civic space shrank in several countries](#), affecting the work of human rights defenders, particularly those dealing with environmental and land issues.

In response to these challenges, UNDP championed partnerships for the rule of law, security and development. Jointly with the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF), UNDP co-led subregional dialogues on democracy and development. With the Organization of American States and the UN Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in LAC, UNDP supported the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Action Plan and a Roadmap to Prevent the Illicit Trafficking and Proliferation of Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives in Central America and the Caribbean. In addition, UNDP joined the regional security alliance launched by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), bringing together 18 governments across Latin America and the Caribbean. At country level, UNDP advanced the rule of law, justice, security and human rights, leveraging support from its Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development (the Global Programme).

Improving security to address organized crime

In collaboration with the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB), IDEA International and Fundación Carolina, UNDP developed a [renewed citizen security agenda](#), addressing the need to build citizen security policies that are data-driven, preventive and human rights-based. A joint report “[Security as a Pillar of the Renewed Agenda for Development and Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)” was presented as a contribution to the Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Governments.

In the Caribbean, the [CARISECURE 2.0](#) programme equipped six countries with data-driven tools to develop evidence-based crime prevention policies.

To reduce armed violence and improve control over small arms and light weapons, UNDP and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) implemented their SALIENT initiative in [Honduras](#), Jamaica and [Panamá](#). Over 100,000 people benefitted from programmes fostering social cohesion, violence reduction and addressing socioeconomic vulnerabilities linked to organized crime. This work is particularly relevant in the region where around [80 percent of homicides are caused by firearms](#).

The [PACE project](#) in partnership with the European Union, focused on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the justice sector in violence prevention and confidence building in eight Caribbean countries.

Human rights promotion

UNDP contributed to human rights promotion by supporting national non-discrimination strategies, fostering inclusive societies and addressing systemic inequalities. Through the [TriPartite Partnership to Support National Human Rights Institutions](#) (TTP), national human rights institutions (NHRIs) in Costa Rica, Ecuador

and Peru strengthened their capacities, ensuring alignment with international standards and mechanisms. In partnership with the Network of National Human Rights Institutions of the American Continent (RINDHCA), the TPP enhanced information management and early warning systems used by NHRIs.

Business and human rights

To promote the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and to engage the private sector as a strategic partner, UNDP pioneered a virtual [business and human rights course](#) completed by over 2,000 entrepreneurs. Additionally, in the [Dominican Republic, UNDP aims to eliminate gender inequalities in the workplace](#), while in Brazil, with support from Japan, small companies could implement sustainable and ethical practices.

Environmental justice

In collaboration with the International Open Justice Network (RIJA, by its acronym in Spanish) UNDP advanced the open environmental justice agenda by developing a programming guide to address environmental crimes, featuring key examples from Brazil and the Dominican Republic (to be published in 2025). In addition, UNDP continued to support countries implementing the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean ([Escazú Agreement](#)) by strengthening legal frameworks, improving access to environmental information and encouraging public participation in environmental matters.

Digital justice

UNDP is driving the digital transformation of justice systems in Latin America and the Caribbean, leveraging technology to enhance the efficiency and accessibility of judicial services through a people-centred approach. The Open Justice agenda, coordinated regionally with RIJA is gaining momentum. Key advancement at country level includes the expansion of the justice portfolio in Ecuador in partnership with the National Court of Justice and the Judiciary Council, incorporating a strong Open Justice component. In the Dominican Republic, UNDP promotes access to public information, open data, integrity, citizen participation and transparency, all with a gender perspective, to expand access to justice and ensure high-quality public services.

Looking forward

In 2025, strengthening strategic partnerships will be central to advancing the rule of law, justice, security and human rights in the region. Key actions will include consolidating and expanding the CARICOM Action Plan on Security and Justice; deepening collaboration with the IDB as part of the Alliance for Justice, Security and Development; and advancing the Ibero-American Agreement on Access to Justice. Efforts will also focus on implementing the Escazú Agreement with a specific emphasis on the Caribbean, organizing the regional meeting of RINDHCA and hosting a regional event on business and human rights in Brazil. These initiatives aim to strengthen institutional capacities, promote inclusive governance and address regional challenges. The continued use of innovative financing mechanisms and adaptive approaches will be critical to navigating resource constraints and political instability, ensuring impactful and sustainable development across the region.

Bolivia

Key results

- In cooperation with national stakeholders, including local Indigenous communities, UNDP created a governance platform for inclusive decision-making on lithium extraction. The platform enabled a participatory and inclusive process through which a draft law for the exploitation of lithium was developed.
- An artificial intelligence (AI) system was designed to assess lithium extraction's impact on water, sanitation and local industries, based on official data and integrating conflict analysis.
- A strategic plan for a Regional Lithium Observatory was drafted, engaging academic institutions and UNDP Country Offices from Bolivia, Chile and Argentina to address environmental justice and prevent conflicts in the region.

In Bolivia, such salt flats as Coipasa, Uyuni and Pastos Grandes are transitioning from tourism destinations to mining hubs, with significant potential for urban development. However, Bolivia's lithium extraction landscape is shaped by political disagreements among the key branches of government and civil society stakeholders over strategic decision-making authority. At the same time, social and environmental tensions – often leading to violent conflicts – arise as communities near lithium reserves demand effective participation, as well as better legislation and regulations for responsible and sustainable extraction.¹² In 2024, the President entrusted the Ministry of Hydrocarbons and Energy, in coordination with the Ministry of the Presidency, to oversee lithium extraction.

To prevent environmental conflicts, address impacts on the right to a healthy and sustainable environment and foster local economic empowerment, including for Indigenous Peoples, UNDP implemented a preventive and anticipatory governance project on the mining and energy sector based on environmental justice, political economy and conflict transformation, as principles of a new and more sustainable way of exploiting natural resources. The project received support through UNDP's Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development (the Global Programme).

To promote national dialogue on lithium exploitation and industrialization, foster sustainable agreements and to ensure policies reflect the needs of local populations, UNDP collaborated with national partners, including government, civil society, academia and the Indigenous Autonomous Government of Salinas (the salt flats). Strategic partnerships were formed with the Ministry of Hydrocarbons and Energy, the Ministry of the Presidency and the Office of the Ombudsperson to support conflict prevention, human rights and environmental justice initiatives in the region.

The project delivered three major outcomes:

1. **Lithium governance platform.** UNDP helped create a platform that allows all stakeholders to participate in decision-making, with veto power. Focused on environmental justice, the platform promotes dialogue among the government, civil society, Indigenous Peoples and youth. It brought together the Ministry of Hydrocarbons and Energy, the Office of the Ombudsperson, Indigenous and local governments, academia, associations of workers from different regions and local communities of the salt flats.

Through this platform, a draft law for the exploitation of lithium and evaporite resources (a so-called Lithium Law proposal) was submitted to the Plurinational Legislative Assembly (national legislature) previously discussed with the Vice-Presidency of the Plurinational State of Bolivia. The platform allowed for the inclusive lawmaking process that engaged affected communities.

¹² Brújula Digital, "Recordando la fallida negociación con la Lithco", 17 February 2025. Available at <http://brujuladigital.net/economia/2025/02/17/recordando-la-fallida-negociacion-con-la-lithco-43261>.

In the salt flats area, a platform on territorial management for the Indigenous Autonomous Government of Salinas was also consolidated, responding to its autonomy challenges.

2. **Evidence-based decision-making.** Using AI, UNDP developed a system to assess the medium and long-term impacts of lithium extraction on water, sanitation and productivity sectors. The AI system integrates official state data on meteorology, infrastructure, social conditions, cultural and ancestral heritage and others, covering a 300 x 500 km area around the Uyuni and Coipasa salt flats. The system generates 60-year projections on water usage and its effects on local industries, including camelid farming, mining and quinoa production. In addition, this tool incorporates on-site data on conflicts triggered by lithium extraction. Conflict-related information from local residents and from the Ministry of Hydrocarbons and Energy was accumulated and analysed by the AI system for monitoring, early warning and conflict analysis.
3. **Environmental Governance Diploma.** In partnership with the Center for Research on Economic and Social Development at the Higher University of San Andrés (CIDES-UMSA), known for its work on lithium and extractive industries, UNDP launched an academic programme focused on lithium extraction and governance, providing a platform for technical knowledge and discussions. In addition, through partnership with CIDES-UMSA, a strategic plan for a Regional Lithium Observatory was developed, engaging academic institutions from Bolivia, Chile and Argentina to establish key indicators for understanding the dynamics of the salt flats and lithium extraction zones.

Looking forward

UNDP will continue supporting Bolivia in its sustainable lithium development, focusing on consolidating the Lithium Governance Platform to ensure it is sustainable and effective; enhancing evidence-based decision-making by refining and expanding the AI-driven impact assessment system to include more detailed social and economic indicators, thereby improving the accuracy and comprehensiveness of projections; scaling up capacity building and knowledge sharing, including through the establishment and operation of the Regional Lithium Observatory, fostering collaboration among academic institutions and governmental agencies across Bolivia, Chile and Argentina. Finally, the lessons learned from this project will be disseminated to other countries facing similar challenges in balancing resource extraction with environmental sustainability and social equity.



Salt flats in Bolivia, are transitioning from tourism destinations to mining hubs.

Photo:
UNDP Bolivia

Colombia

Key results

- UNDP supported the early establishment of the Agrarian and Rural Jurisdiction, contributing to legal and institutional reforms aimed at resolving land conflicts and promoting rural peace.
- A hybrid conflict resolution model was introduced, integrating formal legal mechanisms with community-based approaches, empowering local communities and public officials to manage land-related disputes through preventive, participatory methods.
- To enhance multi-stakeholder coordination, a formal agreement was facilitated among key national institutions and local community leaders to ensure coordinated implementation of the Agrarian and Rural Jurisdiction, reinforcing national ownership and sustainability of justice reforms.

In Colombia, UNDP developed a comprehensive people-centred portfolio on access to justice, within the framework of a larger programme area on the rule of law that includes human rights, transitional justice and security sector reform. The access to justice portfolio focuses on peacebuilding, community empowerment and serving historically excluded populations. The interventions are shaped within four key areas: preventing and addressing gender-based and domestic violence with a participatory, rights-based approach; strengthening institutional capacity to reduce barriers to justice; promoting community mediation and alternative dispute resolution; and supporting the establishment of the Agrarian and Rural Jurisdiction to resolve land disputes and advance rural peace, as outlined in the 2016 Peace Agreement.

This country report focuses on UNDP's contribution to the establishment of the Agrarian and Rural Jurisdiction, backed by the [Justice Action Coalition](#) and supported through the Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development. Additional support was provided by the Colombia Ministry of Justice and Law, local governments, as well as the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Sustaining Peace. The project was implemented in coordination with national and local authorities, justice system actors, civil society and community organizations.

Land distribution in Colombia remains starkly unequal, with less than one percent of large rural entities controlling a disproportionate 44 percent of privately owned rural land. This imbalance is compounded by weak land governance: fewer than half of rural households possess formal land titles, and cadastral records are updated in a very limited number of cases. These gaps in legal and cadastral data fuel land tenure insecurity, obstruct sustainable development and contribute to persistent land-related conflicts. Recognizing these challenges, Colombia has taken significant steps to reform its rural justice system.

UNDP's support for the early establishment of the Rural and Agrarian Jurisdiction in Colombia, and its broader work on land-related access to justice, has had a significant impact on local communities. This work has introduced a conflict resolution model that blends formal legal mechanisms with community-based approaches, promoting a preventive rather than adversarial approach to managing disputes.

Through the development of educational materials and methodologies, both local communities and public officials were empowered to understand and engage with the new justice system. These efforts have enabled communities to recognize and document their traditional methods of resolving land conflicts, navigate the legal and institutional frameworks governing rural land tenure and actively participate in conflict resolution using preventive strategies. As these practices are integrated into the functioning of the new jurisdiction, communities will be better prepared to adopt judicial procedures, improving the documentation and resolution of land-related cases. This foundation not only enhances the effectiveness of the new system

but also contributes to territorial peace by reducing rural conflict, strengthening land tenure security, as well as aligning environmental, territorial and agrarian planning

To ensure sustainability and national ownership of these achievements, UNDP strengthened collaboration between local and regional stakeholders to coordinate and enhance efforts in implementing the Agrarian and Rural Jurisdiction. As a result, a formal agreement was signed among the Office of the Ombudsperson, the Land Restitution Unit, the Agustín Codazzi Geographic Institute, the Attorney General's Office, the Ministry of Agriculture, as well as local social leaders from various municipalities.

Looking forward

Starting in 2025, UNDP will intensify its efforts to localize access to justice, support the effective implementation of the Agrarian and Rural Jurisdiction, and strengthen educational initiatives like the School for Justice and Coexistence. Key priorities include improving coordination between formal and community justice systems, enhancing capacities for case documentation and litigation, and preventing gender-based violence through participatory, intercultural and rights-based approaches. This work is vital to addressing structural inequalities, reducing rural conflict and fostering a justice system that is inclusive, dignified and centred on people's needs. It also aims to broaden the impact of public policies aligned with Colombia's National Development Plan and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Guatemala

Key results

- UNDP and partners improved access to people-centred justice services for young people, women and Indigenous communities. Youth was enabled to challenge structural power dynamics that often excluded them from justice processes. National capacities were strengthened to advocate for the inclusion of Maya youth in justice delivery.
- Indigenous youth was empowered to become community tourist guides to promote historical memory and gain economic autonomy. “Rabinal Travel,” a for-profit civil society organization was established along with the three coordination spaces for community tourist guides.
- In collaboration with the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, UNDP designed a training curriculum, which was adopted by the Tribunal, focusing on leadership, gender and communication skills, particularly empowering Indigenous women.

In Guatemala, the beginning of 2024 was marked by the resolution of post-election turbulence. In January, both the President and the Vice-President of the Republic were sworn in, and the authorities of the Judicial Branch were selected, including the magistrates for the Supreme Court of Justice and the Courts of Appeals. UNDP re-established strong institutional connections with the Judicial Branch, aiming to enhance the capacity of people-centred justice services for youth, women and Indigenous communities.

The project *Maya Youth Promoters Of Peace in Verapaces and Quiché* supported through UNDP’s Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development (the Global Programme) focused on (1) access to justice, (2) community tourism with a focus on historical memory and (3) the development and strengthening of capacities regarding civic and political rights.

In total, 325 women benefitted from the project, representing 68 percent of the participants, with 70 percent from Indigenous communities.

The involvement of governmental institutions and civil society was essential. UNDP strengthened its alliances with the Secretariat of Indigenous Peoples (SPI) of the Judicial Branch, the Technical Institute for Training and Productivity (INTECAP), the Guatemalan Tourism Institute (INGUAT) and Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE), as well as with the municipal mayor of Rabinal and the municipal youth offices of Salama and Cobán.

1. Improved access to people-centred justice services for young people, women and Indigenous communities

In partnership with the SPI and the Secretariat for Judicial Strengthening and Cooperation (SFJC) of the Judicial Body, UNDP organized four intergenerational meetings for youth from Quiché and Alta Verapaz and authorities from both the ordinary and Maya justice systems. In this dialogue space, youth could challenge structural power dynamics that often exclude them from justice processes.

“Thank you for explaining Maya justice to us. [...] We were able to talk with the traditional authorities; they listened to us, heard our questions and responded. It felt good to be heard and to have our doubts clarified.”

– Young woman, the workshop participant.

“I really liked this because here in Cobán, Alta Verapaz we need to improve justice, and there are many young people who don’t have opportunities. [...] I hope we can continue with more learning. The youth in Cobán need to know what justice is.”

– Young man, the workshop participant.

Five preparatory sessions were held to assess needs, apply design thinking and develop diagnostics on justice access barriers for Indigenous youth. The processes led to significant shifts in institutional attitudes and strengthened the capacity of the SPI to advocate for the inclusion of Maya youth in justice delivery, promoting legal pluralism and empowering vulnerable groups to assert their rights.

2. Strengthened youth capacities in historical memory, community tourism, social entrepreneurship, leadership and organizational participation

“Rabinal Travel,” a for-profit civil society organization (CSO) was established. To enable young guides to promote community tourism with a focus on historical memory, UNDP strengthened the technical skills of 80 Achí youth (70 percent women) from the municipalities of Rabinal, Cubulco and San Miguel Chicaj in Baja Verapaz. Three coordination spaces for community tourist guides were created with INGUAT, the Historical Center Riij Ib’oy Río Negro and the Municipality of Rabinal.

The project had a catalytic effect as it secured continued support through a low-value grant to the Association for the Integral Development of Victims of Violence in the Verapaces Maya Achí (ADIVIMA), ensuring further development of the tourism initiative. The project also ensured continued capacity-building for youth through technical courses funded by the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation (ACCD). [This milestone reinforced economic empowerment and autonomy of the Indigenous youth.](#)



In Guatemala, Indigenous women and youth were empowered to become community tourist guides to promote historical memory and gain economic autonomy.

Photo: UNDP Guatemala

3. Strengthened youth advocacy skills and political training

In collaboration with the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, this initiative included leadership training and strategic events, such as a Youth Building and Influencing fair and departmental gatherings in Alta and Baja Verapaz, which promoted youth civic engagement and collaboration with local authorities.

The initiative offered a comprehensive training curriculum, which was adopted by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, and focused on leadership, gender and communication skills, particularly empowering Indigenous women. It facilitated the co-creation of advocacy strategies, [strengthened youth networks and supported youth involvement in local governance](#).

The project expanded to include Quetzaltenango and Sololá, allowing for a broader impact in Indigenous communities and fostering skills transfer to municipal officials. In total, 237 young people participated in the leadership school, with 62 percent from Indigenous backgrounds.

Looking forward

By 2025, through a pilot initiative in El Quiché, efforts will be made to establish strategic coordination between the Maya justice system and the ordinary justice system to provide comprehensive attention to cases of violence against women. This initiative will focus on promoting coordinated case management with a gender perspective and cultural relevance; identifying and systematizing best practices to improve access to justice for women and Indigenous women from a plural justice perspective; strengthening the capacities of justice system actors; and fostering women's participation through dialogue and proposal spaces with local civil society organizations.

Haiti

Key results

- The Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law strengthened the capacity of the Haitian National Police, enhanced its presence in underserved areas, and supported the retention of officers. Additional measures contributed to building confidence between the police and communities.
- UNDP supported the High Judicial Council (CSPJ) in enhancing the judiciary by appointing and training new judicial inspectors, disseminating the first code of ethics for judges, and vetting judges and prosecutors. These efforts contributed to addressing the judiciary crisis and fostering public trust in the judiciary.
- A partnership was established with the Ministry of the Status of Women and Women's Rights with a view to the socioeconomic reintegration of 150 women and girls who survived violence in camps for internally displaced persons.

In 2024, the rule of law declined in Haiti, highlighting the urgent need for measures to restore security, strengthen judicial institutions and promote effective democratic governance. The severe crisis was marked by a resurgence of gang violence, paralyzed justice system and a transitional governance structure. Armed gangs have steadily expanded their control over approximately 80 percent of the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area, rendering the judicial system nearly inoperative. Since the 2022 attack on the Palace of Justice, courts have struggled to function, exacerbating prison overcrowding, with 84 percent of detainees awaiting trial.

Serious human rights violations continued to be committed on a large scale and with impunity. Gangs carried out indiscriminate attacks, killing, raping, torturing and kidnapping civilians, particularly in the West and Artibonite departments. According to the Human Rights Service of the UN Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH), [1,732 people were killed and 411 injured](#) because of gang and self-defence group violence, as well as in connection with police operations.

In response to this situation, in October 2023, the UN Security Council authorized the deployment of a multinational security support mission (MSSM). Composed by around 1,000 police officers, mostly from Kenya, the MSSM is collaborating with the Haitian National Police (HNP) in its efforts to restore security, dismantle armed gangs and facilitate a return to constitutional order.

At the political level, the Transitional Presidential Council was established in April 2024 to restore security and organize elections. However, the challenges remained immense, as gang violence continued to suffocate the economy and undermine efforts toward democratic governance.

Under the framework of the UN Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law (GFP), UNDP continued to implement the joint support programme for the HNP in collaboration with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and BINUH.

Infrastructure improvements included the rehabilitation of a strategic police station in Thomassin and modernization of the Command, Control, Communication and Intelligence Center (C3i) to improve coordination, data collection and technological capabilities for field operations. Over 60 officers received training in prison intervention and strategic planning, as well as airport and port management.

The programme also supported the retention of police officers by providing a first-time establishment allowance to 786 cadets (including 119 women). Over 4,000 items of personal protective equipment were provided, including helmets, ballistic shields and bulletproof vests, to protect police officers securing strategic sites and combating armed gangs. As a result of this comprehensive support, the police

strengthened its presence in underserved areas, improved internal working conditions and increased the capacity for training and accommodating new personnel.

The GFP umbrella enabled efficient cooperation between UNDP and the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR) within the project on accountability for atrocities in Haiti. The judicial training infrastructure, particularly at the School of Magistracy, was improved. In addition, civil society organizations (CSOs) received support in submitting complaints to international human rights mechanisms, contributing to a more effective response to human rights violations.

UNDP has contributed to community violence reduction and social cohesion under the Peacebuilding Fund projects. The Task Force on Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration and Community Violence Reduction (DDR-CVR Task Force) convened government and civil society actors, strengthening its capacity and bolstering awareness-raising action.

In the areas of Thomassin, Laboule and Fermathe, UNDP focused on building trust between the police and communities, including through joint sports activities such as a Peace Marathon and a football championship, as well as awareness campaigns on violence prevention and peace promotion. Additionally, in collaboration with the Ministry for the Status of Women and Women's Rights, 150 women and girls affected by violence in camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) were identified for socioeconomic reintegration initiatives.

[Under its project on justice and the fight against impunity \(PAJLI\)](#), UNDP supported the High Judicial Council (CSPJ) in assessing the work of judges and prosecutors. The CSPJ opened two regional inspection offices and appointed 18 new judicial inspectors that were capacitated with PAJLI support. The first code of ethics for judges, critical to combat corruption and increase public trust in the judiciary, was disseminated. The Technical Vetting Commission (CTC) conducted field investigations into the morality and integrity of judges. As a result of its visits to 11 jurisdictions, 22 judges and prosecutors were vetted by the High Judicial Council (CSPJ).

To replace judges and prosecutors who left the country because of the security situation, as well as those who were dismissed by the vetting commission over the recent years, the Magistrates' School organized training for 35 new prosecutors and 59 justices of peace. Over 60 representatives of the judiciary improved their capacity to address financial crimes.

Looking forward

In 2025, UNDP's focus will be on strengthening local institutions, improving the effectiveness of the HNP and ensuring the judicial system operates transparently and efficiently. Future efforts will prioritize access to justice for vulnerable populations, reinforcing the role of HNP in restoring peace and protecting human rights across all sectors. These interventions will be complemented by the stabilization programme, which focuses on re-establishing state authority and addressing critical socioeconomic needs to create a more stable, secure and prosperous Haiti. Additionally, UNDP will foster collaboration between local authorities, civil society and international partners, ensuring interventions are tailored to Haiti's context.

Venezuela

Key results

- UNDP supported the development and piloting of a new management model for the Training Centres for Comprehensive Care and Training for Women (CAFIM), marking a shift from service delivery to systemic institutional strengthening, responding to the specific needs of women and their dependents.
- Access to legal training for women's delegated defenders across Venezuela was improved, overcoming geographic barriers and ensuring consistent, high-quality support for women survivors of gender-based violence. This was achieved by strengthening the Virtual Classroom of the Argelia Laya Feminist School of the South Foundation, a foundation affiliated with the Ministry of People's Power for Women and Gender Equity (MINMUJER).
- With support from UNDP, UN Women and the Ministry of People's Power for Women and Gender Equity (MINMUJER), a Procedures Manual for Comprehensive Legal Assistance was developed to standardize and enhance legal services for women facing gender-based violence.

In 2024, Venezuela advanced its national commitment to gender equality through the launch of the Gran Misión Venezuela Mujer, a flagship government initiative aimed at empowering women via education, entrepreneurship and the eradication of gender-based violence. This policy direction provided a foundation for UNDP to align its efforts with national priorities, reinforcing its role as a strategic partner in the country's development agenda.

In 2024, a UNDP and UN Women Joint Portfolio was launched to accelerate gender equality and empower women and girls. This initiative has fostered collaboration with the Ministry of People's Power for Women and Gender Equity (MINMUJER) to strengthen prevention and response mechanisms for gender-based violence, with a focus on people-centred services. One of the key interventions under this portfolio was the support for the Training Centres for Comprehensive Care and Training for Women (CAFIM).

The CAFIM programme, launched in Venezuela in 2013, has long served as a cornerstone in the country's efforts to provide legal and psychosocial support to women survivors of violence. In total, there are 19 CAFIMs nationwide. While legal assistance has remained a consistent strength of these centres, the new UNDP intervention introduces a transformative management model aimed at standardizing protocols, enhancing coordination with institutions that provide access to justice within the territorial scope of the CAFIMs, and expanding services through digital platforms and specialized training. This marks a significant evolution from service provision to systemic institutional strengthening, positioning CAFIMs as replicable models for national public policy.

The CAFIM in Ocumare del Tuy, Miranda state, was selected as the pilot centre for a new management model, with its inauguration scheduled for March 2025. UNDP's support included technical consultancies, provision of essential equipment and the development of legal service infrastructure. Complementary support from UN Women has strengthened psychological services, reinforcing the holistic nature of the CAFIM model.

To expand access to legal training with a gender perspective, UNDP has also supported the Virtual Classroom of the Argelia Laya Feminist School of the South Foundation (FEMSUR), a MINMUJER-affiliated institution. This platform enables the training of women's delegated defenders across the country, overcoming geographic barriers and ensuring consistent, high-quality support for victims. Since these defenders provide legal assistance within the CAFIMs, the intervention represents a key contribution

to gender justice by strengthening their capacities and ensuring a more effective and gender-sensitive response to women's needs.

A significant achievement was the establishment of a systematic action plan involving regular meetings between UNDP experts and institutional stakeholders, including the Deputy Minister of Social Protection of Women's Rights. This has fostered a community of practice in gender justice, enabling the co-creation of methodologies and sustainability strategies. Despite challenges such as high turnover in ministerial leadership, this collaborative model has proven effective in maintaining momentum and coherence.

UNDP's intersectional and survivor-centred methodology respects the dignity and diversity of survivors, including women, children, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, persons with disabilities and LGBTIQ+ individuals. Special attention is given to survivors of aggravated forms of violence, such as trafficking and femicide, ensuring that services are accessible, inclusive and non-discriminatory.

Looking forward

The catalytic impact of supporting CAFIMs lies in their potential to serve as a localized model for national replication. By empowering community leaders and institutional defenders, these centres are not only providing immediate support to survivors but also laying the groundwork for systemic change. The creation of a unified information system, the development of architectural standards for CAFIMs and the promotion of national consultations on gender justice are all forward-looking strategies that will shape the future of gender equality in Venezuela.

Based on the technical assistance provided to the National Office of Integral Attention to Victims (ONAIIVV), affiliated with the Ministry of People's Power for Internal Affairs, Justice and Peace, and to the CAFIM management model, an opportunity arises to strengthen coordination among the institutions comprising the justice ecosystem. This inter-institutional coordination is key to enhancing the State's comprehensive response to victims, ensuring more efficient, coherent and rights-centred support.

THEMATIC FOCUS

I. JUSTICE FUTURES COLAB

Overview

In 2024, global and national rule of law and justice systems continued to be under immense pressure due to multiple escalating conflicts, geopolitical shifts and a growing justice gap. The global justice gap remains one of the most urgent yet persistently under-addressed challenges of our time. As crises deepened across many parts of the world, UNDP expanded its work and remained steadfast in its commitment to support and implement innovative people-centred justice programming to close the justice gap, particularly in crisis, complex and fragile settings, in synergy with national and international partners. The development of the [UNDP Policy Framework on People-Centred Justice and Security](#) was finalized, marking UNDP's continued institutional commitment to using a people-centred lens to provide innovative solutions and strengthen justice and security systems.

To measure rather than assume justice gaps, UNDP continued to invest in strengthening national capacities for justice data collection and analysis, ensuring that policies and decisions are evidence-based. UNDP's innovative data collection initiatives in Lebanon, Malawi and Timor-Leste being some key examples.

People-centred justice

In 2024, UNDP strengthened its implementation of programming with a people-centred lens. The UNDP [People-Centred Approach to Justice and Security](#) represents a paradigm shift in how justice and security are conceived, delivered and experienced. As a lens, the approach redefines justice and security through people's experiences, rights and needs, rather than focusing primarily on the needs of formal institutions. It adopts a broad understanding of justice and security and considers the wider contextual factors that influence people's ability to access and experience justice and security. As a programming methodology, it promotes adaptive, participatory, integrated and evidence-based programming. It strategically combines both institutions and community-driven solutions to respond to people's priority needs, enhance their ability to claim their rights, and ensure justice and security systems deliver meaningful outcomes for people, not just institutional efficiency.

UNDP addresses the persistent justice gap affecting billions of people globally by promoting context-specific innovative programming underpinned by five interconnected and mutually reinforcing elements, ensuring justice and security interventions are holistic, sustainable and grounded in human rights. The five elements are inclusion, participation, empowerment, local ownership and accountability.

In tandem with its people-centred justice programming, as part of the Justice Action Coalition (JAC) Secretariat, UNDP commenced provision of support to innovative country-level initiatives to advance people-centred justice. Anchored in the JAC vision to close the justice gap and leave no one behind, UNDP implemented the JAC Catalytic Fund on People-Centred Justice, prioritizing locally led and inclusive interventions to strengthen justice delivery for the most underserved populations. In 2024, UNDP's efforts focused on establishing the foundations for implementation and building momentum for people-centred initiatives in six countries: *Colombia*, the *Dominican Republic*, *Kenya*, *Samoa*, *Sao Tome and Principe* and *Sierra Leone*. In each context the interventions were designed to improve access to justice through formal and informal mechanisms, with a focus on civil, family, land and small claims disputes that disproportionately affect women, youth and other marginalized groups.

In 2025, UNDP will elaborate a guidance note for Country Offices on people-centred justice and security as a tool to support the programmatic application of the key elements of the policy framework. Together with sub-guidance notes on gender justice, customary and informal justice and access to justice in situations of forced displacement, these tools will build on best examples and lessons learned to continue to strengthen the people-centred programming offer of UNDP.

Customary and informal justice

Building on the achievements of the previous year, UNDP enhanced its work on customary and informal justice in collaboration with strategic partners within the Justice Action Coalition (JAC).

Working closely with UNDP Regional Hubs in *Ethiopia* and *Senegal*, UNDP co-organized a regional policy dialogue on strengthening diverse pathways to people-centred justice in West Africa and the Sahel. The event, held in collaboration with the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), UN Women and other strategic partners, served as a platform to launch the French language version of the JAC landmark report [Diverse Pathways to People-Centred Justice](#).

Through partnership between the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law and the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, an informal dialogue on customary and informal justice was held with African academics and judges as part of the [2024 Academic Conference on Africa](#). This dialogue aimed to share lessons learned and best practices on providing support for CIJ systems at the country level.

UNDP's experience on the ground has proven that working with CIJ systems improves access to justice, especially in rural, marginalized or fragile settings. In *Myanmar*, for example, Collaborative Dispute Resolution (CDR) assistance was provided on land and civil justice disputes, with training and technical support on mediation and other forms of dispute resolution, to civil organizations in 59 villages across 24 townships.



Community judges during a round table discussion on extrajudicial conflict resolution in Malema District, Nampula Province, Mozambique.

Photo:
UNDP
Mozambique

This initiative benefited 1,233 people, fostering gender equality, community trust and inclusion. In *Burundi*, UNDP delivered training for 329 hill-level¹³ community leaders known as “notables collinaires”, including 100 women, on their new formalized role as mediators.

Linking customary mechanisms with formal justice systems while preserving local autonomy is a pragmatic approach that strengthens justice ecosystems. In *Yemen*, for example, UNDP and partners designed a policy framework for women’s access to informal and formal justice at the governorate level. The Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) endorsed by key ministries emphasize community mediation and people-centred access to justice.

UNDP presented this work on CIJ and other achievements at the 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York, where it joined IDLO and the Governments of Germany and the Philippines at a [panel discussion](#) on women’s empowerment and leadership in customary and informal justice systems.

Looking forward

In 2025, UNDP will develop a guidance note for Country Offices on people-centred customary and informal justice, as part of broader guidance on people-centred justice and security. This aligns with the recommendations from the 2022-2023 Independent Office Evaluation on UNDP’s access to justice work. UNDP will advocate for CIJ across various platforms with strategic partners, including the UN system, the Justice Action Coalition and at the World Justice Forum in June 2025. Collaborating with UNDP Regional Hubs, the community of practice on access to justice, rule of law and peacebuilding will strengthen efforts on CIJ, insider mediation and social cohesion, enhancing UNDP’s community-level initiatives.

Digital justice

The growing demand for e-justice solutions in various development contexts reflects an urgent need to close the justice gap and deliver more accessible, efficient and transparent services. Digital innovations, such as online case management, virtual hearings and mobile legal services, are becoming integral to modern, people-centred justice systems.

In addition to infrastructure investments, realizing the full potential of digital justice requires efforts to strengthen digital literacy, ensure data security, promote inclusivity and ensure human rights protection in the use of digital technologies. In the provision of support on digital justice, UNDP is embedding this work within broader justice sector reforms, guided by principles of fairness, accessibility and human rights, especially since artificial intelligence (AI) is becoming an integral part of all digital innovations.

In 2024, UNDP implemented digital justice solutions in 38 contexts. See the highlights below.

In *Kenya*, the Small Claims Court mobile application was developed to make justice more accessible via mobile devices. Its various features enable users to file cases, track proceedings and access case information, significantly reducing physical and financial barriers to justice, particularly for vulnerable populations and small businesses. This tool represents a critical milestone in modernizing judicial services in Kenya and advancing the judiciary’s broader goal of enhancing efficiency and inclusivity.

In the *State of Palestine*, where movement restrictions limit physical access to courts, the Mizan court management system enabled remote judicial proceedings for over 160,00 users, including judges, prosecutors and litigants. Mizan’s success was recognized internationally when it [secured second place](#) in the 2024 SDG Digital GameChangers Award under the “Peace” category.

¹³ The smallest administrative unit in Burundi’s local governance framework.

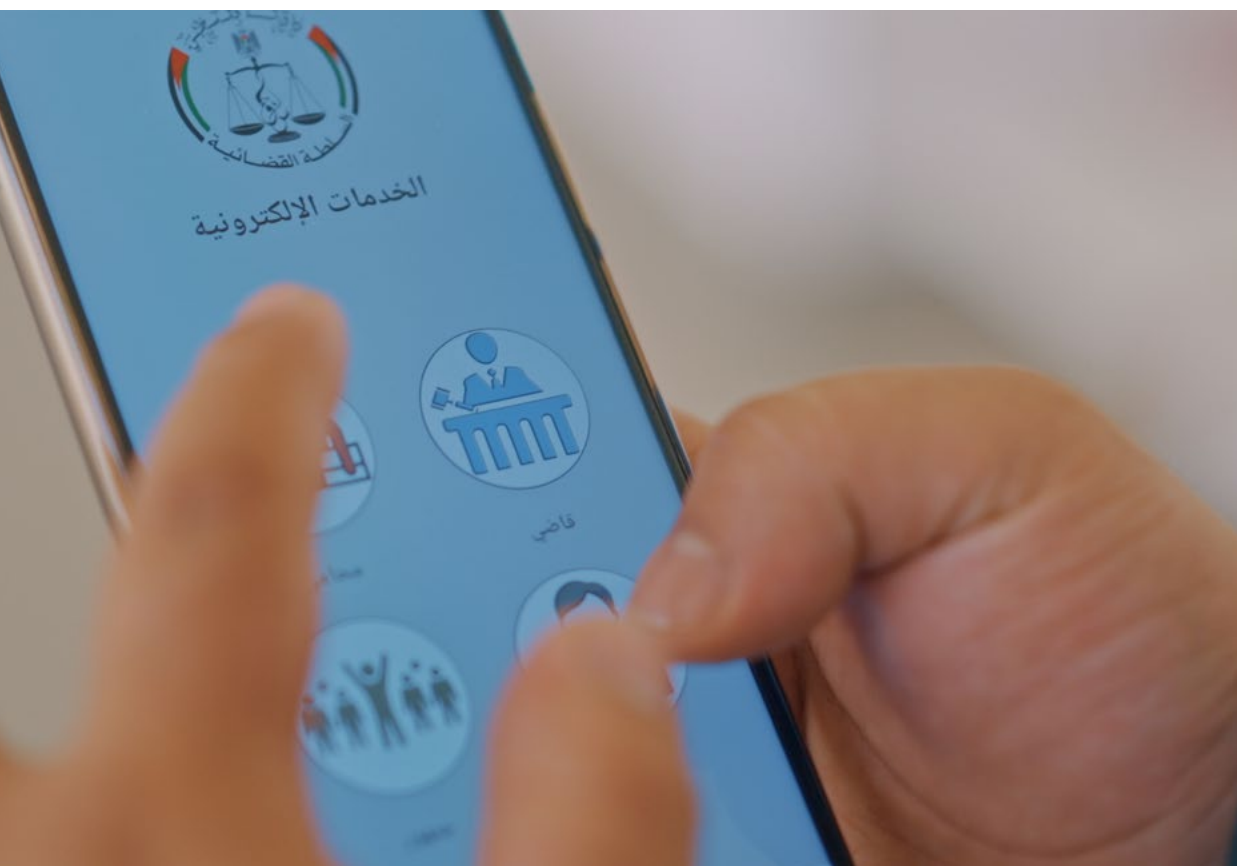
In *Bangladesh*, a Digital Witness Deposition Mechanism was established in five courts in Cox's Bazar, allowing for recording, reviewing and analysis of witness testimonies. This tool laid the groundwork for sustained improvements in judicial efficiency. Based on the request from the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, UNDP and partners are exploring the nationwide rollout of the system.

In *Burkina Faso*, the system for electronic issuance of criminal records that UNDP piloted in four courts was successfully expanded to all 27 district courts by the Ministry of Justice.

UNDP initiated a series of learning events to exchange insights and experiences on digital innovations. UNDP in *Morocco*, for example, hosted a global workshop to explore opportunities and challenges of e-justice solutions and strengthen regional cooperation. Organized under the Justice Futures Co-Lab, the workshop served as a lead-up to the International Conference on the Digital Transformation of Judicial Systems. Similarly, the regional conference held in Amman, Jordan, examined how digital technologies, including AI, can make justice and security more accessible, efficient and transparent. The discussions reiterated the need for digital justice initiatives that are inclusive, human rights-based and tailored to the diverse needs of communities. To showcase its digital innovations and to foster collaboration in this area, UNDP joined a Digital Justice Working Group co-chaired by Morocco and Spain.

Looking forward

UNDP will enhance its guidance on the application and deployment of AI in justice by developing tools and providing training for justice practitioners. This work will be carried out in collaboration with Regional Hubs, focusing on the digital readiness assessment tool for the rule of law, building on the efforts of the Rule of Law, Security and Human Right team at the Amman Regional Hub.



A user is accessing Mizan e-services to manage court procedures efficiently.

Photo:
Sawasya, UN joint programme

Environmental justice

In 2024, UNDP consolidated and expanded its work on environmental justice to protect environmental rights and promote the environmental rule of law. Judicial support programmes were strengthened through targeted training for new cohorts of judges, while engagement with networks of lawyers was broadened to enhance support across the justice sector. UNDP also extended technical and capacity-building assistance to national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and businesses to help protect and respect the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

As the concept of environmental justice remains relatively new to many actors in the justice and environmental sectors, UNDP has played a leading role in introducing and building momentum around it. UNDP published national assessments on environmental justice in two countries, with three more expected in 2025. UNDP is also spearheading the development of the first global guidance on operationalizing the right to a healthy environment for businesses, NHRIs and justice professionals.

In *Georgia*, following the launch of the [Access to Environmental Justice](#) report, UNDP developed a specialized training module on environmental justice for the High School of Justice of Georgia. The first cohort of trainer-judges, comprising 34 participants, enhanced their expertise through UNDP-led sessions. These trainings were complemented by a nationwide awareness campaign on access to environmental justice, which reached 326,000 individuals. Additional training was provided to the Public Defender's Office of Georgia to strengthen protections for the right to water and address issues related to water access, availability and quality in local communities.

UNDP also supported the Ombudsperson's Office of *North Macedonia* in hosting [the first international conference for NHRIs and Ombudspersons focused on advancing the right to a clean environment](#). The event brought together representatives from 12 countries and included consultations on developing a monitoring tool for NHRIs to assess the right to a healthy environment. Further support was provided to the [Macedonian Young Lawyers Association](#) through training and by facilitating connections between



A round table in Erbil, Iraq to discuss the draft law on the environmental protection.

Photo: UNDP Iraq

lawyers and environmental non-governmental organizations to foster joint action in communities affected by environmental injustices.

To improve the capacity of legal professionals, UNDP partnered with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) to deliver the first environmental justice training for the Lao Bar Association. This initiative explored how the right to a healthy environment could be integrated into legal actions in *Lao People's Democratic Republic*.

In *Bolivia*, UNDP built on two years of work to support the development of the Lithium Landscape System, a governance platform designed to facilitate multi-stakeholder and cross-border dialogue on lithium extraction. The platform has played a pivotal role in proposing regulatory frameworks, establishing community-led environmental monitoring and developing an AI-powered data monitoring system for extraction activities.

In 2024, UNDP launched the [Practical Tool for Business on Human Rights Due Diligence and the Environment](#), the first resource to integrate environmental considerations into human rights due diligence under the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. This tool was developed through consultations with 70 leading businesses and over 200 other stakeholders.

Looking forward

UNDP, in partnership with UNEP, will continue to support judicial training institutes by developing global resources for environmental education. The Human Rights Due Diligence and the Environment Practical Tool will be rolled out through training sessions offered via the Business and Human Rights Academy. Additionally, UNDP will expand its programming to further integrate rights and justice into climate action.

Gender justice

Despite global progress, women and girls continue to face systemic barriers to decision-making, particularly in fragile and crisis-affected contexts where gender-based violence remains alarmingly prevalent, [impacting one in three women worldwide](#).

UNDP remains resolute in its commitment to advancing gender justice as a cornerstone of inclusive governance and sustainable peace. In partnership with UN Women through the Gender Justice Platform, UNDP has bolstered institutional mechanisms to combat discrimination against women and violence while promoting the meaningful participation and leadership of women in justice and security institutions. These efforts reflect a strategic investment in equitable and resilient societies.

Noting the importance of strengthening women's leadership in crisis contexts and in anticipation of commemorating the 25th anniversary of the [UN Security Council Resolution 1325](#) on Women Peace and Security, UNDP's Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development co-hosted a global exchange for women leaders from *Iraq*, *Ukraine*, *Yemen* and the *Autonomous Region of Bougainville* to amplify their contributions to peacebuilding. This strategic event underscored the imperative of ensuring women's full, equal and meaningful participation in decision-making and securing sustainable financial support for their peace efforts.

In 2024, the Gender Justice Working Group of the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law (GFP) was launched, as recommended by the [guidance note](#) developed by the Gender Justice Platform and the GFP. The working group, co-led by UNDP, the UN Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI) and UN Women, developed a gender marker system to track and enhance the gender-responsiveness of GFP missions. In 2024, the first GFP mission utilizing this framework was deployed in Burkina Faso, setting a precedent for mainstreaming gender-sensitive approaches within GFP interventions.

In *Tanzania*, UN Women led the support of the Mama Samia Legal Aid campaign in the Mtwara region, in collaboration with the Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs, enhancing access to justice for over 56,000 people (including 27,964 women and girls), who gained legal awareness on land and inheritance rights, as well as gender-based violence. The Platform also trained 30 paralegals and community workers to strengthen outreach and address discriminatory practices affecting women's rights across 15 sub-districts in the country.

Through the Gender Justice Platform, UNDP continued supporting the advancement of women's representation in the judiciary at national levels, in collaboration with the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) and national stakeholders.

For example, in the Asia-Pacific region, the Platform advanced initiatives in *Indonesia*, *Lao PDR* and *Thailand* to address the underrepresentation of women in judicial leadership. A milestone event, [Advancing Women's Access to Justice in Asia and the Pacific: Balancing Parity and Empowerment](#), was convened as a side event of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the [Beijing+30](#) review.

In *Montenegro*, the Platform responded strategically to the backlash against women's rights by supporting gender-responsive and people-centred justice and security service delivery and promoting women's meaningful participation and leadership in the justice and security sectors. This was achieved through collaboration with the Women's Leadership Network, a key alliance that brings together women leaders from government, the judiciary, civil society, academia and the private sector. In partnership with the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office, UNDP enhanced institutional capacity to respond effectively to gender-based violence by embedding gender equality principles throughout prosecutorial and judicial processes, thereby reinforcing accountability and systemic resilience.

At the policy level, UNDP in partnership with UN Women, IDLO, the World Bank and the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, launched a strategic research initiative on [Financing Women's Justice Needs: Global Perspectives on Violence Against Women, and a Case Study on Uganda](#). Presented during the 68th [Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW\)](#), this research underscores the urgency of increasing public financing for justice systems responsive to women's justice needs, particularly in addressing violence against women. The research analysis brings sharp focus, especially on violence against women, aiming to



The lunch of the "16 Days of Activism" campaign in Montenegro.

Photo:
UNDP
Montenegro/
Ivan Mandi

understand the existing funding gaps that must be addressed to achieve access to justice for women and girls globally and to fulfill the commitment of the 2030 Agenda.

Looking forward

As the Gender Justice Platform nears the conclusion of its current phase in 2025, UNDP, in partnership with UN Women, will intensify efforts to build on the results of the past three-year period to elevate support on gender justice in response to the current global over-lapping crises that have a disproportionate impact on women. This entails strengthening policy and programming support while working closely with global, regional and national partners to embed gender justice across all programming.

The Platform will continue to scale its work on women's leadership in the justice sector, responding to growing global demand for equitable legal systems that are responsive to women's needs. In 2025, new interventions will be launched in *Tajikistan* and *Lao PDR*. On the learning side, UNDP will launch a Justice Futures CoLab on Women's Leadership in the Justice Sector and start developing new guidance on the people-centred approach to gender justice. These learning-focused initiatives will serve as a strategic forum to shape the Platform's positioning and partnerships ahead of key global milestones, including the 2026 High-Level Political Forum and the 2026 Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

Transitional justice

Transitional justice operates at the intersection of human rights, development, peace and security. It addresses the legacy of mass human rights violations and fosters resilient communities. In post-conflict, crisis or fragile contexts, truth-seeking and reconciliation initiatives are critical to the restoration and renewal of the social contract, peacebuilding, prevention of recurrence and ultimately the long-term peace and stability.

UNDP plays a pivotal role in supporting transitional justice through a comprehensive development approach that tackles the root causes of systemic inequalities, addressing impunity and bringing accountability. By working closely with national justice and security institutions, UNDP promotes national ownership and local solutions, while providing extensive capacity-building across all phases of the transitional justice process.

In *Colombia*, UNDP provided financial and technical support for an innovative transitional justice initiative, the initiation of the rollout of the Agrarian Jurisdiction (JAR), a key recommendation of the Peace Agreement. The JAR is essential for resolving land-related disputes and ensuring access to justice for vulnerable rural populations, including women, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and youth. It is a cornerstone of peacebuilding, guaranteeing justice for the most marginalized.

In *South Sudan*, UNDP is enhancing access to justice for vulnerable groups, particularly women and girls affected by gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence. Support includes equipping the Gender-Based Violence Court with case management systems, training court personnel and assisting victim support groups and psychosocial workers. UNDP is also providing technical assistance to operationalize the Commission on Truth, Reconciliation and Healing (CTRH) and the Compensation and Reparations Authority (CRA).

In *Liberia*, UNDP has initiated support to strengthen national capacities for designing and implementing rule of law and transitional justice interventions. This includes laying the groundwork for systemic change through the establishment of a War and Economic Crimes Court, capacity-building for legal practitioners, and the development of gender-sensitive justice frameworks.

Through the Gender Justice Platform, continued support was provided to survivors of conflict-related sexual violence in *Mali, South Sudan, Tunisia, Ukraine*, as well as in *Kosovo*. These efforts contributed to the implementation of the recommendation of the joint policy report [Women's Meaningful Participation in Transitional Justice: Advancing Gender Equality and Building Sustainable Peace](#).

Strategic partnerships

UNDP advanced regional transitional justice by supporting the implementation of the African Union Transitional Justice Policy, in collaboration with the Transitional Justice Legacy Fund, the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) and the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR), among others. This regional framework guides the African Union (AU) member states emerging from conflict or repression in developing context-specific, comprehensive strategies for sustainable peace, justice, reconciliation, social cohesion and national healing.

In 2024, UNDP participated in the Annual Roundtable on Transitional Justice, hosted by the ICTJ and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. The roundtable provided a key platform for dialogue, collaboration and alliance-building among governments, multilateral institutions and private sector actors engaged in transitional justice worldwide.

At the global level, UNDP is participating in the newly established Inter-agency Task force on Transitional Justice, part of the [Guidance Note of the Secretary-General: Transitional Justice as a Strategic Tool for People, Prevention and Peace](#). UNDP brings comparative advantage and global programming footprint while also ensuring close coordination with already existing rule of law mechanisms

At the policy level, UNDP contributed to groundbreaking research by the Knowledge Platform Security and Rule of Law on the [Integration of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Approaches in Accountability Mechanisms for Atrocity Crimes](#), led by the Knowledge Management Fund of the Knowledge Platform for Security and Rule of Law and funded by the Government of the Netherlands. The study identifies best practices for embedding victim-centred psychosocial support into accountability mechanisms and will inform the development of more inclusive transitional justice strategies.

Looking forward

In 2025, UNDP will continue to promote women's and youth participation in transitional justice through its engagement with the African Union Transitional Justice Policy. Additionally, it will launch a dedicated platform for knowledge-sharing and dialogue on emerging trends in transitional justice worldwide.

II. HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEMS

Overview

Amidst significant global pressures on human development, including polycrises and persistent inequality within and between states, human rights remain a pathway to solutions, playing a critical role as a preventative, protective and transformative force for good.

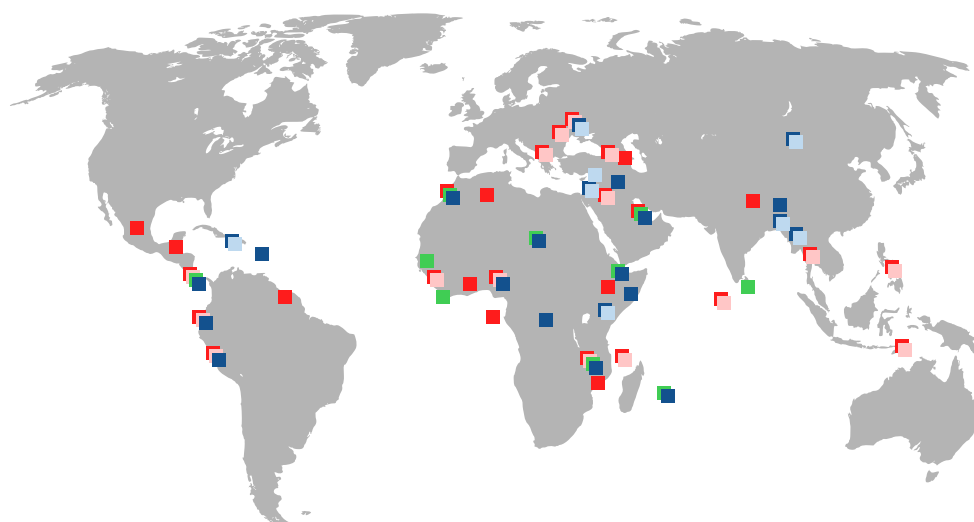
UNDP works to support human rights solutions that strengthen accountability, protect communities and foster peace, recovery and stability. In 2024, UNDP has sustained investments in strengthening national human rights systems, including supporting national human rights institutions (NHRIs) globally.

Technology is profoundly reshaping the human rights landscape. While digital tools can amplify voices or expand access to justice, they also risk perpetuating inequalities and exclusion. UNDP has continued to work on rights in the digital realm, improving the understanding of the connections and approaches required to address the digital divide and promoting safe, inclusive systems for rights-based digital transformation.

UNDP has expanded its toolbox on human rights mainstreaming to include updated guidance on Human Rights Due Diligence for work with the non-UN security sector and a new UNDP toolkit on human rights-based approaches for development programming, which builds on 20 years of UNDP experience. These tools bring innovative ways to solve contemporary development problems, asserting that human rights are not abstract ideals. They are vital tools for addressing pressing challenges for development and advancing dignity and justice for all.

Support to national human rights systems

In 2024, UNDP supported human rights institutions, systems and stakeholders in 63 countries and territories. The Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development provided support in 47 countries and territories.

**Indicator 1.2**

■	■
Support to strengthen capacities of human rights institutions, systems and stakeholders toward the fulfillment of nationally and internationally ratified human rights obligations (inc TPP) = 28	Recipient countries of Tri-Partite Partnership support = 16
Algeria Azerbaijan Bahrain Belize Comoros Costa Rica Ecuador Ethiopia Georgia Ghana Jordan Malawi The Maldives Mexico	Moldova Morocco Mozambique Nepal Nigeria North Macedonia Peru Philippines Sao Tome and Principe Sierra Leone Suriname Thailand Timor-Leste Ukraine
	Comoros Costa Rica Ecuador Georgia Jordan Malawi The Maldives Moldova Nigeria North Macedonia Peru Philippines Sierra Leone Thailand Timor-Leste Ukraine

Results Framework indicator 1.2

Number of contexts where human rights institutions, systems or stakeholders supported by the Global Programme strengthened capacities to support the fulfilment of nationally and internationally ratified human rights obligations

Indicator 2.1

■
Support to implementation of UPR recommendations and closer integration between human rights and SDG systems = 13
UPR Bahrain Chad Costa Rica The Gambia Liberia Malawi Mauritius
HR/SDG systems Bahrain Chad Djibouti Mauritius Morocco Sri Lanka

Results Framework indicator 2.1

Number of contexts in which the Global Programme's support has contributed to:
a) implementation of UPR recommendations
b) closer integration between human rights and SDG systems

Indicator 3.1

■	■
Support to strengthen capacities of rule of law and justice institutions toward the fulfilment of nationally and internationally ratified human rights obligations (inc HRDDP) = 23	Support to Human Rights Due Diligence Policy reviews = 8
Bahrain Bangladesh Bhutan Chad Costa Rica Democratic Republic of the Congo Djibouti Ecuador Fiji Haiti Iraq	Kenya Malawi Mauritius Mongolia Morocco Myanmar Nigeria Peru Somalia St. Kitts & Nevis State of Palestine Ukraine
	Bangladesh Haiti Kenya Lebanon Mongolia Myanmar State of Palestine Ukraine

Results Framework indicator 3.1

Number of contexts where the Global Programme's support to rule of law and justice institutions, systems, or stakeholders has strengthened capacities to support fulfilment of nationally and internationally ratified human rights obligations

National human rights institutions

A key part of strengthening national human rights systems is partnering with and building the capacities of NHRIs. As frontline human rights defenders that promote and protect human rights, NHRIs face many interrelated challenges at national level. By empowering NHRIs to fulfill their mandates effectively through bolstering their operational capacities and enabling them to prevent and address pressing human rights challenges, UNDP can advance human rights and sustainable development globally.

Amongst broader support to NHRIs, UNDP provides a platform to leverage UN collaboration to support NHRIs by scaling up support through the [TriPartite Partnership to Support National Human Rights Institutions \(TPP\)](#).

With support from the Government of Norway, this collaborative initiative leverages the partnership of UNDP and the UN Human Rights Office, along with global and regional networks of NHRIs, to respond to the increasing demands and challenges that NHRIs face through joint programming. In 2024, the TPP supported 13 NHRIs at country level to protect and promote human rights, strengthened NHRI capacities on digital and environmental rights through the development of targeted toolkits, engaged 40 NHRIs in policy tool development and enabled their participation in global policy forums.

Tailored to each country's specific needs, the TPP has provided support to NHRIs in *Comoros, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Georgia, Jordan, Malawi, Maldives, Moldova, [Nigeria](#), North Macedonia, Peru, Timor-Leste* and *Ukraine*.

In *Costa Rica* and *Nigeria*, the TPP assisted in developing Human Rights Observatories to strengthen early warning systems for conflict trends and prevention, which supported the adjudication of 210 human rights cases across six states in *Nigeria*. In *Georgia*, a monitoring methodology for the right to water was created. In *Malawi*, the TPP supported monitoring of 43 detention facilities, prompting renewed government commitments to improve conditions and uphold the rights of detainees. In *Peru*, partnerships were established with regional Ombudsperson's Offices, engaging over 300 officials and civil society representatives to carry out peacebuilding activities.

Looking forward

In a global context of under investment in human rights and development, UNDP is committed to providing critical support to robust national human rights systems and NHRIs.

In 2025, UNDP will continue to provide coordinated support to more governments to establish and strengthen Paris Principles compliant NHRIs as key institutions for prevention, early warning and achieving the SDGs. Practical demand-driven tools for NHRIs will be launched to assess their digital readiness and monitor the right to a healthy environment. A new UN NHRI toolkit will be designed as a critical resource to expand understanding and leverage greater engagement with NHRIs across the UN system. Finally, UNDP will sustain investments and results in countries where the UN system has been leveraged to work jointly with NHRIs through the TPP.

Rights-based digital transformation

To strengthen UNDP's commitment to a rights-based digital transformation, in 2024 UNDP finalized the development of an innovative tool, the Digital Rights Dashboard (DRD), to expand on the UNDP Digital Development Compass with knowledge on the intersection of digitalization and human rights. The DRD offers insights into digital rights trends, identifies gaps, and informs evidence-based policy decisions. Over time, the DRD will help governments, civil society organizations and other stakeholders to strengthen safeguards and uphold human rights in the digital space.

The development of the DRD involved comprehensive data collection and desk research, complemented by insights from other UNDP tools such as the Digital Development Compass (DDC) and Digital Readiness Assessments. Piloted in five countries (*Colombia, Lebanon, Mauritania, North Macedonia* and *Samoa*), the DRD provided clear insights on the intersection between human rights and digital transformation, including the right to privacy; the right to freedom of expression, assembly and association; the right to equality and non-discrimination; and the right to access to the internet. By engaging UNDP Country Offices in piloting the DRD, the initiative raised awareness of digital rights and strengthened internal capacity to integrate human rights considerations into digital transformation efforts.

Looking forward

Once launched in 2025, the DRD will serve as a valuable tool for UNDP and national partners, helping guide national strategies by drawing on good practices and comparative insights. By leveraging the DRD, countries can refine their approaches to human rights-based digital development and work toward more inclusive and rights-based digital frameworks that ensure protection for all.

Human rights mainstreaming

UNDP supports the mainstreaming of human rights throughout development programming, viewing it as a key programming principle. Utilizing a human rights-based approach in development programming can help UNDP to improve its delivery for populations and governments around the world. It can be an enabler of progress, engaging whole societies and unpacking development challenges whilst providing solutions pathways. It's a tool to anticipate, prevent and manage risks. UNDP believes that a human rights-based approach will assist in upholding human dignity, fundamental for all human progress.

Human rights-based approach to development programming

Finalized at the end of 2024 by UNDP, [The Human Rights-Based Approach \(HRBA\) to Development Programming: HRBA Toolkit](#) is a groundbreaking resource designed to integrate human rights principles into sustainable development programming. Developed through an extensive listening and learning exercise with 36 UNDP Country Offices and a dedicated UNDP-wide reference group, the Toolkit builds on over two decades of UNDP expertise in human rights mainstreaming. It is a structured, practical guide for embedding human rights standards throughout the development project cycle, strengthening accountability, inclusion and resilience. Aligned with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards, the toolkit ensures a rights-based foundation for programmatic decision-making, fostering collaboration between duty bearers and rights holders to develop sustainable, crisis-responsive programming.

At its core, the Toolkit elaborates on the three-step human rights analysis and introduces the PLANET framework to systematically integrate human rights considerations into programme design, implementation and evaluation. PLANET stands for **P**articipation, **L**inkages, **A**ccountability, **N**on-discrimination and Equality, **E**mpowerment and Capacity Development and **T**ransparency. By anticipating risks, preventing crises and promoting peace, the Toolkit serves as a critical problem-solving tool for contemporary development challenges, guiding practitioners toward more effective and equitable programming.

Human rights due diligence policy

In 2024, UNDP supported eight countries and territories in the application of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy for projects that engage with the non-UN security sector to ensure engagements are aligned with international human rights standards. By integrating a rights-based approach, UNDP actively managed, monitored and mitigated risks associated with security sector engagement.

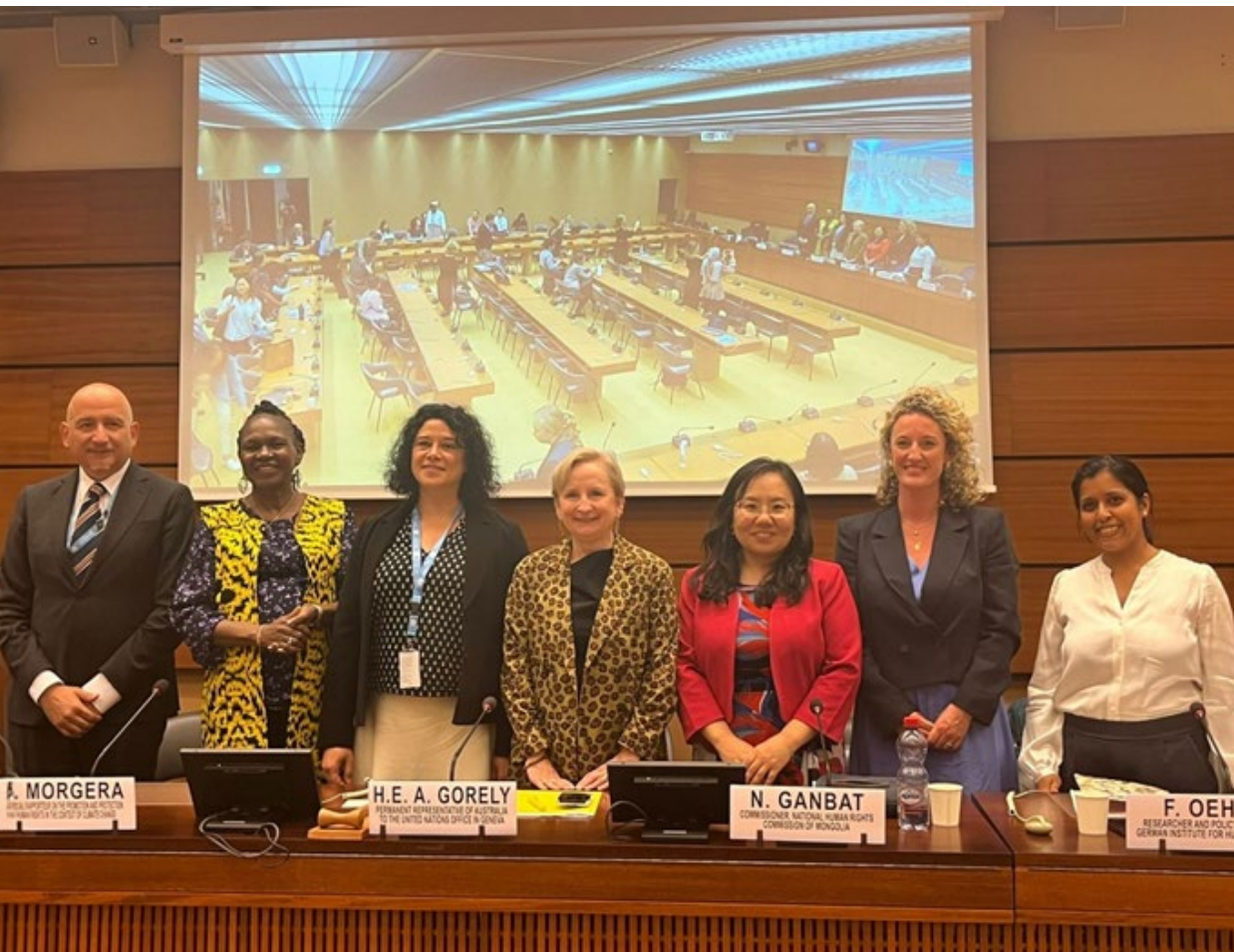
In 2024, UNDP updated its [Human Rights Due Diligence Policy Implementation Tool](#) to improve its usability and provide clear guidance and a structured risk assessment framework to help UNDP Country Offices systematically evaluate and mitigate human rights risks when engaging with the non-UN security sector. By strengthening capacities and knowledge of human rights due diligence for the security sector, UNDP enhances the effectiveness, sustainability and accountability of its interventions, reinforcing commitment to human rights protection.

Looking forward

2025 will focus on rolling out these critical human rights mainstreaming tools across UNDP to improve human rights-based programming and rights-based engagement with the security sector. Dedicated training on both tools will be introduced across the organization, accompanied by targeted capacity building support and localized case studies. Alongside the new guidance for the human rights programming marker to be rolled out in 2025, these efforts will improve both technical knowledge and capacities to reinforce practical learning, highlight best practices and to strengthen risk anticipation, promote crisis prevention to ensure that development efforts are equitable, inclusive and sustainable.

Engagement at the Human Rights Council

In 2024, UNDP engaged at the Human Rights Council to provide evidence-based development perspectives to policy debates and strengthen partnerships for sustainable development. UNDP's strategic engagement contributed practically at 13 thematic and technical discussions at the Human Rights Council to further technical cooperation, including on climate change, human rights and the environment, judges and lawyers, and the rights of Indigenous Peoples.



Human Rights Council 56th session, side event on Fostering Human Rights and Business Accountability in the Context of Climate Change.

Photo:
UNDP

III. BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Overview

In 2024, the [UNDP Global Business and Human Rights \(B+HR\) Initiative](#) expanded to [46 countries](#) in Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, with support from the European Union, Japan, Liechtenstein,¹⁴ Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Through the Initiative, UNDP assisted governments, businesses, civil society organizations (CSOs), labour organizations, national human rights institutions (NHRIs), environmental and human rights defenders, media, and others, in advancing responsible business practices.

Business and Human Rights: global coverage

In 2024, UNDP expanded its work on BHR in Africa and Asia, launching new projects in *Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mauritania, Rwanda, Tanzania* and *Zimbabwe*, while bolstering efforts in Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.



UNDP prioritized “sustainable finance” and “youth” as new thematic areas, having launched the global [Finance Against Slavery and Trafficking \(FAST\) Initiative](#) and the Agents of Change project in Asia. It also maintained thought leadership and continued setting best practice for business in the “environment” and “peace” thematic areas, publishing a [Practical Tool for Business on Human Rights Due Diligence and the](#)

¹⁴ Including the Government and LGT Group.

[Environment](#) and operationalizing the 2022 [Guide on Heightened Human Rights Due Diligence for Business in Conflict-Affected Contexts](#) through a training facilitation manual.

The 2024 European Union ([EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive](#) (CSDDD) explicitly recommends businesses follow the Guide on Heightened Human Rights Due Diligence. It was referenced in several reports by the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights and the [2024 Report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights](#) on business in the State of Palestine. Additionally, a number of [metrics for social taxonomies and trafficking-related disclosure laws](#) issued by the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons in 2024 are based on UNDP knowledge products.

UNDP continued playing an instrumental role in the [Global Community of Practice on Business and Conflict](#) by co-hosting it with the Thinking Ahead for Societal Change (TASC) Platform and the Geneva Trade Platform, and continuing to serve on its Advisory Board and facilitating practitioners' meetings.

To accelerate South-South exchanges, peer learning and collaboration on B+HR, in 2024, UNDP and its partners convened annual regional forums and dialogues in [Asia-Pacific](#), [Africa](#), Arab States, [Europe and Central Asia](#). Together, the four events conducted 126 sessions for 2,683 stakeholders joining in person and online.

Recommendations generated during the UNDP-led regional forums and dialogues contributed to the [13th UN Global Forum on BHR](#), where UNDP was involved in 13 sessions and side events, including the one co-organized with the EU on the opportunities and challenges of the CSDDD.

UNDP's technical assistance to governments in developing National Action Plans (NAPs) on B+HR yielded significant results, with NAPs adopted in *Ethiopia*, *Kyrgyzstan*, *Liberia* and *Nepal*. Moreover, UNDP supported the finalization of draft NAPs in three countries and supported NAP implementation and decentralization in ten countries.

In 2024, UNDP enhanced its capacity-strengthening support to businesses at the global level. For example, in cooperation with Drive Sustainability, it trained 40 businesses from the automotive industry on the environmental dimensions of human rights due diligence and, in partnership with the Investor Alliance for Human Rights and the Principles for Responsible Investment Initiative, trained 60 investors on heightened human rights due diligence. To facilitate the corporate shift towards integrated human rights and environmental due diligence, UNDP delivered training to over 900 practitioners from the International Association for Impact Assessment.

Efforts in 2024 demonstrated the need to complement the existing UNDP programming on access to remedy targeting victims of business-related abuses with direct support to the business sector on establishing operational-level grievance mechanisms. As stakeholder engagement in human rights due diligence remains a challenge for many businesses, particularly those with long and fragmented value chains, authoritative tools on how to engage with affected rights-holders in a meaningful way are required. Moreover, practical guidance on human rights due diligence in the financial sector, as well as access to contextualized data for human rights risk management and investment decision-making, particularly in conflict-affected contexts, are necessary.

Looking forward

In 2025, UNDP will continue advancing responsible business practices globally, focusing on the existing workstreams, by launching, for example, an e-course on heightened human rights due diligence and developing guides and capacity-strengthening modules for investors.

UNDP will also explore new programming on reliable context data for investment decision-making in conflict and conduct research on the business case for mandatory human rights due diligence. This new programming will take place while also scaling work on the youth and media pressure, effective remedy and meaningful rights-holder engagement, particularly with those at heightened risk of vulnerability and marginalization.

Supporting responsible supply chains with support from the Government of Japan

In 2024, the partnership between UNDP and the Government of Japan continued to advance responsible business practices, expanding its support to businesses and governments across 11 countries. Building on the achievements of earlier phases, the third year of the partnership focused on translating the [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#) (UNGPs) into tangible action, both at the policy level and throughout supply chains. The year also saw the launch of programming in two new countries, *Brazil* and *Cambodia*, further extending the partnership's global reach.

A key pillar of this work was the B+HR Academy, which equips businesses with practical tools and tailored guidance to identify, prevent, mitigate and account for how they address their human rights impacts in operations and supply chains. In 2024, UNDP engaged 320 businesses of all sizes and 630 business professionals across 16 countries, including Japan, through 23 human rights due diligence training sessions. Additionally, more than 175 companies received tailored support through 210 one-on-one guidance sessions, providing technical advice to strengthen their human rights policies and processes.

In *Ukraine*, where in-person training remained challenging due to the ongoing war, over 250 companies completed an online self-assessment of their human rights performance, with 97 automatically receiving tailored guidance on aligning their corporate policies and processes with international standards. In addition, UNDP's contributions helped shape the revised National Human Rights Strategy and Action Plan, while also incorporating B+HR priorities into national economic recovery strategies through an agreement with the Ministry of Economy.

Insights from the B+HR Academy spurred concrete steps. In *Indonesia*, businesses began revising their grievance mechanisms, running internal awareness campaigns on workplace harassment and aligning recruitment language with non-discrimination standards. In *Mongolia*, companies initiated the update of internal labour regulations and implementation of ongoing human rights due diligence. In *Japan*, businesses



Participants of the human rights business accelerator attended a graduation ceremony in Kyiv.

Photo:
UNDP Ukraine/
Andrii Krepykh

advanced a range of initiatives, from developing human rights risk maps and supplier education programmes to publishing due diligence reports and launching dedicated human rights web-portals.

At the policy level, UNDP supported NAP processes and integrated B+HR into broader development, recovery and sustainability agendas. The partnership's policy engagement achieved notable progress in 2024. In *Kyrgyzstan*, UNDP and Japan facilitated a year-long consultation involving nearly 200 stakeholders, culminating in the Government's formal adoption of the NAP in December 2024. In *Nepal*, following the adoption of the country's first-ever NAP in late 2023, UNDP supported national and provincial launch events and dissemination efforts. *Kazakhstan* finalized a national baseline assessment, laying the groundwork for a newly established Inter-Governmental Working Group on B+HR. In *Mexico*, sustained stakeholder engagement ensured policy continuity through a government transition, while embedding gender and other cross-cutting considerations into NAP development.

Strong partnerships proved vital for promoting the B+HR agenda. UNDP Country Offices that engaged early with Japanese stakeholders, national chambers of commerce and local business associations achieved greater success in reaching businesses. In many countries, directives from company headquarters also played a critical role in encouraging local subsidiaries to participate.

At the same time, sustaining business action requires follow-up. To address this, UNDP introduced multi-session formats and CEO roundtables to reinforce commitment, foster leadership-level engagement and help businesses to develop realistic workplans.

In some contexts, political turnover and weak institutional coordination slowed progress. In response, UNDP prioritized building a diverse stakeholder ecosystem, bringing together government actors, civil society, business associations and NHRIs. This inclusive approach helped mitigate the effects of political transitions and facilitated provincial-level engagement, particularly in *Nepal* and *Peru*.

Looking forward

Looking ahead to 2025, the partnership will continue to strengthen this foundation, supporting governments and businesses in implementing responsible business practices and fostering a more level playing field for companies committed to respecting human rights.

IV. COMMUNITY SECURITY

Overview

In 2024, the global peace and security landscape became increasingly strained, with escalating conflicts, intensifying geopolitical tensions and emerging transnational threats further aggravating pre-existing vulnerabilities. This instability disrupted fragile regions and hindered progress toward sustainable development. The [Global Peace Index \(2024\)](#) estimated the economic impact of violence at US\$19.1 trillion – 13.5 percent of global GDP – with 74 percent attributed to military spending. [Conflict escalated, particularly in the Sahel, the Middle East and parts of Latin America](#), while weak governance and institutional fragility continued fueling corruption, organized crime and violence. Over two-thirds of the 120 countries [under survey](#) scored below 50/100 on the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index, highlighting widespread corruption and insecurity. [Cybercrime costs the global economy over \\$10 trillion annually](#).

In response, UNDP intensified its support for sustainable peace by advancing inclusive, community-driven security approaches. Strategic priorities focused on reinforcing governance and justice institutions, fostering the leadership of women and youth in peacebuilding processes and tackling the underlying drivers of insecurity, including systemic inequality and institutional fragility. These initiatives were designed not only to address immediate risks, but to lay the foundations for enduring resilience in regions confronting intersecting and protracted crises.

People-centred security: global policy development and partnerships

UNDP continues to demonstrate its leadership in addressing complex global challenges, fostering innovative partnerships and driving transformative changes in peace and security.

Building on its work on people-centred security, particularly in contexts influenced and shaped by non-state and hybrid security actors, UNDP developed innovative policy approaches to navigating these complex environments along with recommendations for donors and international actors operating in such contexts. In addition to finalizing the research on hybrid security governance, UNDP, in collaboration with the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA), facilitated knowledge exchange under the Advisory Group on People-Centred Security and at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development.

Through its strategic partnership with the Department of Peace Operations (DPO) and the World Bank Group (WBG), UNDP has further solidified its commitment to the security-development nexus. New ways were explored to strengthen collaboration between the UN and the WBG in the security and justice sectors, with a focus on fostering sustainable development. The findings of a pivotal [report](#) with actionable recommendations to enhance this partnership were discussed at such high-profile forums as the World Bank Fragility Forum 2024 and the SIPRI Stockholm Forum.

As a co-chair of the Interagency Security Sector Reform Task Force (IASSRTF), UNDP led the development of a groundbreaking knowledge product on [Security Sector Reform \(SSR\) and Climate Change](#), integrating country-level and global policy insights. UNDP's work in *Somalia* was used as a case study to highlight the growing challenges to peace and security in regions where resources are increasingly constrained due to environmental pressures. Building on this work, UNDP in Somalia supported the organization of a high-level conference [on security and climate change](#).

To further discussions around the role of security institutions in adapting to challenges posed by climate change, UNDP contributed the conceptualization of a session at the UN Climate Change Conference in Baku (COP29) titled [Serving in the Storm: Strengthening National Security Institutions to Provide Accountable and Effective Security for the State and its Peoples, During the Climate Crisis](#).

Looking forward

UNDP's newly established Governance, Rule of Law and Peacebuilding (GRP) Hub fosters deeper integration across governance, rule of law and peacebuilding portfolios, creating a stronger platform to synergize community security initiatives with interventions under peacebuilding, conflict prevention and local governance. Early progress has already been achieved with regards to UNDP engagement with non-state and hybrid actors delivering essential services, including in the security sector.

Moving forward, UNDP will continue advancing people-centred security by adopting innovative tools such as standardized perception surveys and tailored indicators to guide programming, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. The agenda will prioritize emerging security challenges, including the digitalization of the security sector and risks linked to artificial intelligence (AI), and technology-facilitated gender-based violence. Strategic partnerships will be expanded and new collaborations cultivated to amplify impact. This forward-looking approach will ensure that UNDP's security programming remains adaptive, inclusive and responsive to the world's evolving challenges.

Support to the policing services and the security sector reform/governance (SSR/G)

In 2024, UNDP's support to the security sector contributed to enhanced institutional strengthening and accountability and also promoted gender-inclusive and environmentally responsive security frameworks. By aligning community needs with state capabilities, UNDP fostered durable social cohesion and resilience in crisis-affected and fragile contexts.



Community policing in Wau, South Sudan.

Photo:
UNDP South
Sudan

Policing initiatives focused on strengthening institutional capacity and promoting human rights-based approaches. In *Haiti*, where the security situation remains alarming, police operational capabilities were bolstered through the provision of 4,000 units of personal protective equipment, specialized training for over 60 officers, and the rehabilitation of the Thomassin 25 police station. To support retention, 786 cadets, including 119 women, received first assignment allowances.

In *Kosovo*, to curb the proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW), UNDP developed training curricula for police cadets and community officers, a train-the-trainer programme on illicit arms trafficking, and specialized training for 516 officers on preventing firearm misuse in domestic violence cases. In *Bosnia and Herzegovina*, over 200 police and customs officials participated in cross-border SALW exercises, while a new investigations guide improved prosecutorial collaboration. Law enforcement agencies destroyed 4,200 illicit weapons collected from 14 police agencies.

Human rights-based policing was prioritized in *Sri Lanka*, where UNDP partnered with the Human Rights Commission to draft guidelines on police conduct during public protests and trained officers amid civil unrest. In *Ukraine*, forensic capabilities were enhanced through rapid DNA technology, and law enforcement received training in victim-centred investigative techniques, supported by psychologists for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence.

Community trust-building was another key focus of UNDP programming. In the *Central African Republic*, 36 officers of the Internal Security Forces were trained in community policing. In *Bangladesh*, community policing forums in Cox's Bazar developed five community safety plans and trained 40 mediators and 100 youth in conflict resolution. Fiji shifted its policing culture from a “warrior” to a “guardian” mindset by integrating traditional leaders, women and youth into community strategies. In *Côte d'Ivoire*, civil-military committees received equipment to improve early warning systems and dialogue.

UNDP's security sector reform (SSR) programmes emphasized inclusive policy frameworks, gender equity and climate-security linkages. The *Central African Republic*, for example, advanced legal reforms with two draft laws on security sector governance. *Somalia* integrated community threat assessments from 22 locations into state security strategies, while staff in Southwest State began data-driven planning. In *Iraq*, an inter-agency protocol was established between the Ministries of Environment and Interior and the Supreme Judicial Council, training inspectors and police on environmental case investigations.

UNDP also integrated policing and SSR into broader conflict prevention strategies. In *Colombia*, technical assistance supported land conflict resolution and environmental planning. *Moldova* piloted a Social Tensions Monitoring Mechanism in 12 districts, engaging local stakeholders and refugees. In *Burundi*, 329 community mediators and 200 police officers were trained in investigating sexual and gender-based violence. *Timor-Leste* advanced alternative dispute resolution by training community leaders and supporting operational guidelines for the Land and Property Commission.

Looking forward

UNDP will continue to prioritize community-based initiatives, increase women's participation in security forces, implement oversight mechanisms, adopt new technologies and strengthen international partnerships to ensure effective, accountable and inclusive security sector reforms that contribute to sustainable peace and development.

Addressing technology-facilitated gender-based violence in partnership with the Korean National Police Agency

In 2024, UNDP, in partnership with the Korean National Police Agency (KNPA), made significant strides in addressing technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TF-GBV) through a multi-country initiative. Implemented in collaboration with the Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development, the Global Programme on Gender and UNDP Seoul Policy Centre, the project focused on enhancing law enforcement capacities, deploying innovative technologies and fostering survivor-centred approaches across six partner countries.

Key interventions included specialized training for police forces, the provision of investigative tools and the localization of artificial intelligence-based systems to ensure contextual relevance. Public awareness campaigns targeted youth and women, equipping them with knowledge and resources to recognize and report TF-GBV. Institutional reforms, such as the creation of dedicated police units and national agencies, reinforced legal frameworks and victim support systems. These efforts were grounded in a whole-of-society approach, emphasizing collaboration between law enforcement, civil society and technology stakeholders.

Two major policy initiatives emerged from the project. The [Global Policy Dialogue on TF-GBV](#), held in Seoul, convened over a hundred stakeholders from governments, civil society and international organizations to share experiences and explore collaborative solutions. The event underscored the importance of cross-border cooperation and the need for unified strategies to address the evolving nature of TF-GBV. A comprehensive policy paper was drafted, emphasizing the critical role of law enforcement in addressing TF-GBV through systemic reforms, inter-agency cooperation and engagement with civil society and technology companies. It advocated for equipping police with the tools, training and institutional support necessary to respond effectively to digital threats.

Country-level achievements reflect the project's adaptability and impact. In *Bosnia and Herzegovina*, UNDP supported the establishment of a specialized police unit and launched a national awareness campaign focused on internet safety and referral systems. *Côte d'Ivoire* enhanced police training and created a national cybersecurity agency, while also reaching hundreds of students through public education efforts. *Indonesia* integrated TF-GBV training into the national police curriculum, ensuring long-term capacity-building and institutional sustainability. In *Maldives*, collaboration with a local civil society organization (CSO) led to the



Photo:
UNDP Bosnia and
Herzegovina

development of a TF-GBV lexicon and improved data systems tailored to the country's linguistic context. *North Macedonia* launched an e-learning course for police officers and contributed to drafting a new Criminal Code and national strategy to address gender-based violence, reinforcing legal protections and institutional accountability.

Looking forward

The second phase of the initiative, supported by KNPA and launched in November 2024, will run through 2027. This phase aims to deepen survivor-centred law enforcement practices, enhance cross-sector collaboration for better data and understanding of TF-GBV, and strengthen policy and legal frameworks. With a renewed focus on sustainability and scalability, the project will build on the successes of the first phase, expanding its reach and promoting cross-regional knowledge sharing. By continuing to invest in institutional capacity, community engagement and innovative tools, the initiative seeks to create safer digital and physical environments for women and girls worldwide.

SALIENT: Saving Lives Entity

Under their [SALIENT joint initiative](#), the Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and UNDP work on the principle that small-arms control and armed violence reduction must be nationally led, people-centred and both anticipatory and responsive. In 2024, six countries benefitted from SALIENT's comprehensive, sustainable and development-oriented approach: Ghana, Honduras, Jamaica, Kyrgyz Republic, Panama and Papua New Guinea.

The activities involved legislative and policy support, including on data collection and gender mainstreaming, capacity-building for law enforcement, as well as awareness raising that tackled the roots of gun violence. SALIENT partners worked in coordination with civil society, governments and school systems.



Photo:
UNDP Honduras/
Gerardo Moya

Recognizing that weapon proliferation fuels sexual violence in conflict and violence against women, with small arms and light weapons used in approximately [70 to 90 percent of incidents of conflict-related sexual violence](#), SALIENT dedicates 31.75 percent of its budget to gender equality and women's empowerment. From 2020 to 2024, SALIENT contributed approximately \$1.6 million to gender-focused initiatives.

To showcase the achievements of SALIENT and capitalize on the momentum from the 4th Review Conference on the UN Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons, [UNODA and UNDP convened a high-level event](#), reiterating the need to scale-up the small arms control efforts through SALIENT and sustain its impact. Notably, the [outcome document](#) of the Review Conference referenced SALIENT as a means of accessing international assistance to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

These country examples demonstrate SALIENT's transformative potential for arms control, armed violence prevention, peace and development.

In *Ghana*, the Arms Bill came into force, to align small arms-related protocols with international standards. SALIENT enhanced the advocacy capacities of civil society and the capacities of security institutions to prevent the illicit trafficking of small arms, in coordination with the Ghanaian National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the UN Office of Drugs and Crime.

In *Honduras*, SALIENT focused on prevention strategies that tackle the cultural and patriarchal drivers of violence among youth, working with schools, educators and youth to develop conflict resolution and interpersonal skills. Active in four municipalities, the project is implemented by UNDP and the UN Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, alongside the Ministry of Security and civil society.

In *Kyrgyzstan*, UNDP and the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific worked with the Prosecutor General's Office to develop a digitized Weapons Registry system for tracking civilian firearms.

In *Panama*, a field visit and actor mapping laid the grounds for preparing a national inclusive dialogue to address the presence of weapons in schools in Barrio Norte in Colón city.

In *Papua New Guinea*, UNDP, UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific conducted a Small Arms Survey, collecting data for the first time since 2005. The survey results informed the draft National Action Plan on Small Arms and Light Weapons. The project's initial scope was expanded due to growing needs and a specific request from national partners.

In *Jamaica*, SALIENT prevented gun violence in schools by building on activities carried out in 2023.

Watch this video to hear the voices from Jamaica and get SALIENT global insights



Looking forward

In 2025, SALIENT will complete implementation in Ghana, Honduras, Kyrgyzstan, Panama and Papua New Guinea, as well as in Jamaica with top-up funding. The next phase of the project, SALIENT 2.0 will be designed to scale-up efforts and sharpen joint approaches based on the lessons learned. One of the 2025 priorities for UNDP and UNODA will be the resource mobilization for SALIENT 2.0 to ensure its continuation and sustainability.

SEESAC: small arms control for a safer South East and East Europe

The proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons (SALW) continue to pose a significant threat to public safety, the rule of law and regional stability in South-East and East Europe. As a long-standing regional initiative established by UNDP and the Regional Cooperation Council, [South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons](#) (SEESAC), supports authorities in the region in addressing these challenges.

In 2024, SEESAC continued strengthening the capacities of authorities to build inclusive and accountable security sector institutions through tailored support, strategic interventions and regional cooperation, combined with hands-on assistance.

The [Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap](#) (Roadmap) remained a transformative regional framework, advancing alignment with the European Union (EU) and international security standards. SEESAC facilitated [coordination](#), [monitored progress](#) and fostered cooperation to achieve the Roadmap's goals with the support

of the EU, Germany and France. The Roadmap for 2025–2030, developed with SEESAC’s facilitation, was endorsed by the Ministers of Interior at the [EU–Western Balkans Ministerial Forum](#), reaffirming the region’s strategic commitment to reducing the threat posed by illicit firearms. The Roadmap was recognized at both the [Berlin Process](#) Summit and [EU–Western Balkans Summit](#) for its impact, regional ownership and contribution to enhancing regional cooperation and stability. As the Secretariat of the [Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap Multi-Partner Trust Fund](#), SEESAC coordinated and monitored activities while supporting the Steering Committee’s decision-making. In 2024, the Trust Fund received new contributions totalling \$1 million, increasing its value to \$29 million.

Regional cooperation was strengthened at the policy and operational levels by facilitating biannual gatherings of [Small Arms and Light Weapons \(SALW\) commissions](#) and the [South-East Europe Firearms Experts Network \(SEEFEN\)](#) that convene representatives from the Western Balkans, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

Legislative and policy harmonization with the EU Acquis was supported across the region, including support in drafting new laws and SALW control strategies, conducting gap analyses and organizing a [regional workshop](#).

By delivering [€5.5 million in equipment](#), conducting assessments, developing 24 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and organizing specialized [training](#) and [annual meetings](#), SEESAC enhanced the capacities of law enforcement in combating firearms trafficking and conducting firearm-related investigations.

Support for the operationalization of Firearms Focal Points continued through expert advice, technical support, specialized [training programs](#), [workshops](#) and [annual meetings](#), boosting the police capacities to conduct effective firearms-related investigations and to combat illicit firearms misuse and trafficking. Similarly, the capacities of crime scene investigation units within police across the Western Balkans were improved to align their practices with EU best practices.



Law enforcement authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina destroyed 1,958 weapons and 1,981 weapon parts.

Photo:
UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina

Efforts to advance physical security and stockpile management of SALW and ammunition included the [destruction of 2,271 weapons and the](#) upgrade of one storage location and 12 evidence rooms across South-East Europe.

To promote the integration of gender perspective into arms control policies and practices, SEESAC published two sets of guidelines to help authorities [better assess risks](#) and [prevent firearm misuse](#) in domestic violence cases, accompanied by relevant [trainings](#).

Awareness-raising activities were supported through a [regional task force](#), awareness-raising campaigns, [training](#) and targeted [knowledge products](#).

In 2024, SEESAC continued providing insights into SALW-related trends, causes and impacts through various [knowledge products](#).

Interregional cooperation was improved through two separate study visits by delegations from the [Kyrgyz Republic](#) and the [Kingdom of Cambodia](#) to the Western Balkans, providing opportunities for knowledge sharing on SALW control, focusing on best practices in strategy development, regulatory frameworks and operational measures.

Ministries of Defence and Armed Forces in the Western Balkans were further supported in advancing gender equality in line with the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. Key activities included the [9th Regional Meeting of the Network of Gender Military Trainers](#), the launch of an online gender equality course and a [workshop on gender-responsible leadership](#). The eighth cycle of the Gender Coach Programme was completed with the Chief of Staff of Montenegro's Armed Forces, strengthening leadership commitment to gender equality in defence.

Looking forward

Building on the successful completion of the Roadmap's first phase, SEESAC has been entrusted to continue coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the Roadmap 2025–2030, leading a new phase of comprehensive arms control activities, reinforcing regional cooperation and advancing sustainable progress.

V. GLOBAL FOCAL POINT FOR THE RULE OF LAW

Overview

In 2024, the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law (GFP) continued to provide expertise and catalytic funding for integrated joint approaches across the United Nations in the rule of law area. Co-chaired by UNDP and the UN Department of Peace Operations (DPO), GFP reinforces a One-UN approach at the global and national levels to reduce violence, protect human rights and restore justice and security for people affected by crisis and conflict.

Since its operationalization in 2012, the GFP has provided joint rule of law support to more than 40 countries and territories and has deployed 179 experts to strengthen and/or establish transparent, accountable and inclusive justice and security institutions, including in collaboration with the [UN Standing Police Capacity](#) and the [UN Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity](#).

GFP catalytic effect in justice and security programming

The 2024 [Secretary-General's Report on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace](#) highlights the essential role of the rule of law in preventing conflicts and maintaining peace and security. It stresses that the rule of law tackles the fundamental causes of grievances and violence, providing a viable solution to break the cycles of conflict and crisis. By promoting justice, accountability and fair governance, the rule of law helps build resilient societies and ensure lasting peace.

To uphold the rule of law amidst crisis and fragility, through UNDP's Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development, the GFP provided catalytic funding for joint rule of law programming in *the Central African Republic (CAR), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Haiti, Liberia, Libya, Mali and Somalia*.

In 2024, UNDP and the UN Human Rights Office, under the coordination of the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, initiated a joint rule of law engagement in Liberia to support the national partners in establishing a specialized War and Economic Crimes Court to ensure accountability and improve human rights protection.

In early 2024, the GFP coordinated and supported a UNDP-DPO joint mission to CAR to provide support for the joint programme between the UNDP Country Office and the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and to engage with national partners, in particular the Special Criminal Court and other rule of law and justice mechanisms. Last year, the Special Criminal Court issued its second judgment, convicting four individuals for crimes against humanity and war crimes (the judgment is currently under appeal). In another case (Paoua massacre), nine direct victims (including five survivors of sexual violence) and 32 families affected by the attack on the villages, received financial reparations, marking a historic milestone in the fight against impunity in the country.

In DRC, reducing prison overcrowding was one of the GFP priorities. To expedite case consideration, the programme organized mobile court hearings in North Kivu, Kasai-Central and Tanganyika. Over 100 cases were considered, including those related to war crimes, sexual violence and child conscription. Over 100 detainees were acquitted and released. Fair trial guarantees were observed, with lawyers providing legal assistance to all the defendants.

In 2024, the GFP advanced inter-agency coordination and collaboration across the UN system, convening nine strategic information exchanges on rule of law, security and human rights, including two focused on country-specific contexts. To broaden its engagement, the GFP core team introduced Assistant Secretary-General level briefings for Resident Coordinators, provided strategic updates to the Group of Friends for the Rule of Law and contributed to high-level discussions at the Annual Academic Conference on Africa. In parallel, the GFP Working Group on Gender Justice remained active, further advancing the Women, Peace

and Security agenda across its programming and partnerships. To encourage the deployment of women corrections officers in UN peace operations, the GFP contributed to the organization of the [UN Trailblazer Award](#) ceremony, building on the 2023 GFP-supported CORE Gender Parity Initiative. This award honors women justice and corrections officers who challenge gender stereotypes and barriers.

Looking forward

The GFP will continue to serve as a single-entry point for rule of law assistance, enhancing effectiveness and reducing duplication among UN agencies. It will strengthen links with senior UN leadership to ensure coordinated interventions and promote joint programming. Additionally, GFP will advocate for broader UN involvement in peace operations and peacebuilding dialogues, focusing on accountability and practical action. The GFP will also participate in the strategic engagements on the Peace Building Architecture Review.



Mobile court hearing of the Military Court in Kasai Central, DRC.

Photo:
UNDP DRC

LESSONS LEARNED

The section below presents some key lessons from the implementation of the Global Programme. The lessons are extracted from overall analysis of data and evidence collected by the Global Programme and illustrated with examples from Global Programme support in countries, territories and regions.

LESSON 1. Human rights-based approach and collaboration amongst national and local actors are key to the successful implementation and sustainability of people-centred justice services, improving access to justice for vulnerable and marginalized groups.

Adopting a human rights-based approach and collaborating with duty bearers and rights holders is essential to bring justice closer to the people and ensure a people-centred approach to justice. Legal empowerment initiatives, such as mobilizing legal aid camps, legal aid clinics, beneficiary help desks and facilitating interactions between rights holders and service providers, have proven to be effective in providing immediate legal services. Affirmative legal education and community engagement initiatives empower marginalized groups but require continuous adaptation, effective coordination and broad-based partnerships.

In the *Democratic Republic of the Congo*, strengthened collaboration among judicial actors, alternative dispute resolution (ADR) actors, civil society consultation frameworks and local peace actors, fostered better understanding and complementarity between ADR mechanisms and the formal justice system. In *Guinea-Bissau*, involving magistrates operating in rural areas in the Mobile Justice campaign proved to be a successful strategy for highlighting the challenges people face in accessing justice. UNDP's initiative raised the magistrates' awareness of people's challenges and provided lessons that can be applied to improve their services.

In *Nepal*, legal awareness programmes and partnerships with local governments have been instrumental in effectively addressing community-level justice issues. By combining community actors' knowledge with the support and resources of local governments, communities can better handle legal challenges, leading to more just and equitable societies. This collaborative approach not only resolves immediate issues but also establishes a foundation for a strengthened relationship between rights-holders and duty-bearers which promotes accountability, sustainable justice and empowerment within communities.

Incorporating human rights-based approaches in justice services in collaboration with national and local actors helps improve access to justice of the most vulnerable and marginalized. In *Guatemala*, UNDP developed participatory processes jointly with the Secretariat of Indigenous Peoples that have influenced the institutional vision of youth as promoters of peace, emphasizing the importance of a people-centred approach and applying an intersectional focus with particular priority on Indigenous youth and women. These advances are fostering the creation of enabling spaces for Maya youth within the Judicial Branch, building bridges to help address barriers to accessing justice. UNDP's work in *Bhutan* and *Viet Nam* also emphasizes the complementarity of these approaches with the principle of "leaving no one behind", and includes interventions with girls with disabilities, youth, rural communities and Indigenous Peoples.

In *Yemen*, UNDP places utmost importance in the promotion of inclusion within community-based structures. The focus on vulnerable and marginalized groups aims to ensure the plurality of voices and agencies, which in turn strengthens accountability at the local level. The Global Programme-catalysed partnership between UNDP and UNICEF in Yemen helped assess and address the needs of women detainees and children who stay with them in the Sana'a Central Prison. Despite its limited scale and pilot scope, it is a significant step forward in addressing the interpenetration between protection and health for detainees, which is considered

one of the weakest links in the justice service continuum. At the end of the joint intervention, UNDP and UNICEF teams concluded that the multifaceted challenges at the prison require an integrated response across a wide spectrum of partners, including coordination and collaboration among justice and non-justice professionals, decision-makers and service providers, authorities and communities.

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) can serve as a practical entry point for governments and stakeholders to leverage human rights recommendations to strengthen national development policy and integrated programming. As a peer-to-peer mechanism rooted in voluntary engagement and constructive dialogue, the UPR provides a unique space to address cultural norms, promote inclusive participation, and identify strategic programming opportunities. For example, *Bolivia* used UPR recommendations to incorporate environmental governance into national planning, particularly in relation to mining and lithium extraction. Advanced tools such as SIMAT and the Landscape Lithium System, powered by AI, were used to model environmental risks and inform preventive policymaking. UNDP's UPR+ initiative builds on this potential by demonstrating how the UPR can act as a catalyst for rights-based sustainable development, while supporting national ownership and fostering strategic engagement with donors and development partners, promote national ownership and strategic engagement by donors and partners.

LESSON 2. Active and inclusive community engagement fosters trust, ownership and co-creation to meet people's justice and security needs.

Community engagement emerged as essential for project success in countries such as *Côte d'Ivoire*, *Fiji* and *Guatemala*, illustrating the importance of bottom-up approaches and engaging beneficiaries early to ensure buy-in. Doing so not only increases the chances of project success but creates potential and opportunities for sustainability and scalability of results.

In *Guinea-Bissau*, direct involvement of community leaders and traditional authorities in the delivery of mobile justice services built trust within remote communities and increased local ownership of the project, ensuring the sustainability of legal services. By integrating traditional authorities with formal legal frameworks, the project successfully navigated cultural sensitivities, enhancing the impact and reach of its interventions.

In *Albania*, civil society-led dialogue between marginalized communities including low-income individuals, gender-based violence survivors, persons with disabilities, Roma and Egyptian communities, as well as local public service providers, facilitated access to legal aid and public services and fostered a greater trust in the institutions.

In *Nepal*, innovative communication strategies, such as media mobilization, radio programmes and the use of local languages, are crucial for educating local communities, particularly in areas with low literacy rates. Awareness programs broadcasted through local FM stations and the distribution of posters and pamphlets in local languages help enhance awareness among community members on issues like vital registration, civic documentation, child marriage, gender-based violence and caste discrimination.

Bottom-up approaches enable voices from the communities that have rarely fed into security sector development. In *Somalia*, UNDP supported new approaches to policing through piloting important consultations and assessments that created the conditions for a more people-centred approach to security. Through co-creation and co-design, the national and local institutions took leadership and increased their ambitions. Community dialogue and consultations are vital in Somalia's society to bring about collaborative approaches where communities are taken seriously and have a voice. Communities are willing to engage with authorities and tackle difficult questions. Cross state collaboration on technical issues is gradually building trust between security actors. UNDP has been instrumental in bringing together Federal level representatives and Federal Member States (FMS) representatives in relation to community assessments but also in the programme/project formation. The group of actors are now frequently consulting each other and are working in more collaborative way.

LESSON 3. Overcoming gender and social inclusion barriers for peaceful, just and inclusive societies requires context- and culturally- sensitive strategies.

Empowering women is a long-term agenda of social transformation. It entails addressing the complex interplay of institutional, cultural, economic and political factors through which women are discriminated.

The experience in *Bangladesh* demonstrates that overcoming gender barriers to access justice and security requires culturally sensitive strategies. Specifically, the Community Safety, Peaceful Coexistence and Access to Justice Project (CSPC), supported by the Global Programme, mandates at least 40 percent female participation in every initiative, while also prioritizing the involvement of ethnic minorities, youth and persons with disabilities to ensure inclusivity. This commitment is evident in activities such as the development of Community Safety Plans (CSPs) and the formation of mediation forums, where community members are not just participants but also decision-makers in the processes that affect their lives. Although women showed initial interest during consultations, their involvement was limited during implementation (26 percent). The initial reluctance of women to participate was due to cultural norms and gender dynamics. To overcome the cultural barrier, the project adopted tailored strategies to involve male leaders and influential persons of the community such as religious leaders, schoolteachers, community leaders and influential women leaders to advocate for women's participation. This culturally sensitive strategy led to increased female involvement, resulting in the successful inclusion of 45 women mediators who underwent specialized training in gender-based violence. This initiative strengthened women's roles in community dispute resolution and gender-based violence prevention efforts, promoting gender-responsive mediation practices within the community.

In *Southeast Asia*, a key lesson learned from UNDP's support to women leadership in the judicial system is that capacity building programmes for women need to be determined by 'what works' in specific contexts. For training with women judges, it needs to be demand driven. Programmess that adapt to the evolving needs of justice actors – through peer learning, on-the-job coaching and modular training – are more impactful. For instance, blending legal content with leadership, ethics and digital literacy can build a more holistic capacity.

Culturally sensitive strategies also require understanding of cultural norms and a tailored approach and strategy to address them and uphold human rights. In *Fiji*, the Global Programme supported a human rights-based approach within the Fiji Police Force, shifting from a "warrior" to a "guardian" mindset in policing. This included reforms in community policing strategies, emphasizing respect for human dignity and building trust within communities. The inclusion of both traditional and non-traditional community actors, such as Turaga Ni Koro, women, youth and faith-based organizations, further enhanced community relations and policing effectiveness. In *Cuba*, an important lesson learned from interventions addressing toxic masculinities is that progress towards gender equality and the fight against harmful masculinities can be sustainable only if individual transformation is followed by changes in the broader environment (families, workplaces, communities).

In *Malawi*, UNDP supported the institutional strengthening of the Malawi Human Rights Commission including the development and launch of a Gender-Sensitive Strategic Plan (2024-2028) which results in the adoption of measures regarding the promotion and protection of human rights of vulnerable groups and key populations. Through UNDP support to the Malawi Human Rights Commission, training took place of 40 (30 male and 10 female) officers from the Malawi Police Services and Judiciary on child justice competencies. The training capacitated the court users to deliver quality, rights-based, age and gender sensitive public services at local levels and imparted skills to enable court users to effectively handle gender and child-related cases in accordance with the law. In *Ecuador*, collaboration with the Ombudsperson Office has focused on protecting the rights of people in human mobility situations and promoting gender equality and social inclusion, enabling more effective handling of human rights violations with an inclusive and gender-focused approach.

LESSON 4. Integrated approach, cross-sectoral partnerships and local actor empowerment remain essential to safeguarding the right to a healthy environment.

Experience across the regions confirms the need for an integrated and rights-based approach to environmental justice. In *Asia-Pacific*, the Regional Conference on Achieving Just Societies highlighted that environmental and human rights protections must be embedded within justice frameworks, particularly in the Pacific, where climate displacement and resource exploitation pose severe risks to fundamental rights. In the *Arab States*, the Regional Hub's Rule of Law and Conflict Prevention units co-organized a side event at COP16 in Riyadh, in collaboration with the Environment team, focusing on natural resources. The event proposed an integrated approach to environmental justice and climate security, highlighting how programming on the right to a healthy environment can contribute to conflict prevention and peacebuilding. This approach is now being formalized through the development of a regional, cross-sectoral framework on climate security.

At the country level, UNDP's work in *Georgia* and *Moldova* shows that integrated and inclusive approaches to [green transition](#), which incorporate human rights and gender perspectives, remain essential. Equally important is to continue working with the national human rights institutions (NHRIs) to better implement the right to a healthy environment. In *Angola* and *Zambia*, environmental justice programming demonstrated the importance of locally rooted strategies tailored to specific contexts in applying integrated approaches. In *Lebanon*, environmental justice programming owes its success to the well-established partnership between UNDP, the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Justice. Through facilitating collaboration between the ministries, UNDP established a platform for exchanging insights on the challenges that hinder the implementation of environmental laws. This collaborative approach has led to the development of concrete solutions.

In *North Macedonia*, interventions for advancing environmental justice provided valuable insights into the critical role of investing in training and empowering local actors, such as the Ombudsperson's Office, civil society organizations and municipal authorities, for enhanced long-term ownership and strengthened institutional responses to environmental justice challenges. This not only improved the immediate effectiveness of interventions but also built a foundation for continued advocacy and action beyond the project's duration. Continuous engagement with government stakeholders and the judiciary and open dialogue with relevant institutions to address bureaucratic obstacles and enhance policy enforcement mechanisms helped successfully elevate environmental justice as a national priority, embedding it within legal and institutional frameworks. Further, regional cooperation and knowledge sharing in advancing environmental justice and facilitation of cross-country exchanges, such as the drafting session in *Montenegro*, underscored the benefits of collaborative efforts in tackling shared environmental governance challenges.

For environmental justice, capacity support to affected communities through legal information and representation is necessary to ensure accountability for perpetrators of environmental injustices and remedies for affected rights holders. UNDP has conducted detailed assessments of the barriers people face in accessing environmental justice in [Georgia](#) and [Pakistan](#), with ongoing assessments in *North Macedonia* and *Bosnia and Herzegovina*, a targeted assessment of the [environmental justice needs of judges in Southeast Asia](#), and a broader independent evaluation of [UNDP's environmental justice programming](#). The findings are consistent across these assessments, capacitated justice actors and environmental agencies are ineffective unless communities and rights holders are informed and empowered to access environmental justice and secure their own rights.

LESSON 5. In conflict and crisis settings, enhancing institutional continuity and resilience vis-à-vis complex and changing legal needs can contribute to justice delivery and strengthened human rights systems for affected populations.

Sustained, targeted support for victims and survivors remains essential for fostering people-centred justice. In *Lebanon*, lessons learned from the 2006 conflict highlighted the importance of addressing specific legal issues that arise from conflicts and are associated with forced displacements. UNDP is ensuring that

legal helpdesks are equipped to handle matters related to displacement, including rental and employment disputes, insurance, estate ownership, civil registration and discriminatory practices. UNDP's experience in transitional justice highlights the need for institutionalized gender-sensitive frameworks, enhanced victim participation and robust national mechanisms to ensure justice and reconciliation.

In *Ukraine*, Strengthening the Free Legal Aid System (FLAS) has been essential in addressing the complex legal challenges faced by war-affected populations. Increased demand for professional legal assistance highlights the need for specialized training in communication, psychosocial support and legal aspects of wartime realities. Institutional reforms, competency-based training and standardized methodologies have improved service quality and ensured sustainability. Continuous learning and quality monitoring have strengthened FLAS's capacity to adapt to evolving legal needs. Enhancing the professional competencies of FLAS lawyers has directly improved service quality, allowing for more effective and responsive legal aid delivery.

The efficiency of human rights protections and access to justice relies on continuous institutional resilience. Thus, institutional support to the National Human Rights Institution - the Ombudsperson's Office, expanding its regional network, enhanced human rights monitoring, advocacy and legal aid accessibility, particularly in war-affected areas, results in better awareness of the institution and improved Ombudsperson's Office capability to effectively address human rights challenges and reach people in need, even in remote areas. Adaptive management is required to continue to provide strategic support to key institutions during crisis and conflict. A capacity assessment of the Ombudspersons' Office led by UNDP, OHCHR and the Regional Network of European NHRIs, allowed for an operational plan to support the Office adapt to the crisis context and provide ongoing support with new operational models and core functions in challenging contexts.

Integration of people-centred approaches in justice and legal aid systems help to improve procedural standards and ensure better support to survivors avoiding retraumatization. Moreover, such approaches are critical to ensure correspondence with international humanitarian law and international criminal law standards and principles in the process of investigation of war crimes. In this regard, capacity development initiatives for law enforcement are crucial in fostering a more responsive and accountable system compliant with international principles. Strengthening responsible business practices has been instrumental in promoting human rights compliance in the private sector. Through training, policy support and self-assessment tools, businesses have been encouraged to implement human rights due diligence, fostering a more ethical and sustainable economic environment, particularly in conflict settings.

LESSON 6. Digitalization can provide solutions to accessibility, promote human rights and inclusion of justice and security services and enhance data-driven advocacy, but requires additional capacity strengthening for rights-based digital transformation.

Innovation is the cornerstone of transforming the security and justice sectors as a catalyst for safer, fairer and more inclusive societies. To meet the challenges of today's deeply polarized world and increasingly complex conflicts, justice and security programming must champion bold, unconventional solutions, fostering dynamic partnerships and harnessing the expertise of diverse stakeholders. Prioritizing cutting-edge, people-centred approaches can help ensure that security and justice systems are not only effective but also equitable, resilient and responsive to the needs of the communities they serve.

In *Kenya*, close collaboration with the Judiciary, particularly in the development of the Small Claims Court (SCC) mobile application and the facilitation of the SCC Adjudicators Symposium, ensured that the digital solutions were well-aligned with the needs of judicial officers and the public. Moreover, engagement with women-led and women-based organizations through targeted forums provided an inclusive platform to address barriers to justice, especially for marginalized groups like women traders. This co-design approach, involving stakeholders in the development of interventions, fostered ownership and sustainability of project outcomes, ensuring that the tools and knowledge shared would have a lasting impact on access to justice. A key lesson learned from the project was the importance of addressing capacity gaps early in the implementation phase. Initial delays occurred due to lengthy engagements with stakeholders, particularly in developing the Terms of Reference for the SCC mobile application and digital training content. To avoid such

challenges in future projects, conducting early-stage capacity assessments and streamlining engagement processes will be critical to ensuring alignment among partners from the start.

In *Palestine*, one key lesson from the implementation of the Mizan court management system is the value of digital innovation in enhancing access to justice in challenging contexts. In settings where movement restrictions limit physical access to courts, Mizan enabled remote case management and judicial processes, ensuring service continuity. The digitization of legal documents improved efficiency, transparency and accessibility across the justice system.

In *Albania*, the conceptualization of a web-based database and platform to streamline access to legal aid services, while still in validation, has already highlighted the importance of digital solutions in enhancing accessibility to fundamental services. This initiative encourages ongoing dialogue about the role of technology in expanding legal aid support and enhancing digital skills of public institutions and vulnerable populations. Further, the experience in *Moldova* showcased that institutionalization and adoption by state stakeholders of digital tools, such as the legal tele-assistance platform and multilingual chatbot, require robust infrastructure and stakeholder engagement for effective use and periodic updates to address both the infrastructure developments as well as the changes in the context and normative framework.

For community security, the Social Tension Monitoring Mechanism (STMM) in *Moldova* is an innovative tool (first introduced by UNDP in 2023) designed to monitor social tensions and provide critical data to central and local authorities, as well as other stakeholders, on dimensions of social tensions that could erode social cohesion, with a particular focus on both inside community and inter-community tensions. Piloting the STMM highlighted the value of comprehensive data collection, effective team coordination, timely dialogues and the necessity of concrete incentives and support for sustained Community Security Councils participation, alongside the importance of capacity building to operationalize social tension data.

Beyond better utilizing digital tools to deliver justice and security solutions, embracing digital transformation also entails addressing the justice and security challenges technology exacerbates and safeguarding a safe and inclusive digital space. Training sessions on preventing and combating technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TF-GBV) which was led by Korean National Policy Academy (KNPA) experts with support of the Global Programme, emphasized survivor-centred approaches and effectively inspired national partners to create localized police training curricula. In certain instances, this resulted in significant institutional reforms that ensured sustained national-level commitment to TF-GBV. Awareness campaigns were instrumental in engaging youth, equipping them with essential knowledge and referral systems. These advancements paved the way for sustainable capacity-building and strengthened partnerships. However, resource and capacity limitations among UNDP Country Offices and national partners remain a challenge. Continued efforts to facilitate peer-to-peer knowledge sharing and inclusive stakeholder engagement will be crucial to address these gaps effectively.

In *Nigeria*, UNDP supported the Nigerian Human Rights Commission to develop a Human Rights Dashboard where it is able to process complaints from all 36 states and release monthly reports on human rights trends, improving transparency and evidence-based policy making. This data-driven approach has strengthened institutional accountability and enhanced public trust in human rights protection mechanisms.

Rights-based approaches must be applied to digital transformation. The piloting phase in *Colombia*, *Lebanon*, *Mauritania*, *North Macedonia* and *Samoa* provided valuable insights into both the strengths and areas for improvement, including the importance of mainstreaming gender considerations in rights-based digital transformation to address the digital divide and the critical importance of qualitative data to represent the reality of experiences of users of digital services. Several pilot countries emphasized the need for greater contextualization of data and stronger engagement with local expertise to ensure that the findings are both relevant and actionable.

LESSON 7. Regional networks and platforms are important channels for strengthening the capacities of national human rights institutions and instrumental for advancing critical conversations on human rights.

In the context of increasing challenges to human rights, and particularly within fragile and crisis settings, the role of national human rights institutions (NHRIs) can be critical for prevention and early warning. UNDP has strategically used regional platforms and collaborated with regional networks to strengthen the capacities of NHRIs, including on topics of growing importance, such as the right to a healthy environment and on business and human rights.

In *Eastern Europe/the Balkans*, UNDP, in collaboration with OHCHR and the European Network of NHRIs improved NHRI capabilities to monitor and address environmental rights violations. The support also helped advance the regional network of the NHRIs in the area of environment and human rights. A mentorship programme was implemented to enable Ombudsperson staff to handle environmental justice cases more effectively. Partnerships with civil society organizations (CSOs) were formalized to improve cooperation in the prosecution of environmental justice violations.

In the *Arab States*, UNDP hosted the [Inaugural Dialogue on Business and Human Rights in the Arab States Region](#) in Doha, in collaboration with the Qatar National Human Right Commission, the Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions and UN agencies. Attended by over 300 stakeholders, the event focused on addressing challenges and promoting responsible business practices through the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). The dialogue raised awareness, established a network of engaged parties and culminated in the adoption of the Doha Declaration.

With support from the Global Programme, a regional Business and Human Rights strategy was developed to enable programming across diverse political and economic contexts. In line with the proposed strategy, the Global Programme provided technical assistance to the NHRIs in *Bahrain* and *Djibouti*, focusing on the practical implementation of the UNGPs.

In *Africa*, regional platforms such as the African Business and Human Rights Forum, the Regional Transitional Justice Forum, and similar dialogues were instrumental in advancing critical conversations. These spaces provide opportunities to build consensus, foster partnerships and amplify the voices of diverse stakeholders, ensuring inclusive and people-centred approaches to justice and human rights.

RESULTS FRAMEWORK

This section presents the progress and results achieved by the Global Programme (GP) in 2024, aggregating results across the contexts supported by the Global Programme vis-à-vis its results framework. The Results Framework of the Global Programme consists of two outcomes.

The tables below reflect the results achieved in the thematic areas of rule of law, human rights, justice and security (Outcome 1 and associated Outputs 1-4); and in strengthening knowledge creation and sharing and contributing to policy discourse (Outcome 2 and associated Outputs 5-6). Operational effectiveness indicators reflect the Global Programme's results in promoting an enabling operational environment.

Under Outcome 1, the Global Programme invested in inclusive, people-centred systems that provide quality justice and security services and uphold and protect human rights in order to ensure that they become trusted and accessible, especially in contexts affected by crisis, conflict or fragility. In 2024, the GP redoubled its efforts in strengthening the capacities of institutions, systems and stakeholders to support the fulfilment of nationally and internationally ratified human rights obligations. In 2024 alone, the GP supported strengthening human rights institutions, systems and stakeholders in 48 countries and territories, in addition to strengthening the private sector in 62 countries for advancing human rights.

The Global Programme made concerted efforts in promoting people-centred approaches to justice and security in 2024, supporting the development of nearly 150 people-centred justice or security policies, services and innovative digital solutions. The programme also provided catalytic seed funding to 44 contexts for access to justice projects/programmes and introduced or strengthened people-centred and gender-sensitive transitional justice solutions in 22 contexts. With GP support, over 5,000 justice and security personnel had strengthened capacity to provide people-centred services in 2024. Overall, the Global Programme achieved or exceeded the targets of 91 percent of its output indicators in Outcome 1.

Under Outcome 2, the Global Programme strengthened its evidence-base to continue informing high-quality programming and provide a solid foundation for engagement. Significant increases are evident in these results, particularly across monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) methods. Almost 120 new methods, including tools, frameworks and processes for MEL, were adopted at global, regional and national levels in 2024, a 110 percent increase from the previous year. Over 90 learning-focused mechanisms (e.g., workshops, trainings, Communities of Practice (COPs), theory of change reflection sessions, etc.) at global, regional and country levels were organized—a modest increase of 10 percent. Increases in these indicators were strongest at the country level, followed by the regional level, reflecting wider interaction with the programme's results framework and utilization or embedding of MEL practices in supported projects. Additionally, the GP contributed to 15 key UN global learning and/or policy documents.

The Global Programme actively contributed to regional and global level policy on rule of law, justice, security and human rights that affirms a development perspective, as informed by the strengthened evidence base. More than 160 policy discussions/events were convened—an 89 percent increase from the last year. Increases were observed at all levels, with strong improvements at the regional and country level. The GP also produced four new publications that were distributed globally, pertaining to adopting a human rights-based approach in programming, the experience of women and justice in Africa, human rights due diligence and the environment for businesses, and the framework on a people-centred approach to justice and security. Overall, the Global Programme achieved or exceeded the targets of approximately 76 percent of its output indicators in Outcome 2.

The Global Programme continues to strive for operational effectiveness. In 2024, 92 projects/programmes were funded that integrated a human rights-based approach. Of these, 46 of the GP-supported contexts set at least 15 percent of their project budget for gender investments. Female staff continue to be well

represented in the GP team across all contract modalities. Overall, the Global Programme achieved or exceeded the targets of 83 percent of its indicators in this area.

In 2024, the Global Programme provided support to 119 contexts. As an outcome of these efforts, the GP made important contributions to UNDP's global efforts for supporting people's access to justice and using digital technologies and services in ways that improve their lives. The GP's policy activities and programming also both benefitted from and contributed to strengthening partnerships with 148 institutions including UN entities, International Financial Institutions, the private sector, civil society organizations, multi-stakeholders or intergovernmental organizations, government agencies or public institutions, academia and think tanks. This reflects a 74 percent increase in partnerships, with the greatest increases reflected in collaboration with the private sector and government or public institutions.

OUTCOME RESULTS						
Outcome Indicators	Baseline & Year	Results Year 1 (2022)	Results Year 2 (2023)	Results Year 3 (2024)	Data Source	Reporting Notes
Programme Outcome 1: Inclusive, people-centred systems that provide quality justice and security services and uphold and protect human rights are trusted and accessible, especially in contexts affected by crisis, conflict or fragility						
1.1 Global Programme (GP) supported contexts' average World Justice Project, Rule of Law Index score; and 1.1.1 Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG) (for African countries only)	0.49 (2022) 46.99 (2021)	0.49 46.99 (2021, latest data)	0.50 48.76 (2021, latest data)	0.49 46.03 (2023, latest data)	World Justice Project Rule of Law Index 2024, Ibrahim Index on African Governance 2023, GP reporting	GP support and GP-supported refer to the provision of tailored, context specific assistance provided through the Global Programme and may include, but is not limited to, pipeline or non-pipeline funding, technical and strategic expertise and advice provided by ROLSHR staff or consultants, or the mobilisation of agile capacities. Of 119 GP-supported contexts, 89 have a 2024 Rule of Law Index score; 37 GP-supported contexts are in the 2023 IIAG.
1.2 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age	5.7 (2019)	5.6 (2020)	5.8 (2021, latest data) Male: 9.3 Female: 2.2	5.6 (2022, latest data)	Corporate data, IRRF Development Outcome 3, Outcome Indicator 5	Disaggregation by sex is stated, where applicable or available. The data sources for SDG 16.1.1 are " Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Report of the Secretary-General A/79/79-E/2024/54 " and the " Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024 ".
1.3 Number of strategic partnerships for advancing programming and policy objectives with: i. UN entities ii. International Financial Institutions iii. private sector iv. civil society organizations v. multistakeholders or intergovernmental organizations vi. government agencies or public institutions vii. academia and think tanks viii. other	52 (2021) i. 19 ii. 1 iii. 1 iv. 11 v. 19	73 i. 29 ii. 1 iii. 3 iv. 8 v. 23 vi. 5 vii. 4	85 i. 30 ii. 1 iii. 3 iv. 11 v. 28 vi. 9 vii. 3	148 i. 35 ii. 1 iii. 26 iv. 16 v. 25 vi. 31 vii. 4 viii. 10	GP reporting	Strategic partnerships are any formal agreement for cooperation entered into by the Global Programme with another entity. This could include, for example, an MOU, a partnership agreement, or email exchange detailing the arrangements for partnering on a specific project or thematic area of work. Multi-stakeholder partnership refers to a partnership that brings together a range of different actors such as civil society, governments, international bodies, media, and academic or research institutions. Civil society organizations may include, but are not limited to, faith-based organizations, regional and international non-government organizations, academia, think tanks and research institutions, professional associations. ^a

OUTCOME RESULTS						
Outcome Indicators	Baseline & Year	Results Year 1 (2022)	Results Year 2 (2023)	Results Year 3 (2024)	Data Source	Reporting Notes
1.4 GP-supported contexts' average NHRI accreditation status	Out of 38 contexts (2022): A: 16 B: 10 Lapsed: 1 N.A.: 11	GP-supported contexts (as per output indicator 1.2): out of 38 contexts: A: 16 B: 10 Lapsed: 1 N.A.: 11 Globally: A: 84 B: 33	Of 34 GP-supported contexts: A: 18 B: 7 Lapsed: 1 N.A.: 8 Globally: A: 88 B: 32	Of 48 GP-supported contexts, the accreditation status is as follows: A: 28 B: 10 N.A.: 10 Globally A: 91 B: 27	GANHRI, Chart of the Status of National Institutions Accredited by the Global Alliance of NHRIs as at 14 May 2025	The accreditation status of GP-supported contexts is as follows (per output indicator 1.2). A: Costa Rica, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Georgia, Ghana, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Uganda, Ukraine, Zambia. B: Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia, The Maldives, Senegal, Tunisia, Turkiye. N.A.: Belize, Brazil, Cambodia, Comoros, Djibouti, Japan, Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe, Suriname, Viet Nam.
1.5 Number of people supported, who have access to justice	44,741,459 (2021)	50,839,978	55,224,779	58,770,514	Corporate data, UNDP overall reporting	This indicator is cumulative. The result for 2024 was calculated based on UNDP IRRF data as of April 2025, which included a revision in the corporate dataset (see indicator 2.2.3a, b, c). Based on the revision in the dataset, results for 2022, 2023 and the baseline were recalculated.
Programme Outcome 2: Regional and global level policy on rule of law, justice, security & human rights is evidence-based, affirms a development perspective and informs high-quality programming						
2.1 Average score of Programme Quality Index for GP-funded contexts	Highly satisfactory, GP3 (2019) Highly satisfactory, SALIENT (2020)	Exemplary, GP4 (2022)	3.83 (High)	3.53 (High)	UNDP Quality Assurance Portal	The methodology applied in 2022 and at baseline years was for the overall GP. In 2023, the QA score was calculated as an average of the total number of GP-funded contexts in 2023; this method was applied for all future reporting.
2.2 GP-supported GPN/Express One Roster deployments: a) Number of: i. UNDP staff ii. Consultants iii. UNVs iv. Stand by Partner experts (all by gender); b) Volume of deployments (in USD) c) Expert deployments conducted under the GFP framework, including deployments by DPO Standing Justice and Corrections and Standing Police Capacity (expenses are covered by DPO, thus, amount not available in UNDP)	a) i. 1 (IPSA, female) ii. 22 (12 female, 10 male) iii. 0 iv. 2 (1 female, 1 male) b) US\$ 746,000 c) 24 (including remote deployment during COVID-19)	a) i. 3 (IPSA, 3 female) ii. 23 (15 female, 8 male) iii. 0 iv. 1 b) US\$ 864,509 c) 12	a) i. 1 (IPSA, female) ii. 15 (9 female, 6 male) iii. 2 (2 female) iv. 2 (2 female) b) US\$ 469,034 c) 10	a) i. 3 (2 IPSA, all female) ii. 39 (27 female, 12 male) iii. 2 (2 female) iv. 1 (female) b) US\$ 1,615,982 c) 8	GP reporting, GFP reporting	Disaggregation by sex is stated, where applicable or available. This is a proxy indicator for the Global Programme's agile capacities and responsiveness to requests for the rapid provision of high-quality technical and strategic expertise, particularly in contexts experiencing conflict, crisis and/or fragility. Deployments may be cross-cutting, supporting several outputs within the results framework. Deployments may include UNDP staff missions (both virtual and in-person) and detailed assignments, including to HQ for the purposes of supporting Phase IV delivery. c) The 8 missions were both strategic and expert deployments, with 1 in a non-mission setting, 1 in a Special Political Mission setting, and 6 in peacekeeping mission settings. In terms of location, 4 were in Central African Republic for an assessment mission, 1 each was for expert support in Burkina Faso and Somalia, and 2 were for expert support in Democratic Republic of Congo.

OUTCOME RESULTS						
Outcome Indicators	Baseline & Year	Results Year 1 (2022)	Results Year 2 (2023)	Results Year 3 (2024)	Data Source	Reporting Notes
2.3 Number of GP-supported impact, country programme, thematic and outcome reviews, assessments and evaluations	2 (2022)	2	2	6	GP reporting	Results include: the GP4 Final Evaluation (ongoing), Business Model Review of the Governance, Rule of Law and Peacebuilding Hub (completed), thematic case studies of the SALIENT and Tri-Partite Partnership to Support National Human Rights Institutions partnerships (completed), country case studies of Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan (both in the final stages).
2.4 Number of people using digital technologies and services in ways that improves their lives, in GP-supported contexts	2,575,766 in 19 contexts (2022)	2,575,766, Female: 827,524 Male: 1,608,763 Sex-disaggregated data unavailable: 139,479	32,903,451 Female: 8,317,837 Male: 11,050,380 Sex-disaggregated data unavailable: 13,535,234	19,160,923 Female: 1,628,680 Male: 2,356,913 Sex-disaggregated data unavailable: 15,175,330	Corporate data, GP reporting	Disaggregation by sex is stated, where applicable and available. Of 119 GP-supported contexts, 28 had 2024 IRRF data available (see IRRF Enabler E.1, Indicator E1.3).

OUTPUT RESULTS							
Output Indicator	Baseline & Year	Results Year 1 (2022)	Results Year 2 (2023)	Target Year 3 (2024)	Results Year 3 (2024)	Data Source	Reporting Notes
Output 1: Legal frameworks and underlying norms and practice are more inclusive and non-discriminatory and people have greater agency and opportunities to know and claim their rights, solve disputes and seek redress for rights violations							
1.1 Number of contexts where GP support strengthened legal and/or policy strategies or frameworks to expand civic space	4 (2022)	4	15	5	23	GP reporting	The contexts are: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, Viet Nam, Zambia.
1.2 Number of contexts where GP-supported human rights institutions, systems or stakeholders strengthened capacities to support the fulfilment of nationally and internationally ratified human rights obligations ^{b,c,d}	38 (2022)	38	50	45	67	Corporate data, GP reporting	<p>This indicator is cumulative.</p> <p>The contexts are: Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Georgia, Ghana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Liberia, Malawi, The Maldives, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Suriname, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.</p> <p>Of 67 contexts, 35 have 2024 IRRF data available. According to the IRRF rating scale for this indicator, 19 contexts have reported the capacity as high or very high (see IRRF indicator 2.2.1b).</p>
1.3 Number of contexts in which GP support provided to constitution making processes by introducing or supporting at least one mechanism for civic engagement ^{b,e}	6 (2022)	6	2	4	3	Corporate data, GP reporting	<p>The contexts are: Armenia, Somalia, South Sudan.</p> <p>UNDP provides a wide range of constitutional assistance around the globe consisting of support in designing and conducting constitutional reform process, including support in civic engagement as crucial to inclusive and participatory constitution making. The results indicate only those countries where GP support centred around civic engagement in such processes.</p> <p>Of 3 contexts, 2 have 2024 IRRF data available. According to the IRRF rating scale for this indicator, 1 context has reported the work as in place (see IRRF indicator 2.4.1a).</p>

OUTPUT RESULTS							
Output Indicator	Baseline & Year	Results Year 1 (2022)	Results Year 2 (2023)	Target Year 3 (2024)	Results Year 3 (2024)	Data Source	Reporting Notes
1.4 Number of contexts with GP-funded access to justice programmes or projects introduced or supported	24 (2020)	17	23	22	48	GP reporting	The contexts are: Albania, Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bhutan, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Georgia, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Montenegro, Montserrat, Myanmar, Nepal, North Macedonia, Samoa, São Tomé and Príncipe, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Tanzania, Thailand, Trinidad & Tobago, Uganda, Viet Nam, Yemen.
1.5 Number of contexts where GP support has contributed to the establishment and/or strengthening of justice and security mechanisms, processes and frameworks to prevent, respond to, and address sexual and gender based violence/ conflict-related sexual violence	17 (2022)	17	17	20	26	GP reporting	The contexts are: Afghanistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Central African Republic, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Georgia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia, The Maldives, Mozambique, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Philippines, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Ukraine, Yemen, Kosovo.
Output 2: Mechanisms to hold duty bearers and power holders to account in order to ensure the rule of law and promotion and protection of human rights are in place and actively used							
2.1 Number of contexts in which GP support has contributed to: ^{c,f} a) implementation of UPR recommendations b) closer integration between human rights and SDG systems	a) 5 (2022) b) 7 (2020)	a) 5 b) 13	a) 8 b) 19	a) >10 b) >13	a) 14 b) 24	GP reporting	This indicator is cumulative. a) The contexts are: Bahrain, Botswana, Chad, Comoros, Costa Rica, Eswatini, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Uruguay. b) The contexts are: Bahrain, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Botswana, Chad, Djibouti, Eswatini, Guinea, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritius, Niger, Pakistan, Morocco, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Tunisia, Uruguay, Uzbekistan.

OUTPUT RESULTS							
Output Indicator	Baseline & Year	Results Year 1 (2022)	Results Year 2 (2023)	Target Year 3 (2024)	Results Year 3 (2024)	Data Source	Reporting Notes
2.2 Number of contexts where GP-supported private sector institutions, systems, or stakeholders (including publicly owned companies) have strengthened capacities to support fulfilment of nationally and internationally ratified human rights obligations ^{b,c}	25 (2022)	25	31	29	67	Corporate data, GP reporting	<p>This indicator is cumulative. The contexts are: Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Aruba, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Liberia, Madagascar, Malaysia, The Maldives, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Suriname, Tanzania, Thailand, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zanzibar (included in the count as Tanzania).</p> <p>Of 67 contexts, 14 have 2024 IRRF data available. According to the IRRF rating scale for this indicator, 2 contexts have reported the capacity as high (see IRRF indicator 2.2.1c).</p>
2.3 Number of contexts where GP support has improved capacities of justice and security institutions for oversight and accountability ^c	11 (2022)	11	16	15	49	GP reporting	<p>This indicator is cumulative. The contexts are: Albania, Algeria, Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Burundi, Central African Republic, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Eswatini, Fiji, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Montenegro, Myanmar, Nigeria, Paraguay, Philippines, Senegal, Somalia, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, State of Palestine, Sudan, Tanzania, Thailand, Trinidad & Tobago, Ukraine, Viet Nam, Yemen, Kosovo.</p>
2.4 Number of contexts with GP-introduced or strengthened people-centred and gender-sensitive, transitional justice solutions	9 (2022)	9	11	11	22	GP reporting	<p>The contexts are: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Central African Republic, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Guatemala, Iraq, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Nepal, Philippines, South Sudan, Tunisia, Ukraine, Uruguay, Yemen, Kosovo.</p>

OUTPUT RESULTS							
Output Indicator	Baseline & Year	Results Year 1 (2022)	Results Year 2 (2023)	Target Year 3 (2024)	Results Year 3 (2024)	Data Source	Reporting Notes
Output 3: Justice and security systems are service-oriented and better able to protect human rights and respond to people's justice and security needs through high-quality performance							
3.1 Number of contexts where GP-support to rule of law and justice institutions, systems, or stakeholders has strengthened capacities to support fulfilment of nationally and internationally ratified human rights obligations ^{b,c}	22 (2022)	22	37	25	63	Corporate data, GP reporting	<p>This indicator is cumulative. The contexts are: Albania, Algeria, Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Bhutan, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Georgia, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Paraguay, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, State of Palestine, Tanzania, Trinidad & Tobago, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Yemen.</p> <p>Of 64 contexts, 23 have 2024 IRRF data available. According to the IRRF rating scale for this indicator, 13 contexts have reported the capacity as high or very high (see IRRF indicator 2.2.1a).</p>
3.2 Number of new or strengthened people-centred justice policies, services or innovative digital solutions developed with GP support	45 (2022)	45	42	51	109	GP reporting	<p>Policies, services and digital solutions were developed at the global level; at the regional level in Africa, Arab States, Asia-Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean; and at country level in the following contexts: Albania, Bahamas, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Iraq, Jamaica, Kenya, Lebanon (2 projects), Liberia, Malawi, Montenegro, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, North Macedonia, Peru, Senegal, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Tanzania and Zanzibar, Trinidad & Tobago, Ukraine, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen.</p>
3.3 Number of new or strengthened people-centred security policies, services or innovative digital solutions developed with GP support	13 (2022)	13	17	17	39	GP reporting	<p>Policies, services and digital solutions were developed at the global level; at the regional level in Africa, Arab States, Asia-Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean; and at country level in the following contexts: Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Fiji, Georgia, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, The Maldives, North Macedonia, Panama, Somalia, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago.</p>

OUTPUT RESULTS							
Output Indicator	Baseline & Year	Results Year 1 (2022)	Results Year 2 (2023)	Target Year 3 (2024)	Results Year 3 (2024)	Data Source	Reporting Notes
3.4 Number of justice and security institutions with enhanced capacity to provide people-centred services, in line with human rights/gender/LNOB principles, through GP-supported interventions	94 (2022)	94	42	100	153	GP reporting	The results include 132 institutions at the national level and 21 at the sub-national level. Institutions were supported in the following contexts: Albania, Algeria, Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Bhutan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, The Maldives, Montenegro, Nepal, North Macedonia, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, State of Palestine, Tanzania, Trinidad & Tobago, Ukraine, Yemen, Kosovo.
3.5 Number of justice and security personnel with enhanced capacity to provide people-centred services, in line with human rights/gender/LNOB principles, through GP-supported interventions	3,025 (2022)	3,025	7,321	3,328	5,165	GP reporting	Personnel were supported in the following contexts: Albania, Algeria, Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Bhutan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominica, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, Honduras, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, The Maldives, Montenegro, Nepal, North Macedonia, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, State of Palestine, Tanzania, Trinidad & Tobago, Ukraine, Yemen, Kosovo.
Output 4: Community security, safety and resilience strengthened through people-centred strategies, processes and mechanisms							
4.1 Number of contexts in which GP-supported local government, justice and security providers respond in a more holistic & people-centred way to community safety and security needs and grievances ^f	4 (2022)	4	7	>5	21	GP reporting	The contexts are: Antigua & Barbuda, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominica, Ghana, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Myanmar, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Somalia, St. Lucia, Trinidad & Tobago, Yemen.
4.2 Number of contexts where GP support introduced or strengthened gender-sensitive and people-centred evidence-based security strategies for reducing armed violence and/or controlling small arms at the community level ^f	3 (2022)	3	8	>4	6	GP reporting	The contexts are: Ghana, Honduras, Jamaica, Kyrgyzstan, Panama, Papua New Guinea.

OUTPUT RESULTS							
Output Indicator	Baseline & Year	Results Year 1 (2022)	Results Year 2 (2023)	Target Year 3 (2024)	Results Year 3 (2024)	Data Source	Reporting Notes
4.3 Number of GP-funded integrated programmes/projects in stabilization and/or triple nexus contexts that support people centred community security and social cohesion and: a) financial volume of support; b) number of joint programmes/projects	12 (6 GP3 funded, 6 GP4 funded) (2022) a) US\$ 3,353,534 (\$1,603,534 GP3; \$1,750,000 GP4) (2022) b) 5 (2022)	12 (6 GP3 funded, 6 GP4 funded) (2022) a) US\$ 3,353,534 (\$1,603,534 GP3; \$1,750,000 GP4) (2022) b) 5 (2022)	Total 15 (13 GP4 funded; 2 GP3 funded) a) Total US\$ 3,713,540 (GP4 funds: US\$ 3,013,540; GP3 funds: US\$ 700,000) b) 7	12 a) US\$ 3M b) 5	Total 11 a) US\$ 2,463,420 b) 7	GP reporting	a) Results reflect projects that were funded by GP4 in 2024, in addition to funds allocated in 2022 and 2023 but projects were operational through 2024. The contexts are: Burkina Faso (\$200,000), Burundi (\$200,000), Democratic Republic of the Congo (\$250,000), Iraq (\$300,000), Lebanon (\$200,000), Liberia (\$299,880), Mali (\$200,000), Mozambique (\$200,000), Myanmar (\$108,000), Somalia (\$200,000), Yemen (\$300,240). b) Joint programmes were implemented in: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad, Iraq, Lebanon, Mali, Somalia, Yemen.
Output 5: Strengthened Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) systems support project/ programme design and implementation							
5.1 Number of new methods (including tools, frameworks and processes) for GP-related monitoring, evaluation and learning adopted at: ^f i. global ii. regional and iii. country level	0 (2021)	i. 0 ii. 2 iii. 15	i. 3 ii. 7 iii. 48	i. >1 ii. >3 iii. >16	i. 9 ii. 9 iii. 104	GP reporting	ii. Methods were developed at the regional level in Africa, the Arab States, Europe and Central Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean regions. iii. Methods were developed in the following contexts: Albania, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Georgia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, India, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, Tanzania, Viet Nam, Yemen.
5.2 Number of key UNDP global knowledge and learning products produced and disseminated by GP; in a) English; and/or b) other languages	a) 5 (2020) b) 0 (2020)	a) 14 b) 1	a) 3 in English b) 2 in other languages	a) 3 (total 9) b) 3 (total 7)	a) 5 in English (8 total) b) 1 in other languages (3 total)	GP reporting	Products produced in English: The Human Rights-Based Approach to Development Programming: HRBA Toolkit (new), People-Centred Justice and Security Policy Framework (new), Practical Tool for Business on Human Rights Due Diligence and the Environment (new), UNDP Implementation Framework Tool on Human Rights Due Diligence (previously published but updated and re-published), and Women in Justice in Africa: A Comparative Study of Women Judges in 14 Countries (new, joint with UN Women). Products produced in other languages: Guidance Note on Women, Peace and Security and the United Nations Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law (previously published in 2022, with translations published in 2024).

OUTPUT RESULTS							
Output Indicator	Baseline & Year	Results Year 1 (2022)	Results Year 2 (2023)	Target Year 3 (2024)	Results Year 3 (2024)	Data Source	Reporting Notes
5.3 Number of GP-led or GP-supported knowledge and learning-focused mechanisms (e.g. workshops, trainings, COPs, theory of change reflection sessions etc.) at: ⁱ i. global ii. regional and iii. country level	i. 33 (2022) ii. 15 (2022) iii. 5 (2022)	i. 33 ii. 15 iii. 5	i. 43 ii. 36 iii. 7	i. >34 ii. >16 iii. >6	i) 29 ii) 25 iii) 41	GP reporting	Results reflect knowledge and learning-focused mechanisms at the global level; at the regional level in all regions; and at country level in the following contexts: Angola, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Mozambique, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Papua New Guinea, Zambia.
Output 6: Sustained high-quality, evidence-informed analytics and learning contribute to shaping global and regional level policy discourse on rule of law, justice, security and human rights							
6.1 Number of key UN global learning and/or policy documents published referencing GP-specific evidence-based findings/ knowledge/results	11 (2022)	11	11	9	15	GP reporting	Contributions to key UN global learning/ policy documents were in the areas of business and human rights, environmental justice, gender justice, human rights, and the rule of law. Contributions were published in statements from the Human Rights Council Sessions; various Secretary General, UN Working Group, Inter-Agency Coordination Group, Special Rapporteur, and High Commissioner reports; and global reports produced through GP partnerships with other UN agencies.
6.2 Stakeholders' general perception of GP analytics and policy work in terms of a) quantity / frequency; b) quality of outputs; c) level of impact on global rule of law, justice, security and human rights policy landscape	a) Appropriate: 71% (2022) b) Excellent: 29%; Good: 71% (2022) c) High level: 57%; Average level: 43% (2022)	a) Appropriate: 71% b) Excellent: 29%; Good: 71% c) High level: 57%; Average level: 43%	a) Appropriate: 75% b) Excellent: 25% c) High level: 50%; Average level: 50%	a) >Appropriate: 72% b) >Excellent: 30% c) >High level: 58%	a) Appropriate: 57% b) Excellent: 14% c) High level: 71%; Average level: 29%	GP reporting	Seven responses were received for the stakeholder survey. According to the results: a) Approximately 57% of respondents agree that the quantity/frequency is at an appropriate level; the remaining 43% neither agree nor disagree. b) 14% of the respondents agree that the quality of the outputs is excellent, while 71% agree that the quality is good. The remaining 14% found the quality to be fair. c) 71% of the respondents rated the GP knowledge and policy work as having a high impact on the global policy landscape. The remaining 29% rated the level of impact as average.

OUTPUT RESULTS							
Output Indicator	Baseline & Year	Results Year 1 (2022)	Results Year 2 (2023)	Target Year 3 (2024)	Results Year 3 (2024)	Data Source	Reporting Notes
6.3 Number of rule of law, justice, security and human rights related policy discussions/events (UN and non-UN): a) that are convened by GP b) to which GP is invited to contribute (e.g. staff representation or expertise, data); c) to which the GP contributes: at the: i. global ii. regional and iii. country level	a) 28 (2022) b) 41 (2022) c) i. 27 (2022) ii. 10 (2022) iii. 4 (2022)	a) 28 b) 41 c) i. 27 ii. 10 iii. 4	a) 27 b) 31 c) i. 15 ii. 7 iii. 9	a) 25 b) 40 c) i. 25 ii. 10 iii. 5	a) 45 b) 30 c) i. 48 ii. 23 iii. 22	GP reporting	Results reflect rule of law, justice, security and human rights-related policy discussions/events at global, regional and country levels, which are convened by GP (a), or with GP contribution (b + c = 123).
6.4 Number of downloads of key GP-produced policy documents and knowledge products	2,174 (2022)	2,174	514	2,511	2,522	GP reporting, Google Analytics	Total downloads: 2,522 Total page views: 5,639 Note that Google Analytics does not provide an exact number of downloads, as it applies some thresholds and does not count the number of downloads from the servers where the assets are cached (CDN - Content Delivery Network).

OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS							
Indicator	Baseline & Year	Results Year 1 (2022)	Results Year 2 (2023)	Target Year 3 (2024)	Results Year 3 (2024)	Data Source	Reporting Notes
OE1 Number of country-level GP-funded projects/ programmes that integrate a human rights-based approach	34 (2020)	64 funded by GP4, plus 37 funded by GP3 but operational in 2022	73 funded by GP4, and 2 funded by GP3 but operational in 2023	36	92	GP reporting	<p>GP4 countries = 47: Albania, Algeria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bhutan, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Fiji, The Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, India, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Montenegro, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Panama, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, State of Palestine, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Türkiye, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zanzibar (included in the count as Tanzania).</p> <p>BHR countries = 36: Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Liberia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Rwanda, Serbia, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zanzibar (included in the count as Tanzania).</p> <p>SALIENT countries = 6: Ghana, Honduras, Jamaica, Kyrgyzstan, Panama, Papua New Guinea.</p> <p>Gender Justice Platform countries = 40: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, The Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Burundi, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Guyana, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Lao PDR, Liberia, Malawi, The Maldives, Mali, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Rwanda, Philippines, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, Zimbabwe, Kosovo.</p> <p>Justice Action Coalition Fund countries = 5: Colombia, Dominican Republic, Kenya, Samoa, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sierra Leone.</p> <p>TPP countries = 13: Comoros, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Georgia, Jordan, Malawi, The Maldives, Moldova, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Peru, Timor-Leste, Ukraine.</p> <p>KNPA countries = 4: Bosnia & Herzegovina, Côte d'Ivoire, Indonesia, North Macedonia.</p>
OE2 Number of contexts where the respective GP portfolio of projects/ programmes meets the set 15% budget quota for gender investments ^f	18 (2022)	18 (Gender Justice Platform)	34	>19	46	GP reporting	<p>All GP-funded projects are GEN2, making a significant contribution to gender equality and/or the empowerment of women and girls. Gender Justice Platform is a GEN3 project.</p> <p>The contexts supported include SALIENT countries: Ghana, Honduras, Jamaica, Kyrgyzstan, Panama, Papua New Guinea; and Gender Justice Platform countries: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, The Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Burundi, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Guyana, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Lao PDR, Liberia, Malawi, The Maldives, Mali, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Rwanda, Philippines, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, Zimbabwe, Kosovo.</p>

OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS							
Indicator	Baseline & Year	Results Year 1 (2022)	Results Year 2 (2023)	Target Year 3 (2024)	Results Year 3 (2024)	Data Source	Reporting Notes
OE3 Total number and proportion of full-time female staff among ROLSHR team contract holders: i. international professional staff ii. general service staff and iii. other contract categories (incl. interns, seconded staff, UNVs, consultants etc.)	i. 32 total, 69% female (2022) ii. 3 total, 67% female (2022) iii. 48 total, 54 female (2022)	i. 32 total, 69% female (2022) ii. 3 total, 67% female (2022) iii. 48 total, 54% female (2022)	i. 34 total, 71% women ii. 6 total, 67% women iii. 16 total, 81% women	i. 50% ii. 50% iii. 50%	i. 38 total, 63% women ii. 5 total, 80% women iii. 42 total, 71% women	GP reporting	i. International professional staff Of 38 international professional staff, 24 were women = 63%. Categories as follows: -15 women out of 26 P staff -9 women out of 12 IPSA staff ii. General service staff Of 5 G staff, 4 were women = 80%. Categories as follows: -1 woman out of 2 G staff -3 women out of 3 DAs iii. Other contract categories (interns, UNVs, secondees, consultants) Of 42 personnel in other categories, 30 were women = 71%. Categories as follows: -27 consultants -2 UNVs -1 seconded
OE4 Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law (GFP) partnerships: ^f (a) Total number of GFP-funded joint programmes/projects (b) Total budget amount of GFP-funded joint programmes (c) Number of contexts where GFP-supported joint rule of law assessments, strategies, programmes and/or frameworks developed (complementing a UN political strategy or reinforcing implementation of a UNSC mission mandate)	a) 3 (2022) b) US\$800,000 (2022) c) 5 (2022)	a) 3 (GP4 2022), plus 3 (GP3) b) US\$ 800,000 (GP4), plus \$795,534 (GP3) c) 5	a) 5 (GP4 funded) and 1 (GP3 funded) b) GP4 funds: US\$ 1,050,000; GP3 funds: US\$ 200,000 c) 2	a) >5 b) >US\$ 1,050,000 c) >2	a) 1 (GP4 funded) b) US\$ 300,000 (GP4 funds) c) 6	GP reporting	a) and b) GP4 = 2 funding allocations for 1 project in 1 context: Liberia (\$100,000), allocated in 2024 and operational in 2025 (added on to GP-approved funding of \$200,000 bringing country allocation to \$300,000). c) The contexts are: Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Mali, Somalia.

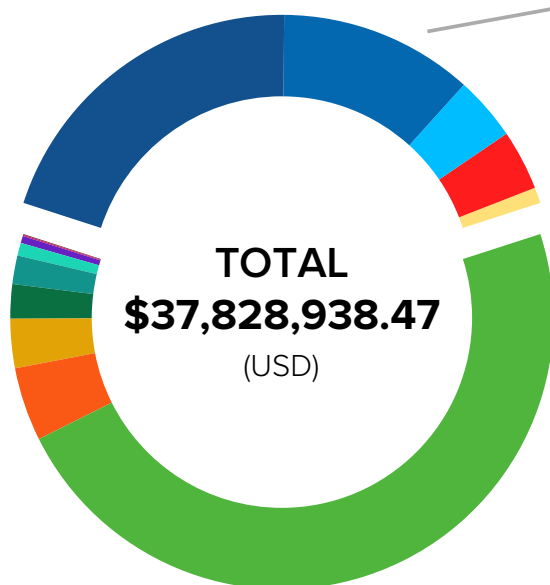
Notes for the Results Framework

^a List of Partnerships

- i. UN entities: Aarhus Convention/United Nations Economic Commission for Europe; Call to Action Working Group; Chief Digital Office of UNDP; Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD); Executive Office of the Secretary General (EOSG); Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO); Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law (GFP); Inter-Agency Coordination Group Against Trafficking in Persons; Inter-agency Task Force on Policing; International Organisation for Migration (IOM); International Training Centre of the International Labour Organisation (ITC-ILO); UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPO) via Global Focal Point; UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA); UN Development Coordination Office (DCO); UN Environment Programme (UNEP); UN Interagency Network on HR, LNOB and Sustainable Development; UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict; UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); UN Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict (ToE); UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights; UNDP-OHCHR-Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI); Tri-Partite Partnership to Support National Human Rights Institutions; UNDP-UN Women: Gender Justice partnership; UNDP-UNHCR: Global Partnership on Rule of Law and Governance; UNDP-UNODA partnership: SALIENT, Saving Lives Entity, including UNODA Regional Centres; United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO); United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Regional Collaboration Centre for Asia-Pacific; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR); United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI); United Nations Office of Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA); United Nations Police (UNPOL); United Nations University (UN University's Centre for Policy Research); World Health Organisation (WHO).
 - ii. International Financial Institutions: World Bank.
 - iii. Private sector: AIM Progress; Amfori; Business for Social Responsibility; Cobalt Institute; Corporate Section of Japanese Association in Ghana (Nihonjinkai Houjinbukai); Drive+ Sustainability; Environmental Resources Management; Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FNCCI); Global Business Initiative; Global Reporting Initiative; International Council on Mining and Metals; International Organisation of Employers; Investor Alliance for Human Rights; Japan Business Federation; Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MNCCI); National Confederation of Private Business Institutions (CONFIEP); Pakistan Suzuki; Pakistan-Japan Business Forum; Peruvian-Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIPJ); Responsible Business Alliance; Sal Forest; SMEUnited; Turkish Enterprise and Business Confederation (TÜRKONFED); Ulaanbaatar Chamber of Commerce; UN Global Compact; World Business Council for Sustainable Development.
 - iv. Civil Society Organisations: Asia Pacific Network of Environment Defenders (APNED); Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT); Business and Human Rights Resource Centre; Client Earth; Frank Bold; Global Witness; Greenpeace; Hague Institute for Innovation of Law (HiIL); Human Level; Institute for Human Rights and Business; International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ); National Human Rights Centre; Oxfam; WalkFree; World Benchmarking Alliance; World Wildlife Fund (WWF).
 - v. Multi-stakeholders or intergovernmental organisations: African Union (African Commission on Human and People's Rights, African Court on Human and People's Rights, African Union Commission); Asia Pacific Forum (APF); Banco de Desarrollo de América Latina y el Caribe (CAF); Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat; Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ); Conference of Ministers of Justice of Ibero-American Countries (COMJIB); Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (ECSC); European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI); European Union (EU); Geneva Center for Security Sector Governance (DCAF); Insitituto Interamericano de Derechos Humanos (Interamerican Institute on Human Rights [IIDH]); International Development Law Organisation (IDLO); International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA); International Labour Organisation (ILO); International Network for Open Justice (RIJA); International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO); International Security Sector Advisory Team (ISSAT); Justice Action Coalition (JAC); League of Arab States; League of Arab States; Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI); Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)/Organisation for Security and Coordination in Europe (OSCE); Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies; Red de Instituciones Nacionales de Derechos Humanos del Continente Americano (RINDHCA); Taskforce on Inequality and Social-Related Financial Disclosures.
 - vi. Government agencies or public institutions: Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions; Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), Ghana; Danish Institute for Human Rights; EU Agency for Fundamental Rights; Folke Bernadotte Academy; German Helpdesk on Business and Human Rights; Jamaica Bureau of Standards; Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO); Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA); Korean National Police Agency (KNPA); Ministry of Economy of Ukraine; Ministry of Economy, Kyrgyz Republic; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan; Ministry of Justice and Human Rights of Peru (MINJUSDH); Ministry of Justice, Kyrgyz Republic; Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security (MoLESS), Nepal; Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs (MoLJPA), Nepal; Ministry of the Interior (Secretaría de Gobernación), Mexico; National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Nepal; Norway Grants; Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD); Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Office of Prime Minister and Council of Ministers (OPMCM), Nepal; Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Justice (AGMoJ), Ghana; St. Lucia Bureau of Standards; Thailand Institute of Justice; The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ); The Securities and Exchange Commission of Thailand; U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) through UNDP InfoSegura and CARISECURE Regional Projects; Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights; United States International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Section (INL).
 - vii. Academia and think tanks: Centre for Responsible Business – Universitas Airlangga; Global Commission on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking; National Economics University of Vietnam; University of the West Indies (UWI).
 - viii. Other: Center for International Environmental Law; Geneva Trade Platform; International Association for Impact Assessment; Pillar Two; Shift; Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery; Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment; Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Context of Climate Change; Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development; Thinking Ahead on Societal Change (TASC) Platform.
- b. The following indicators were modified from 2023 and future reporting to track the number of contexts based on GP reporting, instead of proportion of contexts based on UNDP IRRF data: Output Indicators 1.2, 1.3, 2.2 and 3.1.
 - c. The following indicators are cumulative, as indicated in the reporting notes: Outcome Indicator 1.5, Output Indicators 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 3.1.
 - d. The IRRF rating scale for this indicator at country level is as follows: 0 = Not in place, 1 = Capacity low, 2 = Capacity neither low nor high, 3 = Capacity high, 4 = Capacity very high.
 - e. The IRRF rating scale for this indicator at country level is as follows: 0 = Not in place, 1 = Work started, 2 = Work in progress, 3 = Work almost complete, 4 = In place.
 - f. The targets for these indicators were set as >2023 during target setting exercises that year. The targets as indicated here for 2024 are therefore interpreted and set as greater than the 2023 target.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

2024 Received Contributions



Unearmarked Contributions \$15,146,774.05

- The Netherlands*: \$7,624,178.26
- UNDP Core/TRAC Funds: \$4,369,892.73
- Sweden: \$1,440,044.27
- Norway*: \$1,356,608.79
- Iceland: \$356,050.00

Earmarked Contributions \$22,660,680.42

- United States****: \$18,007,788.00
- Germany*: \$1,659,383.00
- Republic of Korea*: \$1,107,000.00
- Japan**: \$772,000.00
- SALIENT: \$642,468.42
- United Kingdom FCDO: \$265,415.00
- UN Action MPTF (Team of Experts CRSV)***: \$160,162.00
- Austria: \$27,964.00
- FAST: \$18,500.00

In-Kind Contributions

Norway: loaned staff (1 post from NORDEM)

*Received contribution in late 2024 for programming in 2025.

**Includes 1% levy amount

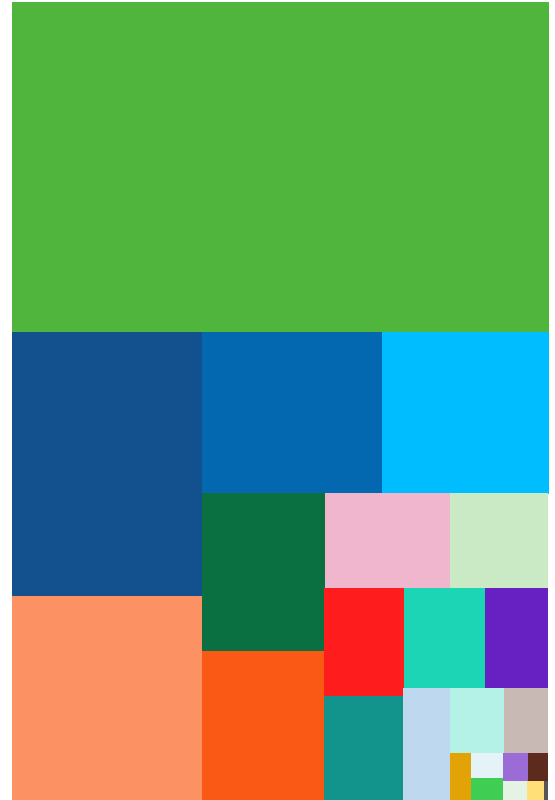
***Funding applied to project in early 2025, but signed in late 2024 during end of year closure exercises.

****Does not include \$3,000,000 United States/INL contribution in 2024 for CBARD: Community Based Agricultural Rural Development project in Afghanistan.

LIFETIME CONTRIBUTIONS 2008-2024

Total Mobilized Resources: \$533,723,745

United States*: \$227,147,227	Australia: \$4,443,307
Netherlands: \$126,413,504	Denmark: \$3,739,940
CPR-TTF: \$36,004,440	Belgium: \$2,529,780
UNDP CORE/ TRAC Funds: \$27,965,836	Republic of Korea: \$2,047,000
Sweden: \$20,767,702	MDTF - Human Rights Mainstreaming/DCO: \$749,000
Japan: \$19,216,230	France: \$554,800
Germany: \$13,865,997	Luxembourg: \$538,206
Canada: \$13,145,391	Qatar: \$508,680
Switzerland: \$8,549,560	Ireland: \$393,288
Norway: \$6,631,377	Iceland: \$356,050
SALIENT: \$6,081,794	UNHCR: \$246,407
United Kingdom: \$5,936,504	Austria: \$33,702
UN Action MPTF (Team of Experts CRSV): \$5,820,025	FAST: \$18,500
	EOSG: \$18,496
	Private contribution: \$1,000



*Does not include 2016-2024 United States/INL contribution for the various CBARD: Community Based Agricultural Rural Development projects in Afghanistan (total = \$88,397,290.00 USD).

2024 GLOBAL PROGRAMME MOBILIZED EARMARKED FUNDS

Country	Project	Donor	Mobilized Total (USD)
Armenia	Promoting Efficiency and Reforming Services through Enhanced Human Resource Management for the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Police Service	United States/INL	1,500,000.00
Benin	Support the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Prisons and the Rule of Law in Benin	United States/INL	1,500,000.00
Benin	Strengthening Access to Justice in Benin	United States/INL	2,082,000.00
Central African Republic	Support to the functioning of the Special Criminal Court in the Central African Republic	Austria	27,964.00
Georgia	Improving the Rule of Law and Access to Justice for All in Georgia	Germany	249,362.67
Kazakhstan	Support to Police Modernization Reform in Kazakhstan	United States/INL	2,800,332.00
Laos	Strengthening Case Management and Court Procedures in the Lao People's Democratic Republic	United States/INL	450,000.00
Moldova	Support Police Capacity Building in the Field of Public Order and Cybercrime in Moldova	United States/INL	2,790,000.00
Moldova	Reinforcing Skills-Based Training of Law Enforcement Professionals in Moldova	United States/INL	2,665,000.00
Pakistan	Strengthening Institutional Capacity of the Excise, Taxation and Anti-Narcotics Department of Balochistan (ETAN-B) through Establishment of a Training School	United States/INL	797,823.24
Pakistan	Increasing Citizens Access to Justice in Balochistan and Sindh	United States/INL	1,694,416.00
South Asia (Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives)	Anti-Corruption and Rule of Law in South Asia	United States/INL	1,728,217.08
TOTAL			18,285,114.99

2024 GLOBAL PROGRAMME PIPELINE ALLOCATIONS

Context	Project	Allocated Budget (USD)	Donor Funding Allocated
Africa Regional Hub	Rule of Law and Human Rights in Africa	50,000.00	The Netherlands
Algeria	Supporting the career development of women judges in Algeria	200,000.00	The Netherlands
Arab States Regional Hub	Rule of Law and Human Rights in the Arab States	50,000.00	The Netherlands
Asia Pacific Regional Hub	Rule of Law and Human Rights in Asia and the Pacific	50,000.00	Sweden
Asia Pacific Regional Hub	Promoting and Supporting Women Leadership in the Judicial System in Southeast Asia	150,000.00	Germany
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Police Capacity Building Support Programme for Combatting GBV in the Digital Sphere	32,400.00	Republic of Korea
Brazil	Business and Human Rights	50,000.00	Japan
Burkina Faso	Social Cohesion, Security, and the Rule of Law (COSED) program	200,000.00	The Netherlands
Cambodia	Business and Human Rights	50,000.00	Japan
Colombia	Strengthening Agrarian and Rural Jurisdiction as a Strategy for Development and Peace Consolidation in Colombia	100,008.00	Germany
Comoros	TPP Support for National Human Rights Institutions	81,000.00	Norway
Cote D'Ivoire	Police Capacity Building Support Programme for Combatting GBV in the Digital Sphere	108,000.00	Republic of Korea
Djibouti	Catalyzing Comprehensive Justice Reforms: Developing Djibouti's First Justice Sector Strategy for Inclusive Growth and Development	200,000.00	The Netherlands
Dominican Republic	The Justice of the Future for Sustainable Human Development: Evidence for People-Centered Action in the Dominican Republic	120,000.00	Germany
Eastern European and Central Asia Regional Hub	Rule of Law and Human Rights in Eastern Europe and Central Asia	50,000.00	Sweden
Ecuador	TPP Support for National Human Rights Institutions	55,346.76	Norway
Egypt	Fostering Economic Growth and Social Stability through Enhancing Access to Justice in Egypt	100,000.00	The Netherlands
Ghana	SALIENT	350,000.00	SALIENT
Guatemala	Building mechanisms for the articulation of plural justice to improve access to justice for indigenous women and women in El Quiché	100,000.00	Germany
India	Improving people centred justice pathways in India to address horizontal inequalities and promote social cohesion	100,000.00	Sweden
India	Business and Human Rights	100,000.00	Japan
Indonesia	Police Capacity Building Support Programme for Combatting GBV in the Digital Sphere	108,000.00	Republic of Korea
Indonesia	Business and Human Rights	50,000.00	Japan
Jamaica	SALIENT	250,000.00	SALIENT
Kazakhstan	Sustainable Development through promotion of Environmental Justice and Responsible Business Practices	100,000.00	Sweden
Kenya	Supporting accountable, effective and people-centred policing in Kenya	248,600.00	The Netherlands
Kenya	Leveraging on the implementation of the Digital Technology for Small Claims Court in Kenya to advance people-centred justice	150,000.00	The Netherlands
Kyrgyz Republic	Business and Human Rights	50,000.00	Japan

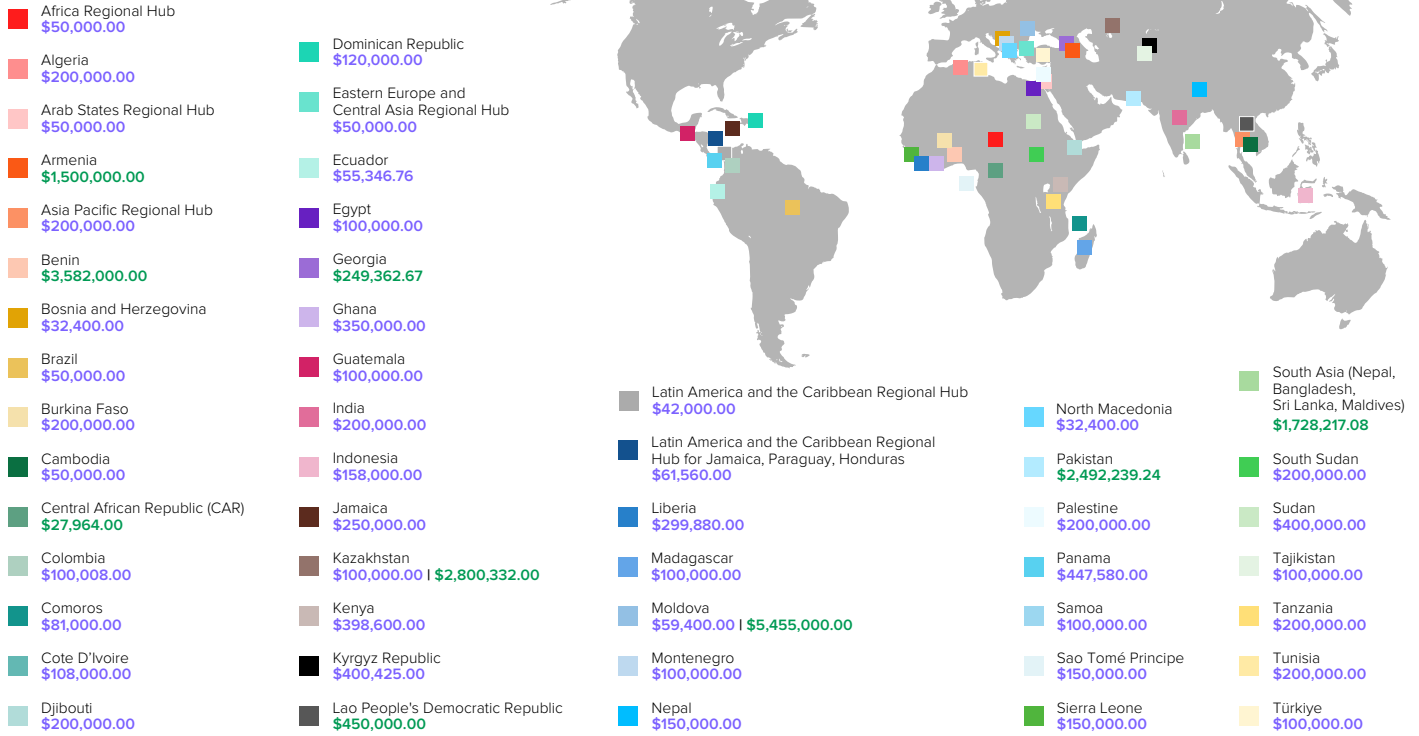
Context	Project	Allocated Budget (USD)	Donor Funding Allocated
Kyrgyz Republic	SALIENT	350,425.00	SALIENT
Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Hub	Rule of Law and Human Rights in Latin America and the Caribbean	42,000.00	Sweden
Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Hub (Jamaica, Paraguay, Honduras)	Justice for Women's Resilience in Latin America and the Caribbean	61,560.00	The Netherlands
Liberia	Enhancing Access to Justice through Institutional and Legislative Reforms and Capacities on Alternative Dispute Resolution in Liberia	299,880.00	The Netherlands
Madagascar	Heightened human rights due diligence in conflict prone areas due to critical mineral exploitation in Madagascar	100,000.00	Sweden
Moldova	TPP Support for National Human Rights Institutions	59,400.00	Norway
Montenegro	Gender Equality and Justice	100,000.00	Germany
Nepal	Business and Human Rights	50,000.00	Japan
Nepal	Enhancing Access to Justice Systems to Advance Justice for Women and Marginalized Communities in Nepal	100,000.00	Sweden
North Macedonia	Police Capacity Building Support Programme for Combatting GBV in the Digital Sphere	32,400.00	Republic of Korea
Palestine	Strengthening Business and Human Rights Frameworks in Palestine (SBHRP)	200,000.00	The Netherlands
Panama	SALIENT	325,000.00	SALIENT
Panama	Building Bridges and Empowering Voices to Anticipate and Prevent Conflict	122,580.00	Iceland
Samoa	Strengthening equitable access to fair justice for ALL in Samoa	22,000.00	Germany
Samoa	Strengthening equitable access to fair justice for ALL in Samoa	78,000.00	The Netherlands
Sao Tomé Príncipe	Proximity Justice: Bringing Justice Closer to the People	150,000.00	The Netherlands
Sierra Leone	Enhancing Access to Justice for Vulnerable Groups and advancing people-centred justice reforms	150,000.00	The Netherlands
South Sudan	Justice for Female survivors and Victims in South Sudan	200,000.00	The Netherlands
Sudan	Mapping and addressing justice needs of Sudan's conflict-affected population	400,000.00	The Netherlands
Tajikistan	Supporting Women in Law (SuWIL) Project	100,000.00	Germany
Tanzania	Capacity Development to Justice Institutions in Zanzibar	200,000.00	The Netherlands
Tunisia	Strengthening Human Rights and Responsible Business Practices in Tunisia	200,000.00	The Netherlands
Türkiye	Promoting the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Supply Chains in Türkiye's Earthquake Recovery	100,000.00	Iceland
TOTAL		6,696,599.76	

2024 PIPELINE & EARMARKED CONSOLIDATED AMOUNTS

TOTAL COMBINED RESOURCES: \$24,981,714.75 (USD)

TOTAL PIPELINE ALLOCATION: \$6,696,599.76 (USD)

TOTAL EARMARKED MOBILIZED: \$18,285,114.99 (USD)



ROL/HR GLOBAL PROGRAMME FUNDING TO CO (NON-PIPELINE) EXPENDITURES 2024

Context	Project Name/Activity	Expenditure (USD)
Barbados	Policy Development	7,516.00
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Policy Development	16,029.00
Cameroon	Technical Capacity	3,955.00
Comoros	Technical Capacity	2,659.00
Cote d'Ivoire	Policy Development (Community Security)	918.00
Ethiopia	Policy Development	1,059.00
Georgia	Policy Development	2,829.00
Jamaica	Programme Support	32.00
Kyrgyz Republic	Programme Support	53.00
Moldova	Programme Support (Human Rights)	109.00
Moldova	Policy Development	2,697.00
Morocco	Policy Development (Justice)	3,822.00
Nigeria	Policy Development	2,766.00
North Macedonia	Policy Development	5,400.00
North Macedonia	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning	10,029.00
Panama	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning	3,980.00
Panama	Policy Development	4,020.00
Somalia	Technical Capacity	2,244.00
Zambia	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning	4,340.00
Support Costs (GMS 8%)		5,956.56
TOTAL		80,413.56

2024 OVERALL SUPPORT

Total \$12,128,505 (USD)

- Technical Capacity: \$6,859,923
- Policy Development: \$863,106
- Monitoring and Evaluation and Learning: \$463,648
- Knowledge Management and Communications: \$148,144
- Global Capacity Building Grants (UNITAR, UN Women): \$2,737,456
- Programme Support: \$360,595
- Support Costs (GMS 8%): \$695,633



OVERALL EXPENDITURE AND DELIVERY

Delivery Rate for All 2024 RoL/HR GP funds	HQ/RH total: \$12,128,505	Pipeline/Allocations to Country/Regional Offices total: \$6,696,600	DELIVERY RATE FOR 2024
Opening 2024 Budget: \$19,522,340	Policy and Programming Support to Country Offices/Contexts total: \$80,414	Combined TOTAL for RoL/HR GP: \$18,905,519	97%



**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME**

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