The Global Programme is a strategic influencer and enabler of transformative change that is advancing peace and sustainable development through the promotion of rule of law, human rights and people-centred justice and security.

In 2022, the Global Programme commenced the implementation of Phase IV (2022-2025) and reinforced efforts to anticipate and prevent instability and conflict, address the drivers of fragility, build resilience and strengthen the protection and promotion of human rights.

Phase IV of the Global Programme is guided by UNDP’s three directions of change: structural transformation, leaving no one behind and building resilience. It directly contributes to the implementation of UNDP’s Strategic Plan (2022-2025), in particular to the signature solutions on governance and resilience, and UNDP’s Crisis Offer to help countries anticipate, prevent, respond to and recover from crisis in every development context, as well as providing support to organization-wide efforts related to the environment and gender equality.

The examples presented here give an overview of the support the Global Programme provides to UNDP Country Offices and Regional Hubs, national institutions, civil society and business entities to make the rule of law and respect for human rights a global reference point and enabler for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. A special focus is on the Global Programme’s role as a platform for partnerships across the UN system and beyond, in line with UNDP’s designated ‘integrator’ role and in support of One-UN approach.
GLOBAL IMPACT

In 17 contexts, the Global Programme supported the establishment and/or strengthening of justice & security mechanisms, processes and frameworks to prevent, respond to and address sexual and gender-based violence or conflict-related sexual violence.

In 38 contexts, the Global Programme supported human rights institutions, systems or stakeholders to strengthen capacities to support the fulfilment of nationally and internationally ratified human rights obligations.

UNDP SUPPORTED ABOUT 85 MILLION PEOPLE GLOBALLY TO GAIN ACCESS TO JUSTICE.

In 25 contexts, the Global Programme supported the private sector to strengthen capacities to support the fulfilment of nationally and internationally ratified human rights obligations.

In 9 contexts, the Global Programme introduced or strengthened people-centred and gender-sensitive transitional justice solutions.

The Global Programme developed or strengthened 58 people-centred justice or security policies, services or innovative digital solutions.

PARTNERSHIPS

Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law

2022 marked ten years since the establishment of the UN Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law (GFP), a joint arrangement for delivery of the rule of law in fragile settings. Co-chaired by UNDP and the UN Department of Peace Operations (DPO), GFP reinforces One-UN approach to address violent conflicts, protect human rights and restore justice and security.

Since 2012, GFP has coordinated joint work and delivery in 30+ countries worldwide. Over 160 missions and experts were deployed to provide expertise and conduct joint assessments. Since 2016, more than US$50 million were mobilized for joint rule of law assistance through the GFP framework.

In 2022, GFP delivered catalytic funding and technical expertise to joint rule of law programming in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Libya, Mali, Niger, Somalia and Sudan.

In the Central African Republic, fighting impunity is the priority of the Joint Rule of Law Programme. The Special Criminal Court delivered its first verdict in 2022. | UNDP CAR
Gender Justice Platform

UNDP’s partnership with UN Women evolved to the Gender Justice Platform for joint initiatives to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment. More than 20 partners have joined the platform, allowing it to provide integral, intersectional and inter-agency people-centred justice responses for women.

The Gender Justice Platform supported 18 contexts with a specific focus on crisis and fragile settings. Almost 43,000 people (84 percent women) received access to justice.

In 2022, the Gender Justice Platform and the UN Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law published the report Women, Peace and Security and the United Nations Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law: Promoting Gender Justice for Peaceful and Inclusive Societies, with recommendations to better leverage joint UN rule of law assistance in crisis-affected settings to advance gender equality.

SALIENT: Saving Lives Entity

SALIENT supports countries in tackling armed violence, illicit small arms and light weapons. The global project is implemented by UNDP and UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and is financially housed in the UN Secretary-General’s Peacebuilding Fund.

SALIENT key 2022 achievements:

• The Government of Cameroon endorsed the establishment of a National Committee on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration.

• The Government of Jamaica initiated the adoption of the National Action Plan to combat the illicit trafficking, and prevent and mitigate the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

• In South Sudan, a small arms baseline and perception survey on the operationalization of disarmament were completed, in cooperation with the national police.

UNDP – OHCHR – GANHRI Partnership to Support National Human Rights Institutions

Alongside other programming supporting national human rights institutions (NHRI)s, the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), UNDP and the UN Human Rights Office continued collaborating within the Tripartite Partnership (TPP).

In 2022, the TPP supported NHRI}s in the organization of a Global Symposium to address climate change on the margins of COP27 and promoted a rights-based approach to advance an inclusive climate action in which no one is left behind. NHRI}s can play a key role supporting countries to respect, protect and fulfil the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

TPP partners developed a framework for supporting NHRI}s globally in 2023-2024.
KEY RESULTS IN 2022

People-centred justice

Customary, informal and/or community-based justice mechanisms enabled access to justice for women and marginalized groups where formal services were out of reach or required support.

- In Mali, land commissions settled at least 120 conflicts and contributed to the increase in women’s access to land by 12 percent.

- In Somalia, over 1,600 women benefitted from alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, legal aid and mobile court services.

- In Yemen, 32 male and 28 female community members were trained as grassroots paralegals to perform the functions of community mediators in six community-based mediation committees in Aden, including two that are chaired by women.

In Burkina Faso, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan, over 4,500 detainees were released and over 2,000 obtained justice, including through mobile courts.

UNDP Seoul Policy Center (USPC), in coordination with UNDP’s Rule of Law, Security and Human Rights team, supported partner countries in their combat against gender-based violence. The rights-based support mechanism for survivors and the relevant police capacity building programme of the Republic of Korea was shared with 7 countries in partnership with the Korean National Police Agency (KNPA) and Sunflower Center, Korea’s one-stop service mechanism which provides counselling, psychological, medical, investigation and legal support to GBV survivors.

Human rights

UNDP strengthened integration of human rights and sustainable development systems in 8 countries jointly with the UN Human Rights Office (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Jordan, Pakistan, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tunisia and Uruguay) to support systemwide strategic engagement with human rights mechanisms and systems to achieve the SDGs including providing guidance to Member States on how to integrate human rights into the development of voluntary national reviews.

UNDP highlighted human rights as a problem solving tool for contemporary development challenges including through engagement with the Human Rights Council’s Universal Periodic Review process gathering and highlighting UN good practices on how the Universal Periodic Review Process supports sustainable development.

Based on a deep listening exercise across the organization, UNDP is establishing a Human Rights for Sustainable Development Strategy. Following three solutions pathways for institutional transformation and capacity support, UNDP will build on its work in 100+ countries over the years of supporting the strengthening of national human rights systems and the investment in work that safeguards human rights including through a human rights-based approach.
Business and human rights (B+HR)

Under the global branding of B+HR Academy and with support from Japan, UNDP delivered Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) training sessions and individual guidance benefitting 700+ representatives from 560+ businesses in 12 countries globally. In Viet Nam and Mongolia alone, 250+ businesses were trained.

UNDP supported the developmental milestones of the National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights (NAPs) in different stages globally. Significant progress was achieved, notably, in Kyrgyz Republic, Mexico, Nepal and Peru. In Kyrgyz Republic, the Supreme Council assigned the Cabinet of Ministers to develop the NAP. In Mexico, a National Baseline Assessment to inform the NAP was drafted. In Nepal, 20 multi-stakeholder consultations and seminars on draft versions of the NAP with 200+ organizations were conducted. In Peru, 900+ participants from 400+ organizations participated in multi-stakeholder dialogue, and 70+ companies and business associations were trained in due diligence and responsible business conduct.

In Ukraine, UNDP offered technical assistance to the Government, providing recommendations to enhance the legislative framework and develop a national Recovery Plan and National Human Rights Strategy to address war-related business and human rights challenges. In addition, UNDP conducted context assessments and developed training materials on heightened human rights due diligence (hHRDD) for businesses operating in areas affected by armed conflicts.

Community security

To ensure that security institutions provide more effective services tailored to the needs of the communities they serve, UNDP supported further rollout of model police stations in Iraq and Guinea Bissau, improving the service delivery of the law enforcement agencies.

In Lebanon, UNDP mainstreamed community policing approaches to transform municipal police into a people-centred service. As a result, 225 municipal police stations adhered to at least one of the five core components of the community policing as defined by the national policy developed with UNDP’s support. At the local level, the promotion of the municipal police reform programme was upscaled and piloted in 40+ new municipalities.

To promote people-centred security as a guiding principle and a cross-cutting approach, UNDP and the Folke Bernadotte Academy (Sweden) presented a paper on “The People-Centred Approach to Security: Seeking conceptual clarity to guide UN policy development.”
Inclusive rights-based digitalization

In Colombia, the SICOFA information system was designed for the Family Services Offices, main justice providers in cases of domestic violence. By consolidating data, the system will help improve protection and remedy policies.

In 7 Asian countries, defenders facing business-related human rights impacts can access grievance mechanisms and obtain information about redress options through a digital portal Routes to Remedy.

The report “E-justice: digital transformation to close the justice gap” and an accompanying toolkit were launched to help practitioners understand e-justice initiatives and bring a human rights-based framework to the design, implementation and monitoring of e-justice as a part of UNDP’s digitalization efforts.

Strategic innovations

UNDP launched its Justice Future’s CoLab to promote new ways of thinking and approaching complex justice and rule of law challenges. The CoLab is a space for practitioners from UNDP, the wider UN family and other external partners to discuss, design and implement more impactful action in countries and to inform advocacy and policy at all levels to address justice challenges.

UNDP presented its first global strategy for environmental justice to increase accountability and protection of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. The Global Programme enabled the design of the environmental justice projects in Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kyrgyz Republic, Lebanon and Pakistan.

In Central Asia, UNDP kick-started the initiative to improve the regional regulatory frameworks on data and human rights protection in online space. To ensure human rights impacts are considered in the design of technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI)-driven systems, UNDP launched a scoping study, organized a regional workshop for 170 human rights and tech experts in collaboration with the experts from the Council of Europe, and also organized a training for UNDP Country Offices.
The Global Programme initiated the process of establishing a monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) unit to strengthen knowledge sharing and results-based management of its initiatives.

Thought leadership: knowledge and policy influencer

The Global Programme produced 14 global knowledge and learning products and contributed to 11 UN global learning and/or policy documents.

The Global Programme led and/or supported over 50 knowledge and learning-focused mechanisms (e.g. workshops, trainings, communities of practice, etc.) at global, regional and country levels with the primary aim of improving programme quality and effectiveness, as well as contributing to over 70 UN and non-UN policy discussions and events.

Access to Justice Evaluation

The evaluation of UNDP’s support to access to justice, conducted by the Independent Evaluation Office in 2022, acknowledged UNDP’s role as a key provider of international development assistance in the justice sector. UNDP is committed to operationalizing the recommendations and learning derived from the evaluation process, including further promoting a people-centred approach to justice.

The Global Programme operates thanks to the generous contributions of

For more information please contact:

Katy Thompson
Head of Rule of Law, Security and Human Rights
katy.thompson@undp.org
@KatyThompsonROL

Alexandra Meierhans
Programme Manager
alexandra.meierhans@undp.org
@AlexMeierhans