



# GLOBAL FOCAL POINT FOR THE RULE OF LAW (GFP)

A JOINT ARRANGEMENT FOR RULE OF LAW DELIVERY IN CRISIS SITUATIONS



A group of women listen to court proceedings while attending a session at the Garowe courts in Puntland, Somalia, on 27 August 2020. © UNDP Photo / Tobin Jones

# 2020 PROGRESS REPORT

JUNE 2021

# OVERVIEW

The United Nations **Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law (GFP)** was established in 2012 by a decision of the Secretary-General to enhance predictability, coherence, accountability and effectiveness in the United Nations delivery in the rule of law at country and international levels, and to ensure that such delivery is fully grounded in international law.

According to that decision, the senior United Nations official in-country is responsible and accountable for guiding and overseeing United Nations rule of law strategies, for resolving political obstacles and for coordinating United Nations country support on the rule of law, without prejudice to the specialised roles and specific mandates of United Nations entities in-country.

At Headquarters, the Department of Peace Operations (DPO) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are responsible for co-chairing the GFP.

The GFP includes as partners the **Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG), OHCHR, UNHCR, UNODC, DCO, UNOPS and UN Women**. In addition, the GFP brings together other United Nations entities working in the rule of law area, including the Team of Experts on Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict (ToE), UNICEF, PBSO, DPPA, etc. GFP partners promote United Nations norms and standards, including gender mainstreaming and human rights-based approaches in crisis and conflict-affected settings. All joint rule of law initiatives among GFP partners are a reflection of the integrated 'One UN' approach.



MINUSCA and UNDP CAR provide Personal Protective Equipment to help protect detainees and prisons staff in CAR. © UNDP CAR and MINUSCA



UNDP Yambio Office hands over kits of personal protective equipment to South Sudan National Police Service. © UNDP South Sudan

The GFP arrangement achieves impact by:

- Supporting joint design and implementation of rule of law projects and programmes;
- Providing seed-funding to joint rule of law projects and programmes;
- Responding effectively to field requests for the deployment of expertise;
- Conducting joint assessment missions;
- Facilitating information-sharing among United Nations rule of law entities;
- Developing knowledge products and facilitating consultations on policy and guidance documents;
- Organizing regular meetings both at the technical and political level to improve coordination;
- Supporting resource mobilization efforts for joint rule of law initiatives at HQ and in the field.



**10** Conflict & Post-Conflict settings, including Afghanistan, CAR, DRC, Kosovo, Libya, Mali, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Timor-Leste

**4** Transition settings, including Darfur (Sudan), Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Liberia

**9** Prevention and Sustaining Peace settings, including Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Jamaica, Malawi, Yemen



In 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and wide-ranging travel restrictions, the GFP re-oriented its activities to provide joint support to national rule of law authorities in addressing the health crisis, to improve exchanges of information among its partners on responses to COVID-19, and to promote the establishment of new joint programmes (e.g. addressing Conflict-related Sexual Violence in South Sudan). This document highlights some of the key deliverables of the GFP between January and December 2020.



Somalia national army distributes facemasks and conducts an awareness campaign for the most vulnerable – the 2.6m people living in Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camps. © UNDP Somalia

The GFP, together with UNDP's Global Programme on Rule of Law and Human Rights, supported joint efforts to assist national authorities in their response to the implementation of preventive measures.

## GFP COVID-19 RESPONSE

USD 1.8 million in funding was provided to more than 16 settings

As of December 2020, catalytic seed-funding for COVID-19 responses (up to USD 150,000 per setting) was provided to missions and United Nations Country Teams in the following 16 countries: Afghanistan, Angola, Bolivia, CAR, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, The Gambia, Georgia, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Mali, Peru, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Trinidad and Tobago. These funds were used to implement a wide range of activities to mitigate the effects of COVID-19, such as procuring PPE, improving conditions in corrections settings, and raising awareness.

### Partnership with Health through Walls

The GFP established a partnership with the medical NGO Health through Walls. The partnership aims to make expert medical advice on communicable diseases (including COVID-19) available to GFP entities working with national correction services. As part of this project, Health through Walls has also produced a checklist on health and hygiene in detention, for dissemination and use in the field.

### Knowledge management

The GFP produced a dedicated webpage on support provided by GFP partners to national rule of law authorities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The website consolidates all COVID-19 related guidance notes and policies developed by GFP partners.

### Technical assistance provided to police, corrections and justice staff

GFP partners collaborated to provide added capacity and support to national authorities in the areas of police, justice and corrections in different settings, including Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Zambia.

# JOINT PROGRAMMES

## Central African Republic

A new joint programme was established to 'Support to the Rule of Law and Reform of the Justice and Security Sectors in CAR for 2020-2023'. The programme is informed by lessons learnt from previous joint programmes, as well as by the GFP and ToE specialized missions that took place in 2019. The programme aims at supporting the reform of the justice and prison sectors, the deployment of the Internal Security Forces closer to the population, and the improvement of women's access to justice and security, including through the investigation, prosecution, and adjudication of GBV cases. UNDP/MINUSCA/ToE/INL (USA) are the implementing partners.

A new programme to support to the Special Criminal Court (SCC) in CAR was also established. The programme will run from 2020 to 2023, and it aims to ensure the SCC investigation, prosecution and adjudication of serious crimes, as well as the Court's effective governance. MINUSCA/UNDP are the implementing partners.



Judges attend a ceremony at the Special Criminal Court in CAR. © UNDP CAR

## Democratic Republic of Congo



The Military Tribunal of Garrison holds a mobile court hearing in Bukanga for the trial of a priority case of international crimes (South Kivu). ©UNDP DRC

A new joint programme was established in the DRC on the 'Reform of the Justice Sector' to strengthen rule of law and stabilization efforts, increase security and protection of the local population and foster accountability for grave crimes and SGBV, with an overall peacebuilding and development approach, while preparing for the gradual withdrawal of MONUSCO. The programme will be jointly implemented by MONUSCO, UNDP, OHCHR, and the Team of Experts on Sexual Violence in Conflict.

A joint programme of the 'Reform of the Security Sector' is also being finalised and will be jointly implemented by MONUSCO and UNDP, in close consultations with other GFP entities including OHCHR, UN Women, UNICEF, and UNHCR.

The GFP and UNDP Global Programme on Rule of Law and Human Rights provided seed-funding to both joint programmes. The GFP also supported the deployment of a senior rule of law expert who worked hand in hand with MONUSCO and UNDP to provide assistance in designing the joint project on police reform.

## Mali

The GFP provided catalytic seed-funding to the 'Stabilization and Rule of Law programme' (PROSMED) in Mali. This new 4-year program sets to strengthen the country's conflict-prevention and peace infrastructure, support the effective redeployment of security and justice actors and restore public confidence in national security authorities. It will be implemented by UNDP in close partnership with MINUSMA, GFP Partners and other key actors.



Computer training is provided to judicial clerks as part of a GFP Mandela Prisons Project workshop in Mali. © UNDP Mali

## South Sudan



SSPDF on the consolidation and implementation of action plans addressing CRSV. © UNDP South Sudan

A new joint project, the first of its kind in the country, was established to provide technical support to the national government and the parties to the conflict to address conflict-related sexual violence, and to develop the necessary legal framework. The project is being jointly implemented by UNMISS, UNDP, OHCHR, and ToE.

## Sudan

The GFP committed catalytic seed-funding to the transitional government's efforts to address existing rule of law, justice, security and human rights challenges. This was done to: strengthen the legislative, policy and coordination capacities of the judicial bodies; empower communities to access their rights; enhance the ability of civil society to advocate for gender-sensitive and human-rights based reforms; and, increase capacity of rule of law institutions. UNDP, UNITAMS and GFP partners on the ground are working jointly to support the Ministry of Justice, the Attorney-General's office, the judiciary, academics and the bar association, among others.



UNMIS Police conducts a gender and children protection sensitization workshop with senior police officers from Bahr el Jebel State, Juba. © UNMIS

## GFP STUDIES AND PROJECTS

### Training Modules for Gender Parity in Peace Operations

The GFP provided funding to a project to develop Training Modules for Gender Parity in Peace Operations. The project runs from December 2020 to November 2021, seeking to increase the meaningful participation of women justice and corrections officers in United Nations peace operations and to meet the goals of the United Nations Secretary-General Gender Parity Strategy for uniformed personnel. DPO JCS/UNDP/UN Women are the implementing partners.

### United Nations Study

The Executive Office of the Secretary-General, with the seed support of the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law, commissioned United Nations University's Centre for Policy Research (UNU-CPR) to conduct a series of case studies on the United Nations' rule of law work and its contribution to the goals of conflict prevention. The project started in 2020 and looked at lessons learned in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Central African Republic, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lebanon and Mali. The study aims to identify evidence of impact across different United Nations rule of law interventions, examining what approaches and/or common factors may enable or inhibit impact. It also aims to identify potential "blind spots," important areas requiring greater attention.

### United Nations Training Standards for Corrections Personnel

Through GFP funding, DPO and UNITAR are developing Training Standards for Corrections Personnel Deploying to Peacekeeping Missions, Special Political Missions and Transition Settings. These tools will serve to better equip Corrections Officers, including Government Provided Corrections Personnel, with a common set of administrative and security principles, underpinned by international standards. The initiative will define the new requirements, expand existing United Nations pre-deployment training materials and facilitate its endorsement by Member States. The initiative is expected to be delivered by the end of 2021.

### Gender Justice and the Women Peace and Security Agenda

Gender Justice was an explicit focus of the GFP in 2020, underpinned by a dedicated partnership between UN Women and UNDP. This partnership explicitly focuses on closing the justice gap for women and girls in complex contexts. A joint policy paper on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and gender-responsive rule of law engagement will be prepared by UN Women, in coordination with GFP partners. The policy paper will be issued in the second semester of 2021.

## Guidance Note on Joint Programming

The GFP is producing a practical knowledge tool and guidance on joint programming for rule of law practitioners. The guidance note will aim to enhance the effectiveness of joint rule of law programming as well as fostering greater coherence across rule of

law actors, providing practical guidance to UNCT and mission staff seeking to implement system-wide rule of law programming. It will provide a common understanding of the key requisites needed for coordination across the United Nations system in the field and at HQ.



## CONVENING THE SYSTEM

At Headquarters, the GFP continues to regularly bring together its partners to discuss rule of law developments of mutual interest. The GFP, for example, facilitated consultations among different United Nations entities on Police Planning, the Integrated Assessment Planning Process, Decongestion of Prisons, Remote Court Hearings, Investigation and prosecution of conflict-related sexual violence, as well as a Human Rights Due Diligence Handbook in Peace mission settings.

In addition, the GFP has convened country-specific meetings (Burkina Faso, DRC, Haiti, and Sudan), facilitated thematic discussions, and convened and coordinated high-level strategic meetings such as the annual meeting of the GFP Chairs/ASG level and the GFP partners ASG level meeting.

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

UNDP's Global Programme continues to engage DCAF – International Security Sector Advisory Team to conduct country evaluations to support enhanced M&E approaches. In the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, these evaluations will also assess the impact of the GFP arrangement and make recommendations for enhanced delivery.

## FUNDING

The Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law greatly appreciates the generous contributions provided by the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

