

FAST FACTS

United Nations
Development Programme



Democratic Governance

The response to the recent global economic crisis by many countries around the world, particularly developed nations, has demonstrated that the state has an important role to play in addressing critical challenges. This is also an important lesson for developing countries as public institutions must have the capacity to address these difficulties while at the same time delivering the benefits of human development.

In response to these demands, UNDP's Democratic Governance Group (DGG) is focusing on enhancing the capacity of the state to make it more responsive, capable, and inclusive. The Democratic Governance Global Community of Practice meeting, held in Dakar in February 2010, brought together former heads of state and practitioners and corroborated this approach. The Democratic Governance Practice (DGP) is supporting this agenda by fostering inclusive participation and promoting responsive institutions, underpinned by internationally agreed gender, human rights and anti-corruption principles.

Working with scarce public resources to target people in need means that governments need to improve the delivery of services while ensuring equity and inclusion at the economic, social, and political levels. Similarly, charting a sustainable course out of crisis without abandoning human development targets requires increased stakeholder participation in governance processes and strong public institutions that can effectively respond to any challenge. It also requires a civil society that can hold their governments to account. Together, these elements set the agenda for DGG's work.

MATTERS OF FACT

- 36% of UNDP's budget committed to furthering democratic governance initiatives in the field
- 52% of the Democratic Governance programme targeted to assist Least Developed Countries
- 132 countries supported by six regional service centers working across all five continents



Our integrated approach

UNDP is the lead UN agency on Democratic Governance, serving 132 countries worldwide - responding to country specific requests and concerns - while providing support for countries to achieve their Millennium Development Goals.

In addition, the Practice has launched a number of flagship global programmes and initiatives from helping enhance access to justice in Kazakhstan, to empowering women in the Arab States become confident participants in the political process. UNDP delivers on the ground, in every region, often under trying circumstances.

We aim to build and enhance the national capacity of each country by concentrating our efforts in **three main areas**:

1. Expanding people's opportunity to participate in decision-making processes, particularly women, marginalized groups and the poor

UNDP supports an election somewhere in the world every three weeks; encourages women to engage in the political process; fosters a free and informed media; and promotes the use of new technologies to give voice to those who previously had none.

2. Making democratic institutions more accountable

UNDP supports one in three national parliaments around the world; helps national and local administrations deliver basic services, fosters open dialogue between communities and local governments, and legal systems that work for all.

3. Promoting international principles of democratic governance

UNDP furthers anti-corruption and human rights principles; women's empowerment; and equal opportunity for all.

Direct action

Furthering democratic governance through innovation

In Sri Lanka, democratic dialogue has been strengthened through consultations between community organizations and local governments. This has enhanced state accountability, which in turn helps to consolidate peace-building efforts internally.

For the January 2011 Southern Sudan Referendum, UNDP, through the UN Integrated Referendum and Electoral Division (UNIRED), managed donor funds of more than US\$56 million in international assistance, procured 3,160 registration kits, 7.5 million ballots and 8,500 polling booths, and delivered polling materials via commercial trucks, helicopters and air drops. UNDP also supported voter education and media training, and deployed more than 500 domestic observers to 62 counties during the voter registration period.

South-South cooperation and knowledge exchange

In UNDP, success is not simply measured through our support to national institutions. We make a concerted effort to transfer and build capacity, and encourage its transferability among other states. By doing so, sustainable, transformative change can flourish. Mexico - a former recipient of UN electoral support - now provides south-south electoral training with UNDP under the aegis of the Mexican Federal Electoral Tribunal and Federal Electoral Institute. The training programme has transformed into real electoral gains, reform and institutional development - in multiple countries including Bolivia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, and even further afield, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Guinea-Bissau, Lebanon, the Philippines and Zambia.

Strengthen accountability in national institutions

In Georgia, UNDP supported the Legal Aid Service in opening 11 offices and three consultation centres across the country, near populations most in need of legal services. In 2010, the service received more than 20,000 applications for legal assistance. UNDP also supported training of lawyers and the public on civil rights.

UNDP supports justice and equal rights for development

UNDP's engagement in rule of law and access to justice has expanded considerably during the last several years managing a combined portfolio of \$140 million. The portfolio reach is comprehensive - implementing initiatives that support rule of law and access to justice across some 90 countries. In Ethiopia, UNDP has supported projects that strengthen women's inheritance and property rights. These programmes were integral in instigating the revision of the Family Code of Ethiopia which now amended, includes terms that provide women individual rights on the same terms as men, including

equal marital and divorce rights. In the Amhara region too, progress is visible, with local laws now requiring photographs of both the husband and wife on the land title. Strengthening women's legal position in these areas is also an important and effective means to decrease poverty and accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.



Democratic governance support	Programme expenditure
Overall UNDP Democratic Governance Support (excluding Global Programmes)	US\$ 1.47b
Civil society contributes to national planning processes, strategies, and policies	US\$ 93.1m
Electoral cycle support, regulations and processes strengthened	US\$ 92.4m
E-governance and access to information	US\$ 47.7m
National, regional, and local governance strengthened	US\$ 762.6m
Legislatures and other elected bodies strengthened	US\$ 163.9m
Access to justice enhanced	US\$ 115.1m
Capacity of National Human Rights Institutions are strengthened	US\$ 41.2m
Anti-corruption implementation efforts are strengthened	US\$ 31.5m
Global programmes in democratic governance	Budget
Global Programme on Electoral Cycle Support	US\$ 50m
Global Programme on Parliamentary Strengthening	US\$ 7m
Global Human Rights Strengthening Programme	US\$ 8.2m
Global Programme for Accelerating Access to Justice for Human Development	US\$ 3m
Global Programme on Anti-Corruption for Development Effectiveness	US\$ 5m
Global Governance Assessment Programme	US\$1.3m

For more information:

www.undp.org/governance

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