UNDP

FUNDING WINDOWS
2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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I. OVERVIEW

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Funding Windows are flexible pooled funding mechanisms designed to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They provide catalytic funding to UNDP's efforts to reduce poverty, and promote resilient, sustainable and risk-informed development. The resources are directed towards countries most in need such as least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS), and countries in situations of crisis and post-crisis as well as those vulnerable to being left behind in the development process. Flexible funding allows UNDP to respond to the varied needs of countries at different points on the development spectrum, tailoring its integrated and cross-sectoral approach to address the unique challenges each country faces.

Integrated Development Planning

UNDP Funding Windows and Sub-windows

Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication
Development Planning and Inclusive Sustainable Growith
Livelihoods and Jobs
Envirnoment and Natural Captial

Governance for Inclusive and Peaceful Societies
Conflict Prevention
Democratic Governance for Peace and Development
HIV, Health and Development

Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction
Climate Change
Disaster Risk Reduction

Emergency Development Response to Crisis and Recovery

In 2017, the Funding Windows supported projects that:

▶ Targeted populations and communities that are most vulnerable;
▶ Demonstrated strong national ownership, in line with Country Programme Documents;
▶ Required catalytic support to deliver the Strategic Plan or could leverage additional resources;
▶ Ensured allocation of 15 per cent gender-specific interventions (defined as use of GEN 3 as the gender marker[1]);

This report covers results achieved in 2017, with support of funding from the Funding Windows, in the areas of preventing conflict and violence, landing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at national and local levels, helping LDCs to achieve structural transformation, supporting electoral reforms, reducing corruption in essential government sectors, and applying the New Way of Working (NWOW) in crisis settings. The Funding Windows were instrumental for UNDP to pilot or scale up interventions, attract additional resources, and drive change. The funds also contributed to consolidating and deepening UNDP's programmatic support in response to emerging issues, including radicalisation and violent extremism.

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[1] UNDP's GEN 3 gender marker is defined as the achievements of gender equality and/or women's empowerment as explicit objectives of the project. GEN 2 projects have gender equality and/or women's empowerment as a significant objective. GEN 1 projects have limited contributions to gender equality and women's empowerment. GEN 0 projects have no contributions to gender equality or women's empowerment.

The FWs contributed to the vision of UNDP's Strategic Plan 2014-2017, helping countries achieve the simultaneous eradication of poverty and significantly reduce inequalities and exclusion. This was primarily in five outcome areas[2]:

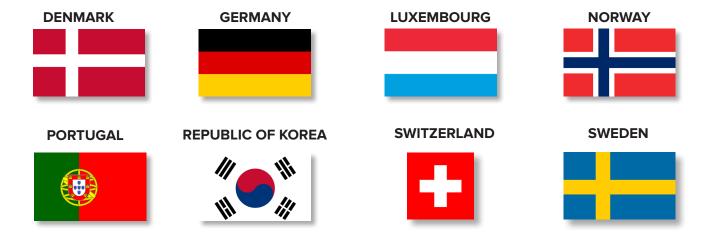| OUTCOME 1 | Citizen expectations for voice, development, the rule of law and accountability are met by stronger systems of democratic governance; |
OUTCOME 2	Countries have strengthened institutions to progressively deliver universal access to basic services (including justice and security);
OUTCOME 5	Countries are able to reduce the likelihood of conflict, and lower the risk of natural disasters, including from climate change;
OUTCOME 6	Early recovery and rapid return to sustainable development pathways are achieved in post-conflict and post-disaster settings; and
OUTCOME 7	Development debates and actions at all levels prioritize poverty, inequality and exclusion, consistent with our engagement principles.

STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

Funding Partners' contributions to the Funding Windows allowed UNDP and partners to align around common goals and contributed directly to supporting country-level efforts. In 2017 a total of $62.5 million was received in contributions from eight donors: **Denmark, Germany, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Sweden** and **Switzerland**. Also, in 2017, approximately $12 million was allocated to 50 countries. More detailed financial information is listed in section VI of this report.

DENMARK

GERMANY

LUXEMBOURG

NORWAY

PORTUGAL

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

SWITZERLAND

SWEDEN

UNDP engaged partners throughout 2017 on the Funding Windows, both formally and informally. The first annual Advisory Group meeting was held in March 2017, and separate policy dialogues were arranged around the Governance for Inclusive and Peaceful Societies (GIPS) and Emergency Development Response to Crisis and Recovery (EDRCR) Windows. Partners were updated on the first project allocations with the publication of the Investment Report in early 2017. The Funding Windows online portal went live in early 2017 and provides partners with deeper insight into the status of funds and projects in real time.

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[2] All projects supported by the Funding Windows contributed to specific outputs under the UNDP Strategic Plan 2014-2017, in line with the results framework of the Funding Windows. The relevant Strategic Plan outputs are listed at the beginning of each FW section of the report.

CATALYTIC EFFECTS AND VALUE FOR MONEY

The Funding Windows aimed for catalytic impact by supporting small-scale actions intended to initiate, expand, multiply or accelerate sustainable results. Funds from the Funding Windows mobilize additional resources and partnerships, reinforced efforts by other development actors and processes for greater impact, and facilitated change in domestic policies, infrastructure and institutions.

The Funding Windows provided seed funding which was critical in allowing UNDP to attract more resources such as in **Nigeria**, in areas newly liberated from Boko Haram, where an additional $2.3 million was mobilized from an initial investment of $500,000, to improve the living conditions of 50 communities in five government areas. In **Colombia**, the Funding Windows allocation of approximately $150,000 enabled UNDP to become a key player in the reintegration of ex-combatants, leveraging nearly $6 million in additional funding and strengthening partnerships.

Funding helped to catalyse change, for example, by providing expert policy advice and options to government partners. In **Iraq**, UNDP provided technical support to the implementation of the Prime Minister's reform agenda, in which anti-corruption was a key focus. The Funding Windows supported a public awareness campaign in **Jamaica** on the SDGs that created momentum across the Caribbean in the lead-up to the Caribbean Action 2030 regional SDG conference, which forged a regional partnership of 18 countries to advance the 2030 Agenda. Innovative approaches were piloted to garner support and promote change such as an anti-corruption pilot initiative of 'integrity islands' in the health sector in **Tunisia**. In supporting the drafting and advocacy for the Democratic Parity Law in **Paraguay** – a law to reform the national electoral code to require all parties to submit gender-balanced candidates in all elections – UNDP shifted the political debate to equal participation.

WOMEN'S POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT

The Funding Windows have a target of 15 per cent of funds to be used for gender-specific activities to ensure a fully mainstreamed and integrated approach to empower women and promote gender equality. Priority for allocations was given to projects which align with these objectives. This was in recognition of the need to address the stark cost that women and girls pay in conflict, respond to the call for greater inclusion, representation and participation in all areas of society, especially politically and economically, and embed gender perspectives into all aspects of SDG implementation.

In 2017, expenditure towards explicit gender objectives totalled 13 per cent (GEN3); however, this figure reached 87 per cent when including projects with significant gender mainstreaming (GEN2). These expenditures were primarily from the first set of allocations made in late 2016 and 2017. Thus, additional priority will be placed on future project submissions for stronger gender components and objectives, which should improve the ratio of GEN 3 projects in the future.

Women's political participation, economic empowerment, and the prevention of violent extremism and gender-based violence (GBV) are among the types of activities supported by the Funding Windows. For example, in **Bangladesh**, UNDP partnered with gender rights campaigns on new research and national women's organizations to incorporate research findings on gender and extremism into local activities, UNDP worked with the Bangladesh Peace Observatory to collect sex-disaggregated data on violence in the country. In **the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** , UNDP worked with national counterparts and civil society to create a statistical framework to monitor GBV, piloted support services for the survivors of rape and other sexual violence, provided vocational training and job placement for survivors of domestic violence, and advocated for the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence. In **Papua New Guinea,** UNDP used funds from the Funding Windows to foster legislative reforms to increase women's political participation as well as organized trainings to encourage more women to seek political office. A record number of women ran for office in 2017.

II. STRONG SUPPORT, STRONG RESULTS, GREATER IMPACT

Highlights of results achieved with support from the Funding Windows in 2017

Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication

Governance for Inclusive and Peaceful Societies

Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

Emergency Development Response to Crisis and Recovery

- **Women's economic empowerment**
- **Emergency livelihoods and recovery**
- **Youth economic empowerment and prevention of violent extremism**

Map labels

REPUBLIC OF BELARUS
UKRAINE
MONGOLIA
THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF
KOSOVO MACEDONIA
ALBANIA
AZERBAIJAN
TURKMENISTAN
LEBANON
TUNISIA
IRAQ
JORDAN
PAKISTAN
NEPAL
MOROCCO
BANGLADESH
MEXICO
HAITI
MYANMAR
BELIZE JAMAICA
DOMINICA
VIETNAM
EL SALVADOR
CHAD
PHILIPPINES
COSTA RICA
NIGER
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
SIERRA LEONE
GUINEA-BISSAU
CAMEROON
SOUTH SUDAN
SOMALIA
COLOMBIA
LIBERIA GHANA
NIGERIA
MALDIVES
SRI LANKA
SURINAME
ECUADOR
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
PERU
PAPUA NEW GUINEA
BOLIVIA
PARAGUAY
CHILE
ARGENTINA

HAITI
Following Hurricane Matthew, UNDP supported the economic recovery of 600 young, vulnerable women affected by recurrent violence and disasters in Grand Goave. Specialists were deployed to serve as mentors, delivering group trainings and personalized technical assistance on management, customer service, order and quality, cost and finance, sales and marketing. Additionally, start-up grants were provided to those who lost their equipment to restart economic activities.

SIERRA LEONE
To help affected population and communities to kickstart recovery from flooding and mudslide, UNDP provided cash for work, enterprise training and initial grants to 600 victims/survivors in the areas around Freetown. The Cash for Work project was tailored to fit the needs of the communities, such as cleaning of drainages, construction of gabions, waste sorting and composting.

CAMEROON
12,341 Koranic students benefited as a result of UNDP's initiative of using sports as a tool for social inclusion, 44 Koranic coaches of sports were trained to introduce citizenship and vocational education into their training curriculum.

CHAD
In the Southern region, UNDP helped improve the living conditions for 183 women, including among internally displaced persons (IDPs), through training in business skills and provision of small-scale grants. 120 women were provided with capacity building in conflict management, mediation and prevention of violent extremism and radicalization.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
UNDP provided emergency jobs to 562 youth at risk to reduce their vulnerability of being easily recruited to become part of the armed self-defense forces in the Muslim-majority PK 5 district of Bangui.
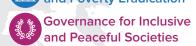
SOUTH SUDAN
UNDP improved living conditions for 4,500 people through social and economic interdependency initiatives, which included skills training for 160 young ex-combatants, vocational training for 216 students and women, small business loans offered to 700 women. The rapid employment schemes offered jobs to 1,000 people to renovate vegetable shelters and schools, and construct meat shops and community market fences.

UKRAINE
UNDP facilitated a large-scale business conference and exhibition which was attended by more than 500 officials, women entrepreneurs, representatives of donor communities and civil society organizations to discuss challenges and ways forward in advancing women's rights in the country.

LEBANON
UNDP helped tackling various forms of violence in schools through sensitization training for 270 teachers, 2,173 students and 1,268 parents on the value of non-violence and tools that help deal with violence against children and adolescents.

NEPAL
UNDP helped restore livelihoods in the area affected by flood. A total of 16,370 affected families benefited from composite vegetable seed distribution. UNDP provided cash for work to more than 1,337 people to repair 27 community infrastructures (14 roads and 13 culverts), benefiting 47,817 people with improved access.

BANGLADESH
In the aftermath of Cyclone Mora, UNDP provided emergency shelter support to 4,500 women and girls and 3,000 men and boys.

PAKISTAN
To prevent young people from being recruited into violence and extremism in Balochistan province, UNDP launched a design thinking session to analyse challenges for young entrepreneurs, which informed the government's intervention to provide support to a further 600 young entrepreneurs.

III. RESULTS BY FUNDING WINDOWS

Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication

Worldwide, poverty rates and income inequality have been declining, but inequalities within countries remain. Poverty manifests itself in many forms beyond economic aspects, including social, political, cultural, and environmental domains.

UNDP recognizes that poverty is multi-dimensional and the nature of development is complex. UNDP tailors integrated responses to different contexts to support countries to achieve sustainable development. These holistic solutions are socially inclusive, gender responsive, environmentally sustainable and economically durable. UNDP's approach focuses on the rights of poor and vulnerable groups, including women, to secure access to decent work, livelihoods, basic needs (including food, water, sanitation, and shelter), and to benefit from a healthy environment.

An important component of the Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication (SDPE) Funding Window is the integration of the 2030 Agenda into national and sub-national development plans and the strengthening of country capacities for SDG monitoring and reporting. In 2017, the Funding Windows prioritized six countries to receive funding to implement SDGs at national and sub-national levels: **Argentina, Azerbaijan, Guinea-Bissau, Jamaica, Mongolia, Somalia**

This window had the greatest unmet demand, in part because of the importance of the 2030 Agenda globally and the need to accelerate SDG implementation and support to national planning. In Africa, "at risk" countries were given a boost to national development planning from an inequality and a risk resilience perspective using a peace and development planning nexus. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the demand for support arose from the launch of the Regional Human Development Report and the United Nations Development Group's offer to fast-track SDG implementation through the Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) approach.[3]

Related Strategic Plan output(s):

7.3 National development plans to address poverty and inequality are sustainable and risk resilient.
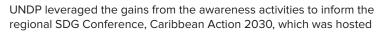
MAINSTREAMING AND NATIONALIZING SDGS

In 2017, the Funding Windows allowed UNDP to help countries develop SDG roadmaps, align SDGs with national priorities and identify gaps and key accelerators for SDG progress. At the national level, such support included:
▶ Undertaking assessments of the level of alignment between key national strategies and SDGs and proposing nationalized SDGs, through the MAPS approach;
▶ Developing action plans on SDGs and facilitating consultations to agree on national goals, targets and indicators;
▶ Building the capacity of policy makers to apply modelling tools that can strengthen integrated policy making for the SDGs, and
▶ Supporting sensitization and awareness campaigns.

[3] The Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) missions are in-country integrated support missions to help assess engagement on SDG implementation and the most strategic entry points for UN support to move the 2030 Agenda forward at national and sub-national levels. The missions are designed in a way that takes into account efforts already underway not only in the country but also at the regional level.

In **Jamaica**, the Funding Windows allowed UNDP to continue its engagement and advocacy by aligning with Vision 2020 Jamaica, the national development plan to guide the country to achieve its goals of sustainable development by 2030. A public awareness campaign on SDGs was carried out in collaboration with the Vision 2030 Jamaica educational campaign. A key activity was the Dialogue for Development lecture series, which was held at parish level and ended at national level, as well as the official launch of the SDG public education and awareness campaign in December 2017 with the participation of the Prime Minister.

UN Jamaica

UNDP leveraged the gains from the awareness activities to inform the regional SDG Conference, Caribbean Action 2030, which was hosted by the Jamaican Government in June 2017 with participation of high level policy makers and diverse stakeholders. The conference stimulated regional policy debate on the SDGs, discussed the measurement of results and promoted regional cooperation on the implementation of the SDGs. The outcome of this conference was a partnership framework which underscored the region's commitment to advance and accelerate the 2030 Agenda.

In **Azerbaijan**, UNDP led the UN inter-agency MAPS mission in close coordination with the National Coordination Council on Sustainable Development. The MAPS mission developed the SDG Roadmap which analysed the drivers and bottlenecks to sustainable development at the country level. Guided by the MAPS report, UNDP also provided capacity building and policy support to the Government in carrying out an assessment of SDG alignment, presenting the Voluntary National Review (VNR) report at the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) and developing a conceptual framework for the National Information Portal on SDG indicators.

In **Argentina**, UNDP provided technical support to the National Council for the Coordination of Social Policies (CNCPS) in coordinating the implementation, adaptation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda. Together with 25 national government agencies, CNCPS carried out an SDG adaptation process to set national priorities and established follow-up mechanisms. The CNCPS also supported sub-national governments to adopt the SDGs in their strategic planning and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) process. In 2017, an initial 12 provinces signed cooperation agreements to implement the 2030 Agenda, and eight provinces started their adaptation and strategic planning process on the SDGs.

Recognizing the importance of partnerships and the commitment to collective action, UNDP brought together national and local governments, the private sector, civil society and non-traditional players in the development arena (such as social enterprises, traditional leaders, religious organizations and academia). For example, UNDP supported the Argentinean International Cooperation Network to develop an online platform to showcase non-governmental organization (NGO) projects that contributed to SDG achievements. UNDP collaborated with the Center for Global Health Studies to establish the Argentine Academic Network in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. UNDP also partnered with the National Institute for Women to develop a capacity building plan for SDG focal points on gender mainstreaming and the human rights-based approach regarding the 2030 Agenda. UNDP also joined with UN agencies, such as the Global Compact, to drive business awareness and action in support of achieving the SDGs.

LANDING THE SDGS LOCALLY

UNDP recognizes that local governments are key players in transforming the 2030 Agenda from a global vision into a local reality and that local communities and stakeholders, who know individual and collective needs and capacities best, are critical partners in implementing and realizing the global goals. Therefore, UNDP works at the local level to improve strategic planning, service delivery and alignment of local policies and resources with a renewed vision. At the same time, UNDP facilitates the articulation of local actors and the creation of regional partnerships.

In **Guinea-Bissau**, the Funding Windows contributed to a larger local economic development project, which helped build capacities of local, regional and national state authorities to coordinate development planning. A pilot initiative in the Cacheu region established structures and a set of tools and systems for inclusive and participatory local development planning and ensured regional development plans were consistent with national sector strategies. This initiative strengthened the capacities of key ministries to coordinate regional planning processes, through training national and regional technical teams in the creation of local planning committees in three sectors of the region. The project also enabled and supported the partnership with the National School of Public Administration to deliver trainings and integrate local development participatory planning in its curriculum for civil service training. In terms of South-South learning and cooperation, a study mission was organized to Mozambique to share experiences of development and decentralization, given Mozambique's experience in training local level civil servants.

In **Mongolia**, the Government's approval of its long-term Sustainable Development Vision (SDV) 2030 created a strong enabling environment for UNDP to engage municipal authorities in SDG-centred cooperation, joint project initiatives and co-financing. Through the Funding Windows, UNDP supported the localization of SDGs for the capital city, Ulaanbaatar, where half the country's population resides, through the development of an SDG roadmap, financing strategy and data collection framework. This roadmap translated the global SDGs into city baselines and targets to adjust them to the local context and enhanced the commitment and buy-in from city authorities. The SDG financing strategy analysed the current structure of the city budget, legal and policy constraints, and changes in patterns of the budgetary revenue and expenditure. UNDP helped draft Ulaanbaatar's SDG data methodology, which covered 127 indicators and defined the source and frequency of data collection. The proposed indicators, baselines and targets provided the basis for an online dashboard to track the status of implementation and progress of relevant SDGs for the city. To ensure continued focus and momentum, UNDP advised the city authorities to establish a dedicated SDG council that would facilitate SDG alignment in defining priorities for the city's medium to long-term plans and policies while ensuring that the budget decision making process would be SDG-informed.

Somalia has been part of a targeted UNDP global programme on SDGs and countries in crisis, which focuses on facilitating federal and state level cooperation in setting development goals and targets, as well as development planning. In Somalia, responsibility for localizing the SDGs at the state level is that of each Federal Member State. Regional differences across Somalia required tailoring the SDGs to each specific context at the local level. The Funding Windows contributed to the development of capacities of the Federal Government of Somalia and the Federal Member States to undertake planning, M&E and aid coordination including reporting. This collaboration contributed to fostering dialogue and peace among states and communities, improving centralized planning efforts, and strengthening the national ministries and state governments.

UNDP carried out several workshops and SDG awareness-raising campaigns and provided technical support to the Federal Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation to coordinate exchanges and learning as well as stimulate coherence and alignment between national and state led actions. This helped secure local buy-in, which is essential to ensure development of localized SDGs that are locally driven and owned. For example, UNDP provided technical expertise to mainstreaming the SDGs into the national development plan and aligned the indicators, thus easing reporting at both national and global level. It also guided the development of the Government's 2017 annual workplan and assisted four Federal Member States in aligning their annual implementation plans with SDG indicators, ensuring the strong ownership of the national development plan and the state implementation plans.

STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES OF MONITORING AND REPORTING SDGS

The 2030 Agenda is explicit about the need for high quality data that are timely and viable, and disaggregated by income, age, race, gender, ethnicity, migratory status, physical disability and geographical location. Such statistics are a key instrument for implementing the SDGs and for monitoring countries' progress. The annual High-level Political Forum (HLPF), convened by the UN General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, offers the opportunity to review progress in addressing the ambitious challenges of the 2030 Agenda and raises awareness of the critical role of sound, disaggregated data to acheve the objective of leaving no one behind.

UNDP supported the development of national statistical capacity to monitor SDG progress and produce SDG reports, enabling countries to use data effectively for SDG implementation and monitoring. This was done through capacity building, developing indicators in new measurement areas (such as governance), and brokering innovative partnerships to address data gaps. The support provided through the Funding Windows in 2017 included support for mapping available SDG-related data; assessing the readiness of national statistical systems; building data and reporting capacities of national stakeholders; and supporting the preparation of the first national SDG reports and voluntary reports for presentation at the HLPF.

In **Argentina**, the Funding Windows contribution was used to develop an SDG follow-up online platform with statistical information on baselines and goals for 222 selected indicators. The platform provided a simple and informative view of the global and national SDG commitments, and Argentina's progress towards achieving the goals. UNDP also supported Argentina's participation in the VNR at the HLPF in July 2017. There, Argentina presented its national report and introduced the 96 prioritized national objectives for the 17 SDGs and their corresponding 222 indicators. The VNR encouraged the national government to accelerate its efforts and advance in developing SDG follow-up mechanisms. It also permitted a substantive effort to review available national statistics to present updated and disaggregated data on baselines for the selected indicators at the HLPF. Data gaps were identified and would be addressed in the national and provincial statistical planning.

In **Jamaica**, UNDP organized capacity building workshops to improve data quality, analysis, estimation and imputation of missing information with the ministries, departments and agencies involved in the production of the SDG indicators. A national quality assurance framework was drafted, and process models for official statistics and SDG indicators were developed. UNDP partnered with the University of West Indies to develop the Caribbean 2030 Regional online platform.

Governance for Inclusive and Peaceful Societies

The 2030 Agenda aspires towards a world free from violence, insecurity, injustice, inequality, corruption and poor governance which persist today as significant challenges to the development of societies. Today, more than 1.4 billion people live in areas affected by conflict, violence or fragility. Additionally, in many countries, civic space has been shrinking and there has been a failure of the rule of law to ensure justice and public security. Social marginalization, political exclusion and limited access to rule of law and recourse generate tensions and mistrust between governments and people. Transitions in many post-conflict situations are prolonged, often due to weak political settlements which can increase polarization and marginalization, which in turn provides fertile space for more violent extremism.

In response to these challenges, UNDP's approach features a stronger integration of governance, conflict prevention and support to inclusive and peaceful societies, aiming to build a more inclusive and resilient social contract between State and society. UNDP's work is guided by human rights-based, politically-informed and conflict-sensitive thinking. UNDP has been at the forefront in supporting the prevention or resolution of conflict and assisting post-conflict countries, including through empowering women to play the role as agents of change in peacebuilding and state-building.

The activities supported by the Funding Windows contributed to inclusive and effective democratic governance, peacebuilding and conflict prevention – essential to achieving SDG 16 on peaceful, just and inclusive societies – which provides the enabling governance environment to achieve the entire 2030 Agenda.

Related Strategic Plan outputs:

2.1 Parliaments, constitution making bodies and electoral institutions enabled to perform core functions for improved accountability, participation, and representation.

2.2 Institutions and systems enabled to address awareness, prevention and enforcement of anti-corruption measures across sectors and stakeholders.

2.3 Capacities of human rights institutions strengthened

2.5 Legal and regulatory frameworks, policies and institutions enabled to ensure the sustainable use and access and benefit sharing of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems.

5.5 Policy frameworks and institutional mechanisms enabled for the peaceful management of emerging and recurring conflicts and tensions.

5.6 Mechanisms enabled for consensus-building around contested priorities to address specific tensions, through inclusive and peaceful processes

6.4 Recovery processes reinforce social cohesion and trust and enable rapid return to sustainable development

CONFLICT PREVENTION

The changing nature of conflict and conflict trends have placed conflict prevention and sustaining peace squarely as a major priority on the agenda of the international community. In countries affected by recurring violence and conflict, a lack of basic services, lack of justice and security measures, and little respect for human rights further erode trust between individuals and governments. To reconnect governments with people and bring life back to normal, UNDP's support focuses on:

▶ Strengthening capacities and application of 'insider mediation' capacities and mechanisms, networks and infrastructure for peace to prevent and manage violence or conflict;
▶ Supporting conflict analysis and conflict-sensitive programming;
▶ Creating and sustaining livelihoods for conflict prevention and social cohesion;
▶ Addressing root causes and structural drivers of conflicts, including radicalization and extremism;
▶ Facilitating dialogue and consensus building.

UNDP leveraged Funding Window resources and capacities to support fragile and conflict-prone countries, addressing the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable populations, such as young men and women susceptible to embracing extremist beliefs, and expanded its support to integrate IDPs, ex-combatants, refugees and returnees into existing communities. UNDP also supported the revision and adaptation of governance systems to ensure the peaceful coexistence of different groups in pluralistic and multicultural societies. For example, in Lake Chad Basin countries, UNDP worked with local authorities, host communities, civil societies, religious institutions, internally displaced persons (IDPs), women's groups and other local actors to promote tolerance and respect for diverse cultures and sharing natural resources.

BOX 1 — UNDP's response to the Lake Chad Basin countries: Cameroon, Chad, Niger

UNDP works across the humanitarian-development nexus, furthering sustainable recovery efforts, ensuring the return of IDPs and stabilizing communities ravaged by the Boko Haram insurgency. The insurgency in North East Nigeria and the neighbouring countries Cameroon, Chad and Niger displaced over 10 million people from their homes. The adverse development impact is particularly harsh, given that these areas were already poor, with low levels of human development, and in environmentally constrained settings. According to the World Bank, damage and loss in North East Nigeria alone is estimated at almost $9 billion with the bulk of the losses (79 per cent) attributed to agriculture ($3.7 billion) and private housing ($3.3 billion).

UNDP allocated funding to the Lake Chad Basin countries to support conflict prevention and peacebuilding, stabilization, livelihoods and preventing violent extremism. The seed funding from the Funding Windows supported common efforts across borders between Cameroon, Chad and Niger, as well as in tandem with Nigeria and the Central African Republic. The contributions helped to complement and attract additional donor support and paved the way for a cross-border project between Cameroon and Chad supported by the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO). The project aimed to prevent violent extremism by improving social cohesion among communities across borders, supporting socio-economic opportunities for youth, and engaging in public information campaigns.

CAMEROON

With the support of the Funding Window, UNDP implemented an initiative to train and empower coaches and sports teachers to use sport as an instrument for social change and education and to prevent youth from turning to violent extremism. Forty-four qur'anic school teachers (19 females and 25 males) also received training on a new curriculum on peace and tolerance. This resulted in 12,341 qur'anic students being trained on social cohesion and tolerance. Additionally, five associations of qur'anic school teachers were created in four communities, which helped children get birth certificates, the first step towards citizenship and reducing a vulnerability to violent extremism. Dialogues between qur'anic schools and vocational training centres also reinforced life and livelihood skills of qur'anic school students. Two booklets on citizenship and livelihood skills were developed for qur'anic students and used in other communities and projects funded by PBSO and bilateral donors.

Abdoul-Aziz, a qur'anic student at Mora, stated: "As part of this project, I learned new things in my qur'anic school, such as how to live in peace and harmony with everyone, whether they are Muslims, Christians or people practicing traditional religion. I was taught to be cautious about dangerous speeches that tend to divide and incite disorder, like those of Boko Haram. I was also taught a taste for the effort to earn a decent living and the need to learn a trade after the qur'anic school. This job will enable me to be able to do something in life and earn my money and live worthily."

CHAD

UNDP supported conflict prevention, social cohesion and the prevention of violent extremism in the Logone Oriental Region, an area that experienced an unprecedented influx of returnees and refugees from the Central African Republic. UNDP used a two-pronged approach to prevent and address local conflict and violent extremism, especially through intercommunity dialogue among refugees, returnees, and host communities, and supported alternative means of livelihoods, especially for youth and women. Approximately 200 individuals joined 10 peace committees in the four refugee/returnee camps of Gondjé, Amboko, Doholo and Dosseye as well as the surrounding villages. Sixty individuals (45 women) were trained extensively in conflict mediation and now work alongside the peace committees. The project also expanded space for civil society to engage in local conflict mediation. UNDP also produced six short educational documentaries in local dialects that reflect the views and realities of local populations on conflict and radicalization, with a view to fostering community cohesion, dialogue and local solutions. Interactive radio programmes to educate youth and women on peace and social cohesion were also produced.

NIGER

Through UNDP advocacy, Niger's Minister of the Interior signed a decree creating an ad hoc committee to propose guidelines for a national security strategy to serve as a national framework and facilitate the coordination of multi-stakeholder interventions in the security sector. UNDP also provided advisory services on a participatory and gender-sensitive national security strategy.

Eight regional workshops were organized to undertake a situation analysis of the security context and to elaborate a national strategy and an action plan. Specifically, the workshops provided an opportunity to take stock of the internal security system in all its components:
▶ Analyse threats and risk
▶ Identify opportunities and assets to enhance internal security
▶ Highlight strengths and weaknesses
▶ Learn from the management of internal security problems
▶ Make proposals to materialize this vision in a national strategy
▶ Draw up an action plan for the implementation of the strategy

UNDP also helped Niger organize an event for the International Day of Peace on 21 September 2017 under the leadership of the President of the High Authority for Peacebuilding. It was attended by more than 400 adults and 1,500 youth.

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STRENGTHENING NATIONAL AND LOCAL CAPACITIES TO PREVENT AND MANAGE VIOLENCE OR CRISIS

UNDP works to build institutional and technical capacities for States to develop and implement conflict prevention and management mechanisms at all levels. An important element of UNDP's efforts is the promotion of a culture of peace through facilitated consultative processes at the national, regional and local levels. Contributions from the Funding Windows supported capacity strengthening of the national governments and regional partners in proactive conflict mitigation and peacebuilding measures.

In **Myanmar**, UNDP provided support to the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC), which conducted ceasefire monitoring, reporting, verification and dispute resolution functions for the implementation of a Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement. With contributions from the Funding Windows, bilateral donors, the Peacebuilding Fund and the Joint Peace Fund, UNDP provided international ceasefire expertise and institutional capacity development assistance to strengthen the JMC's core functions as well as its local presence. This was the first UN/UNDP country level engagement with the formal peace process and created an entry point for broader engagement. UNDP also supported the UN Technical Needs Assessment, which informed the JMC on international standards, such as humanitarian and human rights laws, and offered recommendations in capacity building activities on disengagement, verification, and insider mediation. In addition, UNDP developed the first Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer baseline micro-capacity assessment, which served as a platform for JMC's institutional development, drafting of the operational policies.

As part of the sub-regional initiative for Lake Chad Basin countries to address conflict prevention, peacebuilding, livelihoods, preventing violent extremism and recovery, the Funding Window resources were used in **Niger** to improve the mechanisms for the prevention, coordination and management of crises. This included reinforcing social cohesion interventions and confidence building between the security and defence forces and civilian populations. UNDP's technical assistance also led to the development and endorsement of a national security strategy by the Government of Niger, which provided a framework for the harmonization of peace and security interventions at the national level. The elaboration and validation of the strategy was the result of a series of capacity building workshops, including regional workshops on security threats and risks assessments, aiming to foster the inclusion of regional realities in the strategy.

UNDP trained 60 people including 20 defence and security forces and 40 civilians on citizenship and peacebuilding in regions with increasing insecurity or crisis. The social cohesion sensitization activities and tools, such as community radios, promotion caravans and citizenship forums, reached 65,789 people, including 33,289 women and 19,700 youth. Two peace committees composed of 46 people, including nine women, were established to reinforce security and cohesion with a 65 per cent reduction in reported security threats in the regions.

Suriname experienced a persistent economic crisis since an economic downturn hit the country in 2015-2016, and this exposed the structural weaknesses of a small and fragile economy heavily dependent on natural resource exports. In response to these challenges, UNDP supported the design of national social protection priorities and developed economic models for coping with shocks. Seed funds also supported activities focusing on social protection, natural resources and human rights.

In **Ukraine**, UNDP assisted the Government to undertake the steps needed to operationalize the multi-Partner Trust Fund. With support from the Funding Windows, UNDP also promoted policy dialogue and coordination at both national and sub-national levels on peacebuilding and inclusive development planning, including the support for the inclusive process of elaboration of the State Target Programme for recovery of the eastern region of Ukraine. In partnership with other UN agencies, UNDP also organized joint events, such as the East Expo 2017 which was a large-scale business conference and exhibition involving small and medium businesses from Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and the Ukrainian Women's Congress attended by more than 2000 people, including government officials, women entrepreneurs, representatives of the donor community, and civil society organizations, to discuss challenges and ways forward in advancing women's rights in the country.