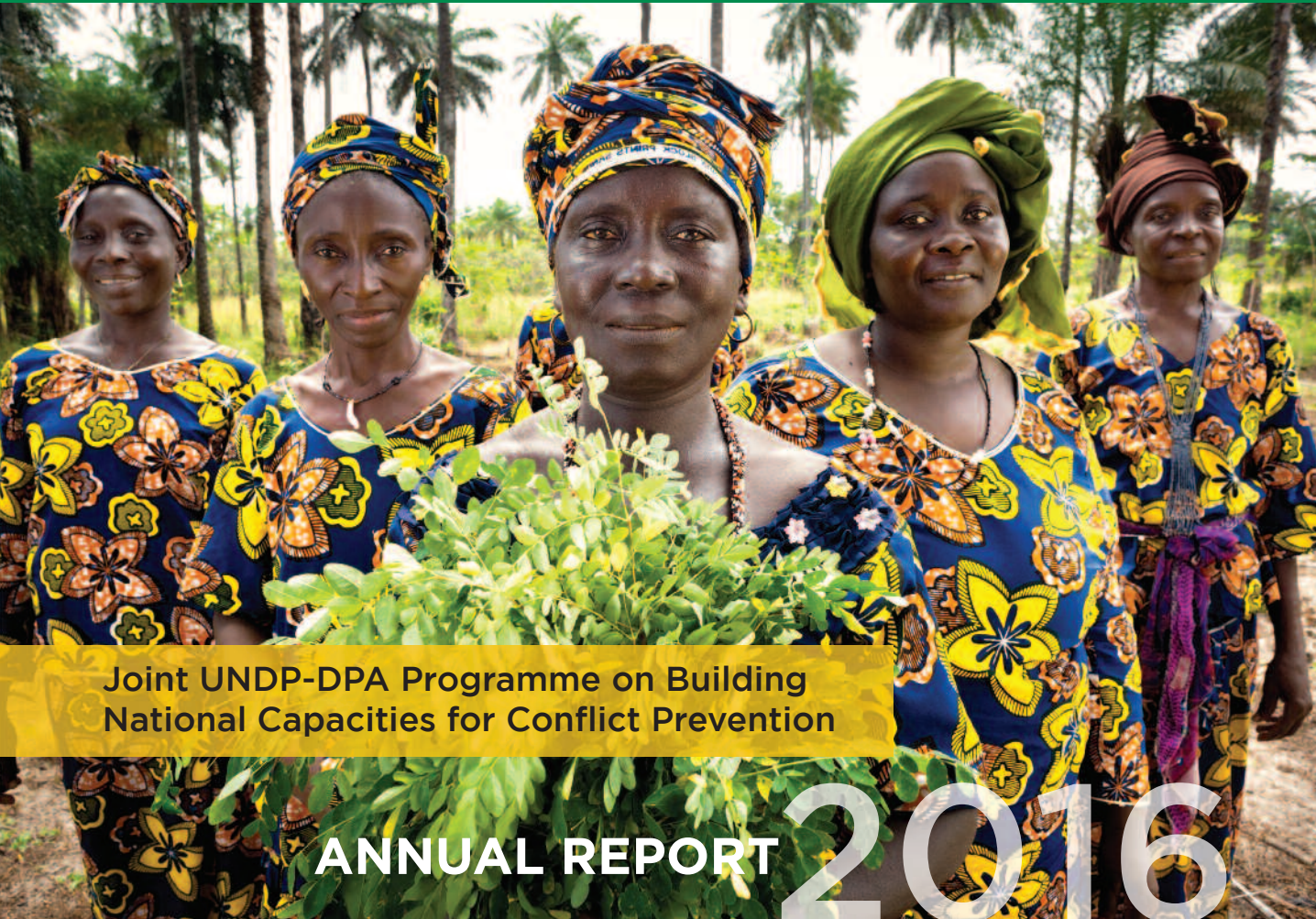




Joint UNDP - DPA  
Programme on  
Building National  
Capacities for  
Conflict Prevention



Joint UNDP-DPA Programme on Building  
National Capacities for Conflict Prevention

ANNUAL REPORT

2016

Cover photo: UN Women/Joe Saade

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# Foreword

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In 2017, as conflict and violence continue to afflict humanity, the toll in terms of suffering, displacement and exclusion remains unacceptably high. The need to “save succeeding generations from the scourge of war” - the noble aspiration of the United Nations Charter - is as compelling as ever. Against this backdrop, the new UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, took office strongly reaffirming his determination to prioritize conflict prevention as a key objective of the UN system. He has presented a “vision on prevention” that addresses the root causes of conflict, helps to reinforce national capacities and infrastructures for peace, and integrates sustainable development, peace, and human rights in a holistic way.<sup>1</sup> He has reiterated the UN perspective that the Sustainable Development Goals and sustaining peace are mutually reinforcing priorities. This emphasis complements the Member States’ own commitment to the 2030 Agenda and to sustaining peace.<sup>2</sup>

Since 2004, *the Joint UNDP-DPA Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention* has been a flagship of this common determination and a laudable example of cross-pillar work. It has a proven track record of enhancing UN collaboration on conflict prevention and peacebuilding. It brings to bear a multi-faceted approach to conflict prevention, capitalizing on the diversity of the United Nations system. Drawing on a dedicated cadre of Peace and Development Advisors (PDAs), the Programme helps Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams to strengthen national capacities and infrastructures for peace.

Whether strengthening “insider mediation” capacity in Bosnia-Herzegovina, bolstering efforts to prevent violent extremism in North Africa and the Sahel, or engaging with women’s and youth groups in the Caribbean, the starting point is the same: promoting

<sup>1</sup>Letter from Secretary-General to Member States, and appendix thereto May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017.

<sup>2</sup>Security Council Resolution 2282 (2016), UN Doc. S/RES/2282; General Assembly Resolution 70/262 (2016), UN Doc. A/RES/70/262

analysis that leads to conflict sensitive UN programming and working with national counterparts to identify areas where the whole UN system can support preventive action.

For the first time, the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development constitutes a globally endorsed normative framework that links peace and development. The deployment of PDAs is the main and most visible output of the Joint Programme. In 2016, there were 42 PDAs deployed globally, most serving directly in the Offices of UN Resident Coordinators to provide strategic guidance and regular analysis, informing the UN's ability to support national partners in building social cohesion, respond to conflict triggers and to address the root causes of conflict. New PDAs were deployed to nine countries: Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Caribbean (sub-regional), Chad, Guinea-Conakry, Guyana/Suriname, the Philippines, Sierra Leone and Sudan. A trend is the increase of PDAs with multi-country or sub-regional mandates - the Caribbean; Fiji and the Pacific; South Caucasus are current examples.

We have an ever-increasing demand by Resident Coordinators and national partners for PDAs - a demonstration of the success of the Programme, and the realization of the benefits of the cross-pillar work. Our partners, including the European Union, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, provide generous contributions to the Programme. In addition, we receive in-kind support from the Swedish Folke Bernadotte Academy through the deployment of seconded peace and development specialists.

An important part of our partnership is the highly valued contribution of the Peacebuilding Support Office, which contributed to cost-sharing of nine posts in 2016. This relationship enables PDAs to support the design and oversight of projects funded by the Peacebuilding Fund. The joint arrangement is mutually beneficial, enabling the PDAs to translate analysis into programming. In 2017, the Programme hopes to capitalize on this ability to combine efforts for increased impact in challenging contexts, working with other UN partners such as UNV and UN-Women. The PDAs also benefit from

contributions provided by UN Country Teams, as well as financial support from other funding streams made available by DPA and UNDP.

This report highlights the achievements and challenges of 2016 in supporting national and local dialogue processes and in enhancing national capacities to prevent conflict. This is by no means easy work, and requires long-term accompaniment. To work effectively and comprehensively on prevention, we need to invest in the resilience of societies; strengthening institutions; protecting human rights and in empowering women and youth. We need to get better at working together to detect early signs of tension and turmoil and to find peaceful solutions. The Joint Programme aims to respond to these continued needs.

We are very proud of how the Joint Programme has grown to be a flagship of UN engagement in supporting countries to develop their national capacities and to strengthen their sovereignty through promoting peace. In 2017, we look forward to strengthening this partnership, and to ensure that the Joint Programme responds to the Secretary-General's call to put prevention at the center of the UN's efforts in sustaining peace and supporting the 2030 Agenda.



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## Secretary-General, António Guterres

“By prevention, I mean doing everything we can to help countries to avert the outbreak of crises that take a high toll on humanity, undermining institutions and capacities to achieve peace and development. I mean rededicating ourselves to the UN Charter and the mandate of Agenda 2030 and ensuring that our assistance goes to those who need it the most. Prevention should permeate everything we do. It should cut across all pillars of the UN’s work, and unite us for more effective delivery.”<sup>3</sup>

## Partnership with the Peacebuilding Support Office

“The Joint Programme works closely with the Peacebuilding Fund to mobilize action for prevention and sustaining peace. To achieve the Secretary-General’s vision, renewed efforts and concerted action are needed to shift global attention and investments from crisis response and management to the prevention of those crises and focusing on root causes of conflict. The Joint Programme and the Peace and Development Advisors play an important part of this shift in efforts.” — **Oscar Fernandez-Taranco**, *Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support*

The Joint Programme partnership with the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) expanded in 2016 and led to an increase in the mutually beneficial engagement of PDAs to enhance the implementation of PBSO funded programmes. PBSO has noted that the PBF funded programmes are of higher quality in countries where PDAs are involved in the design and backstopping of these interventions. In the countries where PDAs are deployed and PBSO

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