

UNDP Results

Tunisia



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Approach

Following the 14 January 2011 revolution, Tunisia embarked on a dramatic transition towards increased democratic governance. The situation in Tunisia remains dynamic two years after the revolution, and the country's transition continues to face a number of challenges, including security issues, high unemployment and delays in the adoption of a consensus-based Constitution.

As a critical partner to the new authorities, UNDP responded quickly to the fast-changing environment in Tunisia, launching an ambitious new strategy supporting key elements of the transition, such as electoral and constitution-making processes, the rule of law, employment and social cohesion. While UNDP's support currently focuses on the most immediate demands of the transition, the organization is also preparing to support Tunisia on issues such as inclusive growth and sustainable development, with an emphasis on youth employment and local development.

R E S U L T S

Support to Elections

In early 2011, the Tunisian authorities requested the United Nations to provide technical and financial assistance to the electoral process of the democratic transition. In coordination with the United Nations Electoral Assistance Division of the UN Department of Political Affairs, UNDP quickly responded to support elections of the National Constituent Assembly scheduled for October 2011. Key results achieved include:

- UNDP aided more than 50 political parties in Tunisia in 2011, working with their representatives to promote collaboration and support for a peaceful and more consensus-based transition process.
- UNDP supported the Tunisian election management body with advice and documents in the areas of electoral operations, information technology, procedures, training methodology, public outreach, external relations and legal issues.
- Upon request from the election management body, UNDP implemented some aspects of the electoral process, notably

the procurement of ballot boxes, seals and stamps, production of public information and training materials and contributing to the master trainer sessions of the polling staff training programme.

- UNDP provided support to women candidates; 169 women candidates participated in six workshops to enhance their understanding of the electoral process and procedures, and to receive guidance on how to conduct an electoral campaign. Personal coaching was provided to 15 women at the top of candidates lists and 45 journalists were trained on balanced elections coverage.
- UNDP produced the “You are the voice,” song which became the unofficial anthem of the elections, and the DemocraTweet social media quiz, to help inform and mobilize voters. More than four million people—many of them young people—voted in the country's first democratic election on 23 October 2011.
- UNDP also provided international best practices to Tunisian decision-makers and opinion leaders and facilitated exchanges among other Arab countries in transition on electoral issues, particularly on setting up the new electoral management body. The electoral management body law was promulgated in December 2012.

Constitutional and Parliamentary support

Following the October 2011 elections, the National Constituent Assembly (NCA) was established, tasked with drafting the country's new Constitution. The NCA has also been playing the role of transitional Parliament, taking on key legislative and oversight functions. UNDP is working with the NCA to support a Constitutional process that is truly participatory and inclusive, and to help establish an efficient and transparent Parliament. Key results achieved so far:

- UNDP trained around 100 elected NCA members on how to hold public consultations.
- UNDP supported a national dialogue on drafting the new Constitution with more than 5,000 citizens participating between December 2012 and January 2013 in 24 governorates across the country and with the expatriate communities in France and Italy.
- UNDP supported the modernization of the NCA, starting with the update of the electronic voting system, which has improved its transparency and accessibility.

Rule of law

In Tunisia, like many other transition countries, strengthening the rule of law remains a central priority. Following the 2011 revolution, UNDP established a strong partnership with the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Human Rights and Transitional Justice, to support initiatives in the area of justice and security sector reform. Some key results achieved thus far:

- In partnership with the Ministry of Human Rights and Transitional Justice and the UN's Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UNDP supported a national dialogue on transitional justice, with the active involvement of civil society and victims' rights organizations. An independent committee of eight non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and NGO networks was elected to supervise the dialogue, and more than 100 focal points from civil society were trained on transitional justice techniques and principles to facilitate the nationwide dialogue. This led to a draft law establishing a Commission on Truth and Dignity, set to be passed in April 2013.
- UNDP provided assistance to the Ministry of Interior to develop new standard operational procedures, for example on interviewing and interrogation methods and crowd control, that are compliant with international human rights standards.
- UNDP provided technical expertise to support the Ministry of Interior's revised Law 69-4 regulating public meetings, processions, parades, demonstrations and gatherings. A new draft law—more compliant with international standards—was produced, discussed and debated with all stakeholders, including the police, National Guard, Ministry staff and unions.
- UNDP produced an initial assessment of the challenges faced by citizens in police precincts—from the filing to the processing of complaints—as a first, critical step towards improving the provision of security services to the population.

UNDP Activities in Tunisia: Resources mobilized 2011-2012

Theme	Funders	Total amount US\$
Democratic Governance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electoral processes • Constituent Assembly • Fostering civic engagement • Justice reform and transitional justice 	AusAid, Belgium, Denmark, Japan, Norway, Romania, Sweden, Spain, Switzerland, UK, European Union, UNDP	\$18,932,000
Poverty Reduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local economic development and youth employment • Economic recovery, private sector development and social cohesion 	Japan, UNDP	4,110,000
Environment and Energy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local governance of drinking water in rural areas 	Finland, Coca Cola Foundation, GoTunisia, UNDP	1,380,000
Crisis Prevention and Recovery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security sector reform • Fighting corruption 	Belgium, Norway, USA, UNDP	1,870,982
Total		\$26,292,982

Source: UNDP Tunisia

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