

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

BUREAU FOR CRISIS
PREVENTION AND RECOVERY





2009 Annual Report



Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery
United Nations Development Programme

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INTRODUCTION

Crisis prevention and recovery remained a top priority for the United Nations Development Programme in 2009, garnering continued trust of partners as well as the strong backing of UNDP's new Administrator, Helen Clark. We at the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) are most grateful for the support. Last year, we strived to deliver on UNDP's HOPE agenda, one that helps restore healthy societies after crisis, provides opportunities for the poorest and most vulnerable, protects communities from violence, and empowers women to meaningfully contribute to their country's recovery. This annual report highlights a range of our key achievements.

BCPR works for and through UNDP country offices. Demand for our services remained high in 2009, from deploying expertise in the immediate aftermath of crisis to allocating seed funding for cutting-edge crisis prevention and recovery programming. In conflict prevention, for example, BCPR worked with UNDP Nepal to create a more collaborative leadership style among seven major political parties to advance national constitutional reform. Through its global programme on strengthening the rule of law in conflict and post-conflict situations, BCPR positioned UNDP as a top-tier expert on the provision of justice and the rule of law in more than 20 countries. Combating armed violence remained a priority; we supported 28 countries' efforts to disarm citizens and create alternatives to violence. Our collaboration with the World Bank on statebuilding progressed, with joint initiatives launched in Liberia and Sierra Leone. We continued to lend our technical expertise to UNDP-supported mine action programmes around the globe and can report that two countries in which we worked—Albania and Zambia—are both now classified as mine-free. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration efforts advanced in more than 20 countries, with UNDP-supported programmes reaching more than 100,000 former members of armed groups.

Our efforts also focused on preventing and mitigating disasters, which, as always, threaten hard-won development gains around the world. Such was the case in September and October 2009, when a series of devastating typhoons, tsunamis and earthquakes struck southeast Asia and many South Pacific countries. Through its presence in Bangkok, and by tapping into its SURGE roster, BCPR was able to provide immediate expertise and funding as well as programmatic support to the UNDP country offices responding to the disasters. Our global network of disaster risk reduction advisors has helped build both government and community-level capacity to cope with weather-related crises in countries like Armenia and Namibia, and we

continued to address climate change risks with comprehensive country programmes while leveraging our global partnerships. As with all of our efforts, we ensured that both women and men's needs and contributions were integrated into the disaster risk reduction and recovery programmes we support.

UNDP continued to make strides in bringing prevention and recovery dividends to women and girls in crisis and post-crisis settings. In Somalia, for instance, the UNDP-supported Sexual Assault Referral Centre in Hargeisa now operates as a “one-stop” location where survivors of gender-based violence can receive medical care and counseling; report assault to the police for investigation; and access free legal advice and representation. UN Security Council Resolution 1888, on conflict-related sexual violence and passed in 2009, gave strength and credence to UNDP's ongoing efforts to stop violence against women during and after crisis.

In the opening months of 2010, we have continued in our steadfast commitment to prevention and recovery. Within 48 hours of the devastating 12 January earthquake BCPR dispatched staff to Haiti to provide programmatic and operational support to the UNDP office, which launched a cash-for-work initiative within eight days—all while humanitarian operations were still scaling up. Together with the Government of Haiti, the World Bank, the European Commission and the Inter-American Development Bank, and on behalf of the UN Development Group, UNDP helped coordinate a post-disaster needs assessment in record time; that document informed the government's action plan for national recovery and development presented at the 31 March international donor conference on in New York, where member state pledges for reconstruction totaled more than USD 9 billion.

At BCPR, we mean not only to effect change, but to undertake it ourselves. For this reason, in 2009 we commissioned an independent strategic review of our Bureau. The results were both encouraging and motivating. We are now acting on the review's recommendations, seeking continuous improvement in the way we support UNDP country offices. Our aim, as part of UNDP, is to be an effective resource for those governments and people challenged by the risks and impact of disaster and conflict.

Jordan Ryan
Assistant Administrator and Director
Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery
United Nations Development Programme



Jordan Ryan visits a UNDP – supported recreational centre in Gaza.

Jacinta

Beneficiary of the UNDP-supported justice programme in Timor-Leste.

Dr. Jacinta Correia, 36, wakes up at five in the morning, just like millions of women around the world, taking care of her two children and rushing to work. But Jacinta's work is somewhat unique in her native Timor-Leste—she is a judge, and the first graduate of the first group of Magistrates and Public Defenders of Timor-Leste. At five in the morning, when it's still quiet, she thinks of her cases and formulates her decisions. After sending her kids to school she spends most of the day at her office, at the Dili District Court.

Dr. Jacinta, as she is known, is one of 11 national judges in the country's district courts. Sworn in on July 2007, she and three other colleagues are the only women among the judges and public defenders of Timor-Leste. They attended a two-and-a-half year training course conducted by the Ministry of Justice and the Legal Training Centre, one of the national justice institutions that has been supported by UNDP since 2003. The UNDP-supported programme works with Timor-Leste's judicial institutions to support nationals like Dr. Jacinta to discharge their duties.

“When I was little I used to see my grandfather making decisions in our local village,” says Dr. Jacinta. “He was what we Timorese called *lia nain*, a community mediator. Although the role was not common for women, I always knew I wanted to do the same.”



“I can say that everything is possible as long as we are willing to invest in ourselves. I was a little girl living in the countryside who ran towards a dream. I know it took me a long time and the path was not always easy, but I am proud to be where I am today.”

Dr. Jacinta hopes that many other women will also become part of the country's government in the future. “I can say that everything is possible as long as we are willing to invest in ourselves,” she says. “I was a little girl living in the countryside who ran towards a dream. I know it took me a long time and the path was not always easy, but I am proud to be where I am today.”



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ACHIEVEMENTS IN CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RECOVERY



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