

BULLETIN

United Nations Development Programme
Washington Liaison Office



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The UNDP Washington Bulletin is a regular update by the Washington Office of UNDP activities and events. We invite you to share the Bulletin with interested colleagues.

DID YOU KNOW? UNDP'S WORK ON CRISIS PREVENTION & RECOVERY

Decades of development gains can be wiped out by violent conflicts and natural disasters. As a result, it is imperative that UNDP work to address the effects of both man-made and natural crises as part of its efforts to cut world poverty in half by 2015.

With a presence in 166 countries around the world and its role as resident coordinator of all UN development activities, UNDP is well-placed to respond quickly and expertly to crises as they emerge. At the same time, taking a long-term approach to crisis prevention and recovery is critical to UNDP's goal of sustainable human development. UNDP achieves this through its committed presence and deep knowledge of local realities.

UNDP's activities in this area focus on:

- [Conflict prevention](#)
- [Natural disaster preparedness and recovery](#)
- [Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants](#)
- [Early recovery](#)
- [Landmine action](#)
- [Security sector reform](#)
- [Small arms control](#)
- [Transitional justice](#)

Did you know, for example, that UNDP is the lead UN agency for addressing the long-term socio-economic impact of **landmines** and explosive remnants of war? The presence of these explosives, in addition to killing hundreds of people per year, restricts access to public areas, limits availability of land for agriculture, and prevents infrastructure repairs hindering distribution of public goods and services.

UNDP also supports national authorities in all areas of mine action including de-mining, mine risk education, victim assistance, advocacy and stockpile destruction through tailored strategic and operational advice and training. The range of activities includes developing legal and strategic frameworks, establishing mechanisms for planning, coordination and quality management, as well as providing guidance on survey methodologies and clearance techniques. Through UNDP's help, some 70,000 mines, cluster ammunitions and unexploded ordnance have been cleared in Iraq and more than 300,000 pieces of anti-personnel mines have been destroyed in Afghanistan.

UNDP organizes, several times a year, management training courses for national senior and mid-level mine action program managers. These trainings provide managers organizational skills as well as mine action-related know-how. Over the period 2000 through 2007, UNDP has conducted 10 senior manager and 40 middle manager training courses for national staff of mine action programs in 42 countries.

Below, we report on some recent initiatives that illustrate other facets of UNDP's crisis prevention and recovery work. **For more detailed information about the scope and results of our work, click [here](#).**

IN EAST TIMOR, WORK-BASED APPROACH EASES POST-CONFLICT TENSIONS

As East Timor seeks to stabilize the country, limited access to jobs and training has been a major source of frustration and has been associated with the violence and destruction that took place during the April/May 2006 crisis.

To address this, UNDP and the International Labor Organization (ILO) launched a Work for Peace project this year that aims to reduce the potential for conflict in East Timor by providing short-term employment to groups that could play a destabilizing role, particularly unemployed youths, women, displaced persons and former soldiers.

The project's manual labor-based approach has proved very popular among rural poor who lack professional skills to access salaried employment. The project capitalizes on rural infrastructure-related tasks, decided in consultation with communities and local authorities at all levels, to alleviate the current emergency need for employment. The full range of Work for Peace activities include repairing and rehabilitating rural roads, cleaning and restoring irrigation canals, cutting grass, restoring road drainage systems and rehabilitating sports facilities. Work for Peace also promotes the participation of women -- who represent approximately 20% of the workers.

This year, Work for Peace ambitiously plans to provide short-term employment for 23,350 people in all 13 districts of East Timor, equivalent to 350,250 days of work.

UNDP in East Timor

UNDP began its involvement in East Timor in December 1999, initially working with the UN Transitional Administration East Timor in the areas of post-conflict recovery, infrastructure rehabilitation and immediate livelihoods support. Since independence in 2002, UNDP's focus has also included long-term sustainable development. **For more information on UNDP's work in East Timor, click [here](#).**

UNDP HELPS MONTENEGRO MELT TANKS INTO SCRAP IN DEMILITARIZATION INITIATIVE

The Balkan country of Montenegro became the UN's 192nd member last year after voting to become independent from Serbia in what was the last unified remnant of Yugoslavia, the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro.

Together with UNDP, the UN's youngest member has launched a new demilitarization initiative, ultimately aiming to slash nearly 12,000 tons of heavy weaponry to 2,000 tons and cut the number of ammunition depots from ten to three.

As a first step, battle tanks used by the Yugoslav National Army in the Balkan wars in Bosnia and Croatia in the early 1990s are being melted down for scrap under the Montenegro Demilitarization Program (MONDEM), a joint project of the Montenegrin Ministry of Defense, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and UNDP. This scrap metal will be recycled and sold; profits from its sale will go back into the MONDEM to fund continued work in Montenegro's demilitarization. This is an important step in Montenegro's contribution to regional peace and security.

Supported by the OSCE and UNDP, similar projects were realized in Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Moldova, Tajikistan and Ukraine. Lessons learned from these processes are integrated into the MONDEM program.

For a CNN video report on this demilitarization initiative and to find out more about UNDP's work in Montenegro, click [here](#).

UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.

For additional information on the above news, please contact communications officer Cara Santos Pianesi at **UNDP's Washington Office** at 202.331.9130 or cara.santos@undp.org.

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