



Crisis prevention and increased resilience

RESILIENT RECOVERY

GLOBAL CONTEXT

Conflicts and disasters can shatter people's lives and livelihoods, leading to insecurity, hunger, unemployment and poverty, often reversing hard-earned development gains and impeding progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Climate-related disasters have increased in number and magnitude. Over the past decade, more than 700,000 women, men and children lost their lives, over 1.4 million were injured and approximately 23 million are homeless as a result of disasters. Conflict, sectarian strife and political instability have been on the rise. More than 1.6 billion people live in fragile and conflict-affected settings, including half of the world's extreme poor. Around 336.2 million people were on the move, including 55 million internally displaced persons, 34.4 people forcibly displaced across borders and 246.8 million other international migrants. The causes of crises are deeply interlinked and require multifaceted responses.

The process of recovery can help people to restore their sense of well-being and restart their livelihoods and reset their pathway to resilient development. Recovery processes can contribute to resilience by helping with rebuilding peoples' assets and livelihoods and reconstructing houses and infrastructure with better standards and specifications. If recovery is not pursued in a manner that is just, green and inclusive then there is all likelihood of a further decline in the quality of life and drive people into poverty.

UNDP occupies unique place and leading role in supporting resilient recovery through its mandate, expertise, and national presence. As reflected in the current [Strategic Plan for 2022-2025](#), UNDP aims to strengthen the capacity of countries, institutions and people to prevent, mitigate and respond to diverse risks and crisis, whether they stem from a conflict, a natural hazard or climate event or social and economic shocks or any combination of them given the cascading nature of events characterizing today's and potentially tomorrow's world.

UNDP'S SERVICE LINES

UNDP defines recovery as a transformative process through which households and communities rebuild their assets, restore their livelihoods, and strengthen their capacities to manage the impacts of future crisis. Resilient Recovery is a systemic set of interventions which improves the well-being of women, men, children, and people with disabilities who are affected by crisis, seeking to build the resilience of communities and strengthening their capacities to adapt and recover. The approach to recovery seeks to start early bridging the gap between relief and long-term development by supporting

communities to stabilize through social protection support, livelihoods, social cohesion and restoration of core governance functions. In the medium and long term, UNDP contributes to social, physical, environmental, and economic transitions, building national and local capacities to establish policies and governance systems that build resilience.

UNDP's approach for recovery relies on a systemic approach bridging short, medium- and long-term dimensions with underlying principles of gender equality, environmental sustainability, and digital transformation. The key areas of work in UNDP's work in recovery encompasses the following areas:

1. **Preparedness for recovery:** UNDP supports governments to anticipate crisis and prepare for it by designing solutions for recovery and developing institutions, policies as well as core capacities of governments and communities to assess, respond and lead risk informed recovery processes. Activities may include designing recovery plans based on prevent understanding of risks through scenarios and models, guidelines to build back better, training on resilient infrastructure, organizing local communities with funds and resources to enable a quick recovery.
2. **Assessments and Recovery Planning:** In the event of crisis, UNDP assists governments to assess the impacts of the crisis and develop recovery strategies. UNDP deploys a team of experts to use comprehensive tools such as Post Disaster Needs Assessment and Recovery and Peace Building Assessments and other tools such as in the initial impact assessment phase (the Housing and Building Damage Assessment and Social Economic Impacts Assessments) to develop an evidenced based recovery strategy that are resilient. UNDP's recovery programmes are informed by detailed sector assessments and analysis undertaken prior to and during the process of recovery.
3. **Rebuilding livelihoods and enabling socioeconomic recovery:** UNDP supports rebuilding livelihoods and strengthening livelihoods systems to enable a more inclusive, greener economic recovery. UNDP strengthens the capacity of communities to cope with the crisis through immediate interventions that protecting livelihoods and assets and transitioning further towards local economic recovery and development. These measures may include a peacebuilding and social cohesion lenses. UNDP livelihoods and economic recovery has a three-track approach: the first track is to take actions meant to stabilize livelihoods, the second track is actions to support local economic recovery through employment, income generation and reintegration; and the third track aims for sustainable employment and inclusive economic growth over the longer-term.
4. **Support for Community-led Shelter/Housing and Community Infrastructure:** UNDP supports the reconstruction of shelter/housing through the provision of social technical assistance, local capacity-building, development of or updating building regulations, and information management support to the government. UNDP promotes community-led reconstruction processes. UNDP assists homeowners and community members to rebuild houses and reconstruct community infrastructure through training of local artisans and construction workers on hazard-resistant technologies and design and provision of timely on-site advice and guidance during the construction
5. **Strengthening governance systems:** UNDP helps restore public administrative capacities by enabling the state at various levels to perform and where possible improve on essential service delivery like power, water and sanitation, schools, and health systems that may have been disrupted. Further, UNDP assists in adapting and enhancing governance approaches to secondary crises caused by disaster and conflict. Depending on the institutional set-up and context of the affected country, UNDP helps with strengthening national systems to lead recovery and reconstruction. Important areas of support include clarifying legal mandates, supporting coordination mechanisms, setting up recovery aid management systems, and ensuring oversight functions of the recovery process. UNDP also helps ensure public participation and information management in recovery planning and implementation. This includes assistance for communications, data management, and outreach to communities and households.

6. **Promoting Renewable Energy for Recovery:** Access to energy plays a critical role in crisis situations as a key driver for recovery, through which households can restore their normal life, livelihoods and get access to basic services such as health, education, communications, agriculture production and water supply. Access to reliable and accessible energy is also critical for the private sector, including micro, small and medium enterprises, to continue operating. In a recovery context, UNDP supports national energy assessments, preparation of investments and financing prospectuses for programming for rehabilitation of impacted energy production, transmission and distribution capacities including grid infrastructure, power stations and distribution networks. UNDP supports promotion of decentralized renewable energy systems including mini and micro solar grids stand-alone solar systems, micro-, and pico-hydro initiatives or local biomass systems through its recovery interventions.
7. **Risk Informing and Greening Recovery:** Recognizing that effective recovery processes must promote practices that reduce risks, UNDP aims to build back better and greener using local and environment sustainable materials for reconstruction of infrastructure. Using Recovery as an entry point, UNDP supports integration of risk reduction and disaster resilience features in recovery programmes to address underlying risks and vulnerabilities and enhances safety of communities through the preservation and restoration of natural assets which protect them from floods, droughts and cyclones. These measures may include increased tree planting, slope stabilization, anti-erosion measures, and integrated natural resource management.
8. **Stabilization** interventions are applied in specific contexts, through time-bound, localized, integrated, civilian programmes with the primary purpose of building trust between communities and legitimate authorities and laying the foundations for longer-term peacebuilding and development programmes.

In all its work, UNDP emphasizes the principle of leaving no one behind, by empowering vulnerable people: women, young people, people with disabilities, migrants, refugees, and displaced persons, to build long-lasting peaceful, just and resilient societies.

KEY DELIVERABLES / SUCCESSES OF THE CURRENT PORTFOLIO

In **Turkey**, nearly 3,000 Syrian refugees and host community members found jobs as a result of UNDP interventions. In **Iraq**, more than 1.2 million people benefited from the rehabilitation of over 300 public infrastructures. To date, 4.6 million people have returned to Iraqi towns and districts with support from the UNDP-led Funding Facility for Stabilization¹.

In **Yemen**, UNDP supported 100,765 women and 421,519 men to benefit from jobs and improved livelihoods in crisis settings between 2019 and 2020. This includes 880 individuals who completed business development and life skills training, enabling them to run their own micro-businesses, and indirectly benefiting over 6,000 people. A further 50 individuals have been upskilled to work in solar energy micro-enterprises, providing an affordable energy source to around 10,000 people. UNDP Yemen's approach to train vulnerable women and youth on how to establish, manage, maintain and promote their solar micro-grid businesses won the Ashden Award for Humanitarian Energy in 2020.

In **Nepal**, following the earthquake in 2015, UNDP over a 5-year period, supported construction of 31,000 earthquake proof houses facilitating low-income households to access government grants, building permits and technical support to ensure that houses are code compliant. UNDP in the process trained more 6842 masons, among them 424 women in disaster resilient and affordable housing and established an information management system to track the progress of housing reconstruction.

In **Sudan**, during 2019-2020, following conflict and heavy floods, a UNDP led PDNA provided a roadmap for long term recovery planning and governance arrangements for managing crisis. to support the restoration of 73 key community collective institutions including community peace and development committees, savings associations, user committees and youth volunteers. UNDP also rehabilitated 15 community productive infrastructure that benefits over 300,000 people; supported asset recovery for over 20,000 vulnerable people, developed the skills of 2,000 people in different income generation streams including vocational and skills training in traditional skill areas as well as handcraft making and personal protective equipment (PPE) production in response to COVID-19.

PARTNERSHIPS

UNDP places critical importance in building partnership for integrated recovery in crisis and post crisis in support of local and national governments. UNDP works with national and local governments, donors, UN agencies, the private sector, NGOs, and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and communities to assess needs, design strategies and implement solutions to improve capacities and systems to prevent and cope with crises and Build Back Better (BBB). Key partners include the following: ILO, UN Women, WFP, World Bank, the European Union, UNHCR, FAO, UNICEF, UN Women, UNEP as well as stand-by partners to deploy additional capacity to support UNDP Country Offices operating in crisis situations.

FOCAL POINT: Luca Renda, Team Leader, Recovery Solutions and Human Mobility (luca.renda@undp.org); Ronald Jackson, Team Leader, Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery for Building Resilience (Ronald.jackson@undp.org)