
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

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CTITF Working Group Membership:

- Preventing and Resolving Conflicts
- Preventing and Responding to WMD Terrorist Attacks
- Strengthening the Protection of Vulnerable Targets
- Border Management Related to Counter-Terrorism

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) was established in 1965 to work with states, at their request, to strengthen their capacities to address a number of development challenges, including:

- Poverty reduction
- Democratic governance
- Crisis prevention and recovery
- Environment and energy
- HIV/Aids
- Women's empowerment

Much of UNDP's work—such as strengthening the rule of law; harmonizing national laws with international norms and standards; training administrative, parliamentary, and law-enforcement officials; and developing country-specific projects to overcome development challenges—contributes to promoting human development and improving socioeconomic opportunities. These efforts play an important role in mitigating “conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism” as identified in Pillar I of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.¹⁶⁹

Although UNDP does not work directly on counterterrorism activities, UNDP's support for democratic governance that enables political participation, ensures public policy for pro-poor growth, combats corruption, and safeguards human rights, security, and justice, continues to be the primary way in which UNDP targets the drivers of violence and fragility that can lead to violence.

Additionally, UNDP's efforts to empower women and minorities and to promote human rights can also contribute to Pillar IV of the UN's Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, concerning “measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism,” underscored more

recently in UN Security Council 1963 in 2010.¹⁷⁰ Moreover, UNDP's endeavors to support better educational standards and facilities, which is thought to contribute to combating the incitement to terrorism, encapsulated in UN Security Council Resolution 1624, by promoting tolerance and intercultural dialogue.

UNDP also often serves as a central focal point for UN activities in the approximately 166 countries in which it is represented. Consequently, UN entities on country visits, including those by the Security Council's subsidiary committees or members of the CTITE, often hold meetings with the local office in order to explore potential areas for follow-up or coordination.

In countries like Kenya and Afghanistan, UNDP has worked with the broader UN community and local partners to boost law and order and support national efforts to address terrorism and money laundering. In Kenya, for example, UNDP was engaged in a Danish-funded project in cooperation with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Kenyan National Counter-Terrorism Centre (NCTC), under the Office of the President, "to assist in the development of national counter-terrorism and anti-money-laundering legislation and regulations in line with international standards and norms, and to strengthen Kenya's capacity to implement the said legislation on counter-terrorism under the broad framework of respect for civil liberties and human rights by training the judiciary, prosecutors and investigators in the application of the legislation."¹⁷¹ As a part of this initiative, UNDP organized sensitization and awareness-raising seminars and training workshops for judicial and security officials, assisted in the establishment of the Financial Investigation Unit, and produced informational materials for national dissemination.¹⁷²

In Afghanistan, UNDP has been entrusted with the management of the Law and Order Trust Fund set up by the United Nations in May 2002, together with the Afghan Ministry of Interior as the executing agency. The fund is supported by the government of Switzerland, which has contributed 3.7 million Swiss francs (as of 2010). It focuses on financing and supporting the national police force in Afghanistan. Specifically, it contributes to the nationwide payment of police-staff salaries and the acquisition of nonlethal equipment, and develops

administrative and institutional capacities as well as the department facilities.¹⁷³

As a member of the CTITF with expertise in development and a comprehensive field presence, UNDP is a member of four working groups of the task force. Though critics in the past have remarked on UNDP's reluctance to engage in counterterrorism,¹⁷⁴ UNDP has acknowledged the link between counterterrorism and human development for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, eradication of poverty, and the prevention of and recovery from violence and conflict. UNDP's approach to the task force continues to be that human development, including resolving and preventing organized violence, can contribute to discouraging terrorist activity.