



The United Nations Interagency Framework Team for Preventive Action

The United Nations (UN) Interagency Framework Team for Preventive Action (the Framework Team) is an internal UN support mechanism that promotes interagency collaboration on early preventive action by: (i) assisting UN Resident Coordinators (RC) and UN Country Teams (UNCT) with the development of integrated strategies for proactively working with national partners to strengthen their capacities to mediate and manage potentially divisive issues; (ii) serving as a forum to address key crosscutting thematic issues in the fields of conflict transformation that are of interest to its member agencies; and (iii) supporting system-wide strengthening of conflict prevention measures through awareness-raising, experience-sharing and knowledge development through the UN Conflict Prevention Community of Practice (CP-CoP). Operational since 1995, the Framework Team is currently composed of 22 UN departments, agencies, funds and programmes that work together to support the development of interagency conflict prevention/transformation initiatives.¹

What we do

The Framework Team is an innovative system-wide initiative based on the principles delineated in the *Secretary-General's 2001 Report on the Prevention of Armed Conflict*², namely that “the primary responsibility for conflict prevention rests with national governments and other local actors,” and the role of the UN is to assist them in the task of building their own mediative capacities and institutions. The need for such support has been reiterated in the *Secretary-General's 2009 Report on Promoting Development Through the Reduction and Prevention of Armed Violence*³ which calls for renewed efforts by the UN system to improve conflict-sensitive approaches that develop national capacities to prevent violence.

The Framework Team assists UN departments and agencies to “*Deliver as One*” in the area of preventive action. It supports the development of integrated, multi-dimensional strategies for understanding, responding to and resolving potentially destructive conflicts. With its focus on very early prevention needs and underpinned by a development rationale, the Framework Team fills a unique niche within the broader conflict prevention and peacebuilding architecture, focusing on countries where there is no

Security Council mandate, no peacekeeping force and no political mission. Framework Team support focuses on three main areas of conflict prevention, with the following objectives:

- 1) Early warning:** To proactively identify situations that are prone to, or at risk of, intra-state or inter-group violence; to monitor such situations for signs of increasing risk of violence; and to encourage and/or facilitate interagency exchanges on recommendations for early action;
- 2) Preventive actions:** To promote and catalyze effective action by agencies and departments by providing a shared platform at both HQ and country level to support integrated approaches to prevent or mitigate possible complex emergencies or other circumstances;
- 3) Preparedness measures and capacity-building:** To ensure that preparedness measures are undertaken and that FT member agencies and departments at UN Headquarters and within UNCTs have the requisite information and skills to undertake appropriate early warning, response planning and implementation of preventive measures.

¹ The Framework Team members include: DESA, DPA, DPKO, DOCO, EOSG, FAO, ILO, OCHA, OHCHR, OSAPG, PBSO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNHABITAT, UNICEF, UN Women, UNHCR, UNEP, UNDEF, UNFPA, WFP, WHO and other partners, as needed: World Bank, the IMF, DPI, OSAA, DDA, and UNODC.

² A/55/985-S/2001/574.

³ A/64/228.



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These engagements are undertaken to raise awareness and strengthen system-wide preventive action in a number of ways, including: the convening of UN agencies and departments in the Framework Team's Expert Reference Group (ERG)⁴ or country-specific working groups⁵; provision of inter-agency support to UNCTs; development of thematic initiatives and knowledge products; and, experience-sharing and practice development through the CP-CoP.

Facilitating Country Support

The Framework Team draws upon interagency expertise from across the UN system to help RCs, UNCTs, Peace and Development Advisers (PDAs) and other conflict prevention specialists develop integrated conflict prevention strategies. Using this expertise, the objective is to assist UNCTs to develop programmes for building capacities for negotiation, mediation, social cohesion, facilitating dialogue, confidence-building measures, preventing election-related violence, collaborative leadership, and other participatory processes.

This approach is often integrated within initiatives such as: governance; constitutional or public sector reform; judicial and legal strengthening; security sector management; youth, women and civil society engagements; education; health; and, disaster preparedness. Headquarters-based colleagues work closely with UNCT members to develop and support innovative conflict prevention and peacebuilding programming. Such programmes have supported: successful electoral violence prevention campaigns; local peace committees; national peace mechanisms; multi-stakeholder dialogue processes; and the building of negotiation and other collaborative capacities among government and civil society counterparts in a number of countries.

Thematic Initiatives

The Framework Team undertakes interagency initiatives to deepen knowledge and skills in conflict prevention and transformation for UN specialists and staff in general. Recent thematic initiatives focus on: the link between food insecurity and violent conflict; the nexus between human rights and conflict prevention, the need for a better understanding

and implementation of conflict-sensitive approaches, and addressing natural resources-related conflicts. In addition, the Framework Team Secretariat conducts numerous informational, learning events including periodic, in-depth seminars and shorter ad hoc presentations and brown-bag lunches to raise the profile and understanding of conflict prevention and peacebuilding issues.

UN Conflict Prevention Community of Practice (CP-CoP)

The Framework Team Secretariat manages the UN-system wide CP-CoP for prevention specialists and other interested staff, providing orientation, briefings, knowledge products, information-sharing, global retreats and thematic training. The Secretariat hosts an interactive knowledge management platform for conflict prevention specialists to engage each other and access information pertaining to conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

EU-UN Partnership: Toolkit and Guidance for Preventing and Managing Land and Natural Resources Conflict

The project brings together UN agencies and departments (DESA, DPA, PBSO, UN-Habitat, UNDP, and UNEP), delegations from EU headquarters and country teams, and UNCTs to support countries to improve natural resource management for conflict prevention. The project has developed guidance for practitioners and training material on land, extractives, environmental scarcity and building capacity for natural resources management. The next phase, beginning mid-2012, aims to support national civil society partners in building their capacities to manage conflicts related to land and natural resources.

Contact information

The Framework Team is supported by a small Secretariat that is hosted by UNDP in the Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR). For further information, please contact us at: framework.team@undp.org or 1-212-906-5818.

⁴ The ERG consists of specialist staff drawn from FT member agencies who provide substantive and operational guidance to conflict prevention initiatives.

⁵ Informal interagency working groups convene at headquarters to support the UNCT in developing and implementing integrated country strategies; the working groups include desk officers and other UN staff with specialized expertise appropriate to the situation (e.g. small arms, elections, rule of law, natural resources).