



GLOBAL FOCAL POINT FOR THE RULE OF LAW (GFP)

A JOINT ARRANGEMENT FOR RULE OF LAW DELIVERY IN CRISIS SITUATIONS

# GFP 2021 Progress Report

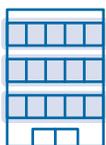


# Overview

The **Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law (GFP)** is a United Nations coordination arrangement. It was established in 2012 by the Secretary-General to enhance the predictability, coherence, accountability and effectiveness of the United Nations' delivery in the area of the rule of law, at country and international levels.



In **country**, the senior United Nations official is responsible and accountable for guiding and overseeing United Nations rule of law strategies, resolving political obstacles, and coordinating United Nations country support on the rule of law.



At **Headquarters**, the Department of Peace Operations (DPO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are responsible for co-chairing the GFP. The GFP includes as partners the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG), OHCHR, UNHCR, UNODC, UNOPS and UN Women. In addition, the GFP brings together other United Nations entities, including the Team of Experts on Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict (ToE), UNICEF, PBSO, DPPA, DCO, etc. GFP partners promote United Nations norms and standards, including gender mainstreaming and human rights-based approaches in crisis and conflict-affected settings.

**All joint rule of law initiatives among GFP partners reflect the integrated 'One UN' approach.**

## **GFP arrangement achieves impact by:**

- Supporting joint design and implementation of rule of law projects and programmes;
- Responding effectively to field requests for the deployment of expertise;
- Providing seed-funding to joint rule of law projects and programmes;
- Conducting joint assessment missions and deployments;
- Facilitating information-sharing among different UN rule of law entities;
- Developing knowledge products and facilitating consultations on policy and guidance documents;
- Organizing regular meetings both at technical and political level, to improve coordination;
- Supporting resource mobilization efforts for joint rule of law initiatives at HQ and in the field.



**Somalia**

On 20th March 2022, displaced women listen to Saido Abdullahi Hussein (in black on right of image), a member of the UNDP-supported Burtinle district local council, at Burtinle IDP camp in Puntland, Somalia. © UNDP Somalia

# GFP Countries



**8**

**Conflict & Post-Conflict settings**

Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Kosovo\*, Libya, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan, Yemen

**4**

**Transition settings**

Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti

**23**

**Prevention and Sustaining Peace settings**

Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, The Gambia, Guinea, Jamaica, Liberia, Malawi, Maldives, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Ukraine, Zambia.



**34 Joint Rule of Law Programmes and Projects implemented** in various settings to provide rule of law assistance.



**Over \$ 13 million mobilized** for projects and initiatives in partnership with UNDP Global Programme on Rule of Law and Human Rights



**More than 160 experts and missions deployed** to support programming and planning at the national level

# Joint Rule of Law Programming

## Afghanistan

Responding to demands for safer access to justice, the GFP facilitated the design of and financially supported a joint UNAMA-UNDP “United Nations Safe Justice Pilot” project to promote the use remote court hearings, as to prevent and respond to threats to security and safety in Nangarhar. Following the take-over by the Taliban in August 2021, UNAMA and UNDP re-oriented the project activities to support the local legal aid system.

## Central African Republic

In the Central African Republic, the GFP provided financial and technical assistance to the effective implementation of a joint programme to ‘Support to the Rule of Law and Reform of the Justice and Security Sector’. The programme, jointly implemented by MINUSCA, UNDP CAR, UN Women and the ToE seeks to address national rule of law deficits, as well as to foster complementarity between the Special Criminal Court (SCC), the ordinary courts, and the Truth, Justice, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (CVJRR). In 2021, the joint rule of law programme achieved several important milestones. For example, in December 2021, it supported the first public hearing of the SCC on war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the Koundjili and Lemouna villages in May 2019. More than 300 victims and witnesses benefited from the protection offered by the SCC. Access to legal aid was granted to over ten thousand people, through nine legal clinics established in partnership with local civil society organizations. Moreover, security and living conditions were improved across various prisons and corrections institutions.



### Central African Republic

Corrections students at the National Judicial School in CAR at their initial training ceremony. ©UNDP CAR

## Democratic Republic of the Congo

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the GFP provided funding and expertise to support the implementation of two joint programmes. A 'UN Joint Programme for Justice Reform', implemented by UNDP DRC, MONUSCO and the TOE, is focusing on strengthening national rule of law institutions and supporting MONUSCO transition in Kasai Central and Tanganyika. In 2021, the programme mapped reforms undertaken in the justice and penitentiary sectors in order to better assist the implementation of the National Justice Reform Policy sector. A digital information system was implemented to improve the management of individual judges. Officials increased their knowledge of different rule of law areas as a result of capacity building activities. In addition, progress was achieved in combating impunity for international and human rights crimes as 14 emblematic priority cases were completed.

A 'UN Joint Programme on Police Reform' has also been developed by UNDP, UNJHRO, IOM, UNODC and MONUSCO in cooperation with other GFP partners and will start implementation in 2022. The programme's objective is to improve the security of the population and the protection of public and private property in the DRC through a professional police force that is accountable, respects human rights and gender equality, and is close to the communities it serves.



### Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Tribunal de Grande Instance of Kalemie in a mobile hearing session in Moba, DRC. ©UNDP DRC



## Mali

In Mali, the GFP provided financial support to the 'Programme in support to the Stabilization of Mali by Strengthening Rule of Law' (PROSMED) jointly implemented by UNDP Mali, UN Women and MINUSMA. The PROSMED intends to support the Malian population to improve their resilience to the conflict dynamics. In 2021, the programmes also sought to ensure that the population had effective access to more efficient and transparent security, justice and human rights institutions. As part of the programme, nine prisons were provided with a locally developed prison management software; the conditions of over 800 detainees were improved through rehabilitation of cells, new infrastructures, and trainings provided to around 400 prison staff on Mandela, Bangkok and Beijing rules.



### Mali

The development of the four agricultural prisons increased food production by fivefold. © UNDP Mali/DS Photography



Also, the GFP Prisons Mandela Project that was implemented by UNDP Mali and MINUSMA since 2016 was finalized in December 2021. As a result of the project, the detention conditions in Mali were significantly improved as 33 prisons were rehabilitated and the capacity of performance of over 2000 prison staff was improved. Moreover, 28 rehabilitation projects were developed, and 1230 detainees were trained and prepared for reintegration.

## Somalia

Multiple joint rule of law programmes in the areas of police, corrections, justice and security sector governance are being implemented in Somalia under the GFP umbrella.

Through the ongoing Joint Justice Programme, high level strategic coordination meetings were organized to tailor planned initiatives, and community dialogue activities were conducted for community members to define their vision for the future in the justice sector in Somalia. Moreover, Community Conversations on justice, security and land issues were organized where 6,375 community members (of which 3,373 women) were provided with an inclusive space to discuss rule of law concerns and solutions.

In addition, in 2021 the GFP provided funding to support nation-wide consultations for the development of the next phase of the Joint Justice Programme. The consultations were implemented by the Ministry of Justice, in partnership with UNDP, UNSOM, UN Women and UNICEF. The outcome of this process will inform the development of the next phase of the Joint Justice Programme due by the end of 2022.

## Sudan

Since its establishment, UNITAMS had been working jointly with UNDP Sudan and other UN partners on the ground to support the Ministry of Justice, the Attorney General's Office and the judiciary. In 2021, the GFP allocated funding and technical support to a joint rule of law transition project to promote agreed priorities and synchronizing the United Nations' implementation efforts in the rule of law area by effectively supporting the transitional government in setting up and equipping rule of law institutions.

As a result, UNITAMS and UNDP Sudan jointly contributed to advancing an integrated programmatic engagement aligned with the strategies and programming of the Transitional Government and the United Nations. Activities, however, had to be paused due to the military takeover and the following political crisis. Rule of law support was thus reconfigured to intensify technical engagement and support at community level, as aligned to the good offices function of UNITAMS.



### Sudan

On 7 March 2022, UNITAMS organized a workshop for Sudanese Female Police Officers on gender equality and sexual and gender-based violence. ©UNITAMS



# Deployments

In 2021, there were more than 26 expert deployments to 13 settings under the GFP umbrella. These included multi-agency online missions in support of a new joint rule of law programmes in Libya and in Somalia; surge justice capacity for the implementation of joint activities in CAR; surge police expertise on electoral security in Uganda; and expertise to develop the capacity of Gambian security institutions to conduct peaceful, transparent, free, and fair elections in April 2022.

**26** Expert deployed  $\longrightarrow$  **13** settings under the GFP umbrella

Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Libya, Mali, Papua New Guinea, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, West Africa (region), Zambia,



# GFP Initiatives

## Gender Parity in Peace Operations

The GFP provided funding to the project “Towards Gender Parity for Justice and Corrections Government-Provided Personnel (GPP)”, implemented by DPO/JCS and UNITAR. The project aimed at strengthening the representation of women among deployed justice and corrections GPP, with focus on areas in which women remain particularly underrepresented, such as operational prison security roles. The project resulted in an increase of deployed women officers from 34% in December 2020 to 42% in December 2021, thereby greatly exceeding the target of the Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy; a pool of 30 highly qualified women corrections officers was made available for deployment to peace operations; nominations from Member States included an increased share of women candidates. In addition, the project received a Special Recognition from the UN Women Executive Director for Outstanding Achievements in Gender Parity in October 2021.



### Mali

Fana prison rehabilitated and equipped by the “Mandela Prisons” project with the support of UNDP and MINUSMA.

© UNDP Mali/DS Photography

## Preventing Communicable Diseases in Prison Settings

The GFP continued its partnership with Health through Walls, a medical NGO with specific expertise on preventing and addressing infective and contagious diseases in low-income countries. The partnership aims to make expert medical advice on communicable diseases (including COVID-19) available to GFP entities working with national correction services. As part of this project, a rapid assessment tool for prison healthcare was developed to serve as a tool to rapidly identify and document deficiencies in a prison health programs in correction and detention facilities.



## GFP Guidance Note on Joint Programming

The GFP is producing a practical knowledge tool and guidance note on joint programming for rule of law practitioners. The guidance note aims at supporting field practitioners in the design and implementation of joint rule of law programmes in post-conflict and crisis situations and transition settings through showcasing lessons learned and best practices in the rule of law area. The guidance note is planned to be finalized in 2022 as part of the GFP's 10-year anniversary.



### Somalia

On 21st March 2022, Fathi Hirsi Ali (in yellow), the founder of the Puntland Women Lawyers Association, speaks to a client outside her office in Garowe, Puntland, Somalia.

## Gender Justice and the Women Peace and Security Agenda

Under the GFP umbrella, UNDP and UN Women launched the new Gender Justice Platform that serves as the main partnership framework to empower women, provide them with services of high quality, increase access to justice, security and respect for human rights in contexts affected by conflict, crisis, and fragility. The purpose of the platform is to bring together new and diverse stakeholders, including States, civil society, academia and UN entities, with a commitment to encourage and support rule of law systems that work for women and girls.



## Webinar Series

In 2021, the GFP organized the “Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law Partners’ Webinar Series” to showcase the joint work of GFP partners and offer an opportunity to discuss ways to further strengthen joint rule of law initiatives. The webinars enabled UN staff working on the rule of law to identify opportunities and challenges at the country-level and to maintain contact, despite the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Webinars were co-hosted by different GFP Partners and touched on issues from gender justice to governance, to rule of law and the protection regime.

## Advocacy

As part of its efforts to showcase effective examples of rule of law partnerships, the GFP coordinated presentations to the Group of Friends of the Rule of Law, to delegates to the United Nations Sixth Committee (Legal Affairs), and to United Nations Permanent Missions. The GFP also participated in a number of public events, including the UN Kyoto Crime Congress, UN Police Week, the UN Police’s Women Command Cadre Meeting, the UNDP Annual Rule of Law Meeting, and the ROLSI Global Meeting of Heads of Components.

## Convening the system

At Headquarters, the GFP continued to regularly bring together its partners to discuss rule of law developments of mutual interest. The GFP, for example, facilitated consultations across United Nations rule of law entities on ‘Our Common Agenda’, the Study of the United Nations University on ‘Rule of Law and Sustaining Peace’, the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy, and the GFP policy piece the Women, Peace and Security agenda. In addition, the GFP convened country-specific briefings (including on Haiti, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen), and facilitated thematic discussions.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

UNDP’s Global Programme collaborated with DCAF – International Security Sector Advisory Team to conduct country evaluations to support enhanced monitoring and evaluation approaches. Evaluations on the impact of the GFP arrangement and recommendations for enhanced delivery in the rule of law area were conducted in Sudan and the Central African Republic.

## Funding

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## Contacts

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