

# **UNDSS Standby Partnership Annual Report 2024**



**United  
Nations**

**Department  
of Safety  
and Security**

# Contents

Foreword	04
About UNDSS	05
UNDSS Standby Partnership Programme	05
Standby Partners Appreciation	06
2024 Deployments Overview	06
2024 Milestones	07
SBP Deployments	08
Stories from the Field	10
Afghanistan	12
Haiti	14
Somalia	18
SBP Network Engagement	20





*“Standby Partners have been a critical component of our emergency response capability, providing expert support essential for the Department’s ability to respond quickly during crises.”*

Gilles Michaud  
Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security



# Foreword



**Gilles Michaud**

Under-Secretary-  
General for Safety  
and Security

As we look back on 2024, the Standby Partnership Programme stands as a testament to the power of collaboration, partnership and innovation. This year, the programme brought together diverse expertise and resources, turning challenges into opportunities, ensuring that UNDSS could respond swiftly and effectively to sudden onset emergencies as well as protracted crises.

Our deepest gratitude goes to our dedicated partners – CANADEM, Help.NGO, iMMAP Inc., RedR Australia, and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation – as well as to the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office for their unwavering support.

But these efforts go beyond providing assistance. The Standby Partnership Programme has built a resilient, life-saving network – one that enables humanitarian operations, ensures security support, and fosters hope even in the world's most volatile environments. Its success underscores the strength of unity and the extraordinary impact we can achieve when we pool resources and work together toward a common goal.

As we move into a more uncertain and demanding funding and security landscape, we remain committed to this spirit of partnership and innovation, building on our achievements, while continuing to make a meaningful, lasting change in the lives of those we serve.

Thank you for your generosity, commitment and for being part of this remarkable journey.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Michaud', located at the bottom right of the page.

# About UNDSS

The United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) is responsible for providing leadership, operational support and oversight of the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) globally.

As a global leader in security risk management principles, UNDSS enables the safe and effective delivery of United Nations programmes and activities in the most complex and challenging environments. To this end, the work of the Department is aligned under a clear mission, to enable United Nations system programme activities through trusted security leadership and solutions.

## UNDSS Standby Partnership Programme

The Standby Partnership Programme (SBP) has become an essential pillar of UNDSS emergency response, delivering additional expert support to critical operational contexts. UNDSS SBP mechanism is governed by General Assembly Resolutions<sup>1</sup> and includes Memorandums of Agreement with five partners.



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<sup>1</sup>General Assembly Resolutions A/RES/51/243 dated 10 October 1997 and A/RES/52/234 dated 22 September 1998 as well as Secretariat Administrative Instruction ST/AI/1999/6 dated 28 May 1999.

# Thank you!

We extend sincere gratitude to our Standby Partners and their deployees for their steadfast commitment and support. In 2024, their reliability and dedication ensured that 100% of our deployment requests were fulfilled.

As we look ahead, the Department will continue to rely on our Partners' resolve to enable programme delivery in the world's most complex environments.

## Our Standby Partners



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

*With special thanks to:*



Foreign, Commonwealth  
& Development Office



Swedish Civil  
Contingencies  
Agency

The **Standby Partnership Programme** has been of immense value to the Department, cultivating strong relationships with organizations who contributed expert personnel to support our global operations. In addition to signed agreements with **CANADEM, Help.NGO, iMAP Inc., RedR Australia, and SDC**, additional funding support was secured through **FCDO**.

The programme has provided access to highly specialized skills not available in-house. This influx of expertise has not only strengthened our operational capacity but also fostered collaborative knowledge-sharing and capacity-building among our staff.

Additionally, the programme's success has enhanced the Department's profile with UN agencies, funds and programmes and Member States, further reinforcing our reputation as a key player in global crisis management and emergency response.

# 2024 Milestones

**2****Emergencies Supported**

Gaza, Sudan

**4****Protracted Crises Supported**

Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Haiti, Somalia

**Strategic  
Reforms  
Supported**

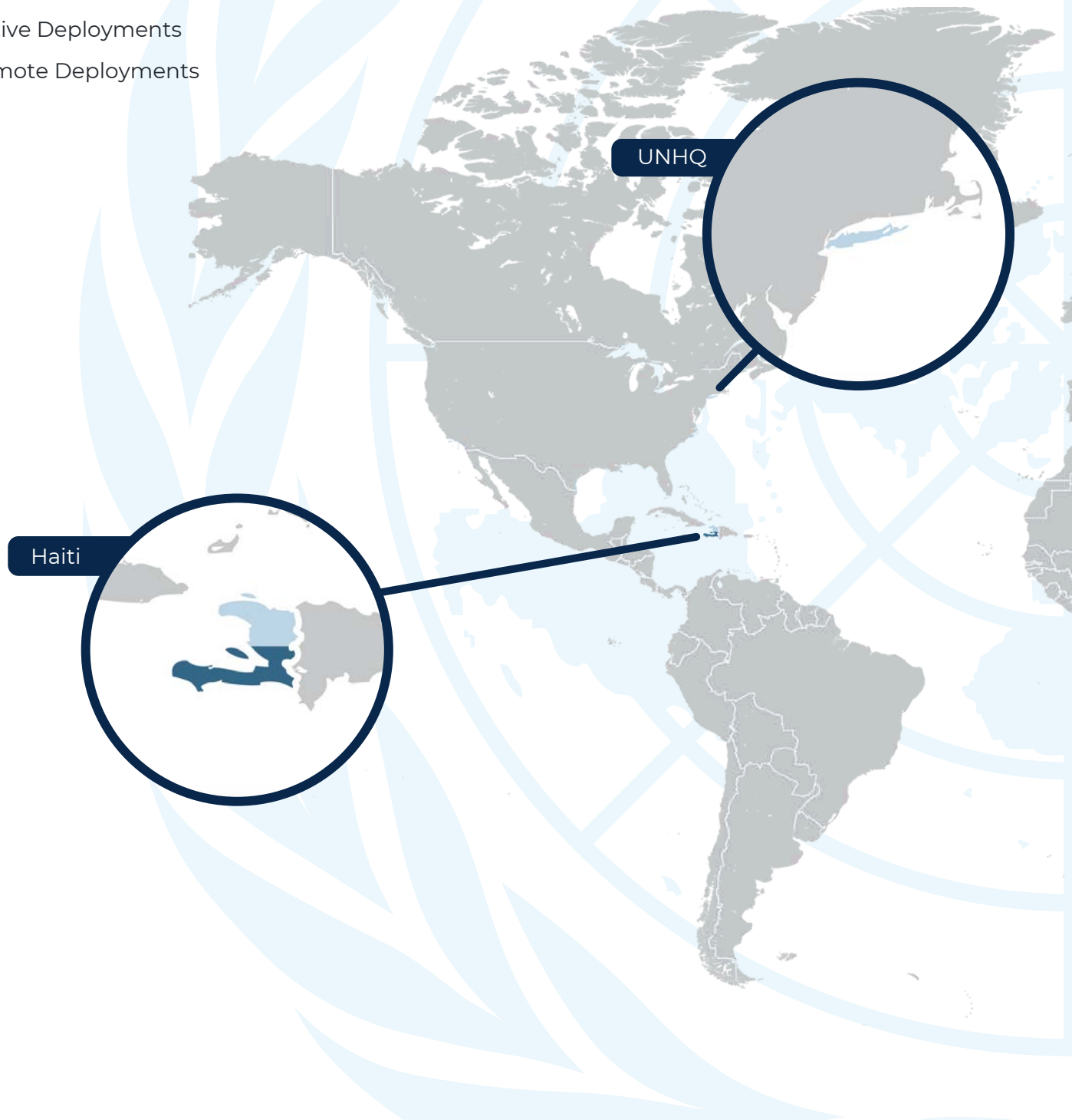
UNHQ

## Exploring Partnerships with:

Swedish Civil  
Contingencies  
AgencyCenter for  
International  
Peace OperationsPART OF NORWEGIAN  
REFUGEE COUNCIL**\$3M**estimated in-kind support  
from Standby Partners

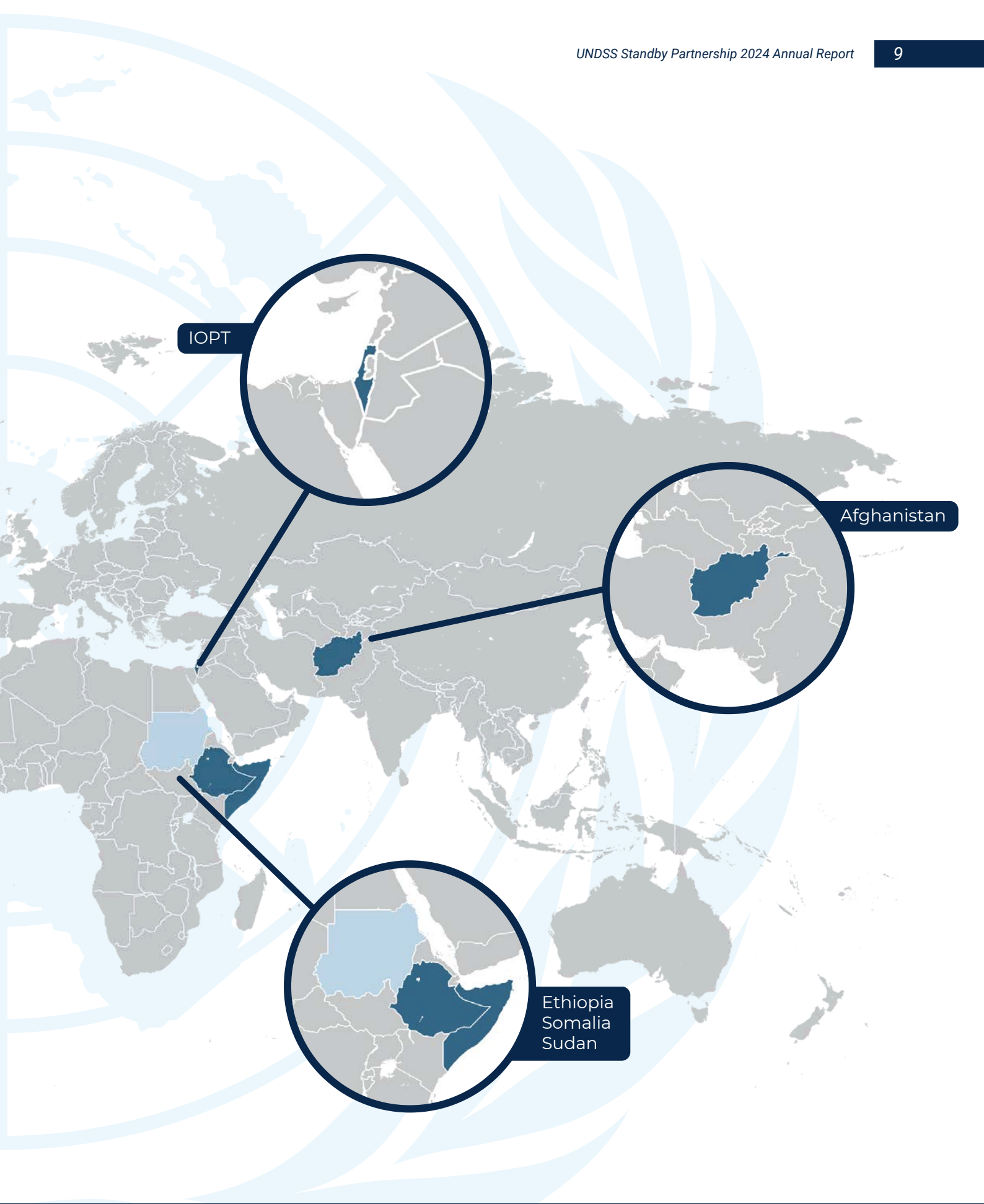
# SBP Deployments

■ Active Deployments  
■ Remote Deployments



Average days  
on Deployment **201.83**

Functions  
Deployed



GIS/  
Mapper



Satellite  
Imagery Analyst



Emergency & Security  
Telecom Expert



GIS Application  
Developer



UAS  
Operator



Comms Specialist  
Graphic Designer



Technical  
Adviser



Security  
Operator

The background of the image is a dark blue gradient. Overlaid on this is a faint, larger-scale version of the United Nations emblem, which consists of a world map surrounded by a laurel wreath. The text is centered over the map portion of the emblem.

# Stories from the Field



# Afghanistan

## A Year of Transformation and Courage

Amidst the shifting tides of Afghanistan's security landscape, the UNDSS team has remained a pillar of resilience and adaptability. In 2024, their story was one of courage, collaboration, and an unyielding commitment to ensuring the safety of United Nations personnel.

Collaboration was at the heart of their success. The synergy with the Security Management Team, UN agencies, funds and programmes, Saving Lives Together (SLT) framework partners, and the diplomatic community played a crucial role in enhancing their response capabilities. These partnerships built trust and a resilient security framework for all UN and SLT personnel, including non-governmental organizations.

*"As the security situation grew increasingly complex and volatile, our team focused on strengthening operational capabilities. We worked tirelessly to foster collaboration with both national and international partners, continuously exchanging knowledge, best practices and innovative strategies to enhance security measures."*

Robert Marinovic  
UNDSS Principal Security Adviser





The achievements of the UNDSS Afghanistan team in 2024 stand as a testament to their dedication and persistence. They conducted over 8,800 missions, a significant increase from 6,500 in the previous year – each mission a step toward creating a more secure and stable environment.

Robert attributes the rise in operational capacity to specialized support from CANADEM and FCDO. He highlights the invaluable contribution of Andre Mohammed:

— “*Andre developed a comprehensive security information awareness system and proactively facilitated the review of the Area Security Risk Management process. His work has been instrumental in safeguarding the UN Security Management System, its implementing partners, and their dependents.*”

This enhanced security system involves monitoring and verifying information from multiple sources, reporting major events, and providing timely, accurate security analysis. Thanks to Andre’s efforts, UN personnel and their families receive real-time, reliable security updates, allowing them to operate safely in Afghanistan’s volatile environment.

Looking ahead, the UNDSS Afghanistan team remains steadfast in upholding the highest standards of security and collaboration, ready to meet any challenge that comes their way. As they continue to support those in need, their story of transformation and commitment will inspire many and stand as a powerful example of what can be achieved through resilience and unfaltering dedication.

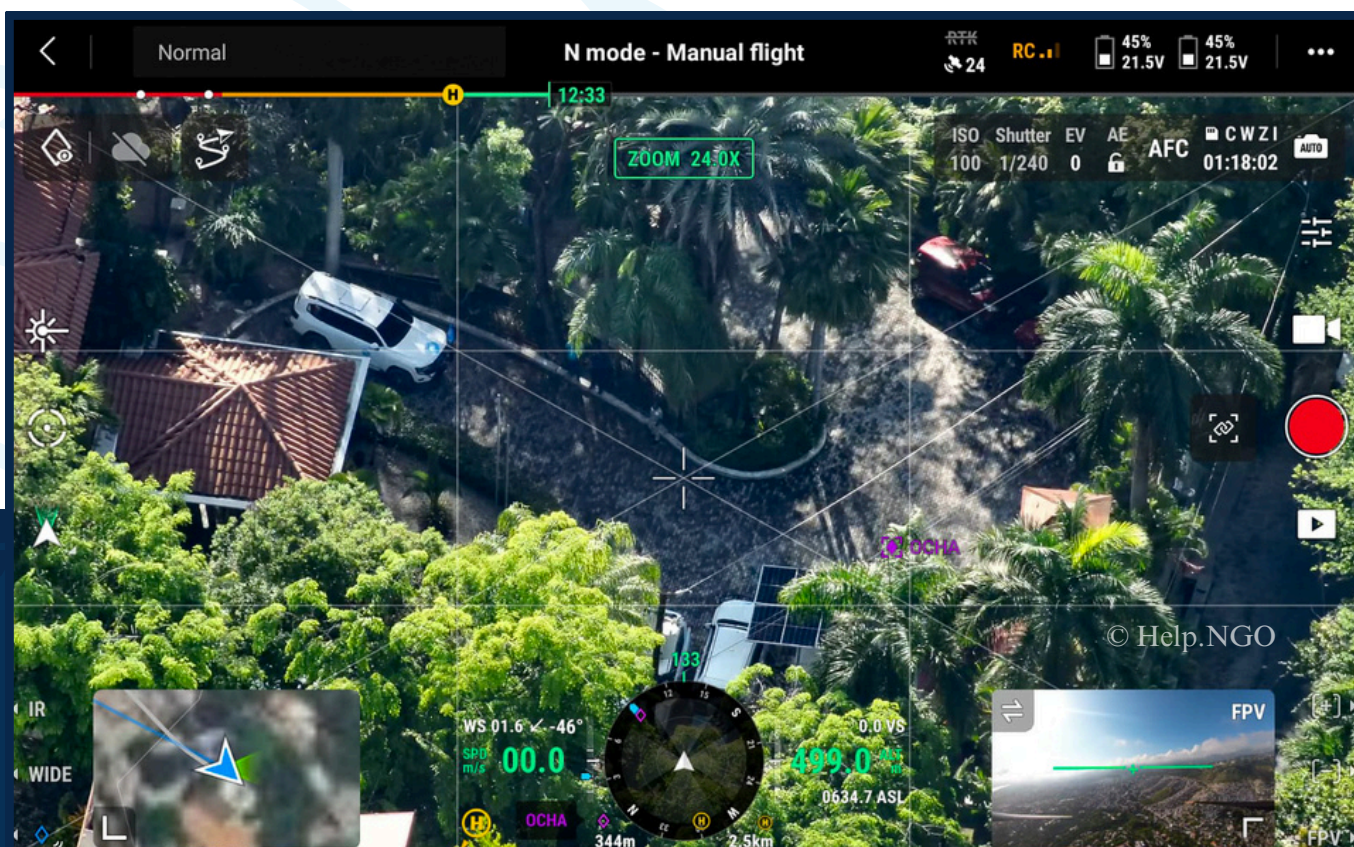
# Haiti

## Hope, Resilience and Breaking Boundaries in Port-au-Prince



In the heart of the bustling and chaotic Port-au-Prince, the vibrant colours of market stalls contrast sharply with the shadows cast by rising violence. Life took a harrowing turn when clashes between security forces and organized criminal groups escalated through 2024. The once lively streets became battlegrounds, and the echoes of gunfire turned into grim soundtracks.

The crisis has disrupted the lives of over one million people. While half have fled to Grand Sud in search of safety, the others remain in Port-au-Prince, heavily reliant on humanitarian assistance.



At the forefront of these humanitarian efforts is Fernando Garcia Lopez, UNDSS Chief Security Adviser. His mission is to enable partners to deliver life-saving aid to the most vulnerable. ***“While the UN and NGOs have not been directly targeted by organized criminal groups, delivering aid in Port-au-Prince remains an immense challenge,”*** says Fernando. Yet, he highlights the revolutionary support provided by Standby Partner deployees from Help.NGO and iMMAP Inc. in delivering next-generation analytical and operational solutions that have transformed how we navigate security risk management.

Kevin, Information and Data Analyst from iMMAP Inc., has been instrumental in conducting rapid security risk analyses in high-priority areas for humanitarian operations. His work has significantly enhanced security awareness, coordination, forward-planning, and crisis readiness. Using this information, Help.NGO Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Operators – Claudia Quijivix, Andres Guevara, Emilio Lara, Javier Haeussler, Jorge Reyna and Pablo Guevara – provide real-time aerial surveillance of high-risk zones, helping the UNDSS team identify and map safe routes for humanitarian convoys. This cutting-edge technology is revolutionizing security operations, ensuring the safe passage of aid even in areas where road access is too dangerous or severely limited.

Kevin’s advanced data analytics have also mapped violence hotspots and predicted potential flashpoints, information that is shared with the Humanitarian Country Team and Security Management Team to guide critical decision-making about where and when to deploy humanitarian resources and plan evacuation routes. This data-driven approach has not only enabled safer operations for UN and NGO personnel but has also minimized risks while maximizing aid delivery.

© Help.NGO



*“Drones have the power to revolutionize how we understand and respond to crises—making the impossible possible.”*

Claudia Quijivix  
Operations Officer, Help.NGO

Navigating the volatile security landscape of Port-au-Prince demands precision, adaptability and courage. High-risk areas, harsh weather and rugged terrain create formidable obstacles, requiring constant vigilance and resilience. For Claudia, breaking barriers in this male-dominated field has been both a challenge and a triumph. ***“As one of the few women in this space, I faced scepticism. But I overcame it with confidence, commitment, and a firm belief in my work,”*** she shares.

Building trust, demonstrating impact, and forging strong relationships with colleagues were keys to her success. Still, the emotional and physical toll of working in such a high-stakes environment is undeniable. To manage stress and maintain resilience, Claudia leaned on a strong support network, mindfulness practices, and physical exercise. These tools not only kept her grounded but also reinforced the importance of perseverance and adaptability.



By integrating technology, strategic planning and collaboration, the UNDSS Haiti team and our Standby Partners are trailblazing, pushing the boundaries of crisis response, proving that innovation can flourish even in one of the world's most challenging operational environments.

The story of Port-au-Prince is one of resilience, partnership, and dedication – a testament to the ability of the human spirit to overcome hardship. Even in the darkest times, hope and solidarity remain beacons of light.

# Somalia

## UNDSS Team Triumphs in Adversity



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In 2024, the **UNDSS Somalia team undertook close to 4,100 missions**, spanning both high- and low-priority operations, to ensure the continuity of humanitarian and development programmes in one of the toughest security contexts. Their tireless efforts not only safeguarded lives but also enabled access to remote, high-risk areas, earning exceptional client feedback for their dedication and teamwork.

Somalia's volatile security landscape, shaped by decades of conflict, the persistent threat of Al-Shabaab, and natural disasters, tested the UNDSS team at every turn. Nevertheless, they remained steadfast, providing critical security advice, conducting comprehensive risk assessments, and coordinating security measures to protect communities and ensure life-saving humanitarian and development interventions could continue despite immense challenges.

One of the team's most remarkable achievements was the **Dinsoor mission**, which successfully broke a nine-year-long blockade to deliver essential supplies and assess humanitarian needs. This groundbreaking operation, involving OCHA, WFP, WHO, UNICEF and NGO partners, was made possible through meticulous planning, real-time assessments, and seamless coordination. The UNDSS team laid the groundwork for recovery and renewed hope in the region, reaffirming the UN's commitment to leaving no one behind.

Joseph Katuramu, UNDSS Principal Security Adviser, commended their dedication, highlighting the pivotal role of the Security Information and Operations Center (SIOC) in providing data-driven security insights, mapping out risks and guiding operations. Their analytical expertise enabled the effective deployment of resources and significantly enhanced situational awareness in Somalia's complex operational landscape.

A critical enabler of the Dinsoor mission was the analytical security data provided by Chris May, a deployee of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). ***“Chris’ expert work in data analytics mapped security hotspots countrywide and accurately predicted potential flashpoints throughout 2024,”*** explains Joseph.



©UNDSS Somalia

This vital information allowed the Humanitarian Country Team to strategically focus and deploy resources, proving essential to the mission's planning and success.

***“Chris consistently delivered reliable assessments that enriched the overall security picture and strengthened situational awareness at the management level. His professionalism, in-depth analysis, and commitment to service made him a highly respected and valued member of UNDSS SIOC team.”***

The Dinsoor mission is a powerful testament to UNDSS' impact in Somalia, showcasing how innovation, collaboration and dedication can transform aid delivery in crisis. Through their strategic foresight and operational excellence, the UNDSS Somalia team with the support of our Standby Partners continues to foster resilience and hope, lighting the path toward a more secure and stable future for Somalia.

# Engagement with the Standby Partnership Network





UNDSS is a proud member of the Standby Partnership Network, a global alliance that brings together 16 UN Agencies and 56 NGO, Government and private sector deployment organizations to share best practices and enhance the rapid deployment of humanitarian expertise. Through this collaboration, we strengthen global response capacities, ensuring that timely and effective assistance reaches those in need.



In 2024, the Emergency Response Team (ERT) joined the SBP Network Duty of Care Working Group and actively participated in the SBP Network Annual Consultations in May in Geneva and Mid-Annual Consultations in Oslo in November. At both events, the team engaged in bilateral consultations, providing key updates and showcasing the ERT's critical role in enabling humanitarian programmes.

The engagements led to invitations to enter into agreement negotiations with NORCAP, the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) and the Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF). Through our strategic partnerships, UNDSS continues to expand capabilities, reinforcing our commitment to supporting safe and effective humanitarian operations worldwide.

For any questions related to the UNDSS Standby Partnership Programme, please contact:

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**YEARS OF ENABLING UN OPERATIONS**



**United  
Nations**

Department  
of Safety  
and Security