Sustaining Peace: Building National Capacities on Conflict Prevention
Internship with UNDP Asia – Pacific’s Governance and Peacebuilding Team - Bangkok, Thailand

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Governance and Peacebuilding Team

UNDP ensures inclusive and effective democratic governance by advocating, advising, fostering impartial spaces for dialogue, achieving consensus and building institutions. UNDP helps institutions in countries bring constitutional reforms, organize credible elections, strengthen parliaments, and address policy and institutional options for peace, risk-reduction and development through reconciliation, empowerment and inclusion.

Conflict Prevention

Capacities for conflict prevention and management: UNDP supports setting up of regulatory frameworks and institutional mechanisms that help actors preempt future conflict, manage ongoing tensions, and reach political agreements. Building leadership capacities that engage civil society and marginalized communities, including women, to mitigate violence and reach shared agendas through participatory approaches forms the core of UNDP’s conflict prevention approach.

Facilitation, dialogue and consensus building: UNDP supports government and key actors in setting up inclusive and participatory mechanisms and structures for shared agenda setting, dialogue and consensus building.

Conflict analysis and assessment: UNDP supports the mainstreaming of conflict prevention in development within the UN system through conflict analysis and assessments.

Southeast Asia

1. Afghanistan
2. Bangladesh
3. Fiji
4. Maldives
5. Myanmar
6. Nepal
7. Pakistan
8. Papua New Guinea
9. Philippines
10. Solomon Islands
11. Sri Lanka
12. Thailand
13. Timor Leste

Internship Milestones

1. Drafted the Regional Annual Report on Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding in Asia-Pacific, regarding national approaches to conflict and peace, and root causes of conflict across countries in the region
2. Worked on developing a quantitative framework for the team, to enable enhanced monitoring and reporting of regional conflict and crisis risk by focusing on country level conflict emergence
3. Compiled the first ever document on regional best practices regarding Youth and Peacebuilding initiatives by UNDP Country Offices, enabling the development of robust country level programming on youth and peacebuilding in Pacific Island nations
4. Developed the outcome document for the ASEAN-UN Regional Dialogue on Women, Peace and Security
5. Assisted the consultative process to support national governments’ in developing action plans to prevent violent extremism

Timeline

Spring 2017
Summer 2017
Fall ‘17 & Spring ’18

Preparation

The internship built on practical skills for peacebuilding practitioners taught by Professor Zachary Metz at Columbia SIPA.

I also drew on the prior degree in Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding.

These experiences enabled me to undertake background research and develop project plans to better understand issues on conflict prevention, peace and security.

Acknowledgements

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• Professor Zachary Metz, for organizing this invaluable internship experience and for preparing me for the work I would be doing
• The extended Governance and Peacebuilding team, for their genuine interest in my thoughts and feedback and for the opportunities provided to me during the projects
• Meredith Smith and AC4 for the serious passion in their work, and unwavering support before, during, and after the internship

Supporting the restructuring of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture:
• The review begun in 2015 resulted in – UNSC Resolution 2282 (2016) and UNGA Resolution 70/262
• Focus on prevention and pre-emption of conflict
• Adding a quantitative basis to the UN’s work in the field of conflict analysis and prediction