



Mainstreaming Human Rights For Better Development Impact and Coherence

There is virtually no aspect of our work that does not have a human rights dimension.

Whether we are talking about peace and security, development, humanitarian action, the struggle against terrorism, climate change, none of these challenges can be addressed in isolation from human rights.

— Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations

About the UNDG Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism (UNDG- HRM)

The **UNDG-HRM** was established in 2009 at the request of the Secretary General to institutionalize the mainstreaming of human rights in the UN's development work. It aims to strengthen coordinated UN responses to requests from Member States for support in their efforts to fulfill international human rights commitments.

Objectives and Priorities of the UNDG-HRM

The objectives of the UNDG-HRM are to strengthen system-wide coherence and collaboration and provide catalytical support for Resident Coordinators, Regional UNDG Teams and UN country teams and their national partners in mainstreaming human rights.

In line with the overall UNDG Strategic Priorities, the UNDG-HRM will focus on four broad priorities:

- 1. Policy and operational coherence:** Promoting a coordinated and coherent UN system-wide approach towards the integration of human rights principles and international standards into UN operational activities for development.
- 2. Leadership:** Providing coherent and coordinated support to Resident Coordinators and UN country teams in mainstreaming human rights.
- 3. Support to national capacity building:** Developing a coherent UN system-wide approach, to providing support towards strengthening national human rights protection systems at the request of governments.
- 4. Advocacy and knowledge:** Contributing to the integration of human rights issues in the overall UNDG advocacy on development agenda and global issues.

We reaffirm that our common fundamental values, including respect for all human rights, are essential for achieving the MDGs.

- Millennium Summit Outcome Document, 2010

UNDG-HRM Activities

During 2011-2013, the UNDG-HRM aims to:

At the **UN system level**, strengthen system-wide policy coherence, advocacy, knowledge sharing and accountability for results in mainstreaming human rights, for example by:

- Developing guidance and tools on human rights-based approaches to development (HRBA)
- Documenting good practices and evaluating the impact of HRBA on UN programmes and national policy
- Expanding the UN HRBA Practitioners' portal: <http://hrbaportal.org/>
- Developing key messages and advocacy tools highlighting the human rights dimensions of global development priorities, such as the MDGs

At the **regional level**, strengthen the role and capacity of Regional UNDG Teams in providing HRBA and technical support to UNCTs, for example by:

- Delivering regional training on HRBA
- Facilitating regional exchange of experience (e.g. on the support to the Universal Periodic Review)
- Deploying regional advisors on HRBA to programming
- Creating rosters of experts

At the **country level**, strengthen the Resident Coordinator/UNCT leadership in driving mainstreaming efforts and in supporting Member States fulfill human rights commitments, for example by:

- Providing strategic capacity development support to strengthen national human rights protection systems at the request of Governments;
- Providing updated guidance and enhancing learning opportunities for the Resident Coordinators and UNCT leadership
- Delivering training on HRBA for UNCTs
- Facilitating the deployment of human rights advisors and thematic experts at the request of Resident Coordinators

UNCT Survey: Responding to Country Demands

To better respond to actual needs and opportunities at country level, the UNDG-HRM conducted a Survey of UNCT needs in 2011. The Survey underlined key challenges that UNCTs face in mainstreaming human rights. In particular, UNCTs are asking for more technical support and know-how on the practical application of HRBA, a strengthened role of Regional UNDG Teams and more global knowledge sharing on human rights mainstreaming. The UNDG-HRM will prioritize these areas through its 2011-2013 work plan.

How to contribute to the UNDG-HRM

To mobilize and pool resources for coordinated support on human rights mainstreaming, a Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) for the UNDG-HRM has been established. On behalf of the UNDG-HRM, UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) will administer the funds by: concluding the standard agreement and receiving contributions from Contributors; disbursing the funds to implementing agencies for projects approved by the Steering Committee; and providing annual financial and narrative progress reports on the UNDG-HRM's financed activities to the Steering Committee and Contributors. The MPTF Office has a strong record of transparent and accountable administration of over 40 48 Multi-Donor Trust Funds operating in over 82 countries with over \$5.3 billion contributions received from more than 54 donors and development partners.

For more information the UNDG-HRM MDTF, please visit: <http://mdtf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/HRM00>

Progress of UNCTs in Human Rights Mainstreaming

Mainstreaming human rights within the UN system has been a cornerstone of UN reform since 1997. Both the 2005 World Summit and the 2007 General Assembly resolution on Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review, reaffirmed that the three interlinked pillars of the UN – human rights, development and peace and security – need to be strengthened. The MDG Review Summit in 2010 further recognized that human rights are an integral part of effective work towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Over the last few years, an increasingly large number of UNCTs have been assisting national partners in achieving equitable and sustainable development results by applying a rights-based approach; for example, at the request of governments, the Ecuador and the Philippines UNCTs have been supporting the National Secretariats for Development to integrate human rights into national development policy and planning tools. A 2011 UNDG-HRM Survey to all UNCTs underlines the UNCTs' appreciation of the value of mainstreaming human rights into their development operations. UNCTs noted that applying a HRBA to the UNDAF had enabled them to have much more focus on vulnerable groups and discrimination in their UN common programmes. In addition, by supporting national partners in engaging with the Universal Periodic Review, UN Treaty Bodies and visits of UN Special Rapporteurs, UNCTs were able to effectively address key human rights issues. UNCTs working in the 'Delivering as One' context emphasized that HRBA has proven to be an exceptional framework for bringing together the different UN values and principles and had emphasized the normative role of the UN.

Members and Partners of the UNDG-HRM

The UNDG-HRM is made up of 19 UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes. It is chaired by OHCHR with a rotating vice-chair, reporting to the full UNDG. Members and partners of the UNDG-HRM are:

DESA
FAO
ILO
OHCHR

UNAIDS
UNDP
UNEP
UNESCO
UNFPA

UN-HABITAT
UNHCR
UNICEF
UNIDO
UNSSC

UNODC
UNOPS
UNWomen
WFP
WHO

UN DOCO provides coordination and secretariat support to the UNDG-HRM.

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Visit www.undg.org/hrm to learn more

Maintained by DOCO, the UNDG inter-agency website.

The screenshot shows the United Nations Development Group website. At the top, it says 'UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT GROUP' and 'unite and deliver effective support for countries'. Below this is a navigation menu with links like 'Home', 'About the UNDG', 'UNDG Working Group', 'UN Country Teams', 'Regional Disaster Teams', 'Resident Coordinator System', 'Programming Reference Guide', 'News and Updates', 'Topics & Tools', 'UNDG Toolkit', 'Achieving the MDGs', 'Common Processes/UN House', 'Common Services', 'UNDG Communications', 'UN Reform & Coherence', 'Post-Crisis Transition', and 'My Account'. There is also a search bar. The main content area features a large graphic of hands holding a globe, with the text: 'The UN Development Group unites the 33 UN funds, programmes, agencies, departments, and offices that play a role in development. Our common objective is to deliver more coherent, effective and efficient support to countries seeking to attain internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.' Below this is a 'What's New' section with links to 'Post-Conflict Needs Assessments Toolkit', 'UNDG Toolkit for Improved Functioning of the United Nations Development System at Country Level', and 'UNDG Workshop: From Paris to Accra and Beyond - UNCT Engagement in the Changing Aid Environment'. There is also a 'Discussion Networks' section with links to 'Coordination Practice Network (CPN)', 'UN Human Rights Policy Network (Hurtalk)', 'Millennium Development Network (MDGnet)', and 'Hurtalk WebPortal'. On the right side, there is a 'Recently added Documents' list with 10 items, including 'Afghanistan - Summary of UNDAF to Support the Afghanistan National Development Strategy' and 'Global Humanitarian Platform, Principles of Partnership'.