

UN TRANSITIONS PROJECT

Sustaining peace and development beyond mission withdrawal



The **UN TRANSITIONS PROJECT** is a collaborative partnership between the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the Department of Peace Operations (DPO) the Department of Political And Political Affairs (DPPA) and the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO) supporting transition processes involving a significant drawdown or withdrawal of a UN mission.

WHY TRANSITIONS MATTER

The enduring success of the UN to promote sustainable development and peace is impacted considerably by the planning and management of UN transitions: if well-timed and managed, they ensure that the UN's configuration, priorities and strategies respond to the most pressing needs on the ground, thereby allowing effective support to countries emerging from violent conflict; if precipitous and ill planned, they carry the risk of jeopardizing hard-won gains and may result in renewed violence.

OUR GOAL

Our goal is to ensure that UN transitions result in the UN adjusting its strategy and footprint in line with changing circumstances and national peace and development priorities to better support host nations as they move from conflict towards sustainable peace and development. We do so by supporting the UN system to plan and manage transitions in a proactive, integrated and forward-looking way and enhance the capacity of and collaboration with key national, regional, and international partners whom are critical to sustain peace beyond mission withdrawal.

OUR APPROACH

To achieve our goal we work across through **four interlinked actions**



INTEGRATED COUNTRY SUPPORT

Deployment of Transition Specialists, technical experts, and the provision of surge capacities to provide UN system-wide transition planning and implementation support.



CAPACITY BUILDING

Delivery of global and in-country transition trainings and mentoring for UN mission and UNCT staff to support transition planning efforts and build and sustain transition capacity and expertise across the organization.



GUIDANCE AND LEARNING

Development of knowledge products and guidance based on good practice and lessons learned to improve organizational practice, contribute to policy development, and raise awareness on ways to address recurrent transition challenges.



PARTNERSHIPS FOR TRANSITIONS

Advocacy and engagement with key stakeholders - Security Council Members, the Peacebuilding Commission, the g7+, OECD, regional organizations, and academic and financial institutions - to inform and enhance the proactive engagement of these actors in transition processes.



As a cross-pillar mechanism, the Project serves the UN system and its partners as a ‘**one-stop-shop**’ on UN Transitions. By centralizing existing knowledge and expertise it provides a more coherent support framework that brings the system together.

PROJECT RESULTS

- **Direct country support** has improved how UN transition processes have been planned and managed in Côte d’Ivoire, DRC, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Liberia, Mali and Sudan.
- **Capturing and sharing lessons and good practices** helped close organizational knowledge gaps on recurring transition challenges, including on: (1) UN benchmarking, (2) financing transitions, (3) sustaining political engagement, (4) host government perspectives, (5) joint programming, (6) Rule of Law and Protection issues (7) Security Council practice in mandating transitions.
- **Enhancing UN policies and practice:** The Project plays a catalytic role in influencing various policy streams with a view to strengthen operational and policy coherence across the development, peace and security pillars. It has contributed to the development and implementation of the UN Transition Policy, the review of the Integrated Assessment & Planning Policy (IAP) and the Secretary-General’s Transition Planning Directive.
- **Contributing to UN reforms:** The Project contributes to four key objectives of the UN reforms: (1) prioritize prevention (2) strengthen field focus (3) deliver on the 2030 Agenda (4) and breaking down the silos.
- **Capacity building** efforts have reached over 800 participants to better plan and manage transitions through in-country and global trainings and workshops.
- **Engagement with stakeholders** has resulted in increased awareness of the importance of UN transitions. Advocacy efforts contributed to recognizing the need to start transition planning at an earlier stage and in a forward-looking manner, reducing the perception of a ‘handover of tasks’.

PROJECT FACTS AT A GLANCE

LAUNCHED IN 2014 ■ PHASE I: 2014-2018, BUDGET: \$3M ■ PHASE II: 2018-2020, BUDGET: \$3.6M ■ NEW PROJECT ITERATION 2020-2023, BUDGET 2020: \$2.3M ■ 10 TRANSITION SETTINGS supported ■ DONORS: SIDA & UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office

CONTACT DETAILS

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