

The UN Interagency Framework for Coordination on Preventive Action

What we are

The UN Interagency Framework for Coordination on Preventive Action (the Framework Team or FT) is an internal UN support system that assists UN Resident Coordinators (RC) and UN Country Teams (UNCT) to proactively work with national partners on issues of contention in order to help them build their national capacities to mediate and manage potentially divisive issues.

What we do

The FT assists UN departments/agencies to “*Deliver as One*” in developing strategies and programmes that can contribute to the better understanding and resolution of potentially violent conflicts. The FT provides three broad areas of support: 1) senior level UN support to the UNCT for strategy development on potentially conflictual issues; 2) assistance in programme formulation; and, 3) the provision of specialized technical resources and inputs to bolster and assist with programme implementation.

The FT draws on expertise from across the UN system to provide technical support to the RC/UNCT. Specific initiatives, combining political, development and humanitarian instruments, have provided important entry points to address: ethnic/religious tension, pre-election violence, civil unrest, inflammatory media, violent political rivalry, competition for natural resources, land disputes and other development challenges.

The interagency, multi-dimensional nature of support allows for a wide range of strategies and programmes. Previous programmes have included: building capacities for negotiation, mediation, social cohesion, dialogue processes, confidence-building measures, election violence prevention, collaborative leadership and other participatory processes. This is often integrated with governance or other initiatives requested by

government such as: constitutional reform, government reform, judicial and legal strengthening, security sector management, youth and civil society engagement, and disaster preparedness, appropriate to the country context.

Headquarters-based colleagues work closely with UNCT members to develop and support innovative conflict prevention and peacebuilding programming.

Framework Team-supported programmes are generally led by a new kind of process-specialist – a peace and development advisor (PDA) skilled in facilitation and inter-group dynamics. PDAs support UN Country Teams and national counterparts in analyzing conflict, understanding root causes, and jointly developing and implementing transformative, conflict-sensitive programmes.

The FT is a catalytic, coordination mechanism that works in close cooperation with all related agencies. FT support is integrated with overall country programming including UNDAF and other programming processes. It complements initiatives from the Peacebuilding Commission and PBF and other peacebuilding efforts. Once programmes are developed, funding for first-year activities are provided by the Joint UNDP-DPA Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention. This partnership forms the core of a conflict prevention approach that draws support from across the UN system, especially DPA’s Policy Planning/Mediation Support Unit and UNDP’s Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery. The FT works with UN system partners and donors to flexibly channel resources to UN country teams for specific programmes as needed.

Why we do it

International observers have lamented that conflict prevention was a ‘theory in search of a practice.’ No longer! The Framework Team is an innovative system-wide initiative that operationalizes the principles of the Secretary-General’s 2001 Report on the Prevention of Armed Conflict that ‘conflict prevention is the

responsibility of Member-States' with their civil societies and the role of the UN is to assist in building mediative institutions and capacities appropriate to each society. The FT brings UN system resources together to generate new awareness, impart a new repertoire of skills, and strengthen existing or build new mechanisms and institutions that can assist our development partners to successfully find consensual solutions to divisive development challenges.

Who we are

Operational since 1995, the FT is currently a forum of 22 UN agencies, departments, funds and programmes that work together to support the development of interagency conflict prevention initiatives. The FT has two co-chairs which periodically rotate among the FT member agencies. DPA and WFP are the current co-chairs in 2009. The Framework Team members draws from its membership: DESA, DPA, DPKO, DOCO, EOSG, FAO, ILO, OCHA, OHCHR, OSAPG, PBSO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNHABITAT, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNHCR, UNEP, UNDEF, UNFPA, WFP and WHO and other partners, as needed: World Bank, the IMF, DPI, OSAA (Office of the Special Adviser on Africa), DDA, and UNODC.

The **FT Plenary** consists of department/agency senior-level representatives to the Framework Team who meet several times a year to review progress of current country engagement, approve proposed countries for future FT engagement, approve interagency country conflict prevention strategies, and identify department/agency inputs to the country strategies.

The **Expert Reference Group** (ERG) is a support mechanism under the Framework Team that provides substantive and operational guidance to the FT Plenary and inter-departmental working groups. Its three major areas of focus are: 1) country-specific technical support; 2) advocacy and information dissemination; and, 3) strengthening the community of practice. The ERG consists of 12-15 UN staff members drawn from FT member departments and agencies, who have

varied and significant substantive and regional experience in conflict prevention and programming.

Interdepartmental Working Groups convene at HQ to work with the RC/UNCT to support the development and implementation integrated country-specific strategies. The core membership of the group consists of the relevant desk officers from departments and agencies, ERG members with appropriate experience in the country or conflict issues, and other UN staff with relevant specialized expertise (e.g. small arms, elections, rule of law, natural resources)

Contact information

The Framework Team process is supported by a small Secretariat that is hosted by UNDP in the Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery. For further information on the FT, please contact:

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