

EU-UNDP PARTNERSHIP ON INSIDER MEDIATION FOR CONFLICT PREVENTION AND PEACEBUILDING

MAY 2026

CONTEXT

Violent conflicts are becoming increasingly complex, with root causes that span borders and defy traditional solutions. Insider Mediation (IM) is a process in which a trusted and respected member of the community affected by, or involved in, the conflict becomes an agent for peace. IMs possess the cultural fluency, local knowledge, and credibility needed to navigate sensitive issues and foster reconciliation from within. Evolving conflict dynamics call for a clearer understanding of how to meaningfully engage with IMs operating in specific contexts, including within conflict systems that transcend national borders.

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The action aims to position Insider Mediation as a recognised and transformative component of inclusive, locally led peacebuilding efforts.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- 1) Strengthen the skills of Insider Mediators, fostering peer learning, and deepen EU–UN collaboration to embed locally owned, people-centred peace efforts within the global peacebuilding architectures.
- 2) Enhance and sustain youth- and gender-responsive IM capacities, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.
- 3) Develop guidance on the specific skills, enabling conditions, and support mechanisms that IMs require to work effectively in these evolving contexts.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Improve knowledge, policy guidance and operational tools to support IMs in a conflict-sensitive and context-specific manner.
- Expand peer-to-peer exchange, networking and learning opportunities for Insider Mediators.
- Institutionalise the ‘EU-UNDP partnership on Insider Mediation’ as a strategic tool for conflict prevention and sustaining peace.

ACTIVITIES

- Assessment and targeted support to IM initiatives: Conduct reviews of 14 programmes and supporting selected ongoing initiatives.
- Design and implementation of new IM programmes: Develop and roll out up to 5–6 new gender- and youth-responsive IM initiatives.
- Capacity building and training: Deliver training and practical tools to UNDP Country Offices and partners.
- Research, guidance and peer review: Produce research and operational guidance on integrated and conflict-sensitive support to IMs.
- Knowledge-sharing and networking platforms: Establish and maintain an online knowledge hub and facilitate a Community of Practice.
- Global and regional exchange events: Organise one international symposium and regional workshops to foster cross-regional learning.
- Documentation and communication: Produce a podcast series and a final publication compiling case studies and lessons learnt.

AMOUNT

€ 3,000,000

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

DURATION

April 2023 - April 2026

COUNTRIES COVERED

Global component with priority countries being Guatemala, Mali, Moldova, Papua New Guinea, Peru, The Gambia and Yemen
Emergency support in Sri Lanka

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ACHIEVEMENTS

Global level:

- Development and publication of the [Guidance Note on Amplifying Inclusivity](#)
- Establishment and running of an online platform as [Global Community of Practice for Insider Mediators](#).
- Creation of a [podcast series](#) to spotlight stories of building peace through insider mediation. Eight episodes published covering Insiders from Lebanon, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Sudan and Uganda.

Country level:

- Guatemala: co-designed learning sessions with indigenous leaders.
- Mali: 100 community mediators trained and linked with Commissions Foncières (COFOs); 225 conflicts resolved in 2025.
- Moldova: 22 mediators trained across 5 priority communities and 6 thematic platforms.
- Peru: 4 macro-regional dialogues established.
- The Gambia: 119 trained mediators; structured dialogues with authorities.
- Yemen: training of trainers for 14 mediators (6 women, 8 men).



Funded by
the European Union