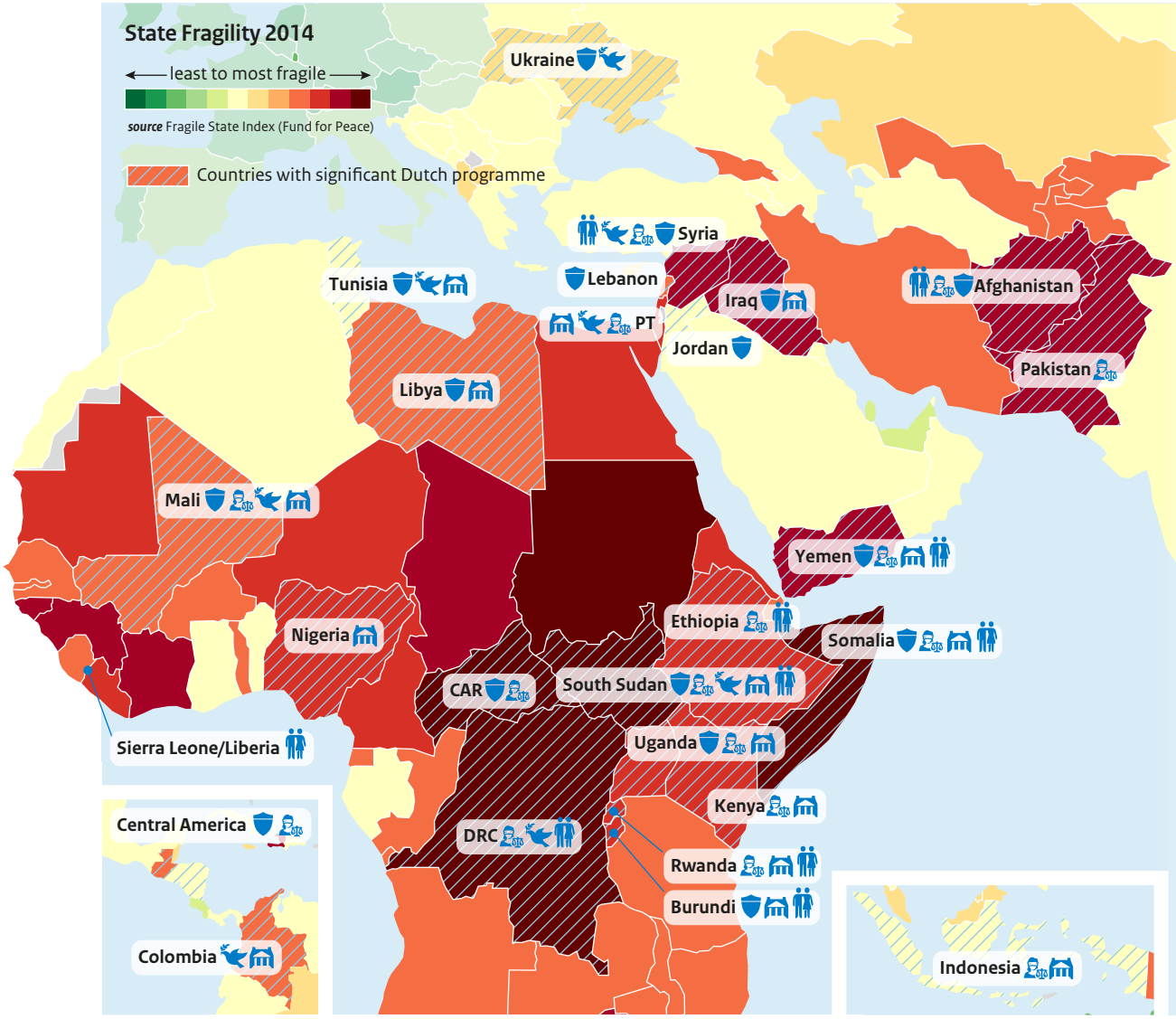
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Results Security & the Rule of Law 2014

Dutch investment: €309 million

https://www.facebook.com/NederlandCrisisgebieden



HUMAN SECURITY

- Almost **825 hectares** cleared of explosives
- **Prevented escalation** in Central African Republic by financing police salaries and demobilising militias
- Trained almost **10,000 peacekeepers**. Contributed to increase in female peacekeepers through special training programme

RULE OF LAW

- **Legal aid** provided to **14,000 people** in Gaza and the West Bank (58% women)
- **Human rights violations documented** for future justice in Syria and Yemen
- Almost **1,700 complaints** of **domestic violence** filed under new law in Afghanistan

INCLUSIVE POLITICAL PROCESSES

- **Facilitated agreement between** Tunisian political parties to respect outcome of parliamentary elections
- Backed **negotiations** between Colombian government and armed rebels
- Supported **47 local mediation initiatives** in Kenya

LEGITIMATE & CAPABLE GOVERNMENT

- Trained **800 women** who stood for election in Indonesia
- Implemented new approach to **minimise electoral violence** in Nigeria
- Supported **return of formal government** to **25 liberated districts** in Somalia

SOCIAL & ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION

- Created more than **4,300 jobs** in fragile states
- Financed **school enrolment** for more than **5,500 girls and 3,000 boys** in Afghanistan and Pakistan

Results Security & the Rule of Law 2014

There is a global trend towards greater insecurity and instability, which is especially acute in the 'ring of instability' surrounding Europe. This is both a security and a development issue, since conflict both results from and causes poverty, underdevelopment and marginalisation. Conflict is also linked to radicalisation, insecurity, migration flows and humanitarian crises. Public wellbeing in fragile states and conflict-affected areas is a major concern. The Netherlands is addressing both current conflicts and their root causes. While it is difficult to show results in an area where success is defined as the absence of crisis, a focus on prevention remains important to avoid human misery and reduce the costs of alleviating it.
Since the Netherlands cannot change global dynamics on its own, cooperation with other states and through international organisations is essential. Partly thanks to our efforts, security and the rule of law now has a prominent place on the international development agenda as Sustainable Development Goal 16: Peace & Justice. Our advocacy of the comprehensive approach has also helped ensure its inclusion in EU, UN and NATO policy.

Human security

Land mines and explosives, violent militias and even state security agencies are ruining the lives of men, women and children in fragile states. The Netherlands remains a leader in the removal of mines and explosive remnants of war. For example, in 2014 we funded demining on routes to refugee camps in Dohuk (Iraq) and the education of Syrian and Iraqi refugees on the risks of different types of unexploded ordinance, to help prepare them for their return.
The Netherlands often works through multilateral channels, especially in countries where we are not directly present. Through UNDP we helped de-escalate a dangerous situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) by temporarily funding police salaries and disarming and demobilizing militias around Bangui. Peacekeeping is another key way to enhance human security in conflict areas. The Netherlands is a leading contributor to the UN peacekeeping mission in Mali. We have trained almost 10,000 peacekeepers from Burundi[1] and Uganda, nearly all of whom are or will be deployed in Somalia with the African Union mission. There is also a special programme to train women for peacekeeping.

Rule of law

Building effective justice institutions is a precondition for long-term stability. In 2014 the Netherlands gave vulnerable people – victims of domestic violence in Afghanistan, sexual assault victims in South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and women in the Palestinian Territories – access to local justice institutions, and helped strengthen such institutions in Afghanistan, Mali and Rwanda. In Central America violence against women and human trafficking was reduced. In Nicaragua crime due to youth violence was reduced by 50%.
Our support to transitional justice institutions like the Special Criminal Court in the CAR helped victims of large-scale violations claim their rights. Evidence of major human rights violations in Syria and Yemen is also being gathered for future proceedings. Punishment for past violations and reconciliation are often vital to prevent future conflicts, so transitional justice will become increasingly important in our work on the rule of law.

Inclusive political processes

Results on peace and security can be achieved by finding a diplomatic solution to a conflict before it turns violent or by reaching a political settlement after it breaks out. However, a political solution can often best be found by financing independent actors with appropriate expertise who can mediate effectively. Peace processes in which NL acted as mediator are delicate. Therefore not all successes can be published; this would harm the process or breach the mediators' confidentiality.
In 2014 the Netherlands supported 1) the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, which achieved significant results in Tunisia and the Philippines, 2) the Organization of American States, which is mediating between the Colombian government and one of the armed rebel groups, and 3) UNDP, which launched the Bangui process in the CAR. Alongside these successes there are several countries where no diplomatic solution has been reached yet, such as Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan and Ukraine. We will continue working with our partners in these countries.

Legitimate & capable government

Governments should deliver essential services and be accountable to their peoples. Since the revolution in 2011, the Netherlands has supported Tunisia, which has so far held three peaceful elections and adopted a new constitution after a national dialogue led by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA). Among the candidates in the country's 2014 parliamentary elections were 63 alumni of the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) School of Politics, of whom 10 were elected and three became ministers. In Indonesia 800 women stood for office after political training. In south-central Somalia we facilitated the restoration of local government in previously lawless districts. Nigeria held peaceful presidential elections in February 2015, thanks partly to a Dutch-funded system established in 2014 that predicts the risk of electoral violence in different regions so that government bodies can ensure fair and peaceful votes. The system is now being set up in other countries.

Social & economic reconstruction

To reduce violence and foster recovery and stability, the Netherlands supported job creation and improvements to basic public services. In 2014 more than 4,300 jobs were created and the establishment of small and medium-size enterprises was supported in a dozen fragile states. We assisted in upgrading the education of 710,000 children in 14 conflict affected countries, financing school enrolment for 5,500 girls and 3,000 boys in Afghanistan and Pakistan and giving 14,500 people access to clean water in South-Sudan.

1 *The training of Burundian troops under the ACOTA programme has been suspended in 2015 due to political developments in Burundi.*