

Progress in accelerating global actions for a world without poverty and implementation of the System-wide Plan of Action for the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027): UNDP, June 2019

a) Structural transformation, productive employment and decent work in the context of a changing global scenario

UNDP worked to build more sustainable livelihoods and jobs. Nearly 4 million people living in or recovering from crisis got a job or improved their livelihood with UNDP support across 25 countries, including 300,000 in Sudan, 42,000 in the Syrian Arab Republic and 38,000 in Haiti. In Yemen, the partnership with the World Bank focused on creating emergency employment for over 344,550 people (47 per cent youth, 28 per cent women, 18 per cent internally displaced persons), helping over two million people from vulnerable households buy essentials to survive.

Enhancing entrepreneurial skills and opportunities with youth continued as a strong focus. The YouthConnekt programme, which helps young entrepreneurs build businesses and jobs, has created over 8,300 jobs in Rwanda since 2013. It is now being scaled up in 10 other African countries and, at the request of the African Union, will be established as a continental youth initiative.

b) Expanding social protection systems to underpin inclusive poverty-reducing development

UNDP is a coalition member of the UN Social Protection Floor Initiative (SPF-I) which aims to guarantee minimum universal standards for social protection for all. UNDP is engaged in the SPF Task Forces at the regional and national levels; collecting evidence, and documenting experiences; helping countries to integrate SPFs into development strategies; and supporting South-South and triangular cooperation.

UNDP's value added in social protection complements other development partners. In Latin America and the Caribbean, UNDP has provided extensive support to countries to conduct gender-sensitive social protection assessments, including costing for gender-sensitive interventions in social protection mechanisms. Using better multidimensional poverty measurements, UNDP is helping countries to improve the effectiveness of social protection mechanisms (targeting and outcomes). UNDP is also assisting countries to operationalize integration of social protection measures into climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction efforts. There is much to gain from deepening integration between these areas, in terms of reducing vulnerability and poverty even in the face of worsening climate impacts and/or natural hazards. Furthermore, UNDP is active in crisis affected countries to deliver cash for work interventions, typically linked to supporting inclusive livelihoods, employment, and local economic development for accelerated recovery and longer-term resilience.

c) Human capability development: addressing the non-income forms of poverty

Measuring multidimensional poverty. Globally, UNDP improved the way data is used to fight poverty with a revisited Multidimensional Poverty Index, developed in partnership with the University of Oxford, that looks beyond income to measure and accelerate progress against Sustainable Development Goal 1, in harmony with the UNDP Human Development Index. This approach, which builds on learning from evaluation that investing in national capacity to develop targeted, multidimensional poverty strategies effectively reduces poverty, is influencing how countries gather and use data to make decisions. In 2018, UNDP and the Government of the Dominican Republic partnered to construct a multidimensional poverty index, a climate vulnerability index and an interactive human development map to inform public policies on poverty. In the Western Balkans, with the World Bank and European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, UNDP undertook a socioeconomic survey of multidimensional poverty for Roma populations to inform social inclusion policies.

In the Arab States, UNDP scaled up the use of big data with the multi-country Arab States Portal – a tracking tool – and the *Future of Knowledge* report, a pilot study covering the readiness of 20 countries to use artificial intelligence and digital technologies like blockchain. With UNEP, UNDP launched the United Nations Biodiversity Lab, a new portal to help countries access and use spatial data to make informed conservation decisions. Satellite technology was used by over 40 country offices to provide analysis on migration and poverty and accelerate post-crisis recovery.

The importance of basic services. The multidimensional poverty approach reinforces people’s need for basic services to rise from and stay out of poverty. In 2018, 20.6 million people gained access to financial services in 12 countries. Some 1.4 million people accessed life-saving HIV treatment; 372,000 rural households across 11 countries benefitted from access to clean, affordable and sustainable energy; and 3.2 million people in 24 countries gained access to justice. In Bangladesh, digital centres supported by UNDP extended financial services to 3 million rural people without bank accounts, an innovation being replicated in Fiji and Somalia. In Argentina, UNDP helped to implement integrated anti-poverty programmes across six ministries through a country support platform, improving medical coverage for 1 million people without public health insurance.

e) Reducing inequalities

Leaving no one behind. As principle recipient of grants from the Global Fund, UNDP helped deliver last-mile health services in 35 countries, managing 31 grants. Through the partnership, 1.4 million people accessed HIV treatment, 6.3 million people received HIV testing/counselling and 97,000 pregnant women received antiretrovirals to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV. For treatment of tuberculosis, grants managed by UNDP helped detect and treat 54,000 smear-positive cases. Some 7.6 million cases of malaria were treated and nearly 20 million bednets were distributed, a 12 per cent increase over 2017. The partnership enabled seven countries to achieve 100 per cent coverage with antimalarial medicines.

UNDP continued to advocate for those left unheard because of stigma, discrimination and violence. By the end of 2018, in line with the recommendations of the Global Commission on HIV and the Law, UNDP was supporting Governments, civil society and United Nations partners in 89 countries to reform discriminatory laws, in 53 countries to improve inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex communities, and in 41 countries to improve gender equality and empowerment in the context of HIV and health, improving understanding of and support to address the links between HIV, violence against women and alcohol abuse.

The year saw an increase in UNDP focus on opportunities for people with disabilities, with new guidance launched on how to support disability inclusion. With support from a new joint United Nations programme on human rights, Somalia ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Government prepared bills approved in Parliament to establish a human rights commission and a disability rights agency. In Honduras, a private sector alliance was established with Fab Lab, which produces prosthetics for returned migrants with disabilities and was featured at the 2018 World Disability Summit. In Cambodia, with UNDP support, the Government registered over 7,700 persons with disabilities (37 per cent women) in a disability allowance scheme.

The Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, hosted by UNDP, was central to United Nations efforts to deliver better together. It provided the expertise and means to increase the reach of the \$27 million United Nations Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to 38 countries. It also provided the platform to launch a first round of investment portfolios for the Spotlight Initiative, a \$500 million global, multi-year partnership between the United Nations and the European Union to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.

Women’s empowerment and gender equality. In 2018 with the support of UNDP and its partners,¹ over 4 million women gained access to basic services, including financial services and non-financial assets, and 17.2 million women registered to vote, with the result that 48 per cent of all registered voters in 39 countries are women. In Pakistan, 4.3 million women got an identity card to be able to vote.

¹ The top contributors of ODA to UNDP gender work in 2018 were the Governments of Canada, Japan and Sweden.

UNDP support to 11 countries on access to justice saw 47 per cent of reported cases of gender-based violence receiving judgement in the formal justice system. Through GEF-financed programmes, 73 countries promoted women in leadership and decision-making in environmental management, and five UNDP-supported GCF projects are set to benefit over 10 million women in the years to come.

In crisis and post-crisis settings, where women continue to be disproportionately affected by disasters, 59 per cent of the beneficiaries of recovery programmes were women, totalling some 2 million women across 16 countries, including 1.6 million in Ukraine, 168,000 in Lebanon and 25,000 in Jordan. However, the new UNDP commitment in the Strategic Plan to advance women's leadership and participation in crisis prevention and recovery efforts showed only initial progress. UNDP will need to take bold steps in the next three years for women to become agents rather than beneficiaries of recovery efforts in their countries and communities.

f) Addressing climate change and the intensification of natural hazards

Accelerating climate action and ambition. With the largest climate action portfolio in the United Nations, UNDP leveraged its integrated development portfolio to help 31 countries to implement and raise the ambition of their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) ahead of the 2020 Paris Agreement deadline and will continue efforts to reach at least 60 countries. Support included helping countries to access over \$500 million in climate finance grants to implement actions aimed at meeting their NDC targets, securing \$33 million to strengthen governance, monitoring and planning systems and capacities, and financing strategies for NDC development and implementation. UNDP advanced United Nations cooperation in this area, leading the development of the first joint United Nations approach for support to NDCs.

In line with its efforts to eradicate poverty, the UNDP adaptation approach targeted people and communities most at risk in the face of climate change. In Viet Nam, improvements in management of forests, mangroves and wetlands increased the income of over 330,000 forest-dependent people, 51 per cent of them women. In Cambodia and Sri Lanka, the agricultural livelihoods of 5,500 households were made more resilient, with better water management, as a result of UNDP support. In Guatemala, nearly 2,500 households increased their income by over 17 per cent by strengthening the production chains of nature-based products, including cocoa and honey.

Reducing the risk of disaster and preparing to respond. In line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, UNDP worked with 10 countries to integrate disaster and climate risks into planning and investment decisions, with support from the Government of Japan and other partners. In 18 countries in Asia and the Pacific, 115 schools in tsunami-prone areas now have a plan of action should a tsunami strike. UNDP helped six Caribbean countries to strengthen early warning systems, benefiting over 14,000 people and 88 institutions, and embarked on a comprehensive post-2017 hurricane recovery programme in the Caribbean.

UNDP supported Bhutan and Cambodia to strengthen early warning systems, installing 109 and 53 hydro-meteorology stations, respectively. Through UNDP collaboration with Deutsche Post DHL, airports in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Costa Rica, Honduras and Peru are better able to respond to disasters.