

This brief outlines the progress made by UNDP in implementing the inter-agency, system-wide plan of action for eradicating poverty.

Building on UNDP's leadership of the inter-agency Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support approach (MAPS), 103 countries benefited from support to establish intragovernmental Sustainable Development Goal coordination structures, budgets, monitoring and evaluation frameworks and platforms for "whole-of-society" approaches. Similarly, a UNDP-United Nations-European Union initiative supported integrated national financing frameworks is under way in 19 countries, to align public financing to the SDGs.

Given its broad mandate, UNDP contributes across the key areas of policy focus.

### **Structural transformation, productive employment and decent work**

- We mobilize the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) and the Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI – partnership with UNEP) to offer valuable integrated support on green jobs, economic and environmental issues in 20+ countries worldwide and use them as vehicles to support peer learning and knowledge transfer on policies that stimulate growth.
- UNDP supports countries and UNCTS to address the challenge of commodity dependence and leverage trade for inclusive and sustainable development. UNDP brings an integrated approach to private sector development and trade, targeting bottlenecks and developing capacities at the macro (policy and regulatory reforms); meso (institutional support) and micro (enterprises and SMEs) to promote systemic change in the way markets work. UNDP also works through partnerships such as the Enhanced Integrated Framework joining efforts with donors and other agencies, to build institutional and trade capacity for development. In Cambodia, we supported the Export Diversification and Expansion Programme to improve sustainable cassava production, through a trilateral South-South cooperation approach with China's Ministry of Commerce and Cambodia's Ministry of Agriculture to help small processors and exporters of cassava move up the value chain, increase their revenue, expand jobs and increase cassava exports. Also, through the ACP-EU Development Minerals Programme, we support to private small-scale miners in 41 ACP Group of States with 21 million Euros allocated in the past 4 years. The support helped enhance their productive capacity, develop value chains, access financial products, adopt new technologies/methods of production and enter export markets.
- UNDP leverages the ability of UNCDF and other UN agencies to deploy loans and guarantees that benefit small enterprises and local governments. In Ethiopia, a partnership with the Development Bank of Ethiopia and the Government helped to guarantee \$1.1 million in loans to 12 renewable energy small and medium-sized enterprises.
- Working with partners, we harness sustainable energy interventions as effective enablers for broader development interventions. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, a small hydroelectric turbine in Lake Kivu provided power for agricultural processing, creating jobs, affordable electricity and new sources of income.
- We tackle the institutional and non-institutional dimensions of labour market exclusion of vulnerable individuals and their communities. In partnership with the ILO and the WB, we promote Inclusive Labour Market Solutions in the Western Balkans, delivering services that reach-out and effectively enable marginalised groups to enter or re-enter the labour market and support

local communities to establish territorial employment platforms for tackling the key obstacles and barriers for creation of new jobs.

- We are partners in a global initiative Global Jobs for Youth, a recent example of the UN's efforts to coordinate action at global, regional and local levels. UNDP supports young people through programmes on social innovation and entrepreneurship and leverages these partnerships and networks. Examples include Youth:Connekt in Africa empowers young people, connect them to opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship and strengthens civic engagement and leadership. Starting in 2012 in Rwanda, it is now being initiated in 12 African countries and has created 10 million jobs for youth. The Youth Leadership Programme (YLP) was launched in 2015 and provides a network to harness, connect, involve and empower young people in Arab-States for social innovation for sustainable development. It has worked with more than 7.000 young people and supported more than 5.000 projects. Youth Co:Lab in Asia-Pacific is a collaboration between Citi Foundation and UNDP, which has benefitted over 5.000 young entrepreneurs and improved almost 600 start-ups addressing SDG challenges.

### **Expanding social protection systems to underpin inclusive, poverty-reducing development**

UNDP is evolving its approach to social protection to better integrate multiple vulnerabilities.

- UNDP partners with other agencies in 18 countries to support the implementation of Joint SDG Fund on social protection and cover a range of topics, including universal social protection, adaptive (shock-responsive) social protection, social protection to improve labour market outcomes for vulnerable groups.
- UNDP supports capacity development of public administration tasked with the delivery of social protection: UNDP, ILO, UNICEF and WFP collaborate in the inter-agency TRANSFORM project which supports the building of social protection floors in Africa by providing training for government officials on social protection to improve governance systems, standards and processes.
- We engage in Issue Based Coalitions on Social Protection: UNDP is a lead agency supporting the social protection agenda in the ECIS and Arab States Regions.
- We promote thought leadership, knowledge production, policy development, global advocacy: The State of Social Assistance in Africa report (UNDP led in partnership with AU, UNICEF, ILO and UNECA) maps and analyzes the recent growth across three foundational dimensions of social assistance: legal frameworks, institutions and financing. The report makes a case for strengthening the national architecture for social assistance in Africa, as a pathway to the reduction of vulnerability and poverty, while also promoting social inclusion. The Data Platform accompanying the report can be found at <http://social-assistance.africa.undp.org/>. We conduct joint policy research initiative looking at gender and labour market trends in Latin America and the Caribbean, with ILO and the IDB.
- UNDP and UNECA supported the African Union Commission to develop the Social Agenda 2063 to accompany Agenda 2063 with key guidance on social development that integrates the 2030 and 2063 Agendas. Social Agenda 2063 and its Implementation Plan were formally adopted at the African Union ministerial meeting, at the occasion of the Extra-ordinary Session of the Third Specialised Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment (2019).

## **Human capability development**

Building on the identified weaknesses of the 2018 evaluation of UNDP support to poverty reduction, we have elevated our support by continuing to champion the use of multidimensional poverty indices and adopting a new ‘leave no one behind’ marker to track how it is reaching these groups.

- Multidimensional poverty indices such as the MPI published by UNDP and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) since 2010, help understand the nature of multiple deprivations affecting the poor at the national and subnational level and assess progress on SDG1.2. As a result, we have been developing a more integrated offer on poverty that looks beyond income to address other determinants of vulnerability such as gender, health, environmental degradation and climate change, and to build broad new partnerships to promote sustainable livelihoods and jobs, nature-based solutions and more integrated social protection packages
- We launched the “Handbook: How to Build a National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)” and helped over 30 Governments and UNCTs to do so. For example, in Nigeria, MPI data are being used to target poor households for inclusive health access as part of its National Social Investment Programme that aims to lift 100 million people out of poverty in the next 10 years.
- On the programmatic side, our livelihood programmes in over 30 countries went beyond income to include social cohesion, rule of law, justice and security and nature-based solutions. Access to clean and affordable energy is also used as a springboard to increased resilience and poverty alleviation. Our support resulted in access to clean, affordable and sustainable energy for 1.2 million households in rural areas and 1.4 million women-headed households. Through the UNDP-Global Fund partnership, 652 health facilities in eight countries are running on solar energy.

## **Sustainable agriculture and the future of food**

- Working with partners, notably FAO, UNDP supports transforming the global food system at the local level through the (i) adoption of sustainable practices in primary production and across the associated value chains, (ii) empowerment of smallholder farmers to participate in the transformation agenda; (iii) scaling-up of sustainable smallholder production practices, and (iv) mainstreaming of these practices and the lessons from them, into the global food system transformation agenda.
- As part of its new Digital Strategy, UNDP has identified initiatives with scalable potential. In Ecuador, UNDP connected small cacao producers to the global market through a chocolate bar, traceable to its origins via blockchain technology. This is now informing a global initiative to connect millions of sustainable producers to global value chains.

## **Reducing inequalities**

- By looking beyond income, beyond averages and beyond today, the 2019 Human Development Report raised awareness of how multidimensional inequalities are evolving. Our policies must tackle the underlying drivers such as basic (health and education) and strategic achievements (climate change, technology), as well as stigma and discrimination, youth and women’s agency across labour markets, voice and representation, social engagement and cohesion.

- UNDP was rated one of the best performing United Nations agencies in 2019, meeting or exceeding requirements for 88 per cent of indicators in the System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. UNDP has been pursuing initiatives that accelerate progress, working with partners, especially the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). With UNDP support, 23.4 million women gained access to basic services, financial services and non-financial assets. However, tackling the causes of gender inequality, like entrenched discriminatory norms, and ending gender-based violence are proving to be harder challenges.
- UNDP contributed most effectively to preventing gender-based violence when tackled as part of a complex development challenge. UNDP helped 17 UNCTs to establish frameworks to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, partly through Spotlight, a global multi-year partnership between the European Union and the United Nations to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls by 2030.
- In preparation for the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing+25), the global UNDP campaign “Time for Gender Equality” will tackle discriminatory norms and gender bias.

### **Addressing climate change and the intensification of natural hazards**

The Climate Promise illustrates UNDP’s goal of transformative change that cuts across sectors.

- Working with United Nations partners and 102 countries to enhance their nationally determined contributions (NDCs), over 60 countries have activities under way that contribute to the Climate Promise, building on existing portfolios engaging all levels of government and society. While this integrated approach is now the UNDP standard, evidence shows it is not being applied consistently; there is more to do, for example, to better integrate energy with other development solutions or health with NDCs.
- UNDP leverages existing resources for nature-based solutions. We enabled countries to access over \$1 billion from vertical funds in 2018-2019. These grants leveraged an additional \$1.2 billion of private and public finance for 91 countries from IFIs, United Nations entities, the private sector and Governments. Funds mobilized in 2019 from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Adaptation Fund are expected to benefit 37 million people through integrated initiatives. Through the Biodiversity Finance Initiative, UNDP supports 35 countries and UNCTs in developing financial plans to safeguard nature and natural capital, including repurposing nature-impacting subsidies. Of the nearly 3,000 community-driven initiatives on the environment financed by the GEF Small Grants Programme in 2019, 35 per cent were led by women. UNDP supported over 20 countries in leveraging funding for forest-based solutions to climate change (REDD+).

### **Fighting poverty in fragile and humanitarian contexts.**

A new Crisis Bureau was established as part of the Global Policy Network, focused on comprehensive and integrated solutions to preventing, responding to and recovering from crises, co-leading, with OCHA, the work of the United Nations on coherence between humanitarian, development and peace actors to tackle the root causes of crisis and fragility.

- We support investment in challenging development environments to help to sustain essential services while opening pathways to sustainability. The UNDP-World Bank Emergency Crisis Response Project in Yemen is building resilience through a multidimensional approach of improving livelihoods, restoring basic social services infrastructure and providing renewable energy. The partnership delivers urgent assistance while preserving institutions and investing in livelihoods, the foundations of peace and human security. This helped to improve the livelihoods of some 742,000 direct and 4.7 million indirect beneficiaries, creating over 10.7 million work-days of emergency employment. UNDP work under the Regional Refugee and Resilience Response Plan for the Syrian crisis integrates livelihoods with social protection, bridging short-term emergency support with resilience-building, supporting over 850,000 refugees and host communities across five countries. In Sudan, UNDP, with financial support from USAID and the Government of Switzerland, supports poor farmers to participate in the growing international demand for hibiscus by improving production techniques. The integrated project approach touched approximately 60,000 people in Darfur. 12,000 people benefited directly through support to traditional hibiscus harvesting and processing, doubling production and improving revenue and living conditions including for conflict affected men and women.
- As numbers of migrants and displaced continued to rise, UNDP strengthened its approach to migration as a development issue. Nearly 3 million displaced people in 13 countries benefited from durable solutions in 2019, enabling refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities to maintain life, livelihoods and dignity. UNDP supports the implementation of the two Global Compacts for Migration and Refugees, offering integrated responses that prioritize conflict prevention and climate change risks. Since 2018, UNDP and UNHCR have partnered in 15 countries on refugee inclusion in economic opportunities, rule of law and local governance, including legal assistance and awareness of rights, for example free legal aid for host communities and refugees in Lebanon. Since 2015 the Funding Facility for Stabilization in Iraq has facilitated the return of 4.6 million IDPs. Rehabilitation of infrastructure for transport, health, education and basic services has benefited 8.5 million Iraqis (half of them women), while another 33,000 benefited from cash-for-work activities.
- As co-chair of the Joint Steering Committee to Advance Humanitarian and Development Collaboration, UNDP supported the launch of the Regional Stabilization Facility in the Lake Chad basin as a rapid response mechanism to help local authorities curtail the capacity of Boko Haram; improve community safety and security; restore infrastructure and basic services; and provide livelihood opportunities.
- Through Crisis Risk Dashboards in 20 countries, UNDP ensures that multidimensional risk factors are addressed across development settings by connecting analysis to programming, conflict prevention and peacebuilding and connecting governance to DRR and recovery. UNDP has helped 2.5 million people to access early warning systems and climate or disaster information, and 54 countries to mainstream climate adaptation and DRR in national and local development plans.
- Through the Joint UNDP-United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention, peace and development advisers and teams deployed to nearly 50 countries.