

# **SEVENTH PROGRESS REPORT OF THE REGULAR PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION (2021)**

10 June 2022

This report has been prepared as a supplement to the proposed programme budget for 2023, covering achievements of the Programme for 2021.



**United Nations**

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## 1. Selective List of Abbreviations

ACABQ	Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
AFPs	The UN's Agencies, Funds and Programmes
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CCA	Common Country Analysis
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DA	Development Account
DCO	UN Development Coordination Office
DESA	UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
ECA	UN Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	UN Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ESCAP	UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
GBVAW	Gender-based Violence against Women
GHPF	Global Humanitarian Policy Forum
HNPW	Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks
HRA	Human Rights Advisors
HRO	Human Rights Officer
HR & GE	Human Rights and Gender Equality
IBC	Issue Based Coalition
ICT	Internet and Communication Technology
IE	Implementing Entity
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
LDC	Least Developed Country
LLDC	Landlocked Developing Country
LNOB	Leave No-One Behind
MAF	Management Accountability Framework
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation

MS	Member States
NHRI	National Human Rights Institution
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OHCHR	UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
PSG	Peer Support Group
RA	Regional Advisor
RC	Resident Coordinator
REC	Regional Economic Commission
RCO	Resident Coordinator's Office
RCP	Regional Collaborative Platform
RPTC	Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation
RFSD	Regional Forum for Sustainable Development
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SG	Secretary General
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SP	Subprogramme
TC	Technical Cooperation
TCS	UNCTAD's Technical Cooperation Section
UN	United Nations
UN CT	UN Country Team
UNEP	UN Environment Programme
UN-Habitat	UN Human Settlements Programme
UNDAC	UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination
UNITAC	UN Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities in Hamburg
UNODC	UN Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOG	UN Office in Geneva
UNSDCF	UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
XB	Extra-budgetary contributions



## 2. Executive Summary

The Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (RPTC) is a development programme of the United Nations Secretariat aimed at supporting developing countries, least developed countries, countries with economies in transition and countries emerging from conflict in their capacity-development efforts, specifically to formulate and implement policies for sustainable development.

This Progress Report covers the year 2021, and aims to facilitate discussions on the proposed programme budget for RPTC activities in 2023 by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ). It provides detailed data on the RPTC activities of the 11 Implementing Entities (IEs) of the UN, and also highlights specific achievements of these IEs.

Results of the outreach of the IEs in 2021 were impressive. In 2021, IEs received 580 requests for assistance from 142 countries, including 39 LDCs, 25 LLDCs and 30 SIDS. This led to RPTC support being provided to 162 countries at the national level. This includes 46 LDCs, 31 LLDCs and 41 SIDS. RPTC assistance, at the national level, was provided through 622 advisory services, 699 training events, 129 fellowships, and 171 field projects. 27643 participants<sup>1</sup> benefited from national level support, including 25% of women. 100% of LDCs, 97% of LLDCs and 77% of SIDS received RPTC assistance at the national level. IEs also conducted 29 global, 560 regional and 211 sub-regional interventions, covering a large number of topics. In total, IEs organised 2321 interventions, aiming at developing the capacity of governments, individuals and institutions to formulate and implement policies for sustainable development. 65008 people were reached, including 33% women. RPTC activities supported Member States to meet 48 new reporting requirements; to develop 188 new laws, policies or strategies; and to adopt 4 conventions.

IEs have tried to ensure sustainability in their interventions, by encouraging national ownership and continuity, and by transferring knowledge to and enhancing capacities of developing countries. In most cases, ownership is built into the activities due to the nature of the RPTC, which is demand-driven, responds to needs expressed by individual governments, and supports government-led initiatives. There are many examples in 2021 of RPTC activities having a multiplier effect, being replicated or followed up by other partners. At least 35 UN Development Account projects were formulated in 2021, building on earlier interventions by RPTC - a strong indication of the sustainability of the activities.

The UN has been aiming at a systematic approach to collaboration between IEs, in order to maximise the impact of RPTC activities. This approach has led to collaboration between IEs in the frameworks of the UN's Regional Fora on Sustainable Development, through the Regional Collaborative Platforms and Issue Based Coalitions, as well as through specific RPTC interventions. The RPTC also has strong links with other funds, with at least 154 interventions being co-organised with funding from DA, XB or other partners. IEs have also focused on strengthening links with UNCT / RCOs, to avoid duplication of effort and to jointly deliver the assistance.

The majority of the IEs are either signatories to, or have participated in, the elaboration of a large number of UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks at the national level, recognising the need to work in a collaborative manner and under a common framework.

In 2021, IEs continued to feel the impact of the pandemic on the RPTC activities, both in terms of the substance of the requests for assistance and delivery modalities. The nature of COVID-19 related requests shifted from immediate response to the pandemic to assessing its impact and developing a sustainable recovery. COVID-19 continued to impact the delivery modalities of assistance provided, with ongoing travel restrictions. A very significant proportion of 2021 RPTC activities were delivered virtually. Out of the 29 RPTC funded global events, 76% were virtual, while 87% of regional and at least 36% of subregional<sup>2</sup> interventions were virtual. At the national level, 75% of advisory services and 92% of training events were conducted online. In some instances this led to wider participation, but in others it led to reduced ownership and engagement of key stakeholders. It also highlighted the unequal access to digital technology throughout the world, with shortcomings in connectivity impeding numerous capacity building activities. Many IEs adopted a hybrid approach during the pandemic, which now seems likely to continue - traditional in-person events will continue to be complemented

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<sup>1</sup> Participants in training events and fellows.

<sup>2</sup> Some data is lacking - hence the "at least".

by virtual support - with the advantage of saving time and money. COVID-19 also impacted spending patterns, with increases in the use of consultancy and contractual services, the digitalization of RPTC support, and significant decreases in travel costs.

Key strengths of the RPTC include its **wide geographic and thematic reach**; its **clear focus on LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS**; its **demand-driven nature which tends to lead to national level ownership**; and its **multiplier effect**, which has often galvanised follow up work funded by DA, XB or other sources of funding. However, potential weaknesses include a **lack of impact on signing international conventions**; a **lack of standardisation of M&E arrangements** and a **lack of systematisation of learning**, both between IEs and between cycles of RPTC funding.

Moving forward, the RPTC could be strengthened by

- Adopting a shared system of M&E across the IEs, established well in advance, giving clarity on the information to be captured;
- Adopting an intentional and systematic way of ensuring RPTC learning across IEs and across funding cycles, to ensure that lessons learned and best practises are not lost;
- Encouraging wider IE participation in the elaboration of, and subsequent signature to, UNSDCFs, as it seems to be particularly effective in ensuring the integration of work plans;
- Modifying the M&E systems to easily recognise and give visibility to the support provided to SIDS via sub-regional and regional level work, recognising the difficulty of reaching SIDS at the national level, due to distance and cost.

### 3. Introduction

The Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (RPTC) is a development programme of the United Nations Secretariat aimed at supporting developing countries, least developed countries, countries with economies in transition and countries emerging from conflict in their capacity-development efforts. Funded from Section 23 of the UN's Regular Budget, the RPTC has two components implemented by 11 United Nations entities (IEs).

(1) The **sectoral advisory services** implemented by the sectorally driven entities: the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR);

(2) the **regional and subregional advisory services** implemented by the five regional commissions : Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

The broad objective of the RPTC is to support and advance processes aimed at developing the capacity of governments, individuals and institutions to formulate and implement policies for sustainable development. The programme draws on the normative and analytical expertise of the IEs, to transfer knowledge and promote learning that serves to support and advance national efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To this end, assistance provided under the RPTC focuses on governments' requests for: (i) urgent advice on a broad range of policy related issues; (ii) specific advice on macroeconomic and sectoral matters that are relevant to national development strategies and programmes; and (iii) the formulation or evaluation of programmes and projects leading to the enhancement of national programmes.

The modalities used by the RPTC to undertake capacity development activities take the form of: (a) advisory services; (b) training and other initiatives to develop human resource capacities such as workshops, seminars and individual fellowships; and (c) field projects designed to provide a link between research and analysis that is based on implementation experiences, and opportunities to test drive policy or other normative recommendations on a small scale in which the impact can be quickly and closely gauged.

This progress report is the seventh, covering the year 2021.<sup>3</sup> It will facilitate discussions on the proposed programme budget for 2023 by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ). Following the submission of the third progress report (2012-2014), the ACABQ recommended that these reports be provided regularly to inform future budget submissions.<sup>4</sup> In paragraph V.108 of the ACABQ report A/75/7, the ACABQ again considered that the progress report provided detailed and useful information with respect to the RPTC and reiterated its recommendation that the progress report be provided as a matter of routine in the context of its consideration of future budget submissions. In addition, in 2018, the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS)<sup>5</sup> recommended to improve the quality of the progress reports through clearly defined reporting requirements, specifically focusing on results achieved using RPTC funds<sup>6</sup> and resources mobilised to complement the RPTC funded activities. The most recent comments of the ACABQ<sup>7</sup> recommends that more information be provided in the context of the budget submission on: (a) Linkages between the United Nations Development Account (DA), the Resident Coordinator (RC) system and extra budgetary resources (XB), including the development of integrated work plans; (b) The outreach of the programme, including information on geographic coverage of the programme, requests for assistance and responses; (c) The Programme's performance and best practises; (d) The programme's delivery modalities in view of travel restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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<sup>3</sup> The report includes technical cooperation (TC) activities and projects that were active in 2021, including both those that were completed and those which were still on-going at the end of 2021.

<sup>4</sup> A/68/7, Section 23.

<sup>5</sup> Report 2018/058.

<sup>6</sup> Support to governments that contributed to conventions signed, reporting obligations met, and new legislation or policies adopted by countries.

<sup>7</sup> A/76/7.

This report starts by providing a cross-cutting analysis of the outreach and relevance of the Programme; its sustainability; the complementarity of action among IEs, with the DA/XB, with RCOs/UNCTs, with other UN entities, and with other stakeholders; and M&E arrangements. It then presents accomplishments of IEs as well as their integration of Human Rights (HR) and gender concerns into RPTC activities, their use of resources, their complementarity of action and the challenges they faced in 2021. It ends with a summary of the continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The report does not cover administrative or budgetary aspects.<sup>8</sup>

The report is informed by key documents such as ACABQ budget reviews, proposed programme budgets, past progress reports and the independent review by the OIOS, and relevant General Assembly resolutions, particularly on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System (QCPR). Data was gathered directly from the IEs using questionnaires and a spreadsheet to capture national level data. Accomplishments cited in section 6 are not intended to be exhaustive, but rather highlighted examples of IEs' RPTC work.

The report focuses on support provided to Member States (MS), and IEs were requested to submit data broken down by country. Beside national level activities, the report provides data on interventions covering multiple countries through sub-regional, regional and global activities. However, it may be the case that some countries were supported only through sub-regional, regional or global interventions - in these cases, countries will not appear in this report's maps as having received RPTC support, as these maps only focus on national level activities.

It is important to note that IEs do not use standardised RPTC M&E tools, and as such did not provide data in a standardised format. For example, some IEs record the number of training events conducted, while others only record the number of days of training events conducted. Moreover, in the spreadsheet designed to capture national level data, sub-regional, regional or global level data was sometimes included by IEs. For the purpose of this report, it means that the data may be incomplete or not completely accurate regarding:

- The precise number of national level activities;
- The precise number of requests sent per country;
- The precise number of beneficiaries at sub-regional, regional and global levels;
- The precise number of female beneficiaries (some IEs cannot provide gender-disaggregated data for all activities);
- The precise number of virtual national, sub-regional, regional and global level interventions.

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<sup>8</sup> The administrative and financial aspects are covered in the proposed programme budget for 2023.

#### 4. Programme and Policy Context

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs continue to provide the overall context for the RPTC, providing coherence to all the policy and strategic frameworks that drive the operational activities for development of the UN system, and challenging the system to deliver more effectively with better defined and quantifiable targets. In addition to Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, the Paris Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development; the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020; the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway; and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 form the core guidance for RPTC across IEs.

UN Reform: In 2016, the Secretary General set out a vision of reform to enable the UN to more effectively confront global challenges and remain relevant in a fast-changing world to achieve the 2030 Agenda. One part of this reform was the repositioning of the UN development system for more integrated, coherent, accountable and effective support to the 2030 Agenda.<sup>9</sup> This reform process had implications for IEs, many of whom are working with and through Regional Collaborative Platforms (RCPs) to ensure coherency with other UN entities and Issue Based Coalitions (IBCs) to provide at least some of their capacity development activities to MS, as well as coordinating closely with RCOs and UNCTs.

Our Common Agenda: In 2021, the UN Secretary General set out “an agenda of action designed to accelerate the implementation of existing agreements, including the SDGs”<sup>10</sup>, following an extensive consultation process. It focuses on key areas of action like “Leave No One Behind”, protecting the planet, promoting peace and preventing conflict, and upgrading the UN. IEs, as well as MS, are trying to incorporate this agenda into their activities.

COVID-19: The ongoing pandemic has formed a major part of both the development context and the development challenges in 2021. It has caused tremendous hardship in both developed and developing countries. It has reversed gains and is undermining progress on many SDGs. In 2021, IEs continued to feel the impact of the pandemic in their RPTC activities, both in terms of the substance of the requests for assistance and in terms of delivery modalities. It has brought many challenges, particularly in terms of travel restrictions and the switch to virtual support, but has also had some positive impacts - including wider participation in RPTC activities.

**“The world has seen many crises over the past 30 years, including the Global Financial Crisis of 2007-09. Each has hit human development hard but, overall, development gains accrued globally year-on-year. COVID-19, with its triple hit to health, education, and income, may change this trend.”<sup>11</sup>**

Member States: Through the ACABQ 2021 report,<sup>12</sup> MS have reiterated the need for complementarity between the RPTC and the DA in order to maximise the combined impact of the activities implemented through the two mechanisms, and have suggested that IEs should strengthen their outreach to MS, specifically LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, with regards to the services available via the RPTC. They have also requested a strengthened focus on results, outreach, collaboration (specifically with UNCTs) and complementary of action (specifically with DA, but also SDCFs, CCAs, etc.). IEs have been striving to implement these requests into their work throughout 2021, and this report pays specific attention to these areas.

<sup>9</sup> A/72/124-E/2018/3 – Repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda: ensuring a better future for all (Report of the Secretary-General, 11 July 2017).

<sup>10</sup> [Summary](#) of Our Common Agenda.

<sup>11</sup> UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner, [here](#), accessed 18 May 2022.

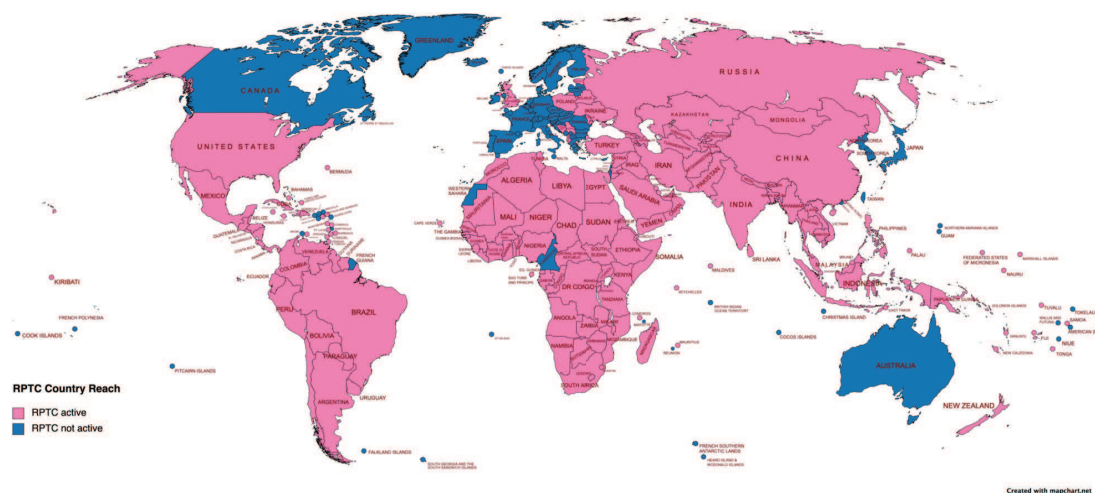
<sup>12</sup> A75/7 Section 23.

## 5. Cross-Cutting Analysis

### 5.1. Outreach and Relevance

In 2021, 162 countries were assisted at the national level, using RPTC funds. This figure includes 46 LDCs<sup>13</sup> (100% of LDCs), 31 LLDCs (97% of LLDCs<sup>14</sup>) and 41 SIDS (77% of SIDS).

**Figure 1. RPTC Reach<sup>15</sup> at the National Level<sup>16</sup>**



RPTC assistance, at the national level, was provided through 622 advisory services, 699 training events, 129 fellowships, and 171 field projects. 27643 participants<sup>17</sup> benefited from national level support, including 25% of women. IEs also conducted 29 global, 560 regional and 211 sub-regional interventions, covering a large number of topics. See figure 2 below for details.

<sup>13</sup> As some countries are both LDCs and LLDCs or LDCs and SIDS, for the purpose of this report, each country was counted once for each category. This results in some countries being counted twice.

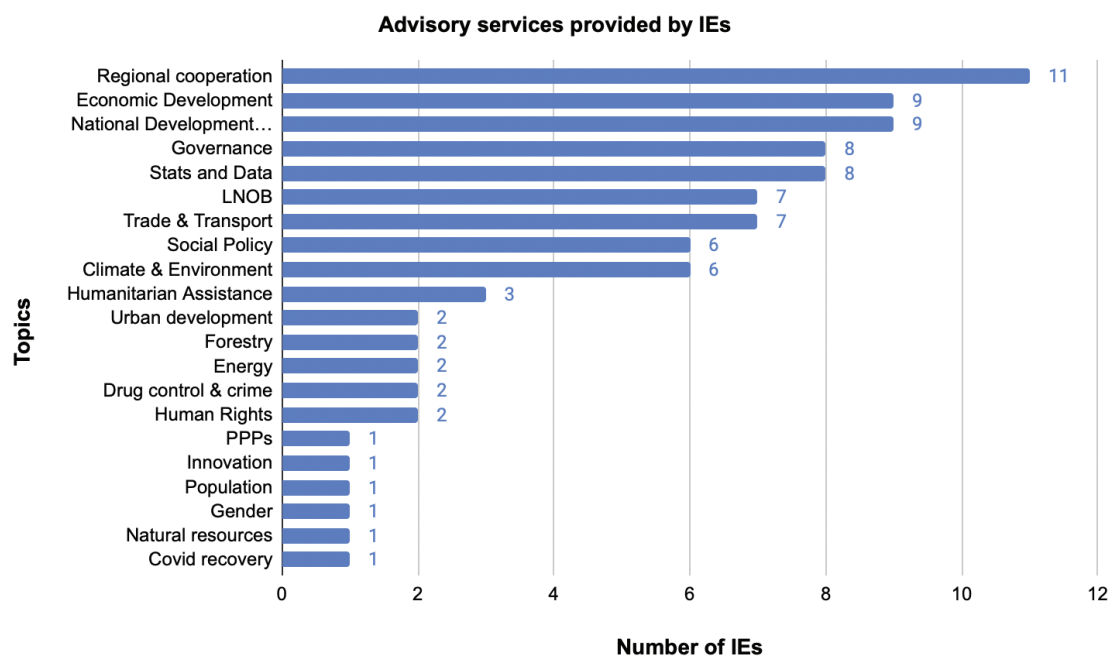
<sup>14</sup> North Macedonia is the only LLDC that was not supported at the national level - but it was supported at the regional level.

<sup>15</sup> The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or any area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

<sup>16</sup> This map is based on data provided by IEs on their national level interventions, though differing M&E methodology across IEs means that some regional activities may have been included.

<sup>17</sup> Participants in training events, and fellows.

**Figure 2. Topics of Advisory Services**



As was the case in previous years, RPTC activities have been **well anchored in inter-governmental decisions and mandates** that have preceded and guided their programming, with the **2030 Agenda and the SDGs as their overarching framework**. For example, all RPTC activities carried out by UNODC are connected to respective SDGs - particularly SDGs 5 and 16 - as well as the **Conventions and International Legal Instruments**<sup>18</sup> on which UNODC is supporting MS. RPTC assistance provided by ECLAC was also delivered in support of UN intergovernmental agreements, as well as regional agendas agreed by MS of the LAC region,<sup>19</sup> and, ultimately, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the attainment of the SDGs. OCHA contributes to SDGs 6, 11, 13 and 17 through various training activities and digitalized tools. The main thrust of ESCAP's work is to support its members in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as other **regionally agreed development plans and review processes**: in 2021, ESCAP's RPTC work contributed to all 17 SDGs.

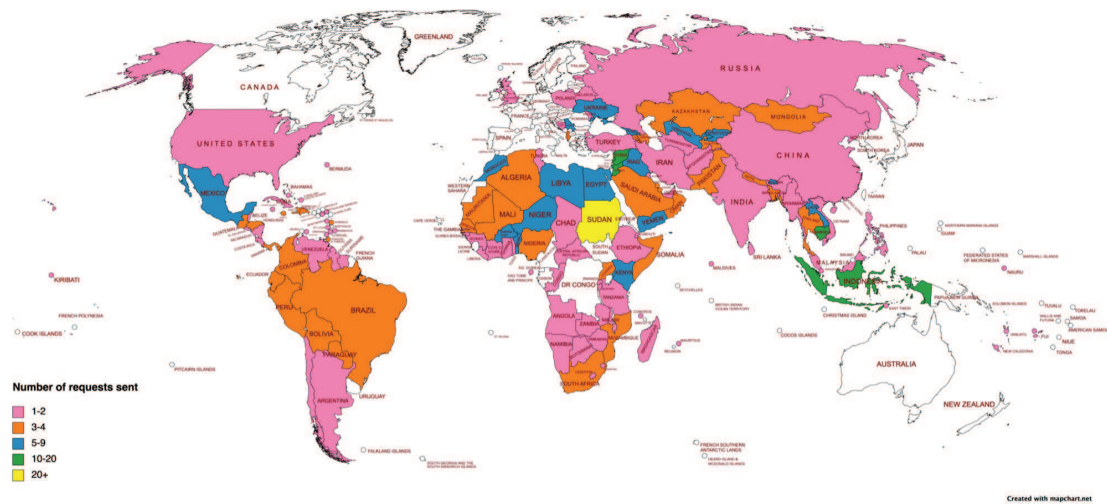
In 2021, IEs received 580 requests for assistance, from 142 countries, including 39 LDCs (85% of LDCs), 25 LLDCs (88% of LLDCs) and 30 SIDS (56% of SIDS). For a visual representation of the geographic spread of requests, see Figure 3, below. For details broken down by IE, see [Annex 3](#).

<sup>18</sup> They include the UN Convention against Corruption, the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols, and the UN Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and the 19 international conventions and protocols against terrorism.

<sup>19</sup> They include the Regional Agenda for Social Development, the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus, the Regional Gender Agenda including the Santiago Commitment, the Digital agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Samoa Pathway, the Sendai Framework.



**Figure 3. Number of requests sent per country (580 requests from 142 countries)<sup>20</sup>**



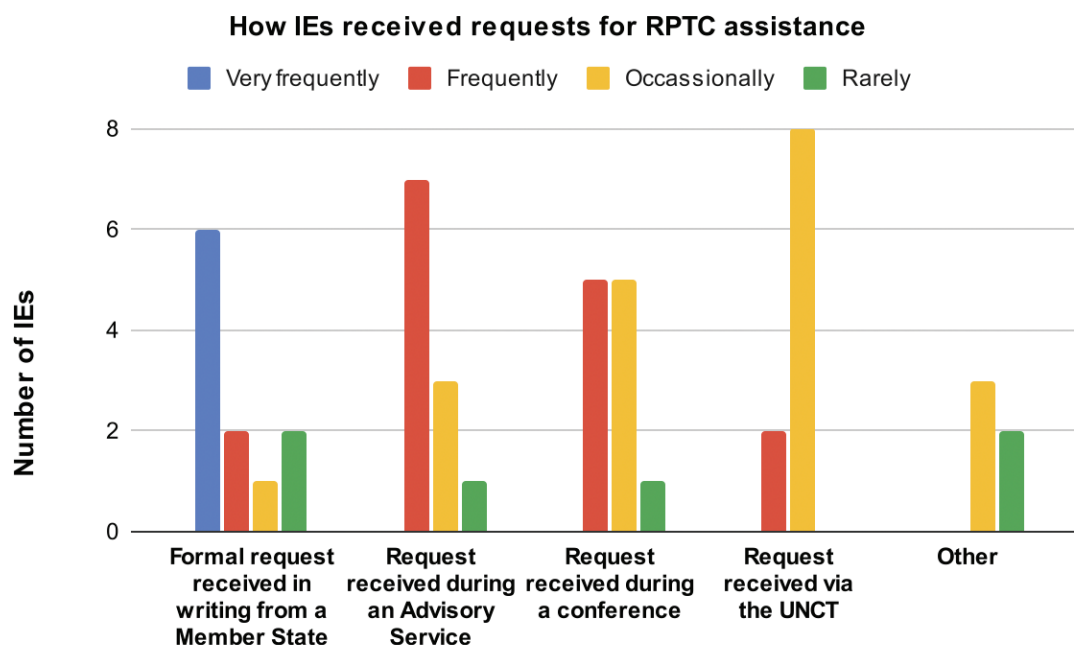
Requests for assistance came from a variety of channels. As illustrated in Figure 4 below, **most frequently, requests were received in writing from MS.** For example, ECA received a written request for continued support from the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection of **Cameroon**, following a successful project supporting the Cameroon National Observatory on Climate change. IEs also **frequently receive requests during advisory services or conferences.** Apart from UN-Habitat, which received most requests from RCOs, **IEs only occasionally receive requests from UNCTs/RCOs.** For instance, ESCWA received technical assistance requests from UNCTs in **Bahrain** and **Sudan** on mainstreaming disability in their planning and reporting. Requests may also be formulated during or following **intergovernmental processes** or through **bilateral meetings of senior management and representatives of MS.** Requests for support may also come via **DCO, Peer Support Groups, or during other activities** carried out by the IEs through which the stakeholders identify a knowledge and/or capacity gap. Finally, DESA also received requests for support from **regional and national organizations** such as institutes of public administration.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>20</sup> The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the UN concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or any area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

<sup>21</sup> The national schools of public policy, schools of government, and regional networks of institutes and schools of public administration such as the Caribbean Centre for Development Administration, and The African Energy Commission.



**Figure 4. Ways in which IEs received requests for RPTC assistance**



As the vast majority of RPTC assistance is provided following specific requests from MS, **RPTC activities directly address national priorities and needs as defined by MS themselves**. This is exemplified by ESCAP's Pacific Office RPTC assistance to the Government of **Tuvalu** in the preparation of the national trade development strategy in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate emergencies, which was based on **Tuvalu's own national planning strategy document**. OHCHR always considers national priorities when planning delivery of assistance and advisory services, using, among other things, **National Development Plans to ensure that UN programming responds to national priorities**. As UN-Habitat received the majority of requests through the RCO, an **alignment with the UNSDCF** was guaranteed.

IEs have responded to the challenge of promoting the RPTC to MS in various ways. Most have **promoted the RPTC during intergovernmental meetings, conferences or departmental workshops, via direct and informal communication with MS**. This is complemented by specific outreach activities. DESA, for example, took advantage of the newly established RC system and presented portfolios at the annual RCs meeting. ECE promoted the RPTC through regular participation of ECE RAs in UNCT and UNSDCF result group meetings. Other IEs, such as ESCWA and ESCAP, **publish overviews and/or key results of RPTC activities**.<sup>22</sup> Finally, the Executive Secretary of ESCWA led **high-level missions** to several MS in which she promoted, along with ESCWA staff, technical cooperation programmes.

IEs chose RPTC as a particular source of assistance for several reasons. First, its **flexibility** is highlighted by most IEs. UNCTAD, for example, explains that beneficiary countries appreciate the timely response to the requests thanks to the flexibility of RPTC, as well as the **high level technical expertise and competencies** provided by RPTC. RPTC is the only source of operational flexibility and **rapid response capacity** of the ECLAC Secretariat and is therefore a critical tool to respond effectively to emerging demands and unforeseen development requirements. The **demand-driven** nature of RPTC funds is also very frequently given as a reason to choose this source of funding to support MS. OCHA finds the RPTC to be a **stable and secure** source of funding that allows for advance planning, as well as **implementation of follow up actions**. ESCAP also appreciates that RPTC assistance can be **extended swiftly** after it is received.<sup>23</sup> Finally ECE often chooses the RPTC as a source of

<sup>22</sup> ESCWA publishes them in all intergovernmental committee meetings and ESCAP publishes them in the [Technical Cooperation Highlight](#).

<sup>23</sup> Extensions can be granted, following established internal mechanisms of review and approval, if the assistance requested is aligned with the criteria for the use of this fund, the priorities are identified in globally and regionally agreed development frameworks, and it fits within the mandated areas of expertise of ESCAP.

assistance because it is used as **seed funding for bigger DA and XB projects**.

## 5.2. Sustainability

This section examines the extent to which RPTC-supported activities have encouraged **national ownership** and continuity. It is guided by considerations of the programme's performance in **transferring knowledge** to and **enhancing capacities of developing countries**, particularly when carried forward under the DA, XB projects or other means.

The key feature of the RPTC is that the support provided is demand-driven, responding to needs expressed by individual governments. As the support is driven by governments, in most cases it supports initiatives led by governments, and owned by government entities that have initiated the request. In 2021, through the implementation of an ECA project in **Angola** to support the country in developing and deepening its domestic bond market, **national ownership was manifested through close collaboration with the ministry of finance and full participatory process of engagement with key government stakeholders, private sector, and market participants**. Many RPTC-funded OHCHR activities are **hosted, co-hosted or coordinated with national institutions**.<sup>24</sup> In the case of **Mexico**, the technical assistance provided by OHCHR resulted in improved capacity and skills of the Special Prosecution for the Ayotzinapa case and the Under Secretary for Human Rights within the Ministry of Interior. However, it is important to note that OHCHR Mexico did not accept the offer from the Mexican government to co-fund these activities, in order to maintain independence. UN-Habitat also ensures national ownership in its RPTC activities: in the case of activities carried out in Shanghai, the work has been anchored in a MOU, ensuring national and local institutional hosts and complementary financial support. In other cases, the **anchoring of the advisory services in the RCO and the work of the UNCT helps to ensure sustainability**.

ESCWA coordinates all country assistance interventions with one focal point officially assigned to liaise on TC matters in each country. Together, these focal points form the ESCWA Technical Cooperation Network, which meets regularly to discuss RPTC delivery challenges, successes and priorities. In most States, these focal points attend meetings of the ESCWA Executive Committee to discuss the delivery of all ESCWA activities and its work programme funded through all types of budget lines. National counterparts are senior official servants, which ensures national ownership. National funding is usually provided through in-kind contributions and logistical support for capacity development activities. National counterparts usually insist on being co-organizers of capacity-building workshops. There were cases in 2021 where the national counterpart provided resources to recruit a consultant whose work was supervised by ESCWA. This was the case of the Jordanian National Commission for Women that ESCWA supported in drafting the ToRs and recruiting a consultancy firm to collect and analyse data on the cost of services provided by the State to women survivors of violence.

RPTC activities often have a **multiplier effect** at the national, subregional, regional levels: they are replicated or followed up by other partners and follow-up work is requested or organised by MS. For instance, in **Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine**, UNODC produced educational videos which are being used by national counterparts, academics, NGOs and other beneficiaries. ESCAP also illustrates the multiplier effect with its technical cooperation projects seeking to train women entrepreneurs leading Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in 4 LDCs in South Asia. This led to **additional requests from other countries in the subregion**, which increased the number of target countries benefiting from this initiative to 10. Some national agencies also requested further national training events which were organized for **India and Pakistan**. OHCHR **fellowship programmes also have a multiplier effect when staff representatives of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI) and regional mechanisms return to their respective institutions**. In **Mexico**, the strengthening of the Special Prosecutor could have a multiplying effect in other Prosecutor's Offices and set an important precedent of international cooperation and involvement of the victims in the investigation of cases of grave human rights violations. **Human rights organizations have strengthened their capacities and have applied lessons learned from this case to other paradigmatic ones**.

<sup>24</sup> They include the judiciary, justice institutions, parliamentarians, law enforcement, local governments, NHRIs, and national preventive mechanisms (NPMs).

Most RPTC activities enhance the capacities of developing states via **knowledge transfer** and **South-South cooperation**. The project through which ECA Sub Regional Office for Northern Africa provided technical assistance to **Sudan** in mobilizing tax revenue is an excellent example of South-South cooperation: **Egyptian Tax Authority experts were able to transfer valuable knowledge to Sudanese Taxation Chamber** experts. DESA also enhanced South-South collaboration by developing a collection of capacity development resources on international tax cooperation.<sup>25</sup> Through its flagship P166 programme, UNCTAD promotes knowledge transfer and South-South cooperation by seeking country experts for each regional course to provide knowledge on the economic development of the host country's experiences. UNCTAD was also able to train trainers to pass on their learning, on how to use the Handbook On Duty-Free and Quota-Free Market Access and Rules of Origin for LDCs, among other topics. Finally, OCHA's Global Humanitarian Policy Forum (GHPF) contributed to South-South collaboration by **including panellists from numerous Southern organisations and countries**.<sup>26</sup>

As mentioned above, the final indicator regarding sustainability of RPTC activities is whether or not they have been **carried forward under the DA, XB or other means**. Most IEs can list projects that were formulated in 2021 that relate to, or follow-up on, earlier interventions by RPTC: at least 35 such projects were identified. UNODC alone formulated 15 such projects. Others range from ECLAC's DA funded projects on Migration;<sup>27</sup> ECE's DA funded project on Food-Water-Energy nexus support to post-COVID-19 recovery in Eastern Europe, Western Balkans, Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa;<sup>28</sup> UN-Habitat's XB funded UN Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities;<sup>29</sup> to ESCWA's DA funded project on water security, the effect of climate change on water scarcity, and means to utilise water sustainably in agriculture.

### 5.3. Complementarity of action

#### Links between IEs and between IEs and other UN entities

The 5th progress report recommended that "a more systematic approach to identifying opportunities for collaboration and exchange of information among implementing entities on RPTC activities would maximize efforts." The UN's reform efforts, ongoing since 2017, have been aiming in this direction, with Regional Collaborative Platforms (RCPs) being designed as "the main internal, UN-wide collaboration platform for sustainable development at the regional level."<sup>30</sup> This is wider than the 11 IEs of the RPTC, but it is important to set this collaboration in its wider context.

IEs have been collaborating with each other, and with other UN entities, in many spaces. ECA's Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (RFSD) was organised with other Economic Commissions, DESA, UNDP, UNICEF and ECOSOC. ECE and ESCWA have been working closely with other UN agencies through their RCPs (for which they are Vice-Chairs), where they lead various IBCs to work on issues such as climate change, migration and data. UN-Habitat works through RCPs in Europe and Central Asia to provide technical advice on human mobility issues, and has worked through RCPs, collaborating with UNDP and ITU on the digital transformation towards people-centered smart cities in Asia and the Pacific. UNCTAD's P166 programme is designed in collaboration with the **UN's Economic Commissions**, and implemented collaboratively. UNODC has worked closely with UNDP in **Syria** on justice training in schools. OHCHR worked with ECLAC, UNDP and UNEP to explain the Escazu Agreement to the public in Latin America. ECLAC had a particularly wide collaboration in 2021, working with 19 AFPs, the DCO, UNRCs and UNCTs to develop the Comprehensive Development Plan for **El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras** and the South-Southeast states of **Mexico**.

<sup>25</sup> It is the result of a unique collaborative engagement between government representatives from developing countries, members of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters, relevant international and regional organizations and the DESA Financing for Sustainable Development Office.

<sup>26</sup> African Union's Africa Vaccine Delivery Alliance; Economic Commission for Africa; International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), Bangladesh; Mayor, Salcedo, Eastern Samar, the Philippines; Ehtesab Organization and Afghanistan.

<sup>27</sup> 2023R Harnessing the contribution of intra-region migration to socio-economic development in Latin American and Caribbean countries; 1819E Collection and use of international migration data in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.

<sup>28</sup> \$700,000.

<sup>29</sup> 5,700,000 Euros.

<sup>30</sup> RCP Functioning and Working Arrangements, 2020, p2.

### Links to activities carried out under other funds

IEs have highlighted linkages between RPTC activities and DA/XB projects, and these links are outlined in Section 6. Examples include work on Integrated Planning and Reporting to enhance development planning capacity (ECA), projects on inclusive and sustainable economic growth in LAC, on deforestation and on data in Africa in Asia (DESA), and a project on Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities (UN-Habitat), all of which build on previous RPTC, DA or XB activities. UN-Habitat's advisory services in the Western Balkan and Central Asia resulted in a DA project proposal on sustainable transport in the aftermath of COVID-19, in partnership with UNEP and ECE - which, in 2021, developed at least 5 DA/XB projects building on RPTC work.

Across the 11 IEs, at least 154<sup>31</sup> interventions were co-organised with funding from DA, XB or other partners. ESCWA alone had 67 interventions in partnership with such actors. UNCTAD had 27 such interventions in 2021, with cost-sharing accounting for 20% of these. Approximately 285 staff,<sup>32</sup> who were **not** funded by RPTC funds, across the 11 IEs were involved in the delivery of RPTC activities in 2021, with both ESCWA and UNODC having around 60 non-RPTC funded staff contributing. This highlights the level of integration of RPTC work into the IEs.

A number of IEs have strong examples of structures to ensure links between RPTC and other funds. ESCAP's Capacity Development and Partnerships Section oversees both RPTC and DA projects, facilitating a coherent approach to project management and knowledge sharing. Similarly, UN-Habitat's RPTC and DA projects are overseen by their Programme Development Branch - again, this helps ensure strong linkages. ESCWA has an online portal to register MS requests, RPTC interventions and DA projects, enabling staff to identify linkages and leverage DA resources.

#### **Success stories in leveraging new funds**

**ECA leveraged funding from the Government of Uganda to support a RPTC project on infrastructure. ESCWA has leveraged multiple sources of funding from DA and XB projects, following requests for assistance from MS on the back of RPTC activities, focusing on disabilities, youth, climate change and food security. DESA has leveraged funding from the UN's Peace and development Trust fund to take forward RPTC funded work on financing for development. Furthermore, Italy and Norway committed \$2.3 million to take forward RPTC work on strengthening the capacity of governments to use administrative data sources for statistical purposes. UNCTAD's RPTC activities on e-commerce and digital economy led to support from Australia, Estonia, Germany, the Netherlands, South Korea and Sweden. UN Habitat's technical advisory mission to Azerbaijan led to a new \$1.5 million programme focusing on reconstruction. ECE's technical cooperation activities led to a multiyear project on energy efficiency funded by Germany, focusing on improving the energy efficiency of the global building supply chain industry and its products.**

### Linkages with RCOs and UNCTs

IEs are, in principle, following the UN's Management Accountability Framework (MAF), which clarifies that the "Resident Coordinator is responsible for the coordination of operational activities for development of the UN in support of countries' efforts towards implementation of the 2030 Agenda"<sup>33</sup> and which sets out relationships between RCOs and IEs, especially when IEs are members of the UNCT.<sup>34</sup> Cooperation and collaboration with UNCTs / RCOs is strong across the board. UNODC and UNCTs in **DRC, Syria** and **Chad** have jointly designed ToRs for missions. UNCTAD coordinates with UNCTs in advance of each P166 course, sharing information and inviting to events. ESCWA automatically notifies UNCTs of relevant RPTC requests, to avoid duplication of effort and to establish partnerships to deliver the assistance. ESCAP has a well developed method of coordination, which ensures ESCAP and the RCOs communicate consistent and coherent messages to Governments in the direction of technical assistance support. ECLAC regularly invites RCs to intergovernmental meetings and meetings of the subsidiary bodies to share lessons learned, experiences and to identify areas for technical assistance and cooperation. ECE strengthened its approach in 2021, with each RA acting as a focal point for 3 countries - aimed at fostering coordination and increased use of ECE tools and normative work at the country level. DESA coordinates national interventions with the RCO and UNCT, and recently developed internal procedures to

<sup>31</sup> This data was not available from all IEs.

<sup>32</sup> This data was not available from all IEs.

<sup>33</sup> MAF, p4.

<sup>34</sup> OCHA is not a signatory to UN Cooperation Frameworks, but is still considered a full member of UNCTs.

guide staff on engaging with the RCO when conducting RPTC activities, respecting the new role of the RC, the UNSDCF and the MAF. The procedures aim to ensure that RCOs are fully informed of all DESA activities taking place in their countries and can thus support their implementation and facilitate the engagement of local partners.

#### **Innovative Practise: Embedding Human Rights Advisors in UNCTs**

**OHCHR has expanded their deployment of Human Rights Advisors (HRAs) to RCOs and UNCTs as key vehicles in support of human rights integration in the UN's work. HRAs are deployed now in the RCOs and UNCTs of 54 countries supporting not only the UNCTs but also State partners at their request. RPTC funding often supports activities by these advisors in response to requests by MS.**

IEs have highlighted lessons learned and room for improvement in working with UNCTs, noting the impact of organizing webinars with UNCTs to explain the services it can offer to support the UNCT (ESCWA); the possibility of participating in UNCTs on specific themes and issues rather than as a full member (DESA), which is particularly useful for non-resident agencies (NRAs); and the importance of having dedicated country focal points or advisors to follow up on country and thematic processes (UNCTAD, OHCHR).

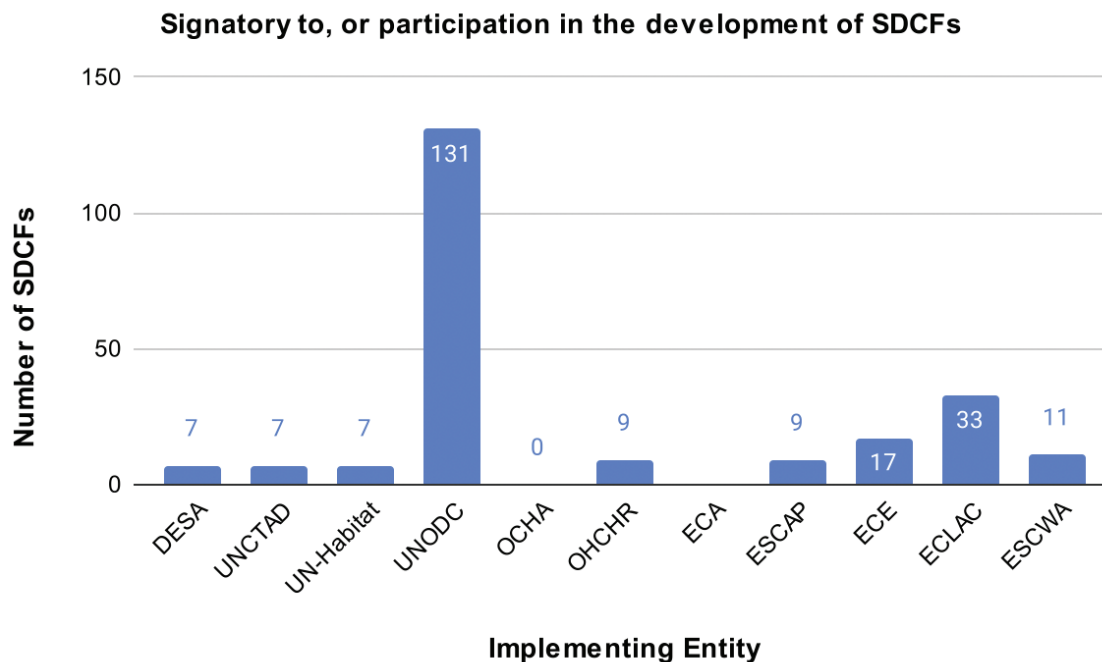
#### **Integrated Work Plans**

Most IEs present some evidence of integrated work plans with DA, UNCT, UNSDCFs, etc. DESA and ECE integrate their RPTC directly into the UNSDCF to which they are a signatory. ESCWA integrated RPTC and DA work plans to support MS in enhancing social protection in times of COVID-19. UNCTAD has developed an integrated work plan with a DA project via SP5. OHCHR uses RPTC-funded posts to ensure the integration of human rights into CCAs/UNSDCFs, which often translates into related and collaborative work plans (either UNCT joint work plans, other UN entities' work plans, or OHCHR country/regional work plans). The participation in the elaboration of the cooperation frameworks, and subsequent signature to, seems to be particularly effective in ensuring integrated work plans and could be further encouraged.

#### **Linkages with UN development cooperation frameworks**

The majority of the IEs are either signatories to, or have participated in, the elaboration of a large number of UNSDCFs at the national level, recognising the need to work in a collaborative manner and under a common framework. ESCAP is signatory to the UNDAF of **India** and a signatory of 9 UNSDCFs (**Bhutan, Cambodia, DPRK, India, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Timor Leste, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan**), as well as the UNSCDF of the Pacific (through the Multi Country Office). It will soon sign the UNSDCF of **Bangladesh** and **Nepal**. All ECE RPTC activities are integrated in the UNSDCFs in the 17 UN programme countries. ESCWA has signed UNSDCFs in **Bahrain, KSA and Iraq**, and will sign in **Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, UAE and Palestine** in 2022. DESA has signed UNSDCF's in 7 countries. UNCTAD signed 7 UNSDCFs in 2021. UNODC is signatory to 131 UNSDCFs. OHCHR has contributed to UNSDCF processes in 9 LAC countries, as well as the Caribbean Multicountry Sustainable Development Framework, with the aim of integrating human rights and leaving no one behind in the CCA and UNSDCFs of the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. OCHA, on the other hand, does not participate in the UNSDCFs, aiming to influence humanitarian-development nexus related work in general, but not at any specific country level.

**Figure 5. IE engagement in UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks**



#### Links with other stakeholders

All IEs work with other stakeholders in their RPTC activities - civil society, business, academia, trade unions and others. Strength and depth of engagement varies between the IEs. OCHA's earthquake simulation exercise in **Peru** was undertaken in partnership with the International Committee of the Red Cross. OHCHR worked directly with CSOs on free legal aid in **Serbia**, with human rights defenders in **Mexico**, and with UNCTs to ensure the participation of civil society in CCA/UNSDCF processes to strengthen partnerships, HRBA and the LNOB principle. ECE partnered with Mashav (The Agency for International Development Cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel) and the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies to develop an online training course in renewable energy. ECLAC worked with the Latin American Petrochemical and Chemical Association (APLA), the National Association of Industries of Colombia (ANDI), and the Inter-American Federation of the Construction Industry (FIIC), to support governments to design policies and mechanisms of national COVID-19 vaccination campaigns. ECA created the ECA-Young Economists Network, working with 71 universities from 27 African countries.

#### **5.4. Evaluation and Monitoring Arrangements**

There is no specific policy for monitoring or evaluation of RPTC, no standard approach, documentation, or platform for monitoring and reporting of RPTC across the IEs. This has proved particularly challenging for collecting data on RPTC interventions, as IEs' M&E programmes are tracking intervention data in different ways, making it very difficult for the 11 IEs to present the same data. For example, UN-Habitat's RPTC is fully embedded into its other programmes, making RPTC specific M&E very challenging. ECA, on the other hand, is moving to full evaluations of each RPTC project in 2023. DESA has guidelines which establish M&E requirements for RPTC activities and is currently conducting a full evaluation of its RPTC work. UNCTAD's different SPs each have their own M&E processes. ECE and ESCWA engage in thorough reporting to their Executive Committees, with ECE structuring their reporting around the SDGs. ESCWA also has an online internal platform for follow-up and monitoring of technical cooperation interventions, in which all requests are registered and all activities are monitored, and has supplemented the platform with a dashboard that allows all staff to obtain quantitative information on RPTC programme delivery.



Some IEs have been making efforts to strengthen their M&E systems in 2021. ESCWA organised a session to discuss RPTC M&E with MS, updating its internal evaluation forms for RPTC workshops and advisory services, and strengthening its online internal platform for M&E. UNODC has organised briefings for staff and national counterparts to sensitize them on the conditions of RPTC, and has created a standardised reporting template. OCHA developed a digital platform to facilitate M&E of course delivery. ESCAP launched its Programme Monitoring Tool, a platform that tracks progress of implementation of activities across all budget sections, including RPTC, and focused on building staff capacity by organising internal trainings. **However, no IE provided information on their efforts to create a more systematic means of sharing information among the IEs about ongoing activities and emerging opportunities.**

#### Integrating lessons learned into the RPTC

Over the years, ESCWA has realised the need for balance between the established formal process for receiving requests and the ways in which requests are actually received. Some are made orally, for example, during a high-level visit to a country in which ESCWA management sees ministers and receives oral requests, or WhatsApp requests. Some requests are made through emails directly to ESCWA staff whose expertise had been solicited before and with whom the national counterpart has an established relationship. It is difficult to compel all national stakeholders to use the formal channel for requesting assistance. ESCWA has integrated this learning by notifying national focal points of all unofficial requests received, and even sometimes by asking them to vet them retrospectively if they were not received from a senior official.

UNCTAD's second eT Ready implementation review takes stock of experiences and feedback received during stakeholders engagement events, based on the lessons learnt from the first implementation review conducted in 2020.

DESA has integrated the possibility of complementing physical interventions with remote and virtual modalities, building these systematically into RPTC interventions, based on the learning that preparatory virtual support, e-Learning and post-activity virtual support can significantly enhance the impact and sustainability of an in-person event.

ECE strengthened its approach to receiving official requests for RPTC services. In addition to channelling the requests through intergovernmental bodies, an official letter from the Government or the RC now serves as a confirmation of a demand for an RPTC intervention.

Moving forward, it may be useful for IEs to think about standardising RPTC monitoring tools, so that all IEs are aware of what data they should be collecting throughout the year. It would also be helpful to think more carefully and deeply about how information is shared systematically and intentionally between IEs, and how RPTC lessons learned are shared and acted upon.

## 6. Overview and Accomplishments by Implementing Entity

### UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

DESA implemented RPTC activities under 8 different subprogrammes.<sup>35</sup> It aimed to support MS to formulate viable national strategies, policies and programmes that integrate the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and other relevant policy frameworks, in particular in relation to the achievement of the SDGs and other internationally agreed development goals.

In 2021, DESA received 154 requests for RPTC assistance from 117 different countries (34 LDCs, 27 LLDCs, 39 SIDS). DESA deployed 64 advisory services (53 virtual). These missions focused on social policy; Leaving No One Behind; economic development, macro economic analysis/financing and investment for development; national development planning; governance, public administration and services; statistics and data; environment; trade and transport; energy; forests; and COVID-19 recovery. DESA undertook 206 national training events (168 virtual), training 3357 people, including 21% women, from 116 countries. 74% of these participants were trained virtually. DESA undertook 10 global interventions (8 virtual, 2 hybrid), reaching 810 people, including 38% women; 26 regional level interventions (all virtual or hybrid), reaching 2525 people, including 40% women; and 4 sub-regional interventions, all hybrid, reaching 87 people, including 37% women. These interventions were a combination of workshops and advisory services. Main beneficiaries were civil servants, policy makers and civil society. As a result of RPTC funded DESA assistance, 55 new policies, laws, national plans or strategies were introduced in 2021, and 1 new reporting requirement was met (by **Thailand**). Examples of accomplishments in key areas are highlighted below.

#### Training government officials on infrastructure asset management

Under SP9, which aims to advance the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development, DESA worked with UN Capital Development Fund and UNOPS to train 2400 local and central government officials in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia-Pacific in [UN Handbook on infrastructure asset management](#).



The training focused on optimizing the use of public infrastructure assets and improving quality and reliability of service provision in roads, water supply and solid waste management. A [Massive Open Online Course](#) on infrastructure asset management was developed, allowing trainees to revisit the material at their own pace.

Participants - primarily government officials involved in the management of public infrastructure - developed capacity on adopting a systematic, sustainable approach to managing infrastructure that factors long-term costs and risks into planning, particularly financial planning.

**Over \$2 million has been secured to follow up this work (through the 2030 Agenda Sub-Fund of the UN Peace and Development Fund) to include at least 6 new project countries in a new round of multi-year capacity development activities on infrastructure asset management.**

<sup>35</sup> SP2 Inclusive social development; SP3 Sustainable development; SP4 Statistics; SP5 Population; SP6 Economic analysis and policy; SP7 Public institutions and digital government; SP8 Sustainable forest management; SP9 Financing for sustainable development.



### Supporting Colombia to adopt National Transfer Accounts as part of their official system of national statistics

Under SP5, which aims to improve knowledge of population trends and evidence-based understanding of interactions between population change and sustainable development among policymakers and the public, DESA supported **Colombia's** process of adopting National Transfer Accounts (NTAs) in their official system of national statistics.

As part of this assistance, a joint DESA/ECLAC capacity building workshop was held online to train statisticians from the National Statistics Office of Colombia in the methodology for estimation of NTAs. This contributed to **Colombia** adopting and publishing their [NTA](#).

DESA and ECLAC partnered to create a [Spanish version](#) of the NTA manual. It has already been used in workshops in **Colombia** and **Guatemala**.



This work has led to a follow up DA project, entitled “Inclusive and sustainable economic growth in a society for all ages in the post-COVID-19 era in Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean”. It aims to enhance the capacity of governments in 8 countries across the Asia-Pacific and Latin America and Caribbean regions to develop evidence-based, intergenerational policies for inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

### Equipping public servants with innovative mindsets and behaviours to address current and future challenges

Under SP7, which aims to advance effective, accountable, inclusive governance and public institutions for sustainable development, DESA delivered a training workshop for senior civil servants in **Pakistan** to equip them with innovative mindsets and behaviours to better address challenges. This hybrid course was designed in partnership with the National School of Public Policy in **Pakistan** and the RCO.



By providing advisory support and developing and piloting new methodologies, the training strengthened senior civil servants' leadership capacities, focusing on changing mindsets and innovations in public service delivery.

Extra funding was secured to recruit national and international consultants to take this work forward, with the national consultant supporting the facilitation of the Training Course on site, and the international consultant readapting the [DESA toolkit on Changing Mindsets in Public Institutions to Achieve the SDG](#), to create a **Pakistan**-focused training.

**Pakistan has expressed an interest to roll out this training to mid-career and senior management civil servants, and to organise a lecture discussion on Systems Thinking and how it fits with, and enriches their overall way of conceptualizing public policy formulation and implementation.**

### Supporting forest management in Malawi



NATIONAL FOREST ACTION PLAN 2020-2025



Under SP8, which aims to ensure the effective implementation of sustainable management of forests, DESA, in partnership with UNCCD, IUCN and UNDP, supported **Malawi** by building capacity of national experts from government ministries, civil society, private sector and academia to design national forest financing strategies and create project proposals to access funding.

The support included a background study on the status of forest management in **Malawi**; of a National Forest Action Plan development workshop and a National Forest Financing Strategy (NFFS) capacity building workshop.

DESA also supported the development of a **project concept note** on sustainable land management in **Malawi**, for Green Climate Fund funding. A validation workshop for the NFSS and project concept note was organised, to enable stakeholders to review, finalise and adopt the documents.

\$400,000 has been secured to develop a full proposal with a value of \$27.37 million grant financing from the Green Climate Fund and \$10 million from development partners and the private sector.

#### **Modernising of statistics in Kyrgyzstan**

Under SP4, which aims to strengthen the capacity of MS to produce and use high-quality national statistics, DESA, working with the **National Statistical Committee (NSC)** of **Kyrgyzstan**, the **RCO** and the **World Bank**, undertook a programme of support aiming at transforming the Kyrgyz statistical system. This led to the creation of a 5-year development programme to modernise statistics, a draft decree to be approved by the President of the Republic on the national data stewardship role of NSC, recommendations for the update of provisions of laws and regulations conflicting with the recently adopted Statistical Law, and a draft MoU to fix the rights and obligations of parties involved in data exchange.



This programme included virtual meetings with NSC management; provision of advice on selected topics; drafting of guidance papers; in-person discussions with top-level NSC management; facilitated in-person group discussions with NSC management on the development of a 5-year work programme; and a retreat for 19 senior NSC managers focusing on the the 5-year development programme.

**NSC management increased their skills in stewarding data without compromising the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, as well as their planning skills and skills in formulating statistical laws.**

\$17.5 Million has been secured from the World Bank to implement this 5 year programme.

#### **Integration of human rights and gender equality concerns in UN DESA interventions**

DESA promotes a multi stakeholder consultation approach in policy formulation and monitoring SDG progress. This approach analyses stakeholder groups and encourages participation. DESA also supports governments in their application of relevant conventions in national contexts, for example the UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities.

Gender disaggregated data was provided.

#### **Use of resources**

22 advisors were employed using RPTC funds in 2021, and 34 other staff members contributed to RPTC activities. 5 activities were co-organised with funding from DA, XB or other partners.

RPTC resources helped address DESA's priorities, set out in its 5 interlinked areas of work, notably policy coherence, social inclusion, institutions and integrated inclusive approaches, evidence based policy and means of implementation. DESA's RPTC budget outlines the specific sectoral areas to be addressed through the work of the SPs, which cover the 5 areas of work. The SPs also define an integrated work plan for capacity development, funded under the RPTC, DA and XB, to ensure better coordination and utilization of resources.

At least 2 UNDA and 1 XB projects were formulated in 2021, relating to or following up on earlier RPTC interventions:

- DA project: “Inclusive and sustainable economic growth in a society for all ages in the post-COVID-19 era in Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean” \$880,000;
- DA project: “Turning the tide on deforestation – Building partnerships to combat intensifying impacts of climate change, forest fires and zoonotic diseases” \$600,000;
- XB: “Accelerating implementation of Data For Now” in 8 countries in Africa and Asia \$1,500,468.

### **Complementarity of action**

Linkages with DA: There are two strong examples of RPTC/DA linkages in DESA’s work:

- The RPTC support to **Namibia** and **Uganda** in their efforts to promote the rights of indigenous peoples has led to interest from **Angola**, **Zambia** and **Zimbabwe**, and thus the DA project, “Inclusive Development for Indigenous People in Africa”, focusing on **Angola**, **Zimbabwe**, **Uganda** and **Namibia** (\$664,440);
- DESA’s work on NTAs has led to a follow up DA project which will be launched in 2023, aiming to disaggregate National Accounts by age and socio-economic group. This DA project has grown out of the RPTC work on NTAs of DESA, ESCAP, ECLAC, and UNFPA.

Linkages with RCOs / UNCTs: DESA’s country level interventions are coordinated with the RCO and UNCT - this cooperation can include joint programming through the CCA and UNSDCF.

In 2020, DESA developed internal procedures to guide staff on engaging with the RCO when conducting RPTC activities, respecting the new role of the RC, the UNSDCF and the new Management and Accountability Framework (MAF). The procedures aim to ensure that RCOs are informed of all DESA activities taking place in their countries and can thus support their implementation and facilitate the engagement of local partners.

Linkages with other UN entities: DESA has worked closely with DCO to create standard operating procedures on how to engage with RCOs when undertaking activities at the country level. For longer term DA projects, more formal cooperation agreements are used. DESA often seeks partnerships on specific topics, such as UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) on Mutual Asset management, and UNCCD and UNEP on Forests.

DESA works with multiple UN entities on, for example, [Integrated National Financial Frameworks](#), and always cooperates with Regional Commissions for activities planned in their respective regions.

Linkages with other stakeholders: DESA partners with Eurostat, the World Bank and other development banks on Statistics. It also partners with regional organizations, such as the Inter-American Center of Tax Administrations, and academic partners on methodologies such as the Royal Institute of Technology of Sweden on the [Climate, Land-use, Energy and Water Systems modelling tool](#) and national universities and training institutions for the [curriculum on governance for the SDGs](#).

### **Challenges**

The key challenge was travel restrictions, which DESA met by introducing methodologies and technology to provide remote support. Certain interventions are hard to implement online, such as inter-ministerial discussions and stakeholder workshops or consultations. Often in-person consultations are the only way to reach those left furthest behind that are not empowered to connect virtually.

This adaptation to remote support required significant investment of time and resources to convert materials developed for face-to-face training into a format that allows for remote delivery, as well as investment in platforms and tools for virtual events.

DESA anticipates a need to strengthen capacity to deliver training activities virtually, and is investing in developing staff skills on this.

## United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

UNCTAD implemented RPTC activities under 5 subprogrammes.<sup>36</sup> It aimed to support government officials and policy practitioners from developing countries on key issues on the international economic agenda, with a view to increasing their capacity to build more effective and integrated policy responses to a changing global economy.

UNCTAD received 46 requests for assistance from 20 different countries (13 LDCs, 8 LLDCs). It deployed 58 virtual advisory missions, focusing on economic development, macro economic analysis, financing and investment for development, regional and sub-regional cooperation and integration and, finally, trade and transport. UNCTAD conducted 48 national level training events (all virtual). 653 people, coming from 20 countries (13 LDCs, 8 LLDCs) participated in these events. Participants were mostly civil servants and policy makers and 45% were women. UNCTAD also conducted 2 regional level interventions, reaching 45 people, including 24 women. UNCTAD provided 45 fellowships, including 56% to women and carried out 5 field projects. As a result of RPTC-funded UNCTAD assistance, 10 new policies, laws, national plans or strategies were introduced and 20 new reporting requirements were met, across 20 countries. Examples of accomplishments in key areas are highlighted below.

### Training course on key trade and development matters

UNCTAD continued to deliver its flagship course on key issues in the international economic agenda through its Paragraph 166 (P166) course. Two P166 regional courses were organised. 45 policy makers, including 24 women, from 18 developing countries and countries in transition in Eastern Europe and the MENA region participated and shared knowledge and expertise on the trade policy dimension of development.

The curricula for regional courses continued to illustrate the formulation of development policies and strategies, placing them within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. Additionally, it was updated to illustrate responses to the global pandemic and to incorporate resilience in response to multiple economic shocks.



**"The activities under paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action have proven to be of great importance and utility and should be continued."<sup>37</sup>**



Participants reported that, thanks to the P166 course, they have deepened their understanding of economic and development matters; they are better equipped to use knowledge and tools on improvement of economic policy, trade negotiations, policy formulation, strategic planning, employment creation, etc.; and they gained the ability to employ analytical tools in the decision-making process in pursuit of relevant development policies to address economic challenges.

In 2022, 3 P166 courses are planned: (1) for African economies in Nairobi, (2) for LAC in Buenos Aires and (3) for Asia and the Pacific in Islamabad.

<sup>36</sup> SP1: Globalization, interdependence and development; SP2: Investment and enterprise; SP3: International trade and commodities; SP4: Technology and logistics; and SP5: Africa, least developed countries and special programmes.

<sup>37</sup> Bridgetown Covenant, p.18 [https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/td541add2\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/td541add2_en.pdf). This is the outcome document of the UNCTAD 15<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Ministerial Conference. In 2021, for the first time since its creation, the P166 course was given special attention in the context of the technical cooperation work.

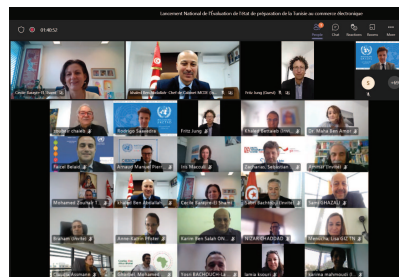


**In light of the difficulties met by developing countries to face the consequences of the pandemic, the P166 programme has proven itself to be one of their key tools for policy making in challenging times.**

### Moving towards a digital economy and e-commerce

Under SP4, the E-commerce and the Digital Economy (ECDE) Programme aims at enhancing inclusive and sustainable development gains from e-commerce and the digital economy for people and businesses in developing countries, particularly LDCs. In 2021, RPTC funding has been instrumental for (1) undertaking eTrade Readiness Assessments (eT Readies) and (2) facilitating more effective collaboration in support of developing countries seeking to implement policies on e-commerce and the digital economy that work for development, through the eTrade for all initiative.

1. eTrade Readiness Assessments aim to increase capacity of beneficiary countries to participate effectively in e-commerce<sup>38</sup>. 2 eT Readies were completed in 2021, for **Jordan** and **Tunisia**. Policymakers and other government officials responsible for formulating, implementing, and supporting policies related to e-commerce and the digital economy for development acquired an enhanced understanding of the constraints and opportunities to e-commerce development in key policy areas. By facilitating policy formulation to harness digital trade for inclusive and sustainable economic growth (SDG 8), foster innovation (SDG 9), reduce inequalities (SDG 10) and empower women digital entrepreneurs (SDG 5) in a multi-stakeholder partnership (SDG 17), eT Readies contribute to the achievement of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. Follow up activities such as action plans to provide governments with an operational and planning tool to mobilize resources and fast-track the implementation of selected actions identified are being developed.
2. The eTrade for all initiative welcomed 2 new members: the Economic Research Institute for Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and East-Asia (ERIA) and the British Standards Institution, bringing the total number of key institutional partners to 34, up from 14 when it was first started. More than 65,000 visitors accessed the eTrade for all online platform, an estimated 53% of whom are female. The “[COVID-19 and E-commerce: Global Review](#)” publication was downloaded more than 20,000 times in 2021. Platform users are mostly policymakers and other government officials in developing countries and LDCs, as well as development partners and the donor community. The eTrade for all initiative will continue to provide a favourable environment for increased multi-stakeholder dialogue.



**Germany** (BMZ), the **Netherlands**, **Switzerland** and **Sweden** support the work of the E-commerce and Digital Economy (ECDE) Programme. Additional funds were also received from **Estonia**.

**In the case of SP4 work on digital economy [...], given the growing demand for assistance from MS, RPTC is essential for enabling the Programme to scale in a way that is commensurate to the needs that developing countries are facing.**

### Supporting structural transformation and enhancing the integration of LDCs into the global economy

Under SP5, which aims to support structural transformation and enhance the integration of least developed countries (LDCs) into the global economy, two projects are highlighted below.

1. “*A New Trade Policy and Strategy for ASEAN LDCs on Market Access and Related Issues*” aims to support a series of coordinated initiatives by **Cambodia** and **Lao PDR** on maintaining and improving trade preferences and market access in main preference giving countries before and after the Post LDC graduation. It also aims to address selected issues affecting exports in a WTO context as well as E-commerce ongoing WTO negotiations. Working with partners such as ARISE Plus, EUI and CILS, trade policy making capacities of

<sup>38</sup> They do so by raising awareness of opportunities and challenges related to leveraging e-commerce in LDCs; assessing critical readiness gaps in seven policy areas preventing them to embrace the digital trade revolution; mobilising and rationalising financial and human resources to implement priority e-commerce projects in LDCs.

ASEAN LDCs have been substantially enhanced to address post-graduation challenges through advisory services and capacity building on rules of origin, extended cumulation, SPS and E-Commerce.

2. *“Facilitation of Transit, Transport and Trade in West Africa for better value chain participation”* aims at improving the integration of **Benin, Niger and Burkina Faso’s** economies into global value chains. Working with the World Bank, ECOWAS, EU Delegations, GIZ and the West African Economic and Monetary Union, UNCTAD succeeded in improving the coordination between beneficiary countries for the implementation of a functional transit program; making progress in the development of a roadmap for customs connectivity through SIGMAT<sup>39</sup> between beneficiary countries; improving the coordination of cross-border land transport, transit and trade facilitation operations along the borders of the three beneficiary countries; and, finally, improving the legislation and regulatory practices on transit, land transport and trade.

Extra funding has been secured from the Enhanced Integrated Framework to take this work forward.

**Under SP5, the RPTC was particularly chosen as a source of assistance given the high technical expertise and competencies that it is able to provide to address the requests by the beneficiary countries, international organisations, and stakeholders at large. Moreover, beneficiary countries appreciate the timely response to the requests given the flexibility of RPTC and the capacity to deliver tailored country assistance matured from field experience.**

#### **Integration of Human Rights and gender equality concerns in UNCTAD interventions**

UNCTAD integrates a gender perspective in all its operational activities, deliverables and results, as appropriate, and in line with the Bridgetown Covenant. UNCTAD is committed to the integrated and cross-cutting treatment of a gender perspective in trade and development. It will continue to strengthen the capacity of MS to design and implement policies and establish institutions, frameworks and/or mechanisms that support women’s economic empowerment, economic security and rights, and enhance their economic and digital skills and opportunities. UNCTAD will continue to analyse the gender impact of the pandemic and other phenomena, and advocate for policy responses that are gender sensitive. UNCTAD will also continue its pioneering work on trade and sex-disaggregated statistics and measuring the different ways that women and men experience the impacts of trade.

Gender-disaggregated data was provided.

#### **Use of resources**

5 advisors were employed using RPTC funds in 2021, and 22 other staff members contributed to RPTC funded activities. RPTC resources helped to address UNCTAD’s priorities: P166 is a clear priority of UNCTAD, as is digitalization for development.<sup>40</sup>

The activities under SP5 on market access and rules of origin for the least developed countries are linked to DA 10th tranche Programme on Statistics and Data (1617A). These activities leveraged funds from this DA project for the UNCTAD Generalized System of Preferences website as well as for implementing a webinar series for duty-free-quota-free market access. Funds that have been made available by the Enhanced Integrated Framework were used to implement the West African and ASEAN LDC projects. Activities related to eCommerce and Digital Economy Programme are also supported by **Australia, Estonia, Germany, the Netherlands, South Korea and Sweden.**

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<sup>39</sup> Regional Customs Network for Transit Trade

<sup>40</sup> In October 2021 the Bridgetown Covenant called for strengthening the work on assisting developing countries to enhance their readiness to engage and integrate into the digital economy, thus contributing to the closing of the digital divide.

### Complementarity of action

Linkages with DA: The activities under SP4 and 5 are linked to DA projects. While there is no system in place to ensure RPTC and DA linkages, there is an integrated approach at the management level in considering the coherence and relevance of substance with respect to RPTC and DA at the level of each SP.

RCOs/UNCTs linkages: At the organizational level, UNCTAD's Technical Cooperation Section (TCS) is the focal point for RCOs and UNCTs. TCS is tasked with coordinating UNCTAD's inputs to CCAs, UNSDCFs and Annual Work Plans at the country level with RCOs/UNCTs. It does so in over 35 countries. Prior to each P166 regional course, the programme established contact with RCs, informing, sharing and inviting them to opening events. Additionally, for the 2 regional courses held in **Egypt** and **North Macedonia**, the UNRC team was informed of the training and fully briefed on the modalities. Through the eT Readies, the SP4/ECDE Programme is increasingly partnering with RCOs. For example, in **Jordan** and **Tunisia** the assessment process contributed to raising the profile of e-commerce among development partners through the RCOs. During the consultation phase for both assessments, UNCTAD organized roundtable discussions with development partners, in close collaboration with the RCOs, to present the projects and identify synergies with ongoing digital related programmes, within the UN Development Framework. As for activities implemented under SP5, to maintain a smooth collaboration with other RCs and UNCTs, a regular consultative meeting has been implemented whenever countries activities were undertaken. During the field trip to **Benin** and **Niger**, the SP liaised with the RC and UNDP offices in the field to raise awareness and share information about the West Africa project.

Other UN entities linkages: UNCTAD collaborates with multiple UN agencies when implementing RPTC activities:

- The P166 programme curriculum is designed in collaboration with relevant RECs. For example, ESCWA and ECE were involved in the 2 regional courses held in **Egypt** and **North Macedonia**.
- With regards to activities implemented under SP4, the eT Ready of **Jordan** benefited from the expertise of the UN Commission on International Trade Law, the Universal Postal Union, ESCWA, and the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF). ET readies partners also include RCOs, UNCTs and other development partners.
- For activities implemented under SP5, the ASEAN LDC and West African Projects are implemented in coordination with UNOPS and UNDP, among others. UNCTAD has also worked through the RCP to enhance cooperation with other UN entities. The SP is also working with the World Bank. As for the ASEAN LDC Project, the SP is closely working with the UNDP to implement hybrid events in **Cambodia** and **Lao PDR**. The SP is also working with the Asian Development Bank, ARISE Plus **Cambodia** and ARISE Plus **Lao PDR**.

### Challenges

In 2021, recurring challenges included limited inter-ministerial coordination, fragmented public-private sector cooperation, and scarce resource mobilization from development partners for capacity-building in different policy areas. The COVID-19 pandemic continued to prevent the implementation of field activities and physical meetings. The effectiveness of technological solutions as a mitigation measure was at times limited by insufficient internet connectivity in some countries, which impeded participants from those countries from participating and/or contributing.

For the coming year, firstly, the pandemic will continue to impact the way in which technical assistance is organized. Secondly, the lack of absorption capacity from beneficiary countries (especially LDCs) might persist as they are facing increasing complexities and protectionist tendencies, exacerbated by the pandemic. It may also create delays in receiving feedback and/or approving strategies, action plans, roadmaps, etc. Finally, UNCTAD's lack of resources to follow up on the increasing number of requests from developing countries and related reporting requirements will likely continue to be a challenge. From 2019 to 2021, UNCTAD received more than 200 requests for technical cooperation, out of which more than 120 requests remain unfunded. UNCTAD would appreciate additional RPTC resources to be able to meet the increasing number of requests from MS.

## United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat)

UN-Habitat implemented RPTC activities under 4 subprogrammes.<sup>41</sup> It aimed at supporting governments and partners in efforts to meet their commitments and contribute to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the human settlements dimension of other multilateral agreements such as the SDGs, with a focus on Goal 11. UN-Habitat does so by providing technical services to requesting Governments, and other New Urban Agenda partners, through: (a) short-term advisory services on strategically selected, high priority issues; (b) the identification, development and launch of innovative and illustrative cooperation programmes, and (c) specialized support to the implementation, monitoring, and replication of such cooperation programmes.

UN-Habitat supports MS in the development of sustainable cities and human settlements through its normative and operational work at the global, regional, national and local levels. Technical cooperation provides means for leading the global urban agenda, generating specialized and cutting-edge knowledge, shaping technical norms, principles and standards, acting as a multiplier in the exchange of knowledge, experience and best practice, as well as providing catalytic support to MS in building a better urban future for all.

In 2021, UN-Habitat provided advisory services on the following topics: Leaving No One Behind, economic development, macro economic analysis/financing and investment for development, national development planning, governance, public administration and services, regional and sub-regional cooperation and integration, statistics and data, environment, humanitarian assistance, human rights, and housing and sustainable urbanisation. Beneficiaries are mostly civil servants, policy makers and civil society. UN-Habitat conducted 2 global, 3 regional and 6 sub-regional hybrid<sup>42</sup> interventions in 2021.<sup>43</sup> Examples of accomplishments in key areas are highlighted below.

### **Strengthening capacities to bridge the digital divide**

In 2021, UN-Habitat received requests for support to strengthen capacities to bridge the digital divide in selected cities and countries. Accordingly, working with partners such as UNDP, ITU and the private sector,<sup>44</sup> UN-Habitat supported the development of training material for local governments to assist the digital transformation at local level towards people-centered smart cities. The focus of the initial series of knowledge products has been on the preparation of guidance on how to assess and address the digital divide; prepare smart city strategies at local and national levels; outline necessary capacity development packages for multi-stakeholder partnerships and organisational development; e-government infrastructure; as well as public participation, digital public goods, digital human rights and digital inclusivity.

UN-Habitat established The UN Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities in Hamburg ([UNITAC Hamburg](#)), Germany, to address the potential of digital technologies, data and innovation to contribute to sustainable urban development. This supports national and local governments with their digital transition, applying a multi-level governance strategy, and helps them build skills and capabilities to develop, procure and effectively use digital technologies in an ethical and inclusive way. UN-Habitat also developed a [new series of playbooks](#). They are a key normative component of UN-Habitat's People-Centered Smart Cities flagship programme. This programme aims to empower local governments to take a multi-stakeholder approach to digital transformation that realises sustainability, inclusivity, prosperity and human rights for the benefit of all. Each playbook in the series provides local, regional and national governments with guidance for how to develop smart city strategies that are more inclusive, sustainable, and aligned to the actual needs of residents. Playbooks include case studies, sample policies, and concrete steps that cities can take towards building a foundation for people-centered smart cities of the future.



<sup>41</sup> (a) Reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban rural continuum; (b) Enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions; (c) Strengthened climate action and improved urban environment; and (d) Effective urban crisis prevention and response.

<sup>42</sup> Hybrid means that the event was conducted both virtually and in person.

<sup>43</sup> There is no other quantitative data available from UN-Habitat about their 2021 RPTC activities.

<sup>44</sup> The private sector provided technical advisory and consultancy support.



5,700,000€ has been secured to take the work of UNITAC Hamburg forward.

UN-Habitat supported national and local governments, academia, civil society and the wider public in **Brazil, Jordan, South Africa, Tunisia, Vietnam** as well as SIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa. Thanks to this RPTC-funded UN-Habitat activity, these countries acquired a better understanding of, and enhanced capacity for leading, the transformative potential of innovation and technology towards more inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable urbanization.

**This work contributed to cities adopting a people-centered approach to urban innovation, digital technologies, smart cities and urbanization processes: 5 local governments adopted people-centered digital transformation and smart city strategies addressing the digital divide.**

### The SDG Cities Global Initiative

In 2020, in response to demands from cities worldwide to accelerate SDGs in this global decade of action, the UN-Habitat Executive Director launched the [SDG Cities Global Initiative](#). The Initiative is designed as a cost-effective comprehensive approach to work directly with cities to strengthen local institutions, support evidence-based planning and delivery of SDG impact. The initiative aims to support 1000 cities, mainly in the global South, through four integrated processes of data collection and analysis, city development planning, institutional capacity building and investment in impact. SDG Cities will be implemented from 2022 – 2030 through UN-Habitat's country programmes and through a network of partners. In 2021, using RPTC funds, UN-Habitat took the opportunity of COVID-19 travel restrictions to develop the suite of digital tools, the Cities Investment Facility and a partnership network for implementation at scale. This investment enables UN-Habitat to respond immediately to current demands from cities to support SDG localization through a comprehensive programme of support. It also supports remote technical assistance modalities and allows for greater cost efficiency and reduced carbon emissions.

UN-Habitat also organised the SDG Cities Global Conference. 620 participants from 88 countries/territories<sup>45</sup> took part in seminars on topics such as Global Urban Monitoring Framework and its local application, Voluntary Local Reviews and their role in accelerating SDG implementation locally, and Digital Transformation accelerating SDG impact in cities. Participants were mainly city authorities who acquired knowledge on urban data collection and analysis, city development planning as well as improved capacity in inclusive accountable governance.

Extra funding has been secured to take the work forward: \$200,000 from UNCDF, \$1.25 million from CMHC **Canada**, \$100,000 from **Malaysia**, and pro-bono support from ADEC Innovation.



### Promoting Sustainable Development in Cities



With funding from the **Chinese** Government as well as RPTC funds, UN-Habitat completed the “feasibility research on the establishment of Shanghai Global Award for Sustainable Development in Cities”. The objective is to incentivize cities to advance the implementation of the 2030 and New Urban Agendas through an internationally recognized award for cities. UN-Habitat provided assistance on technical aspects of the setup of the Award and put forward the proposed overall framework, selection criteria and process. UN-Habitat also developed the website and the publicity plan for the Award. Finally, UN-Habitat is responsible for planning the long-term operation of the Award. The Central Government of **China** endorsed the proposed overall framework and committed to provide long-term funding to UN-Habitat to operate and manage the Award in the coming years.

<sup>45</sup> The countries and territories are in Western European and Other States (36%); Asia-Pacific (27%); Africa (18%); Latin America and Caribbean States (15%); Eastern Europe (3%).

Moreover, in cooperation with partners from the Shanghai Municipality, UN-Habitat successfully completed the 2021 edition of “[Shanghai Manual - A Guide for Sustainable Urban Development of the 21st Century](#)”. This guide provides global best practices and policy recommendations from 14 different countries, and presents readers with the construction of green, inclusive and sustainable cities in different corners of the world. The “Shanghai Manual 2021” was broadly disseminated to leaders, planners and practitioners of cities - particularly cities from developing countries - during the 2021 World Cities Day celebration events.

The Government of **China** provided \$700,000 funding support for the work mentioned above, and will continuously provide funding support (\$500,000 each year from 2022-2023) to take this project forward.

### **Integration of human rights and gender equality concerns in UN-Habitat interventions**

UN-Habitat took care to carry out special outreach to female participants for its interventions.

Gender-disaggregated data was not provided.

### **Use of Resources**

In 2021, 3 advisors were employed using RPTC funds while 1 other staff member contributed to RPTC activities.

RPTC resources helped to address UN-Habitat priorities by allowing UN-habitat to employ 1 technical advisor focusing on countries that are not yet covered by a Regional Office.<sup>46</sup>

4 interventions were co-organised with funding from DA, XB contributions, or other partners.

### **Complementarity of action**

Linkages with DA: UN-Habitat provided advisory services in the Western Balkan and Central Asian Landlocked Developing Regions which resulted in a DA project proposal included in the 15th Tranche: “Building back safer, more sustainable transport in the aftermath of COVID-19”. It is a collaboration with UNEP and ECE. The fact that the RPTC funds and the related technical advisory services are part of the Programme Development Branch, which also guides the elaboration of DA Projects, ensures strong linkages between RPTC and the DA. DA project ideas are solicited through a corporate exercise led by the Programme Development Branch. The review includes an alignment with corporate priorities (i.e. focus on under-served regions) and benefits from technical advisory services funded by RPTC.

RCOs/UNCTs linkages: Technical advisory services are coordinated with RCOs.

Other UN entities linkages: Technical advisory services are always coordinated through the RCO, ensuring connections with the relevant UN entities in the country. In the case of Europe and Central Asia, the technical advisory capacities are also mobilized to engage in the RCP, focusing on human mobility. An example of RPTC activity collaboration with UN entities is the development of training material for local governments to assist the digital transformation towards people-centered smart cities. UN-Habitat collaborated with UNDP and ITU.

Other stakeholders linkages: The activities linked to the SDG Cities Global Initiative required partnerships and collaboration with numerous other stakeholders: Global CEO Alliance, UNCDF, Global Development Incubator, Sustainable Infrastructure Foundation, Global Sustainability Index Institute Foundation, IHS Erasmus University, Rotterdam, Urbanice Malaysia, World Economy Forum, Commonwealth Local Government Forum, UCLG MEWA, Sister Cities International; Emerging Markets Infrastructure Fund; Blend Lab and REALL.

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<sup>46</sup> These countries are in Eastern Europe and the Balkans, Commonwealth of Independent States / Central Asia.

## United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

UNODC implemented RPTC activities under 2 subprogrammes.<sup>47</sup> It aimed at supporting MS in preventing crime and violence and strengthening their justice systems. Crime prevention and criminal justice reform remain a key pillar of these efforts, supporting the emphasis on promoting the rule of law as an underlying basis for sustainable development. The SPs have provided advisory services and technical support to developing countries, countries in transition and post-conflict countries in acceding to and implementing international instruments on drug and crime control, and strengthening capacities of their criminal justice systems. All RPTC activities that UNODC has been implementing are connected to SDGs, notably SDG5 and SDG16, as well as the Conventions and International Legal Instruments with which UNODC is supporting MS.<sup>48</sup>

UNODC received 61 requests for assistance from 53 countries (8 LDCs, 7 LLDCs, 17 SIDS). UNODC deployed 101 advisory services (62 virtually). These services focused on drug and crime, LNOB, governance, public administration and services as well as regional and sub-regional cooperation and integration. UNODC conducted 163 national level training events (114 virtually). 2020 people, from 53 countries (8 LDCs, 4 LLDCs, 17 SIDS) participated (40% virtually). 50% were women. Participants were mostly civil servants, policy makers, academia, civil society, criminal justice practitioners as well as law enforcement officials. UNODC also conducted 8 regional<sup>49</sup> and 5 sub-regional hybrid interventions. 300 people participated in the regional events, while 500 benefited from the sub-regional interventions. Half of them were women. UNODC undertook 61 field projects. As a result of RPTC-funded UNODC assistance, 65 new policies, laws, national plans or strategies were introduced, across 52 countries. Examples of accomplishments in key areas are highlighted below.

### **End violence against children**

Under SP5, following a request from the **Nigerian** Federal Ministry of Justice, UNODC worked on the “Expected Outcomes of the Juvenile Decongestion Programme”, focusing on the release of at least 200 eligible children and their reunion with parents or caregivers. Working in partnership with representatives of the Administration of Criminal Justice and Reform Department as well as with the Federal Ministry of Justice, UNODC contributed to the release of 218 students, 66 of whom were effectively reunited with their families.<sup>50</sup> Given the outcomes of the mission, UNODC led the process to prepare a joint UNODC - UNICEF letter for submission to the Federal Ministry of Justice that includes observations and considerations regarding the situation in the Borstal. Adopting these proposals for action will contribute to improving the current situation in accordance with the minimum standards set by international law. UNODC also developed a toolkit to guide the assessment of children and continues to engage actively with the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Justice. In this regard, the **US** State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs has been identified as a potential donor to support reforms and strengthen the juvenile justice system in **Nigeria**.

### **Security Needs Assessment and Police Reform**

Under SP8, following a request from the **Honduran** Government, UNODC implemented an in-depth needs assessment of the security situation in the country. In partnership with UNCT members, UNODC-ROPAN conducted the needs assessment and drafted a joint programme of intervention with Government counterparts to guide future technical assistance. Moreover, UNODC strengthened the capacity of the Government in juvenile justice policy development and organized a workshop on UN Standards and Norms in this area.<sup>51</sup> UNODC-ROPAN continues to advise the Government on the development of the national juvenile justice policy.

Also under SP8, following a request from the **Dominican Republic** Government, UNODC co-organized, with the Ministry of Interior and Police and in partnership with UNCT members, an international seminar on police

<sup>47</sup> SP5 - Justice and SP8 - Technical cooperation and field support.

<sup>48</sup> They include: 1) the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), 2) the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its protocols; and 3) the UN Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and the 19 international conventions and protocols against terrorism.

<sup>49</sup> Response in Google form says “7-8”.

<sup>50</sup> Up until today, a total of seven children remained in the institution without being discharged. UNICEF has since committed to offer rehabilitation and reintegration services to children and adults released given its civil society network in Ilorin.

<sup>51</sup> Including the UN Model Strategies and Practical Measures to prevent and respond to violence against children in contact with the justice system (A/RES/69/194), the Beijing Rules, and the Havana Rules.

reform. The seminar brought together policy makers, police officers, and academics to exchange good practices and support the Government in advancing its police reform agenda. Subsequently, UNODC developed a related programme of intervention.

### **Responding to Trafficking in Persons**

Under SP8, UNODC conducted numerous RPTC funded activities to assist **Malawian** authorities to respond to human trafficking. They include:

- Successfully mentoring and coaching 14 law enforcement officers (8 male and 6 female)<sup>52</sup> with skills and information required to identify victims and investigate cases of trafficking in persons at Dzaleka Refugee Camp. The mentoring was followed by a random screening of suspected victims of trafficking in persons among the 48,000 refugees. The officers interviewed a total of 312 refugees (224 men and 88 Women) of whom 56 (44 women and 12 men) were identified as victims of human trafficking;
- Supporting the drafting and implementation of Dzaleka Refugee Camp Protocol on trafficking in persons on behalf of the Ministry of Homeland land Security, in consultation with stakeholders working at the Camp (including UNHCR);
- Supporting the development of media guidelines for reporting on trafficking in persons;
- Assisting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Homeland Security to collect data for the 2022 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons;
- Reminding officers of Standard Operating Procedures including procedures for identifying and interviewing victims of trafficking in person; procedures for investigation and reporting the crime of trafficking in persons; the need to provide direct assistance for victims of trafficking and national referral mechanism and monitoring.

Extra funding to take the work forward was secured from the UNODC Global Programme on Trafficking in Persons. The National Programme Officer also participated in the development of a project proposal that has been submitted to the **Japanese** Government for possible funding.

**The intervention implemented at the Dzaleka Refugee Camp in Malawi is a remarkably innovative and a successful attempt to use relatively few resources to achieve maximum benefit for users of the criminal justice system. Through a well focused approach, the intervention marshalled good will and resources already present in the system to best effect by promoting a holistic view and further communications between actors working at Dzaleka Refugee Camp. Moreover, the intervention has successfully developed a cadre of Law enforcement Officers and Government Social Workers who have “gained the trust of the various authorities including the victims because of the professionalism that they have shown and thus made themselves into trusted, valued, effective and highly appreciated partners” whose work has been replicated by other law enforcement officers within the Camp and along the border areas.**

### **Prosecution, protection and prevention in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Under SP8 and In partnership with UN Women, UNODC used RPTC funds to implement the following activities in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** :

- Translation of 5 existing UNODC guidance tools on Violence Against Women and two UNODC guidance tools related to Violence Against Children/justice for children into the official languages of **Bosnia and Herzegovina** for capacity building of local law enforcement officers and justice actors;
- Organization and delivery of 3 virtual webinars on ensuring child-sensitive communication and appropriate approaches for child victims. The 37 participants were professionals and practitioners who are in contact with child victims. Following the webinars, participants had, among other things, an increased understanding of child development, children’s rights, and the negative impact of violence on children; were able to refer to the international legal framework; and had increased understanding of how to engage children as active participants in their protection process and rehabilitation experience;
- Organization and delivery of a webinar for police officers on preventing and responding to Gender-based Violence against Women. The webinar presented the key relevant international

<sup>52</sup> They were appointed from the Ministry of Homeland Security, the Ministry of Gender, Social Welfare and Community Development, Department of Immigration and citizenship and Malawi Police Services.

- instruments and tools on Gender-based Violence against Women and the new UN Women, UNODC and IAWP Handbook on gender-responsive police services for women and girls subject to violence;<sup>53</sup>
- Organization and delivery of a webinar in which UNODC presented all relevant UNODC tools, with a gender-perspective, to 40 professionals in law enforcement, police, justice, prosecution and judiciary.

### **Supporting crowd management in Chad**

Under SP5, UNODC conducted a needs assessment, jointly with OHCHR, in the area of crowd management in **Chad**. To do so, UNODC worked with numerous local partners such as the Minister and Secretary General of the Ministry of Public Security and Immigration, the Bar Association and the President of the Chad Association for the Protection of Human Rights.<sup>54</sup> The exercise led to the identification of key areas for technical assistance in the field of crowd management. They included training of relevant national authorities in the context of public demonstrations; revision or adoption of the legal framework and standard operating procedures on crowd management in line with Human Rights and international standards; procurement of basic equipment for police and gendarmerie units involved in crowd management; and training of the police on the use of equipment procured.

### **Integration of human rights and gender equality concerns in UNODC interventions**

In some cases, UNODC worked directly with OHCHR and UN Women to reflect Human Rights and gender equality concerns in its activities. UNODC developed a guidance tool on Human Rights and gender. UNODC also uses companion documents such as Leave No One Behind in planning its interventions.

UNODC provided gender-disaggregated data (estimates).

### **Use of resources**

7 advisors were employed using RTPC funds in 2021.<sup>55</sup> 50-70 other staff based in HQ or in field locations also contributed to RTPC funded activities.

RPTC resources helped to address UNODC priorities because they are used to support specific requests from MS for which no seed money/strategic resources are available. They are used to respond to MS requests for support as well as UNCT and UNSDCF priorities.

Extrabudgetary contributions accounted for 20% of the activities conducted in 2021.

### **Complementarity of action**

**Linkages with RCOs/UNCTs:** UNODC systematically coordinates with UNCT and RCOs. In **DRC, Syria or Chad**, for example, such coordination entailed jointly designing TORs for missions, preparing the programmes, choosing interlocutors and undertaking the activities together. The same is true for follow up actions, where tasks and responsibilities were decided collectively. In June 2021, UNODC undertook a mission in coordination with the RCO for the **DRC** and held dedicated meetings with the UNCT. Multiple UN Agencies were present.<sup>56</sup> UNODC presented areas of work and devised a coordinated response on cross border issues. In **Syria**, another inter-agency mission was conducted in 2021. The main achievement of the mission was the agreement with UNDP to jointly develop a comprehensive justice, social, emotional and values-based education programme. UNODC worked with the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator and UN agencies in **Syria**.<sup>57</sup>

**Linkages with other UN entities:** In some cases, RTPC activities were implemented in coordination with other UN entities (OHCHR, UN Women, IOM, DCO, WHO, UNDP, etc.) as well as other international organizations

<sup>53</sup> This handbook was presented by UN Women.

<sup>54</sup> The full list of partners includes the Ministry of Public Security and Immigration; The Ministry of Justice and Human Rights; The Bar Association; The Association Tchadienne pour la Protection des Droits de l'Homme (ATPDH); The Convention Tchadienne de Défense des Droits de l'Homme (CTDDH); the political party 'Union Nationale pour la Démocratie et le Renouveau' (UNDR); the political party 'les Transformateurs.'

<sup>55</sup> UNODC advisers are usually recruited for short-term assignments, under 6 months.

<sup>56</sup> DSRSG RC/HC, UNOPS, UNESCO, UNMAS, FAO, IOM, WFP, UNICEF, OCHA, UNJHRO, UNWOMEN, UNDP, UNDSS, WHO, IFAD, ILO, UNCTAD and UNFPA.

<sup>57</sup> UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, WHO.

such as OECD, OSCE, and WCO. For instance, in the context of the ongoing partnership between UNDP and the **Syrian** Ministry of Education (MoE) on including justice training in primary and secondary school curricula, UNDP invited UNODC ROMENA to conduct a mission in **Syria**. The mission took place in November 2021 and aimed to explore the possibility of a UNDP/UNODC collaboration elaborating on the existing curricula and building on UNODC's tools developed under the Doha Declaration Programme, Education and Empowerment (GRACE) including Education for Justice (E4J) tools that were mainstreamed under the GRACE initiative.

Linkages with other stakeholders: A good example is the work in **Bolivia** to strengthen coffee producer organisations. In particular, UNODC worked with Federations of Men and Women, Trade Unions from La Asunta, and the Federation of Coffee Growers as well as a global coffee distribution company, Malongo. The partnership led to the reactivation of the commercialization of coffee, after 15 years of not being able to commercialize their production. Among other results, it has been possible to incorporate 90 families in the process of commercializing coffee to foreign markets.

### **Challenges**

In 2021, UNODC faced challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the related difficulties of implementing activities in-person. As for challenges identified for the coming year, they include counterparts' sustainability and upscaling the work to follow up on RPTC implemented activities.



## United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

OCHA implemented RPTC activities under 4 subprogrammes.<sup>58</sup> It aimed at mobilizing and coordinating assistance in disasters and providing advisory services and training, to promote natural disaster risk reduction and facilitate the smooth transition from emergency relief to rehabilitation, recovery and development. The SPs develop and promote common policy on humanitarian issues for the UN system and its partners. They contribute to strengthening the national capacities by supporting the elaboration of national emergency preparedness and response plans in disasters and post-disaster emergency situations, as well as promoting the standardization of language and procedures in national contingency planning in disaster-prone and emergency-affected countries. OCHA also works to increase awareness and build the capacity of partners at the global, regional and national levels on advancing the 2030 Agenda for the most vulnerable people to ensure that those furthest behind are being reached, and that humanitarian needs are reduced.



In 2021, OCHA received 19 requests for assistance from 12 countries (3 LDCs, 1 LLDC, 1 SIDS). It deployed 127 advisory services (2 virtually) that focused on national development planning, environment and humanitarian assistance. OCHA conducted 20 national level training events (55% virtually). 3794 people from 12 countries participated (76% virtually). Beneficiaries of OCHA interventions were mainly civil servants, policymakers and members of civil society. OCHA also conducted 5 global virtual events, reaching 994 people.<sup>59</sup> Finally, OCHA undertook 301 regional and 21 sub-regional interventions. All but one regional event were organised virtually, while only 52% of sub-regional events were virtual. 7030 people, including 55% of women, benefited from the regional events while 3818<sup>60</sup> people participated in sub-regional interventions. Examples of accomplishments in key areas are highlighted below.

### Raising awareness on linking humanitarian action to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



Under SP1, which aims at raising awareness on linking humanitarian action to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and working with numerous partners<sup>61</sup> such as UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes, IASC Members, Governments, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and academia, OCHA organised the Global Humanitarian Policy Forum (GHPF) and an Expert Roundtable on Humanitarian Action and the Climate Crisis.

Participants from 110 countries attended the GHPF. The Forum assessed the current humanitarian landscape through a series

of thematic interactive panel discussions, including on the growing humanitarian climate-related crises; persistent challenges around humanitarian access and negotiations; increasing cyber threats impacting humanitarian action; the linkages between COVID-19 and conflicts; and the importance of vaccines in humanitarian settings. In April 2021, OCHA launched [From Digital Promise to Frontline Practice: New And Emerging Technologies in Humanitarian Action](#) – a report that underscores that artificial intelligence can facilitate analysis and interpret vast and complex humanitarian datasets to improve projections and decision making. Mobile applications, chatbots and social media can create immediate feedback loops from the people affected by humanitarian crises. As showcased by the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses, education, and health services can be shifted to virtual environments overnight. The report also highlights that such advantages come with complex challenges and risks.

<sup>58</sup> (1) Policy and Analysis; (2) Coordination of humanitarian action and emergency response; (4) Emergency support services; (5) Humanitarian emergency information and advocacy.

<sup>59</sup> No gender disaggregated data available.

<sup>60</sup> No gender disaggregated data available.

<sup>61</sup> The full list of partners is as follows: UN AFPPs, IASC Members, Governments, Local Partners; Government of Peru, INDECI (Peru's Civil Protection), PAHO, Swiss Cooperation, Civil Protection authorities in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico; NGOs, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, networks and alliances, the private sector, media, academia (NYU, London School of Economics), The Global Interagency Security Forum and at the Humanitarian Network and Partnerships Week.

**Humanitarian needs are increasing at an alarming pace, much faster and more impactful than expected. Increased focus on balancing preparedness and response measures, building local and national resilience, and better data and advocacy, have been deemed critical areas of investment.**

OCHA also organised an Expert Roundtable on Humanitarian Action and the Climate Crisis, where 31 climate and humanitarian experts, coming from 13 countries<sup>62</sup> (3 LDCs and 1 LLDC) and working in NGOs, think tanks, academia, the private sector, local government and the UN, participated. The climate crisis is adding a layer of stress to an already overstretched humanitarian system struggling to alleviate needs, amidst intersecting and compounding challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic and its knock-on effects, growing inequality, increasing fragility, poverty, ongoing conflicts, shifting demographics, rapid urbanization, and population growth. Organized as an informal expert roundtable, the discussions considered what the humanitarian system must do to be more effective in both responding and adapting to the wide-ranging impacts of the climate crisis and its secondary and overlapping consequences. The roundtable's conclusions guided ongoing policy work in this area and informed OCHA studies on humanitarian action.

**The growing urgency of the climate crisis requires a new level of collective resolve to address growing and burgeoning humanitarian needs, while helping communities to prepare for, adapt to, and reduce the cascading impacts of climate events.**

#### **Ensuring a coherent, effective, and timely humanitarian response**

Under SP2, which aims at ensuring a coherent, effective, and timely humanitarian response, working with humanitarian organizations and private sector partners, OCHA carried out an earthquake simulation exercise in **Peru**. **Peru**, as well as 28 other countries in the region and beyond, participated in the exercise. It allowed for the strengthening of emergency response preparedness and coordination among national and international actors in case of a sudden onset disaster, using the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group and the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) Team disaster response methodologies. The simulation exercise required a 3-month preparation period with national authorities and the establishment of an Exercise Control Team with more than 40 national and international experts covering direction, coordination, and support of functional groups. Donors, MS, humanitarian organizations, private sector partners, peacekeepers, governments,<sup>63</sup> national and international Urban Search and Rescue teams as well as Emergency Medical Teams benefited from this exercise by acquiring knowledge on humanitarian operations and principles, and humanitarian civil-military coordination.

OCHA also delivered 8 humanitarian briefings for **Indonesian** peacekeepers that deployed to different UN missions. These virtual briefings enable deploying peacekeeping troops to become familiarized with humanitarian operations, understand humanitarian principles, and gain a basic overview of the principles of humanitarian civil-military coordination in the various contexts. The briefings prepare them to understand and interact with humanitarian actors and programmes during their deployments. At least 1800 **Indonesian** military personnel who would be deployed as contingents, military observers, and military staff in UNIFIL, MONUSCO, and MINUSMA participated in the briefings.

#### **Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks**

Since 2015, the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks (HNPW) have been held annually, providing unique opportunities for humanitarian actors to discuss common challenges in emergency preparedness and response, and to identify innovative and sustainable solutions to address these. The HNPW platform allows humanitarian actors from across the world to engage and discuss initiatives related to local and national capacity building initiatives, while also engaging with the UN to benefit from common and globally accepted standards and methodologies for more efficient emergency



<sup>62</sup> United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Germany, Philippines, Switzerland, Bangladesh, Austria, Uganda, Argentina, India, Senegal, China.

<sup>63</sup> Including departments such as Civil Protection, Health, Foreign Affairs, Defence, Interior-Migrations, Economy-Customs and Taxes.



response. In 2021, participants came from 140 countries. They acquired knowledge and exchanged information relating to emergency preparedness and response mechanisms in consideration of the UN's agenda and strategic priorities such as Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, Gender Based Violence, Protection, and Accountability to Affected Populations. More than 300 sessions and side events were organized, including meetings of the 44 humanitarian networks and partnerships and interactive sessions around 9 priority topics.<sup>64</sup> Support for a communication consultant was provided by the **Swiss** Development and Cooperation Agency to take the work forward. Next steps include the compilation of key outcomes of the HNPW, in particular the results that emerged from the discussions around the priority topics, and continuing year-round collaboration among networks and partnerships.

### **Integration of human rights and gender equality concerns in OCHA interventions**

Gender equality and human rights were integrated in OCHA interventions to the extent that the protection centrality and human rights applies to humanitarian work (as part of international humanitarian law and international human rights law).

Some gender-disaggregated data was provided.

### **Use of resources**

OCHA did not employ any RPTC-funded advisors for more than 6 months in 2021. However, 5 other staff members contributed to RPTC activities.

RPTC resources helped to address OCHA's priorities on strengthening coordination of emergency response preparedness. This was achieved, for instance, through SP4's focus on strengthening standardization of training and capacity building for emergency responders.

No intervention was co-organised with funding from the DA, extra-budgetary contributions, or other partners.

### **Complementarity of action**

Linkages with RCOs/UNCTs: During an emergency response, mechanisms such as the UNDAC closely collaborated with UNRC/UNCTs. The UNDAC teams ensure communication and aligned actions with the RC and UNCTs and support their efforts during the first response phase.

Linkages with other UN entities: Other UN entities were involved in OCHA activities as panellists and participants. The list includes UNDRR, WFP, WHO, UNICEF, UN WOMEN, UNDAC, WFP, FAO, UNAIDS, UNHCR, IOM, UNFPA, ILO, UNDP, ECA, MONUSCO, World Bank, UNMAS, UNODA, and UNESCO. UNDSS and UN WOMEN also provided briefings to Indonesian troops in their respective areas of mandate. The capacity building initiatives, such as the simulation exercise in **Peru**, were co-hosted by the host country and supported by various entities such as WHO and UNDP.

Linkages with other stakeholders: The capacity building initiatives, such as the simulation exercise in **Peru**, were co-hosted by the host country and supported by various agencies, including the ICRC. Numerous other stakeholders took part in the GHPF as panellists and participants. The Expert Roundtable on Humanitarian Action and the Climate Crisis was also an opportunity to collaborate with other stakeholders: 31 climate and humanitarian experts working in NGOs, Think Tanks, academia, the private sector, local government and the UN, participated.

### **Challenges**

OCHA mainly faced challenges related to the COVID-19 restrictions. Firstly, online briefings limited the interactions that usually happen during in-person briefings. Secondly, the digitalization of training activities

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<sup>64</sup> The 9 priority topics were: 1) Humanitarian Coordination and Localization, 2) Anticipatory Action, 3) Humanitarian-Development Nexus, 4) Accountability to Affected Populations, 5) Climate Crises, 6) Integrating Security Risk Management across Humanitarian Action, 7) Emergency Response in a Pandemic, 8) Inclusion, and 9) Organizational Culture and Power Relations.

represented a significant challenge: it required technical expertise and a new setting, including a suitable platform and cadre of experts who were able to advise on technical and IT-related challenges. It also required participants to adapt to the newly established setting. For the coming year, OCHA foresees that activities may still be affected by COVID-19. Finally, as MS and partners greatly appreciated the opportunity to participate in online events such as the HNPW, a future challenge will consist in delivering such events following a hybrid mode that mixes both virtual and in-person activities.

## United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

OHCHR implemented RPTC activities under 2 subprogrammes.<sup>65</sup> It aimed at assisting MS, UNCTs, RCOs, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and CSOs with integrating human rights and applying a rights-based approach to the 2030 Agenda review and follow up.

In 2021, OHCHR received 9 requests for assistance from 5 countries (1 LDC). It provided 17 advisory services, (11 virtually). These services focused on social policy, LNOB, economic development, macro economic analysis/financing and investment for development, national development planning, governance, public administration and services, regional and sub-regional cooperation and integration, statistics and data, environment, humanitarian assistance, human rights as well as drug control and crime. OHCHR conducted 33 national level training events (7 virtually). 195 people, coming from 6 countries (1 LDC) participated (46% virtually). 36% were women. Participants were mostly civil servants, policy makers, parliamentarians, academia, civil society and security forces. OHCHR also conducted 4 global events, reaching over 1000 people, including 40% of women. OHCHR undertook 16 regional and 9 sub-regional interventions. Under 1000 people, including 40% of women, benefited from the regional events while over 1030 people participated in the sub-regional interventions, including 60% of women. As OHCHR had only 2 fellowship programs in place in 2021, they benefited 53 people, including 28 women, from 38 countries. OCHA carried out 10 field projects. As a result of RPTC-funded OHCHR assistance, 3 new policies, laws, national plans or strategies were introduced and 10 new reporting requirements were met, across 2 countries.

### **Human Rights mainstreaming: 2030 Agenda, Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and COVID Recovery**

OHCHR's work under SP1 aims to strengthen MS, RCOs/UNCTs, as well as other national stakeholders to address implementation gaps for the protection and promotion of all human rights, including as linked with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, and the principle of leaving no one behind. OHCHR worked to support UNCTs in their country-facing work, in particular development of CCAs, UNSDCF, and COVID-19 national resilience and response plans. In 2021, responding to MS, UNCTs and NHRI's requests, OHCHR delivered a series of workshops on the 2030 Agenda and the principles of Human Rights-Based Approach and LNOB as part of the UNSDCF process in **Bolivia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and Haiti**.

As a result of OHCHR advisory services and training events, 19 VNRs developed in 2021 include a reference to the right to development.<sup>66</sup> Among other things, OHCHR's work also led to the enhanced capacity of its target audience<sup>67</sup> to leverage the links between the 2030 Agenda and human rights to accelerate implementation of both human rights and sustainable development agendas, while leaving no one behind.

OHCHR has been able to secure funding for the work of the [Surge Initiative](#), which is complementary to the work on sustainable development conducted under RPTC. The Surge Initiative is partly funded by the UN Sustainable Development Group, Human Rights Mainstreaming Multi-Donor Trust Fund, **Switzerland**, and **China**.

### **Indigenous and Minorities Fellowship Programme**

Under SP1, the Indigenous and Minorities Fellowship Programme is one of OHCHR human rights capacity building and training programmes, targeting specifically indigenous and minorities worldwide. It is designed to strengthen indigenous peoples and minorities' knowledge of the UN system and relevant international human rights instruments and mechanisms. It aims at strengthening their advocacy and leadership skills so they can better promote and protect the rights of their communities and constituencies. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, since 2020, OHCHR has been unable to implement its regular annual Indigenous and Minorities Fellowship Programme in Geneva and, instead, redesigned it as a country/field-based programme by recruiting some of its most successful former Fellows as "Senior Fellows" and posting them in OHCHR field offices, UNCTs or in UN

<sup>65</sup> SP1: Human rights mainstreaming, right to development, and research and analysis; SP3: Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities.

<sup>66</sup> While most VNRs used a language very close to the Declaration on the Right to Development in their respective reports, 4 made explicit reference to it (China, DPRK, Iraq and Qatar).

<sup>67</sup> MS, UNCTs/RCOs, NHRIs and other stakeholders.

Peacekeeping Operations. In 2021, a total of 45 former Fellows<sup>68</sup> were selected and deployed in 32 OHCHR and other UN field presences,<sup>69</sup> and at HQ level, to support the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples. OHCHR received additional funding from 3 Governments and 1 Foundation.<sup>70</sup>

**Under the banner of enhancing equality and countering discrimination on COVID-19 related issues, the redesigned Fellowship Programmes provided greater capacity for indigenous peoples and minorities as rights holders to raise most urgent COVID-19 related discrimination using the existing national and international human rights mechanisms, UN entities and the SDG process.**

#### **Production of manuals about free legal aid in Serbia**

Under SP3, following the introduction of a law on Free Legal Aid in Serbia and working in partnership with the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights – YUCOM, the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Governments, OHCHR HRA Serbia provided expert advisory support on the methodology, content and presentation of two information manuals, as well as on their distribution plans. The [first manual](#) aims to support Free Legal Aid providers. The [second](#) aims to sensitize the general population to the right to free legal aid. The manuals reached all local self-governments, courts, police stations, prisons, social welfare centres, local and national Ombudsman institutions as well as local and national CSOs. The launch of the manuals took place online.<sup>71</sup>



#### **Establishment and strengthening of National Human Rights Institutions in Central Africa**

Under SP3, RPTC assistance provided a platform for OHCHR Regional Office in Central Africa to evaluate the state and functioning of NHRIs in the Central African Region.<sup>72</sup> Thanks to advisory services aimed at the NHRIs, the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions, participants acquired knowledge and skills on the various forms of NHRIs and how they operate; the accreditation system; resource mobilization and how to approach national authorities to receive funds; the importance of NHRIs in the promotion and protection of human rights; the Paris Principles; and the role and responsibility of national actors<sup>73</sup> in the creation and functioning of NHRIs. OHCHR encouraged the adoption and implementation of roadmaps to strengthen or create NHRIs. OHCHR also encouraged NHRIs with a 'status A' accreditation<sup>74</sup> to maintain their status while sharing experiences and assisting other NHRIs.



**One of the main accomplishments at the end of the workshop was that countries like Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome and Principe, that do not have a NHRI, are in the process of putting in place a National Human Rights Commission pledged to take action to establish institutions which respect international standards.**

<sup>68</sup> 25 indigenous peoples from 17 countries (17 men, 8 women) and 20 representatives belonging to minorities from 14 countries (7 women, 8 men).

<sup>69</sup> Namely in the OHCHR Regional Offices in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, Thailand, Chile, Fiji, Belgium, United States & OHCHR Country Offices/ UNCTs in Bangladesh, Senegal, Cambodia, Colombia, DRC, Guatemala, Iraq, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, Tunisia, Uganda, Panama, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Jordan, Moldova, Paraguay, Nigeria, Ukraine, Yemen.

<sup>70</sup> Details unavailable.

<sup>71</sup> Free Legal Aid providers, attorneys and CSOs.

<sup>72</sup> Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome, Chad, Central African Republic, Burundi, DRC.

<sup>73</sup> Government, Parliaments, NHRI and CSOs.

<sup>74</sup> "Status A" accreditation means that it is fully compliant with the Paris Principles. *Chart of the Status of National Human Rights Institutions*. <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Countries/NHRI/StatusAccreditationChartNHRI.pdf>

### **Supporting the investigation of the Ayotzinapa case**

The Ayotzinapa case<sup>75</sup> is emblematic as one of the most egregious human rights violations in **Mexico's** recent history. The federal investigation failed to provide reliable information on the disappeared students. Since December 2018, with the new administration of President Lopez Obrador, there has been new Special Prosecutor for the case. The President ordered access to military files and created an Executive Commission to push the case forward. The experts from the Interdisciplinary Group of Experts<sup>76</sup> resumed their technical assistance to authorities and OHCHR **Mexico** has been accompanying the effort of this new phase of the case. OHCHR carried out briefings to authorities on national human rights standards and provided in-person and online technical assistance to the Special Prosecutor, his team and other authorities about judicial independence and applicable law and criminal justice system for the investigations as well as international human rights standards on torture and enforced disappearances. Impacts of OHCHR Mexico assistance include:

- Strengthened capacities of federal authorities to investigate and prosecute grave human rights violations, according to international human rights standards;
- Strengthened NGOs' advocacy skills in cases of grave human rights violations;
- Openness from the Ministry of Interior and the Special Prosecutor to collaborate with OHCHR in the investigation and the search for the disappeared students.



**The continued OHCHR support for the Ayotzinapa case resulted in the identification of the human remains of 2 of the disappeared students, new theories of the case from the Special Prosecutor, pressing charges against public officials for torture and enforced disappearances and the development of search operations in new locations.**

### **Integration of human rights and gender equality concerns in OHCHR interventions**

The mission of OHCHR is to protect and promote human rights for all. The principles of equality, non-discrimination and participation are placed at the center of OHCHR's activities, with special attention to marginalized groups, and on combatting discrimination and inequalities. A human rights-based approach, gender equality and women's empowerment are guiding principles of all OHCHR work, in line with the relevant UN System guidance.

Gender-disaggregated data was provided.

### **Use of Resources**

In 2021, OHCHR employed 12 advisors using RPTC funds. 13 other staff members contributed to RPTC funded activities.

RPTC resources helped to address OHCHR priorities as all requests for support from MS are analyzed against the technical capacities and established priorities, to ensure an optimization of the use of resources where OHCHR has a particular added value. For example, one key priority for OHCHR has been to strengthen its capacity to

<sup>75</sup> During the night of 26 to 27 September 2014, in the city of Iguala (state of Guerrero), security forces and armed men attacked students resulting in six individuals executed, 43 students victims of enforced disappearances (all men, ages 17-22) and at least 20 people injured. The majority of victims were students of the Normal Rural School "Raúl Isidro Burgos" from Ayotzinapa. Several years later, the whereabouts of 43 students remain unknown.

<sup>76</sup> In November 2014, and at the request of the families and the Mexican Government, an Interdisciplinary Group of Experts was set up by the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights to oversee the investigation and to report their findings both to the families and to the Mexican State. It includes well-known and respected experts, including Guatemala's former Attorney General.

support MS and partners to address inequalities and reinforce the realisation of economic, social and cultural rights. The work conducted under OHCHR's Sustainable Development Section optimized the use of RPTC resources to strengthen OHCHR's capacity to provide expertise on economic, social and cultural rights and the 2030 Agenda, in a manner that is aligned with the OHCHR's strategic management plan.

15 interventions were co-organised with funding from the DA, XB contributions, or other partners.

### **Complementarity of Action**

Linkages with RCOs/UNCTs: OHCHR partners fully with RCs and UNCTs across the world and enhances their capacities to support MS with their commitments on the promotion and protection of human rights. As OHCHR HRA **Serbia** and **Philippines** operate within the UN RCOs, all activities are implemented with the support of the UN RCs. As it is linked to the UN Joint Programme on Human Rights, RPTC assistance provided in the **Philippines** was part of a broader programme of work on human rights within the overall work of the UNCT. Support extended to RCOs and UNCTs is also often done in response to requests channelled through DCO/Peer Support Groups (PSGs), and in some cases the UNCT theme groups on human rights and/or gender, serve as mechanisms facilitating coordination with RCOs/UNCTs. To the extent possible, relevant colleagues also join UNCT planning retreats. OHCHR Regional Office in Central Africa engaged with the RCO in **Gabon** and strengthened collaboration, leading the RCO to request the regional office's involvement in the EU project on the promotion and protection of Human Rights in **Gabon** ahead of the 2023 elections. OHCHR **Mexico** regularly informs the UNRC on the developments in the investigation of the Ayotzinapa case.

**One area of support that has expanded considerably over recent years is the deployment of HRAs to RCs and UNCTs as key vehicles in support of human rights integration in the work of the UN on the ground. The work of HRAs continues to be widely recognized and appreciated, in particular their active role as bridge builders between the UN in country and national stakeholders [...] These critical roles have been constantly highlighted by all partners on the ground. HRAs are deployed now in the RCs and UNCTs of 54 countries supporting not only the UNCTs but also State partners. RPTC funding often supports activities by these advisors in response to requests by MS.**

Linkages with other UN entities: The purpose of the Regional Advisor on SDGs is to support UNCTs (including OHCHR field presences) in their country's CCAs and UNSDCF. This work is done in close coordination with DCO and the regional PSG, where the RA serves as one of its members. Similarly, the National Human Rights Officer (HRO) works in close collaboration with RCOs and UNCTs to help ensure that UNCTs are capacitated in the interlinkages between sustainable development and human rights. For OHCHR's Sustainable Development Section, this type of work is conducted by RPTC-funded positions for Latin America and the Caribbean and Southern Africa. In ECA, OHCHR conducted activities with the contribution of UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women regional offices covering the region. OHCHR also engaged with International Financial Institutions (IFIs) in some countries, including through working with the UNCT in developing a position paper on priorities of engagement with these institutions like in the case of the **Ukraine**, where the RPTC-supported work culminated in the national launch, in 2021, of the UN Policy Paper of Social Protection. The public webinar on the Escazu Agreement was organized by OHCHR Regional Office for South America, together with UNEP, UNDP and ECLAC.

Linkages with other stakeholders: OHCHR regularly collaborates with NHRIs' global and regional networks, CSO partners, vulnerable communities, as well as academia (e.g. in **Serbia, Moldova, Ukraine**). As this support also encompasses work related to CCAs and UNSDCF, the primary focus is supporting RCOs/UNCTs and sometimes government counterparts. However, OHCHR SDG section also supports UNCTs in their engagement with other stakeholders, as relevant and upon request, advocating and facilitating the participation of civil society in CCA/UNSDCF processes to strengthen partnerships, HRBA and LNOB. OHCHR **Mexico** has issued a joint press release with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on the Ayotzinapa case and has exchanged information and analysis with other organizations involved in the case. In the context of the technical assistance provided to national authorities for the elaboration of a new public policy on deprivation of liberty in **Uruguay**, OHCHR Regional Office for South America worked with the Centre for Training of Penitentiary Officers within



the National Penitentiary Institute. In **Serbia**, the development of two manuals about Free Legal Aid, their presentation and distribution were organized in partnership with a civil society organization.<sup>77</sup>

### **Challenges**

Most challenges faced by OHCHR were due to COVID-19, such as travel restrictions, inability to conduct in-person activities, short deadlines for the implementation of activities after the lifting of travel restrictions, limitations of UN Office in Geneva (UNOG) conference services to provide remote simultaneous interpretation to online and hybrid meetings as well as OHCHR/UNOG rules regarding VPN and computers provision for fellows to work from home. OHCHR also dealt with other challenges such as staff shortage and rising demands from MS for technical support services. For the coming year, OHCHR foresees several challenges regarding RPTC activities: limited funding in particular for hiring additional expertise and capacity through GTA and consultancies; need for national authorities to show the results achieved through OHCHR technical assistance; complex multilateral political environments; backtracking on the 2030 Agenda achieved gains; protracted impact of the pandemic and the war in **Ukraine** leading to redefining national priorities and adopting austerity measures which may have significant negative impact on the most vulnerable sections of society.

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<sup>77</sup> Lawyers Committee for Human Rights - YUCOM.

## United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

ECA implemented RPTC activities under 8 subprogrammes.<sup>78</sup> It aimed to support African countries in their capacity-development efforts, geared towards achieving inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in support of accelerating Africa's structural transformation, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Agenda 2063 of the African Union, the New Partnership for Africa's Development and other internationally agreed development agendas.

In 2021, ECA provided RPTC activities in 53 countries (32 LDCs, 15 LLDCs, 3 SIDS). ECA deployed 90 advisory services (38 virtual). ECA undertook 140 training events (75 virtual), training 12986 people, including 89% women. Most of these were through regional trainings. In addition, ECA undertook 44 sub-regional interventions (14 virtual / hybrid). These interventions focused on economic development; macro economic analysis/financing and investment for development; national development planning; governance, public administration and services; regional and sub-regional cooperation and integration; statistics and data; and trade and transport. These interventions were a combination of workshops and advisory services, and targeted policy makers and youth. ECA provided 30 fellowships and 50 field projects in 2021. Examples of accomplishments in key areas are highlighted below.

### Creating a regional network of young economists

Under ECA's African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, which focuses on improving public sector management and development planning in support of the structural transformation of Member States, ECA established the "ECA Young Economist Network (ECA-YEN)" consisting of 750 young economists from 71 Universities across 27 African countries. This partnership focused on organising an online reskilling workshop on macroeconomic modelling. The young economists gained knowledge about the prerequisites for the development of a macroeconomic model, basic principles of macroeconomic modelling and the properties of a New Keynesian macroeconomic model.



Training material including illustrated narrative, audio commented presentations, and quizzes to assess the progress of the 750 participants.

ECA-YEN plans to contribute to the establishment of strong technical Policy Research Units to support policy decision-making in various African countries. In this regard many research activities are planned to build macroeconomic modelling research capacities of the members.

### Empowering Women and Youths to Spur Africa's Transformation Agenda

Working through the Sub Regional Office – West Africa, which aims to support countries' efforts to harness demographic dynamics for development, ECA organised "[The West African Business Forum: Empowering Women and Youths to Spur Africa's Transformation Agenda](#)", bringing together 544 women and youths from across 15 West African countries.<sup>79</sup>

The Forum, organised with a number of key partners,<sup>80</sup> provided a platform for dialogue on the local products developed by women and young entrepreneurs, exchange of success stories, challenges and innovative solutions.

<sup>78</sup> SP1 Macroeconomic policy and governance; SP2 Regional integration and trade; SP3 Private sector development and finance; SP4 Data and statistics; SP5 Climate change, environment and natural resources management; SP6 Gender Equality; SP8 Economic development and planning; SP9 Poverty, inequality and social policy.

<sup>79</sup> Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Togo, Ghana, Gambia, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau.

<sup>80</sup> Notably the ILO, Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI); GIZ; The West Africa Youth Council, Networks of Women and Youth Entrepreneurs, the RCO in Nigeria and the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC).

During the hybrid Forum, participants were empowered by business champions committed to support women and youth entrepreneurs to leapfrog in the region's business ecosystem. The Forum resulted in the launch of the West Africa Business Linkages Platform.



#### **Innovative management and financing of infrastructure projects in Africa**

Under the ECA's Private Sector Development and Finance, which focuses on supporting MS to accelerate job creation, sustained economic growth and prosperity, ECA focused on increasing awareness of governments and the private sector in **Ethiopia**, **Tanzania** and **Uganda** of innovative approaches to managing and financing infrastructure and services.

ECA held virtual meetings with the **Ethiopian** Ministry of Transport to support the assessment of gaps in the digitalisation of the logistic sector. This has led to an Action Plan for the development of a unified national electronic platform for interaction of different logistics stakeholders. This Action Plan was validated at a national stakeholders' workshop and handed over to the Ministry of Transport of **Ethiopia**.

ECA also organised virtual presentations of the Performance Management Dashboard for the Yamoussoukro Decision on the liberalisation of air transport in Africa. The Dashboard was presented virtually at the meeting of the Monitoring Body of the Yamoussoukro Decision, and for the AU Specialised Technical Committee on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructure, Energy and Tourism.

Moving forward, ECA is currently assisting the African Civil Aviation Commission to use the Dashboard for the Yamoussoukro Decision to assess gaps in its implementation in selected countries. The project is at an early stage and the beneficiary countries are still being selected. In **Tanzania**, the project has been successfully launched, and working groups for different components of road safety have been set up. A hybrid national stakeholders' workshop was organized to kick-start the project to improve road safety management. A Project Corporation Agreement has been signed between ECA and the Ministry of Works and Transport of **Uganda**. The government of **Uganda** will contribute funding to the road safety project which has been partly funded by the UN Road Safety Trust Fund.

#### **Technical Assistance to Sudan on Tax revenue mobilization**

Under the Sub Regional Office - Northern Africa, which aims to support MS to achieve structural transformation and sustainable development, ECA worked with **Egypt** and **Sudan** to help the Sudanese Taxation Chamber increase tax revenue and improve skills of auditors through training and exchange of experience.

Advisory services included a field visit to **Sudan** to support government departments involved in tax administration; 3 workshops in **Egypt** (focusing on auditing 3 specific sectors); and a virtual E-Audit capacity building workshop. These workshops helped develop **Sudanese** technical expertise to examine companies' monthly and annual returns, provided space to discuss **Sudanese** challenges in auditing these sectors, and provided a space for South-South cooperation between **Egypt** and **Sudan**.

**The workshops led to the design of new VAT monthly and annual returns for the telecommunication sector. Sudan developed new audit methodologies to efficiently audit monthly and annual tax returns of telecommunications sector taxpayers following the workshops.**

The assistance led to a marked increase in tax revenue in August and September 2021 in comparison to the same period the previous year, and it is anticipated that the support will lead to an increase in tax revenues from the oil and gas sector by at least 34% in the current fiscal year.

#### Supporting African SMEs and youth to participate in the global trade

Through the Technology, Climate change and Natural resource management Division, which aims at improving management of natural resource endowments and reducing the negative impacts of climate change, ECA supported African entrepreneurs to use the infrastructure of Alibaba's electronic World Trade Platform to bring quality African products and SME brands into the Chinese market.

Working with **Alibaba, Ministries of Trade and Prime Ministers' Offices**, this project targeted African entrepreneurs and SMEs,<sup>81</sup> supporting them to better understand e-commerce in Chinese markets and TMAL Global – Alibaba's e-trading platform in **China**.

Three **Ethiopian** coffee companies were trained in the use of TMAL Global and products packaging for the **Chinese** market. Workshops were organised to enhance their knowledge of **Chinese** markets and to support them to promote their products and maximise e-commerce opportunities in **China**. These companies have all started e-trading their coffee in **China** through TMAL Global.



The products launched in January 2022 and sold over 11000 packets in 5 seconds.

Moving forward, this process will be replicated to bring about other suitably qualified products from other African countries to **China**.

#### Integration of human rights and gender equality concerns in ECA interventions

ECA considered gender aspects when selecting trainers during the coding camps to ensure a good mix of male and female trainers.

Some gender disaggregated data was provided.

#### Use of resources

No data is available on the number of advisors employed using RPTC funds in 2021, on the number of other staff members contributing to RPTC funded activities, or on the number of activities co-organised with funding from DA, XB or other partners.

RPTC resources helped address ECA priorities, which are defined by the Annual Proposed Programme Budget. MS requests are aligned with identified priorities and cover some emerging issues that arise throughout the year.

The RPTC project "Technical advisory service to roll out the Integrated Planning and Reporting Toolkit (IPRT) to enhance development planning capacity in Member States" used a tool which is based on a DA project developed in 2016 and funded by RPTC.

<sup>81</sup> In Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Guinea Bissau, Burkina Faso and Senegal.

## **Complementarity of action**

Linkages with DA: ECA encourages RPTC/DA linkages. Decisions related to the allocation of resources (which happen following a thorough review process of all proposals received) take into account DA projects for resource optimization.

For example, the output of the RPTC project “Building Member States capacity to establish institutional architecture to address illicit financial flows from Africa” was related to an ongoing DA Project on defining, estimating, and measuring Illicit Financial Flows in Africa and complements the project's findings.

A RPTC project on digitalisation of the logistics sector in **Ethiopia** was linked to the DA project on Transport and Trade Connectivity, implemented with other UN Regional Commissions.

Linkages with RCOs/UNCTs: Throughout the preparation and implementation of the African Regional Forum for Sustainable Development (ARFSD), extensive collaboration with RCO/UNCTs was undertaken. For example, in several VNR countries<sup>82</sup> the UNCT was an integral entry-point to discussions with governments, and ECA support was tailored to governments’ requests and to the support and plans already provided by the UNCT.

For each output of the project “Building Member States capacity to establish institutional architecture to address illicit financial flows from Africa”, the national level entry point was the RCO/UNCT.

Linkages with other UN entities: Collaboration with other UN entities included: DESA and UN-Habitat. ECA organised the RFSD in partnership with ECOSOC, DESA, UNDP, UNICEF, RECs and others.

Linkages with other stakeholders: Examples include:

- The Africa Business Forum;<sup>83</sup>
- The West African Forum;<sup>84</sup>
- The Connected African Girls Coding Camp, organized in partnership with Alibaba and local CSOs;
- The ECA-Young Economists Network, created with 71 universities from 27 African countries.

## **Challenges**

ECA faced logistical and planning challenges due to COVID-19. The pandemic also limited the depth of field work and the engagement of a wide array of stakeholders for most projects. Delays in the recruitment process of consultants, partially due to COVID-19, also posed challenges to projects. A major challenge was the security situation in some countries<sup>85</sup> which affected the implementation of activities.

Moving forward, ECA anticipates continued challenges related to travel and face-to-face interaction, with most activities continuing to take place virtually. Access to the internet and other alternative means of communication will be one major challenge to take into consideration.

ECA needs to strengthen capacity in its collaboration with RCOs/UNCTs, articulation of clear result statements and providing evidence demonstrating demand from Member States or relevant legislative mandates.

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<sup>82</sup> Notably Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Sao Tome and Principe.

<sup>83</sup> Organised in partnership with AfreximBank, Africa Finance Corporation-AFC, Africa Development Bank-AfDB, and the Arab bank for economic development in Africa- BADEA.

<sup>84</sup> See details of partners above.

<sup>85</sup> Namely Niger, Somali and Sudan.

## United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

ESCAP implemented RPTC activities under 9 subprogrammes.<sup>86</sup> It aimed at building capacities in developing countries and, in particular, the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS in the region. Tailored support is provided to LDCs for their graduation and post-graduation adjustments and in identifying new priorities for policy making.

In 2021, ESCAP received 25 written requests for RPTC assistance from 16 different countries (6 LDCs, 5 LLDCs and 3 SIDS). ESCAP deployed 79 national level interventions (of which 47 were advisory services), across 57 countries (members and associate members). ESCAP organised 48 sub-regional, 44 regional and 5 global interventions. All RPTC interventions<sup>87</sup> reached 4813 people, including 33% women. These interventions were a combination of workshops, advisory services and field projects, focusing on social policy, economic development, macro economic analysis/financing and investment for development, national development planning, regional and sub-regional cooperation and integration, statistics and data, and trade and transport. ESCAP organised 139.5 days of training events (96.5 virtual), training 4765 people, including 33% women. 73% of these participants were trained virtually.

ESCAP provided 1 fellowship in 2021, and undertook single country field projects in 2 countries.<sup>88</sup> Main beneficiaries of ESCAP's RPTC were civil servants, policy makers, academia, parliamentarians and civil society. As a result of RPTC funded ESCAP assistance, 2 conventions were signed or ratified; 21 new policies, laws, national plans or strategies were introduced, across 14 countries, and 17 new reporting requirements were met, across 11 countries. Examples of accomplishments in key areas are highlighted below.

### **Supporting digital literacy and digital skills in Indonesia**

Under SP2, which aims to strengthen the capacity of MS to implement policies and programmes that harness the potential of trade, investment, innovation, technology and enterprise development, ESCAP supported the national roadmap for "**Indonesia** Digital 2021-2024" by identifying gaps for digital skill development and formulating policy recommendations. The work provides the foundation for Indonesia's focus on digital skills and literacy.

ESCAP organised 7 consultation/capacity-building meetings (for policymakers, government officials and other stakeholders, who increased their understanding of national policies and measures on enhancing digital skills and digital literacy), which led to the development of 2 reports, notably "Digital Skills Landscape in **Indonesia**" and "Accelerating Digital Skills Development in **Indonesia**".

These reports, prepared in partnership with The SMERU Research Institute (Indonesia) and Oxford University (UK), have been presented to **Indonesian** officials in charge of developing digital skills.

Moving forward, ESCAP will continue to support **Indonesia's** focus on digital skills and literacy as part of its G20 Presidency in 2022. \$20,000 has been secured from the RPTC to do so, focusing on further enhancing digital skills and literacy of the vulnerable groups in G20 countries, especially **Indonesia**, to enable these groups of countries to benefit from the digital economy.

### **Supporting national disability strategies in Lao PDR and Bhutan**

Under SP6, which aims to realize inclusive and equitable societies that protect, empower and leave no one behind, ESCAP supported the Government of **Lao PDR** in conducting a national survey on disability; and the Government of **Bhutan** in conducting situation analysis and developing a strategy to support employment for persons with disabilities.

<sup>86</sup> SP1 Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development; SP2 Trade, investment and innovation; SP3 Transport; SP4 Environment and development; SP5 Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management; SP6 Social development; SP7 Statistics; SP8 Subregional activities for development; SP9 Energy.

<sup>87</sup> Number of participants was not disaggregated by country, as reporting was done by groups of countries.

<sup>88</sup> Given the wide geographic spread of SIDS in the region, and the prohibitive cost of travel, ESCAP in particular uses RPTC to support groups of countries in the region. For example, a third field project was organised to support American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, Guam, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.



ESCAP provided advisory services to review **Bhutan's** legislation, policy, and practice supporting technical and vocational education and training (TVET) for persons with disabilities. ESCAP provided the Government of **Bhutan** with a situational analysis and needs assessment report, assisting policymakers and practitioners in building institutional capacity and advanced disability-inclusive TVET.



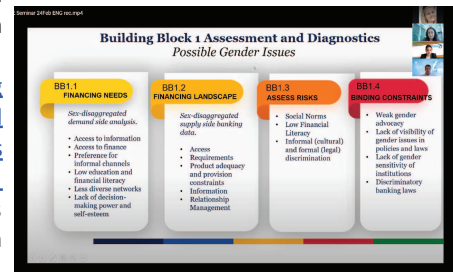
ESCAP provided technical and financial support to the Government of **Lao PDR**, to hold 4 consultations on the national survey to review the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities. Relevant line ministries, national agencies, and organizations of people with disabilities attended the consultations. Participants were informed of the survey process and provided guidance to carry out data collection to conduct the survey. These consultations engaged government officials and stakeholders on the process of the regional review of the implementation of the Incheon Strategy ('To Make the Right Real') and methodology to conduct the national survey. These consultations contributed to enhanced

understanding of the national review process in support of the Final Review of Implementation of the Decade of Persons with Disabilities and methodology for data collection.

Moving forward, ESCAP will provide technical assistance for **Bhutan** to build the capacity of ministries responsible for technical and vocational training for persons with disabilities through training, consultation, and seminars, through the XB project 2019-SDD-006, funded by the **Republic of Korea**.

#### **Supporting the financial inclusion of SMEs in economic plans for a sustainable recovery from COVID-19**

Under SP8.3, which aims to strengthen regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development, ESCAP, working with DESA, UNDP's Regional Hub Istanbul, and RCOs in the North and Central Asian countries organized the online "[Subregional Training Seminar on Small and Medium Enterprises \(SME\) Financial Inclusion in Countries' Integrated National Financing Frameworks \(INFFs\) for Sustainable Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic and for Achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)." This involved developing training materials and presentations in English and Russian, focused on national case studies and mainstreaming gender issues when introducing SME financing into INFFs.



This project focused on Ministries of finance, planning and economy, central banks, government entities dealing with SME financing and other key national stakeholders, as well as UNCT representatives supporting respective INFF initiatives in targeted countries.<sup>89</sup>

[Training materials](#) used concrete issues and policy recommendations for **Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan**. The training provided participants with an introduction on the objectives and the structure of an INFF, opportunities for hands-on learning, and examples of integrating SME financing as part of a country's INFF. Knowledge gained during the training is expected to be used when countries prepare their INFF Roadmaps and National Financing Strategies. In addition, 2 study papers were prepared for **Armenia** and **Kyrgyzstan**.

**The training was attended by 134 participants, including 53% women, from governments, academia, private sector, civil society, banks and development partners. The evaluation noted that the training reflected development issues of key importance, was effective and useful for their work.**

<sup>89</sup> Notably Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Moving forward, it is hoped that recommendations from these trainings will be considered during the policy deliberations process of the countries' INFFs. The case study for **Kazakhstan** will inform in-depth policy research by the Economic Research Institute of Kazakhstan on priorities for SME financing to be included in the country's INFF, part of a Joint SDG Fund project supported by UNDP, UNICEF and ESCAP.

### **Supporting women entrepreneurs in Asia Pacific on e-commerce and digital marketing**

Under SP8.4, which aims to strengthen regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development, ESCAP (working with Enhanced Integrated Framework, South Asia Women Development Forum, and UBUNTU) built the capacity of 472 women entrepreneurs<sup>90</sup> on using e-commerce and digital marketing to expand their business, through five virtual training workshops, focusing on digital marketing and e-commerce.



ESCAP also developed an [e-commerce training platform](#) to provide hands-on training for women entrepreneurs on using these platforms to sell products. In 2021, 212 women entrepreneurs from the target countries have registered on the e-commerce platform and updated their product and/or service profiles in that platform.

Advisory services provided as part of this work include support to **Bhutan** and **Nepal** to review their e-Commerce policies, and a one-week training for **Nepalese** officials.

Moving forward, ESCAP plans to continue organizing the training programme, ideally face to face. ESCAP will work with the Commonwealth Secretariat to conduct two training workshops in **Nepal**. WTO is investigating the possibility of including products from this project across its relevant training. Additionally, ESCAP is planning to expand its partnership with members of the South Asia Network on the SDGs as well as national agencies like the Lahore Chamber of Commerce (**Pakistan**) and the SAARC Business Association of Home-Based Workers (**Nepal**).

### **Developing national and subnational energy transition roadmaps in Asia and the Pacific**

Under SP9, which aims to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in Asia and the Pacific, ESCAP supported the creation of national and subnational energy transition roadmaps in **Thailand**, **Bhutan** and **Fiji** by applying the integrated tool "National Expert SDG Tool for Energy Planning" (NEXSTEP).

As part of this project, ESCAP provided the following advisory services:

1. Supporting **Thailand** to develop a sub-national energy transition roadmap in 3 provinces;
2. Supporting **Fiji** to develop an [energy transition national roadmap](#);
3. Supporting **Bhutan** to develop an energy transition national roadmap;
4. Developing connectivity strategies to reduce fossil fuel dependency and to increase the share of renewable energy for Pacific Island nations.

14 training sessions were also conducted, notably 3 sessions on 'A Provincial SDG7 Roadmap Development Plan' in **Thailand**; 3 consultation workshops for implementing NEXSTEP in **Thailand**; 2 national workshops to develop and assess strategies for Pacific Island nations; 1 Stakeholder consultation workshop to determine specific capacity building needs for Heads of ASEAN Power Utilities/Authorities; [3 Online trainings for ASEAN utilities to align regional power system integration with the SDGs](#); and 2 Training sessions to develop and assess the quality of the national connectivity strategies to reduce fossil fuel dependency and to increase the share of renewable energy in Pacific Island nations.

**The support to Pacific Island nations provided an implementable framework for applying connectivity principles in support of meeting SDG7 targets.**

<sup>90</sup> From India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Turkey.

Moving forward, ESCAP will look to expand the coverage of NEXSTEP within the region and across other regions, to accelerate the achievement of SDG7. ESCAP and ECE will implement the DA project 'Strengthening energy policies of Countries with Special Needs to build back better from COVID-19' and NEXSTEP will be made available online. The project will focus on LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS, notably the **Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Maldives, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Armenia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.**

#### **Integration of gender equality concerns in ESCAP interventions**

Gender considerations and the rights-based approach are mainstreamed throughout ESCAP's work. Throughout capacity development projects, from planning to implementation, and monitoring and evaluation, gender considerations are taken into account across all thematic areas of ESCAP's work, in line with ESCAP's gender equality policy and implementation plan, and the related gender guidelines. In keeping with the Executive Secretary's guidance, all ESCAP projects are required to contribute to gender equality/women's empowerment.

Gender disaggregated data was provided.

#### **Use of resources**

2 advisors were employed using RPTC funds in 2021, and an estimated 136 other staff members contributed to RPTC funded activities.

RPTC resources helped address ESCAP's priorities, derived from relevant resolutions and decisions of the GA and the ECOSOC, by optimizing the impact of other development funds, including DA and XB. MS requests for technical assistance inform the formulation of subsequent rounds of assistance and tailored advisory services.

At least 10 activities were co-organised with funding from DA, XB or other partners, to a value of \$387,179. Examples include:

- (DA: US\$193,625) "Energy transition to achieve SDG7: Capacity building for countries in North and Central Asia to develop decarbonization strategies in the energy sector"
- (XB: US\$ 62,949) "Strengthening national capacities in Asia and the Pacific to implement and track progress towards the realization of the Incheon Strategy"

#### **Complementarity of action**

Linkages with DA: There are no formal mechanisms to support such linkages. However, technical cooperation projects funded from these two sources are overseen by the same Capacity Development and Partnerships Section, which facilitates a coherent approach to project management and knowledge sharing, including through semi-annual consultations with all SPs. As such, many TC activities have led to the formulation of DA projects, for example:

- The 2020 RPTC activity "Strengthening national capacities for identifying the furthest behind in access to basic services and opportunities in Asia and the Pacific", established the foundation for DA13 2124R "Strengthening national capacities for identifying the furthest behind in Asia and the Pacific";
- RPTC activities supporting MS to develop SDG7 Roadmaps (NEXSTEP) provided a strong basis for the formulation and implementation of DA14 2225Q "Strengthening energy policies of countries with special needs to build back better from COVID-19".

Linkages with RCOs/UNCTs: All national-level activities related to VNRs are coordinated with and through the RCs. Following a request for assistance, usually received through the RC, a coordination meeting is held to see how ESCAP can contribute to and complement the UNCT support. RCs are frequently engaged in official events. In 2021, coordination was strengthened through information sessions on the VNR process, and internal guidelines in the VNR technical assistance project. These linkages allow ESCAP and the RCOs to communicate consistent messages to Governments on the direction of technical assistance.

ESCAP's subregional offices work closely with the relevant RCOs and UNCTs, through dedicated task teams or working groups.

Linkages with other UN entities: ESCAP worked closely with WHO on effective, affordable, and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines. It partnered with the UN Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) and UN-Habitat to offer capacity building support for assessment of COVID-19 impacts on mobility and to plan and develop resilient, sustainable and inclusive urban passenger transport systems. ESCAP also partnered with UNEP, WHO and UNDP to deliver a series of virtual thematic and sub-regional dialogues on innovative air pollution solutions.

Linkages with other stakeholders: ESCAP, in partnership with Internet Society, APNIC Foundation, University of the South Pacific, Pacific Islands Telecommunications Associations, and the International Telecommunication Union, provided capacity building support for Pacific member States in operationalizing a Pacific Internet Exchange Point in the framework of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway.

ESCAP provided technical assistance to help **Indonesia** implement key priorities of their digital roadmap. Partners of the project included the Digital Pathways at the University of Oxford (Digital Pathways) and two the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and the SMERU Research Institute (SMERU) in **Indonesia**.

### **Challenges**

Challenges encountered in 2021 included lockdowns and travel restrictions across the region, leading to serious adjustments of activities and delays in the onboarding and placement of RPTC-funded Regional Advisors. The lack of in-person engagement led to challenges in identifying local capacity, and reduced momentum on RPTC activities. Similar challenges are expected moving forward. ESCAP would benefit from further support for new capacity development delivery models using information technologies and e-learning, blended with traditional training modalities.

## United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

ECE implemented RPTC activities under 8 subprogrammes.<sup>91</sup> It focused on lower- and upper-middle-income countries of the ECE region, with a view to strengthening their national capacities to accede to and implement ECE and international legal instruments, norms and standards. The activities promote regional integration and cooperation and support national efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs.

In 2021, at the national level, ECE received 31 requests for RPTC assistance from 13 different countries (including 8 LLDCs). ECE deployed a total of 28 advisory services (26 virtual). These services were focused on regional and sub-regional cooperation and integration including SPECA; statistics and data; environment; trade and transport; housing and urban development; PPPs; innovation; forestry; energy; and population. ECE undertook 25 national level training events (23 virtual), training 735 people, including 36% women, from 10 countries. 93% of these participants were trained virtually.

ECE undertook 3 global interventions (2 virtual), reaching 110 people, including 55% women; 80 subregional and regional interventions (hybrid and virtual), reaching 3026 people, including 44% women. These interventions were a combination of workshops and advisory services.

ECE undertook 38 field projects across 12 countries. Main beneficiaries of ECE's RPTC were civil servants, policy makers, academia and civil society. As a result of RPTC funded ECE assistance, 3 new policies, laws, national plans or strategies were introduced in 2021, across 3 countries. Examples of accomplishments in key areas are highlighted below.

### Improving environmental governance for safeguarding the environment and health.

Under SP1, ECE supported **Serbia** to mainstream gender issues in environmental policies; **Uzbekistan** on the green transition; and the Western Balkans and Eastern Europe to develop capacity to respond to common environmental challenges.



In **Serbia**, ECE supported the Ministry of Environmental Protection, to integrate gender into environmental policies. This included an online refresher training and 2 capacity building webinars on gender and the environment, organised in collaboration with the RCO, UN Women and UNDP. A [toolbox](#) and [tailored guidance](#) were created to support the Ministry and local government to integrate gender equality concerns into environmental policies. ECE also supported the Ministry to develop a project proposal involving the Ministry, UN Women, UNDP Serbia and the Fruska Gora National Park.

ECE supported the Government of **Uzbekistan** to advance the green transition agenda, by participating in the coordination mechanism for the preparation of a Green Growth Strategic Framework, and by organising an international online forum "Building forward better: Green recovery of Uzbekistan after the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic" to bring together

stakeholders to discuss **Uzbekistan's** transition to a green economy. Following the forum, ECE is developing a draft Green Growth Strategic Framework for **Uzbekistan**.

ECE focused on improving the capacity of Western Balkans and Eastern Europe to respond to common environmental challenges, by tracking the status of implementation of 'Environmental Performance Review' recommendations, identifying common challenges and good practices, and developing recommendations for target countries and subregions.

<sup>91</sup> SP1 Environment; SP2 Transport; SP3 Statistics; SP4 Economic cooperation and integration; SP5 Sustainable energy; SP6 Trade; SP7 Forests; SP8 Housing, land management and population.



### **Advancing sustainable inland transport**

Under SP2, ECE worked with policy makers on transport, infrastructure road safety to support the accession of **Turkmenistan** to the UN's transport legal instruments; to support **Georgia** to develop a draft national road safety strategy; and to support **Bosnia and Herzegovina** to create a roadmap for roadside technical inspection.

**ECE supported Turkmenistan to accede to, and implement, the UN's Customs Convention on Containers (1972) and Convention on Customs Treatment of Pool Containers Used in International Transport (1994). Expert meetings and policy dialogues were organised to support the government through this process.**

As part of **Georgia's** development of a draft national road safety strategy, ECE prepared an analysis and recommendations on three road safety topics: seat belts on rear seat, child restraint system and speed management, helping Georgian legislators integrate these measures into the draft strategy. A national capacity development workshop to support the finalization and adoption of the strategy is planned in 2022.

In collaboration with UNDP and the Ministry of Communications and Transport of **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, ECE helped develop a roadmap for roadside technical inspection, which was presented to stakeholders during an online workshop. The process strengthened national capacity to update national legislation to be in conformity with relevant international agreements. A capacity development seminar and national policy dialogue are planned for 2022.

### **Enhancing subregional cooperation through UN SPECA**

Under SP4, which aims to strengthen policies on innovation, competitiveness and public-private partnerships, ECE collaborated with **Uzbekistan**, ESCAP, UNDP, UNEP, UNCTs and RCOs to organise the [2021 SPECA Economic Forum](#) and 16<sup>th</sup> session of the SPECA Governing Council. SPECA countries reviewed and endorsed plans for future work,<sup>92</sup> and adopted the [Tashkent Declaration](#) to guide future implementation of the SPECA Work Programme. ECE prepared numerous background policy documents<sup>93</sup> to support this Forum, and organised an [online training](#) to build capacity of SPECA stakeholders to design effective policies and institutions to enable and foster the potential of innovative, high-growth entrepreneurship (IHGE) for sustainable development and resilient COVID-19 recovery.



Funding has been secured under UNDA project 14T 'Enhanced capacities of selected countries in the ECE region for pandemic-resilient, sustainable cross-border trade and transport' to take forward parts of the work agreed by the Forum.

<sup>92</sup> Including promoting sustainable trade and circular economy in SPECA countries; harmonization of border-crossing procedures; the connection between trade, water management, food security, and the circular economy in the SPECA region; and sustainable tourism.

<sup>93</sup> Including [Trade, Water, Food, Circular Economy: 2021 SPECA Economic Forum analytical background paper](#); [Applying Principles of Circular Economy to Sustainable Tourism in SPECA Countries](#); [Border-crossing harmonization: Analytical background overview](#).



### **Delivering technical cooperation on sustainable energy**



Under SP5, which aims to ensure secure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all, ECE worked with UNDP, UNCTs and RCOs to develop national studies on renewable energy, national guidelines on energy efficiency and to build capacity on high-performance energy efficiency standards in buildings.

ECE held national training seminars on high-performance energy efficiency standards in buildings in **Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, and Moldova**, developing capacity of national authorities, building capacity of sector professionals and other stakeholders to implement more advanced energy efficiency standards in buildings and introduce energy efficient technologies. This was supported by an online workshop entitled “Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings and their Implementation in the ECE region”.

ECE developed studies<sup>94</sup> in areas of renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy transition, including national case studies which provide analysis of the national situations and concrete actions that governments can undertake to close the gap in gender disparity in the energy sector while achieving benefits to society overall.

ECE also hosted a variety of Online Training Workshops to support this stream of work, including: “[Guidelines and Best Practices in North Macedonia for MSMEs in delivering energy efficient products and in providing renewable energy equipment](#)”; and “Guidelines and Best Practices in **Georgia** for MSMEs in delivering energy efficient products and in providing renewable energy.”

All of this work was closely linked with the DA project [Global Initiative towards post-COVID-19 resurgence of the MSME sector](#), which led to [Updated Guidelines and Best Practices for MSMEs in delivering energy efficient products and in providing renewable energy equipment](#) for **North Macedonia, Georgia, Albania, and Kyrgyzstan**. For all of these countries, national online training workshops were organized by ECE, leading to customized Guidelines and Best Practices for **Tajikistan** and **Ukraine** and national online training workshops were held for these two countries. National training workshops for **Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Serbia** are planned in early 2022.

Funding has been secured for follow up work, including a project on “Improving the energy efficiency of the global building supply chain industry and its products to deliver high performance buildings”; a project financed by the Green Finance Facility to Improve Air Quality and Combat Climate Change in **North Macedonia**; and a project on Food-Water-Energy nexus support to post-COVID-19 recovery in Eastern Europe, Western Balkans, Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa.

### **Scaling up efforts to restore degraded forests and landscapes**

Under SP7, which aims to strengthen the sustainable management of forests, ECE worked with the FAO, UNCTs and RCOs to support MS to restore degraded forests and landscapes. This included strengthening capacities and providing policy advice for the development of national and regional strategies, technical monitoring and finance.

To this end, a [ministerial meeting](#) was held with countries of Eastern and South-East Europe, resulting in pledges of more than 4 million hectares of land to be restored under the Bonn Challenge by 2030. The countries attending the Ministerial meeting also adopted the [ECCA30 Ministerial Declaration](#).

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<sup>94</sup> Including Renewable Energy Financing and Investment in Albania, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Serbia; Potential for improving energy efficiency in the refrigeration and air-conditioning sector of Uzbekistan; Energy Transition and the Post-COVID-19 Socioeconomic Recovery: Role of Women and Impact on Them.

ECE and FAO co-published the study “[Forest Landscape Restoration in Eastern and South-East Europe](#)”, which identifies key drivers of forest degradation and assesses the potential for forest landscape restoration in 17 countries of Eastern and South-East Europe.

[INForest](#), an online forest data and communication platform with the most up-to-date information about the forests in the region was also developed by ECE and FAO. The platform has been widely promoted among potential users (including non-forestry decision-makers and the general public), as well as UNCTs and RCs. INForest is currently available in English, Russian, Czech, and Polish and can be accommodated for national use and data dissemination. German and French sites are under construction.

Funding has been secured for two follow up projects, notably: “Improving the collection, processing and dissemination of information on forests and sustainable forest management in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (70,000 euros); and “UNDA 15T Circular forest product value chains and nature-based solutions for resilient and inclusive post-pandemic rural development and forest landscape restoration in Central Asia and the Caucasus” (600,000 euros).

#### **Integration of gender equality concerns in ECE interventions**

ECE’s interventions are undertaken in line with the UN’s overall guidance on reflecting HRBA and gender.

Gender disaggregated data was provided.

#### **Use of resources**

5 advisors were employed using RPTC funds in 2021, and an estimated 20-40 other staff members contributed to RPTC funded activities. 24 activities were co-organised with funding from DA, XB or other partners.

RPTC resources helped address ECE’s priorities, which are first set within ECE’s mandate and plans of the SPs. MS requests are expected for specific technical cooperation areas, in line with ECE’s technical cooperation strategy.

At least 2 UNDA and 3 XB projects were formulated in 2021, relating to or following up on earlier RPTC interventions. Examples of such projects include:

- UNDA project 14T: “Enhanced capacities of selected countries in the ECE region for pandemic-resilient, sustainable cross-border trade and transport” \$430,000;
- “UNDA Food-Water-Energy nexus support to post-COVID-19 recovery in Eastern Europe, Western Balkans, Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa” \$700,000;
- “Improving the energy efficiency of the global building supply chain industry and its products to deliver high performance buildings” \$3,605,000.

#### **Complementarity of action**

Linkages with DA: For ECE, RPTC and UNDA are often implemented in synergies and complementarities. 2021 Examples include:

- 2023X Transport and trade connectivity in the age of pandemics;
- 2023AA Building Urban Economic Resilience during and after COVID-19;
- 2023W Global Initiative towards post-COVID-19 resurgence of the MSME sector.

In addition to regular sectorial field projects, ECE launched 5 RPTC cross-sectoral small-scale field projects, in the areas of energy, transport, environment, housing and innovation, complementing the regular advisory services. All Regional Advisors are regularly informed that RPTC funds may be used as seed money to develop DA projects, and an internal directive ensures all staff are aware of this.

Linkages with RCOs/UNCTs: ECE strengthened the support to RCOs in 2021. Each Regional Advisor now acts as a focal point for 3 countries in addition to their substantive sectoral expertise. This approach aims at fostering

coordination and increased use of ECE tools and normative work at the country level. A Regional Advisor on Forests, land and housing was recently recruited.

ECE has 3 communication streams with RCOs and UNCTs:

- 1) Participation in UNCT meetings in 17 Member States, with regular presentations of ECE work;
- 2) Regular briefings for RCOs and UNCTs on existing tools, instruments, ongoing projects and identification of new entry points for joint programming, including cross sectoral and subregional initiatives. Briefings are usually followed-up by bilateral discussions between interested members of the UNCTs and ECE;
- 3) Joint ECE-ESCAP presentation/ discussion on tools available in both RECs for programme countries with dual memberships (**Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan**), facilitating a coordinated approach to technical cooperation.

Linkages with other UN entities: ECE is a signatory to all 17 UNSDCFs in the region. As such, all ECE TC activities, including RPTC, are integrated in the 17 UNSDCFs.

ECE co-chairs the IBC on the environment and developed tools through RPTC to develop the work of the IBC, including a training on Mainstreaming environment and climate change in the UNSDCF processes for 3 sub-regions.

ECE had specific partnerships with other UN entities for various projects and interventions, for example:

- IBC webinar on promoting measures to green the post-pandemic recovery;
- International forum 'Building Forward Better: A COVID-19 Green Recovery for **Uzbekistan**';
- SPECA Thematic Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Transit Connectivity – and all other SPECA thematic groups;
- Webinar on New opportunities for geospatial and statistical data using the Discrete Global Grid System;
- Capacity-building workshop on development of hydrogen infrastructure;
- Training on trade facilitation measures for **North Macedonia**;
- UN Women and UNDP for work on gender mainstreaming in environmental policies in **Serbia**.

Linkages with other stakeholders: A good example is the co-development of an [online training course in renewable energy](#) between ECE, [Mashav](#) (The Agency for International Development Cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of **Israel**) and the [Arava Institute for Environmental Studies](#).

### **Challenges**

A major challenge is the growing demand for TC, particularly with the UN Development System Reform. This challenge is expected to remain in 2022. A further challenge is that some subprogrammes are still not fully covered by the RA services. ECE requires extra Regional Advisors for emerging topics like circular economy, and resources for cross sectorial field projects.

## United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

ECLAC implemented RTPC activities under 10 subprogrammes.<sup>95</sup> It aimed to strengthen the technical capacity of countries of the region to design, formulate, implement and evaluate public policies that allow them to improve their regional integration in order to foster productivity, convergence and innovation within their economies, promote sustainable growth while taking into consideration the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development, address social inequalities and demographic changes and develop accurate statistics to support evidence-based public policy formulation.

In 2021, ECLAC received a total of 113 requests for assistance, from 33 countries (1 LDC, 2 LLDCs, 15 SIDS). Most services were provided on regional, subregional and transboundary issues, serving multiple countries. Across 53 regional and 28 sub-regional training events (all virtual), ECLAC trained 9985 people, including 32% women. These interventions focused on social policy; Leaving No One Behind; economic development, macro economic analysis/financing and investment for development; national development planning; governance, public administration and services; regional and sub-regional cooperation and integration; statistics and data; environment; trade and transport; population; gender equality; big data; and natural resources.

These interventions were a combination of workshops and advisory services, and targeted civil servants, policy makers, academia and civil society. 2 countries signed/ratified new conventions in 2021, following ECLAC support - notably **Argentina** and **Mexico**, signing the Escazu Agreement. 31 new policies, laws, national plans or strategies were introduced across 17 countries, and 9 reporting requirements were met, across 9 countries, following ECLAC support. Examples of accomplishments in key areas are highlighted below.

### Promoting regional integration in support of the COVID-19 pandemic vaccination

Under SP1, which aims to improve regional integration, logistics and infrastructure to promote development with equality and strengthen the role of LAC in international trade, ECLAC provided advisory services focusing on cold logistics chains and the establishment of a bi-oceanic corridor within the Capricorn Hub;<sup>96</sup> on vaccine distribution process in LAC; and inland waterway integration in South America (Amazon and Orinoco basins).

Working with the Latin American Petrochemical and Chemical Association (APLA); the National Association of Industries of Colombia (ANDI); the Inter-American Federation of the Construction Industry (FIIC), this assistance targeted government officials in transport, trade, health, environment, customs, finance, and related issues, providing them with an analysis of cold storage capacities and logistics infrastructure, to inform the design of national vaccination campaigns.

Trainings organised include a national dialogue (**Paraguay**) - “Sustainable inland transport connectivity indicators”; a Maritime Academic Latin-American Forum - Challenges & Opportunities of the Region; a workshop on Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity Indicators; and a high-level meeting of experts to examine new challenges in LAC in relation to sustainable logistics, mobility and infrastructure policies and the 2030 Agenda. The assistance led to the creation of case studies on the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, focusing on **Panama, Chile, Cuba** and **Mexico**.

Moving forward, ECLAC plans to continue to analyse the feasibility of a bi-oceanic corridor and the potential of the use of airships in the Amazon, with a view to generate partnerships with the private sector in the implementation of the proposals, following a request from **Brazil**.

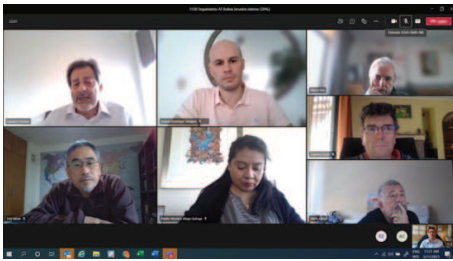
### Supporting productive diversification in the Plurinational State of Bolivia

Under SP2, which aims to enhance the diversification of productive structures through innovation and the diffusion of new technology, ECLAC assisted the **Plurinational State of Bolivia** to identify economic sectors and

<sup>95</sup> SP1 International trade, integration and infrastructure; SP2 Production and innovation; SP3 Macroeconomic policies and growth; SP4 Social development and equality; SP6 Population and development; SP7 Sustainable development and human settlements; SP8 Natural resources; SP10 Statistics; SP11 Subregional activities in Central America, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Mexico; SP12 Subregional activities in the Caribbean.

<sup>96</sup> Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, and Chile.

goods which could promote an importing substitution strategy. Assistance focused on an analysis of recent LAC experience, an analysis of the situation of different stakeholders, generation of data and statistics, and an analysis of trade, value chains and productive sectors.



ECLAC assessed the substitution potential in the productive structure of **Bolivia** and identified products that could be targeted by import substitution policies. ECLAC provided technical assistance to develop foreign trade databases, to process customs microdata and to estimate the effective protection levels for selected Bolivian industries. ECLAC also supported the analysis of trade indicators.

8 virtual workshops were delivered to 173 policy makers, including 46% women from the **Bolivian** Government. These workshops aimed to identify and discuss the key aspects for the design and implementation of import substitution policies in the **Plurinational State of Bolivia**.

### **Fostering the financial inclusion of SMEs to support the economic recovery from COVID-19**

Under SP3, which aims to strengthen the capacity of policymakers and other stakeholders in the region to analyse current and emerging macroeconomic and financial issues, ECLAC supported the strengthening of capacity in **Argentina** to enhance financial inclusion and design public policies to incentivize the expansion of SMEs.

**Technical assistance included an analysis of existing public guarantees and related financial instruments, and support to the design and launch of the National Council of Guarantees.**

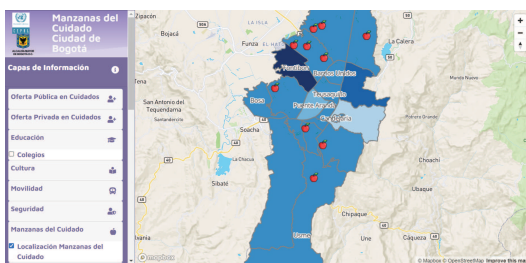
Support was provided through online meetings, virtual capacity building activities and webinars, as well as the publication "[Towards a national system of guarantees: antecedents, best practices and implications for the Argentine case](#)".

These services were delivered in partnership with the Secretariat for SMEs and Entrepreneurs (SEPYME) of the Ministry of Productive Development, and provided targeted support to officials of the Central Bank of the Republic (BCRA), as well as other government officials and representatives of the public and private sector. The support strengthened capacities to design financing inclusion policies to enhance access of SMEs to credit and financing.



### **Georeferenced Map of Care**

Under SP4, which aims to strengthen regional approaches and national strategies, policies and programmes to achieve greater social and economic equality and overall well-being of the people of the region, ECLAC has been providing technical support to **Colombia** and **Argentina** to map the supply of care services, aiming to provide georeferenced information on the availability of these services catering for different groups. In **Colombia**, advisory services and technical assistance delivered supported the elaboration of a georeferenced map for the District of Bogota - "[Manzanas del cuidado, Ciudad de Bogota](#)" - with information on the supply and demand of care services, and gender focused indicators. In **Argentina**, ECLAC supported the mapping of care services,





notably on conceptual aspects and the development of indicators. The virtual platform '[Federal Map of Care](#)' was launched in 2021, aiming to help the public assess the offers of care services by public, private and community-based organizations. This platform ensures accessibility for persons with disabilities and within contexts of technological deficits.

The assistance included advisory services to support the Office of the Mayor of Bogota to develop and implement the georeferenced map for the District of Bogota with information on the supply and demand of care services, including a gender perspective. Advisory services were also provided to the Buenos Aires Province, to support the Equality Plan for Inclusion and Social Justice.

An online training course "[Economic Indicators with a gender perspective](#)", organized jointly by ECLAC and the Ministry of Economy of **Argentina** was also organised, attended by 43 participants (all women). The objective was to strengthen capacities for the production, analysis and use of gender statistics in the planning, implementation and monitoring of public policies for equality. ECLAC also organised a seminar entitled "Towards the construction of the Buenos Aires Province Equality Plan for Inclusion and Social Justice".

Through this support, decision makers and stakeholders have a better understanding of the care offer magnitude and deficits, which will help inform public policy design.

### **A sustainable bioeconomy strategy in Guatemala**

Under SP8, which aims to enhance the institutional capacities of LAC countries for good governance and the sustainable exploitation of natural resources, ECLAC supported **Guatemala's** National Secretariat of Science and Technology (SENACYT) in the elaboration of the National Bioeconomy Strategy. Technical assistance was provided to identify opportunities and challenges for bioeconomy; to identify relevant public, private and other stakeholders; and to develop an evaluation of the framework and policies that could impact such development.

To complement this technical assistance, 2 virtual seminars were organised:

- "[Opportunities and challenges for the development of a National Bioeconomy Strategy in Guatemala](#)" (Oct 2021). 60 participants;
- "Identifying strategic lines and constraints for the development of the bioeconomy in Guatemala" (Nov 2021). 36 participants.

As a result, a mapping of relevant laws, policies and programmes, and stakeholders was developed, as well as the identification of capabilities and a proposal on possible strategic axes to be included in this strategy.

Moving forward, **Guatemala** has initiated the development of a National Bioeconomy Strategy. ECLAC will continue to support **Guatemala** with technical assistance throughout this process.



### **Integration of human rights and gender equality concerns in UN ECLAC interventions**

ECLAC's technical cooperation activities are implemented with a multidisciplinary and independent approach while mainstreaming a gender perspective. This is supported by the ECLAC Gender Mainstreaming Strategy, which aims to promote the mainstreaming of the gender perspective in regional development, and throughout ECLAC's work.

Gender disaggregated data was provided.

### **Use of resources**

8 advisors were employed by ECLAC in 2021, and 65 other staff members contributed to RPTC funded activities. At least 10 activities were co-organised with funding from DA and XB, in the thematic areas of input-output tables; road safety; value chains; logistics, transport, and connectivity; financial inclusion of SMEs; natural



disasters; international migration; energy poverty; analysis of population and housing censuses (Redatam/Odisea); and georeferenced, geospatial and statistical data.

Technical cooperation activities benefited from synergies with extra budgetary resources such as the technical cooperation agreement between ECLAC and the Secretariat for Small and Medium Enterprises and Entrepreneurs of the Ministry of Productive Development of Argentina; GIZ, UNFPA, the European Community and AECID.

The following 2021 projects relate to, or follow-up on, earlier interventions by RPTC:

- DA 2023R: 2023R Harnessing the contribution of intra-region migration to socio-economic development in Latin American and Caribbean countries;
- DA 1819E: Collection and use of international migration data in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants;
- DA 2023X: Transport and trade connectivity in the age of pandemics;
- DA 1819BA: Sustainable transport connectivity and implementation of transport-related SDGs in selected landlocked and transit/bridging countries;
- DA 2124Q Inequality: Innovative approaches for examining inequality through integration of different data sources in Latin America and the Caribbean.

### **Complementarity of action**

Linkages with DA: ECLAC's Programme Planning and Evaluation Unit oversees the implementation of both RPTC resources and the DA projects. The broader vision of these two types of resources allows synergies, links and areas of cooperation to be identified.

Linkages with RCOs/UNCTs: ECLAC participates in the UNCTs work and provides regular direct support, inputs and data on selected economic and social development perspectives. ECLAC also provides regular support and inputs for the elaboration of selected areas of the CCAs and UNSDCFs. Through its participation in the Peer Support Group (PSG), ECLAC also participates in quality assurance reviews of all CCAs and UNSDCFs.

ECLAC has actively increased support to UNCTs through provision of advice, development of an inception programme for RCs, support to the UN economists' network, and communication on upcoming travel by staff to the respective countries. RCs are regularly invited to intergovernmental meetings and meetings of the subsidiary bodies to share lessons learned, experiences and to identify areas for technical assistance and cooperation.

Linkages with other UN entities: ECLAC organises intergovernmental meetings and meetings of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC to share lessons learned, experiences and identify areas for cooperation. These are often organised in partnership with AFPs, and AFPs are regularly invited to participate. An example is the Regional Conference on Social Development jointly convened with UNDP. Other examples include:

- ECLAC / UN Women partnership on the LAC Gender Observatory;
- Collaboration with UNRCs and the regional DCO to maintain the LAC COVID-19 Observatory;
- Coordination with 19 AFPs, the DCO, UNRCs and UNCTs to develop the Comprehensive Development Plan for **El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras** and the South-Southeast states of **Mexico**;
- Joint reports on specific issues with AFPs, eg. the Bulletin on the Employment Situation in LAC (ILO), the Newsletter on childhood and adolescence (UNICEF), and the Bulletin on Food Systems (FAO).

Linkages with other stakeholders: ECLAC works closely with stakeholders such as the business community, civil society, academia and universities, to reinforce links between national experiences and regional perspectives, foster data comparability and exchange of good practices, and provide effective technical cooperation services on transboundary issues. A specific example is the work with Latin American Petrochemical and Chemical Association (APLA); National Association of Industries of Colombia (ANDI); Inter-American Federation of the Construction Industry (FIIC), to support governments to design policies and mechanisms of national COVID-19 vaccination campaigns.

### **Challenges**

A major challenge in 2021 was adapting the modalities of technical cooperation to virtual settings, in light of the COVID-19 related travel restrictions in place throughout the region. This is likely to remain a challenge, with fewer air companies operating in the region and fewer available routes, due to the pandemic. Further capacity on providing virtual assistance would be useful for ECLAC.

## United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

ESCWA implemented RPTC activities under 6 subprogrammes.<sup>97</sup> It aimed to support MS in implementing their development plans, aligning them with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and adapting and implementing policies and programmes to make further progress in achieving the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

In 2021, ESCWA received 122 requests for assistance from 19 different countries (4 LDCs). ESCWA deployed 90 advisory missions (58 virtual). These missions focused on social policy; Leave No One Behind; economic development; macro economic analysis/financing and investment for development; national development planning; governance, public administration and services; regional and sub-regional cooperation and integration; statistics and data; trade and transport; and climate action. ESCWA undertook 64 national level training events (46 virtual), training 1962 people, including 40% women, from 15 countries. 75% of these participants were trained virtually. ESCWA undertook 48 regional level interventions (45 virtual), reaching 1797 people, including 55% women, and 6 virtual sub-regional interventions, reaching 197 people, including 40% women. These interventions were a combination of workshops and advisory services.

ESCWA undertook 4 field projects. Main beneficiaries of ESCWA's RPTC were civil servants, policy makers and parliamentarians. As a result of RPTC funded ESCWA assistance, 8 new policies, laws, national plans or strategies were introduced across 6 countries, and 17 new reporting requirements were met across 17 countries. Examples of accomplishments in key areas are highlighted below.

### **Supporting Member States to mainstream social justice principles in national policies, programmes and plans**



Under SP2, which aims to achieve equitable and inclusive social development and reduce inequality, poverty and unemployment, ESCWA supported MS to bridge inequality gaps and to include persons with disabilities and older persons into development planning and implementation.

ESCWA developed a number of policy tools, including the [Policy Gap Assessment Tool](#), [Multidimensional Poverty Index Assist Tool](#), the Skills Monitor, the [Gender Justice and the Law tool](#), a tool on gender assessment for institutions, and a [Toolkit for mainstreaming social justice principles in development policies](#).

ESCWA organised workshops in **Lebanon** focusing on increasing participation of persons with disabilities in the labour market, and is currently providing support for the formulation of a national strategy for persons with disabilities.

**ESCWA supported Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic to develop strategies for older persons; Lebanon to launch its National Strategy for Older Persons 2020-2030; Jordan to launch its national strategy for women 2020-2025; and Libya to adopt its National Action Plan to Support Persons with Disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

These tools supported 15 MS, targeting policy makers, CSOs and academia, extending more than 30 advisory services and 30 trainings. Participants increased understanding of mainstreaming needs of vulnerable groups in national policies, programmes and plans; assessing policies from a social justice perspective; measuring multidimensional poverty; assessing the economic costs of violence against women and combatting it.

This work has galvanised funding to establish a regional women's center at the Royal University of Bahrain (XB); and to advance work on social protection and the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the labour market (DA).

<sup>97</sup> SP1 Climate change; SP2 Gender justice, population and inclusive development; SP3 Shared economic prosperity; SP4 Statistics, information society and technology; SP5 2030 Agenda and SDG coordination; SP6 Governance and conflict prevention.

### Supporting MS to enhance evidence-based policymaking processes by developing economic tools based on computable general equilibrium (CGE) methodology

Under SP3, which aims to achieve equitable economic growth, amplify regional interconnectedness and integration, ESCWA supported MS to develop social accounting matrices to assess the impact of economic policies or shocks, and choose between policy options, to achieve inclusive sustainable economic growth.

Tools developed include national CGE models, an [Index Simulator for Policymakers in the Arab Region](#) and the [Arab National Development Planning Portal](#), and a tool to map them against the SDGs.

ESCWA supported **Jordan** to develop and adopt a social accounting matrix, and to turn it into a web-based application. **Jordan** has been using this to assess policy options for COVID-19. ESCWA provided advisory services to help **Egypt** establish its Governorates Competitiveness Index 2021, which has been adopted and deployed. The Index aims to understand the social and economic development gaps between governorates.



13 trainings were organised - on CGE modelling and economic planning in **Jordan** the **State of Palestine**; on econometrics and modelling software in the **Syrian Arab Republic**; on M&E and Integrated National Development Planning in **Qatar**. One sub-regional training on economic modelling tools was organised. These interventions helped policymakers develop their ability to assess policy options using economic modelling.

Moving forward, regional support on economic planning will continue, and work on financing development plans will be strengthened via a DA project on Financing for Development, focusing on **Egypt, Jordan and Tunisia**.

### Building capacity in national statistical offices



Under SP4, which aims to improve the quality and availability of statistics in the region, ESCWA supported national statistical offices to revise available national data on the SDGs and map them to existing data sources. As a result, 16 national SDG reporting platforms were developed and published on the [Arab SDG Monitor](#). To support this work, ESCWA updated its [E-Handbook on SDG Framework and Metadata](#) and developed the [SDG Indicator Tool](#) which provides dynamic methodological guidance to countries on recommended sources and data collection methods for each SDG indicator.

**108 virtual meetings were held with national statistical offices in the region<sup>98</sup> to review and streamline SDG data. The impact was an average increase of national indicators by 75%.**

ESCWA partnered with UN Statistics Division, WHO, UNICEF, ILO, UNODC, UNDP OGC, OHCHR, UNEP, UNIDO, FAO, UN Habitat and the World Bank to run [36 webinar sessions](#) looking at 79 SDG indicators, attended by almost 1500 participants, who enhanced their SDG data collection, analysis and dissemination skills.

In 2022, **Mauritania, Morocco, the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia** are expected to establish national SDG reporting platforms.

<sup>98</sup> Notably Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

### **Supporting Member States to accelerate the recovery from COVID-19 through technology**

Under SP4, which aims to improve the quality and availability of statistics and advance the information society by accelerating the integration of technology and innovation for sustainable development in the Arab region, ESCWA provided advisory services<sup>99</sup> to accelerate recovery from COVID-19 through the advancement of digital development and the adoption of new technologies.

13 advisory services were delivered, focusing on the formulation of strategies and legal frameworks on the adoption of new technologies in **the State of Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq and Libya**, where new technologies can help transcend obstacles such as movement barriers and lack of traditional surveys for data generation; supporting **Mauritania** to enhance digital development, and supporting **Jordan** to use technology uptake to boost the economy.

10 workshops<sup>100</sup> were organized for policymakers and academia, building capacity of about 530 participants on technological issues like cybersecurity, knowledge based economy, e-government, artificial intelligence, big data, and e-commerce.



ESCWA also developed tools to assist policymakers develop national digital accessibility policies and guidelines, and to advance digital transformation.

**The support resulted in the adoption of digital transformation policy and a draft strategy on artificial intelligence in the State of Palestine; the adoption of a policy for artificial intelligence, a strategy for cloud computing and a strategy for e-participation in Jordan, as well as the submission of a personal data protection law for national adoption; and the drafting of national digital agendas were in Mauritania and Iraq.**

Moving forward, a DA project on the application of blockchain in the trade field has been submitted, and ESCWA will continue supporting **Morocco, Libya, Algeria and the Syrian Arab Republic** on relevant technological issues.

### **Building capacity to respond to crises, conflict and fragility**

Under SP6, which aims to advance just, peaceful and inclusive societies, ESCWA supported MS to adopt a methodology for planning in contexts of pandemics, conflict, and instability, and supported **Mauritania, Somalia, the Sudan and Yemen** to prepare for the fifth UN Conference for Least Developed Countries.

For the first stream of work, partnering with UN DESA, ESCWA organised training<sup>101</sup> focusing on implementing the ESCWA Methodology for Improving Planning Capacities in Contexts of Fragility and the [ESCWA Competency Assessment Methodology](#). National officials enhanced planning skills in fragile contexts and applied the ESCWA methodology for assessment and enhancement of institutional capacities.

For the second stream of work, partnering with the Saudi Development and Reconstruction Programme for Yemen, ESCWA created a regional platform to support these 4 Arab LDCs to assess development progress and challenges in the previous decade and formulate an approach and regional priorities to be taken into account in the Doha Programme of Action for the LDCs 2022-2031. Advisory services included regional meetings; national consultations; the preparation of a report and policy brief on [Development Challenges and](#)

<sup>99</sup> Notably to Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman Qatar, State of Palestine, Somalia and Sudan.

<sup>100</sup> In Sudan, Morocco, the Syrian Arab Republic, Somalia, the State of Palestine, Iraq and Qatar.

<sup>101</sup> For Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, the State of Palestine, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, and Yemen.

[Opportunities for Arab LDCs](#); the development of a policy brief on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action.

Funding has been secured to develop advisory services and capacity development in the **State of Palestine** from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and further institutional capacity development activities are planned with **Iraq**, the **State of Palestine** and **Yemen**.

#### **Integration of gender equality concerns in ESCWA interventions**

Gender is an important area of ESCWA's mandate. ESCWA pays specific attention to the number of female beneficiaries, and advocates for its increase. Gender concerns were also mainstreamed through interventions on older persons, on persons with disabilities, on migration, on rural development, on social justice, on youth empowerment, on SME empowerment and digitization, etc. ESCWA places special importance on mainstreaming social justice concerns in public policies, programmes and plans to ensure that economic and social human rights are adhered to.

Gender disaggregated data was provided.

#### **Use of resources**

10 advisors were employed using RPTC funds in 2021, and 60 other staff members contributed to RPTC funded activities.

RPTC funds helped address ESCWA's priorities, which are set by its MS through several processes, by enabling ESCWA to respond to these priorities in regional interventions (18% of all interventions). MS requests also orient ESCWA's work and help it put forward priorities in its programme plan for the next year.

67 activities were co-organised with funding from DA, XB or other partners. A number of 2021 projects follow up on earlier RPTC interventions, including: "Blockchains for facilitating trade and enhancing competitiveness" (DA); "Improved Water Security in Arab States" (DA); "Sustainable Debt Financing Strategies to Enhance Fiscal Spaces and Financing for the SDG in the Arab region" (DA); and "Strengthening the Capacity of SMEs and Government Entities that support SMEs to improve SME performance in the Arab region" (DA).

#### **Complementarity of action**

Linkages with DA: Several RPTC activities undertaken in 2021 were linked to existing DA projects. 2 examples are:

- Advisory services to help **Jordan** analyse the characteristics of household recipients of monthly cash were carried out under the DA project "Strengthening Social Protection for Pandemic Responses: Identifying the Vulnerable, Aiding Recovery and Building Resilience".
- Capacity development work on CGE modelling in **Jordan** and **Tunisia**, and on integrated national development planning in **Qatar** were undertaken leveraging the DA project "Towards the Arab Horizon 2030: Enhancing Integrated National Development Planning in the Arab Region".

RPTC work has also led to adoption of various DA projects, including "Strengthening the Capacity of SMEs and Government Entities that support SMEs to improve SME performance in the Arab region", and "Establishing effective relationships between innovation actors in the Arab region to expand the science-policy nexus in support of the 2030 Agenda"

**ESCWA maintains an online portal to register all MS requests and all RPTC interventions. This portal includes a dedicated DA section, which enables staff to identify linkages and leverage DA resources.**

Linkages with RCOs/UNCTs: ESCWA collaborates closely with all UNCTs in the region, attending meetings and retreats, contributing to the elaboration of CCAs. ESCWA visits RCs as part of its Country Missions, provides services to UNCTs and partners with UNCTs to implement interventions. ESCWA automatically notifies UNCTs of relevant RPTC requests, to avoid duplication of effort and to establish partnerships to deliver the assistance.



In 2021, collaboration was strengthened with UNCT **Egypt** around a report on the impact of COVID-19 on poverty. ESCWA worked closely with UNICEF to use this report to support Egypt's adoption of a national multidimensional poverty framework.

Linkages with other UN entities: ESCWA links RPTC activities with other UN entities through partnership in implementing activities in response to country requests, or through assistance ESCWA provides to UN entities directly.

Many RPTC activities in 2020/21 were undertaken in collaboration, notably a regional workshop in **Jordan** on multidimensional poverty organized in collaboration with DESA; working with UN Women to support **Lebanon's** mapping of women's political participation; and working with UNICEF to support **Egypt's** adoption of a national multidimensional poverty framework.

ESCWA has worked closely with the Regional Collaborative Platform to enhance cooperation on cross-border issues such as migration, climate change and data. ESCWA co-chairs the RCP with UNDP and leads 3 of its 8 IBCs. ESCWA has participated in developing 11 UNSDCF to date.

Linkages with other stakeholders: ESCWA undertook many RPTC activities with CSOs, academia and businesses. Examples include regional workshops with the Arab Women Organization on reporting to the CEDAW Committee; partnerships with CSOs in **Libya** for the formulation of a national action plan to support persons with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic; collaboration with businesses on the Big Data Forum in **Oman**; and cooperation with Cambridge University to support the formulation of a national STI road map for SDGs in **Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt**.

### **Challenges**

In 2021 the COVID-19 pandemic continued to pose challenges, resulting in cancelled travel and delayed delivery of assistance. Political instability and government changes in several MS also caused delays. The lack of infrastructure or capacity in certain MS hindered online assistance. Finally, the inclusion of 2 new MS (**Algeria** and **Somalia** joined in 2020) in ESCWA meant that new relationships and partnerships had to be created. These challenges are expected to remain in 2022, and ESCWA would benefit from strengthening staff capacity to deal with new contexts, like the adhesion of new members to ESCWA. IT and internet infrastructure in non-Gulf countries needs to be strengthened, to facilitate online assistance in these countries.

## 7. Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic

**“The world has seen many crises over the past 30 years, including the Global Financial Crisis of 2007-09. Each has hit human development hard but, overall, development gains accrued globally year-on-year. COVID-19, with its triple hit to health, education, and income, may change this trend.”<sup>102</sup>**

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused tremendous hardship in both developed and developing countries. It has reversed gains or is undermining progress in many SDGs. In 2021, as highlighted in Section 6, IEs have continued to feel the impact of the pandemic regarding the RPTC activities, both in terms of substance of the requests for assistance and delivery modalities. It has brought many challenges but has also had some positive impacts. This chapter will first discuss the impact of the pandemic on the substance of requests for assistance. It will then address the changes in delivery modalities along with their related challenges and opportunities. Finally, it will highlight good practises related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Shifts in the substance of requests for assistance due to the COVID-19 pandemic**

Many IEs note that the nature of technical cooperation requests shifted from immediate response to the pandemic to assessing its impact and sustainable recovery from it. ESCAP, for instance, perceived a shift of focus towards the “building back better” agenda (inclusive national social protection systems, trade and investment, connectivity and energy, etc.) and means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. For instance, ESCAP responded to requests for support for the development of a digital skills strategy for Indonesia and for support related to regional cooperation on social protection in Asia-Pacific.

Around 16% of all requests for capacity development support received by DESA from MS were directly related to the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic, for which DESA supported over 30 countries. Most of the social topics had to do with assessing the impact of the pandemic on vulnerable populations such as older persons, communities in rural areas, and the youth. MS also asked for support to enhance the capacities of health ministries to formulate national programmes and projects to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. Some requests related to enhancing and transforming public administration institutions to make them more agile, effective, and efficient in responding to COVID-19 as well as making them more resilient in the face of future pandemics.

Requests for assistance received by ECLAC related mostly to addressing the impact of COVID-19 and covered several areas such as logistics and transportation, social policies, statistics collection by national statistical offices, health sufficiency and the care economy. OHCHR also noticed this change and extended its support and guidance to COVID-19 socio-economic impact assessments and COVID-19 response and recovery plans. Great emphasis has been placed on the identification of the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable groups and appropriate policy interventions. In the context of MS’ national response and recovery plans following COVID-19, RPTC in 2021 was used to support targeted analysis, data assessment and provision of technical policy advice at the request of countries. For example, in South-East Asia, OHCHR is conducting research to support UNCTs to integrate a human rights-based approach in governments’ responses to COVID-19 with a focus on vulnerable groups and LNOB. OHCHR Regional Office for Central Africa also conducted capacity building activities for NHRIs in the Central African region. The RPTC allowed to conduct targeted research and policy guidance, in addition to regular capacity-building activities.

As LDCs have been particularly affected by the economic consequences of the global pandemic, UNCTAD notes that they are in an even greater need of technical assistance to strengthen their trade tools and further integrate them into global value chains. The nature of requests received by UNCTAD has changed because some trade sectors are particularly affected by COVID-19. For example, **Lao PDR** faces several challenges, especially in its textile and clothing sector and, therefore, requested further assistance from UNCTAD to improve the

<sup>102</sup> UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner, [https://feature.undp.org/covid-19-and-the-sdgs/?utm\\_source=EN&utm\\_medium=GSR&utm\\_content=US\\_UNDP\\_PaidSearch\\_Brand\\_English&utm\\_campaign=CENTRAL&c\\_src=CENTRAL&c\\_src2=GSR&gclid=Cj0KCQiwspKUBhCvARIsAB2IYuvT-5VaVesG6zc0wVZXukhrG5RMB\\_9IV1z6Kmwilf6V3Ng1H8eWVaYaAqvUEALw\\_wcB](https://feature.undp.org/covid-19-and-the-sdgs/?utm_source=EN&utm_medium=GSR&utm_content=US_UNDP_PaidSearch_Brand_English&utm_campaign=CENTRAL&c_src=CENTRAL&c_src2=GSR&gclid=Cj0KCQiwspKUBhCvARIsAB2IYuvT-5VaVesG6zc0wVZXukhrG5RMB_9IV1z6Kmwilf6V3Ng1H8eWVaYaAqvUEALw_wcB), accessed 18 May 2022.

Utilization Rate of trade preferences of the country. UNCTAD's E-commerce and Digital Economy Programme, including eT Readies and the eTrade for all initiative, have also become all the more relevant in the context of the pandemic as it has accelerated the process of digital transformation and added urgency for governments to respond to a widening gap in digital readiness.

### **Shifts in delivery modalities**

*Reliance on digital solutions:* The pandemic has continued to highlight the importance of ICT infrastructure for digital and virtual communications amid widespread mobility restrictions. Therefore, a very significant proportion of 2021 RPTC activities were delivered virtually. Out of the 29 RPTC funded global interventions, 76% were virtual while 87% of regional and at least 36% of subregional interventions<sup>103</sup> were virtual. At the national level, 75% of advisory services and 92% of training events were conducted online.

All IEs note that they had to adapt the content and delivery modalities of the assistance provided due to mobility restrictions. As is the case for UNODC, they shifted a large part of their work to electronic means and web-based platforms, developing materials and technical assistance tools in formats accessible online. Due to the difficulty in collecting data and conducting face-to-face interactions, alternative methods had to be used: ECA prepared a desk-based research instead of carrying out an empirical study for the project "Innovative geospatial decision support system for a transformative recovery from the impact of COVID-19 on Congo basin forests." Besides supporting the transition to virtual meetings/workshops, DESA has accelerated the development of e-Learning courses and curricula through sharing of good practices within the department as well as effective collaboration with UNITAR, the Staff College and other UN entities and partners on the development of such courses.

*Partnering with other entities:* UNODC integrated its mandates within larger programmes, in partnership with other agencies and organizations and merged activities from complementary projects within the same thematic areas to avoid overwhelming beneficiaries and counterparts. This led to fostering of inter-regional perspectives and provided new fora for cross-regional debates and exchanges with a strong South - South cooperation aspect.

*Shift in spending modalities:* Over 2019, 2020 and 2021, ESCAP RPTC expenditure patterns<sup>104</sup> have reflected a shift towards increasing use of consultancy and contractual services, which increased from 24% of the budget in 2019 to about 58% and 55% in 2020 and 2021, respectively. By contrast, travel decreased from 11% in 2019 to 1% in both 2020 and 2021. Funds, originally allocated to travel and hands-on workshops, were diverted to developing automated interface and communication as well as self-paced training resources. OCHA also reallocated RPTC funds that were initially allocated to in-person delivery of training events and conferences to the digitalization of courses, as well as the virtual delivery of information exchange seminars. This flexibility allowed operational continuity and uninterrupted engagement with national and regional organizations.

### **Challenges and Opportunities Related to Online Activities**

*Virtual tools improve development and humanitarian responses on the ground:* The earthquake simulation activity carried out virtually by OCHA required setting up a robust, efficient system to ensure a full and active participation of all registered actors. This complex set-up was an achievement in itself, and a great way to test capacities, overcome challenges and prepare for disaster response in the future.

*Increased participation from developing countries:* Many IEs confirm that online events allow for greater participation from developing countries. For instance, OCHA's virtual GHPF ensured the widest possible participation from the Global South. The chat function also enabled a wider sharing of materials by participants. OHCHR also reports a more inclusive participation in online meetings and workshops, as some NHRIs that usually did not have the resources to travel could attend online.

*Limited ownership and stakeholder engagement:* ECA noticed that the reduced physical interactions of the technical team with various national and regional stakeholders, in the project for the development of the **Zimbabwe** national Digital Transformation Strategy, hampered the development of further consultative

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<sup>103</sup> Some data is lacking - hence the "at least".

<sup>104</sup> As per the non-GTA expenditure by budget class at the end of each year.

processes. It also limited the ownership and participation of key sectoral stakeholders in the digital transformation journey of the country. ECLAC emphasises that tailor-made technical assistance and policy advice to senior national and sectoral authorities were affected in some cases, as it was not possible to hold face-to-face meetings and exchanges.

*Unequal access to Internet services:* ECLAC also notes that given the unequal access to Internet services within and among MS in its region, providing support through in-person capacity-building activities remains very relevant, especially for activities for which virtual alternatives fail to ensure adequate coverage and outreach. ESCWA also faced shortcomings in Internet infrastructure in most of its MS, sometimes due to conflict,<sup>105</sup> which impeded successful delivery of online capacity-building. ESCWA's members favour the return of in-person training as soon as possible.

#### **Best practice during the pandemic**

*Hybrid delivery modalities:* Although travel restrictions were eased at the end of 2021, several IEs explain that this does not mean a reversion to pre-COVID-19 working patterns. Instead, they envisage to continue providing virtual support, blended with traditional in-person events. ESCWA, for instance, has adopted this hybrid mode of delivery: preparatory phases, consultation meetings and some training is delivered online, saving time and resources, while the rest is delivered in person.

*Interactive online sessions:* OHCHR made a concerted effort to ensure that activities remain interactive in nature even though they are delivered virtually. They did so by collaborating with IT experts to gain adequate support for organizing on-line activities which allow for breaking out in groups, interactive discussions, use of a virtual whiteboard and other collaborative and interactive tools such as Slido.

*Statistical Data Collection and Analysis* - ESCAP developed the National SDG Tracker tool to assist MSs in measuring current and expected SDG progress achievement, with support from RPTC funds. The methodology is now applied in several countries of the Asia-Pacific region.<sup>106</sup> The tool was also promoted through the increasingly popular virtual '[Asia-Pacific Stats Café](#)' series to respond to country requests for advice, assistance and to provide them with an opportunity to share experiences, including on challenges related to the impact of COVID-19 on National Statistical Systems. In 2021, several Stats Cafés showcased results of work funded by RPTC, and a total of 23 Stats Cafes were held in 2021, with a combined live audience of more than 1300 people (excluding staff members of ESCAP). As for DESA, they worked with MS from Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe and Oceania to find alternate ways to collect data and supported them in producing more timely and disaggregated SDG indicators as well as information on COVID-19, using administrative data for statistical purposes which resulted in the "Collaborative on Administrative Data" being established in June 2020. It was presented to the UN Statistical Commission in March 2021 where it received strong endorsement and support.

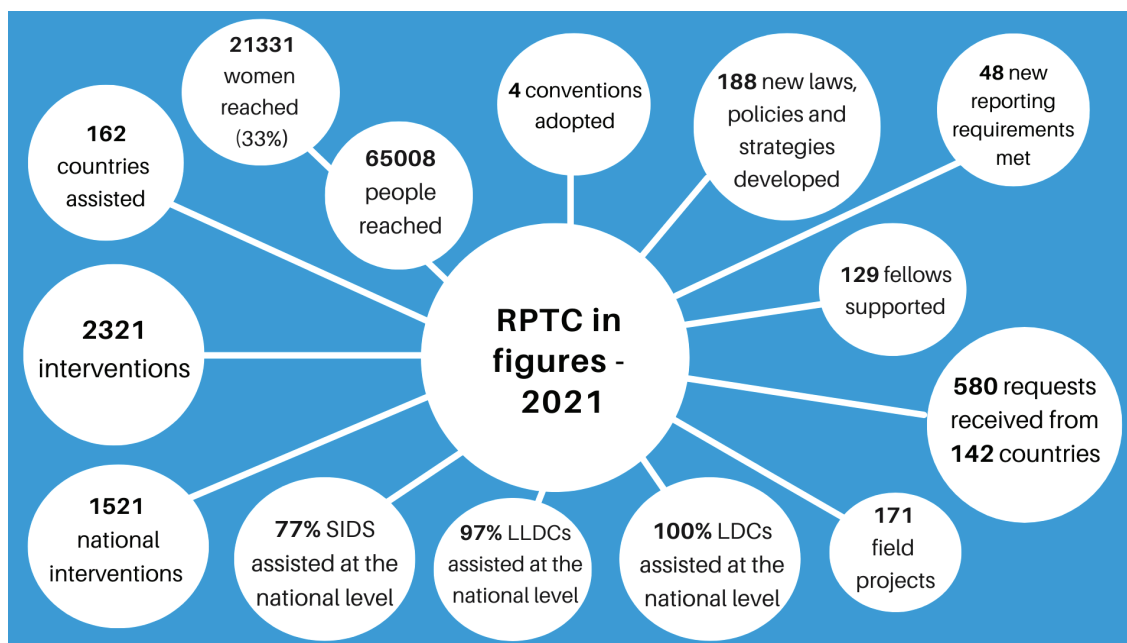
<sup>105</sup> 7 out of 20 are Conflict Affected States.

<sup>106</sup> Brunei Darussalam, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, the Philippines, Uzbekistan, while some 8 more countries are considering adopting the methodology.

## 8. Conclusion

The overall objective of the RPTC is to support and advance processes aimed at developing the capacity of governments, individuals and institutions to formulate and implement policies for sustainable development. Key results in relation to this objective are outlined in Figure 5 below:

**Figure 5. RPTC in figures**



IEs were requested by MS to focus on the outreach of the RPTC, ensuring that it reaches a maximum of countries, notably LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. The results of the outreach are impressive, with 162 countries assisted, including 100% of LDCs, 97% of LLDCs and 77% of SIDS reached at the national level. For further details, see [Annex 2](#) and [3](#).

IEs were also requested to ensure that RPTC activities were complementary with other UN entities (specifically RCOs/UNCTs), agendas and funding streams. In 2021, all IEs have shown strong evidence of their work with other UN entities, and clear examples of their ways of working with RCOs/UNCTs. There is also strong evidence of collaboration with other funds, with at least 154 RPTC activities being carried out in partnership with DA, XB and other funding sources, and over 285 other staff contributing to RPTC activities. While there is no standardised way of ensuring links across the 11 IEs, commonalities can be seen: for example, ESCAP and ECLAC both have certain management bodies overseeing both programmes, facilitating the identification of synergies.

RPTC remains well anchored in inter-governmental decisions and mandates that have preceded and guided their programming, with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs as their overarching framework. IEs provide numerous examples of RPTC activities which are directly linked to the SDGs, and numerous other Conventions and International Legal Instruments.

Key strengths of the RPTC include its wide geographic and thematic reach, which has led to almost 200 new laws, policies and strategies being developed, its clear focus on LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS; its demand-driven nature which tends to lead to national level ownership; and the multiplier effect of the RPTC, which has often galvanised follow up work funded by DA, XB or other sources of funding.

Potential weaknesses identified include a lack of impact on signing international conventions (only 4 were signed in 2021 across the 162 countries supported); a lack of standardisation of M&E arrangements and a lack of systematisation of learning, both between IEs and between cycles of RPTC funding.

Key challenges faced in 2021 include COVID-19, which led to travel restrictions, hampering RPTC activities and necessitating a move to virtual/hybrid activities; the security situation in certain countries which affected the implementation of RPTC activities; and the lack of resources to respond to an increasing number of RPTC requests.

Moving forward, the RPTC could be strengthened by:

- Adopting a shared system of M&E across the IEs, established well in advance, giving clarity on the information to be captured;
- Adopting an intentional and systematic way of ensuring RPTC learning across IEs and across funding cycles, to ensure that lessons learned and best practises are not lost;
- Encouraging wider IE participation in the elaboration of, and subsequent signature to, UNSDCFs, as it seems to be particularly effective in ensuring the integration of work plans;
- Modifying the M&E systems to easily recognise and give visibility to the support provided to SIDS via sub-regional and regional level work, recognising the difficulty of reaching SIDS at the national level, due to distance and cost.

In the coming years, it is anticipated that the RPTC will continue to support the key development priorities of the UN and MS, specifically in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The RPTC also plans to focus on providing upstream policy advice; strengthening partnerships; emphasising the integration of economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development; and improving the complementarity of global, regional and national efforts.



## 9. Annexes

### Annex 1. Summary of RPTC activities undertaken in 2021

	National	Sub-regional, regional and global combined	Total
<b>INTERVENTIONS</b>	1521 <sup>107</sup>	800	2321
Advisory Services	622		
Training Events	699		
Field projects	171		
<b>People reached (including Fellowships)</b>	27643	37365	65008
<b>Women reached (including Fellowships)</b>	6986	14345	21331 (33%)

### Annex 2. Summary of Outputs<sup>108</sup> and Results at the national level<sup>109</sup> by IE

#### 2.1 DESA

Modality/Type of Activity	2021
Advisory services	64 (53 virtual)
Training events/seminars/ workshops	206 (168 virtual)
Fellowships	0
Field projects	0

Results	2021
Countries served	116
New policies, laws, plans or strategies introduced following RPTC support	55 (49 countries)
New reporting requirements met following RPTC support	1
New conventions signed / ratified following RPTC support	0

<sup>107</sup> The slight discrepancy in these figures is because data from some IEs was unavailable or incomplete. For example, ESCAP reports 79 national level interventions, with 47 advisory services and 3 field projects.

<sup>108</sup> As measured in terms of numbers of advisory services, training events, fellowships, and field projects.

<sup>109</sup> As submitted by the implementing entities.

## 2.2 UNCTAD

Modality/Type of Activity	2021
Advisory services	58 (all virtual)
Training events/seminars/ workshops	48 (all virtual)
Fellowships	45
Field projects	5

Results	2021
Countries served	20
New policies, laws, plans or strategies introduced following RPTC support	10 (5 countries)
New reporting requirements met following RPTC support	20 (20 countries)
New conventions signed / ratified following RPTC support	0

## 2.3 UN-Habitat

Detailed national data was unavailable.

## 2.4 UNODC

Modality/Type of Activity	2021
Advisory services	101 (62 virtual)
Training events/seminars/ workshops	163 (114 virtual)
Fellowships	0
Field projects	61

Results	2021
Countries served	53
New policies, laws, plans or strategies introduced following RPTC support	65 (52 countries)
New reporting requirements met following RPTC support	0
New conventions signed / ratified following RPTC support	0

## 2.5 OCHA

Modality/Type of Activity	2021
Advisory services	127 (2 virtual)
Training events/seminars/ workshops	20 (11 virtual)
Fellowships	0
Field projects	0

Results	2021
Countries served	12
New policies, laws, plans or strategies introduced following RPTC support	0 <sup>110</sup>
New reporting requirements met following RPTC support	0
New conventions signed / ratified following RPTC support	0

## 2.6 OHCHR

Modality/Type of Activity	2021
Advisory services	17 (11 virtual)
Training events/seminars/ workshops	33 (7 virtual)
Fellowships	53
Field projects	10

Results	2021
Countries served	40
New policies, laws, plans or strategies introduced following RPTC support	3 (1 country)
New reporting requirements met following RPTC support	10 (2 countries)
New conventions signed / ratified following RPTC support	0

## 2.7 ECA

Modality/Type of Activity	2021
Advisory services	90 (38 virtual)
Training events/seminars/ workshops	140 (75 virtual)
Fellowships	30
Field projects	50

Results	2021
Countries served	53
New policies, laws, plans or strategies introduced following RPTC support	0 <sup>111</sup>
New reporting requirements met following RPTC support	0 <sup>112</sup>
New conventions signed / ratified following RPTC support	0 <sup>113</sup>

<sup>110</sup> While OCHA cannot report an influence on new policies, laws, nations plans/strategies in 2021, it envisages that the humanitarian community will take up some of the policy and strategy recommendations from the forthcoming climate report in 2022/2023.

<sup>111</sup> No information available.

<sup>112</sup> No information available.

<sup>113</sup> No information available.

## 2.8 ESCAP

Modality/Type of Activity	2021
Advisory services	47
Training events/seminars/ workshops	N/A <sup>114</sup>
Fellowships	1
Field projects	3 <sup>115</sup>

Results	2021
Countries served	57
New policies, laws, plans or strategies introduced following RPTC support	21 (14 countries)
New reporting requirements met following RPTC support	17 (11 countries)
New conventions signed / ratified following RPTC support	2

## 2.9 ECE

Modality/Type of Activity	2021
Advisory services	28 (26 virtual)
Training events/seminars/ workshops	25 (23 virtual)
Fellowships	0
Field projects	38 (12 countries)

Results	2021
Countries served	13 <sup>116</sup>
New policies, laws, plans or strategies introduced following RPTC support	3 (3 countries)
New reporting requirements met following RPTC support	0
New conventions signed / ratified following RPTC support	0

## 2.10 ECLAC

Modality/Type of Activity	2021
Advisory services	N/A <sup>117</sup>
Training events/seminars/ workshops	N/A <sup>118</sup>
Fellowships	0
Field projects	0

<sup>114</sup> This level of national data was not provided. The total national level interventions, according to ESCAP, is 79.

<sup>115</sup> 2 single country field projects and 1 multi-country field project.

<sup>116</sup> 4 other ECE Member States participated in certain activities.

<sup>117</sup> This level of national data was not provided.

<sup>118</sup> This level of national data was not provided.

Results	2021
Countries served	33
New policies, laws, plans or strategies introduced following RPTC support	31 (17 countries)
New reporting requirements met following RPTC support	9 (9 countries)
New conventions signed / ratified following RPTC support	2 (2 countries)

## 2.11 ESCWA

Modality/Type of Activity	2021
Advisory services	90 (58 virtual)
Training events/seminars/ workshops	64 (46 virtual)
Fellowships	0
Field projects	4

Results	2021
Countries served	19
New policies, laws, plans or strategies introduced following RPTC support	8 (6 countries)
New reporting requirements met following RPTC support	17 (17 countries)
New conventions signed / ratified following RPTC support	0

**Annex 3. Breakdown of RPTC requests in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, by IE**

IE	Total requests received	Number of countries	LDC requests received	Number of LDCs	LLDC requests received	Number of LLDCs	SIDS requests received	Number of SIDS
DESA	154	117	40	34	39	27	28	28
UNCTAD	46	20	39	13	24	8	0	0
UN-Habitat	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
UNODC	61	53	8	8	7	7	17	17
OCHA	19	12	3	3	1	1	1	1
OHCHR	9	5	0	0	1	1	0	0
ECA	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
ESCAP	26	16	9	6	11	5	3	3
ECE	31	13	18	8	0	0	0	0
ECLAC	113	33	No data	1	No data	2	No data	15
ESCWA	122	19	30	4	0	0	0	0



#### Annex 4. List of selected references

- 1st RPTC Progress Report (2010 - 2011)
- 2nd RPTC Progress Report (2010 - 2012)
- 3rd RPTC Progress Report (2012 - 2014)
- 4th RPTC Progress Report (2014 - 2016)
- 5th RPTC Progress Report (2016 - 2018)
- 6th RPTC Progress Report (2019 - 2020)
- 2021 fascicle A/75/6 Section 23: Proposed programme budget for 2021 (2020)
- 2022 fascicle A/76/6 Section 23: Proposed programme budget for 2022 (2021)
- A/59/397: Review of the regular programme of technical cooperation and the Development Account (2004)
- A/76/7: Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions - First report on the proposed programme budget for 2022 (2021)

#### Annex 5. Video links

Implementing Entity	Video links
DESA	<a href="#">Publication of the Spanish language version of Colombia's National Transfer Accounts manual</a> , a co-publication of UN-ECLAC and DESA.
UNCTAD	<a href="#">Video recordings</a> from P166 Short Course: Harnessing Blockchain for Sustainable Development: Prospects and Challenges. <a href="#">Video overview</a> in French of a Working group event in Cotonou and Niamey to share the work plan of the project on transit, transport and trade facilitation in West Africa for better participation in value chains. <a href="#">Video interview</a> about rules of origin in international trade - the criteria customs officials use to determine where a product is made and hence how it should be treated.
UN-Habitat	N/A
UNODC	N/A
OCHA	N/A
OHCHR	<a href="#">Video recording</a> in Serbian of Online conference/presentation of the Free Legal Aid Manuals, Serbia.
ECA	<a href="#">Opening ceremony of ECA's Young Economist Network (ECA-YEN)</a>
ESCAP	<a href="#">Video recordings</a> in English and Russian of Subregional Training Seminar on Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Financial Inclusion in Countries' Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs)
ECE	<a href="#">Video recordings in English and Russian</a> of the Online Workshop on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings and their Implementation in the UNECE region. <a href="#">Video recordings in English and Georgian</a> of the Online Training Workshop on Guidelines and best practices for micro-, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in Georgia in delivering energy-efficient products and in providing renewable energy equipment.

	<a href="#">Video recording in Ukrainian</a> of the Training Workshop on Guidelines and best practices for MSMEs to assure resiliency and progress towards a circular economy in sustainable resource management and critical raw material supply chain solutions in Ukraine.
ECLAC	<a href="#">Video link</a> of the presentation of the National Council on Guarantees by the Minister of Productive Development and the President of the Central Bank of Argentina, part of the project on Fostering the financial inclusion of small and medium-sized enterprises in support of the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
ESCWA	<a href="#">Advisory services to Yemen: Assessing the impact of conflict and COVID-19 on women's political participation</a> <a href="#">Advisory services to Lebanon on combating multidimensional poverty</a>