

ROK-UNDP MDG TRUST FUND

2012 ANNUAL REPORT



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*



HIGHLIGHTS



COLOMBIA

In Colombia, the Trust Fund strengthened the operational capabilities of nine Centres for Employment and Entrepreneurship to train vulnerable groups for employment and business development. The project also implemented microfinance services for women to apply their skills, and engaged public and private partners to link trained women with concrete opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship.

LAO PDR

The project in Lao PDR conducted trainings to strengthen the capacity of districts and communities in the Saravane province for identifying key local needs, preparing proposed solutions and identifying priorities in an inclusive and transparent way. Ultimately, increasing the capacity of local administrations will lead to better delivery of services which improve the lives of the poor, especially in the rural areas of the country.



HAITI

The project in Haiti has successfully closed after providing tailored vocational and professional training to 750 vulnerable women and business training to 218 young women entrepreneurs. The project also implemented complementary interventions designed to connect these trained women with real opportunities for employment and the creation of micro-enterprises, leading to the creation of 457 new jobs and the reinforcement of 449 enterprises.

TIMOR-LESTE

The newly established project in Timor-Leste has built a strong foundation for implementation by establishing an extensive database of in-country stakeholders for engagement and partnerships, preparing an options paper to guide the design and initiation of the Social Business Fund, and initiating discussions with potential partners and relevant stakeholders, including the new political leadership, on project implementation methodology. These activities will promote the development of social businesses as a means to alleviate poverty in the midst of a weak market and lagging economy.



SUDAN

Despite the unstable security in Sudan, the project is making significant progress in filling the enormous business and financial skills capacity gap among youth and women in Darfur. It has partnered with three local universities to develop quality training modules and select graduate volunteers for implementation. It is also engaging local NGOs and community-based organisations for integration into the project, as well as partners in the private sector that could provide opportunities for the women who have received the training to access markets for their entrepreneurial endeavors.

GLOBAL

At the global level, UNDP's post-2015 project has expanded to national consultations in 87 countries, thematic consultations on 11 themes and global consultations through a web platform and an online and off-line survey. The Trust Fund is providing both financial support and intellectual leadership on consultations on the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, and joint preparations are well underway for the International Conference on Post-2015 in Seoul in October 2013.



ABOUT THE TRUST FUND

UNDP and its partners are working with governments to scale up small successful projects to the national level. The aim? To reduce poverty and inequality.

With the help of the ROK-UNDP MDG Trust Fund, these projects empower women, expand social services, and build infrastructure to improve people's lives. In more than half a dozen countries, the success of the Trust Fund is being used as a model to identify local priorities, empower women and youth, and increase access to government services providing education, clean water, healthcare, and economic opportunities. By scaling up successful projects, the Trust Fund is supporting UNDP's work in transforming the lives of individuals, and helping build stronger and more resilient nations.

All projects funded by the Trust Fund support the scaling up of proven and innovative initiatives that aim to improve government service delivery and livelihoods for vulnerable groups. They also reflect the application of innovative, catalytic and sustainable approaches - to accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. These elements have served as key criteria for the selection of the country projects, and continue to remain as top priorities for implementation.

Since its launch in 2010, the Trust Fund has approved the allocation of nearly USD 18 million for nine country projects in Colombia, DRC, Haiti, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sudan and Timor-Leste to support the scaling up of proven interventions for accelerated progress towards the MDGs. It also supports two global projects on supporting the post-2015 development agenda and enhancing global advocacy and policy outreach of the Trust Fund.

IN 2012 THE
TRUST FUND
MADE
SIGNIFICANT
PROGRESS IN:



Creating employment opportunities for youth and ex-combatants in DRC



Promoting micro-enterprise creation for women in Haiti



Building business and financial skills capacity through youth volunteers in Sudan



Strengthening institutional capacities to generate sustainable livelihoods in Colombia



Promoting effective local governance in Lao PDR



Supporting high-impact social enterprises and pro-poor value chains for private sector engagement in Timor-Leste

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE VULNERABLE

Achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people, is a key component of the first MDG: to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

In 2012, the ROK-UNDP MDG Trust fund supported a range of projects that provided employment training and opportunities for vulnerable groups, including those living in post-conflict contexts as part of efforts to promote community recovery. It supported the application of innovative approaches that combine vocational training with social cohesion and youth volunteerism with community building to empower vulnerable individuals.

In the DRC, the Trust Fund is reducing longstanding intercommunity tensions with the delivery of basic services and the improvement of the livelihoods of the local communities, by providing employment and income-earning opportunities to youth and ex-combatants, improving women's transportation means, constructing two markets

and around 50 km of feeder roads, and constructing two micro-hydropower plants for electricity production. The Trust Fund is supporting an innovative strategy for post-conflict development through a combination of all of these elements. The micro-hydropower plants, for example, will supply households, public services, and small production units with green energy, in areas where electricity is currently provided only through combustible fossil fuels. The animal traction, as a pilot initiative, is relieving women from the burden of transporting goods in a region where some women have to walk with 50-60 kg of goods on their back for several hours to reach the market.

Furthermore, the Trust Fund-supported project in the DRC, in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth, has developed an innovative training programme for business development and professional skill building. This programme also includes elements designed to promote social cohesion among youth, such as through sports and cultural activities that are organised by local governments. This strategy is already being adopted by other projects to be applied to similar contexts.



I went to the centre "Oportunidades." They began to teach me about employment opportunities, and how to work towards them. It was something that caught my attention and filled me with motivation. I was offered this job, and I am thankful to be working here at the recycling center.

Luis Enrique Pelufo
Employment Beneficiary

In Darfur, in order to address the enormous business and financial skills capacity gap among youth and women, while at the same time contributing to the employment of skilled graduates, the Trust Fund is supporting the promotion of self-employment, small business expansion and market participation for women and youth. For example, the Trust Fund is supporting the training and equipping of youth to: 1) develop skills in finance, ICT, risk management and business entrepreneurship, and 2) work as trainers and business brokers in communities of vul-

nerable groups. These youth volunteers live in the communities themselves and provide training in natural resource management, environmentally sustainable income generation and green business opportunities for women and youth.

Nine job centres in eight cities of Colombia are offering business counseling, entrepreneurship training, and career opportunities particularly to internally displaced persons, women, indigenous people and persons with disabilities. The centres are

dynamic spaces where the public, private and academic sectors interact, offering a one-stop citizen service to expand the opportunities that guarantee their productive economic inclusion. These centres provide guidance and comprehensive services to low-income groups to strengthen their capabilities and expand their access to employment, self-employment and entrepreneurship opportunities. The project is generating an enabling and innovative environment for economic inclusion.



What is important to highlight here are the public-private partnerships that we are managing, that we are creating, relying on strategic partners in the private sector such as the Chamber of Commerce and UNDP. The idea is that training would be directed so that these people will actually be able to get a job that would improve their living conditions.

Rocio Mendoza, Director
Strategic Plan to Overcome Poverty, Cartagena

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MICRO-ENTERPRISE

In contexts where employment opportunities are limited, promoting entrepreneurship is a key means to enable marginalised communities to generate income.

The Trust Fund has supported low-income groups to become entrepreneurs and develop their own businesses, based on their unique contexts or sets of skills, that can bring in stable incomes for themselves and their families.

For example, in Haiti, the Fund provided vulnerable women with training, information, and financial support for employment and business creation, including the creation

of women's associations. The project developed linkages with the formal employment sectors, financial institutions including credit unions and banks, as well as with community based organisations working for the interest of vulnerable women.

The Government of Timor-Leste and UNDP are collaborating on innovative ways to mobilise the private sector to contribute proactively to MDG progress and poverty reduction. One such project is an effort to develop a viable social business model for the salt producers of Liquica, most of whom are women. The effort is a partnership with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment, IADE and ILO, and funded by the ROK-UNDP MDG Trust Fund.

We have so many young people in Haiti who are out of work or don't have a profession. This project is a way the Ministry can help young people be masters of their own fate, to take their future into their own hands.

Myriam Fétiere
Coordinator, Haitian Ministry of Women



I was a shop owner before Jan. 12th. After Jan. 12th, everything ended. We lost everything. I discovered this programme and received training in construction and civil engineering. We learned how to manufacture building materials and then that how to construct new houses. We have other construction projects in the works, including a church, a school, and a health clinic. For the future, I want to keep learning. Now I can think about making my dreams come true. Because I feel like this type of work is my calling.

Natasha Laforest
Project beneficiary

In the last six to seven years, Colombia's rate of development has been one of the highest in the region and in the world, between five and six percent. Another idea is to develop inclusive businesses where this impoverished population can be owners, suppliers, and distributors.

Bruno Moro
Colombia UN Chief

One of the most affected sectors following the earthquake was the entire network of small businesses, around the city and a lot of those small businesses are owned by women who support one or many families with those incomes. Partnership has been at the heart of what we do. Our approach was essentially, "Let's invest in what works, let's invest in people and in organisations that have capacities that are already well rooted within the community," and this is the reason why we were able to show results in a relatively small lapse of time. We intend to continue in redoubling our efforts, scaling up initiatives that have worked, finding innovative ways such as this project of economic empowerment of women to continue investing in things that work.

Marc-Andre Franche
UNDP Haiti

There's a whole range of opportunities that Haitian women are missing out on because they don't have enough training. The training is the only way to prepare them to find their way financially to get out of the difficult situations in which the majority of women find themselves.

Pascale Saint-Lot
Project Manager
Femmes en Democratie



I wasn't doing well at all because my husband is too ill to work. Now I'm the one supporting the family. My brother died of Cholera and his children live with me now. Thanks to the money I earn selling chickens, I can send the kids to school. The organisation helps us move forward. Especially me, so, so much.

Ninite Eltêbe
Project beneficiary

MDG-BASED LOCAL SERVICE DELIVERY

Access to basic public services such as primary education, health care, clean water supply, sanitation, solid waste and energy supply, is vital to poverty alleviation and the achievement of the MDGs.

The poor often lack access to local public services, and local governments play a large role in improving the living conditions of the poor. The Trust Fund has enabled governments in Laos and Rwanda, for example, to provide better services like education, access to markets and credit, and infrastructure.

Reducing poverty and inequality is a major priority for the government of Laos, which seeks to expand and improve its services to the people by empowering local communities to identify their own priorities, manage their local development projects, and

control their own finances at the local level. The Trust Fund is supporting the provision of technical and financial assistance to a Laotian government programme that provides access to clean water, schools, bridges and roads, as well as commercial infrastructure. For example, eight districts of Xiengkhouang province were supported in developing district development funds that are specifically targeted towards achieving the MDGs. This field testing of an innovative approach to service off-track MDGs and analyse bottlenecks is providing lessons on how to expand MDG targeting in other districts.

In Rwanda, the Trust Fund supports the improvement of financial service delivery to women and youth in low-income populations by engaging with key stakeholders at four levels: client, micro, meso, and macro. The strategy aims mainly to support the regulatory and institutional framework, to strengthen financial infrastructure and to professionalise micro-finance institutions (MFIs).

A close-up portrait of a woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a bright yellow collared shirt. She is smiling broadly, showing her teeth. The background is a blurred outdoor market scene with various stalls and people. A blue semi-transparent box with a red circular graphic element is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing text.

Making a living as a trader in this village was very difficult. Poor families are now making more money because of the project. Traders are able to sell all day long and earn more income. People who never had a bank account now hold deposit and savings accounts. Our marketplace is a truly good thing. I think that it is the general desire in our community for further investment from the project to help us take care of and develop this marketplace. It has really helped improve the way of life in our villages.

Soutsady Thammavongsa
Ban Khangkai Village

Reaching the first 80%, reaching the first 70%, is a relatively easy job. Reaching the last 20, the last 10% is a formidable challenge. How to bring nurses, how to bring doctors, and teachers to the remote areas of the country remains the most significant challenge. Scaling up means increasing the underlying capacity of the administration to carry on the task once the programme is over. Because at the end of the day having a fair access to opportunities is part of the equation of development.

Minh Pham
Lao PDR UN Chief

The Lao People's Democratic Republic is a huge country. Many people live in very remote areas, along the valleys and mountains. Because development had not previously reached them, these are still inaccessible areas.

Khammoune Viphongxay
Lao PDR Vice Minister of Home Affairs

Things were very difficult when there was no road, and we couldn't reach surrounding villages. Before, it took about 2 hours to walk with our goods to the market. Thanks to this project, reaching the town through the access road takes about 20 to 30 minutes. Communities from other surrounding villages have an easier time getting to our village to sell their products. This road made every part of our lives easier.

En Phetmanithong
Som Village

The community decided to build the school in this location allowing three villages to send kids to school. After construction of this school, there was sufficient capacity to accommodate all students, with each class studying both in the morning and the afternoon. Since this new school was built, enrollment has increased the total number of students by 40%.

Tong Sie Yang
Phakair Tai Village



LESSONS LEARNED

- **Strategic partnerships with a variety of stakeholders are crucial for building synergies and ensuring efficient implementation.** Working with a wide range of partners including civil society, academia, local governments, the private sector and cooperatives ensures that project interventions are tailored, highly effective and have multiplier effects. The Trust Fund-supported project in **Haiti**, for example, successfully partnered with eight local NGOs to not only provide tailored vocational and business development training to 800 vulnerable women but also link them with opportunities for employment and micro-enterprise creation. In **Sudan**, a partnership with three universities is ensuring the development of quality training modules and identification of graduate volunteers. In **Colombia**, several exchange missions were conducted to engage the technical expertise of respective partners in improving interventions and operational processes.

- **Advocacy and outreach promote knowledge sharing and build momentum.** The project in **Timor-Leste** hosted a forum on inclusive growth that led to the establishment of an extensive network of a wide variety of rural economic sector stakeholders and potential partners. In **Haiti**, the project initiated a championship of female entrepreneurs that not only promoted public awareness but also created momentum in linking the various partners of the joint initiative.

- **Some of the most significant progress is being achieved by projects that are supporting the scaling up of existing programmes.** The project in **Lao PDR** is being implemented in alignment with other projects of the national programme, with support from the Trust Fund utilised to scale up proven successes in capacity building, and build on the findings and achievements of UN-DP's MDG Acceleration Framework. In particular, this project was designed specifically to leverage the comparative strengths of the partners of the existing Joint Programme in scaling up interventions. Similarly, in **Colombia** the Trust Fund is scaling up support for the capacity building of existing Centers for Employment and Entrepreneurship as well as local institutions of economic development.



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The Fund's Steering Committee is comprised of: UNDP's Bureau for External Relations (BERA) and Bureau for Development Policy (BDP), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of the Republic of Korea and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

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