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THE SOUTH-SOUTH QUARTERLY

UNDP Newsletter for South-South and Triangular
Cooperation for Sustainable Human Development

Special Issue on livelihoods and jobs

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FOREWORD

I have the pleasure of sharing with you the sixth edition of the South-South Quarterly newsletter. This issue showcases programmes and projects supported by UNDP that leverage South-South and Triangular Cooperation to promote livelihoods and jobs in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals.

Jobs and livelihoods programmes are fundamental for the advancement of human development. They contribute to expanding people's freedoms, enlarging choice and enhancing the richness of lives. UNDP works closely with countries to generate livelihoods and jobs as a critical pathway for lifting people out of poverty and into sustainable development. Of the world's 7.3 billion people, 3.2 billion are in jobs¹ and 600 million new jobs need to be created by 2030.² More than 800 million people globally live on less than US\$1.25 PPP per day³ and an estimated 900 million workers live with their families below the US\$2⁴ a day poverty line. We also have an imperative to ensure that jobs and livelihoods programmes unfailingly protect our planet's natural resources and ecosystems, promote inclusion and equity for the poor, reduce vulnerabilities, build resilience to climatic shocks and recurring conflicts, foster social cohesion and advancement of women and ultimately contribute to sustainable development.

As the UN's development arm, UNDP works in over 170 countries and territories to put societies on a sustainable development pathway. Agenda 2030 is a compelling call for larger attention toward local communities and the

quality and access to food, shelter, health care, education, safe water and sanitation, security and protection that these communities must enjoy. Within this, UNDP promotes South-South and Triangular Cooperation to leverage the knowledge and experience embedded in each project and programme. Collaboration amongst countries of the global South is increasingly a cornerstone of UNDP's mandate. It is a catalytic tool in facilitating the sharing of knowledge, experiences and technology in promoting livelihoods and jobs.

In this issue, we feature diverse initiatives supported by UNDP on the ground, including young entrepreneurs whose recycling business in Dili Timor-Leste; seaweed farmers in Belize, funded by the GEF Small Grants Programme, who are learning new biodiversity-friendly techniques from Colombia; agricultural entrepreneurs from Gambia visiting an agro-enterprise centre in Benin; and students from Uganda and Djibouti attending information technology training in Egypt to increase their employability skills, besides others. These examples of UNDP's work reflect the importance of South-South exchanges in addressing multiple development challenges that cut across regional and national boundaries. South-South and Triangular Cooperation focused on jobs, sustainable livelihoods and economic recovery are a cornerstone to achieving a rapid return to sustainable development and inclusive growth.

I hope this Newsletter serves as an important source of knowledge and inspiration as you continue your efforts to promote UNDP's work in advancing the SDG's and increasing South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

*Nik Sekhran
Chief of Profession, Sustainable Development, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP*

1. UNDP HDR 2015

2. World Bank

3. Jobs for the Future. Overseas Development Institute.

4. UNDP SDG Prospectus, Goal 8 Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth



Photo: UNDP Timor-Leste

■ TIMORESE YOUTH RECYCLING BUSINESS INITIATIVE TACKLES WASTE AND UNEMPLOYMENT, ONE PLASTIC BOTTLE AT A TIME

Timor-Leste is a small country with a large trash problem, particularly in the capital city Dili, where plastic bottles lie everywhere on the streets. Making Timor-Leste Beautiful is a South-South cooperation initiative, funded by the Republic of Korea and supported by UNDP, to clean the city, empower people and improve youth leadership. The Hopeseller Leadership Center, an NGO created and managed by youth, developed a recycling business providing cash for work as an additional means of livelihood for community members who collect plastic bottles to sell to Hopeseller.

With the support of Indonesia, UNDP facilitated a study visit and marketing exchange on the polyethylene terephthalate (PET) process in Kupang, Indonesia and Surabaya.

The initiative is part of a wider project exploring innovative ways to mobilize social business to accelerate achievement of Timor-Leste's MDGs while allowing businesses to generate a modest profit that is then re-invested to expand its reach, improve its product or service its social mission.

Through the recycling business, 110 permanent and temporary jobs for youth were created and at least 987 local community members received average income of US\$33 throughout the four weekly collection campaigns. By end of 2014, more than 3 million plastic bottles from the streets and households were collected for recycling and 3 million more were slated for collection by the project's end by end of 2015, far exceeding the project goals. The initiative not only directly created job opportunities and provided people with livelihoods opportunities, but also visibly improved the cleanness of the streets and coastlines of the city.

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Photos: UNDP Sudan

■ CREATING JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH IN SUDAN THROUGH LABOUR-INTENSIVE WORK

The Labour-Intensive Work Opportunities Project (LIWOP) was launched in February 2014 in response to the growing number of unemployed youth in Sudan, particularly in urban areas. The project aims to generate productive employment opportunities for young men and women, promote gender equality and integrate needy groups such as the disabled and ex-combatants, using local resource and labour-intensive approaches to contribute to modern infrastructure and utilities, mainly in road works and waste management. The project prioritizes young people who did not finish their education and provides them with the means to support themselves as well as their families and to improve their livelihoods.

The project was developed under a South-South cooperation framework, in a partnership with UNDP, the Government of Sudan, and the India, Brazil, South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Fund). The IBSA Fund's purpose is to benefit countries in the global South through

sharing best practices, expertise and knowledge in poverty-alleviating initiatives. The Fund identifies replicable and scalable projects, successful methods and proven initiatives that can be disseminated to other countries facing similar developmental challenges. In the first batch of employments in early 2015, 500 young people were placed with the road maintenance and waste management departments of Sudan's Khartoum State. By the end of the project, 3,200 youth were employed, well over the original target of 2,000.

Prior to LIWOP in Sudan, IBSA and UNDP had implemented a successful waste-collection programme in Haiti that provided income-generation opportunities to community members while reducing environmental impacts and disease incidence and supporting efforts in community pacification.

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Photo: UNDP-GEF Small Grants Programme – Belize



■ SPREADING COMMUNITY INNOVATIONS IN SUSTAINABLE FISHING THROUGH SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

The UNDP-GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) promotes community-based innovation, capacity development, and empowerment through sustainable development projects of local civil society organizations. In 2011, SGP helped the Placencia Producers Cooperative Society in Belize learn about seaweed farming and cultivation under its Community Management of Protected Areas Conservation Programme. As a result, 50 fishermen improved their fishing skills and livelihoods; created a seaweed revolving fund and now export seaweed to a buyer in Los Angeles. Furthermore, as a result of the SGP pilot project, the Fisheries Department is promoting and providing technical assistance towards scaling up the seaweed initiative in other marine-protected areas, including the South Water Caye Marine Reserve and the Turneffe Atoll Marine Reserve. The Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT) recently approved funding for a seaweed cultivation project in partnership with the Sarteneja Fishermen Association (former SGP Grantee Partner).

Last year, SGP collaborated with the Colombian Government in a South-South effort to improve

seaweed cultivation, harvesting and processing techniques in Colombia. The peer-to-peer exchange, funded by the Colombian Government, took place from 18 to 24 January 2015 and allowed six fishers (two women and four men) from the Old Providence and Santa Catalina Fishing and Farming Cooperative in Providencia Island, Colombia, to visit a the SGP project in the Gladden Spit and Silk Cayes Marine Reserve in Belize. This exchange allowed the Colombian fisher folk to receive training and certification from the Placencia Producers Cooperative Society on sustainable seaweed farming, processing and marketing.

This South-South cooperation effort continued in July 2015 when a delegation of the Placencia Producers Cooperative Society visited Colombia to train the Colombian cooperative on other innovative sustainable fishing approaches using the lobster shades as anchors for the seaweed farms and introduced new cultivation techniques using sewn nets from the banned shrimp trawler boats in Belize. As a result, 10 fishermen directed from the exchange and learned not only about seaweed farming but also soap making and production of seaweed punch.

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SAUDI ARABIA SUPPORTS COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE REHABILITATION IN PAKISTAN

Internal crisis and floods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan led to massive displacement of the local population, damage to community infrastructure, inadequate access to basic services and constraints on food security and livelihoods. UNDP, with the financial assistance of the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD), is supporting the conflict-affected communities of District Swat by rehabilitating damaged community infrastructure, supporting recovery of the local economy and strengthening social cohesion.

Through the Community Resilience Project, 639 community infrastructure schemes have been restored and rehabilitated, including roads, street pavements, bridges and water channels so far. More than 800,000 men, women and children have better access to basic social services, better crop production

and better access to markets for their agricultural products due to improved physical infrastructure. In addition, community-based monitoring committees have been formed and trained for oversight of community development in their areas. With the launch of a new local government system in the province, the elected village councils will now coordinate and monitor the construction of physical infrastructure under the Project. Based on the successful implementation of the first phase, SFD signed a new Memorandum of Understanding with UNDP to extend the project, which will lead to the rehabilitation of further 192 communal schemes.

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Photos: UNDP Pakistan

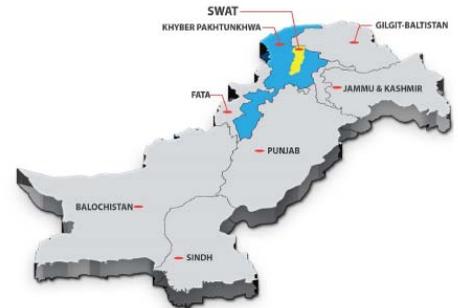
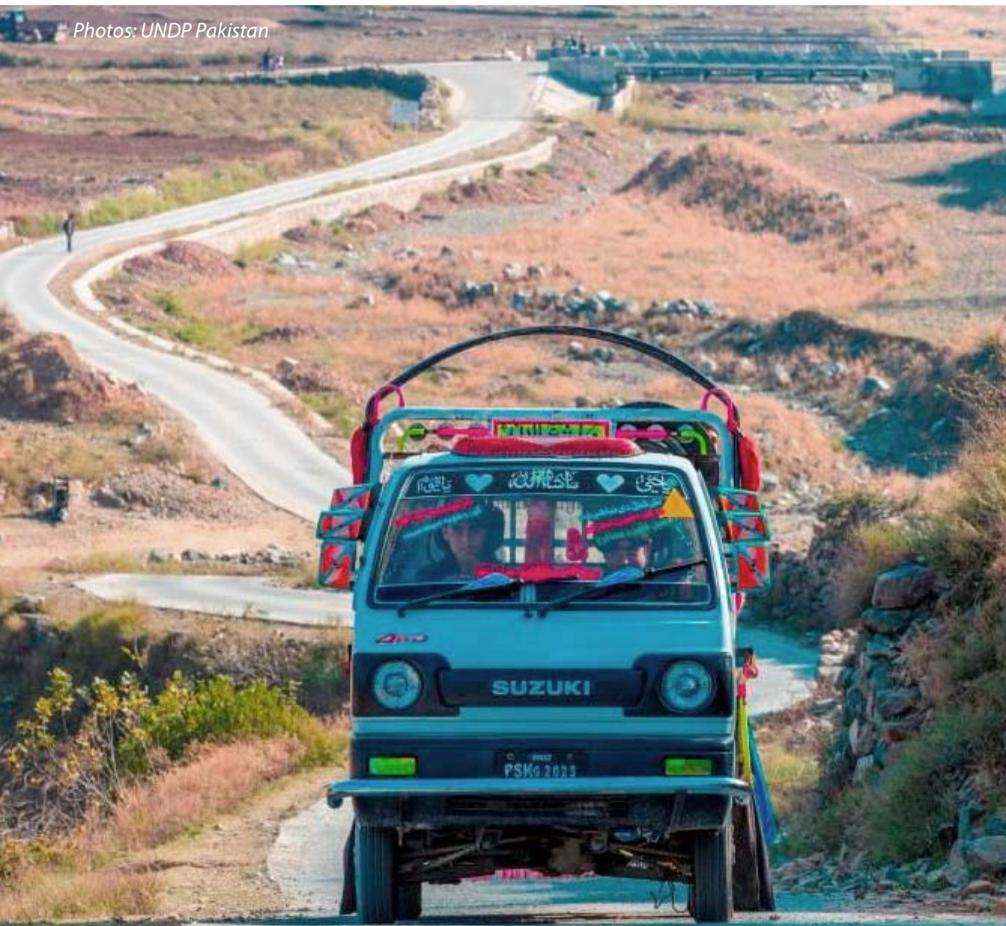




Photo: UNDP Gambia

■ AGRICULTURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN GAMBIA

In Gambia, agriculture is the most critical sector for economic expansion, with great potential to absorb unemployed youth and promote entrepreneurship. It is also highly responsive to new technologies and innovations that can boost production and increase returns. With these factors in mind, UNDP supported Gambia in partnering with the Songhai Regional Centre in Benin (a centre of excellence in agricultural development) and in developing the Songhai Development Model-Gambia Project, aimed at promoting agricultural growth and creating youth employment by harnessing the agricultural potentials of the country.

Twenty-nine Gambian youths attended a six-month training on agricultural entrepreneurship at the Centre, graduated in July 2015. These students had the opportunity to have hands-on experience in modern agricultural techniques, including poultry production, food processing, soap making, agricultural forestry, crop production, snail farming, bio gas and others, and setting up viable agricultural enterprises. They had also the opportunity to visit former Songhai students who had set up their own enterprises, learning about their challenges and successes. The Gambian graduates then returned home to be deployed for another six months as trainee instructors at the Gambia-Songhai Centre, passing on their newly developed skills and knowledge to a new round of potential agricultural entrepreneurs.

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■ BRAZIL AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES SHARE EXPERIENCES ON SOCIAL PROTECTION

Social protection measures contribute to alleviating poverty, improving people's lives, reducing vulnerability and increasing livelihood security. While some countries such as Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho and Mauritius have adopted broad social protection policies and programmes, such as targeted school feeding and cash transfers, social protection coverage in Africa remains very low.

The International Seminar on Social Protection in Africa was held in Dakar, Senegal, on 8 and 9 April 2015. The South-South cooperation event, organized in partnership with the African Union, the Governments of Brazil and Senegal, the Instituto Lula and UNDP, brought together almost 100 participants from Brazil and some 12 African countries to share experiences and promote debate on social protection, focused on ensuring that Africa's poor are not left behind and are better able to withstand shocks, crises and hazards.

The two-day seminar served as a platform for African countries to exchange experiences with Brazil, which has over 10 years of extensive experience in implementing Bolsa Familia, one of the world's most recognized social protection programmes. The seminar produced six recommendations for the future of social protection in Africa, including aspects relating to concepts for a more integrated and sustainable development approach to social protection as well as financing and governance. The Dakar recommendations were endorsed by ministers of African countries at a high-level meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, held from 20 to 24 April 2015. Building on this event, UNDP already initiated a partnership with the Instituto Lula to implement the Dakar recommendations through a regional programme.

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Photo: UNDP



Photos: UNDP Tunisia



■ EMPLOYMENT GENERATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN TUNISIA (YOUTH EMPLOYMENT GENERATION PROGRAMME IN ARAB TRANSITION COUNTRIES)

High youth unemployment is one of the major factors of the youth-led and broad-based popular uprisings that led to the socio-political transition in the Arab region. To respond to the immediate needs of Tunisian youth by providing quick-impact tools to alleviate their unemployment, UNDP in collaboration with the Office du Développement du Nord Ouest (ODNO), Commissariat Général au Développement Régional (CGDR), and the Ministère du Développement, de l'Investissement et de la Coopération internationale of Tunisia implemented Tunisia's Youth Employment Generation Programme as part of the Youth Employment Generation Programme in Arab Transition Countries. The project aimed at 1) Increasing self-employment for youth through access to technical, vocational and entrepreneurial skills training, with particular emphasis on the 'green-related' sectors; 2) Increasing opportunities for vocational training in private companies for youth; and 3) Elaborating regional employment strategies and plans in a participatory manner.

In Tunisia, the project was carried out at the national and subnational levels, with special focus on three governorates with high unemployment rates as of 2012: Siliana (15.8 percent), Jendouba (18.5 percent) and Bizerte (12.6 percent). Thirty-four youth completed a training-of-trainers programme on green jobs; 485 youth benefited from business and technical training on green economy themes, including agroforestry, renewable energy and energy efficiency, ecotourism, recovery and recycling of waste; 21 youth completed their business plans in green industry; and 67 NGOs participated in an institutional traineeship programme providing training on strategic and participatory planning.

The project helped Tunisian youth to effectively navigate a difficult social and business environment and to overcome barriers to economic and earning opportunities. As part of a multi-programme implemented in Jordan, Yemen, Egypt and Libya to respond to the escalating need to provide tools addressing the unemployment challenge in the Arab region, the project provides interlinked and mutually reinforcing elements for greater synergy and impact in the region.

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■ INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: FROM EGYPT TO UGANDA, ERITREA AND BEYOND

UNDP promotes innovation and entrepreneurship in the information and communication technology (ICT) sector, a rapidly growing area for employment. As such, UNDP Egypt supported the local leader in ICT training and capacity development, the Information Technology Institute (ITI), to pursue South-South cooperation with an ambitious set of ICT training programmes in partnership with 10 Arab and African countries.

One of the first of these programmes is EDUganda, a collaboration with the Ministry of Communications to train 3,000 Ugandans to enter the growing outsourcing and offshoring ICT sector. In addition to technical training, the programme also trains and

develops Ugandan middle-management candidates through a 'train-the-trainer' approach to ensure the continuation of further planning and capacity development.

In Djibouti, the Egyptian-Djiboutian Capacity Acceleration Program (EDCA) focuses on consultancy to the Djiboutian Government to develop the ICT sector through human capital development and the establishment of an Egyptian-Djiboutian Capacity Development Centre of Excellence to serve Djibouti and neighbouring countries.

In addition to these programmes, ITI has hosted students from across the Arab and Africa regions for on-site training and development in Egypt, giving them the opportunity to enhance their ICT employability skills and pursue improved career possibilities back home.

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Photo: UNDP Egypt



■ CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC EXCHANGE ON SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

In May 2015, farmers from Fiji, the Solomon Islands, El Salvador, Guatemala and Cuba, along with development practitioners from various organizations, visited Cuba in an exchange facilitated by the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP), implemented by UNDP in Cuba. The farmers and development practitioners received training from the Higher School of Urban and Suburban Agriculture and the Alejandro de Humboldt Tropical Agriculture Research Institute (INIFAT) of the Ministry of Agriculture in Cuba and visited five local cooperatives supported by SGP Cuba to acquire practical expertise from other local farmers. The exchange educated the visitors on low-cost, proven ecological farming practices from Cuba that could be easily adapted and transferred to the Pacific as solutions to the pressing food security and environmental concerns affecting many small island states.

As a result, it is expected that a model organic demonstration site for selected technologies will be established in Honiara (Solomon Islands) and Taveuni (Fiji) with technical support provided by Cuba. Close collaboration with government extension services will be ensured to help expand impact of the interventions at the national level. In addition, the technologies, extension materials and lessons learned will be distributed through the POETCom network. The exchange will also improve food production and overall environmental protection for the communities engaged.

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■ REGIONAL COOPERATION TO IMPROVE LIVELIHOODS OF PEOPLE IN BORDER AREAS OF TAJIKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN

Officials from Afghanistan and Tajikistan attended a four-day study tour in Kyrgyzstan to learn about the successes, challenges and replication opportunities of the One Village – One Product initiative (OVOP). The Kyrgyz OVOP project supports empowerment and bettering of lives of rural community members by helping them establish and run their businesses, built on the exploitation of local natural resources.

The study tour was organized as part of the Project for Livelihood Improvement in Tajik-Afghan Cross-border Areas (LITACA) launched by UNDP and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in March 2014 to promote stability and security in the bordering provinces of the two countries. It aims to improve livelihoods and resilience of bordering rural communities to better respond to development

challenges, improve infrastructure and services, create business opportunities and facilitate cross-border cooperation.

The project is supporting rehabilitation of rural infrastructure facilities to improve direct access of more than 176,400 vulnerable people to basic services, strengthening local governance institutions and providing vocational training to enhance the employability of vulnerable groups. The project seeks to improve the livelihoods of more than 1.5 million people living in the border areas and to enhance cross-border cooperation between Tajikistan and Afghanistan.

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