A modern sports factory in Kabul, established by the country's Ministry of Commerce, provides jobs to Afghans affected by the war.

Artists for Peace perform at an event in Sierra Leone ahead of the historic August 2007 elections. The UNDP-supported initiative assembled over a dozen Sierra Leonean musicians to promote peace ahead of the elections.

UNDP programmes: Capacity development in action

Capacity development is the key to sustainable human development. Without an enabling environment, efficient organizations and a dynamic human resource base, countries lack the foundation to plan, implement and review their national and local development strategies and promote human development.
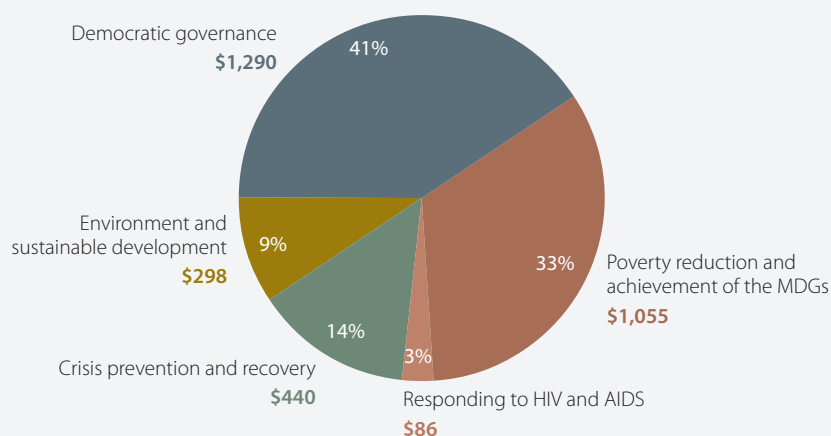
Over the last decade, the development community has come to realize that it is impossible to work on policies without at the same time working on the capacities of people, organizations and the larger community. It is institutions that sustain policies, allowing policies to evolve from words into actions governing the development process. The development of the institution – at the grassroots level, at the community level, at the national level – is at the centre of the development challenge, be it about its human resource base, the systems or the environment in which it must function. It is for this reason that capacity development is at the heart of everything UNDP does.

UNDP places priority on strategies that create opportunities to develop and sustain capacity at national and local levels. These include institutional reform and incentives; scaling up leadership capacities; promoting education, training and learning; and enhancing accountability and broad engagement on achieving development results.

Above all, capacity development is about transformations – in people, organizations and societies – that lead to sustainable human development. The following pages present examples of UNDP's work in its four focus areas: poverty reduction and achievement of the MDGs; democratic governance; crisis prevention and recovery; and environment and sustainable development. Capacity development cuts across these four areas, and defines how the organization contributes to development results.

UNDP PROGRAMME EXPENDITURES 2007
$US Millions

Democratic governance
$1,290

41%

Environment and
sustainable development
$298

9%

14%

Crisis prevention and recovery
$440

3%

33%

Poverty reduction and
achievement of the MDGs
$1,055

Responding to HIV and AIDS
$86

Source: OSG/UNDP

UNDP CUMULATIVE PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE 2004-2007

(US$ millions)

POVERTY REDUCTION AND ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MDGs

MDG country reporting and poverty monitoring	585
Pro-poor policy reform to achieve MDG targets	616
Local poverty initiatives including microfinance	1,398
Globalization benefiting the poor	134
Private sector development	58
Gender mainstreaming	139
Civil society empowerment	130
Making ICTD work for the poor	161
Responding to HIV and AIDS	192
Governance of HIV and AIDS responses	205
HIV and AIDS, human rights and gender	76
Other programme activities	8
Subtotal	**3,702**

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

Policy support for democratic governance	576
Parliamentary development	99
Electoral systems and processes	915
Justice and human rights	404
E-governance and access to information	71
Decentralization, local governance and urban/rural development	990
Public administration reform and anti-corruption	2,122
Other programme activities	3
Subtotal	**5,180**

CRISIS PREVENTION AND RECOVERY

Conflict prevention and peacebuilding	239
Recovery	561
Small arms reduction, disarmament and demobilization	92
Mine action	114
Natural disaster reduction	209
Special initiatives for countries in transition	352
Subtotal	**1,567**

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Frameworks and strategies for sustainable development	397
Effective water governance	123
Access to sustainable energy services	249
Sustainable land management to combat desertification and land degradation	75
Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity	328
National/sectoral policy and planning to control emissions	80
Other programme activities	12
Subtotal	**1,263**

Total linked to practice areas	11,712
Not linked to practice areas at the time of reporting	1,333
Countries sub-total	13,045
Global, regional, inter-regional, Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People	1,244
Grand total	**$14,289**

Source: OSG/UNDP

Minor variations in totals due to rounding of numbers.