

FAST FACTS

United Nations
Development Programme



Climate Change and UNDP

Making poverty history and tackling climate change go hand-in-hand because receding forests, changing rainfall patterns and rising sea levels trap people in hardship and undermine their future. Studies in Ethiopia show that children exposed to drought in early childhood are 36 percent more likely to be malnourished five years later.

Effects like this add up. Because of climate change, it is estimated that up to 600 million more people in Africa could face malnutrition as agricultural systems break down; an additional 1.8 billion people could face water shortage, especially in Asia, while a person living in a developing country is 79 times more likely to be hit by a climate disaster than someone from a developed country.



Haiti, UNDP Photo

Allowing statistics like these to be realized could erase decades of effort to eradicate poverty around the world, and could unravel progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

At the same time, increasing awareness about climate change provides the impetus to urgently push for a better, cleaner and more sustainable world. A fair and ambitious climate deal will be needed to stabilize temperature increases and avoid catastrophic damage, encourage less carbon-intensive production and consumption, and ensure climate financing to support inclusive economic growth and

sustainable poverty reduction. The deal reached must reflect the needs and aspirations of developing countries if it is to set the stage for future generations to live in greater peace and prosperity.

UNDP's Comprehensive Response

As the leading global organization in the fight against poverty, with a presence in 166 countries, UNDP is responding on the front lines of climate change – where it hits the world's 2.6 billion poorest people the hardest. We focus on three things:

- 1. We help developing countries to put in place what people need for a decent life so that they are able to withstand climate change** because reducing poverty and protecting the planet go hand-in-hand. To cope with climate change, people need basic access to water, sanitation, food and energy, to institutions that work and a say in the decisions that affect their lives.
- 2. We help poor people to adapt to climate change** – from the farmer who wants to grow more resilient crops to the family whose home has just been destroyed by a flood. That means helping countries to put adapting to climate change at the heart of all their efforts to tackle poverty, with proper attention paid to the needs of more vulnerable groups like women and indigenous people. It means ensuring that those efforts are flexible and resilient enough to navigate the challenges climate change may bring in the future. At the same time, UNDP strives to reduce people's exposure to climate-related disasters and, when they do hit, limit their impact on people's lives.
- 3. We strengthen the capacity of developing countries to change their path towards a low-carbon future, because climate change demands that we grow in a different way.** That means ensuring they have better access to carbon finance to pay for low-carbon development and that they are skilled putting that money to work where it is needed. We help ensure they can put policies into action – like protecting their forests - that will lead them towards a green, sustainable future.

UNDP in Action

Adapting to climate change

UNDP is assisting 31 African countries to manage multiple funds for adaptation, with US\$175 million of grant resources mobilized for the region. These resources are complemented with a further \$260 million of co-financing to address basic development needs from the national to the community level. UNDP is working with 17 African Least Developed Countries to prepare what are known as **National Adaptation Programmes of Action** (NAPAs), which help these countries to embed urgent priorities for adaptation within their national poverty programmes. At the community level, UNDP and the Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Programme are working with farmers and pastoralists in countries like **Niger** to reduce erosion around increasingly fragile water points, and to trial fast-maturing, more resilient crop seeds.

Disaster risk reduction

Experts predict that **Bangladesh** could lose up to 18 percent of its land area as a result of rising sea levels, resulting in 30 million more environmental refugees by 2050. UNDP worked with the Government to develop national disaster management legislation as well as risk assessment and reduction plans, establish an emergency preparedness network and train over 25,000 people in disaster management. In **Madagascar**, where a single cyclone in 2008 caused an estimated \$333 million in damage, UNDP helped the Government to design risk management plans in nine regions and establish both information and early warning systems.

Strengthening institutions, enhancing capacity

In **Zambia**, UNDP helped the government to establish a Climate Change Facilitation Unit under the Ministry of Environment to coordinate all climate change activities including preparations and positioning for the international climate change negotiations. Through training on climate change investment and financial flows and skills-building workshops, UNDP increased the capacity of the island nation of **St. Lucia** to coordinate its Ministerial views, participate in the negotiations and assess what finance they need to tackle climate change in the energy, coastal zones and water sectors.

Tackling poverty, protecting the planet

In **India**, UNDP and the Government have developed a 'Renewable Energy for Rural Livelihoods' project to light up villages that have never been connected to the electricity grid with incandescent bulbs that run on renewable solar energy. Local women are trained and engaged as 'barefoot solar

engineers' to assemble the light from scratch and are paid to maintain and repair them. In **Benin**, deforestation is a serious concern as many people depend on wood for energy and lack alternatives like biogas or solar power. UNDP is training women's groups to make fireplaces that use soil instead of wood, and offering them micro-loans to make this happen. Twenty percent of households in targeted villages are now using the new fireplaces.

A low-carbon future

As a leading member of **UN-REDD** (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation), UNDP is helping to monetize the carbon stored in forests, creating an incentive for developing countries to protect and sustainably manage their forest assets. Financial flows resulting from REDD will not only reduce carbon emissions but also support poverty reduction. UN-REDD is being piloted in nine countries including the **Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia, Tanzania and Zambia**.

In **Brazil**, UNDP is working with the Government to safely destroy or recycle the dangerous chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) from refrigerators and air conditioners, preventing their release into the atmosphere. The programme also helps low-income families exchange their old and inefficient refrigerators for new ones, leading to a 20 percent drop in energy costs and preventing the release of dangerous gases.

In **Honduras**, through the MDG Carbon Facility, UNDP is implementing a project with Energia Renovable Hondupalma (ERH) to capture biogas from agricultural effluents that would otherwise be released into the atmosphere and use it to generate electricity as well as substitutes for fossil fuels. Similar projects are also being created in **Rwanda, Uzbekistan, El Salvador** and 14 other countries. The MDG Carbon Facility is a one-stop shop for project assessment to mobilize private sector financing for developing countries through the global carbon markets.

In **Croatia**, UNDP and partners are helping the Government drastically cut national energy consumption. UNDP produced a national Human Development Report on climate change's impact on Croatia and supports a public campaign to help people reduce their own carbon footprint.

For further information contact:

United Nations Development Programme
One United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017 USA
Telephone: (212) 906-5479
www.undp.org/climatechange
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