

# FAST FACTS

United Nations  
Development Programme



## About UNDP

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with governments and people on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners that can bring about results.

World leaders have pledged to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015, including the overarching goal of cutting extreme poverty in half. UNDP, using its worldwide network, is coordinating global and national efforts to reach these Goals.



A woman is electronically registered to vote in Bangladesh. UNDP was a key partner in the complex preparations for the December 2008 election in the country, the first in seven years.

## Developing Capacity on the Ground

Capacity development—the “how” of development—is the overarching contribution of UNDP. Within the framework of national ownership, UNDP supports programme countries in developing national and local capacities for human development and achievement of the MDGs, characterized by **effective aid management** and **South-South solutions**. Capacity development cuts across all of UNDP's focus areas.

## MATTERS OF FACT

- **166** countries where UNDP works
- **135** Country Offices worldwide
- **US\$5 billion** total income for 2008
- **7,991** UNV volunteers serving worldwide in 2008
- **629** National Human Development Reports published in 135 countries and **34** Regional Human Development Reports published
- **83** countries where UNDP provided crisis prevention and recovery support in 2008
- **50** countries where UNDP strengthened national parliaments in 2008

### • **Poverty Reduction and Achievement of the MDGs:**

While economic growth is essential to human progress, it is not the only important factor in achieving the MDGs. UNDP supports countries in formulating, implementing and monitoring MDG-based national development strategies centred on inclusive growth and gender equality to ensure equitable, broad-based human development. UNDP works closely with UN sister agencies and other organizations to ensure that the globalization process—international trade, investment regime and development finance—is inclusive and supportive of MDG achievement. Reaching the MDG target of halting and reversing the spread of HIV and AIDS by 2015 is also critical to achieving the other MDGs, particularly targets related to poverty, education, gender equality, and child and maternal mortality. As a founding co-sponsor of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS, UNDP is responding to the multisectoral challenges of the HIV and AIDS epidemic together with other UN agencies.

• **Democratic Governance:** More countries than ever before are working to build democratic governance. Their challenge is to develop institutions and processes that are more responsive to the needs of ordinary citizens, including the poor, and that promote development. UNDP helps countries strengthen electoral and legislative systems, improve access to justice and public administration, and develop a greater capacity to deliver basic services to those most in need. Through its programmes, UNDP brings people together within nations and around the world, fostering partnerships and sharing ways to promote participation, accountability and effectiveness at all levels.

- **Crisis Prevention and Recovery:** Many countries are increasingly vulnerable to violent conflicts or natural disasters that can erase decades of development and further entrench poverty and inequality. Through its global network, UNDP seeks out and shares innovative approaches to crisis prevention, early recovery and conflict resolution. And because UNDP is on the ground in almost every developing country, wherever the next crisis occurs, we will be there to help bridge the gap between emergency relief and long-term development.

- **Environment and Sustainable Development:** The poor are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation and lack of access to clean, affordable energy services. UNDP's goal in this area is to strengthen national capacity to manage the environment in a sustainable manner while ensuring adequate protection of the poor. Energy and environmental issues are also global, as climate change, loss of biodiversity and ozone layer depletion cannot be addressed by countries acting alone. UNDP, through programmes such as the Equator Initiative and the Global Environment Facility—a partnership with the UN Environment Programme and the World Bank—helps countries strengthen their capacity to address these challenges at the global, national and community levels, seeking out and sharing best practices, providing innovative policy advice and linking partners through pilot projects.

In each of these areas, UNDP advocates for the protection of **human rights** and the **empowerment of women**. Through our global network, we seek out and share ways to promote gender equality as an essential dimension of ensuring political participation and accountability; economic empowerment and effective development planning; crisis prevention and conflict resolution; access to clean water, sanitation and energy services; and society-wide mobilization against HIV and AIDS.

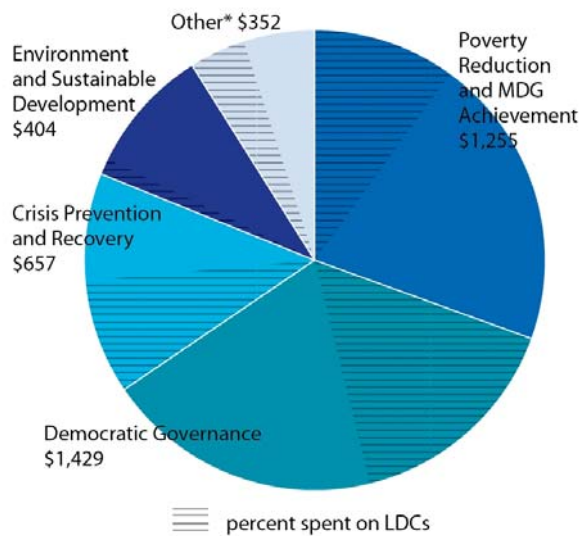
### Within the UN System

One of UNDP's most important roles is to support participatory and accountable management of the Resident Coordinator system through enhanced UN system coordination, efficiency and effectiveness, and the strategic integration of development efforts within the context of national development priorities. In a world of limited resources UNDP, together with the UN and other development partners, helps to support the most effective use of UN and international aid resources.

### Around the World

UNDP has a unique voice in international development. The annual *Human Development Report*, commissioned by UNDP, focuses the global debate on key development issues, providing new measurement tools, innovative analysis and often controversial policy proposals. It is

**UNDP Programme Expenditure by Focus Area in 2008**  
(US\$ Millions; provisional, as of 7 April 2009)



\*Includes global, regional and country programme expenditure not linked to the Strategic Plan development results framework, in addition to resources for Development Support Services, Evaluation, Human Development Report Office, South-South Cooperation, Office of Development Studies, Economist Programme and special initiatives.

guided by the belief that development is ultimately a process of enlarging people's choices, not just raising national incomes. The independent team of experts who write the Report draw on a worldwide network of leaders from academia, government and civil society who contribute data, ideas and best practices. Developing countries and their international partners use the Report to gauge results and shape new policies.

The global Report's analytical framework and inclusive approach carry over into regional, national and local human development reports. The *Arab Human Development Report*, prepared by Arab scholars and intellectuals, has provided an honest, balanced—and at times—harsh view of the obstacles to development in the Arab world. UNDP has also sponsored reports on anti-corruption in Asia and the Pacific, and the limitations of democracy in Latin America. At the country level, over 600 National Human Development Reports have been published in 135 countries.

**For more information, visit:**

[www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org)

United Nations Development Programme  
One United Nations Plaza  
New York, NY 10017 USA

June 2009

