TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT
Implementing the UN Guiding Principles means:

- Reduced inequalities
- Effective governance
- Greater environmental protection and accelerated climate action
- Advancement in gender equality
- More just, inclusive, and peaceful societies
- Expanded opportunities for trade, investment, and jobs
- Effective governance
- Reduced inequalities
- Expanded opportunities for trade, investment, and jobs

THE DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

The Asia-Pacific region has long been synonymous with economic dynamism. Over the last few decades, pro-growth economic policies, increased foreign direct investment, and international trade flows have combined to lift millions out of poverty. Employment has risen significantly, industrial production has ballooned, education and healthcare have expanded, and technology and innovation have been pushed to the forefront.

Yet, rapid economic development has resulted in human rights abuses related to forced labour, deforestation and environmental degradation, sexual harassment, and forced displacement. Many companies operating within the region have been rocked by scandals involving rights violations in their operations and supply chains, impacting their reputation and future growth.

Human rights and environmental rights abuses can threaten or reverse progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia.

Through the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), governments and businesses can adopt changes in business regulations and operational standards that drive the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) forward. The UN Guiding Principles serve as a means of implementation for the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

Currently, B+HR Asia provides UNGP implementation support in the following countries:

- Bangladesh
- India
- Indonesia
- Malaysia
- Sri Lanka
- Thailand
- Viet Nam
WHAT WE DO

Since 2016, UNDP Asia-Pacific has promoted regional efforts to implement the UN Guiding Principles, focusing on advocacy, policy development, technical support, and capacity building. In 2018, UNDP accelerated this commitment by launching the Business + Human Rights Asia (B+HR Asia) Unit.

B+HR Asia leverages UNDP’s trusted relationships throughout the region and convenes governments, private sector actors, civil society, and national human rights institutions for greater coherency on collective action for business and human rights progress.

B+HR Asia leverages UNDP’s trusted relationships throughout the region and convenes governments, private sector actors, civil society, and national human rights institutions for greater coherency on collective action for business and human rights progress.

Provide technical and advisory support to governments to develop National Action Plans or similar policy frameworks in furtherance of UNGP implementation and boosting the regional ‘race-to-the-top’

Strengthen and support the role of civil society and national human rights institutions that provide access to effective remedy when human rights are at risk

Boost regional awareness-raising, capacity-building and peer-learning on the UNGPs for all sectors to maintain the momentum for Business and Human Rights progress

Support the business sector in the development of company human rights policies, programmes, and due diligence protocols

The UN Guiding Principles:

PROTECT, RESPECT, REMEDY FRAMEWORK

The UN Guiding Principles, unanimously approved in 2011 by the Human Rights Council, represent the most authoritative normative framework to identify, address, and remedy human rights abuses in business operations. Its three pillars lay out the State duty to protect, corporate responsibility to respect, and the need for both to provide effective remedy when violations do occur.

While awareness is growing among governments, business, and civil society organisations on how the UNGPs can mitigate these human rights abuses in business operations, efforts need to be intensified by all to ensure that violations do not derail Asia’s progress towards the SDGs.

THE UNGPs ARE BASED ON THREE PILLARS:

- **Pillar 1**
  - Clarifies the legal duty of States to protect individuals from adverse corporate related human rights impacts and outlines a set of operational principles through which States should implement this duty.

- **Pillar 2**
  - Identifies the responsibility of business enterprises to respect human rights and delineates a due diligence process through which companies should give effect to this responsibility.

- **Pillar 3**
  - Stresses and specifies the need to ensure better access to effective remedy for victims as a joint responsibility of States and business enterprises

CONTACT

Business and Human Rights Advisor
Livio Sarandrea: livio.sarandrea@undp.org
Project Specialist for Southeast Asia
Sean Lees: sean.lees@undp.org

Project Specialist for South Asia
Harpreet Kaur: harpreet.kaur@undp.org
Project Coordinator
Victoria de Mello: victoria.demello@undp.org

With support from the Government of Sweden