UNDP at a Glance

Throughout all of our programming, UNDP works to empower people’s lives while helping nations become more resilient.

In all areas of its work, UNDP encourages the protection of human rights and the empowerment of women, minorities and the poorest and most vulnerable. UNDP receives voluntary contributions from nearly every country in the world.

UNDP is acknowledged for its Human Development Report, which, after 20 years of publication, The New York Times called “the authoritative measure of poverty and deprivation.” CNN referred to the 2002 Arab Human Development Report as “the most influential piece of writing of the last decade” on governance in the Arab world.

Because of its mandate and its strong, continuous and neutral presence in most developing countries, UNDP coordinates all United Nations (UN) development activities at the country level as manager of the UN Country Team.

UNDP supports the global push to achieve the MDGs in several ways, including:

- Coordinating the UN’s efforts to monitor countries’ rates of MDG achievement;
- Providing policy and technical advice to countries as they work to achieve the MDGs;
- Working with countries on in-depth country analyses and reports on MDG progress, both negative and positive.

UNDP also administers the UN Capital Development Fund, which promotes microfinance in 48 least developed countries, and UN Volunteers, which fields over 7,300 volunteers from 160 countries in support of peace and development through volunteerism worldwide.

Poverty Reduction & Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Democratic Governance

Crisis Prevention & Recovery

Environment & Sustainable Development

UNDP WORKS IN FOUR MAIN AREAS:

Since 1966, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been partnering with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in more than 170 countries and territories, UNDP offers global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.

UNDP WORKS IN FOUR MAIN AREAS:

1. Poverty Reduction & Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
2. Democratic Governance
3. Crisis Prevention & Recovery
4. Environment & Sustainable Development

THE MDGs: EIGHT DEVELOPMENT GOALS AGREED UPON BY WORLD LEADERS:

1. Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieving universal primary education
3. Promoting gender equality and empowering women
4. Reducing child mortality
5. Improving maternal health
6. Combating HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria
7. Ensuring environmental sustainability
8. Building and sustaining peace, and promoting justice and strong institutions
UNDP believes that poverty eradication strategies, based on local needs and priorities.

UNDP sponsors innovative pilot projects and locally-based development programmes. We provide countries with the know-how to access and manage national and international resources.

UNDP supports the achievement of the MDGs — a set of targets agreed to by world leaders to halve poverty by 2015 — by supporting Governments as they work toward the MDGs. We also work with countries and partners to strengthen their national response to HIV and AIDS.

1 Poverty Reduction & Achieving the MDGs

UNDP’s work in crisis prevention and recovery helps countries prevent armed conflict, alleviate the effects of disasters from natural hazards and build back better and stronger when crises happen.

2 Democratic Governance

UNDP is the only UN development agency with a specific mandate to promote democratic governance.

UNDP believes that democratic governance is crucial to bringing about positive change in nations and communities. It supports governments to establish responsive and independent electoral, judicial and security institutions and methods that promote fair, inclusive elections and rule of law, with a special focus on women and marginalized groups.

3 Crisis Prevention & Recovery

UNDP helps countries to prevent conflict, reduce the risk of natural hazards and disasters, and recover following crises. It strengthens development gains in post-crisis countries by addressing the underlying causes of violence; reinforcing governance and the rule of law; supporting livelihoods; and by using short-term employment schemes that allow local people to rebuild critical infrastructure following disaster.

4 Environment & Sustainable Development

UNDP is also the leading implementing partner in initiatives around the world that focus on forestry, energy access for the poor, desertification, biodiversity conservation, water, reducing carbon emissions and coping with climate change.

More than 300,000 sugarcane farmers in Bangladesh are now able to access wider markets via an SMS alert service connecting them to sugar mills as a result of a UNDP programme there.

Over 6,500 small business owners in Argentina have received microcredit and training in management and eco-friendly production techniques.

With UNDP support, Tunisia mobilized more than 3 million people to vote in the country’s first democratic election through traditional and social media campaigns.

With UNDP support, cattle herders in southern Kazakhstan are moving over 170,000 hectares of remote pasture land following the installation of wells and wells and the distribution of satellite phones.

With UNDP support, over 2.3 million smallholder farmers in Afghanistan are now able to access wider markets as a result of a UNDP programme there.