RESULTS REPORT 2012-2013

International Centre for Human Development (IC4HD)

A Partnership between Government of India and UNDP
Background

The International Centre for Human Development (IC4HD) is a partnership between the Government of India, through the Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The IC4HD has been imagined as an institution occupying a certain space in the global South discourse. This space was envisaged to bring human development thinking into the core of policy making to ensure that policies have at their centre people and their wellbeing.

The motivation for IC4HD emanates from the success of the Human Development Reports (HDRs) that have led and contributed to the policy debates in the global South. Owing to India’s rich experience in preparation of the largest number of sub-national reports and translation of the recommendations of the reports to policy actions, Government of India and UNDP (Country Office and Regional Bureau for Asia-Pacific) have co-funded the establishment of the IC4HD in a project mode with the vision of promoting sharing of experiences in countries of the global South.

The Beginning

The Cooperation Agreement between UNDP and IIAS was signed in August 2012. The Agreement was signed in the presence of Mr. Kapil Sibal, Minister of Human Resource Development, Mr. Gopalkrishna Gandhi, Chairman, IIAS and Dr. Ajay Chhibber, UN Assistant Secretary General and UNDP Assistant Administrator. Therefore, 2013 was the first full-fledged year of implementation of the project.

Signing Ceremony of Cooperation Agreement

![Signing Ceremony of Cooperation Agreement](image)

*Left to Right: Ms. Lise Grande, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Gopalkrishna Gandhi, Chairperson, IIAS, Mr. Kapil Sibal, Hon’ble Minister of Human Resource Development, Dr. Ajay Chhibber, UN Assistant Secretary General and UNDP Assistant Administrator and Prof. Peter Ronald deSouza, Director, IIAS*

The IC4HD is one of the few projects for which UNDP and the Government of India equally contribute resources (USD 3 million each over a period of three years). The resources allocated to the project by the Government of India are channeled through the IIAS. UNDP resources are allocated by the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (RBAP) and the UNDP India Country Office.

The project is managed by the UNDP India Country Office. The IC4HD is guided by an inter-ministerial Project Steering Committee (PSC), co-chaired by UNDP and IIAS, with representatives from the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of External Affairs, the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
IC4HD Approach

In the above context, the IC4HD presents an opportunity for UNDP to further its role as a thought leader by providing knowledge and quality services to ensure that human development concerns become integral to planning processes and policy making by supporting national governments and civil society organizations particularly of the global South. In doing so, IC4HD will contribute to the outcome of the Strategic Plan that aims to foster development debates and actions at all levels to prioritize reduction in poverty, inequality and exclusion.

Towards achieving these objectives, the Centre seeks to (a) provide policy advisory services (b) promote south-south cooperation (c) conduct analysis of human development issues and (d) improve monitoring and evaluation. With this vision, IC4HD has carried out key activities in 2013 to advance both the geographic and the thematic reach of the centre.

In brief: IC4HD in 2013

The official launch of the International Centre for Human Development was held in Delhi in January 2013 with the inaugural address by Prof. Amartya Sen on ‘Human Development in the Post 2015 era’.

Launch of IC4HD, 4th January 2013, New Delhi

Left to Right: Dr. Ajay Chhibber, UN Assistant Secretary General & UNDP Assistant Administrator, Mr. Jairam Ramesh, Hon’ble Minister of Rural Development, Drinking Water and Sanitation, Prof. Amartya Sen, Nobel Laureate, Prof. Meghnad Desai, Emeritus Professor, London School of Economics and Prof. Peter deSouza, Director, IIAS
In August 2013 the inauguration of the IC4HD Shimla office at the IIAS was organized to spell out the agenda for building partnerships with different nations and generate innovative policy initiatives on human development actions.

*Inauguration of the Shimla office of IC4HD, 4th August 2013*

The full team at IC4HD was in place from October 2013 onwards. The team is currently led by the Interim Director under the overall guidance of the UNDP Resident Representative and Director, IIAS. The team comprises a Manager & Human Development Specialist, a Programme Specialist, two researchers and a Programme Assistant. In 2013, the UNDP allocation to the project was for a total of USD 840,000 (USD 340,000 by the UNDP India Country office; USD 500,000 from the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific). The delivery rate has been 93 percent and 85 percent respectively for the above funds. The Government of India has contributed USD 1.7 million till December 2013, which are administered by IIAS.

**Key Results**

In its first full year of implementation, IC4HD has connected with a total of 39 unique countries on issue of human development. IC4HD initial experience reiterates the presence of a strong constituency in the global South seeking knowledge and services on human development. This comprises of the policy community, academia, civil society organisations who seek to compare experiences and share innovations and good practices.

1. Afghanistan, Armenia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Gambia, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Maldives, Malaysia, Malawi, Mauritius, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Palau, Peru, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, Viet Nam and Zambia. Countries in bold were part of multiple initiatives.
- **Co-organised the regional launch of the global HDR, *The Rise of the South***: The launch of the report was organized by the International Centre for Human Development and the United Nations Development Programme in New Delhi in April 2013. At the launch, India’s leading role as an economic power among countries of the South was highlighted. Yet, expert panelists stressed that regional successes should not obscure the huge amount of work that remains -- although South Asia has reduced the proportion of the population living on less than $1.25 a day, millions of people have remained extremely poor.

*Regional Launch of the Global HDR, 2013*

![Image of panelists at the launch event]

*Left to Right: Prof. Peter deSouza, Interim Director, IIAS, Dr. Ajay Chhibber, UN Assistant Secretary General & UNDP Assistant Administrator, Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairperson, Planning Commission, Prof. Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue in Bangladesh, Prof. Bina Agarwal, University of Manchester*

- **Professionals from Asia-Pacific awarded Human Development Fellowships**: The aim of the HD Fellowship Programme is to encourage mid-career professional to analyse issues from a people-centred perspective. This effort contributes to development theory, as well as identification of applications and policies that put people at the center of development debates. This also promotes South-South learning and sharing of expertise and experiences. Nearly 100 applications were received from countries of Asia-Pacific for the 2013 Human Development Fellowships on the theme of “Social Security in the South”. 6 mid-career professionals from Bhutan, Cambodia and Lao PDR were awarded Human Development fellowships.

![Image of Fellows discussing their work]

*©"We want to learn from India and share what we bring from our country." Gautami Srivastava, The Hindu 2013. Left to Right: Ms. Tshering Wangmo, Bhutan, Mr. Oudone Maniboung, Lao PDR, Mr. Kan Ponhrith, Cambodia*
- **Organizations from 15 countries shared experiences on Institutional Innovations for Women’s Livelihoods**: Experiences on innovative gender-based livelihood interventions/institutional innovations for women livelihoods security were shared by representatives from 15 countries from Africa, the Arab States, Asia, Europe and Central Asia and Latin America in an event organized in collaboration with the Self-Employed Women’s Association (SEWA). The workshop showcased key institutional innovations from other developing countries that have had similar institutional impacts as SEWA in India. After identifying the constraints that women face in their livelihood spaces, participants shared institutional responses/interventions and possible strategies that can be adopted to overcome these constraints and achieve livelihood security for women and promote human development. All participants were of the view that the workshop provided a useful opportunity to share country experiences through presentations, open floor and group discussions and, questions and answers; 90% of them felt that the event was relevant to their work.

**Participants at the workshop “Celebrating the Idea of SEWA: Towards Human Development through Women’s Livelihood Security”**

- **Capacities strengthened on Human Development (HD) in Asia-Pacific**: This was the first training programme organised by IC4HD to build a community of HD practitioners in Asia-Pacific who shared experiences and lessons learnt on human development. Government officials, civil society representatives, and HD focal points in UNDP COs/MCOs from 20 countries in the Asia-Pacific participated in the event. The training sessions were designed to impart knowledge and information on applying human development concepts and measures for policy analysis; share experiences and challenges in the preparation of HDRs and exchange lessons learned with regard to analysis, dissemination and advocacy of HDRs and brainstorm on how to monitor the impact of HDRs after they are published. It was envisaged that the training would encourage participants to apply the HD lens in their work, and contribute to enhance the understanding of issues from a HD perspective. 81 % of participants reported an “increased confidence in applying the human development approach to their work”. Evaluations also highlighted a strong demand for follow-up trainings (including online) on issues of HD measurement, communication and advocacy on HD, support for NHDR preparation and initiative to develop in-depth understanding of issues related to inclusive growth and equity.
In addition, during 2013, IC4HD has provided technical advisory services to 8 COs in Asia-Pacific during their NHDR preparation process – Cambodia, Lao PDR, the Maldives, Nepal, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Thailand and Sri Lanka. Further, IC4HD facilitated the organisation of the consultation on the upcoming Asia-Pacific HDR, “The Dynamics of the Demographic Changes in Asia Pacific: Leveraging Human Capital for Human Development”, in coordination with RBAP.

- **Strengthened capacities on Energy Access and Human Development:** 22 government representatives and 8 UNDP Economic Advisors from 9 countries in Southern Africa were imparted training on issues of energy access and human development at Mauritius in collaboration government funded Regional Multi-disciplinary Centre of Excellence (RMCE), Mauritius. The training was organized to respond to the demand from Southern African countries on issues of energy access and human development. The programme was structured around thematic sessions dealing with the different dimensions of Energy Access and its links with human development – such as, policy and regulatory frameworks, financing, technology options and scaling-up. All participants reported “increased confidence in applying the human development approach to my work” and 95% agreed that they were satisfied with the training. Evaluations also indicate that there is a demand to better understand the centrality of human development for energy access and access to information on innovations on energy access and human development. The knowledge partner was The Energy Resource Institute (TERI) and owing to the collaboration with IC4HD for the training in Africa, TERI has now decided to offer a course on Energy Access and Human Development as part of the Government of India’s Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation programme (ITEC)². There is a considerable interest in the programme and we have plans to find partners in other regions of Africa where we can in collaboration can conduct further programmes.

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² ITEC is a bilateral assistance programme run by the Government of India that focuses on addressing the needs of developing countries through innovative technological cooperation between India and the partnering nation. ITEC covers 158 countries across Asia, Africa, Latin America, Central and Eastern Europe, and several Pacific and Caribbean nations.
Looking Ahead – IC4HD in 2014

The work of IC4HD is guided by the fact that development results are influenced by the interface between knowledge, policy and practice. IC4HD will aim to emerge as a knowledge intermediary to ensure that best available knowledge is sourced, interpreted and used to further development goals. In line with the discussions on knowledge sharing held recently at the Regional Cluster Meeting, the work of IC4HD will be to:

- Emerge as an institutional space where South-South cooperation and knowledge sharing, especially on delivering innovations can be shared;
- Link policy makers with the expertise needed for a particular policy area including building relationships among people with different perspectives by continued focus on human development trainings, fellowships, and study week;
- Collaborate with different think tanks and CSOs across the countries to work on issues of human development with a focus on Small Island Developing States; and
- Build adaptive capacity by investing in long term relationships, promote organizational learning and co-producing knowledge among the select countries.

Specifically, in 2014, IC4HD aims to:

- Continue to invest in capacity of human development focal points and policy makers on issues of moving from HDRs to HD outcomes
  - through developing and disseminating guidance notes and sharing of experiences and organizing trainings to follow-up to NHDRs
  - designing study weeks for teachers to design course curriculum on human development and for young researchers from South Asia to overcome statistical challenges in human development analysis
- Invest in nuanced cross country analysis of role of law in addressing violence against women (Brazil, India and South Africa) to offer policy recommendations
- Roll out the second round of human development fellowships and
- Bring together key stakeholders to deliberate on human development challenges in Small Island Developing States (SIDS).