A Year in Action to achieve Sustainable Development in South Africa
South Africa, the most advanced economy in Africa, faces structural limitations including overconcentration of the economy in a few hands, limited skills, power shortages, and deteriorating confidence in the democracy. The COVID-19 pandemic worsened its economic vulnerabilities, leading to a significant output contraction (-6.4%) in 2020, which worsened poverty, unemployment, and inequality, particularly for children, youth and women. For instance, unemployment rates for the age groups of 15-24 and 25-34 reached alarming levels of 66.5% and 43.8% respectively – a ticking time bomb whose explosion will have far-reaching consequences. The improvement in the economy in 2021 and 2022 has not yielded the much-anticipated improvement in people’s living conditions. While the economy was gradually recovering from the debilitating impact of COVID-19, the Russian-Ukraine conflict and the associated geopolitics further worsened the cost of living leading to high inflation, rising interest rates, a weakened Rand, and a disrupted supply chain in the context of recurring electricity outages, political uncertainty, among other factors (including floods in KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape provinces that culminated into over 400 fatalities and massive destruction on infrastructure and properties).

Despite these formidable challenges, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) remained firm in its commitment to accompany the Government of South Africa in its development journey by investing in youth and women empowerment initiatives (skills development, employment promotion, and supporting entrepreneurship), promoting renewable energy, building state capability, disaster response, lobbying for biodiversity investments, and driving innovation. Our cumulative support to youth since 2019 has touched the lives of 20,045 youths and 7,812 SMMEs – altogether, 27,857 youth and women have benefitted from our skill and entrepreneurship development programmes. In 2022, the most notable results include the nearly 1000 youths that we placed in employment and income generation opportunities, over 200 SMMEs supported through training and grant funding, the provision of a relief package worth R2.3 million to support over 5000 flood-affected victims in KZN, and powering 67 households in the Upper Blinkwater community through our wind-solar hybrid mini-grid system, as well as providing 24,000 litres of water to two schools (Matyantya Primary School and Kleinbooi Secondary School) on a daily basis through our wind-power water pumping facilities.

We firmly believe that sustainable development is a collaborative journey, and the achievements presented in this report would not have been possible without the collective efforts of our partners and stakeholders. 2022 also provided an opportunity to strengthen and cultivate new partnerships, particularly for resource mobilization. We brokered commitments for government cost-sharing which will bear fruits in 2023 for interventions in the areas of digitization, entrepreneurship, innovation, state capability and just energy transition. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the South African government, donors, and our implementing partners for their unwavering support and commitment to our shared vision. We sincerely appreciate the solidarity of the Government of Japan and Toyota South Africa for their continuous support of our skills development programmes.

As we move forward to 2023, the challenges ahead are daunting, but they are also opportunities for transformation and scaling. The urgency to address climate change, reduce inequalities, and promote sustainable development has never been greater. Guided by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the national priorities of South Africa, we will continue to innovate, adapt, and scale up our efforts to accelerate progress towards a more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable future.

I invite you to delve into the pages of this Annual Report 2022 and explore the impactful stories, data, and insights that reflect our collective journey towards sustainable development. Together, let us build on our achievements, learn from our experiences, and forge ahead on the path to a brighter and more resilient South Africa.
Ayodele Odusola PhD
Resident Representative
UNDP South Africa
Gabriel Dava
Deputy Resident Representative
UNDP South Africa
Towards Agenda 2030 and South Africa’s National Development Plan

UNDP in South Africa plays a role in contributing to the National Development Plan (NDP)’s Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) 2019-24, the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2020-25, and Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development. This is achieved through delivering responsive and transformative interventions to achieve prosperity for the people of South Africa guided by the UNDP South Africa Country Programme Document (CPD) 2020-2025.

With a focus on promoting inclusive and sustainable development, we align our interventions with the objectives and targets outlined in the country’s frameworks, working closely with the South African government and other stakeholders. In 2022, we embarked on the third year of implementing the UNDP CPD 2020-2025, a comprehensive guiding framework rooted in a human rights-based approach. The CPD underscores our commitment to leave no one behind, promote gender equality and women’s empowerment, ensure government ownership and accountability, and report on people-centred impact. Additionally, it aligns closely with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), reinforcing our dedication to contributing to the global agenda of sustainable development. Throughout the year, we have continued to advance these principles, leveraging the CPD as a roadmap to guide our interventions and maximize our positive impact on the lives of people and the planet.

Youth and women’s empowerment and employment serve as the cornerstone of our CPD, as they form the foundation for reducing poverty and inequality in South Africa. To bring this vision to life, we operationalized our efforts through three interconnected portfolios;

**Portfolio 1**  Inclusive, just and sustainable economic growth

**Portfolio 2**  Effective, efficient and transformative governance

**Portfolio 3**  Climate resilience and sustainably managed natural resources

Innovation cuts across the three portfolios as accelerator of an inclusive and sustainable development.
Overall, the UNDP’s contributions to the NDP and SDGs in South Africa demonstrate its commitment to advancing sustainable and inclusive development, supporting the country in its journey towards a more prosperous and equitable future.
UNDP 2022 Snapshot

1 064 457 meals distributed to provide relief to flood-affected victims in KZN

21 kW Wind Energy generated, powering the Upper Blinkwater community
Youth Empowerment & Entrepreneurship

- 694 Students linked to income-generating opportunities via the SAYouth platform
- 259 Flood-affected informal traders supported through seed grants
- 226 Young people placed in various employment opportunities
- 216 SMMEs supported through training or seed grants
- 15 Young innovators granted seed funding to upscale their innovations

Innovation Challenges launched

- Digital Innovation Challenge,
- Tshwane Innovation Challenge,
- Ocean Economy Innovation Challenge,
- Green Innovation Challenge South Africa

Top SGDs contributed to
Key Results & Highlights
2.1 INCLUSIVE, JUST AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

UNDP implements a set of programmes to strengthen capacities and access to equitable social and economic opportunities, as well as to increase productivity and enhance value chain development, placing priority on women, youth and other marginalized groups. The Country Office (CO) works with diverse stakeholders in government, the private sector, academia and civil society.
UNDP supported the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) towards meeting skill needs in a post-COVID-19 economy in the automotive sector by enhancing automotive training programmes in three TVET colleges through a series of interventions. Funded by the Japan Government, the interventions included the delivery of automotive training, lecturer upskilling, provision of ICT equipment and automotive components, digital content for soft skill development, and the development of digital systems to link graduates to employment opportunities. Some highlight from this intervention include;

**R6.5 million** in ICT equipment support, automotive components, mechanical, electronic, and electrical workshop equipment and tools, and digital content and simulators.
Equipment support
ICT equipment and automotive components provided to Coastal KZN TVET College, Northlink College and Tshwane South College

Lecturer Development
Training capacity development of 59 TVET college lecturers and staff members.

SAYouth platform
Promoted 12,230 TVET college students registered, with 694 having found earning opportunities

64 youth trained through accredited training for entry-level manufacturing
Female 26 Male 38

Toyota Manufacturing Academy launched, training of 24 youths
Female 10 Male 14

Key results and highlights
BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

UNDP South Africa intensified its efforts to bridge the digital divide by championing initiatives to build and improve ICT infrastructure, impart digital skills to youth and entrepreneurs, and promote innovation. Building on the 2021 success of the UNDP and Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) project to deliver low-cost internet using TV White Space (TVWS) technology, UNDP reached 13 communities in townships and rural areas across eight provinces.

Moreover, UNDP and ILO conducted a mapping exercise on digital skills needs and opportunities in KZN and the Eastern Cape (EC), leading to training programmes delivered in the two provinces, including launching a Digital Innovation Challenges for SMMES targeting 10 SMMEs and 70 youth innovators. A partnership between UNDP and Al Baraka Bank led to the establishment of the Olwandle High School Computer Lab in KZN.

13 Communities in townships and rural areas across eight provinces provided with Wi-Fi connection since 2021.
Nine SMMEs capacitated and trained for the installation and operationalisation of the TWS network infrastructure. (*since 2021)

Digital skills training to 1,124 (959 employed; 165 unemployed) youths. 165 unemployed youth now placed into job opportunities.

Digital Innovation Challenge
Three winning innovations received support to further their products, and 24 of 70 youth innovators placed in 12-24 months internships.

Internet connection to 156 public facilities including schools, hospitals and taxi ranks, totalling to 51,326 daily users. 781 households and 120 small businesses connected, and 59 job opportunities created. (*since 2021)

$24,000
To set up a brand-new computer lab.
ENHANCING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

To foster equitable and sustainable economic development that benefits all segments of society, UNDP continued its efforts to support SMMEs and informal traders (mostly women-led) through several interventions aimed at increasing market access and business recovery. UNDP, in partnership with USAID and Business Leadership South Africa, provided business development training to 190 SMMEs (59% female-owned) in Gauteng to increase their access to markets. Seven SMMEs signed offtake agreements with corporates in the country.

In responding to the 2022 devastating floods that hit KZN, UNDP with the 22-on-Sloane provided financial grants to 259 flood-affected informal traders for recovery. The financial grants were used to replace affected equipment such as sewing machines and buy necessary materials to enable business continuity.

100 000 USD grant funding to support 259 flood-affected informal traders in KwaZulu-Natal for business recovery.
STRENGTHENING TRANSFORMATIVE AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

UNDP implements programmes and projects to strengthen transformative governance and enhance service delivery to enable a capable developmental state and improve and promote inclusive public participation in the implementation of government national priorities, ensuring that no one is left behind. Through our work, we support the peaceful resolution of conflicts and promote the rule of law and access to justice, citizen security and human rights.
INSTITUTION BUILDING FOR IMPROVED SERVICE DELIVERY

UNDP carried forward its efforts to support strong governance and building institutional capability in the public sector through several interventions across the country. Together with the Centre for Public Service Innovation, UNDP is supporting the rollout of the Let’s Talk Digital platform, an innovative system for citizen engagement and citizen-orientated communication, to support service delivery in local governments in five municipalities and their citizens. The platform has provided a real-time communication interface, linking citizens and authorities in the wards for service delivery reporting and response, especially for water services, applications for indigent services and billing services.

Moreover, UNDP teamed up with the Eastern Cape Provincial Government in continuing efforts to build the capacity of the local government towards the implementation of the District Development Model (DDM). A case study on the district planning and budgeting process in OR Tambo, Sarah Bartman, and Chris Hani districts was undertaken which generated lessons that informed the improvements in the development of a ‘DDM One Plan’ for each district and metro, promoting greater horizontal and vertical integration. As a result, a geographical information platform was developed to identify and track the status of catalytic projects on a local, provincial and national level to provide both detailed and high-level information to government officials, decision-makers and potential partners and funders of the projects in the districts.

Online learning materials and digital platform
Developed on district planning to be used by the National School of Government and higher education institutions.
Let’s Talk APP rolled out in 87 wards within local municipalities of King Sabata Dalindyebo, Nyandeni, Lephalale and Bela Bela.

139 Respondents endorsed the App to be user-friendly and improving the turnaround of service delivery.

20 Internships offered to youth to support the rollout of the Let’s Talk App.
STRENGTHENING DISASTER MANAGEMENT

To respond to the floods disaster in KZN, as part of a UN-joint emergency response, UNDP placed four UN specialist volunteers (UNVs) at the KZN Provincial Disaster Management Centre (PDMC) offices. The UNVs have supported the development and review of disaster management plans and frameworks, as well as provincial disaster risk profiles in the districts, to strengthen their institutional and technical capacity for disaster risk management and coordination. Moreover, UNDP, together with FoodForward SA provided a comprehensive relief package including food items and temporary shelter.

Nearly 5000 flood-affected victims received daily meals including breakfast, lunch and dinner, totaling 1,064,457 meals distributed.
Key results and highlights

**R2.3m**
worth of food items
procured to provide relief to flood victims.

**7**
district
municipalities
benefited from the contribution of UNVs.

**Approximately**
**15,000**
daily meals were provided in 28 relief sites across KZN.
PROMOTING CIVIC EDUCATION AND STRENGTHENING ELECTORAL INTEGRITY

The Digital Observers Platform, which UNDP developed with the Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC), is now being used as a common management platform for observer registration and accreditation processes, strengthening the credibility and transparency of electoral processes. The platform enables accredited observer groups to conduct real-time monitoring and reporting on the electoral process, with access to reports by citizens. 51 local citizen observers were trained on their role and responsibility in monitoring pre-election, election day and post-election phases to enhance transparency and trust in the electoral process in preparation for the 2024 National and Provincial elections. This training integrated gender as one of the components of the course and focused on ensuring gender balance in the composition of the observer mission and the role of the observer mission in identifying gender-related issues during their observation mission.

Additionally, UNDP worked with Activate Change Drivers to produce a novel civic education toolkit to facilitate civic education in communities across all nine provinces. Community members, especially youth, now understand how to engage local government representatives and hold them accountable for issues affecting their communities.

21 Civic Education Trainings Conducted Nationally To Capacitate Youth On Local Government and Community Development.
Key results and highlights
PROMOTING SOCIAL COHESION

UNDP has been supporting the revision of the 2012 social cohesion strategy by working with the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture (DSAC), stakeholders from the arts and culture sector, civil society and other government departments. As a result, the revised strategy will be represented to the Cabinet in 2023 as a policy framework to strengthen coordination and ensure dedicated resources for local implementation.

In contributing to national efforts to address the scourge of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF), UNDP organized the Not In My Name Campaign on GBVF awareness with DSAC and its provincial wings, other government departments, CSO, regional bodies, and academic institutions. The campaigns were activated across seven provinces that are considered GBV hotspots, including the Mangosuthu University of Technology and the University of Venda.
CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREENING SOUTH AFRICA’S ECONOMY

The UNDP Nature, Climate, and Energy programmes stand at the forefront of global efforts to address the interconnected challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, and energy transition. We recognize the urgent need to protect our planet, promote sustainable development, and ensure a secure and clean energy future for all. By working with governments, local communities, and other stakeholders, UNDP facilitates the conservation and sustainable management of ecosystems, promoting biodiversity and the services they provide. These efforts not only safeguard valuable natural resources but also enhance resilience to climate change, reduce disaster risks, and support sustainable livelihoods.
PROMOTING CLEAN AND RENEWABLE ENERGY IN RURAL AREAS

UNDP and the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) under the South African Wind and Energy project, established a wind-solar hybrid mini-grid in the Upper Blinkwater community in the Eastern Cape province, contributing to the development of renewable energy technology solutions. The community now has access to affordable clean energy, shifting from wood and paraffin as the main source of fuel. Further complementing this work, UNDP installed groundwater-pumping wind turbines in two remote primary schools (Matyantya and Kleinbooi) in the same province.

21 kW of electricity generated through the wind-solar hybrid mini-grid

177 people benefiting in 57 households

55% Female-headed
45% Male-headed

Electricity Data Centre established to collect and store electricity data for research and analysis on integrated power systems for future developments of renewable energy sources.

2 Wind Turbines installed, providing access to clean water for

551 Students
16 Teachers
JUST ENERGY TRANSITION AND YOUTH IN CLIMATE ACTION

To accompany the Government of South Africa in its endeavour to transition into renewable energy, UNDP hosted the Just Energy Transition Hackathon to capacitate over 120 youth in concepts relating to the just transition and design thinking, resulting in 15 unique solutions being developed. The solutions included artificial intelligence to separate food waste at source, modular aquaponic systems powered by solar panels, conversion of waste cooking oil to biodiesel, and a piezoelectricity device to capture kinetic energy.

UNDP and the South African government hosted a side event on the margins of the 77th United Nations General Assembly on Just Transition to Deliver Climate Actions in Africa. The event convened African ministers, thought leaders, academia, and other international development partners to discuss the future of energy finance, policy, and technical support needed on the African continent to deliver a "Just Energy Transition" for climate action.

5 of the Just Energy solutions were provided with grant funding for upscaling.
PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE LAND AND WATER BASIN MANAGEMENT

UNDP and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), through sustainable land management initiatives (e.g. rangeland rehabilitation, bush clearing, alien plants control, etc.), placed 345,321ha under improved Sustainable Land Management practices in three landscapes of Karoo, Olifants and EC.

345,321 ha placed under improved Sustainable Land Management practices in three landscapes.
PROMOTING CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

UNDP in partnership with DFFE reviewed the Benefit Sharing Agreement for African ginger R&D to make benefit-sharing commitments to communities in three provinces. Three ha of African ginger has been planted in Mpumalanga province for clinical trials on the treatment of inflammatory and allergic diseases. The ginger project has received international recognition as a high-impact social project.

In order to connect investors with bankable projects and expand the biodiversity economy, UNDP, through its flagship BIOFIN programme, supported DFFE in developing and launching the biodiversity sector investment portal. The portal encourages the growth of connections between communities and investor-ready and bankable intermediaries to ensure that the sector can contribute to the expansion of the economy and the welfare of society while preserving our nation’s rich biodiversity. It also promotes investment opportunities in the biodiversity sector.
UNDP Small Grants Program Highlights

UNDP implements community-based initiatives through the GEF-Small Grants Programme (SGP), on focal areas of climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation, land degradation, sustainable forest management, international waters and chemical and waste management. In 2022, 17 community projects were under implementation in SGP’s priority landscape, the Vhembe Biosphere Reserve, with funding support of **US$550,000**.
Climate-smart agricultural enterprises

Through the SGP, we supported a transformative initiative designed to foster resilient and sustainable farming practices in the face of climate change. With a focus on promoting climate-smart agriculture, this project aims to empower farmers, enhance agricultural productivity, and mitigate the negative impacts of climate variability. The projects implemented are actively contributing to the development of the local food value chain and enhancing food security, as well as fostering a shift towards sustainable agriculture practices while empowering individuals and communities to take charge of their economic well-being. Some highlights of these initiatives include:

Enterprise Development

81 smallholder farmers supported through in-field training on climate-smart agriculture.

GBV Victims

Supported in agri-business, gained experience in agroecology methods of farming and business management

Youth Farmers

7 youth poultry and livestock farmers generated profit to expand their businesses.

Climate change mitigation and waste management

UNDP recognizes the urgent need to address climate change and its associated challenges, including waste management. Through our climate change mitigation and waste management initiatives, we are committed to promoting sustainable practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate impacts, and effectively manage waste streams. Some highlights of these initiatives include:

Income Generation

over five tonnes of plastic waste and biomass collected to produce low-smoke eco-briquettes and recycled plastic paving bricks.

Job creation

6 youths now in employment collecting plastic waste and biomass

Biomass Digesters

400 Children benefit from the installation of 2 x 8 cubic meter biogas digesters in two primary schools

2 women

4 Men
Biodiversity conservation (including wetland conservation & ecotourism)

SGP also supported projects to mitigate human-wildlife conflict, poaching of animals and illegal harvesting of plant species in the 2,500-hectare buffer zone of the Makuya Nature Reserve. Additionally, an adopt-a-river project was supported to clear waste in wetlands, as a the implementation of a project to revive sacred heritage sites which had long been forgotten by communities. These initiatives continue to ensure the health of our planet, harmonious existence humans and wildlife, and sustainable ecotourism.

- **Job creation for 5 people**, training of 8 rangers to patrol the buffer zone and clearing of roads for patrolling, helping to minimize poaching incidences and illegal harvesting of plants.
- **R2 million** in additional funding mobilised to erect an electric fence as a preventive measure around the buffer zone, thus consolidating the SGP’s support.
- **25 springs** were rehabilitated, and their surroundings were paved with stones to prevent mud from filtering in and fenced with Bamboo reeds and coral trees.
- **57 waste collection stands** were installed along the roads to avoid waste dispersal in streets.
- **25 springs** were rehabilitated, and their surroundings were paved with stones to prevent mud from filtering in and fenced with Bamboo reeds and coral trees.
- **57 waste collection stands** were installed along the roads to avoid waste dispersal in streets.
- **Hiking trails for tourists** established, connecting seven sacred heritage & natural sites on the Nwall Heritage Route.
- **10 homesteads** representing Venda culture have been selected to be homestays for tourists.
- **Waste clearing in 20 wetlands covering 4 hectares** of land and **25.4 tones** of waste collected;
Innovation & Gender
(In pursuit of achieving sustainable development across economic, social, and environmental dimensions, UNDP continues to place a heavy emphasis on gender — as a driver of inclusive development — and innovation — as a core component of achieving the SDGs by 2030. We continue to place gender equality at the centre of all programmatic interventions to ensure that we and partner institutions deliver gender-responsive solutions. A similar form of integration is present with innovation the Accelerator Lab (Acclab) which is designed to close the gap between the current practices of international development and the accelerated pace of change.)
AccLab Highlights

In 2022 AccLab supported the Country Office (CO) in embedding innovative methodologies and processes in the design and execution of programmes. This included practices such as systems and design thinking, portfolio approaches, experimentation, co-creation, prototyping, collective intelligence and sensemaking. The AccLab also leveraged its partnerships within the national innovation ecosystem to implement, co-fund and promote CO projects. A significant contribution to the CO in 2022 was AccLab’s ability to mobilise resources, build strong and multisectoral partnerships, and create knowledge, to grow the CO’s work and position it on the global scale (e.g. AccLab SA was selected to participate in the Global AccLab Design Studio on Collective Intelligence for Climate Change).

The AccLab mobilised euro 215 000 in funding from the German Development Agency, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), to scale UNDP’s digital skills programme in KZN and EC for youth and young entrepreneurs in basic and intermediate digital skills through Business Process Enabling South Africa (BPESA). USD 867 000 was mobilized from the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) to implement a project focusing on bolstering ecosystem support to improve the success rate of innovative entrepreneurs in South Africa; UNDP committed match-funding to this 3-year project. Moreover, through global competitive processes, the AccLab was selected for the Japan SDG Innovation Challenge, Digital X Innovation Challenge, and the Collective Intelligence Design Studio, receiving catalytic funding to support various initiatives in deepening knowledge, inclusive enterprise development, and youth empowerment.
Other 2022 projects include the Tshwane Innovation Challenge, Ocean Economy Innovation Challenge, Green Challenge South Africa, and the Biomimicry Collective Intelligence Platform.
Gender Highlights

We continued to centre gender in the majority of UNDP’s key interventions for 2022, promoting gender-responsive programming, building capacity, and GBV awareness raising across the country. Some highlights include;

32 women entrepreneurs affected by floods provided with seed grants to recover their businesses.
Wendy Houses
built to provide disaggregated accommodation for flood victims in KZN to mitigate the risk of potential sexual abuse in the shelters.

Women Councillors
trained on gender-responsive budgeting for their wards in KZN.

“Not In My Name”
Approx 3000 students, lecturers, and university staff reached in the GBV campaigns
4 UNDP Operations
Operations

The Operations Unit stands at the heart of our organization, driving the seamless execution and efficient functioning of our company’s core processes. The Operations Unit continued to provide effective operational support to ensure the successful delivery of UNDP programmes. From overseeing financial management, supply chain, human resources, ICT support, and travel, to optimizing operational efficiency and ensuring impeccable service delivery, the team has consistently demonstrated excellence in their relentless pursuit of operational excellence. In this section, some key accomplishments and highlights include;
$10,543,933 disbursed in payments

UNDP Annual Report 2023

Procurement value
- Procurements to the value of $6 million from $7.2 million in 2021 (17% reduction).

ATLAS to Quantum Migration
- Successfully managed and now live.

Travel
- $394,216

Approximately
- 16141 IT cases handled and resolved

Learning Sessions
- 7

Procurement value
- 1392 financial transactions processed in support of the CO’s and other agency services

Institutional expenditure
- Decreased by 21%, a reduction from $2.71 million (2021) to $2.15 million (2022).

Human capital
- 8 CO recruitment completed for both programme and operational roles

International postings
- 2 National staff members transitioned to international posts

Learning and Development
- 3

IT cases handled and resolved
- approximately 16141
Programme Budget and Delivery

The Operations Unit stands at the heart of our organization, driving the seamless execution and efficient functioning of our company’s core processes. The Operations Unit continued to provide effective operational support to ensure the successful delivery of UNDP programmes. From overseeing financial management, supply chain, human resources, ICT support, and travel, to optimizing operational efficiency and ensuring impeccable service delivery, the team has consistently demonstrated excellence in their relentless pursuit of operational excellence. In this section, some key accomplishments and highlights include;

2022 Programme Budget & Expenditure

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<th>Delivery RATE</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>Expenditure ($)</td>
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2022 Institutional Management Costs

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<tr>
<td>Total Budget ($)</td>
<td>2 012 706</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure ($)</td>
<td>2 012 706</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Programme Budget & Expenditure breakdown

Innovation
- Budget ($): 484,877.00
- Expenditure ($): 401,294.00
- Delivery RATE: 83%

Youth Employment & Economic Recovery
- Budget ($): 2,574,873.00
- Expenditure ($): 2,465,037.00
- Delivery RATE: 96%

Institution Building for Improved Delivery
- Budget ($): 6,914,818.00
- Expenditure ($): 4,772,279.00
- Delivery RATE: 99%

Management Programme Support
- Budget ($): 461,954.00
- Expenditure ($): 421,202.00
- Delivery RATE: 91%

Green Economy Development and Just Energy Transition
- Budget ($): 2,574,873.00
- Expenditure ($): 2,465,037.00
- Delivery RATE: 47%

Disaster Management
- Budget ($): 400,000.00
- Expenditure ($): 401,551.00
- Delivery RATE: 100%
Communication, Partnerships, and Knowledge Management

In today’s interconnected world, effective communication, strategic partnerships, and continuous knowledge creation have become essential pillars for UNDP to enhance programme delivery. We recognize the immense value these elements bring to our operations, enabling us to reach diverse audiences, forge mutually beneficial collaborations, and foster innovation. In this section, we proudly present our endeavours in communications, partnerships, and knowledge creation over the past year, highlighting the milestones achieved, the valuable connections established, and the insights gained. In this section, some key accomplishments and highlights include;
15 Media Coverage
pieces published on TV, Print, and Online media.

3 Communication Products
Audio-visual communication products developed on Renewable Energy, Youth Empowerment, and Digital Skills.

Media Training
Internal media training conducted on field content collection.

Website Migration
Successful migration from WordPress to Drupal CMS.

Social Media Campaign
Social media campaign on the Climate Promise.
Partnerships

Partnerships have played a pivotal role in our journey towards delivering high-impact programmes. Recognizing that collaboration is essential to tackle complex global challenges, we have actively sought out strategic alliances with like-minded organizations, governments, and civil society groups. Through these partnerships, we have expanded our reach, pooled resources, and leveraged diverse expertise to drive tangible impact.
Some of Our Partners

From the People of Japan

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UNDP Annual Report 2023
Knowledge creation and management

Knowledge creation has been a driving force behind our pursuit of sustainable development. We have invested in research, data analysis, and knowledge-sharing initiatives to generate evidence-based insights and inform our decision-making processes.
Land Rights Tool and a Recordal of Rights Execution/Rollout Plan

To contribute to policy development, UNDP supported the Department of Agriculture Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) to develop a Recordal of Land Rights Tool and a Recordal of Rights Execution/Rollout Plan to increase transparency on existing land rights in the country; previously disadvantaged individuals and women have benefited from this initiative, with increased access to land and participation in land utilization for agricultural, housing or commercial purposes.

Social Insurance Schemes for the Informal Sector in South Africa with a focus on Women and Youth study

Knowledge creation has been a driving force behind our pursuit of sustainable development. We have invested in research, data analysis, and knowledge-sharing initiatives to generate evidence-based insights and inform our decision-making processes.
Biomimicry Collective Intelligence Platform

Learning from nature through biomimicry concepts, UNDP launched the Biomimicry Collective Intelligence Platform to support, educate, and share information on the creation and adoption of socially and environmentally sustainable solutions based on nature’s strategies of surviving over billions of years. The platform was informed by engagements with 200+ people from previously disadvantaged communities, who conceptualised 50+ nature-inspired innovations.

Civic Education Toolkit

Together with Activate! Change Drivers, UNDP produced the Civic Education Toolkit to empower young people and communities with tools and knowledge on local government, democracy, and active citizenry, including engagement methodologies to entrench democratic practices in society and foster community-based active citizenry. The toolkit sets out to promote collective accountability and the creation of conditions for young people to interrogate, question and continuously hold political representatives accountable through legitimate, non-violent and democratic means for meaningful change and social transformation.
5

Lessons Learned & Looking Forward
2022 Lessons Learnt

Effective monitoring and evaluation (M&E) practices are essential tools for organizations committed to achieving sustainable impact. At UNDP, we recognize the importance of robust M&E frameworks to measure progress, assess outcomes, and learn from our interventions. In this section, we highlight the valuable lessons we have gleaned from our 2022. By continuously monitoring our performance and evaluating our strategies, we aim to enhance our accountability, optimize our interventions, and drive meaningful change that aligns with our mission and vision.
While the UNDP is not primarily a humanitarian agency, its value in disaster risk reduction has been evident through its capacity and agility to address immediate needs and prepare for transformative interventions in the medium and long term. In the wake of the devastating floods in KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape, UNDP has recognized disaster risk reduction as an urgent emerging issue in the country. Building upon its emergency response and recovery efforts, UNDP has witnessed an increased demand from national and sub-national partners for capacity development, technical assistance in information management systems and tools, knowledge sharing, and expert support in the development of disaster management plans integrated within their broader development plans. This presents a significant opportunity for the UNDP to not only incorporate but also reinforce its commitment to disaster risk reduction within the country’s overall development agenda.

During the COP27, the Government of South Africa showcased climate action as its primary focus and introduced the innovative JET Investment Plan. This heightened level of government engagement in international dialogues and commitments has created favorable circumstances for the UNDP to forge partnerships with relevant stakeholders, initiate a JET project, and mobilize resources for clean energy solutions. Moreover, the government’s determined resolve to address the energy crisis in the country has served as a solid foundation for the UNDP to expedite the implementation of energy efficiency projects, further advancing sustainable development objectives.

Although skills training and job linking platforms were provided, the integration of candidates into work placements has been slower than expected. This is primarily due to many companies experiencing downtime and refraining from hiring, coinciding with the candidates’ readiness for placement. Therefore, it is crucial to establish a skills development and work placement program under the ownership of an industry body capable of engaging employers to anticipate specific job vacancies and determine the number of trained candidates they can accommodate. Securing upfront contractual agreements between training institutions and employers is essential to facilitate short-term work placements. This approach will enhance the absorption rate of candidates, providing them with valuable opportunities and signalling positive encouragement.
### Accronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>AccLab</strong></td>
<td>Accelerator Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CO</strong></td>
<td>Country Office</td>
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<td><strong>COVID-19</strong></td>
<td>Coronavirus disease</td>
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<td><strong>CPD</strong></td>
<td>Country Programme Document</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CSIR</strong></td>
<td>Council for Scientific and Industrial Research</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DDM</strong></td>
<td>District Development Model</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DFFE</strong></td>
<td>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DHET</strong></td>
<td>Department of Higher Education and Training</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DMRE</strong></td>
<td>Department of Mineral Resources and Energy</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DSI</strong></td>
<td>Department of Science and Innovation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GDP</strong></td>
<td>Gross Domestic Product</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ICT</strong></td>
<td>Information And Communications Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ILO</strong></td>
<td>International Labour Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>IMF</strong></td>
<td>International Monetary Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>JET</strong></td>
<td>Just Energy Transition</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NDMC</strong></td>
<td>National Disaster Management Centre</td>
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<td><strong>KZN</strong></td>
<td>KwaZulu-Natal</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>IEC</strong></td>
<td>Independent Electoral Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SMME</strong></td>
<td>Small, Micro, and Medium-Sized enterprise</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PSA</strong></td>
<td>Public Service Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SDGs</strong></td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goals</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SLM</strong></td>
<td>Sustainable Land Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TVET</strong></td>
<td>Technical Vocational Education and Training</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TVWS</strong></td>
<td>Television White Space</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>UNDP</strong></td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>UNEP</strong></td>
<td>United Nations Environment Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>UNICEF</strong></td>
<td>United Nations Children's Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>USAID</strong></td>
<td>United States Agency for International Development</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WRC</strong></td>
<td>Water Research Commission</td>
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