



Annual review

UNDP BELARUS: FROM STRATEGY TO IMPACT

2025

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FOREWORD



2025 is not just another mark on the calendar. It has been a year of profound reflection and decisive action. As the United Nations marked its 80th year and UNDP its 60th, our collective mission — to advance sustainable human development through multilateral cooperation — has never been more urgent.

In a world of rapid change and complex challenges, UNDP serves as a steadfast and reliable partner, adapting its approaches while holding firm to the core values of inclusion, innovation, and integrity. Our work in Belarus exemplifies this commitment.

We demonstrated strategic agility in an increasingly complex environment, securing partnerships with non-traditional donors and mobilizing innovative financing streams while maintaining strong programming across all sectors. This reflects our commitment to delivering tangible results for Belarus.

Guided by the understanding that sustainable development demands fundamental structural change, our primary focus was providing strategic, high-level support for Belarus' national development architecture. Our expertise directly contributed to the 2040 National Sustainable Development Strategy and six regional strategies, embedding the SDGs into the fabric of long-term planning.

Resilient development must be inclusive. That is why at the heart of our work lies an unwavering commitment to leave no one behind. In 2025, we supported 21 pilot initiatives addressing the specific needs of people with disabilities.

Recognizing that technological advancement must benefit all, we supported initiatives to equip local communities with digital skills and enhanced the vocational education system to expand opportunities for young people.

Economic inclusion was another key pillar of our work. Drawing on over 300 micronarratives from older citizens, our analysis helped ensure that silver entrepreneurship became a national priority, informing the state program Successful Entrepreneurship for 2026–2030 that will unlock the immense potential of this demographic group.

Our support was crucial in developing the methodology for the country's first National Multidimensional Poverty Index in 2024, which, in 2025, was submitted for international validation. This year we also initiated foundational work on a comprehensive National Wellbeing Index. These efforts are strengthening the evidence base for inclusive policymaking, ensuring that development strategies respond to lived realities rather than assumptions.

Our expert advice shaped the third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0), ensuring its alignment with the Long-Term Low Emissions

Development Strategy to 2050. This work is the bedrock of Belarus' climate action for the coming decade.

Resilience in development means maintaining progress despite mounting challenges. However, to build resilience, we must embrace innovation in all its forms — from digital transformation to green solutions and novel partnership models.

In 2025, we led a nationwide Digital Readiness and Artificial Intelligence Assessment, engaging over 10,500 stakeholders. This was more than an academic exercise. It informed the national Digital Development Strategy, the country's first-ever AI standards, and practical guidance for government to ensure digital projects generate real socio-economic impact. We assessed AI readiness in 11 leading enterprises and delivered the country's first official estimate of the data economy's contribution to GDP. This work helps bridge the gap between national policy and private-sector innovation, turning the promise of AI into a force for inclusive growth.

We then applied this innovative capacity directly to one of the most pressing resilience challenges: climate and environmental shocks. The modernization of the disaster mapping portal improved forecasting of natural disasters, such as floods and wildfires, and enhanced identification of disaster-affected areas, strengthening national preparedness while reinforcing the country's capacity to manage risk and adapt to a changing climate.

The launch of the project for forest fire prevention marked an important step forward in both environmental resilience and South-South cooperation.

These efforts reflect our core conviction that in an era of constrained financing and competing priorities, development needs strong

collaboration. It requires connecting national capacities with global knowledge, national institutions with multilateral frameworks, and technological innovation with community-level implementation. We also recognize the challenges of operating in a dynamic context. We have learned to prioritize what delivers the greatest impact, to scale what works, and to adjust quickly when conditions change.

As we advance into 2026 and beyond, UNDP Belarus will deepen its focus on digital transformation, the climate change agenda, energy efficiency, and South-South cooperation. The combination of technological innovation, growing climate ambition, and renewed commitment to multilateral cooperation creates space for transformative progress.

UNDP Belarus stands ready to support partners in seizing these opportunities, translating global frameworks into national action, and ensuring that the benefits of development reach everyone.

Thank you for your partnership and your commitment to our shared goals.



Renfei Liu

UNDP Resident Representative in Belarus

ABOUT UNDP



As a leading development agency within the UN system, UNDP is committed to reducing inequalities and supporting national efforts to accelerate sustainable human development. Worldwide, UNDP connects countries to knowledge, expertise, and resources to empower people in building better lives.

UNDP is at the heart of the UN Development System and serves as the integrator for collective action to implement the Sustainable Development Goals.

UNDP works in **170** countries and territories with diverse contexts and partners with national governments to amplify development benefits for their people.

Guided by the UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-2025, we pursue three key directions of change:

1 STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION

2 LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

3 BUILDING RESILIENCE

We address these priorities through six signature solutions:

1 POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

2 RESILIENCE

3 GOVERNANCE

4 GENDER EQUALITY

5 ENERGY

6 ENVIRONMENT

We leverage our impact through three enablers: digitalization, strategic innovation and development financing, guided by the UNDP Digital Strategy 2022-2025 and a range of flagship analytical documents, such as the Human Development Index and the Multidimensional Poverty Index.

UNDP IN 2025

In 2025, UNDP navigated through a complex global landscape marked by a significant slowdown in human development progress, the slowest since 1990. In response, UNDP's global work was characterized by several key trends.

AI AND DIGITALIZATION

The primary focus was the strategic emphasis on digital transformation and Artificial Intelligence (AI) as potential catalysts to reignite development, a theme central to the UNDP 2025 Human Development Report.

CLIMATE AND POVERTY

Simultaneously, UNDP was deepening its integrated, systems-level approach by analysing the critical nexus between multidimensional poverty and climate change, as highlighted in the 2025 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).

WHAT'S NEXT?

A Strategic Plan for 2026-2029 sharpened UNDP's focus on delivering systemic change through integrated solutions tailored to national priorities. The new strategic framework emphasizes four interconnected objectives:

1 PROSPERITY FOR ALL

2 EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

3 CRISIS RESILIENCE

4 HEALTHY PLANET

They are powered by three cross-cutting accelerators designed to drive progress:

— **DIGITAL AND AI TRANSFORMATION**

— **GENDER EQUALITY**

— **SUSTAINABLE FINANCE**



OUR MISSION IN BELARUS



UNDP has been present in Belarus since 1992. The organization's mandate in the country is determined by the Agreement between the Government of Belarus and UNDP of 24 September 1992, that requires UNDP “to support and supplement national efforts in solving the most important challenges of economic development, and to promote social progress and better standards of life.”

We aim to accelerate progress towards the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, leveraging our global network, sectoral expertise, and trusted partnerships. Guided by the Country Programme Document for Belarus 2021-2025, our work was focused on four priority areas, aligned with national development choices:

1 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ON THE PRINCIPLES OF GREEN AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

2 IMPLEMENTATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION

3 DEVELOPMENT OF AN EFFECTIVE DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM

4 GREATER PARTICIPATION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC LIFE



STRATEGIC POSITIONING AND ADAPTABILITY IN A CHALLENGING CONTEXT



The year 2025 marks the completion of the UNDP Country Programme for Belarus (2021-2025), providing an opportunity to reflect on a cycle defined by both challenges and achievements.

The Independent Country Programme Evaluation presents a clear and compelling picture: UNDP operated with exceptional efficiency and resilience within one of the most complex geopolitical and operational landscapes in the region.

A key strategic finding of the evaluation is that UNDP's true value was not measured simply by the funds it dispersed, but by its role as a trusted, agile, and catalytic partner for Belarus. Its efficiency was demonstrated through a strategic pivot:

TARGETED INTERVENTIONS

From broad funding to providing targeted, high-leverage inputs such as policy expertise and innovative pilot models that empowered national partners to drive change.

CONTINUITY OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES

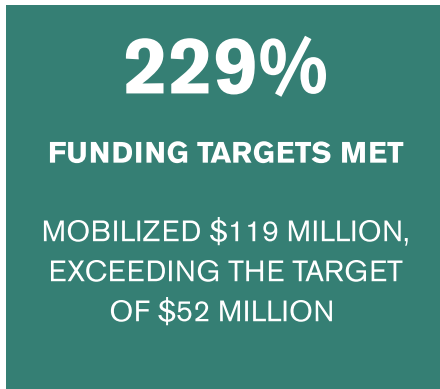
By leveraging its global procurement architecture to deliver critical health supplies and manage international grants when other channels were constrained, ensuring the continuity of essential services.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

And by successfully mobilizing **229%** of its initial funding target in a constricted donor environment.

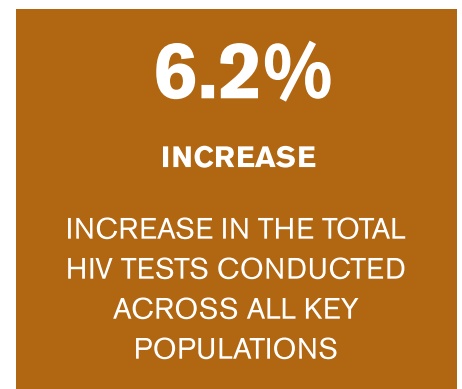
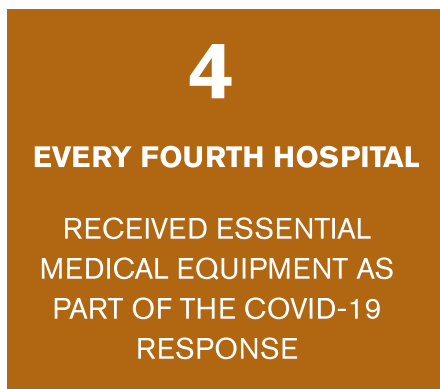
2021-2025 IMPACT SNAPSHOT

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE & RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

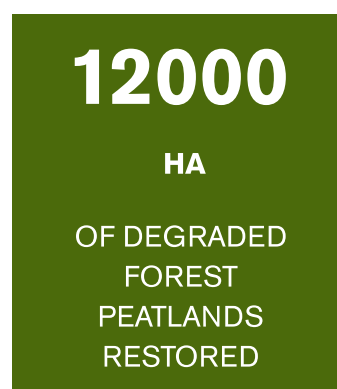


IMPACT & DELIVERY

HEALTH SYSTEM STRENGTHENING & SERVICE CONTINUITY



ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE



GREEN AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

134

BUSINESSES

SUPPORTED WITH \$5.4 MILLION IN FUNDING, PRIMARILY IN UNDERSERVED AREAS

650

JOBS

CREATED THROUGH UNDP-SUPPORTED BUSINESS INITIATIVES

500%

INCREASE

IN ECOTOURISM REVENUE IN PILOT PROTECTED AREAS (FROM \$23,000 TO \$144,060)

GOVERNANCE, DIGITALIZATION, AND DATA

10500

STAKEHOLDERS

ENGAGED IN THE DIGITAL AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE READINESS ASSESSMENT

94%

OF SDG INDICATORS

TRACKED AND REPORTED ON THE NATIONAL DATA PORTAL WITH UNDP SUPPORT

6

REGIONS

SUPPORTED IN DEVELOPING REGIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES



2025 AT A GLANCE

2025 was a year of strategic achievement for UNDP Belarus, marked by significant progress across our core transformation pathways. Despite a challenging operational context, our ability to innovate and build diverse partnerships enabled us to deliver critical results.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

DRIVING GREEN TRANSFORMATION

UNDP provided expert support for Belarus' ambitious Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0)—the country's official climate action plan under the Paris Agreement—aligning it with the country's long-term low-greenhouse-gas-emission development strategy. We advanced sustainable ecotourism and supported the development of a draft energy security strategy aimed at boosting local energy sources, including renewables, for 2026–2030.

SHAPING THE DIGITAL FUTURE

We co-hosted the first AI4Development Forum in Belarus, convening over 250 leaders to shape the national AI agenda. Our nationwide Digital Readiness and Artificial Intelligence Assessment engaged over **10,500** stakeholders, informing the new Digital Development Strategy for 2026–2030. We supported the development of Belarus' first-ever national AI standards and a methodology to assess the data economy's contribution to GDP.

FOSTERING AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

We implemented **21** local SDG pilot initiatives focused on vulnerable groups and played a key role in integrating support for "silver entrepreneurship" into the national state program "Successful Entrepreneurship" for 2026–2030.

BUILDING HUMAN CAPITAL

We continued to strengthen the vocational education and training (VET) system. The VI Republican Professional Skills Competition "ProfSkills Belarus 2025" in Minsk brought together **400** participants, including international contestants and persons with special needs.

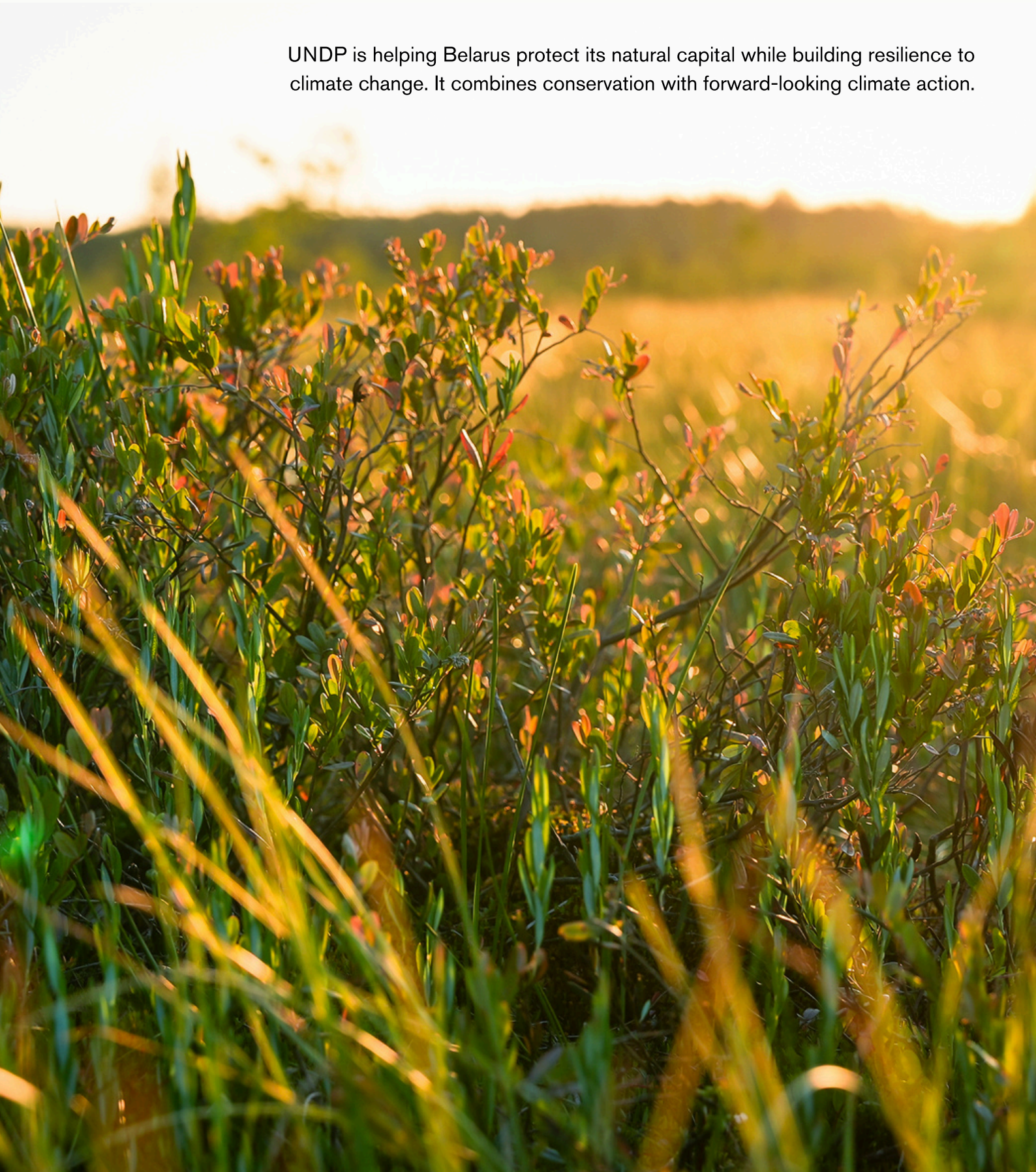
FORGING NEW PARTNERSHIPS

We continued our biodiversity conservation initiative with funding from the United Kingdom. We also advanced negotiations with the Eurasian Development Bank for future green energy investments and diversified our funding base, working with China under the South-South cooperation framework to safeguard Belarus' forests.

TRANSFORMATION PATHWAY I

FOSTERING A GREEN AND RESILIENT FUTURE

UNDP is helping Belarus protect its natural capital while building resilience to climate change. It combines conservation with forward-looking climate action.



FORGED IN FIRE



As climate patterns shift, forest fires intensify across Belarus, with 1,220 hectares lost to flames in the first half of 2025 alone.

Two days after his wedding in August 2014, Pavel Vertheyko faced a wall of flames consuming 65 hectares of young forest in Zhlobin district.

From that day on, the commitment to fostering a resilient future was no longer an abstract concept for Pavel.

As climate patterns shift and forest fire risks intensify across Belarus, with **1,220** hectares already lost to flames in the first half of 2025 alone, Pavel's decade-long journey from that spreading blaze to his present-day commitment reflects a broader truth.

Protecting forests for future generations now demands more than courage and traditional knowledge.

It requires the kind of international partnerships and innovative approaches that UNDP and partners help foster by bringing together governments, communities, and forestry professionals like Pavel who stand on the front lines of building a green and resilient future in an era of mounting environmental challenges.

[READ MORE](#)

A DEEPER AND MORE INCLUSIVE CLIMATE ACTION BLUEPRINT

UNDP was at the forefront of supporting Belarus' climate policy ambitions in 2025, having provided critical international and national expertise for the drafting of Belarus' third Nationally Determined Contribution.

The country officially adopted its NDC 3.0 at the national level and submitted it to the UNFCCC on 10 November 2025.

↓ 42% UNCONDITIONAL EMISSIONS REDUCTION

↓ 47% CONDITIONAL TARGET BY 2035 FROM 1990 LEVELS

The plan outlines an ambitious climate strategy focused on the energy, transport, and industrial sectors through fuel switching, electrification, and technological modernization.

Achieving these climate goals demands coherent policy across economic sectors and broad public buy-in.

UNDP ensured the Long-Term Low Greenhouse Gas Emissions Development Strategy to 2050 was fully aligned with these new targets and provided strategic advice on institutional arrangements for NDC implementation.

In November 2025, with continued UNDP support, Belarus became a member of the NDC Partnership network. The membership allows Belarus to collaborate with members and partners of this organization worldwide, including countries and institutions, to access expertise and funding that can help turn the country's ambitious climate goals into actionable policies and projects.

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WHY THE NEXT MOVE BELONGS TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE?

The NDC 3.0 is notable for integrating such key dimensions as nature-based solutions, gender equality, and youth engagement.



Through its flagship Global Climate Promise, UNDP is helping shape the next generation of climate pledges (NDC 3.0) with a unified strategy across 140 countries.

UNDP prioritizes the active engagement of youth in the design, delivery, and review of these commitments to ensure their success.

This means recognizing young people not as passive recipients but as vital agents of change and strategic partners in raising climate ambition and ensuring accountability.

By engaging schoolchildren in climate science training, UNDP helps develop green skills that turn interest into expertise and action.

A youth town hall, held in alignment with the NDC 3.0 development, actively engaged **180** students and teachers, incorporating their perspectives into the country's climate commitments.

[READ MORE](#)

NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON CLIMATE ACTION AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY



The climate agenda was promoted nationwide through our support for the XVIII Republican Ecological Forum.

Held under the auspices of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Belarus, the event engaged over **400** participants in high-level dialogue on climate action and green transition.

UNDP supported national dialogue platforms on climate mitigation and adaptation, nature-based solutions, and climate education.

[READ MORE](#)

AT UNDP, WE SEE THE NEXT FRONTIER OF GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT CLEARLY: ADVANCING HUMAN WELL-BEING WHILE RADICALLY REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL PRESSURE.

RENFEI LIU

UNDP Resident Representative in Belarus

Plenary session on the Regional Climate Agenda in Belarus: Advancing Towards a Circular Economy

ADVANCING ENERGY TRANSITION AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY

To help the country unlock critical climate financing, we leveraged international expertise to provide advice on issuing green bonds — a key instrument for funding energy efficiency projects. Recognizing that the energy sector is the largest source of GHG emissions, we also delivered recommendations to enhance the national energy audit system.

This system is a vital tool for improving energy efficiency and, consequently, helping the country meet its climate obligations. This support was complemented by an assessment of the energy efficiency potential in the refrigeration sector, further aiding Belarus in implementing its commitments under the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol.

We assisted in drafting the Strategy for Energy Security and Local and Renewable Energy Sources for 2026–2030, focusing on local fuel sources.

READ MORE



BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Using core funds, UNDP modernized a digital mapping system for disaster prediction. This system improves the forecasting of natural disasters like floods and fires, helps delineate the boundaries of affected areas, and ensures the public is informed at the earliest stages.

To further build public preparedness, three videos were produced as training tools on how to behave during strong winds in cities and nature.

SAFEGUARDING FORESTS FROM FIRES



A landmark achievement in 2025 was the launch of the first China-funded Global Development and South-South Cooperation project.

With a budget of \$2 million, the initiative aims to enhance forest fire protection and improve local livelihoods.

Launched in partnership with the Ministry of Forestry in July 2025, the project immediately began procuring essential fire protection equipment, directly strengthening the capacity of forestry services to safeguard Belarus' vital natural ecosystems.

A critical component of the project focused on community education around forest fire prevention and early detection.

By equipping local residents with practical knowledge and skills, the initiative fostered greater environmental awareness and cultivated responsible stewardship practices that reduce fire risk and protect vital forest ecosystems.

[READ MORE](#)



GREEN TRAVEL, LASTING IMPACT

Environmental protection and economic growth can go hand-in-hand when guided by effective management, strategic foresight, and clearly defined priorities. Tourism can foster education, create meaningful employment, and unlock opportunities for both conservation and communities. In 2025, with support from the Russian Federation, UNDP continued to enhance ecotourism infrastructure and build capacity in the pilot nature reserves.



- 1** A third passenger motorboat was delivered to the Osveisky nature reserve, and its year-round glamping site became operational.
- 2** At the Ozery Nature Reserve, a unique narrow gauge railway was modernized.
- 3** An interactive digital map of all protected areas was finalized, making ecotourism more accessible.
- 4** Modernized websites and virtual tours of the Sporovsky, Vygonoshchanskoye, and Blue Spring nature reserves increased internet traffic by **3,200** visits per month.

These efforts were promoted at major exhibitions like Holiday 2025 and Ecology Expo 2025, generating new ecotourism partnerships.

We also helped raise the visibility of Yelnya Nature Reserve through a social media campaign, contributing to greater public awareness of its ecological significance.

In 2025, UNDP led a shift in how ecotourism is managed by Belarus' nature reserves.

Success stems from recognizing that authentic ecotourism must weave together environmental protection, community engagement, and economic viability.

The reserves partnered with local communities, promoting volunteering, developing ecotourism clusters, and ensuring local service providers were integral to tourist experiences.

READ MORE

PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY: THE SPECKLED GROUND SQUIRREL



With its light-brown fur adorned by distinctive white spots, the spotted souslik makes its home across sun-drenched meadows and weathered pastures where grass grows short and wild.

Once branded a crop pest in the 20th century, these enchanting creatures were pushed to the brink of extinction in Belarus. Yet, with their impossibly fluffy coats and soulful dark eyes, the rare rodents captivate every heart they encounter.

[READ MORE](#)

Recognizing that ecotourism can breathe life into both conservation and local economies, in 2025, UNDP and the UK Embassy in Belarus continued their joint conservation initiative—transforming the spotted souslik from a threatened species into a driver of wildlife tourism.



EDUCATING FOR THE FUTURE

Building a green future means investing in the next generation. In 2025, we strengthened climate-oriented education by producing and disseminating the Climate Box toolkit.

155

**PRINTED COPIES
DISSEMINATED**



220

**EDUCATORS TRAINED ON
CLIMATE CHANGE**



680

**SCHOOLCHILDREN
ENGAGED IN CLIMATE
EDUCATION**





PROTECTED NATURE, GREEN TRANSITION, AND CLIMATE
ACTION LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR SUSTAINABLE
GROWTH.

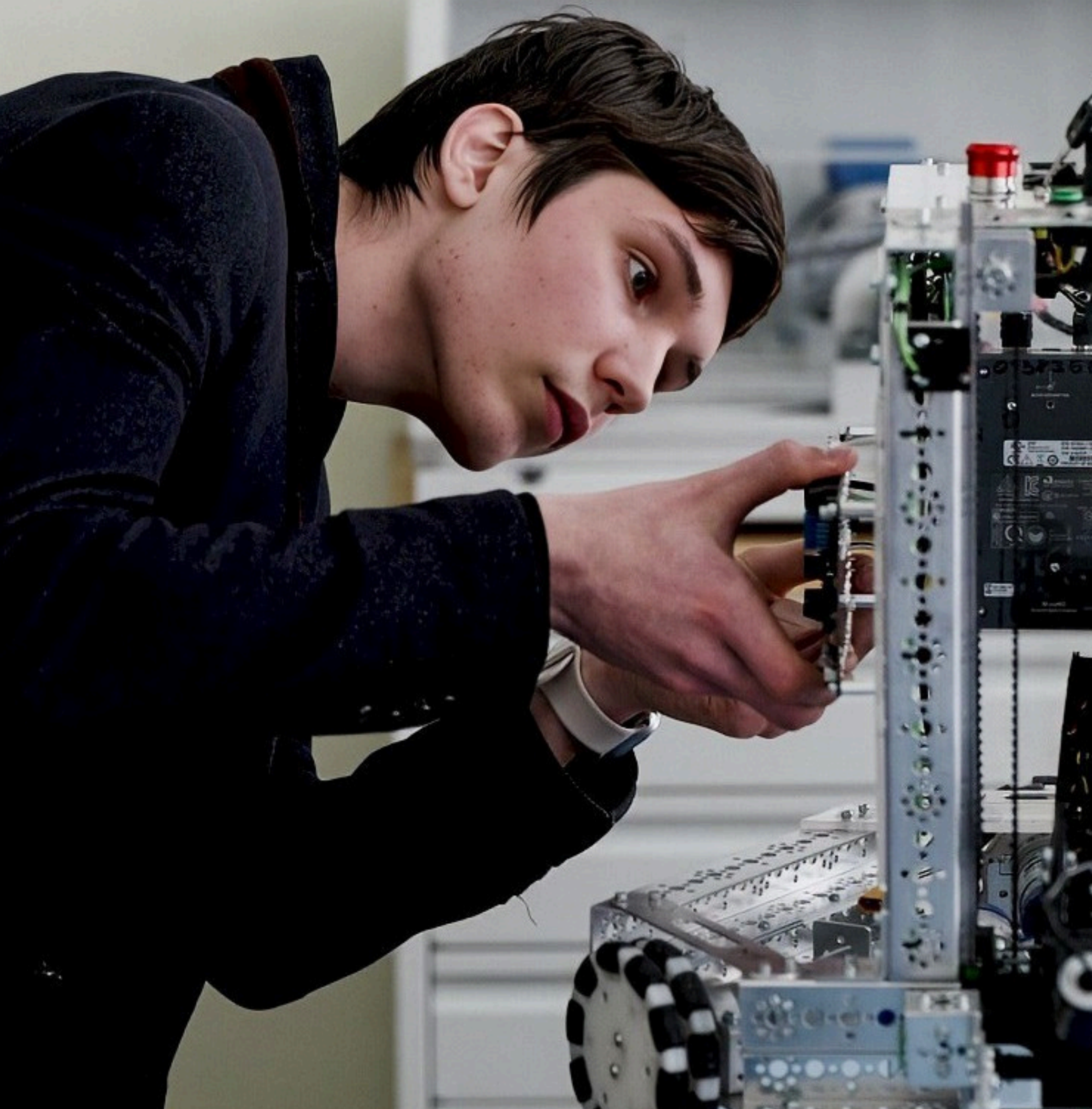
YET, BELARUS' ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
DEPENDS EQUALLY ON THE WORKFORCE AND DIGITAL
INFRASTRUCTURE THAT TURNS ENVIRONMENTAL
AMBITION INTO ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY.

**BUILDING THESE FUTURE-READY CAPACITIES IS
WHERE OUR FOCUS TURNS NEXT.**

TRANSFORMATION PATHWAY II

BUILDING A FUTURE-READY AND DIGITAL ECONOMY

UNDP is preparing Belarusian economy and workforce for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century, from AI strategy to hands-on vocational skills.



BUILDING A GREEN FUTURE REQUIRES INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION



Blue-collar jobs are going digital, and young people are leading the change.

At just 17, Ivan Gavrilik has a sought-after profession in electrical installation, international competition wins, and a clear vision for his future.

Far from the stereotype, he has traded screwdrivers for tablets, easily handling smart home systems and industrial automation — tasks once reserved for seasoned specialists.

Ivan's journey proves that beyond technical expertise, adaptability and continuous learning make all the difference.

Supported by UNDP with funding from the Russian Federation, vocational education in Belarus is being transformed for the digital age.

[READ MORE](#)

DRIVING THE NATIONAL AI CONVERSATION

In 2025, UNDP acted as a key enabler of systemic digital change in Belarus.



In July 2025, UNDP supported the State Committee for Standardization of the Republic of Belarus in advancing its national AI standardization agenda at the Digital Expo-2025 in Minsk.

The AI Standardization forum gathered more than **110** participants from leading public, private, and academic institutions and brought together experts to explore international best practices and adapt them to Belarusian priorities to ensure safe, transparent, and inclusive AI deployment, reinforcing the country's commitment to sustainable and ethical digital transformation.

110 PARTICIPANTS IN THE AI STANDARDIZATION FORUM

In October 2025, UNDP and the Ministry of Communications and Informatization of Belarus (MoCI) co-hosted the first AI4Development Forum in Belarus.

The event gathered over **250** participants from government, business, and academia from Belarus, Russia, and Serbia, fostering a strategic dialogue on the development of AI architecture in Belarus.

The insights and solutions generated at the Forum help integrate AI-based innovations into national strategies and create opportunities to pilot solutions in key economic sectors.

250 PARTICIPANTS IN THE AI4DEVELOPMENT FORUM

[READ MORE](#)

BUILDING NATIONAL DIGITAL CAPACITIES

To improve the quality of public digital investments, UNDP, together with the MoCI and the Joint Stock Venture “Giprosvyaz,” developed methodological guidance for managing national digital initiatives across their full lifecycle. To bridge policy and practice, we assessed the AI readiness of **11** leading Belarusian enterprises, developing recommendations to foster AI-driven innovation.



PROVIDING POLICY ADVICE ON A DATA-DRIVEN ECONOMY

UNDP supported MoCI in creating and piloting a national methodology to assess the data economy's contribution to GDP. This work delivered the country's first official estimate of the data economy's size creating an evidence base for targeted policies to unlock its full potential.

DEVELOPING THE COUNTRY'S FIRST AI STANDARDS

Under Belarus' National Strategy for Sustainable Development until 2040, AI will be integrated across all sectors of the national economy. Our expert support was instrumental in the development of the country's first-ever national standards for Artificial Intelligence, a foundational step for creating a regulated and trusted AI ecosystem, aligned with national development priorities.

[READ MORE](#)

BUILDING HUMAN CAPITAL FOR THE NEW ECONOMY

In 2025, UNDP continued to support national vocational education system as it adapts to new labor market demands driven by technology and innovation.



PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Three professional standards modernized, including new ones in metrology and crop production, as well as updated construction standards.

HIGH-TECH LABORATORIES

Five high-tech laboratories equipped in digital metrology, GIS, agriculture, electric vehicles, and mechatronics.

TRAINING PROGRAMS

24 new training programs focusing on digital competencies were developed in the country.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Capacity-building activities reached **98** educators through international and national programs in digital agriculture, GIS, and competencies trainings.

TEACHING SKILLS

An additional **25** teachers enhanced their pedagogical skills, strengthening teaching quality across the system.

CAREER GUIDANCE

The national Vocational Education in Belarus web platform was designed, providing career guidance and descriptions of **51** emerging competencies.

SHOWCASING TALENT AND BRIDGING THE INDUSTRY GAP



The VI Republican Professional Skills Competition “ProfSkills Belarus 2025” brought together 400 participants, including 96 international contestants and 34 participants with special needs.

The event fostered international cooperation and connected students with industry leaders. UNDP provided support by training over **200** educators, while first-time training sessions were organized for experts across **23** competency areas.

400 PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROFSKILLS COMPETITION

200 EDUCATORS TRAINED IN 23 COMPETENCY AREAS

For the first time, auto mechanics were trained on electric vehicles, and electricians worked with KNX smart home systems.

Participants explored emerging technologies like Industry 4.0 and Digital Agriculture — innovations just starting to be adopted in enterprises.

The event fostered international cooperation. The “ProfSkills Belarus 2025” helped identify top professionals while setting benchmarks for vocational education development. It has become a platform connecting students with employers and facilitating knowledge exchange between Belarusian and international experts.

In October 2025, we also supported the III International Conference on "Vocational Education in the Face of Global Challenges," which took place in Minsk.

[READ MORE](#)

FROM TECHNICAL TRAINING TO CREATIVE PROBLEM-SOLVING



The most significant skills gap in the vocational training system is not in technical proficiency but in 21st-century competencies.

The College of the Future Creathons was held with UNDP support in November 2025.

The event validated a critical strategic finding for Belarus: the most significant skills gap in the vocational training system is not in technical proficiency but in 21st-century competencies such as design-thinking, collaborative problem-solving, and digital literacy.

The two-month experimental program proved that students from traditional sectors like agriculture and machine-building possess a strong aptitude and demand for innovation when provided with the right tools and methodologies.

By empowering them to develop their own IT-driven solutions, such as VR training labs and AI-powered educational platforms, the Creathon demonstrated that fostering an entrepreneurial and creative mindset is essential for all future specialists, not just those in the IT field.

The event confirmed that targeted, hands-on educational formats are a highly effective mechanism for building a resilient and adaptable human capital base prepared for the demands of the new economy.

YOUTH TAKES THE LEAD IN DIGITAL SOLUTIONS



In November 2025, we brought together students from five Belarusian universities and colleges for the EnergyThon.

A two-day hackathon focused on developing digital solutions to advance energy efficiency in small towns and rural areas where the adoption of energy-saving technologies remains limited.

Guided by mentors, participants used system thinking tools like PESTLE analysis to understand the challenges residents face, mapped user journeys to identify intervention points and leveraged AI and digital prototyping platforms

to build web applications for smart homes and electric heating systems.

By transforming complex energy data into actionable insights, the young innovators demonstrated how digital tools can bridge the gap between urban progress and rural need, turning energy efficiency from an abstract goal into a practical, user-centered reality.

[READ MORE](#)



BOOSTING ENTERPRISE PRODUCTIVITY



UNDP supported Belarusian industries in enhancing their competitiveness in local and international markets.

UNDP joined hands with the Belarusian State Concern for Production and Sale of Light Industry Goods (Bellegprom) to shape the Strategic Plan for the Development of Belarusian Leather and Footwear Industry until 2030.

The working meeting in August brought together over **30** representatives of the Bellegprom concern, leather and leather goods manufacturers, and financial institutions to discuss the current state of the industry, spotlight key challenges affecting the entire production and sales cycle, and generate solutions.

Topics ranged from the supply of raw materials, overcoming technological barriers, and improving positioning and sales strategies to measures aimed at protecting the domestic market.

[READ MORE](#)

In 2025, we supported the establishment of the Competence Center on Labor Productivity Improvement in Mogilev.

The Center is a modern educational and consulting platform designed to serve industrial enterprises across the region and beyond. The Center was presented during the International Conference in Mogilev in November, which brought together practitioners, experts, and enterprise representatives to explore productivity reserves and efficiency improvement methods.

The two-day Conference featured exchanges on lean manufacturing practices, industrial psychology, and modern technologies, while showcasing solutions from local enterprises through a regional productivity improvement contest. By fostering a culture of high productivity and providing practical tools for optimization, the Competence Center strengthens the competitiveness of Belarusian enterprises in both domestic and foreign markets.

ENSURING THAT THE BENEFITS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH REACH EVERYONE IS THE ULTIMATE MEASURE OF SUCCESS.

OUR THIRD PATHWAY FOCUSES ON HOW WE TRANSLATE THESE ECONOMIC AND DIGITAL ADVANCEMENTS INTO A MORE INCLUSIVE SOCIETY, ENSURING THAT NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND.



FOSTERING AN INCLUSIVE AND DATA-DRIVEN SOCIETY

Digital skills and economic competitiveness matter only insofar as their benefits reach every citizen. The ultimate test of development is whether growth translates into genuine opportunity for the most vulnerable. UNDP strengthens both the systems that track inequality and the initiatives that dismantle it.





In a well-lit studio in Grodno, twelve young people are discovering that animation is more than moving images on a screen. It's a pathway to connection, expression, and new possibilities.

For Karyna Nasytko, one of the students, the studio is an unusual place, one defined by its inclusiveness. For her and her friends, it is a space where people with disabilities can realize their potential, with some perhaps even building careers as content creators and bloggers.

Through the UNDP-supported Anim@rt initiative, young people with disabilities learn to produce animated videos, transforming technical training into creative skills that dissolve barriers.

3D PRINTING IS A MODERN, PROMISING FIELD. MY CHANCES OF EMPLOYMENT HAVE INCREASED.

MARINA RUDENKO

Participant in the Technologies Takeoff initiative

With UNDP support, the initiative provided specialized training and set up a classroom equipped for learning and practicing 3D-printing technologies. Here, participants like Marina bring their ideas to life.

[READ MORE](#)

STRENGTHENING SYSTEMS FOR EVIDENCE-BASED GOVERNANCE

Robust data and strategic planning are the bedrock of effective governance. UNDP's work focused on building these foundational systems to enable smarter, more inclusive, and more accountable policymaking at both national and regional levels.



We supported the modernization of National and Regional SDG reporting platforms, facilitating more transparent, seamless, two-way data exchange that strengthens national reporting and monitoring architecture.

This support included integrating regional data into the national platform and national data into the UN global SDG database. Additionally, we helped advance the 'Geostatistics' Information and Analytical System to enable deeper geospatial analytics. To further build national capacity, we trained **45** Belstat specialists in R-programming, advancing their data analysis skills.

This support enabled Belarus to achieve an important milestone: for the first time, SDG progress was evaluated at the subnational level across all **six** regions and the city of Minsk.

The regional framework comprises **137** indicators — **77** harmonized with the national list to ensure comparability and **60** tailored to capture distinct regional development priorities and contexts.

With progress rates ranging from **75.4%** to **80.9%** across regions, this approach provides policymakers with a better understanding of where each region performs well and where targeted interventions are most needed.

Beyond domestic reporting, our assistance facilitated the integration of national SDG data into the UN global database, enhancing Belarus' transparency and enabling it to contribute to and learn from international progress tracking.

MEASURING WHAT MATTERS



To create inclusive policies, we must first measure what truly matters for human development.

UNDP supported the creation of new indices that provide a more holistic understanding of well-being and poverty, moving beyond purely economic indicators.

MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX

In 2024, UNDP supported the development of the national methodology to calculate the Multidimensional Poverty Index.

In 2025, we continued to work in this direction and forwarded the methodology for validation to the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative. Once approved, the national index will be calculated regularly.

NATIONAL WELLBEING INDEX

This led to a more ambitious next step. In 2025, with our support, work began on the National Wellbeing Index.

Widely used in several countries, this tool measures a comprehensive set of indicators broader than just economic factors:

— ECONOMIC DIMENSION

income, employment, housing

— SOCIAL DIMENSION

Access to education and healthcare, security, gender equality, and social protection; life satisfaction

— ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION

Air and water quality and climate risk vulnerability



GENDER-RESPONSIVE POLICY MAKING

UNDP advanced gender equality by developing a "gender lenses" methodology for Regulatory Impact Assessment in partnership with the Ministry of Economy of Belarus. This strengthens the government's capacity to systematically incorporate gender considerations into economic policymaking.

Our analysis of over **1,000** micro-narratives from entrepreneurs also provided gender-disaggregated insights to inform the Successful Entrepreneurship program.

REGIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

UNDP contributed to the development of the 2040 National Sustainable Development Strategy and **six** regional strategies.

That ensured broader stakeholder engagement and alignment with the SDGs.

1 **NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2040**

6 **REGIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES**



SDGS-FOCUSED EDUCATION

We supported the development of SDG-focused curricula and methodological manuals for higher education.

That ensures that future specialists across all sectors are equipped with the knowledge to advance sustainable development.

The new curriculum was approved by the Ministry of Education of Belarus.

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS INITIATIVES

UNDP's commitment to the principle of "Leaving No One Behind" was demonstrated through targeted, community-level interventions across Belarus.



In 2025, with support from the Russian Federation, we implemented 21 SDG pilot initiatives across six regions, focusing on inclusive development.

These projects addressed local needs in education, employment, social protection, and the creation of barrier-free environments for persons with disabilities, women, and children, creating 12 new jobs and engaging 693 people with disabilities.

21 PILOT INITIATIVES

12 NEW JOBS

693 PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

[READ MORE](#)

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES ARE NOT A PRIVILEGE BUT A RIGHT FOR EVERYONE. WORLDWIDE, MORE THAN A BILLION PEOPLE CONTINUE TO FACE BARRIERS THAT DO NOT ARISE FROM DISABILITY ITSELF BUT FROM SYSTEMS AND ATTITUDES. THE TASK OF UNDP IS TO HELP COUNTRIES REMOVE THESE BARRIERS.

ARMEN MARTIROSYAN

Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP in Belarus

Forum of Pilot Initiatives on Sustainable Development Goals

FOSTERING SILVER ENTREPRENEURSHIP

FROM ENGINEER TO GINGERBREAD ARTIST: ANNA BASIK'S SWEET SECOND ACT



At 64, Anna Basik swapped blueprints for baking trays.

A former engineer from a small village in the Brest region, Anna never imagined her gingerbread houses baking hobby would become her lifeline.

Living 70 kilometres from the nearest city, Anna needed more than recipes to turn her hobby into income.


Through a joint initiative by the Ministry of Economy and UNDP Belarus supporting silver entrepreneurship, the woman learned to navigate the online marketplace. What geography had made difficult, technology made possible.

Anna's journey proves a simple truth: passion doesn't retire. Her story shows how UNDP empowers older people to unlock economic potential, building resilience and creating opportunities for decent work that stretch far beyond retirement age.

Together with the Ministry of Economy of Belarus, we launched an educational initiative aimed at entrepreneurs of the "silver" age.

A key outcome of the program, which engaged approximately **500** participants from various regions of Belarus, was the development and testing of a "boxed solution"— a ready-made set of methods for working with older adults. This proven tool is now accessible to all business support centers throughout the country.

We also supported the integration of silver entrepreneurship as a national priority into the Successful Entrepreneurship state program for 2026–2030. This was informed by our analysis of over **300** micro-narratives from older citizens.



**THE ACHIEVEMENTS OUTLINED IN THIS REPORT WOULD NOT
HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE TRUST AND
COLLABORATION OF OUR PARTNERS.**

**IN 2025, UNDP BELARUS DEMONSTRATED THAT EVEN IN A
COMPLEX ENVIRONMENT, PROGRESS IS POSSIBLE WHEN
WE WORK TOGETHER TOWARDS A COMMON VISION.
WE EXTEND OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO OUR
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND NATIONAL PARTNERS.**

OUR MANAGEMENT TEAM



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

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OUR PARTNERS IN THE UN SYSTEM



United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)



United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)



World Health Organization (WHO)



International Organization for Migration (IOM)



United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)



United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)



International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

OUR DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS



Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund)



Government of China and Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund



The Eurasian Development Bank (EDB)

Russian Federation-UNDP Trust Fund for Development

Government of the Republic of Belarus

The State of Qatar

Government of the Russian Federation

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

PARTNER WITH US IN 2026

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