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UNDP SUPPORT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT **GOAL 10**

REDUCING INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

United Nations Development Programme

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



This is a living document, which will be updated periodically.
 January 2016
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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A path towards global prosperity, human well-being and a healthy planet

The world has achieved remarkable gains in human development over the past two decades. Extreme poverty has significantly reduced, access to primary education and health outcomes has improved, and substantial inroads have been made in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. The pursuit of the eight Millennium Development Goals has contributed to this progress and enabled people across the world to improve their lives and future prospects. Yet, despite these significant gains, extreme poverty remains a key challenge, with more than 700 million people globally living on less than US\$ 1.90 PPP (purchasing power parity) per day. Inequalities are either high or widening, especially within countries. Unemployment and vulnerable employment levels are high in many countries, particularly among youth. Unsustainable consumption and production are pushing ecosystems beyond their limits—undermining their ability to provide services vital to life, development, and their own regeneration. Shocks associated with macroeconomic instability, disasters linked to natural hazards, environmental degradation, and socio-political unrest impact negatively on the lives of millions. In many cases, these shocks hold back, if not reverse, progress already achieved in meeting national and internally agreed development goals. Preserving the gains that have been made and addressing the current development challenges the world faces cannot be solved by tinkering at the margins.

There is an imperative today to foster sustainable development. A vision for what this encapsulates is laid out in the new sustainable development agenda that aims to end poverty by 2030 and promote prosperity and people's well-being while protecting the environment. As the UN's development arm, UNDP has a key role to play in supporting countries to make this vision a reality — putting societies on a sustainable development pathway, managing risk and enhancing resilience, and advancing prosperity and well-being.

Building on its core strengths — a large country network covering more than 170 countries and territories, a principal coordination role within the UN Development System, and proven ability in supporting efforts to reduce poverty, inequality and exclusion, and protect vital ecosystems — UNDP has outlined a vision in its Strategic Plan 2014–2017, focused on making the next big breakthrough in development: to help countries achieve the simultaneous eradication of poverty and significant reduction of inequalities and exclusion. While ambitious, this vision is within reach.

In line with this vision, UNDP has worked with the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) in developing a strategy for effective and coherent support in the implementation of the new sustainable development agenda under the acronym 'MAPS' (Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support). The Mainstreaming component of MAPS aims to generate awareness amongst all relevant actors and help governments land the agenda at national and local levels, and ultimately mainstream the agenda into their national plans, strategies and budgets. The Acceleration component focuses on helping governments accelerate progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets, by providing tools that will help identify critical constraints to faster progress and focus on those development objectives relevant to the country context. The Policy Support component aims to provide coordinated and pooled policy support to countries working to meet their SDG targets. In this regard, UNDP offers an integrated package of policy support services that align with its programming priorities. These services, as outlined in this prospectus, cover a wide range of areas: poverty reduction, inclusive growth and productive employment, gender equality and the empowerment of women, HIV and health, access to water and sanitation, climate change adaptation, access to sustainable energy, sustainable management of terrestrial ecosystems, governance of oceans and promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies.

Well equipped with this integrated package of policy support services, UNDP stands ready to support country partners in effectively implementing the new development agenda and making long-term economic prosperity, human and environmental well-being a reality.



REDUCING INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

Why does this matter?

- The world is more unequal today than at any point since the 1940s.¹ **Income and wealth inequality within many countries has soared**, crippling efforts to realize development outcomes and expand the opportunities and abilities of people, particularly the poor. In a sample of 116 countries, household income inequality increased by 11 percent for low- and middle-income countries between 1990 and 2010.² Almost half of the world's wealth is now owned by just 1 percent of the population, amounting to \$110 trillion — 65 times the total wealth of the bottom half of the world's population.³ Such income and wealth gaps, coupled with insecure livelihoods, volatile markets and unreliable services **increase the risk of many people falling below the poverty line**.
- **Inequality has been impeding progress in nutrition, health and education** for large segments of the population, undermining the human capabilities necessary for achieving a decent life. It has been reducing access and opportunities to economic, social, environmental and political resources. Growing inequality is almost certain to unravel efforts to reach the last mile on eradicating extreme poverty and hunger.
- **Inequality contradicts the key principles of social justice**, including the notion enshrined in Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that “all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.”⁴ With the adoption of the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015, world leaders have made a commitment to combat inequality within and among countries.
- **Growing inequality can increase political and social tensions**, and in some circumstances it can drive conflict and instability. The resulting risk levels and systemic vulnerability is detrimental to economic growth, poverty reduction, health and social mobility, and generates a negative impact on governance and democratic institutions. Widening inequality has major implications for economic growth and macroeconomic stability; it can lead to elite capture concentrating political and decision making power in the hands of a few, lead to inadequate use of human rights resources, bring about investment-reducing economic and political instability, and raise crisis risk.⁵
- **High inequality undermines economic growth** by depriving the ability of lower income households to remain healthy and accumulate human and physical capital.⁶ For instance, it can lead to underinvestment in education as poor children are left with no option but to attend lower quality schools and as a result are more likely not to go on to college. Consequently, labour productivity could be lower than it would have been in a more equitable environment. Similarly, countries with higher levels of income inequality are inclined to have lower levels of mobility between generations, with parent's earnings being a more important determinant of children's earnings.⁷ Increasing concentration of incomes could also reduce aggregate demand and undermine growth as the wealthy spend a lower fraction of their incomes than middle- and lower-income groups.⁸
- **Inequality of outcome, particularly income inequality, plays a critical role in determining variations in human well-being.** This is made evident by the strong link between income inequality and inequalities in nutrition, health and education.⁹ Furthermore, when the privileged exercise inordinate political control and influence, and when this kind of influence affects access to resources, for instance, then income inequality compromises the economic, political and social lives of those less privileged and limits the opportunities they have to secure their well-being.¹⁰ While some degree of inequality is necessary in market-based economics insofar as it provides the incentives for people to excel, compete, save and invest to move ahead in life, the growth in income and wealth inequality is a concern.
- **Inequality is multidimensional and does not relate to income and wealth alone.** An excessive focus on inequalities of income or wealth cannot adequately account for inequalities in the quality of life. **Inequality of opportunity** is experienced in relation to education, health, nutrition, employment, housing, health services, access to justice and economic resources. Inequality of opportunity can be **horizontal within groups or vertical where they are not related to group-based distinctions**. Forms of discrimination against particular groups can result in many people being affected by multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that produce and reproduce

deep inequalities across generations. Many of the most excluded, disempowered and discriminated against populations and groups can face ingrained discrimination manifested in laws, policies and practices. It is important to recognize the aspiration to support formal equality — through procedural equality — and also substantive equality, which requires moving towards equality of opportunities and outcomes, including through additional investments or measures that take into account differences, inequities and structural disadvantages.

- **Processes of social exclusion**, driven by multiple economic, social, political and cultural factors, **play a major role in entrenching inequalities** of outcome and opportunity. Social exclusion denies many, including the urban and rural poor; indigenous peoples; ethnic or sexual minorities; people living with disabilities or HIV; immigrants and refugees, especially those with insecure legal status; internally displaced persons (IDPs); women and youth — the rights, opportunities and capabilities they need to improve their lives. For instance, many drivers of social exclusion such as stigma, discrimination, criminalization and marginalization, limit access to HIV, health and other basic services and increase health risks for the most vulnerable people, such as men who have sex with men (MSM), transgender people and sex workers.
- **Unequal outcomes appear to be strikingly persistent for specific individuals or groups** including those who are disadvantaged and marginalized within a population

(such as women, minorities, youth), which suggests that factors related to prejudice and discrimination continue to powerfully reinforce and reproduce inequalities.¹¹ The unequal share of unpaid family responsibilities borne by women results in gender-based inequalities in the labour market, which in turn produces a subsequent bias in the way social protection systems are structured, resulting in unequal access, coverage and provision of social protection for women.¹² Intra-household inequalities in labour, income and wealth can result in intra-household differences in poverty status. However, it is difficult to differentiate the poverty rates within households because current measures of poverty rely on income or consumption data collected at the household level.

- Female entrepreneurship represents a vast untapped source of innovation, job creation and economic growth in the developing world. Female entrepreneurs, like their male counterparts, are influenced by the general business environment in which they live. However, **formal institutions or cultural conditions create additional barriers for women that make it more difficult to start or grow a business enterprise**. The barriers to women's entrepreneurship are various: Women face greater obstacles in accessing credit, training, networks and information, as well as legal and policy constraints.¹³ Local Economic Development (LED) based on the territorial approach can address issues of increased global competition, population mobility, technological advances and consequent spatial differences and imbalances by promoting inclusive



socio-economic development with a focus on excluded and marginalized populations.

- **Pandemic diseases such as HIV, TB, malaria and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) disproportionately affect poor and marginalized populations** and adversely impact health and adult productivity. The social and economic burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) on the poor is also rapidly growing: It is estimated that cumulative losses in economic output in LMICs as a result of NCDs could exceed \$20 trillion by 2030.¹⁴ Costs of medical care in low and middle income countries (LMICs) are often out-of-pocket expenses, shifting household income from asset accumulation, education and food security. In the absence of effective and affordable health care and social protection, households can accumulate debt and/or liquidate income-generating assets to pay health care costs. Globally, direct payments for health care impoverish up to 150 million people per year.¹⁵
- International and internal migration can be key strategies for individuals, households and communities to decrease inequalities and raise levels of human development. Migration often is an adaption strategy

that leads to very large income gains, as well as increased education and health outcomes of migrants.¹⁶ The contributions of migrants through knowledge transfers, investments, and remittances can also contribute to community and national development and decrease poverty and inequality. However, **migration can also exacerbate existing inequalities** if poor populations are trapped and cannot harness the positive potential of migration. Migrants, especially those in vulnerable situations, may not have means to ensure their rights or seek protections from formal or informal justice providers and national human rights institutions (NHRIs). In 2013, nearly half of the estimated 232 million international migrants globally were women.¹⁷ Women face special challenges with regard to irregular migration and vulnerability to trafficking and abuse. Due to factors such as gender stereotypes, they tend to be mainly concentrated in the service sector which has higher levels of unofficial employment, earn lower wages than men even when equally qualified and engaged in similar activities and, as a consequence, have limited access to social and legal systems.¹⁸

- **Spatial and territorial inequalities are high and increasing**, with disparities between rural and urban



areas, and between geographically advantaged and disadvantaged regions. For instance, in developing regions, there is a 31 percentage point gap between rural and urban areas in the coverage of births attended by skilled health personnel.¹⁹ Territorial inequalities can be a major contributor to overall inequality in countries, especially if aligned with racial or ethnic divisions. Furthermore, spatial inequalities can create a disproportionate impact on territories in the face of natural disaster or crisis.

- **International trade can play an important role in raising levels of human development** and achieving sustainable poverty reduction by expanding markets, raising productivity and accelerating technology transfer, particularly where it is sensitive to health impacts. **Productive capacity gaps, the lack of export diversification, weak economic governance and institutional constraints** hamper many developing countries, especially Least Developed Countries (LDCs), from fully integrating into the world economy. In 2013, the merchandise export of LDCs accounted for only 1.1 percent of world trade.²⁰ Furthermore, **high trade costs, protectionist trade policies and other trade barriers impede the economic potential of many of the poorest countries**, pricing them out of global markets. Remote, landlocked and small economies are marginalized by trade costs that reflect geography, not capability.²¹ Trade costs also disproportionately fall on small- and medium-sized enterprises. These enterprises are a key driver for growth and jobs, and offer a path out of poverty.
- **Trade policy impacts women's economic empowerment and well-being.** As women and men have distinct economic and social roles and different access to and control over resources, due to economic, political and sociocultural factors, the effect of trade policy on their economic and social activities tends to be different.²² Women are likely to be more affected by the negative effects of trade liberalization and face bigger challenges than men in availing the opportunities trade offers. This is due to gender biases in education and training, gender inequalities in the distribution of income and command over resources, as well as unequal access to productive inputs such as credit, land and technology, which translate

into significant gender differences in occupational distribution.²³ While men and women are affected differently by trade policies, gender inequalities, in turn, impact on trade policy outcomes and economic growth. Recent experiences in trade liberalization and their impact on gender equality thus make a strong case for the need to incorporate gender perspectives into overall trade policy design and implementation.²⁴

- In a world faced by a **scarcity of financial resources and escalating development challenges**, countries often struggle to implement transformative sustainable development strategies. Estimates for investment needs to implement the SDGs in developing countries range from \$3.3 trillion to \$4.5 trillion per year, mainly for basic infrastructure, food security, climate change mitigation and adaptation, health and education.²⁵ At the same time, the development and integration of financial markets have increased the number of options to choose from to advance investments in sustainable development. New opportunities have emerged for catalysing, pooling, and making more efficient use of resources to address these development challenges and better manage risks. Ensuring that all countries, in particular the poorest and most vulnerable, are able to access the financing opportunities available is key to reducing inequalities across countries, promoting inclusive growth and achieving sustainable development.

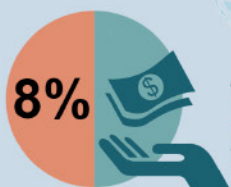
Despite the numerous challenges in addressing inequalities, there are grounds for optimism. It is now possible to halt and reverse growing inequalities and eradicate extreme poverty. There is more room for voice and participation than ever before, with an increasing number of countries moving towards democratic political systems and responding to growing public demand. Innovative knowledge and experiences are also making it possible to pursue economic growth, environmental sustainability and social equity simultaneously. Making the most of this momentum, while putting in place measures to mitigate risk and prevent loss of gains made when a crisis strikes, will be a major task of development in coming decades. Success will depend on finding ways of fighting poverty and inequality, deepening inclusion and reducing conflict, without inflicting irreversible damage on environmental systems.



Inequality - Key Facts



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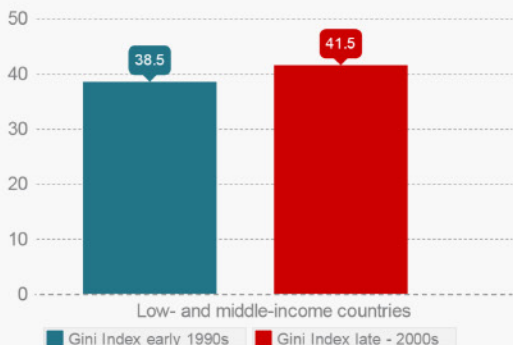


The richest **8%** of the world's population earn half of the world's total income

Inequality of outcome



Almost half of the world's wealth is now owned by just **1%** of the population—65 times the total wealth of the bottom half of the world's population



In a sample of 116 countries, household income inequality increased by **11%** in developing countries between 1990 and 2010



A significant majority of households in developing countries — more than **75%** of the population — are living in societies where income is more unequally distributed than it was in the 1990s

Inequality of opportunity



Inequality of opportunity is experienced in relation to education, health, nutrition, employment, housing, access to justice and economic resources



In the developing regions, there is a **31** percentage-point gap between rural and urban areas in the coverage of births attended by skilled health personnel



Globally, out-of-pocket expenditures for healthcare impoverished up to **150** million people per year



Processes of **social exclusion** play a major role in entrenching inequalities of outcomes and opportunities



Characteristics like **gender, economic circumstances, geography and ethnicity** can trap large groups of people in poverty, and affect access to basic services



Inequality of opportunity, exacerbates poverty and reduces upward mobility



International trade can play an important role in raising resources needed to boost human development and achieving sustainable poverty reduction



Access to financing opportunities, particularly by the poor and most vulnerable countries, is key to promoting inclusive growth and reducing inequality



Estimates for investment needs to implement the SDGs in developing countries range from **\$3.3** trillion to **\$4.5** trillion per year

What do we offer?

UNDP works with programme countries to design and implement sustainable development policies that promote inclusive growth. UNDP's strength lies in its large country network — **a presence in more than 170 countries and territories, a core coordination function within the UN Development System and the proven ability to support efforts to reduce poverty, inequality and exclusion and protect vital ecosystems.**

UNDP is a trusted and convening partner with national counterparts including governments and civil society. We promote citizen participation and facilitate stakeholder engagement and dialogue to develop strategic inclusive public policies and inclusive societies. Through the application of UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards and related Accountability Mechanism, UNDP also ensures appropriate safeguards are in place across all of its programming to avoid, manage and mitigate potential harm to people and the environment. Our work on addressing inequality is fully aligned with **SDG 10 on reducing inequality within and among countries**, as well as the relevant dimensions of all the other goals. In partnership with a wide range of actors, we offer the following services to countries:

- Assist countries in improving **the design and effective implementation of development strategies, policies and programmatic interventions at national and subnational levels** to ensure that inclusive growth spurs structural economic transformation to reach the marginalized, and significantly reduce risks, health inequities and poverty. We work with national and subnational governments to **develop analytical tools, policy frameworks, financing methods and knowledge management systems** to undertake integrated strategic planning in order to contribute to a more balanced and inclusive development.
- Promote **effective, transparent and accountable intersectoral and multilevel governance arrangements that are responsive to the needs of all**, but in particular the poorest and most marginalized. This includes building the capacity of national and subnational governments and other stakeholders to more effectively address the social determinants of inequalities, in particular through strengthened governance mechanisms.

- Provide technical assistance to **improve the assessment of the impact of fiscal and social policies on poverty and inequality.** UNDP supports countries in advancing fiscal reforms that contribute to reducing inequality through fiscal microsimulation exercises which analyse and illustrate the impacts of social and fiscal policy interventions on the poor and most vulnerable.
- Help partners put in place and implement **robust social and environmental safeguards and grievance mechanisms** as a tool to integrate human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability in development planning and implementation. Such mechanisms aim to ensure communities have a voice in decision-making and that vulnerable populations and natural resources are protected from exploitation and inadvertent harm. UNDP provides this support through the assessment and strengthening of relevant policies, laws and regulations; strengthening of capacities for implementation and monitoring of safeguards; stakeholder engagement and dialogue; assessment of strengths and gaps related to national and/or sectoral grievance mechanisms; and strengthening grievance mechanisms by enhancing transparency, accessibility, credibility and the capacities of local and national institutions.



- Support countries in **addressing laws and policies that reinforce stigma and discrimination and increase inequalities and exclusion**. This includes reforming legal, policy and regulatory environments that continue to undermine the response to HIV and health responses in many countries. In particular, overly broad criminalization of HIV transmission, laws that criminalize sex work, drug use and sex between men, and laws and policies that limit access to affordable medicines or that fail to ensure equality for women and protect children can all increase HIV vulnerability and act as barriers to accessing HIV prevention and treatment.
- Assist in the **design, expansion and implementation of social protection systems**, centred on people and based on a human-rights-based approach and the pillars of inclusivity and comprehensiveness. We also help institutionalize a systemic approach to social protection that aims at moving towards much more coordinated and harmonized responses in the context of poverty, health inequities, vulnerability and exclusion. In addition, we support national partners in increasing the gender responsiveness of social protection measures.
- Assist countries in developing an **effective local governance and local development (LGLD) agenda** and support a range of efforts in a variety of contexts (rural, urban, stable and crisis-affected environments). Effective local governance is key to reducing inequality in all its forms and enhancing relations between people and public institutions. UNDP's approach advances an LGLD process that involves a comprehensive and harmonized provision of key inputs into local governance systems: facilitating democratic accountability, strengthening rule of law and security, building administrative capacity for development management and service delivery, enhancing fiscal resources and empowerment, equipping collection and management of spatial information and accelerating social capital formation.
- Contribute to reducing the likelihood of conflict by **promoting social cohesion and empowering nations and communities to tackle inequalities**, and become more inclusive and resilient to external and internal shocks. This is done by providing tailored support for core national and local governance capacities necessary for helping countries to navigate away from conflict, towards nonviolent change. UNDP also complements broader political and diplomatic efforts on conflict resolution and mediation by providing strategic analysis as well as policy and programme support to the international community, the UN system, governments and civil society partners.
- Assist countries affected by crisis through the promotion of **respect for human rights and redress for human rights violations**. A human rights-based approach to development programming, which is an engagement principle for UNDP globally, builds the capacities of both duty-bearers and rights-holders and enables an understanding of the situation of excluded and marginalized groups and individuals helping to analyse complex power dynamics and understand the root causes of discrimination and structural inequalities. UNDP also supports national systems for the promotion and protection of human rights and has supported over a hundred NHRIs, ombudsman institutions, equality and gender bodies and other independent oversight institutions in order to develop their capacities and enhance the role of NHRIs as cornerstones of national human rights systems.
- Promote **inclusive and sustainable market growth** through the development, expansion, greening and de-risking of national and regional value chains in key livelihoods and job creating sectors such as agribusiness, tourism, renewable energy, retailing, mining and large capital projects.
- Support countries in **building capacity and creating an enabling environment for productive and decent employment opportunities** for disadvantaged groups, including women and youth. Support includes the development and implementation of institutional, legislative and policy frameworks, and helping remove structural barriers that poor and disadvantaged groups face in the labour market.
- Support countries in stimulating job creation by **helping 'biodiversity-friendly' producers access new markets, promoting nature-based tourism initiatives** that generate income for local communities and supporting sustainable harvesting livelihoods, and access and benefit sharing agreements on genetic resources. We promote secure land tenure, effective management and expansion of protected areas, and large-scale rehabilitation projects to strengthen

livelihoods, and increase tourism revenues and job opportunities. We also support partners in ensuring the gender responsive governance of national resources management including ensuring the full participation of women in decision-making on the use, management and protection of national resources.

- Advocate for **partnerships with the private sector** through numerous programmes, including the Africa Facility for Inclusive Markets, to promote sustainable inclusive markets, generate tax revenues to finance essential social and economic infrastructure, health and human rights promotion, and develop new and innovative solutions that help tackle development challenges. UNDP helps promote and develop capacity to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, particularly in strategic sectors like extractive industries, to contribute to responsible economic activities that generate social benefits including for local communities. UNDP promotes inclusive local economic development, facilitating public-private partnerships and participative spaces for stakeholder engagement that would strengthen their capacity to build local development strategies, plans and governance arrangements that are responsive to the needs of all actors, and advance sustainable development particularly for the poorest and most excluded.
- Promote **entrepreneurship development initiatives** such as the provision of training, starting and scaling up of small businesses, and business skills development. This is to create an enabling institutional framework for Small, Medium and Micro-enterprises (SMMEs), particularly in labour-intensive (low productivity) sectors in which the poor predominantly work. We support women entrepreneurs to overcome institutional and cultural barriers that prevent them from starting a business enterprise and contributing to economic growth and development.
- Support countries in the **formulation and implementation of comprehensive national policy and institutional frameworks for migration**, including strengthening the government capacity to integrate migration into regional, national and subnational development strategies and plans. We also work with host and return communities to address the local drivers of migration and root causes of displacement (economic, social, political or environmental) while leveraging the potential of migration for local sustainable development and managing the impacts of immigration, emigration, internal migration and displacement.
- Support countries, especially the LDCs, at the global, regional and national level, in **harnessing trade**



opportunities to spur inclusive growth. At the global level, UNDP advocates for a fair and open multilateral trade system that takes into account the special needs of developing economies. We promote regional integration and the development of regional trade strategies, to enhance sustainable and equitable growth. UNDP also supports policy integration at the national level, enabling developing countries, LDCs in particular, to integrate pro-poor and pro-health trade policies in development strategies, and helps in the identification of trade capacity gaps and solutions to overcome these challenges.

- Provide **strategic assistance in catalysing investment in green technologies, practices and enterprises** that will pave the way for more inclusive and sustainable development. We work with countries to develop

financial solutions in sustainable management of ecosystem goods and services; improving water and oceans governance; scaling up climate change adaptation and mitigation; sustainable, affordable and clean energy; and sustainable management of chemicals and waste. To achieve this, UNDP supports national partners in planning, accessing, delivering, diversifying, scaling up and sequencing a variety of environmental vertical funds — the Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, and multi-donor trust funds managed by the UN System such as UN-REDD and the UNDP Thematic Trust Fund — and combining this funding with other sources of public and private financing. This financing is used to develop capacity, remove policy and regulatory barriers and expand or transform green markets to increase resilience and reduce poverty and inequality.



UNDP IN ACTION

Social Protection

With UNDP support, nearly 75 countries have reported positive results in support of the social protection of vulnerable and discriminated groups. In 2013 alone, 15 million people benefited from social protection measures in 72 countries. Results include improved capacities of governments to develop and implement policies on social protection and social safety net mechanisms to alleviate the financial needs of poor and marginalized populations; the introduction of reforms to increase access to social protection schemes, including for women; and ensuring that social protection schemes are better connected to basic service coverage and delivery, while reaching the intended groups in urban and rural areas. South-South exchanges have enabled the transfer of social protection knowledge and models, including those based on cash transfer mechanisms, to support national policies and strategies.

- **Brazil** celebrated 10 years of its Bolsa Familia social protection programme in 2013, globally recognized for extending health care and education to poor families. The programme has lifted 36 million people out of extreme poverty,²⁶ and has contributed significantly to the reduction of the poverty rate from 9.7 percent to 4.3 percent. 50 million low-income people have obtained benefits through the programme. UNDP worked with the Ministry of Social Development and Fight Against Hunger to design, structure and deploy this programme.
- In **India**, many unemployed, including migrant workers who earn their income through casual jobs, have found a safety net in the form of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA). It has helped to slow down and, in some cases, reverse migration from rural to urban areas. UNDP is a key partner in this job guarantee programme and has strengthened the government's capacity to implement the programme by setting up a Technical Secretariat with experts in monitoring, training and communications. It helped raise awareness about the Act among potential participants, informing them about their rights and the benefits of the programme. This has proved to be crucial for creating demand for work. It also helped

ensure transparency in the payment of wages and efficiency in administration by introducing innovative technologies like smart cards, biometric devices and ATMs and by digitizing information. NREGA has reached over 200 million of the poorest people in India, 50 percent of them being women, 23 percent Scheduled Castes and 17 percent Scheduled Tribes.²⁷

- In **Myanmar**, UNDP provided social protection assistance through 194 rice banks, reaching 89,847 people (52 percent of them women). These rice banks helped reduce food insecurity among poor households, particularly during the rainy season and ahead of cultivation season.
- In **India**, UNDP has supported networks of people living with HIV (PLHIV), including women living with or affected by HIV to better articulate their needs, understand social protection and demand inclusion. UNDP has also advocated and provided technical support to relevant state and central ministries and civil society to expand the scope and inclusion criteria of India's existing social protection schemes, including by linking these schemes to PLHIV and those most vulnerable. For example, pension schemes have been amended to include women widowed by AIDS, while legal assistance and nutrition have been provided to PLHIV. Approximately 24,854 women had benefited from changes in the pension policy by 2013. Moreover, states have been increasingly covering transportation costs for HIV patients to access treatment services. In 2013, over 210,000 people benefited from the programme. This policy innovation is being extended to other countries in the region, including Cambodia, China, Indonesia and Viet Nam.

Enabling legal and policy frameworks

UNDP has supported over 80 countries in creating an enabling legal and policy environment to address structural inequalities.

- Through its Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) programming, UNDP is supporting more than 20 countries in reviewing and strengthening their national policies, laws and regulations to ensure consistency with internationally negotiated social and environmental safeguards. UNDP is also supporting several countries in strengthening



their national systems to address the grievances of people affected by adverse social and environmental impacts. This support contributes to reduced structural inequality by mainstreaming core principles and standards of participation, accountability, non-discrimination, protection and transparency into national policies and planning processes.

- UNDP established the Global Commission on HIV and the Law with the aim of promoting legal and policy reforms that protect human rights in the context of HIV and reduce the discrimination against marginalized key populations. More than 80 countries have initiated activities as a follow-up to the Commission's recommendations, with UNDP support. Governments and civil society in 86 countries have conducted legal environment assessments and national dialogues. As a result, the Governments of **Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan** recognized transgender (hijra) as a third gender. A regional HIV legal network provides people with HIV in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (**Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation and Ukraine**) with access to quality, free legal aid. In Africa, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland and the United Republic of Tanzania reviewed and reformed HIV-related law; Chad amended current laws to include protections for people living with HIV; Mozambique approved a new HIV law free of provisions criminalizing

HIV transmission; and Nigeria passed an anti-stigma bill. In the Arab States, the Government of Djibouti committed to ratifying the Arab Convention on HIV Prevention and Protection of the Rights of People Living with HIV. In Latin America, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua reviewed gender identity laws.

- UNDP supported the Multi-Country South Asia Global Fund HIV Programme (Phase 2) which operates in seven countries: **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka**. The Programme worked to build the capacity of over 60 in-country and regional community-based organizations engaged in service provision (HIV prevention, care and support services), policy development and advocacy, partnership building with local governments and health departments, research related to MSM and transgender issues and on creating stronger community systems to support and sustain this work. Service provision in Afghanistan and Pakistan has reached over 40,000 MSM and transgender people and almost 10,000 were tested for HIV and informed of their results in 2014.
- UNDP has supported over 90 NHRIs around the world since 2008. NHRIs are the cornerstones of national systems for the promotion and protection of human rights and inter alia promote accountability, prevent



violence and promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies. NHRIs also act as a bridge between the state, civil society and stakeholders, often as a convenor for dialogue on national development plans and processes which affect marginalized and excluded groups. This serves to promote transparent, participatory and inclusive national development processes and within the context of the SDGs also implementation and monitoring frameworks in accordance with international human rights standards. A strong, effective NHRI that is compliant with the Paris principles can have an enabling and catalytic impact on the realization of Goals 10 and 16.

Governance for equitable health

- UNDP is working with the World Health Organization to support countries in their governance response to NCDs, a group of conditions rooted in poverty and inequalities that kill more people than all other causes combined. In **Barbados**, for example, UNDP and WHO supported the Ministry of Health to put together a 'business case' for NCD prevention and control, to demonstrate the relevance of NCDs to their colleagues in social welfare, tourism, trade and other sectors. The case pitted the costs of inaction, not just to health but also to Barbados' workforce and GDP, against the significantly greater benefits of early investment.

Inclusive businesses and value chain development

UNDP supported the **development of value chains** with growth, job and income generation potential, specifically targeting low-income groups in over 40 countries. Support was also provided in building private sector capacity in inclusive agribusiness and value chain development through training, platform participation and knowledge products.

- UNDP's regional Africa Facility for Inclusive Markets supported cross-border value chain initiatives and strengthened the capacity of the Regional Economic Commissions to further support and enable inclusive market development in the region. This portfolio, including the activities of UNDP's affiliate, the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), accounts for approximately \$100 million per year globally, and is aimed at enhancing the contribution of the private sector, including SMMEs to trade, growth and poverty

reduction.

- UNDP, through its Green Commodities Programme, strengthened the links between buyers and producers to facilitate improved terms and conditions for small-scale farmers supplying sustainable products. Companies which represent major global purchasing power for the world's agricultural commodities, such as Kraft, Walmart, Ikea and Dole, are engaged with the Programme. In 2008, Cadbury (now owned by Kraft) launched the Cadbury Cocoa Partnership in **Ghana** to secure the economic, social and environmental sustainability of 1 million cocoa farmers. Working in partnership with the Government of Ghana, leading development NGOs and UNDP, the initiative focused on improving incomes by helping farmers increase their yields and produce top quality beans, introducing new sources of rural income through microfinance and providing support to kick-start new rural businesses; building government capacity to improve extension services, and aiding in policy reform. The interventions under this partnership have helped increase yields significantly. Cocoa production is now a year-round exercise and farmers have started doubling their yields in less than two years of operation.

Local Economic Development

UNDP has supported the integration of Local Economic Development (LED) processes as a means of promoting more equitable socio-economic development opportunities in order to reduce inequalities between persons and groups.

- In **Colombia**, UNDP supported the establishment of 11 LED agencies (LEDAs) to promote productive value chains under a territorial development approach. These LEDAs were among the first entities to implement innovative approaches in territorial management, privileging participatory democracy, bottom-up processes and dialogue between and across sectors and development actors. Their achievements were consolidated with the creation of a network for LEDAs, ADELCO, to serve as a national coordination platform to strengthen, support and position LED processes in the country. ADELCO also seeks to influence public policies in support of LED models and to promote dialogue, reflection, experience-exchange and knowledge management around the fundamental LED elements in Colombia.



Much has been achieved in the last few years: for example, ADELCO promoted the implementation of international cooperation programmes that eventually became the conceptual foundation of entrepreneurial development policies respectful of inclusion principles.

- In **Bolivia**, authorities of the department of Tarija requested UNDP's support in the elaboration of a public-private partnership to facilitate agreements and prioritization processes for its productive sector. The Governorate and UNDP worked together to set in motion a productive development and employment generation strategy, establishing and strengthening a public-private space supported by the Departmental Working Group (a multilevel governance mechanism established earlier) called the 'Private-Public Alliance for Tarija's Productive Development'. This platform facilitates cohesion among local, departmental and national policies and the various initiatives of private actors and civil society. The strategy is focused on several intertwined areas: support for the implementation of local development projects; territorial competitiveness and LED to improve social cohesion, employment generation and poverty reduction; and support for a productive development and employment generation strategy with a focus on territorial planning and multilevel articulation at the local level.
- In **Ecuador**, UNDP is coordinating the platform for the implementation of the joint project 'Youth, Employment and Migration', which has contributed to inclusive development through the generation of 1,134 entrepreneurship opportunities for youth (570 of which are led by women) and financial and non-financial assistance to 1,479 youth (of which 1,142 are young women). Eighteen local financial entities and three LEDAs were strengthened as part of this process so they can offer their services to local youth in the provinces of Carchi, El Oro and Loja. Moreover, a system to support entrepreneurship and local economic development was developed. A key result of this strategy is the change from the National Programme of Popular Finances to the National Corporation of Popular and Solidary Finances, signaling a shift towards a more socially sensitive, solidarity-based economic model, which has now become a national priority.

Jobs and livelihoods

In 2014, with UNDP support, 11.2 million people (5.7 million women) benefited from improved livelihoods in 94 countries, 920,000 **new jobs** (41 per cent for women) were created in 77 countries, 33 countries adopted policies and systems to boost employment and livelihoods creation, 14 countries strengthened their capacities for collecting and analysing youth employment statistics, and over 2.4 million women directly benefited from interventions designed to reduce or eliminate barriers to women's economic empowerment.

- In **Bangladesh**, with UNDP support, 90,000 underserved people (70 percent women) were able to access digital mobile financial services through 2,000 digital centres. The centres supported 62 rural cooperatives, providing access to finance and consultation services for nearly 8,000 households and 2.5 million individuals.
- In **Bolivia**, UNDP provided more than 4,000 indigenous women with training and microloans to open up new, community-based businesses.
- In **Cambodia**, UNDP supported the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to help rural farming communities become more resilient to the impacts of climate change and strengthen their livelihoods, benefiting more than 13,000 people in two provinces.



- In **Colombia**, UNDP worked with the Ministry of Employment to develop policies to eliminate gender inequalities in the public and private sectors. An initial group of 20 private companies with more than 60,000 employees developed action plans to reduce gender gaps in recruitment, address salary differentials and promote career development for women.
- In **Kenya**, with support from UNDP's Africa Facility for Inclusive Markets, the Youth Enterprise Fund has helped to support 89,000 youth enterprises, offered market support to 1,800 entrepreneurs, trained over 15,000 youth in entrepreneurship and facilitated over 2,000 youth in job-seeking efforts through the Youth Employment Scheme. This has been key to enabling public-private sector dialogue in support of private sector development.
- In **Jordan**, UNDP supported the development of a national youth strategy that focused on strengthening 120 youth training centres across the country that prepare youth for employment.
- In **Georgia**, UNDP has been instrumental in overhauling the out-of-date vocational and educational training system curricula across the country with the objective of providing participants with skills that respond to the needs of the labour market.

Since 2010, UNDP has supported over 100 countries in **integrating ecosystem management priorities into development planning and production sector activities that strengthen livelihoods and job opportunities** linked to natural resources and help transform economies.

- In **Tajikistan**, agriculture provides the backbone of the economy and supports the livelihoods of two thirds of rural communities. However, deforestation and soil depletion due to unsustainable agricultural practices has reduced productivity, impacting the livelihoods of rural communities. To address this issue, the UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) supported the subnational government in the Sughd region, an area that generates 30 per cent of the agricultural production of Tajikistan, to integrate environment issues into the regional development plan and 27 district plans. To create meaningful impact on the ground, PEI helped establish women's cooperatives to provide green jobs for women. These cooperatives use greenhouses to grow crops year

round, enabling women to take an active role in local economic activity rather than having to depend on unreliable remittances from abroad. Women received training in how to organize their business, prepare and maintain family budgets, improve soil quality and produce home compost. Each greenhouse now generates up to \$3,600 in six months, providing stable and independent livelihoods for these women.

Migration and human development

UNDP has planned or implemented at least 192 migration-related initiatives in a variety of countries, more than 22 of which are ongoing. In addition, currently, UNDP is working in over 30 countries that have suffered disasters and conflict and transit countries with crisis migrants (including IDPs), and in host and origin communities to create livelihood opportunities for all, alleviate the pressure on local governments to provide basic services and support social cohesion.

- UNDP, in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration, implements the Global Joint Programme on Mainstreaming Migration into National Strategies (2011–2018) that supports governments in including migration in national development planning, and establishes coherent UN country team approaches to migration and development. This includes extensive consultation on immigration and emigration policies, and appropriate institutional frameworks and links between mobility and sector policies, such as health, education, investment and agriculture. This programme is currently implemented in eight countries: **Bangladesh, Ecuador, Jamaica, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Morocco, Serbia and Tunisia.**
- UNDP has supporting interventions to develop diaspora investment models aimed at leveraging migrant savings for local business development and as a means of boosting local economic development. Such efforts are already under way in **Bosnia and Herzegovina, El Salvador, Kosovo, Lesotho, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, the Philippines, Russia, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan and Tunisia.**

Trade

Along with other UN agencies and development partners, UNDP supported the Aid for Trade initiative.



UNDP provided support in the design of trade policies and mainstreaming trade into national development and private sector strategies to create an enabling environment to spur inclusive sustainable growth.

- As a core partner of the Enhanced Integrated Framework, UNDP provided assistance to **Cambodia, Comoros, Chad, South Sudan** and **Yemen** in formulating trade diagnostic studies. Trade diagnostics map the current economic outlook of a country and identify priority sectors and policy reforms necessary to enhance trade opportunities with an impact on poverty reduction. In **Malawi, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone** and **South Sudan**, UNDP carried out capacity assessments of trade institutions and organizations, and proposed an action plan to address capacity gaps. Addressing these gaps will help strengthen organizational performance and contribute to making trade a strong driver of inclusive growth and transformation.
- In the South Pacific, UNDP and WHO have supported an assessment of the impact of trade agreements on chronic diseases and their risk factors. Health and trade officials together identified strategies that align trade agreements with public health needs. Encouraged by this process as well as the implementation of the MDG Acceleration Framework, **Tonga** in 2013 raised its excise rates on carbonated drinks and tobacco.
- The Access and Delivery Partnership (ADP), a collaboration between UNDP, WHO/TDR and PATH, supports low and middle-income countries (LMICs) to strengthen their capacity to improve access to, and delivery of, new health technologies for tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs); diseases of poverty and inequality. While ending these epidemics will require substantial investment in the development of technologies for diagnosis, treatment and prevention, building the capacity of countries to ensure access and sustainable uptake of these technologies is also essential and will require the meaningful engagement of sectors beyond health. In line with its focus on South–South collaboration, regional networks and the facilitation of exchanges, the ADP has hosted a number of regional initiatives to strengthen coherence of laws and policies affecting access to and innovation in

health technologies in the regions of **Asia** and **Africa**. Alongside policy coherence strengthening activities at the national levels, the ADP has supported **Ghana** to revise its national medicines policy, assisted **Tanzania** to develop and implement a national health research agenda, and built capacity of Indonesia's health technology assessment (HTA) approach.

- The health technology needs of people living with communicable diseases like HIV, TB, malaria, and viral hepatitis, non-communicable diseases, neglected tropical diseases and rare diseases are frequently unmet partly due to escalating costs. The use of Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) flexibilities to promote access to essential health technologies can promote access, but their use has been varied. UNDP plays a lead role in identifying the need for public health sensitive intellectual property legislation, providing technical and policy support to governments in drafting such legislation and regulations, and developing the capacity of governments to implement best practice intellectual property policies. Linked to this, UNDP promotes greater awareness of public health concerns in the patent and industrial property offices in developing countries. In recent years, UNDP has supported the governments of **Zambia, Lesotho, Tanzania, Swaziland, Ukraine, Indonesia, Cambodia, Myanmar, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova**, as well as regional organisations such as the Francophonie West African countries and the African Union to ensure that relevant law reform efforts incorporate public health related flexibilities which aim to address inequality of access to health technologies.

Financing for development

- UNDP is working with governments in **Malawi, South Africa** and **Tanzania** to operationalize an innovative co-financing approach in which the costs of social protection programmes are fairly distributed across the sectors which benefit from the multiple impacts of social protection instruments. Specific investments are calculated based on each budget holder's willingness to pay for anticipated outcomes. This cross-sectoral co-financing approach, linking poverty reduction, HIV, health, education, agriculture, social welfare and gender objectives can result in a more efficient allocation of existing resources.

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