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Resilient nations.*

United Nations Development Programme

Asia-Pacific Regional Centre

APRC Annual Report 2011

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About APRC

The Asia-Pacific Regional Centre (APRC) is the technical arm of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific. APRC acts as a hub of development knowledge, an advocate for equitable human development and inclusive growth, a promoter of South-South cooperation, a facilitator of regional dialogues on sensitive development issues and a broker of effective development assistance.

What We Do

APRC supports 24 UNDP Country Offices across the Asia-Pacific region by providing tailored policy advisory services, project backstopping, programming assistance, operations and knowledge management support at the national level. APRC implements the Asia-Pacific Regional Programme and additionally develops regional and sub-regional projects in response to transnational challenges such as migration, climate change, HIV and natural disasters. APRC addresses additional transnational issues by fostering regional cooperation amongst development partners from governments, United Nations agencies, civil society organizations and academia.

Areas of Expertise

By combining applied research, policy advice, advocacy and knowledge sharing techniques we work in the areas of inclusive growth; poverty reduction and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG); democratic governance; crisis prevention and recovery; and environment and sustainable development. We also provide expertise on the cross-cutting issues of HIV and health, gender, development effectiveness, South-South Cooperation and offer advice and training on strategic communications, project management and knowledge management.

Value Proposition

APRC provides internationally grounded quality policy expertise and advisory services on short notice that cost less than market prices. Our in-depth familiarity with the Asia-Pacific region allows us to identify emerging issues and create regional initiatives that produce permanent transformative solutions to development problems. Our in-house policy expertise is complemented by the experience of thematic knowledge networks and regional communities of practice. We work in multidisciplinary task teams and offer an integrated package of policy, technical, programme and management services. We create synergies between development partners and deliver long-term engagement on development issues.

Quick Facts

- ❖ APRC was established in 2005
- ❖ APRC operates from two locations: Bangkok, Thailand and Suva, Fiji
- ❖ 24 Country Offices in Asia and the Pacific benefit from APRC policy advisory services
- ❖ US\$100 million is the total value of the Regional Programme (2008-2013) as implemented by APRC
- ❖ APRC manages 14 regional and sub-regional projects implemented jointly with over 20 co-financing partners
- ❖ APRC has seven in-house practice teams and two interdisciplinary task teams of policy advisors and development experts



<http://asia-pacific.undp.org>

2011 Achievements in Figures

\$125,000,000

of international environment finance was mobilized with APRC support for 18 countries in Asia-Pacific to advance policy changes and practical solutions to environment and climate change challenges.

25,000+

people supported the regional social media campaign of the network of women peace advocates N-Peace established by APRC that recognized four women peace advocates for their contribution to women's leadership in post-conflict and peace-building through the N-Peace Awards.

1,000+

schools across South Asia participated in the 13th Mahbub ul Haq Memorial Inter School Debates with student finalists from six SAARC countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka debating how to eliminate social inequality in South Asia.

65,000+

young people across India, China and Indonesia took actions online or on-the-ground to stop gender-based violence as part of awareness-raising campaigns by Partners for Prevention, a joint UNDP, UN Women, UNFPA and UNV project, implemented from APRC.

100,000+

people watched the APRC produced film *Revealed: The Himalayan Meltdown* on Discovery Channel Asia that highlighted how communities in Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India and Nepal are adapting to climate change and also advocating for the creation of efficient national responses to the challenges of climate change.

25,000+

likeminded professionals from governments, NGOs, the private sector, research institutes, academia and United Nations agencies interacted through 19 United Nations Country Team-facilitated Solution Exchange communities to develop collective responses to specific development issues.

APRC implements the Regional Programme for Asia and the Pacific (2008-2013) which focuses on regional public goods, cross border cooperation, advocacy and dialogue on sensitive and emerging development issues. Its overarching goal is to promote regional initiatives for the attainment of the MDGs. In 2011, APRC followed the recommendations of its Management Board to focus on the following priority areas of work: MDG acceleration and social protection; gender equality; climate change and crisis resilience. Finding effective approaches to these complex issues required thinking outside of the thematic silos and combining the knowledge and expertise of all practice teams. One of the most exciting results of these efforts is the cross-practice collaboration and the integrated interdisciplinary support that APRC is now able to offer to UNDP Country Offices across Asia-Pacific and its development partners.

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals with Equity



A UNDP special project in the Philippines aims to promote the 'welfare of landless farmers and farm workers' through a 'more equitable distribution and ownership of land.'

Significant differences exist between the levels and speed of development occurring throughout Asia-Pacific countries. National MDG averages mask glaring economic and social inequalities across and between regions and communities within a country. Against this background the challenge is to accelerate the achievement of the MDGs equitably by providing credible national solutions embedded in poverty reducing, inclusive and sustainable development frameworks. APRC has framed its policy advisory services according to a set of approaches and tools identified in a series of policy documents.¹ Findings and recommendations from regional MDG Reports and specific lessons from countries that piloted the MDG Acceleration Framework have also helped to elaborate an APRC approach to the MDG acceleration agenda. This approach focuses on the lagging MDGs and a range of topics that have proven multiplier effects in making gains across all the MDGs such as gender equality; energy; pro-poor inclusive growth strategies; and social protection programmes. It also takes into consideration the different needs of country groups from the least developed countries, middle-income countries, land-locked and small island development countries. To efficiently apply this approach APRC mobilized its MDGs expertise by establishing an inter-disciplinary task team on accelerating the achievement of the MDGs and involved a regional Inclusive

Growth and Poverty Reduction Community of Practitioners from UNDP offices, United Nations Country teams and government representatives.

Throughout the year, APRC offered 19 Country Offices a core package of policy advisory services for MDG acceleration and inclusive growth that focused on building stronger national institutions to deliver on MDG commitments by 2015. A number of least developed and middle-income countries such as Bhutan, Indonesia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal and the Philippines were assisted in developing MDG Action Plans.

APRC led the United Nations interagency collaboration that organized the consultative workshop that provided a concrete step toward the finalization and adoption of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) *Roadmap for the Attainment of MDGs* by the member states.² UNDP's support was integral in identifying the key crosscutting issues

¹ The international assessment 'What will take to Achieve the MDGs?', the UNDP *MDG Breakthrough Strategy* and the *MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF)*.

² With UNESCAP, UN Women, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNAIDS, ILO, FAO, WFP, WHO, UNIDO and the UN Millennium Campaign.

for accelerating progress on slow and off-track MDGs in the Roadmap that now provides a coherent framework for regional partnership and collective actions. APRC continues to provide policy advice and technical support to the ASEAN Secretariat and sectoral bodies in implementing this Roadmap through the existing regional mechanisms and platforms; by addressing inequalities within and between countries; and promoting South-South exchange of lessons learned between ASEAN and other regional bodies such as the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

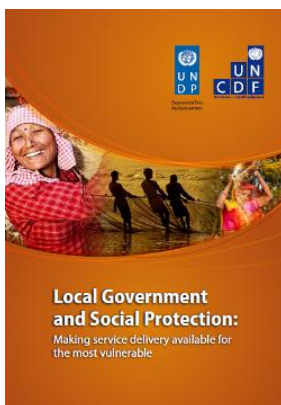
The [Regional MDG Report 2011/12](#), prepared jointly with UNESCAP and ADB, identifies a package of high impact policy interventions for effective public policies to accelerate the achievement of the health related MDGs and targets, which are lagging behind in many Asia-Pacific countries. To codify and consolidate MDG-related knowledge of what works and what does not, APRC led the development of regional case studies on achieving MDG 1.

Governance issues continue to hamper MDG progress and equitable development. Through comparative research and gathering of evidence, APRC experts explored practical pathways and strategies to overcome barriers to achieving the MDGs. For instance, the book *Millennium Declaration, Rights and Constitutions*, written at the behest of APRC and the United Nations Millennium Campaign, recommends how to enshrine the economic, social and cultural rights in constitutional texts and make legally binding provisions to fulfill the spirit of the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs. The review of legal and human rights approaches to accelerate MDGs achievement, conducted by APRC experts with distinguished scholars and development practitioners, complements the set of APRC knowledge resources with a practical tool on *Ways and Means of Realizing Social and Economic Rights and Achieving the MDGs* to guide UNDP Country Offices and other partners to effectively use economic, social and cultural rights to strengthen the MDGs.

Making Social Protection Instruments Work for Countries in Asia and the Pacific

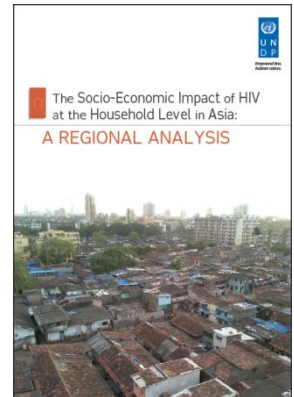
Strengthening social protection policies and programmes is a key country priority to address the persistence of multi-dimensional poverty and vulnerabilities faced by the poor and marginalized in the region. Risks were exacerbated cumulatively by the recent financial, food and fuel crises and climate-linked shocks. Social protection constitutes an effective response to these challenges in a dual manner; it helps the poor to better manage the risks and vulnerabilities and undergirds MDGs sustainably and equitably. APRC launched a [global e-discussion](#) to emphasize UNDP's strategic positioning on social protection as well as to demonstrate the transformative potential of social protection across policies and sectors. The rich and stimulating discussion led to exchanges of directly applicable lessons and experiences drawn from various countries within and outside the region. The e-discussions also contributed to a regional workshop on MDG Acceleration Policies, Strategies and Good Practices: Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Development. Both events helped to build the capacities of UNDP Country Office staff and government partners to better understand and address a range of substantive policy and programming issues such as the linkages between poverty and environment,

the institutional capacity constraints and implementation bottlenecks of social protection schemes, and the importance of gender-sensitive sustainable social protection programmes. To better identify potential entry points for supporting governments in building social protection systems APRC, in collaboration with ILO and UNICEF, led the formulation of a common United Nations position on social protection in the region. Additionally, a [joint UNCDF and APRC discussion paper](#) examined the role of local governments in implementing social protection policies and programmes. It provides a new perspective on the often-neglected linkages between local governance, service delivery and safety net programmes. At the country level APRC and UNCDF experts worked in partnership with UNDP Cambodia and local partners to explore and advocate the potential of microinsurance as an important instrument for strengthening Cambodia's systems of social protection.



Regional Leadership on HIV-sensitive Social Protection

Over the past six years national studies on the socio-economic impact of HIV at the household level in the Asia-Pacific region were conducted by UNDP in partnership with national institutions in Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia and Viet Nam. The studies compared HIV and non-HIV households with similar socio-economic backgrounds and together covered 17,000 households and 72,000 members. The data from the initial findings and analysis of the socio-economic impact studies, both at the country and regional levels, have shaped the HIV-sensitive social protection agenda of the United Nations in the region. The studies formed the cornerstone for the policy advocacy efforts on HIV-sensitive social protection that UNDP pioneered. In partnership with UNICEF, UNAIDS, ILO and APN+ (the Asia-Pacific Network of people living with HIV), in April 2011 APRC convened a high level consultation on HIV-sensitive social protection for impact mitigation in Asia-Pacific. The consultation, the first of its kind in the region, brought together senior government representatives from seven countries (Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Thailand and Viet Nam), United Nations agencies and representatives of people living with HIV. The Consultation adopted *Key Principles for HIV-Sensitive Social Protection* and helped countries conceptualize HIV-sensitive social protection strategies that are now being replicated in other regions.



On the occasion of the 2011 World AIDS Day APRC released the [regional analysis report](#) *The Socio-economic Impact of HIV at the household levels in Asia*. The Report was picked up by *Agence France-Press* and subsequently published around the world by more than 25 leading media organizations. An accompanying report using the gender-disaggregated data from these studies was also released, analyzing the socio economic impact of HIV on women and girls at the household level.

Reducing Poverty and Inequalities through Financial Inclusion in the Pacific

Across the Pacific, one of the least banked regions in the world, the [Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme \(PFIP\)](#), continued its efforts to increase the number of Pacific islanders who have on-going access to quality and affordable financial services and financial education. In 2011 over 20,000 unbanked social welfare beneficiaries in Fiji received free convenient bank accounts for their benefits. The transition from an insecure and costly cash benefit system to an electronic payment system created low cost savings services for all social welfare clients in Fiji, saving the social welfare department around US\$160,000 per year. This globally recognized Government to people (G2P) effort in Fiji was complemented with a first wave of branchless banking in Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu. Better products and new services were added including bill payment, international remittances and salary payment. The numbers are impressive: as of September 2011 total unbanked clients reached were approximately 318,736 and total clients with access to new product or services were approximately 503,217. PFIP embarked on the ambitious FinED Fiji project as well as on regional financial competency surveys. Both efforts are notable in their innovative approach and are designed to have long-term, permanent impact. The FinED Fiji project helps to introduce financial education (personal money management and investment) in the school curriculum from class one to 12, to prepare learning materials and teacher's manuals and to prepare a pool of 27 regional champion schools and teachers for the project. PFIP's own learning and knowledge sharing agenda was very active. PFIP sponsored a number of key trainings for regulators and providers and was a core sponsor of Pacific Microfinance Week 2011. Over 20 people benefited from PFIP scholarships to attend regional or global learning events. PFIP's website is a valuable knowledge gathering platform with 6,383 hits from 140 countries in 2011 alone. PFIP is funded by UNDP, UNCDF, EU and AusAID and managed by the UNDP Pacific Centre.

Women's Political and Economic Representation and Leadership

Asia-Pacific's record on women's political participation falls short of its development achievements and ambitions. This was one of the key messages from the [2010 Asia-Pacific Human Development Report on Gender](#). The *Eight Point Agenda for Action* that translated the report's findings and recommendations into guidance for programming and advocacy underlined the absence of codified knowledge and support targeting alternative pathways for the greater political, social and economic representation of women. By making the improvement of women's political participation and representation a priority in its policy and advisory work, APRC engaged in identifying lessons and supporting options and strategies to empower women in politics with differentiated approaches for national and sub-national participation and representation.

Embedded in rising economic inequalities, gender inequalities are one of the most critical issues for the Asia-Pacific region and cut across all areas of UNDP's work. The *Economic empowerment of women* continues to be a challenge. Women make up two-thirds of the region's poor and poverty is continuing to rise among women. *ADB 2011*

Cultural and policy frameworks discriminate amongst women especially in the economic sphere. Although women constitute 50% of the agricultural labor force in East and Southeast Asia, and more than 60% in South Asia, Asian women own only 7% of farmland while the world average for women is 20%. *FAO 2011*

Female labor force participation in Asia and the Pacific remains low and women continue to dominate part time and low paying jobs. This is often due to the significant time constraints they face given their reproductive roles particularly where there is no public provision of care for children, elderly and the sick. Women continue to be paid less than men for the same work and have fewer opportunities to access high productivity industry and services sectors. *ADB, ILO 'Women and Labour Markets: Rebalancing for Gender Equality, 2011*

[Women's Representation in Local Government in Asia-Pacific](#) was a status report that quantified and analyzed for the first time women's representation at the rural, urban, district and provincial levels across Asia-Pacific. It continues to be used by policy makers, United Nations agencies and non-state partners to promote women's political participation and accountability throughout the region. Released to the press in Asia in March 2011, the report made it to news outlets in Bangladesh, India, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The second 2011 report adds to the evidence base built by the inaugural report and reiterates an important message: overall increases in women's representation do not necessarily translate into an increase in women's leadership; and more work has to be done to target the barriers to women's leadership at country level.

To identify and chart alternative pathways to increasing political representation of women and overcoming obstacles facing women entering political life in South Asia, APRC helped organize in Bangladesh the international conference *Power, Voice and Rights: Women's Political Leadership*.

Members of parliament from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, representatives from political parties, civil society and some of the world's leading gender experts deliberated the critical issues of political party reform as a requirement to boost numbers and the quality of women as party candidates. Other means to improve political participation beyond temporary special measures and quotas, such as through creating entry points and capacities at the sub-national level, were also analyzed. A flagship outcome declaration underlined the importance of the principles of diversity, non-discrimination and gender equality as basic human rights and stressed the need of strengthening the ability of women to contest, and when elected, assume public office positions. The declaration was a key component of APRC's follow up advocacy efforts to strongly promote political voice as well as the



Afghan women cast their vote in parliamentary election.

economic and social empowerment of women. Early results include the establishment, of a regional community of practice on women's political representation and leadership in collaboration with UN Women and the development of two knowledge products: *Alternative Pathways for Women into Politics* and *Action Plan for Political Equality in the Asia-Pacific*. The community of practitioners and the knowledge products on women's political leadership are designed to enhance the individual and collective impact of professionals dedicated to increasing the numbers and influence of women in political leadership positions in the countries of Asia and the Pacific.

Women's political participation remained a particular challenge for the Pacific where women hold less than five per cent of seats in national legislatures. The Solomon Islands, The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and Nauru have no women Member of Parliament and six other countries have only one female Member. To advocate for increased participation of women in political processes UNDP collaborated with the University of the South Pacific to promote temporary special measures. A similar advocacy approach was pursued with UNDP support at the 4th Pacific Women's Ministerial Meeting with speakers, Ministers and high-level officials from Papua New Guinea, French Polynesia and the Solomon Islands. The initiation of Mock Parliaments for Women for the first time ever in the Pacific region, in collaboration with local legislatures, Department of Women and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat captured the imagination of women, Members of Parliament and the public at large. The Mock Parliaments started a process of transforming the way Pacific people look at women candidates and their capacity to effectively engage as members of the national legislative bodies.

A national dialogue in Papua New Guinea linked to the Global Commission on HIV and the Law gave an opportunity for people living with HIV and key affected populations, including women impacted and affected by HIV, female sex workers, transgender populations and men who have sex with men to bring to the attention of policy makers the serious human rights violations they experience. The meeting initiated a much-needed dialogue that was picked up by media outlets immediately following the event. The dialogue gave impetus to the movement in Papua New Guinea to reserve 22 seats in parliament for women, which United Nations had advocated for over the last few years. This was passed by parliament in November 2011.

Women and Peace Building

Women remain more vulnerable in conflict situations and both during and after natural disasters. Yet of the 30 countries in the world that have developed national plans to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women in compliance with the *U.N. Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security*, only Nepal and the Philippines are from this region. Women remain underrepresented in peace negotiations and peace-building initiatives. The role of women in building and restoring peace was promoted by APRC through a multi-country network called [N-Peace \(Engage for Peace, Equality, Access, Community and Empowerment\)](#), which operates in Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste. The



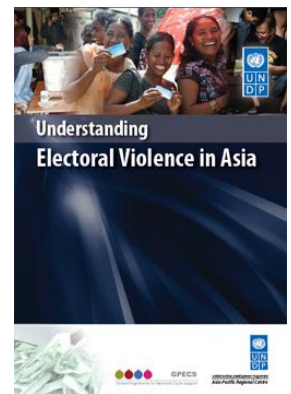
initiative started in 2010 with seed funding from the special UNDP Regional Gender Equality Fund and quickly attracted additional co-financing and collaborative partners such as AusAid and Search for Common Ground, the largest international non-governmental organization working in the field of conflict transformation. APRC has since provided networking opportunities for civil society and grass root organizations to address similar challenges in different national contexts. Some positive results have been supported by the network

including in Indonesia where the concerns of women from ten post-conflict provinces were included into a dialogue between civil society organizations and the government on the draft National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security prior to its submission for presidential decree and in Timor-Leste where the perspectives of victims were reflected in a national action plan on sexual and gender-based violence. These country level activities became better known regionally when the network launched the inaugural N-Peace Awards. Thirty nominations from Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste were received and over 25,000 people supported the N-Peace campaign to recognize the untiring efforts of women in post-conflict settings and to highlight their leadership roles in peace building.

www.n-peace.net

Paving the Way to Electoral Participation

Electoral assistance projects focusing on increasing women's political and electoral participation, preventing electoral violence and working with political parties were launched in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Mongolia, Pakistan and Timor-Leste. APRC's research paper on [Understanding Electoral Violence in Asia](#) was released on the eve of the July 2011 parliamentary elections in Thailand. It was picked up by over 20 regional news outlets and additionally fed into on-going initiatives in Nepal and Thailand. In both countries electoral violence was identified as an issue that prevents women from fully participating in political life, which has a direct bearing on the attainment of MDG 3. The paper was translated into Thai for national distribution and advocacy support efforts to the country's electoral and political cycle. In Nepal the report's recommendations contributed to frame future parameters for United Nations electoral assistance and in Mongolia the paper informed decisions by parliamentarians, members of the electoral commission as well as the security and justice institutions to apply lessons from the report in the preparations for the national elections in 2012.



Following the UNDP Community of Practice meeting on Electoral Cycle Support in Manila during September 2011 the Mongolian parliamentarian Jamiyankhorloo Suhbaatar launched, in collaboration with the UNDP Country Office, a 45-day media campaign on women's political participation in Mongolia. The timing corresponded with the opening of the parliament session and debate on the new election law. Adopted on 15 December 2011 the *Bill on Parliamentary Election* promoted the quota of women members of parliament with the provision that no less than 20 per cent of the 76 candidates nominated by the political parties should be women. The constructive effort of Mr. Suhbaatar advanced the Parliament's decision to increase women's representation in future elections in Mongolia.

Managing the Economy with a Gender Perspective

In 2011 APRC doubled its support to regional initiatives that promoted women's economic empowerment. The Asia-Pacific Gender and Economic Policy Management Initiative (GEPMI) prepared 21 senior experts from 14 countries as a first cohort of a pool of experts on gender responsive economic policy management to support the training of policy makers and the delivery of country level advisory services. The second regional intensive course on gender and macroeconomic issues was convened by APRC and Ochanomizu University in Japan, in partnership with the International Working Group on Gender, Macroeconomics and International Economics. Over 30 selected practitioners and academics from 19 countries graduated with project ideas. With seed grants from the UNDP-Japan Partnership Fund, six out of 13 project proposals on integrating gender and macroeconomics started implementation in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Partnering to Prevent Violence against Women

Gender-based violence continues to undermine human rights, social stability and security, health, educational and employment opportunities as well as the wellbeing of women and girls. Son preference continues to account for significant numbers of missing girls in Asia. Overall, progress in legislating against gender-based violence has been limited across the region. To promote gender equality and combat violence gender-based violence, Partners for Prevention's regional project launched three pilot social media campaigns targeting youths in China, India, and Viet Nam. In India, Must Bol is targeting active young people in Delhi who are potential social media users and applies creative means to generate thought-provoking discussions on gender and violence.

Partners for Prevention's (P4P) 2011 results are in the broad category of change. The project, implemented by APRC, UN Women, UNFPA and UNV, reached large communities with advocacy and communications campaigns and achieved some noticeable changes in attitudes and perceptions about violence against women:

- Knowledge change
 - P4P helped to influence the discourse on violence prevention through the dissemination of research findings and translating them into programme and policy advice with national partners at regional and global events;
 - P4P was awarded the first prize for best research project as selected by the 200+ audience at the global Sexual Violence Research Initiative Forum in Cape Town, South Africa; and
 - P4P's research methodology used by the programme in China produced the highest prevalence estimates of violence against women ever and has been replicated by other organizations. For example Care International uses P4P research tools in Sri Lanka and Cambodia.
- Capacity change
 - Sub-regional learning projects, regional trainings and direct technical assistance resulted in enhanced capacities of local researchers to conduct rigorous research on violence;
 - United Nations, government and NGO partners improved their understanding of gender, power and violence to better situate and plan their work; and
 - Practitioners have better analytical/theoretical frameworks for building violence prevention strategies.
- P4P's awareness change results include registered change among the 100+ researchers, data collectors and over 5,000 respondents involved in the research process so far.

More about the programme: www.partners4prevention.org

Responding to Climate Change Challenges

Asia-Pacific countries have recognized climate change as a major threat to economic growth, poverty reduction and human development. Responding to the challenges of climate change requires policy makers, development partners, private sector and civil society to work together in new ways. APRC has established a cross-practice climate change task team to better coordinate climate related activities. Jointly with UNDP Country Offices, United Nations Country Teams and their national partners, APRC worked to better integrate climate actions into national fiscal and planning frameworks, strengthened the institutions at national at local level responsible for providing an integrated response to climate change challenges, and improved the design of climate change programming.

The forthcoming [Asia-Pacific Human Development Report](#) provides a unique transformational perspective that knits people, climate change and human development while also addressing both potential challenges and opportunities. The Report was finalized in 2011 and is due to be released in early 2012 during the run-up to Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. The Report's early findings contributed to informing Malaysia's country consultation workshop for the preparation of Rio+20 Summit organized by the Economic Planning Unit of the Prime Minister's Office; provided a regional insight to Cambodia's national dialogue on climate change and rural resilience

during the launch of the *National Human Development Report*; and further sensitized private sector representatives on cities and climate change in the 5th Asia-Pacific Urban Forum, Bangkok.

The Poverty Environment Initiative (PEI), a joint global programme with UNEP, supported six countries in Asia. Thanks to this programme, pro-poor environment and climate outcomes were included into national and local planning and budgeting activities working with Ministries of Finance, Planning and local governments in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Lao PDR, Nepal, Philippines and Thailand. In Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal the planning commissions were supported to include climate and environment in their five-year plans and annual budgets, while in Lao, Philippines and Thailand private investment was better managed to minimize social and environmental impacts.

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), the global programme to reduce emissions by better managing forest resources, puts specific emphasis on securing livelihoods, biodiversity conservation, local governance and indigenous people's concerns. In 2011 the UN-REDD programme assisted Cambodia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Solomon Islands and Viet Nam with approximately US\$21 million to prepare and implement national strategies. In addition, UN-REDD provided support to other partner countries including Bangladesh, Bhutan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Myanmar and Sri Lanka on a range of issues, such as the preparation of national REDD+ Readiness roadmaps as well as the measuring, reporting and verification (MRV) and benefit distribution systems (BDS) that are the key elements of REDD+ Readiness. UNDP's work focused on designing benefit distribution systems that create sound social and environmental safeguards for key stakeholders responsible for carrying out forest management practices (local households, communities, women, marginalized and indigenous groups) and on ensuring that the needs, rights and interests of forest dependent communities are respected. It also ensured that such key stakeholders are informed and consulted to either give or withhold their consent to REDD + activities through the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process.

“Responding to climate change and development are inseparable... the Earth is already locked into significant climate change that impacts the environment, our communities and economies. Such impacts have the potential to roll back many of the gains in development made to date...”
Realizing Development effectiveness
A synthesis report from five country studies, 2011, CDDE Facility and APRC



Cambodian women with fishing gear on their heads walk through a protected forest area in Cambodia's northern plains in Preah Vihear province.

Making the Most of Climate Change Finance in Asia and the Pacific

APRC experts partnered with ADB, SIDA and OECD to generate country evidence and draw together lessons that can guide the design of climate change programming that strengthen government systems of transparency and accountability at national and local levels. The [Capacity Development for Development Effectiveness \(CDDE\) Facility](#), jointly managed by APRC and ADB, led a dialogue amongst 19 countries of Asia and the Pacific, which articulated a *Road Map for Strengthening Climate Finance Management* in the region. To improve the effectiveness of climate change finance at country level, APRC supported programmes established initial baselines on climate related activities and institutional arrangements for managing climate finance in the four countries of Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Nepal and Thailand as a first step to introduce greater transparency on climate finance. With UNDP support cross-ministerial climate finance committees were established in Nepal and Thailand to include key stakeholders such as the Ministries of

Finance, Planning, Environment as well as local governments. The working committee in Nepal, led by the Ministry of Finance, was established with the purpose of developing budget codes in order to better track and manage climate change resources. APRC also piloted a political economy assessment for climate change-related reform processes in the alternative energy sector in Malaysia and the Philippines, as well as an analytic framework for assessing the role of local level actors in taking forward a response to climate change. In addition to supporting country-led work, APRC was actively engaged with other development partners working on similar issues. For instance, a source book on *How to Conduct Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Review* is being jointly developed by World Bank and APRC. Analyzing national climate fiscal frameworks across the region was a pioneering and innovative work. APRC's innovative approach was echoed in similar processes in Africa and Latin America. The call for effective climate finance reached a global audience when the UNDP Administrator chaired a session on climate finance at the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, South Korea. APRC's and CDDE Facility's advocacy on climate finance and development effectiveness influenced the launch at Busan of a global initiative to strengthen the country public financial management systems as part of delivering climate finance.

Realizing Development Effectiveness in Asia and the Pacific

According to the *2011 Survey of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness*, rolled out and supported by APRC's CDDE Facility, nine Asia-Pacific countries strengthened the partnership between donors and government in their delivery of Official Development Assistance with clearer mutual accountability for progress on targets and indicators in aid performance. UNDP worked with Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan and Viet Nam to provide facilitation support to donor-government high level meetings and advice on aid policy reform that directly contributed to this achievement. Examples of success include the reform of the Aid Effectiveness Forum in Viet Nam, now directly linked to the Consultative Group of donors and national partners meeting and the Round Table in Lao PDR that has closer links to sector policy reform issues. APRC teams in Bangkok and Suva helped to include cutting edge work on peer review and mutual accountability from Asia and the Pacific region in the global development effectiveness dialogue. An example of which was the government of Viet Nam's innovation in reforming the national aid policy and institutional arrangements for coordinating development partners to include issues around climate finance, private-public partnerships and South-South Cooperation, thereby provided strong impetus to the Outcome Document of the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan.

Cited for its user friendly design and regular update the official portal for the Busan High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness aideffectiveness.org attracted in 2011 more than 180,000 visitors. Managed on a day-to-day basis by APRC the portal served partner countries and development partners to articulate a common understanding of the principles of development effectiveness and the priorities of the aid reform agenda.

How to deconstruct the development buzzword “engendering”

Evidence from international research and practice suggests that incorporating a gender perspective in climate change policies and initiatives is crucial to effectively address the climate change crisis. An initiative on Gender Mainstreaming in Environment gained momentum in two rural communities of Cambodia where the Provincial Department of Women's Affairs conducted Rapid Gender Assessments (RGAs) that subsequently led to the increased involvement of women in the management of water resources. The Farmer Water User Committees, which are the local authorities responsible for irrigation management, have historically been comprised of only men, which can potentially skew decisions made in men's favor. The RGAs found that women and men use the irrigation water in different ways and that women are a better medium of early warning in rural communities, especially with regards to the slow onset of calamities such as long rain or droughts. These findings led to the modification of the project design to establish women's volunteer groups as a messenger of early warning information. **Engendering UNDP Cambodia's Environment and Energy (E&E) Portfolio** is a joint initiative by UNDP Cambodia, APRC and the International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy

(ENERGIA). It was applied during the inception phase of Promoting Climate Resilient Water Management and Agricultural Practices, a project funded by Global Environment Facility/Least Developed Countries Fund, which is the first climate change adaptation project that directly addresses the adaptation priorities as identified in Cambodia's National Adaptation Programme of Action. The application of this initiative resulted in modifications of the stakeholder's engagement plan for the project in the context of gender integration. The project team is now sharing the lessons learned from their experience not just in Cambodia but also at international platforms such as the Adaptation Learning Mechanism, which is the collaborative knowledge-sharing platform facilitated by UNDP in close partnership with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNEP, the World Bank and specialized United Nations agencies.

Building Crisis Resilient Societies

The Asia-Pacific region is extremely vulnerable to natural disasters and accounts for the majority of global disaster victims even without taking climate change into account. Climate change exacerbates extreme weather events and the severity of impact on localities and livelihoods. Countries, especially least developed ones, face challenges in providing public services related to disaster risk management such as risk assessments, early warning systems, land use planning, ecosystem management, improvements of critical lifelines and enforcement of building codes. Moreover, these countries often lack ability to provide effective humanitarian assistance and support to gender-responsive recovery that is required due to the heightened vulnerability of women during and in the aftermath of natural disasters.

Natural Disasters Prevention and Recovery

UNDP has made disaster risk reduction (DRR) central to its development agenda and crafted specific products and approaches for DRR programming and advocacy. These DRR signature products include risk assessment, policy development, capacity assessment, capacity development and community based disaster risk management.

On 12 October 2011 more than 20 Indian Ocean countries participated in Exercise IOWave11 that simulated a fictitious earthquake of the same magnitude that generated the devastating tsunami of December 2004. The exercise provided an excellent opportunity for the Indian Ocean countries to test their operational capacity and efficiency of warning chains down to the community level as per their agreed standard operating procedures. The Exercise IOWave11 marked a

significant milestone in the development of tsunami warning system for the Indian Ocean region, which has started receiving tsunami warning from the designated Regional Tsunami Service Providers (RTSPs) of Australia, Indonesia, India and Thailand-based RIMES (Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia). Until recently, the Indian Ocean countries were receiving tsunami warning from the Japan Meteorological Agency and the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre. APRC supported several regional and national processes contributing to the development of the tsunami warning system for the Indian Ocean. UNDP's support was crucial at the regional level in harmonizing warning procedures and protocols to ensure that tsunami warning is received from RTSPs in a format which could be easily synthesized by countries and also at the national level in preparing institutions, strengthening warning dissemination procedures and simulating evacuation drills with participation of all stakeholders such as communities, businesses, local governments, police and community based organizations. The tsunami-warning infrastructure, backed by appropriate regional coordination mechanisms, national institutional and legal frameworks as well as well-prepared coastal communities reduces the risk of losses from potential tsunami disasters. At the time of the 2004 tsunami, a

warning system for the Indian Ocean was not in place and only a few scientists knew of the tsunami risk. If this warning system was in place prior to the 2004 tsunami 160,000 deaths might have been prevented.

Heavy rain isn't unusual in Thailand, Cambodia or the rest of Southeast Asia. However 2011 was exceptional as the rainy season started earlier than normal. The combination of continuous heavy rainfall and typhoons culminated in devastating and widespread flooding to these two countries as well as the Philippines, Viet Nam and Lao PDR. Some early assessments of the damage concluded that these events produced a new level of suffering and loss. In response to requests from the UNDP Country Offices in Cambodia Lao PDR and Thailand, APRC experts facilitated the approval of immediate assistance from a UNDP special fund and participated in missions to conduct both damage and needs assessment and to develop early recovery programmes.

Resilient Local Communities

Across Asia and the Pacific disaster risk reduction initiatives addressed institutional capacity strengthening and policy framework formulation. APRC crisis prevention and capacity development experts assisted the capacity assessments for disaster management of local authorities in Indonesia and the Philippines and were consulted on the design of their capacity development strategies and responses. An Indonesian National Team who received APRC supported training in 2010, subsequently applied and tested draft standard guidelines on tsunami risk assessment and mitigation in Aceh and West Sulawesi, two of the most tsunami prone locations in Indonesia. Based on results and adjustments during the implementation revised guidelines were provided to the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB), which intends to make it obligatory for all local governments to use the level of tsunami risks as the basis for allocation of funds. This will make Indonesia one of the few countries to use a risk assessment process as the basis for fund allocation for disaster risk management and it is hoped that the full process inclusive of guidelines development, peer review and verification, training, testing and official approval will be replicated for other types of hazards such as climate risk, landslides, earthquakes and volcano eruptions in the Indonesian context.

In the Philippines the capacity assessment methodology was first piloted in the provinces of Benguet and Albay and later shared with stakeholders at national level. Following recommendations from UNDP's experts and spearheaded by strong political leadership and participation of various partners, the capacity development work in Albay focused on promoting the primacy of the local government units in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation issues. The Albay Centre for Initiative and Research for Climate Adaptation in partnership with public institutions and organizations of local authorities championed the dissemination of this integrated capacity development approach to other provinces and government units.

When in November 2011 the government and communities of Padang hosted local planning and disaster management authorities from eight disaster-prone provinces of Indonesia, experts from Bangladesh, the Philippines, Thailand and Sri Lanka joined in to discuss their experience in making local communities safer through disaster risk reduction management. APRC experts and the UNDP Indonesia Country Office helped to conceive and conduct this exchange of knowledge amongst local authorities on institutional and policy development, capacity and risk assessment and community based disaster management.

Climate Change Concerns and Disaster Risk Management



Pakistan - Some communities are reluctant to leave their houses despite severe flooding.

The correlation between climate change and the rising frequency and intensity of natural disasters is increasingly being recognized by governments in Asia-Pacific and has been reflected in their climate change strategies and National Adaptation Program of Action. It is an important element in the programming support provided by APRC. In 2011, 10 countries were assisted in accessing global climate change funds, much of this funding destined to address climate-induced natural disasters such as floods and tropical cyclones. In the Hindu Kush Himalayan region APRC experts assist Bhutan, Nepal and Pakistan in reducing the risks from Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF). Significant synergies are expected from these initiatives through regional knowledge

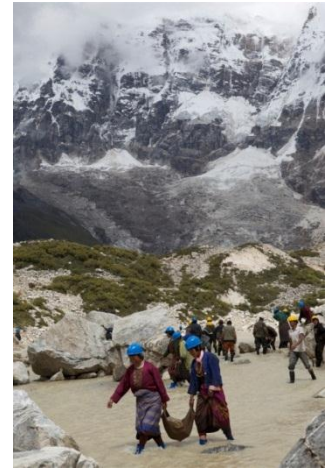
exchange, enabling the replication of effective disaster risk reduction measures and adaptation to climate change in other countries facing climate change-induced GLOF risks. The success of these initiatives helps to establish UNDP as one of the foremost organizations working in this area. In Southeast Asia APRC is helping countries to address flooding and drought related risks by working with coastal communities in Thailand and with farmers in Lao PDR.

APRC increased the portfolio of activities in the Pacific and Island States on strengthening national and local government capacity to identify, prioritize and execute actions to address climate and disaster risks. Work on tropical cyclone related risks in Tuvalu and the introduction of climate resilient island planning in the Maldives are examples of shifting focus from reactive responses for disaster recovery to local government planning and budgeting capacity towards reducing future risks.

The 2011 Global Assessment Report (GAR) on Disaster Risk Reduction was launched in Bangkok in May 2011. APRC experts peer reviewed this important document that provides a framework for addressing the twin challenges of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation within a broad framework of sustainable development and poverty reduction. The 2011 GAR is expected to improve the understanding of policy makers on the trends in disaster risk and analysis of progress of countries in meeting the commitments under the *Hyogo Framework for Action*. APRC has supported the establishment and implementation of seven disaster-loss databases in Indonesia, Iran, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and the Orissa and Tamil Nadu states of India, which have made significant contributions to the analysis and findings for the two Global Assessment Reports in 2009 and 2011. When fully established the disaster loss database will provide the necessary information and analysis to support policy planning and decision-making for recovery, risk reduction, preparedness, mitigation and response at national and sub-national levels.

Spreading the Word about our Work

The documentary [Revealed: Himalayan Meltdown](#), co-produced by APRC, Arrowhead Films and Discovery Channel, examines how communities in Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India and Nepal seek to adapt to climate change. After a sneak preview in Bangkok and a premiere screening at the Asia Society in New York the documentary was aired on Discovery Channel Asia reaching nearly 100,000 people and was featured on the Eve of the Earth Summit in Abu Dhabi. The film is used by UNDP Country Offices in advocating for efficient national responses to the challenges of climate change. Prominent requests for copies of the movie have been received by the office of Vice President Al Gore; the Office of the Under-Secretary for Democracy and Global Affairs of the U.S. Department of State for a screening at a South Asia Forum; the National Academies of Sciences for use at its Forum on Himalayan Glaciers; Carlton University; the University of Wisconsin; Duke University; Dartmouth College; The Near East South Asia Centre for Strategic Studies, associated with the US National Defense University; the UK's Department for International Development (DFID); the Secretariat of SAARC; the Asia Institute of Technology in Thailand and the Stockholm Environment Institute. Over 200 people mostly from US Government and Capitol Hill attended a special screening at the US State Department in early 2012.

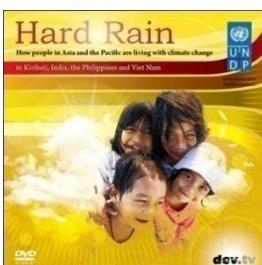


Bhutan - People working hard to drain water in high altitude Lake Thorthormi to prevent glacial lake outburst flood.

In 2011 APRC:

- ✓ Produced 31 publications including research papers, policy guidance notes, case studies, manuals and advocacy reports. These include joint publications with the Oxford University Press and the Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA);
- ✓ Organized, or supported the organization, of more than 12 high level public events including the South Asia Economic Summit Global Recovery, New Risks and Sustainable Growth: Repositioning South Asia; the Bhutan Climate Summit, the International Conference on Recreating South Asia; the International Symposium on Gender, Aid Effectiveness and Sustainable Development; the 10th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific; the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness; the Oslo Governance Forum; and the 5th Asia-Pacific Urban Forum;
- ✓ Upgraded the content of its public APRC website and introduced tracking and survey tools to monitor visitors' feedback and publications outreach; and
- ✓ Garnered coverage of APRC-led activities and publications on various development issues in media outlets such as *The Guardian*, *Al Jazeera*, *International Herald Tribune*, *ABC Radio and TV*, *AFP*, *BBC*, *Washington Post*, *Voice of America*, *The Telegraph*, including nine media interviews with APRC experts. Ten op-eds of senior managers of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific were published by national press in Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Indonesia and leading regional news outlets such as *Jakarta Post*, *South China Morning Post*, *Economic Times* and *Business Standard (India)*.

[Hard Rain](#) is a two part independent documentary on climate change and human development in Asia and the Pacific that was produced by Dev.tv with APRC support as a curtain raiser and to complement to the forthcoming *Asia-Pacific Human Development Report on Climate Change*. The films focus on how people in India, Kiribati, the Philippines and Viet Nam are adapting to climate risks. The films feature interviewees who are situated in the centre of the climate change debate such as the President of Kiribati, the Indian Minister of Environment and the award-winning governor of Albay in the Philippines. After a global broadcast on *BBC World News TV* in April, the films were rolled out in film festivals and public networks throughout Asia-Pacific. **Hard Rain** was one of the top three selected films for the 2011 Climate Change Adaptation Film Festival in Bangkok.



APRC directly realizes or assists the implementation of several UNDP global programmes and global funds:

- Environment and climate global trust funds: Global Environment Facility; Least Developed Country Fund; Special Climate Change Fund; Adaptation Fund; and the Montreal Protocol Multilateral Fund;
- Multi-donor global programmes: UN-REDD Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation; Poverty Environment Initiative; Mangroves for the Future Programme; Global Climate Policy Programme; and
- Global programmes in governance: Global Programme on Electoral Cycle Support; Global Human Rights Strengthening Programme; Programme on Anti Corruption for Development Effectiveness; Governance Assessments Programme; Global Programme on Access to Justice.

All global programmes and funds are contributing both programming and staff costs to APRC.

2011 Performance Highlights

Inclusive Participation in Policy Making

The **Indigenous Voices** Initiative which began in December 2007 and was followed up with five Communication for Empowerment (C4E) assessments in the Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Nepal and the Philippines, has culminated during 2011 in strategies for regional and national interventions to increase inclusive participation, voice and accountability on indigenous issues. The five studies facilitated by the APRC in collaboration with the participating UNDP Country Offices, research institutions and indigenous people's organizations represent a valuable analysis of the overall context of indigenous peoples, their media and communication environments as well as the main development challenges being faced. The assessment process also resulted in the capacity building of researchers and participating indigenous people organizations. A summary report, titled *Indigenous Voices in Asia: Assessment & Strategy* summarizes lessons learned and recommendations for future actions. The next phase of the regional initiative will see regional organizations such as the Asia Indigenous People's Pact (AIPP), the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (Asia-Pacific) (AMARC) and additional partners at the country level promoting the rights of indigenous people to have access to all forms of non-indigenous media, without discrimination, and to strengthen the role of indigenous media in enhancing indigenous voices, culture, language and identity. In the long run it is expected that the results achieved so far through the Indigenous Voices Initiative will contribute to enhancing indigenous people's participation and representation in democratic and political processes. In doing so governments will be held more accountable for their actions and promises with respect to international norms on the rights of indigenous peoples.



The culture and tradition of indigenous people in Sarangani, the Philippines, includes the planting of traditional rice varieties.

Implementation of International Norms and Standards on Anti-corruption and Human Rights

APRC consolidated regional partnerships on access to justice and human rights with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), the Asian Consortium on Human Rights Based Access to Justice, the Legal Empowerment Asia Partnership and the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF). Working jointly with the Regional Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), APRC consistently applied the United Nations human rights based approach to development in advocacy, knowledge sharing and capacity development activities. Key results of this collaborative work include:

- ✓ The Asia Regional Consortium on Human Rights-Based Access to Justice offered foundational training modules on human rights based access to justice to government and civil society representatives from 30 countries who are now embedding this specialized knowledge in institutional reform initiatives and rights-based justice programming;

- ✓ Forty officials from the ASEAN Secretariat are better prepared with adequate knowledge and understanding of international human rights norms and mechanisms through trainings organized by APRC with OHCHR;
- ✓ Increased knowledge and analytical skills of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission of Human Rights' group who are currently drafting the first ASEAN Human Rights Declaration drawing on lessons from the Inter-American Human Rights Commission and the African Human and People's Rights Commission were made available through exchange and facilitation led by APRC;
- ✓ National Human Rights Institutions in Afghanistan and Mongolia delivered on their mandates more efficiently after institutional capacity assessments conducted with APRC support in partnership with OHCHR and Asia-Pacific Forum. Human rights commissioners from Afghanistan, Jordan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia and Palestine reported positive outcomes directly related to similar assessments at the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Forum;
- ✓ Knowledge exchange facilitated by APRC between SAARC and ASEAN on establishing a sub-regional Human Rights Commission assists government institutions, national human rights bodies, civil societies and academia to advocate for a robust South Asian human rights mechanism; and
- ✓ Four new studies were commissioned and published by APRC on human rights institutions, legal systems, access to justice tools, and case studies from the region.

Building on the Asia-Pacific Regional Dialogue of the Global Commission on HIV and the Law, APRC, SARRCLAW and the International Development and Law Organization convened the South Asia Round Table on HIV and the Law. High Court and Supreme Court Justices, National Human Rights Institutions, parliamentarians and community based organizations from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka identified the need to address restrictive legal environments and strengthen human rights reporting mechanisms. Immediately following the Round Table, High Court Judges, National Human Rights Institutions, the United Nations system and other stakeholders convened the Kathmandu Platform to map the way forward in Sri Lanka.

APRC continued to promote the implementation of the *United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)*:

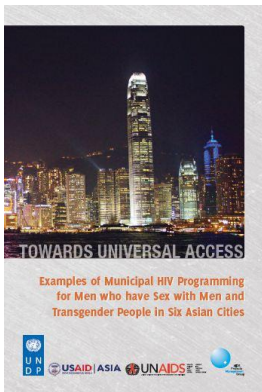
- ✓ Six new countries acceded to the UNCAC (Cook Islands, India, Marshall Islands, Nepal, Thailand and Vanuatu) partially as a result of the APRC-Suva sustained advocacy efforts for ratification in the Pacific islands;
- ✓ Five countries (Lao PDR, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam) completed with APRC support UNCAC self-assessment reports and are now ready to take part in the UNCAC Review Mechanism. The Review Mechanism will issue recommendations for the improvement of national legislation, policies and practices;
- ✓ All countries, undertaking UNCAC self-assessments in Asia used the [UNDP Guidance Note on UNCAC Self-Assessments: Going beyond the Minimum](#), published by APRC. APRC developed a [Practitioners' Guide on Capacity Assessments for Anti-Corruption Agencies](#) in partnership with UNDP HQ and other regional centres.

APRC strengthened South-South Cooperation among anti-corruption agencies and actors:

- ✓ By convening three anti-corruption commissions (ACC) from Bhutan, Maldives and Timor-Leste to share experiences that resulted in improved internal procedures and overall effectiveness of the anti-corruption commissions of Maldives and Timor-Leste; and
"...the best experience sharing I have ever had", Commissioner Mohamed Shafeeu, ACC Maldives
"This South-South exchange has been my best reading on corruption yet", Commissioner Adérito de Jesus Soares, ACC Timor-Leste
- ✓ By mobilizing comparative expertise and sharing national best practices and global experiences on effective anti-corruption policies, APRC and the India Country Office provided timely advice to the Standing Committee of the Indian Parliament to table the *LokPall Bill*, the first attempt to comprehensively address the endemic corruption in India. UNDP's global portal www.anti-corruption.org, developed with APRC's contribution, was launched on 9 December 2011 in celebration of Anti-Corruption Day.

Efficient HIV, Health and Development Response

The achievement of the MDGs and equitable human development requires strengthened action on the linkages between HIV, health and development. APRC ensures that HIV is addressed within broader democratic governance, poverty reduction, gender equality strategies and supports countries to respond to the key social drivers of their HIV epidemics such as the protection of human rights, the legal environment and the status of women.



Central to this work during 2011 was the strengthening of partnerships between affected communities and governments for a more effective and inclusive governance of HIV responses. APRC partnered with USAID in follow-up to a series of 2010 city-level consultative processes (Bangkok, Chengdu, Ho Chi Minh City, Jakarta, Manila and Yangon,) that culminated in a 2011 report on municipal HIV programming for men who have sex with men and transgender populations. Findings from the report revealed that progress in HIV responses at the city-level are hampered by restrictive legal environments and policies as well as selective police enforcement practices. This *Six Cities* report serves as the basis for UNDP Country Offices and partners work in expanding the governance of municipal HIV responses in China, Myanmar, the Philippines and Viet Nam.

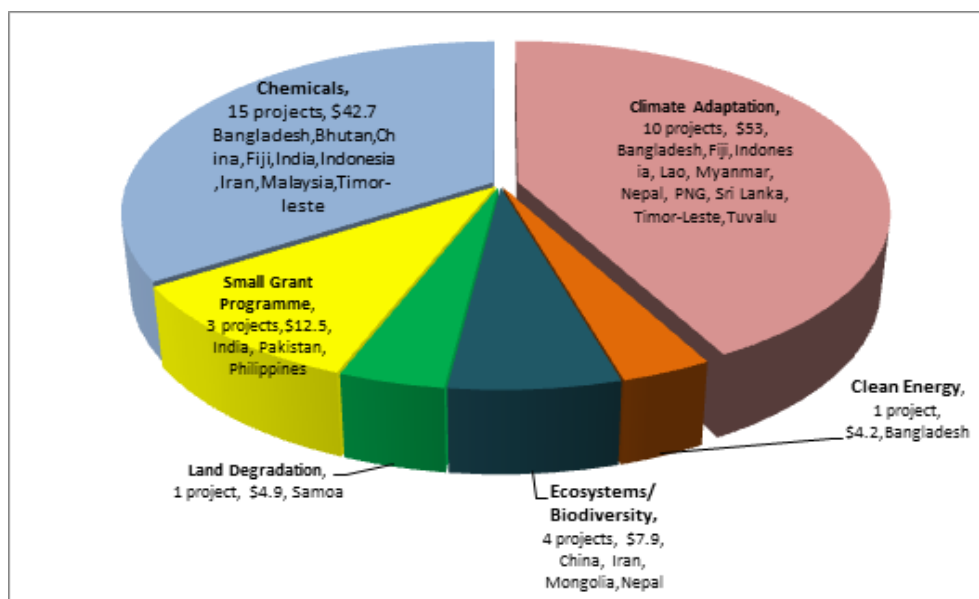
APRC played a leading role in the region in advocating for policy change on removing punitive laws and on the issue of intellectual property. HIV-related travel restrictions across Asia-Pacific infringe the rights of migrants to move, work and access health care. In addition to a number of key publications that highlighted the challenges faced by migrants due to such restriction, APRC through the Joint United Nations Initiative on Mobility and HIV/AIDS in Southeast Asia ([JUNIMA](#)), convened a symposium at the 10th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific showcasing positive examples from countries that have removed travel restrictions and provided health care access for migrants. In partnership with the ASEAN Secretariat, APRC convened a high-level dialogue on HIV prevention, treatment, care and support for migrant workers. This meeting focused on capacity building and multi-sectoral sharing, reaching consensus on a set of regional priorities for addressing health and HIV access for migrant workers.

On the issue of intellectual property rights in the context of trade and access to treatment continuous support was provided by APRC to civil society partners to build their capacity to address the issue effectively. Targeted studies in China and India provided much needed evidence on the impact of intellectual property regimes on access to generic medicine including HIV medicine.

Environment and Sustainable Development

APRC assists Asia-Pacific countries to access financial resources from global environment funds and to combine and sequence private, public, grant and loan financing. Financial resources are then used to enhance the capacity of countries to design and implement policies and programmes promoting green, low emission and climate resilient initiatives. In 2011 APRC supported such policy and market transformations in 35 countries. UNDP experts and advisors were engaged in the design and implementation of over 200 specific interventions worth approximately US\$600 million in grant funding in the areas of energy, climate mitigation, climate adaptation, natural resource management, biodiversity, forests, land, water and chemicals. In 2011 UNDP successfully assisted 18 countries to access international environmental funds, thus mobilizing resources for government partners amounting to over US\$125 million.

Resources mobilized for country programmes (climate, chemicals, energy & environment) in 2011 Total: US\$125 million



In the area of energy/climate mitigation APRC supports national initiatives that transform, influence and develop markets for energy efficiency, renewable energy and low greenhouse gas emitting technologies. This includes support to 21 clean technologies such as renewable energy technologies (wind, solar, hydro, biomass), energy efficient buildings (such as lighting and appliances), industrial processes and sustainable transport measures. With UNDP assistance in the formulation of policy and legislative frameworks Viet Nam drafted an *Energy Conservation and Efficiency Law* that was enforced on January 2011 and Malaysia enacted a *Renewable Energy Act* and feed-in-tariff mechanisms.



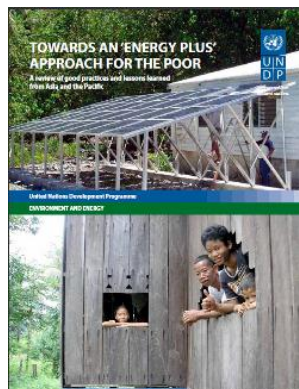
Workers plant mangrove seedlings in an estuary in Bali, Indonesia, at low tide to help fight erosion.

APRC assisted UNDP Country Offices and their partners in both Papua New Guinea and Thailand to conceptualize and formulate new ecosystem projects and worked with the global UNDP/GEF team to secure access to GEF co-financing for these initiatives that will strengthen community access to ecosystem assets: US\$6.9 million for activities in Papua New Guinea and US\$2 million to support the work in Thailand. APRC regional advisors continued to provide support to ecosystem management initiatives across the region, including nine GEF-funded projects under development and implementation (with a total GEF allocation of US\$42 million) and the regional Mangroves for

the Future (MFF) initiative now operating in seven Asia-Pacific countries (India, Indonesia, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam). A capacity self-assessment framework with specific gender dimensions developed by an APRC cross-practice team of experts was piloted in Sri Lanka by the National Coordinating Body of the Mangroves for the Future programme. The framework identifies and addresses capacity gaps at the institutional and technical implementation levels and will ultimately assist the MFF National Coordination Body to effectively fulfill its mandate. This capacity self-assessment tool is being assessed by the MFF Partnership for potential application to other MFF countries in 2012.

As part of their commitments on meeting the control measures of the *Montreal Protocol* for protecting the Ozone Layer developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region agreed in 2007 to accelerate the phase-out of HCFCs (Hydrochlorofluorocarbons), which are used as refrigerants and blowing agents in air conditioning and refrigeration equipment. During 2011 UNDP assisted ten countries in the region to realize US\$95,380,000 in approvals for the period of 2011-2014. This grant funding from the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol (MLF) is for technology transfer investments, technical and policy assistance and other activities for supporting and sustaining phase-out of HCFCs in foams, refrigeration and air conditioning equipment, to low-global warming potential and ozone-friendly alternative technologies.

Towards an 'Energy Plus' Approach for the Poor. Between 2009 and 2011 APRC documented good practices and lessons learned in addressing energy poverty and expanding energy services for the poor based on energy access programmes in the Asia-Pacific region. A synthesis report entitled [*Towards an 'Energy Plus' Approach for the Poor: A Review of good Practices and Lessons Learned from Asia and the Pacific*](#) and accompanying 17 case studies as well as an Action Agenda Note were launched in January 2012. The case studies identify key characteristics that have helped poor households and communities gain energy access, thus deriving valuable lessons for future energy access activities. Countries covered include Bhutan, China, Fiji, India, Lao PDR, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vanuatu and Timor-Leste. The Action Agenda Note provides governments and development partners with practical advice on designing national energy access programmes. The publications advocate an Energy Plus approach that combines access to modern energy services with measures that generate cash incomes and improve health and education. They represent a valuable knowledge source for policymakers and development practitioners while also providing practical guidance on achieving universal energy access. Given their content, the publications are well suited to contribute to the success of the United Nations Secretary General pioneering global initiative **Sustainable Energy for All** and the achievement of the goals of the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All in 2012.



Connecting Knowledge to Development Solutions

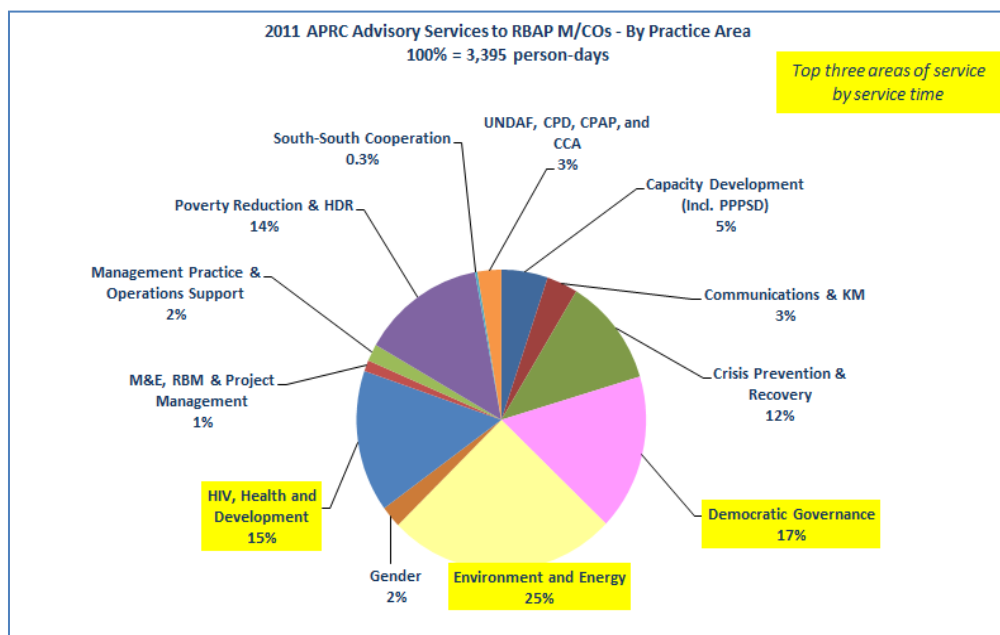
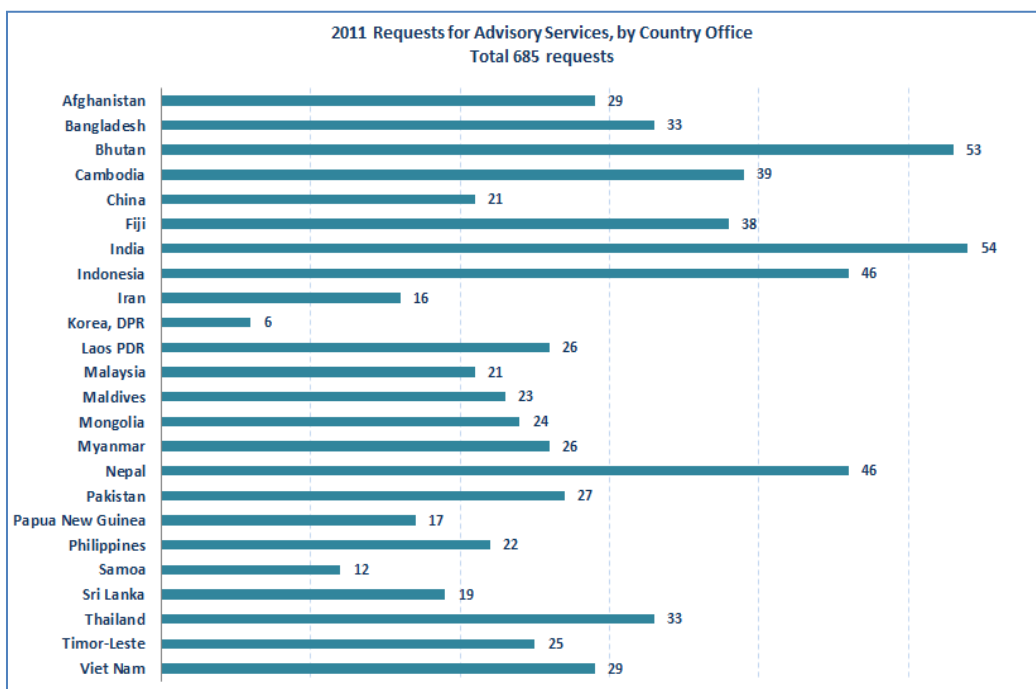
The relevance of knowledge management as a critical business line was demonstrated by integrating knowledge sharing principles and mechanisms in programming work across the APRC. Particular emphasis was placed on using communities of practice as an effective planning and implementation approach. As a result, the fourteen regional communities of practice hosted or moderated by APRC, were invigorated and strengthened to provide solution-oriented exchange of knowledge that was directly applied to improve programme implementation:

- ✓ The Asia-Pacific Community of Practice on HIV, Gender and Human Rights ([HIV-APCoP](#)), a vibrant on-line community with 560 active members held two e-discussions with over 33 submissions to the discussion linked to the Asia-Pacific Regional dialogue on the Global Commission on HIV and the Law and 18 specific examples to illustrate the socio-economic impact of HIV on women and girls and the household level;
- ✓ The Asia-Pacific Integrity in Action Network (AP INTACT) grew in the past 20 months from having 60 to over 400 members. Its 4th annual meeting in Kathmandu became a dynamic South-South exchange amongst participants from 20 Asia-Pacific countries on measurements of corruption, implementation of national anti-corruption strategies and anti-corruption in health, education, water, forestry sectors and new technologies to fight corruption. Partially as a result of this meeting, the Indian [ipaidabribe.com](#) initiative is now likely to be replicated in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Thailand;
- ✓ At the 5th Asia-Pacific Gender Community of Practice face-to-face event, the regional gender team and 26 gender focal points, specialists and advisors revitalized the core community around a common identity, purpose and set of objectives; strengthened linkages between UNDP Country Offices; expanded the understanding, knowledge and expertise on gender equality priorities;
- ✓ N-Peace evolved into an active knowledge sharing community that offers demand-driven services to over 220 members from some of the most conflict stricken Asia-Pacific countries and uses social media tools effectively in communications and advocacy campaigns. Drawing on the community of practice approach and with support from knowledge management and crisis prevention experts, N-Peace members developed the network's vision statement, identified new areas for peer-support and collaboration and launched the network's portal [www.n-peace.net](#) to connect, consult and promote their work;
- ✓ Through the Disaster Risk Management Asia Knowledge Community over 250 practitioners adapted a capacity development methodology to disaster risk reduction projects and interventions. APRC experts in crisis prevention and recovery and capacity development finalized it in the form of a [Primer on Strengthening Capacities for Disaster Risk Reduction](#), which is available as an online resource for DRR practitioners across the region;
- ✓ A global e-discussion on social protection, conducted through UNDP's social platform [Teamworks](#) and Lyris, generated over 45 responses accumulating collective experience and knowledge. UNDP staff, development practitioners from United Nations agencies, civil society, academics and independent experts generated more than 750 hits on the Teamworks page and over 87 per cent of feedback from participants highlighted an increased understanding of the complexity of social protection issues thanks to the e-discussion;
- ✓ Twenty-five concrete examples of the role of social media in widening democratic space were shared by over 50 participants in an e-discussion, looking particularly at the role and experiences of civil society organizations from across the region; and
- ✓ APRC experts developed a knowledge sharing mechanism for sustained interaction between the ASEAN Secretariat, the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights and other regional and global mechanisms. It also serves as a platform to frame face-to-face exchanges and identify South-South Cooperation initiatives and partnership among regional human rights bodies.

Knowledge networking made headway thanks to the United Nations-sponsored [Solution Exchange](#) (SolEx) initiative. The SolEx Outreach team in APRC assisted the launch of four new communities of practice. By December 2011, 19 Solution Exchange communities in Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, the Philippines, Russia, and the Pacific connected over 25,000 likeminded professionals from governments, NGOs, the private sector, research institutes, academia and United Nations teams. Their notable achievements include: substantive contribution to the *Approach Paper for the 12th Five Year Plan of the Indian Planning Commission*; a strategy presented to the Bhutan Prime Minister's office on promoting public spaces for constructive discussions about democracy; and over 1,100 consolidated replies to queries and Solution Exchange discussions.

APRC Services to Country Offices

In 2011 APRC responded to 685 requests for services from all of the 24 RBAP Country Offices in the Asia-Pacific with a total service time of 3,395 person-days. Forty-one per cent of these requests contributed to Country Offices' programme outcomes. Eight per cent of total requests were cross-practice in nature and multiple APRC practice teams collectively provided responses. The three largest areas of support that accounted for 57 per cent of total service time were Environment and Energy (25 per cent), Democratic Governance (17 per cent) and HIV, Health and Development (15 per cent). By country classification the service time was distributed to middle income countries (46 per cent), least developed countries (per cent) and least income countries (13 per cent). By sub-region: Southeast Asia (46 per cent), South Asia (34 per cent), East Asia (11 per cent) and the Pacific (9 per cent). Ninety-eight per cent of the requesters were satisfied with the timeliness and relevance of APRC's support; 96 per cent believed APRC support has made impact on their work.

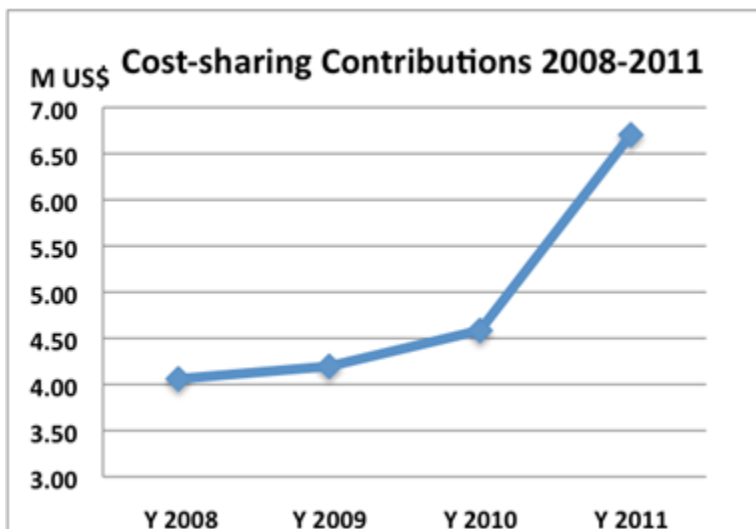


APRC Partnerships

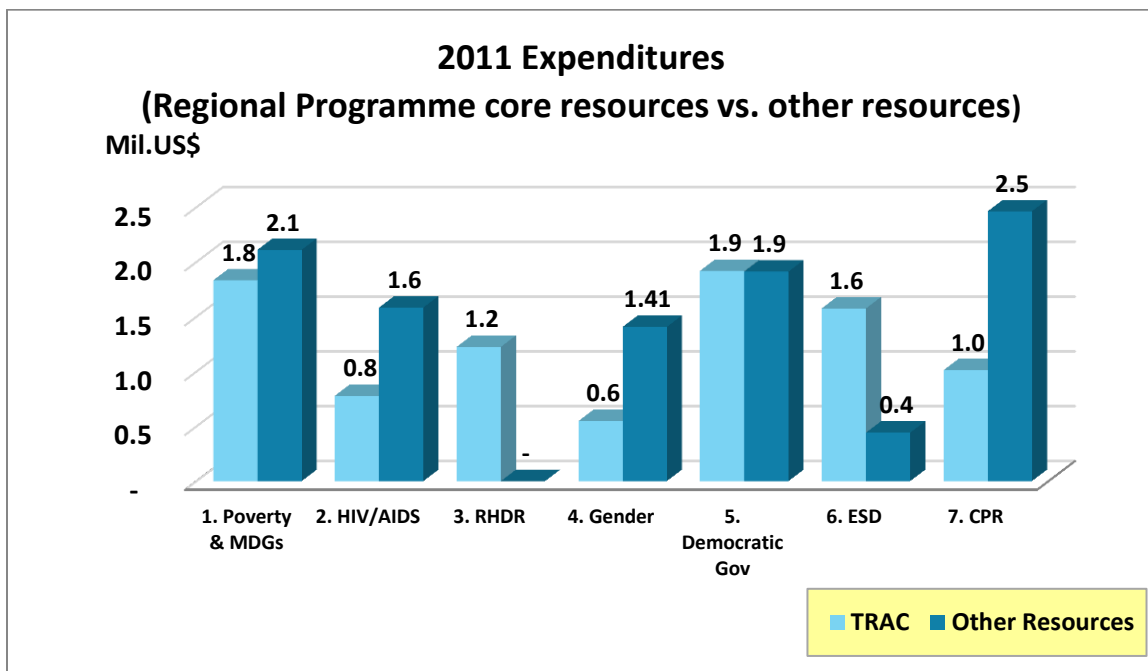
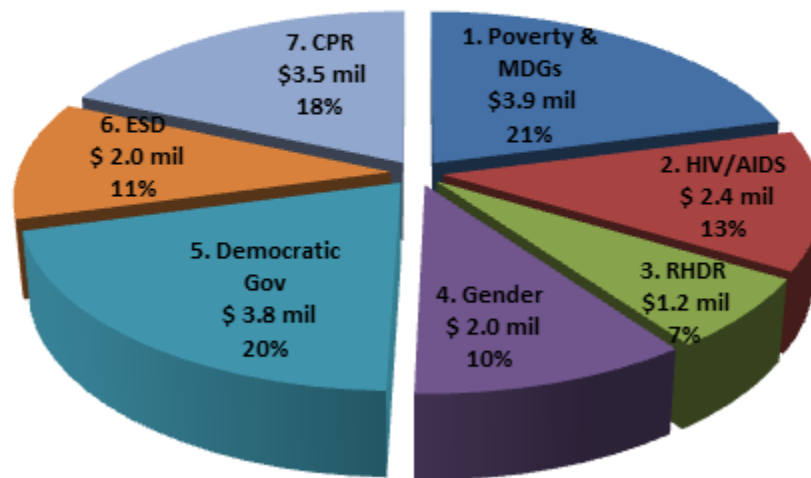
- ✓ APRC works on a number of enduring development issues with regional intergovernmental organizations such as ASEAN; SAARC; and the network of the Pacific Islands Regional Organizations;
- ✓ A partnership existing between ADB, UNDP and UNESCAP to accelerate MDG progress in the Asia-Pacific since 2004 has resulted in better monitoring, awareness raising and advocacy for improved policies for achieving the MDGs. Six Asia-Pacific MDG Reports produced so far are the landmark result of this tripartite collaboration;
- ✓ Partnering on-policy advocacy for an efficient HIV response across the region materialized in important results. APRC-led assistance in drafting renewed commitment to HIV/AIDS was endorsed at the ASEAN Summit in Bali. APRC's engagement in the Colombo Process (migration) meeting resulted in the *Dhaka Declaration* including recommendation on migrant-inclusive health policies. A partnership consultation with SAARC resulted in a plan to launch a SAARC APEX body for women and girls living with HIV;
- ✓ Under the regional partnership between UN Women, UNESCAP, UNFPA and UNDP, APRC helped organize the inaugural meeting of the Asia-Pacific Advisory Group on Women, Peace and Security, which is the first regional high-level advisory panel of its kind. The Advisory Group was set-up to support the United Nations Regional Coordination Mechanism Thematic Working Group on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and other stakeholders for effective implementation of UN Security Council Resolution on Women, Peace and Security in the region; and
- ✓ As an active member of the Secretary General's UNiTE campaign for the Asia-Pacific UNDP supported the advocacy campaign, the development of a Regional Action Plan and participated in the Global UNiTE Meeting hosted in Bangkok.

Asia-Pacific Regional Programme - Financial Results in a Snapshot

The 2011 financial support from our partners to UNDP regional projects and initiatives amounts to US\$6,703,053; in the period 2008-2011 APRC received cost-sharing contributions totaling US\$19,542,350. Our top donor countries in 2011 were Australia, New Zealand, Sweden and the United Kingdom.



2011 Expenditures (Total:US\$ 18,803,547)



In 2011 APRC awarded US\$621,651 in grants to nine civil society organizations for the implementation of joint public advocacy and capacity development initiatives in the areas of gender equality, democratic governance and crisis prevention, HIV, health and development.

APRC is currently implementing two civil society-led grants from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria addressing the HIV needs of men who have sex with men covering 11 countries in South Asia and Insular Southeast Asia. Both grants raised more than US\$60 million for the next five years, of which US\$5 million is to be implemented directly by APRC.

ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AICHR	ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights
AIPP	Asia Indigenous People's Pact
AMARC	World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters
APF	Asia Pacific Forum on National Human Rights Institutions
APN+	Asia-Pacific Network of People Living with HIV
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
BNPB	National Disaster Management Agency
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GEF	Global Environment Facility
ILO	International Labour Organization
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
SAARC	Secretariat of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCAC	United Nations Convention against Corruption
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WFP	United Nations World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

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Resilient nations.*

**United Nations Development Programme
Asia-Pacific Regional Centre**

3rd Floor United Nations Service Building
Rajdamnern Nok Avenue, Phranakorn
Bangkok 10200, Thailand

Tel: +66 (0)2 304-9100

Fax: +66 (0)2 280-2700

Email: aprc.th@undp.org

Website: <http://asia-pacific.undp.org>