



*Empowered lives
Resilient nations.*

2015

GOVERNANCE & PEACE-BUILDING

ANNUAL REPORT

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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FOREWORD

2015 was a year of change for the Governance and Peacebuilding team. The focus of the team expanded, additional streams of work were incorporated, and, more importantly, new staff came on board following the UNDP's 2014 restructuring process.

2015 was also a year of consolidation, and of advances in the UNDP's Governance and Peacebuilding agenda in Asia and the Pacific. A major highlight was the adoption of Agenda 2030 – a global plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. The lead up to, and following the adoption of Agenda 2030, the importance of addressing the complex governance and peacebuilding challenges for achieving sustainable development gained momentum. The influence yielded and support provided by many countries in the region towards defining the Sustainable Development Goals (particularly Goal 16 on Inclusive and Peaceful societies) illustrates the importance given to addressing governance and peace-building challenges in this region.

With an emphasis on more integrated and cross-practice work, the team aims to meet

the growing demand for support to address complex governance and peacebuilding challenges in the region.

The integrated and cross-practice work within the team has helped to identify, analyse and develop solutions to address challenges. For instance, the rights of sexual and gender minorities is addressed not only from a human rights perspective but also from a health and development perspective – thus helping to develop innovative solutions.

This annual report provides a glimpse into the complexity of the issues at hand, and the hard work and dedication of the team behind some of the achievements of the Governance and Peacebuilding team at the Bangkok Regional Hub in 2015.

At the same time, the changing aid environment also means a shift in how governance and peace-building support may be provided in the future. Governments in the Asia-Pacific are now more willing to explore government cost-sharing arrangements and

put in large amounts of resources to address some of the pressing governance challenges and deliver better services.

UNDP will also strive to work with civil society, and other non-state actors to address issues of marginalization, exclusion, anti-corruption that are at the root of inequality in the region. It has forged partnerships with civil society actors, multi-lateral organizations, aid-agencies to continue to promote the issues of marginalization and exclusion

Moving forward, 2016 promises to be a year of new initiatives and stronger cross-practice work. Currently, regional programmes on Youth, Local governance and Sustainable Development, Business, and Human Rights, with Inclusive Political Transitions in the pipeline. With support from senior management, the team and I will continue to work towards realizing the aspiration of promoting inclusive and peaceful societies in the new context of Agenda 2030.

PHIL MATSHEZA

Team Leader, Effective Governance & Peacebuilding Team



INTRODUCTION

Over the last few decades, countries in Asia-Pacific have made tremendous economic progress and witnessed social transformation. The proportion of the population living in extreme poverty decreased from 50 percent in 1990 to 15 percent in 2012.¹ Despite this, the region is home to about two-thirds of the world's poorest people. Inequality and disparities in access to services continue to rise. Gender based discrimination remains high and women's political participation in the region is less than the global average.

Weak governance is at the core of rising inequality and unequal development in a number of countries in the region. Failure to meet the growing demand for greater public participation in decision-making processes has resulted in social disruption and political unrest with negative impacts on growth and development.

The Governance and Peace-building team at the Bangkok Regional Hub (BRH) works towards strengthening political-democratic processes and governance systems that take into account voices and rights of all people for equitable and sustainable development. It also spearheads regional initiatives to address the complex governance challenges in the region, including on sensitive issues such as political participation and access to services for indigenous peoples, and marginalized groups, including sexual and gender minorities.

To achieve the above objective, the 15 streams of work of the team are collated under four broad thematic areas:

- 1) Support political transitions for resilient, inclusive states and lasting peace;
- 2) Strengthen rights and voice of vulnerable,

marginalized and at-risk groups;

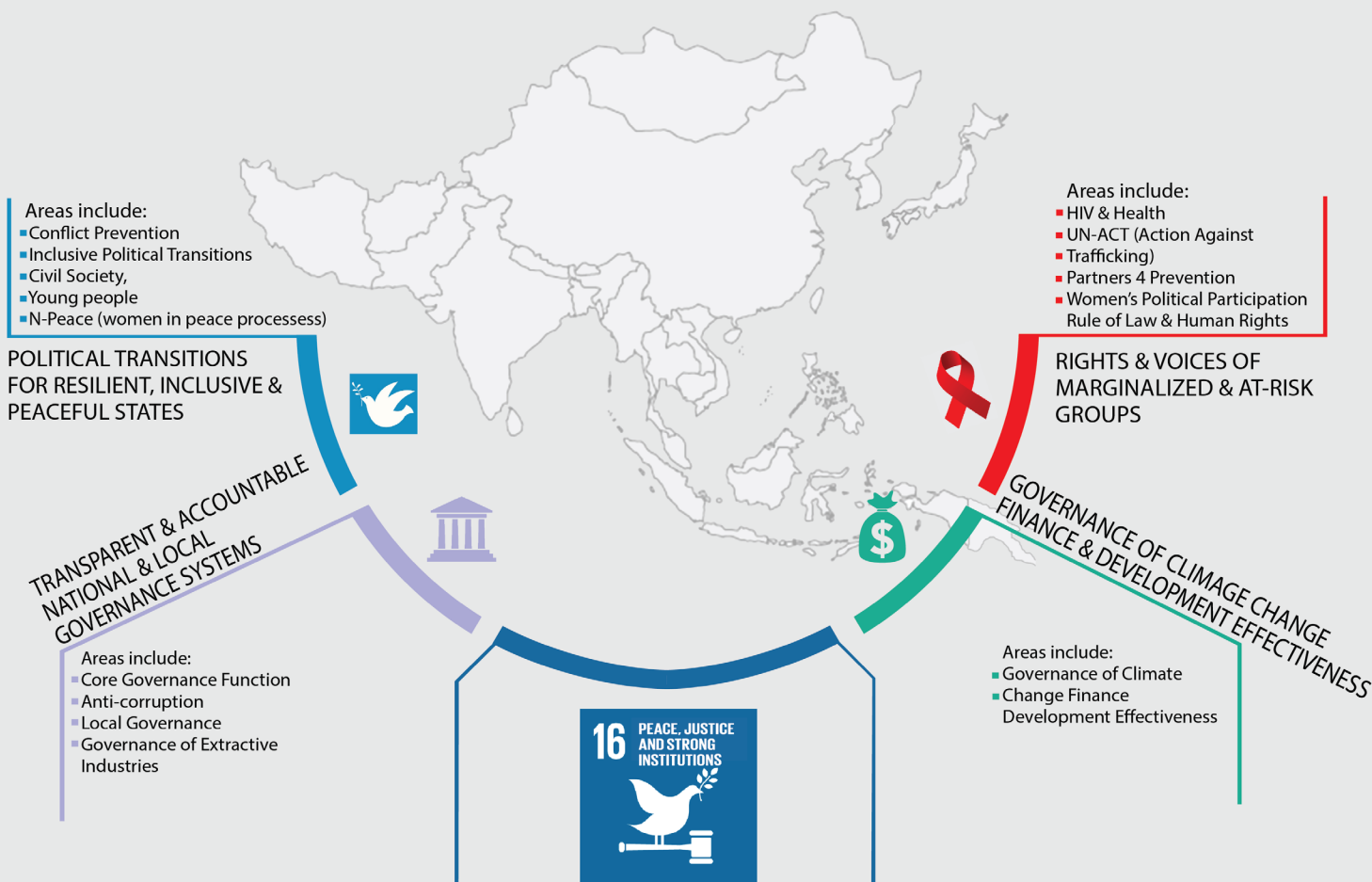
3) Strengthen transparent and accountable local governance systems to provide effective and equitable services.

4) Maximize availability and good governance of development finance at global and national levels;

Through its work under the above thematic areas, the team aims to contribute to the goal of the 2030 sustainable development agenda of 'leaving no one behind'!

The team provides advisory support to 24 UNDP country offices covering 36 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The team contributes to the achievements of outcomes 2, 3 and 4 of the BRH Regional Programme Document.

UNDP BANGKOK REGIONAL HUB THE GOVERNANCE & PEACE-BUILDING TEAM

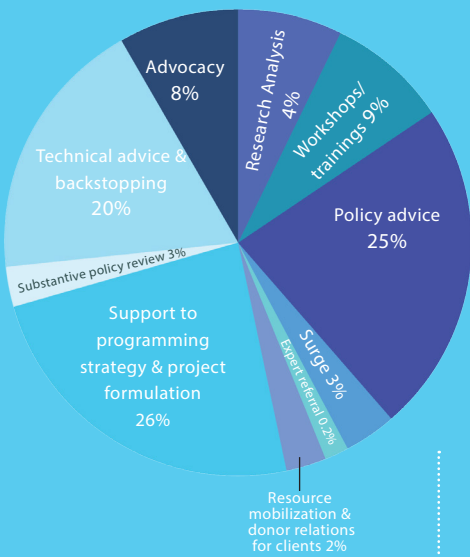


UNDP IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC BY THE NUMBERS

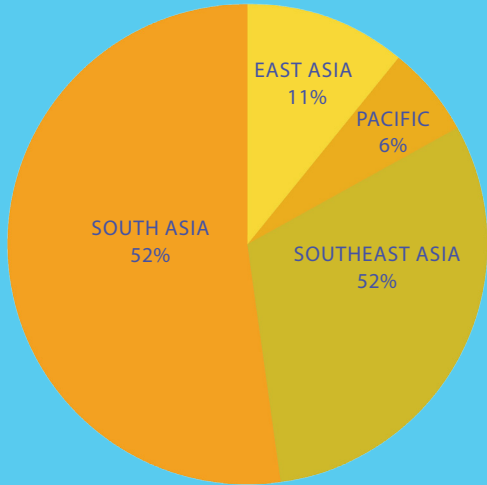
Together, the Governance and Peace-building team contributes to the of achievements outcomes 2, 3 and 4 of the BRH Regional Programme Document.

This report presents the major achievements of the team in 2015 by the four thematic areas indicated in the introduction.

BY SERVICE TYPE



BY SUB REGION



IN 2015, UNDP PROGRAMMES HELPED:

VOICE THE CONCERNS OF ALMOST

700 MILLION
YOUNG PEOPLE

CREATE SAFE SCHOOLS FOR LGBTI YOUTH IN

13
COUNTRIES

BUILD RESILIENCE

36
COUNTRIES
IN THE
REGION

BUILT AN ANTI-CORRUPTION
NETWORK OF

850
MEMBERS
FROM
86
COUNTRIES

LAUNCH A YOUTH ANTI-CORRUPTION NETWORK

7,000 YOUNG
PEOPLE

PROVIDE HIV HEALTH SERVICES TO

40,000
PEOPLE

1) SUPPORT POLITICAL TRANSITIONS FOR RESILIENT, INCLUSIVE STATES & LASTING PEACE

About fifty per cent of world's conflicts are located in the Asia-Pacific region and inflict a heavy social and economic toll. A major factor contributing to conflict and insecurity, in addition to increasing inequality, is the chronic governance challenges that hinder inclusive political participation, i.e. from electoral processes, to participation in institutions such as parliament, to stronger engagement of public (particularly youth, and marginalized social and ethnic minorities. Exclusion and failure to promote integration can lead to social dislocation and unrest.

In addition, increased interconnectedness in the region also means instability in one country causes overflows to neighboring countries creating trans-border challenges and affecting peace and stability in the (affected sub) region.

In line with the High-Level Panel of Experts on the Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture's call for a global re-commitment to preventing conflict, the **Political Transitions for Resilient, Inclusive States and Lasting Peace** thematic area supports an integrated approach to addressing systemic causes of conflict and promote inclusive and peaceful societies.

BRH's integrated approach to strengthening inclusive political processes comprises of support to political transitions (including support to civic and youth engagement), electoral process, conflict prevention, and women's participation and leadership in political processes.



POLITICAL TRANSITIONS

The Mandalay Dialogue on Inclusive Political Transitions held in February 2015, brought together 12 UNDP Country Directors and Resident Representatives with academics, civil society, former government ministers, donors and media representatives to exchange knowledge and information on transitional processes, and understand the conditions under which UNDP can support sustainable political, economic and social transitions for inclusive and peaceful societies across the Asia-Pacific region.

Participants at the Mandalay Dialogue identified the need for research on underlying social, economic and political factors in driving social cohesion, or conflict. They also highlighted the importance of learning from successful transitions (such as Indonesia); and building on the research to develop and/or strengthen existing tools for early warning systems, and establish regional platforms to address sensitive issues such as security sector reform, and extremism

The outcomes of the Mandalay Dialogue formed the basis for UNDP's Regional Programme on Supporting Inclusive and Peaceful Societies in Asia-Pacific (SIPSAP),

which focuses on four key areas:

- Conducting policy focused research on emerging issues including preventing violent extremism and political settlements;
- Connecting civil society more effectively to big data to predict and prevent conflict;
- Empowering youth innovation and leadership; and
- Supporting civil society to engage with policy makers.

2015 was the inception year for the SIPSAS programme. Several preliminary activities were carried out to support full implementation of the SIPSAP programme in 2016. These include: research commissioned on political settlements and violent extremism in the region; and establishment of partnership with UNDP Thailand and UNDP Nepal to pilot the collection of data and information that can inform policy and programmes on conflict prevention and peace building. In addition, the team also strengthened partnerships with various civil society and youth networks in Asia-Pacific to implement the SIPSAP programme.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Civil society organizations are critical for supporting inclusive and peaceful political transitions. In 2015, following adoption of laws limiting the space for civil society in several countries, and at the request of partner organizations, a roundtable discussion on, “Working together to address shrinking civic space in Asia”, was organized in Bangkok, 10-11 August 2015. Civil society actors from Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Vietnam Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Fiji, India, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Thailand, as well as speakers from governments, academia and the UN, participated in the roundtable. The event was organized in partnership with The Asia Foundation, The Asia Pacific Forum, Ford Foundation, and USAID.



A background paper on Civil Society Regulation and Space in Asia was produced to stimulate the discussions on shrinking civic space at the roundtable.

The roundtable helped to lay the groundwork for sustained regional cooperation between UNDP and other partners to support civil society engagement with governments at national level. The recommendations from the roundtable also helped to shape the SIPSAS programme. Further, following the roundtable, UNDP country offices in China,

Cambodia, and Viet Nam are supporting initiatives focused on civil society capacity development, and platforms for civil society coordination and dialogue.

In addition, BRH also supported several country level initiatives to strengthen civil society engagement in policy process. In China, a Massive Open Online Course for CSOs was developed and launched on Coursera platform in 2015. The course was the result of a collaboration between UNDP and 13 leading experts from esteemed academic institutions and non-profit organizations in China. 4,794 people participated in the course, more than originally expected by UNDP and 501 concluded the entire course, indicating an engagement rate of 10%, almost twice more than average for a MOOC.

YOUTH

Following the launch of UNDP's Youth Strategy (2014-2017), “Empowered Youth, Sustainable Futures” and UNV's Youth Volunteering Strategy (2014-2017), “Empowering Youth through Volunteerism”, UNDP and UNV are currently forging an Asia-Pacific regional programmatic partnership focused on empowering young people to deliver on the SDGs by 2030. The proposed programme explores ways in which young people are, and also can help in promoting the 2030 agenda, with a particular focus on youth political participation, volunteering, and innovation for sustainable development.

The UNDP-UNV partnership will also contribute to the implementation of the youth component of the SIPSAS programme in 2016. Acknowledging the importance of fostering creative and innovative potential of young people, including through the use of information and communication technologies, UNDP-UNV are formalizing public-private partnership opportunities with technology firms and

impact investment firms to support youth innovation and leadership.

In addition, UNDP also participated in regional youth dialogues and consultations in Mongolia, Japan, Bangkok and Malaysia in 2015. As a member of the Regional Coordination Mechanism and United Nations Development Group's (RCM/UNDG) Thematic Working Group on Youth, UNDP contributed a chapter to the State of Youth in Asia and the Pacific report.

ELECTIONS

In 2015, UNDP partnered with International IDEA and the Electoral Integrity Project to produce the first ever curriculum on electoral security. The Secure and Fair Elections (SAFE) Workshop Model Curriculum combines academic and practitioner perspectives to provide a holistic insight into the principles, challenges and good practices related to electoral security. The SAFE curriculum can be incorporated in electoral assistance programming, and can play an important role in strengthening the capacity of election practitioners and security-sector agencies. It will further assist other national and international stakeholders interested in safe elections. Parts of it informed the UN's electoral assistance activities in support to the 2015 parliamentary elections in Myanmar. Further interest has been expressed for SAFE curriculum implementation inside and outside the Asia-Pacific region.

CONFLICT PREVENTION & PEACE-BUILDING

The adoption of SDG 16 on building inclusive and peaceful societies has reaffirmed UNDP's work on conflict prevention and peacebuilding. It has also strengthened mainstreaming of “peacebuilding lens” in all UNDP's programmes.

In the Asia-Pacific region, in addition to the conflict- prevention component under the SIPSAS programme, the Bangkok Regional Hub also contributed to the implementation of the UNDP and DPA Joint Project on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention. The Joint Project deploys Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding advisers (PDAs) to the office of the UNRCs in fragile countries in the region. In 2015, PDAs were deployed in seven countries, and two additional countries will receive PDAs in 2016. Under the same initiative, technical support Missions were organized, with experts from HQ and the Region, in countries like Cambodia and Sri Lanka.

BRH's conflict prevention team provided support and ensured sharing of best practices between the seven PDAs and four other conflict prevention experts working as part of the regular UNDP country office programmes.

A report mapping "UNDP's Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding work in Asia Pacific" was produced in 2015. The document, provides practitioners within UNDP and in the countries information, good practices and lessons learned while engaging in Peacebuilding work in Asia Pacific. It will also be an instrument to facilitate south-south exchange.

GENDER

Engage for Peace, Equality, Access, Community and Empowerment (N-Peace)

The N-Peace Network, established in 2010, is a regional UNDP initiative managed from the Bangkok Regional Hub with support from UNDP Country Offices in six post-conflict and fragile countries in Asia: Afghanistan,

Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, and the Philippines. The main objective of the N-Peace initiative is to promote women's leadership for conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding. Specifically, the initiative works to fulfil two key objectives: (i) support the leadership of women in building peace and preventing conflicts; and (ii) provide a platform for engagement and increase dialogue between key actors working on Women Peace and Security priorities.

The N-Peace network has over 2,300 members from across the Asia-Pacific region and serves as convener for women peace advocates. In addition, National Dialogues are held annually to connect women peacebuilders from participating countries. Sub-regional capacity development trainings and knowledge sharing dialogues are also held to enable capacity development. Further, the N-Peace Awards campaign advocates and promotes women's engagement in peace processes.

The following N-Peace activities, in 2014-2015, promoted south-south dialogue and strengthened relevant regional platforms for evidence-based policy and programming:

- 35 women from Nepal, Indonesia, Philippines, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Myanmar were trained in strategic advocacy and mobilisation skills specifically for progressing the women, peace and security agenda in their countries (trainings occurred in Bangkok in May 2014 and September 2015).
- 206 stories of Asian women peacebuilders, and some men who also advocate for inclusive peace, have been documented and shared online.
- 20 short documentary films have been made of women peacebuilders, strengthening the knowledge base around successful advocacy and participation by women in peace and security decision-making in Asia and

THE PERSISTENCE OF CONFLICTS

130+ million people in Asia are affected by conflict.

Asia has the world's longest running conflicts, averaging **45** years

WOMEN DIE MORE OFTEN IN POST-CONFLICT SOCIETIES OF INDIRECT CAUSES
WHILE
MEN ARE MORE LIKELY TO DIE DURING CONFLICTS

Under **4%** of signatories of peace accords are women

Since **1992** only **1 in 13** participants in peace negotiations have been women.

Only **8%** of budget allocations meet women's post conflict needs



WOMEN BRING SUSTAINABLE PEACE

Women negotiating for peace prioritize **reconciliation, equality, health and education**

Peace processes that include women are **64% less likely to fail**

When women and women's groups are included in peace talks, **agreements are more likely to be reached**



If women are half of every community, should they therefore not be half of every solution?

OUR PEACE CHAMPIONS

40+ peace champions honoured and **400+** nominated

100+ Women trained mobilizing for peace

2,400+ N-Peace Network members connected

11,000+ Facebook followers

3+ million People reached through social media

160,000+ Engaged through online voting campaign

YouTube N-Peace documentary series

WHAT UNDP IS DOING



SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH

Myanmar

Afghanistan

Pakistan

Indonesia

Philippines

Nepal

n-peace.net

n-peace network

promoting women as active agents of change in their communities.

- Annual online advocacy campaigns in 2014 and 2015 have resulted in over 48,000 people becoming actively engaged in supporting women peacebuilders from the six participating countries and promoting their stories of how they build peace in different ways in their communities.
- October 2015: 3 N-Peace events held in New York on the anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 to promote Asian women peace leaders and include voices from Asia in the global discussions around the progression of UNSCR 1325 and the adoption of the new UNSCR 2422 (2015).

SUPPORT TO INCREASING WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Supporting women's political participation remains a challenging area of work for UNDP in the region. Despite advocacy efforts – such as the Regional Workshop on Women's Political Participation in Local Governance “Exploring the Way Forward” held in Bangkok in November 2014, in collaboration with USAID, UNESCAP, UN Women Asia Pacific Regional Office and Partners for Prevention initiative – progress on initiatives around women's political participation have not had desired effect. Pending thorough evaluation of the efforts undertaken, it is likely that the affirmative actions called for by the initiatives did not gain sufficient traction at national and local level.

Despite the overall lack of success, activities were supported in three countries (Bhutan, Indonesia and Viet Nam) which led to some achievements. These include:

In Bhutan, UNDP and the National Commission for Women (NCWC) supported

consultations on “Enhancing Women's Participation in Elected Office”. The outcome of these consultations, along with the recommendations from the “National Conference on Women in Politics” organized by NCWC in partnership with Bhutan's Network for Empowering Women in 2014, was incorporated into the National Plan of Action on Gender Equality in Elected Offices (NAPGEEO). NAPGEEO was developed in consultation with different stakeholders, including the Parliamentarians.

The main objective of the NAPGEEO is to enhance women's representation in the elected offices. UNDP will continue to support implementation of NAPGEEO including review of legislations from gender perspective

In Indonesia, UNDP BRH supported the country office's SWARGA programme, aimed at improving women representation in the parliaments as well as increase their capacity. Existing networks such as the Women's Parliamentary Caucus need strengthening to improve information sharing and coordination between women representatives working across party lines and across different elected bodies at national and subnational level to push common agendas. During the campaign for legislative elections, UNDP provided training

and ran effective campaign for women candidates. Data from the General Election Commission suggest that the number of elected women in UNDP target provinces has increased. Following, the consultative workshop to Strengthen Women's Parliament Caucus in November 2014, a common platform and agenda was agreed for establishing and strengthening women caucus as well as women parliamentary network (WPN) to ensure effective communication and information sharing among its members.

In Vietnam, Women Candidate Training Programmes focused on providing tools to women's candidates to engage in political process. An online training programme for potential women candidates, and training materials for trainers of candidates was produced. The programme also supported production of short films. Starting from January 2015, the short films were made widely available on numerous websites.



2) STRENGTHEN RIGHTS & VOICE OF VULNERABLE, MARGINALIZED & AT-RISK GROUPS

This thematic area focuses on the protection of the rights of the vulnerable, marginalized and at-risk groups. It brings together teams working on Access to Justice, Human Rights and Rule of Law, HIV, Health and Development, Gender Based Violence (through Partners for Prevention programme), and UN Action for Cooperation Against Trafficking in Persons. Regional focus, under this thematic area, helped to raise the profile of several sensitive issues, including rights of sexual and gender minorities, at the national and local level. Though issues around endorsing the findings and recommendations of the regional studies (on gender based violence, land rights, sexual minorities, etc.,) by national and local governments remain, these findings have helped to advocate for

policy and programme changes.

HIV, HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT

UNDP is a co-sponsor of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and partners with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (Global Fund) to address vulnerability to HIV, mitigate adverse social and economic impacts, reduce marginalization and advance human rights and gender equality. UNDP also partners with WHO to strengthen national-level governance and multisectoral engagement in implementing global public health agreements, with a focus on responding to non-communicable diseases and promoting universal health coverage.

In the area of HIV, Health and Development², together with partners, UNDP has contributed to a series of landmark developments in law and policy reform and expanded delivery of HIV services to marginalized groups.

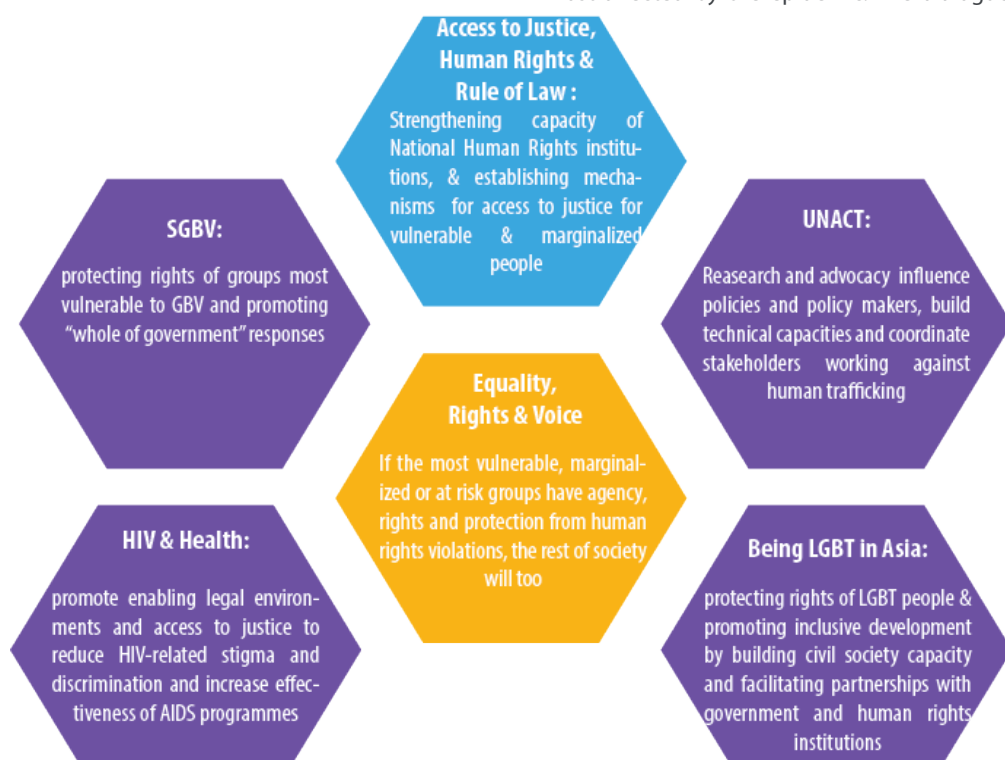
To address legal and policy barriers that hinder effective responses to HIV, UNDP, together with UNAIDS and UNESCAP, supported 15 countries to hold multi-stakeholder national dialogues and to review legal and policy barriers that limit access to HIV and health services for populations most affected by the epidemic. The dialogues



and reviews respond to country commitments under the Asia Pacific Regional Framework for Action on HIV and AIDS, as well as to the recommendations of the Global Commission on HIV and the Law, and ESCAP Resolutions 66/10 and 67/9 on accelerated progress in creating enabling legal and policy environments in the region.

In January 2015, the Asia-Pacific Inter-Governmental Meeting on HIV and AIDS, hosted by ESCAP with support from UNAIDS and UNDP, resulted in the endorsement of the Regional Framework for Action on HIV and AIDS Beyond 2015. This included commitments to continue “national reviews and multisectoral consultations on legal and policy barriers” and to undertake “national stakeholder consultations to promote access to affordable medicines, diagnostics and vaccines,” both areas where UNDP plays a lead role in the United Nations System response to HIV.

To reduce stigma and discrimination in health settings toward populations most vulnerable to HIV, and increase access to health services, UNDP and WHO developed an innovative regional training package titled “The Time Has Come”, focusing on men who have sex with men and transgender people. UNDP is working with national partners in 11 countries to integrate the



curriculum into national training programmes; in 2015, the training package was officially adopted for health care providers in Bhutan, India, Indonesia and the Philippines.

UNDP also has increased policy attention to women and girls who are most affected by HIV, as well as to the vulnerability of sex workers. This has included establishing an evidence base on stigma, discrimination and violence faced by these groups, conducting legal reviews, and empowering HIV-affected women to advocate for their rights. For example, UNDP conducted research on violence against sex workers, together with UNFPA and civil society partners. This research was recognized for its excellence through the Robert Carr Award at the International AIDS Conference in 2014.

In Nepal, the country's new Constitution explicitly protects sexual and gender minorities against discrimination, in a historic victory for civil society advocates whose work is supported under the Multi-Country South Asia HIV Programme. In the months leading up to the finalization and promulgation of the Constitution, a series of sensitization and advocacy initiatives with key individuals involved in the constitutional drafting process

were organized, providing information on specific technical language and evidence to support recognition of sexual and gender minority rights.

Support to reduce the vulnerability of men who have sex with men, transgender people and men with high-risk behavior has had particular impact in countries where these populations have traditionally been neglected by national programmes. Through the Multi-Country South Asia Programme, service provision reached more than 40,000 people, and almost 10,000 were tested for HIV and knew their results in 2014.

REDUCING INEQUALITIES AND EXCLUSION BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY

The Being LGBTI in Asia regional initiative is aimed at reducing marginalization and exclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people. Initiated in 2012, the programme addresses inequality, violence and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status, and promotes universal access to health and social services. Building on eight

national LGBTI and human rights dialogues undertaken in its first phase, the initiative in 2015 supported a high-level regional dialogue on LGBTI rights and health that represented an important step in building consensus and strengthening the movement for addressing violence and discrimination. The regional dialogue attracted 225 participants from 33 countries, including parliamentarians, representatives of government, civil society and the private sector, as well as human rights experts and development partners.

A partnership with regional and National Human Rights Institutions resulted in development of a common action plan to promote and protect human rights in the context of sexual orientation and gender identity. Rights institutions will report annually on the plan, developed jointly with the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions, Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health and 17 Human Rights Commissions at a regional workshop in February 2015 in Bangkok.

This regional initiative illustrates the cross-practice work between the teams works on HIV, Health and Development, and Human Rights, Access to Justice, and Rule of Law.

#PurpleMySchool campaign making education safer for LGBTI students

Launched in June 2015, the PurpleMySchool campaign is quickly making an impact on the lives of young lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) students across the Asia-Pacific region

The campaign, which is a joint initiative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and 'Being LGBTI in Asia', encourages peers, teachers and parents to become allies of LGBTI students to ensure educational settings are free from bullying and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity/expression. Supporters are encouraged to wear, draw or make something purple and submit photos to the campaign website or share on social media using the hashtag #PurpleMySchool.

The campaign is an outcome of the Asia-Pacific Consultation on School Bullying on the Basis of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity/Expression organized by UNESCO and UNDP in Bangkok on 15–17 June 2015, and supports ongoing efforts to address bullying in schools

across the region.

Early on in the campaign a student named Chloe from Regional Science High School for Region VI in the Philippines made a contribution that is indicative of the positive responses received thus far. Chloe shared photos taken at her school of students and teachers dressed in purple and holding up a PurpleMySchool banner. A caption accompanying the photos read: "My entire school came together to support the campaign! I truly have the best schoolmates."

"The focus of the PurpleMySchool campaign on reducing inequality and exclusion faced by LGBTI people resonates very strongly with UNDP's mission in Asia and the Pacific," said Edmund Settle, Policy Advisor, UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub. "The campaign has great potential to be an effective tool to promote inclusion, which in turn can help to empower LGBTI youth as key players in the region's development."

In addition to individual shows of support, schools and universities are jumping on board to support the campaign in a variety of creative ways, including: Harbin Medical University, China; Tagore International

School in New Delhi, India; Dagon University and East Yangon University in Yangon, Myanmar; DMMMA College of Southern Philippines in Davao City, St. Peters College in Iligan City, Samar State University and Quezon City High School, Philippines; Canadian International School, Nguyen Binh Khiem High School for the Gifted and Nguyenviethong High School in Cantho City, Viet Nam.

"We like purple. Not only because it is a beautiful colour, but also because it represents diversity and acceptance," said a member of Tongxingshe. "We would like to make the change ourselves, and encourage others to make a difference as well. Let us all go purple with pride, and create a harmonious and safe campus."



UN ACTION FOR COOPERATION AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (UN-ACT)

UN-ACT is the only UN project in the sub-region dealing with human trafficking comprehensively and in all its forms. The project is positioned at the strategic intersection of trafficking patterns, policy, research, governance, coordination and direct interventions, as a facilitator and coordinator as well as expert and innovator in the GMS region's counter-trafficking efforts.

UN-ACT also serves as the Secretariat for the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative Against Trafficking, known as COMMIT. COMMIT is an inter-governmental body based on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that brings together the six governments in the GMS region, in a joint effort to combat human trafficking.

Key achievements in 2015 include:

INCREASED ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY

During the 10th COMMIT Senior Officials

Meeting (SOM)/4th Inter Ministerial Meeting (IMM) that was held in Phnom Penh between the 28-30th of April, the COMMIT governments invited civil society representatives to participate for the first time. The latter was previously not adequately represented in the COMMIT process, and the governments were reluctant to engage with CSOs in anti-trafficking efforts in the region. The formation of a COMMIT Civil Society Platform (including International NGOs, local NGOs, community-based organizations, and research institutions), and the direct engagement that took place between governments and Civil Society Organizations during the SOM/ IMM meeting are therefore considered to be important milestones.

COMMIT ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ENHANCED

The COMMIT Sub-regional Plan of Action (SPA): IV was developed through a participatory process that set new standards for inclusivity and participation in COMMIT, with a wide range of key anti-trafficking stakeholders including UN agencies, international organizations and civil society

groups (engaged both regionally and nationally). The SPA IV further demonstrates progress towards results-based management in COMMIT with a results framework that includes measurable indicators to monitor progress, negotiated between the COMMIT governments over several days of intensive discussions. This will significantly enhance the accountability of COMMIT and strengthen its potential as a peer review mechanism, and thereby set additional incentives for delivering on commitments made. A draft standardized Monitoring and Evaluation framework for the COMMIT Process was developed by UN-ACT in 2015. The framework is expected to be finalized during the first quarter of 2016. The COMMIT Governments have agreed to report on progress made on an annual basis.

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CASE STUDY: Repatriation of Myanmar and Thai trafficked fishermen from Indonesia

"I'd rather be imprisoned for three years than stay a year on board. This is hell, not the heaven that they lured me in with." "What can I do? I owe them now, so I must stay here, but I would rather escape."

These are direct quotes from some of the 46 trafficking survivors rescued from Ambon, an isolated Indonesian island. Increasing numbers of enquiries from family members and workers, along with findings from research projects, led a Thai-based organization, Labor Rights Promotion Network (LPN), to conduct a field visit to Ambon in August 2014. There, they found workers from Thailand, Myanmar and Cambodia who were in condition of trafficking.

When LPN returned to Thailand, an urgent working group was set up, and the government, UN agencies and CSOs cooperated to develop a strategy for interventions. With support from UN-ACT Thailand, LPN conducted a second field visit to Ambon, and 27 Thai seafarers were returned home and reunited with their family members. Information on 19 Myanmar nationals was referred to the Myanmar embassies in Indonesia and Thailand as well as authorities in Myanmar, with coordination support from UN-ACT Thailand and Myanmar. These efforts led to their successful return to Myanmar. National and international media attention prompted Thai government agencies to conduct a visit to Indonesia, where the Department of Special Investigation collected evidence that led to the arrest of number of suspected perpetrators.



PARTNERS FOR PREVENTION (P4P)

Partners for Prevention (P4P) is a UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women and UNV regional joint programme for the prevention of violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Asia and the Pacific. Phase II of the P4P is currently under implementation.

The interventions on the prevention of VAWG are designed based on the site-specific recommendations of the UN Multi-country Study on Men and Violence in Asia and the Pacific, conducted during the Phase I (2008-2013), combined with local knowledge and global evidence of what is working to prevent VAWG.

Technical support to the evaluation methodology and implementation of Planim Save Kamap Strongpela project in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea



P4P is supporting the implementation and evaluation of a VAWG prevention project working to change social norms around gender relations and masculinities through community conversations and responding to post-conflict trauma through psychosocial support. The project involves stakeholders in communities, the Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation and UN Women. The target groups for the intervention are women, men, youth, community leaders and Council of Elders.

The P4P team worked with the partners to develop the evaluation design and tools in 2015, and supported the implementation of the baseline survey. This survey was completed at the end of December with more than more than 1,400 programme beneficiaries participating. Implementation of the intervention then

began in communities on a rolling basis after each had completed the baseline survey.

Violence Free Village Initiative to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls in Papua, Indonesia

P4P supported the design of a VAWG prevention intervention in Indonesia. The programme focuses on group education for adolescents and engages adolescent girls and boys (ages 13-15 years and 16-18 years, parents, religious leaders and other influential community members in participatory group education sessions to change social norms that increase the risk of VAWG in Papua province.

P4P technically supported a participatory process to adapt intervention curricula for adolescents and caregivers for the Papua context using curricula that have been shown to be effective in reducing violence in Africa among adolescents.

Development and implementation of a VAWG prevention intervention in Cambodia

In 2015, P4P worked with UNFPA, UN Women and UNV in Cambodia to design a VAWG prevention intervention for implementation in Kampong Cham. This focused on building capacity of local partners to implement youth-centered primary prevention programs with adolescents ages 12 to 14 and caregivers, as well as engaging the community through volunteerism to change social norms around gender inequitable

attitudes, including harmful masculinities and prevent VAWG.

In 2015, P4P also provided technical support for the participatory adaptation of two curricula for adolescents and caregivers, on prevention of VAWG. One was entitled Shaping our Future: Developing healthy and happy relationships and the other was entitled We are Ready: Supporting teenagers' development in healthy and happy relationships.

Male advocates for prevention of VAWG in Viet Nam

In 2015, P4P worked with UN Women, UNV, UNFPA and the Da Nang Women's Union to develop a violence prevention intervention

working with male advocates in Da Nang using the Transforming masculinities towards gender justice curricula, which was developed by the Regional Learning

Community for East and Southeast Asia (RLC) in P4P Phase I. Sixteen adult men and 8 younger men and women were trained to be group facilitators by the Da Nang Women's Union, UN Women and P4P. Project implementation began in September. Male advocates, first participate in a facilitated gender transformative process using the curricula and then carry out community outreach as advocates against violence in their community.

Capacity building on prevention of violence against women

P4P also supported additional capacity building in Vietnam on approaches to engage men and boys in prevention of VAWG in Viet Nam in July 2015. Twenty-one male participants and 40 female participants from government, mass organizations, academia and civil society

strengthened their capacity to use new approaches and develop concrete plans for involving men and boys in prevention of VAWG. For a video of the workshop, please see: <https://www.facebook.com/Partners4Prevention/?fref=ts>

In Bangladesh, P4P together with UNV and UNFPA supported 24 UN Volunteers to increase their capacity to promote gender equality, prevention of VAWG and volunteerism to ensure sustainability of violence prevention interventions.

P4P also invested significant technical assistance and multiple team missions to support the development of the violence prevention interventions in Cambodia, Indonesia and Viet Nam.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW

The team working on Access to Justice, Human Rights and Rule of Law provides technical advice to country offices in the region on Rule of Law and Human Rights programming frameworks, capacity development of the National Human Rights Institutions, Universal Periodic Review, and support to access to justice initiatives (free legal aid activities, mobile courts, etc).

Specific areas of achievement in 2015 include:

a. Work with National Human Rights Institutions.

In 2015, UNDP BRH undertook evaluation missions to assess capacity of National Human Rights Institutions in Timor Leste (jointly with Asia Pacific Forum and Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights), and in Nepal, and proposed recommendations to increase their effectiveness. In addition, a regional meeting was organized, in collaboration with Asia Pacific Forum, on the role of National Human Rights Institutions in the promotion and protection of sexual

and gender minorities' rights. Following that, another regional meeting was organized for CSOs on engaging with international Human Rights mechanisms on promotion and protection of the rights of sexual and gender minorities.

A new strategic framework for the engagement of UNDP CO Afghanistan in the Human Rights field (support to the NHRC, involvement in UPR and treaty reporting) was developed. The strategic framework was based on a study of all the existing projects which have a Human Rights component and contains recommendations on the areas that should be prioritized in the future.

b. Support to country-office strategic thinking and programme redesign

In 2015, the team assisted with the drafting of new projects to support the National Human Rights Commission in Nepal, Access to Justice and capacity building of the Justice Institutions in Timor Leste; supported restructuring of the Justice and Law Enforcement project in Pakistan and specifically assessed the feasibility of the mobile-courts component; evaluated the Human Rights work carried out by UNDP in Afghanistan and designed a strategic framework for the future engagement in this area, including support to legal aid reform; advised UNDP Sri Lanka on realignment of portfolio for access to justice, rule of law, constitutional reform, human rights and reconciliation following results of Presidential election; supported the drafting of a new Project in support of strengthening human rights in Bangladesh; Supported the drafting of a new phase of the project to support governance in Maldives including access to justice and human rights.

In addition, supported the Attorney-General's Office of Bhutan on policy directions for reforming legal aid

system in Bhutan, and co-organized the Regional Workshop on Integrity and Accountability in the Justice Sector (for more details about this specific work, see the section on anti-corruption)

In addition, BRH is also supporting effective communication between the Rule of Law and Human Rights team in Head Quarters and the Country offices in the Region.

The Human Rights and Rule of Law Team has presented and delivered trainings on issues such as the Universal Periodic Review, Rights of Indigenous People, Human Rights and Environment Business and Human Rights, Legal Empowerment of the Poor, Integrity of the Judiciary, Pro Bono Lawyering, Legal aid, etc.

WOMEN'S ACCESS TO LAND AND PROPERTY FROM A JUSTICE PERSPECTIVE

While women represent approximately half of the population in the region, they do not have equal land and property right. In Asia only 10.7% of women own land compared to the global average of 20% and 18.6% in Africa. UNDP, in partnership with UN Women, conducted a study from Asia Pacific region on "Women's Access to Justice: Land and Property Rights in the Asia-Pacific" to identify and address issues around women's land and property rights.

Following a regional consultative exchange with experts in July 2014, UNDP, in partnership with UN Women and other actors, developed an agenda to develop research and identify country case studies to strengthen evidence-based approaches. In particular, UNDP supported a study on women's access to land in China, as well as facilitated the organization of some workshops in Indonesia to ensure that the perspective of indigenous women is included in the national inquiry on indigenous people's land rights.

2015 REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON GOVERNANCE & PEACE-BUILDING

STAGE SET TO STRENGTHEN GOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA & THE PACIFIC

In September 2015, The Asia-Pacific Regional Dialogue on Governance and Peacebuilding was held in Bangkok, Thailand. The dialogue brought together 80 staff from 22 UNDP country offices Asia and the Pacific region, as well as the regional and global Governance and Peacebuilding teams.

The objectives of the regional dialogue were to: a) Take stock of governance trends, challenges and opportunities in the region; b) Highlight the integrated governance and peace-building approach of UNDP; and highlight the policy and programming implications for achieving SDG 16.

An issue brief on Governance for Sustainable Development was produced as a background document to the regional dialogue. The brief was later updated to reflect the outcomes of the regional dialogue.



Participants underscored the major governance challenges in the region and came up with a framework for strengthening governance and peacebuilding to achieve the 2030 sustainable development agenda in Asia-Pacific. The framework, as clarified in the outcome document of the regional dialogue or the Bangkok Communiqué, includes three dimensions to strengthening governance for sustainable development. These are:

a) Governance for the SDGs - refers to the political process of building national and local ownership of SDGs, prioritization of SDGs, and integrating SDGs with national planning and budgeting processes, and strengthening parliamentary oversight.

b) Governance of the SDGs - refers to the relevance of governance for achieving each of the 17 goals, and strengthen the linkages between the goals. UNDP can strengthen the achievement of the SDGs, specifically those in line with the organization's mandate (such as the goals on poverty reduction, and inequality), through integrated approaches that address the legal, policy, and institutional challenges.

c) Governance as a SDG - refers to SDG 16 on inclusive and peaceful societies, and the support UNDP will provide to achieve the SDG 16 targets.

To achieve the above, participants agreed that working across practice areas in an integrated, and interdisciplinary manner, and through forging multi-stakeholder partnerships was important. Further, support to budget and fiscal administration processes, systematic use of conflict prevention lens, and research on governance challenges in Asia and the Pacific will be prioritized as part of UNDP's support to strengthening governance and peacebuilding in the region.



3) MAXIMIZE AVAILABILITY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE OF DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AT GLOBAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS

The focus under this thematic area is to strengthen global and national financial frameworks to ensure overall development effectiveness and climate change resilience (including achievement of Sustainable Development Goals). This thematic areas includes regional programmes on governance of climate change finance, and development effectiveness.

GOVERNANCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE FINANCE

The Strengthening the Governance of Climate Change Finance to Benefit the Poor and Vulnerable programme aims to promote mobilization of climate change finance as a national priority, and strengthen national fiscal policies and budgeting processes to support pro-poor and gender responsive mitigation and adaption measures to climate change in Asia- and the Pacific. Crucially, the programme links climate change policies and plan with actual budget allocations in order facilitate efficient and effective implementation of climate change measures. Examples of interventions include: implementation of Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Reviews (CPEIR) at the national and subnational levels, introducing climate change budget tags, South-South exchange of knowledge, and etc.,

The programme supports focused action in six countries – Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan and Thailand.

Major achievements in 2015 include:

1.) Increased traction and ownership of Ministries of Finance of climate change finance:

Ministries of Finance are a critical actor in the implementation of climate change policies and plan, as they are responsible for adequate allocation of resources to responsible line ministries. The programme was instrumental in raising awareness of the impact of climate change on economic growth, conduct cost-benefit analysis of public investments vis-a-vis climate change, and mainstreaming climate change finance into budgeting processes.

The work supported through this programme also contributed to designation of ministries of finance as national interlocutor (National Designated Authority – NDA) for the Green Climate Fund by 2015 in Bangladesh, Nepal, Samoa, and Viet Nam.

Strengthened intra-governmental cooperation around climate change

Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFF)

Support Governments in establishing INFFs that outline management structures and policy to ensure different development finance flows align behind pursuit of SDGs

Development Finance

Further analytic work and learning across countries around specific finance flows (e.g. remittances, illicit flows)
Further support for development finance policy and institutional reforms

Climate Change Finance

More climate change responsive budgeting processes and climate change finance tracking systems

planning and budgeting: the programme brought together central and line ministries as well as departments and agencies in Cambodia and Thailand to develop integrated climate changes plans and budgets. For instance, in Cambodia, a total of ten ministries and agencies conducted

climate change financing framework exercise and developed costed action plans to off-set two-thirds of the expected impact from climate change on key economic sectors. Support was also provided to measure availability of finances in the medium term (i.e. 5 years), and prioritize climate change adaption activities. In addition, a M&E framework building on International Institute for Environment and Development's the Tracking Adaptation and Measuring Development framework was also produced. The Programme has assisted Cambodia in tracking Climate Change finance in the ODA database building on the Climate Change Finance Framework methodology for identification of Climate Change expenditure. This work is related to the work on Supporting Busan monitoring and aid information management systems to assess climate finance and strengthening links to Public Financial Management. The achievements and lessons from Cambodia influenced the formulation of the Climate Change Financing Framework in Nepal and Pakistan, as an overarching Public Financial Management reform agenda .

In Thailand, the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning developed the "Climate Change Benefits Analysis" guidelines to help line ministries integrate climate change considerations into their budgets.

2.) Increased Integrity and Accountability of Climate Change

Finance: The programme is also supporting engagement of accountability actors, such as civil society organizations, state audit institutions, parliaments etc., at the regional and country level (ex: Nepal and Pakistan) to strengthen demand for climate change responsive budgeting and also

the accountability of the governments on climate change finance related policies and budget decisions, expenditure monitoring, reporting and evaluation.

3.) Wider application of CPEIRs both horizontally and vertically. More than 20 countries from Asia, Africa and Latin America have now produced CPEIRs with direct and indirect influence of the Programme. These include:

Some countries, e.g. Pakistan and Indonesia, produced CPEIRs at the subnational level. In Indonesia, two sub-national CPEIRs were produced at the provincial level (Nusa Tenggara Timur, the poorest province in Indonesia; and Bangka Belitung, a province heavily affected by mining). The CPEIR in Pakistan was conducted in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Access to knowledge expanded across countries covered by the Programme. Regional meetings, Regional Peer Learning Network and other platforms and toolkit (such as CPEIR methodology and lessons learnt papers, Climate Change Integration Index, Climate Budget Tagging Review) now support extensive exchange of experience in integrating climate change in the national public financial management systems. The programme also supported building of cross country knowledge on climate

budget tagging systems and discussions/recommendations on advanced models. These include: publications on Climate Budget Tagging; Country Driven Initiatives in Tracking Public Expenditure; Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Review: A Methodological Guidebook; and Measuring Integration of Climate Change in Public Financial Management Systems; and the database on CPEIR www.climatefinance-developmenteffectiveness.org/CPEIR-Database.

In addition, in collaboration with UNITAR, a skills development programme on climate change finance is currently being developed to establish a cadre of trainers on climate change finance in the region. The Economic and Finance Institute in Cambodia has certified 30 trainer of trainers, who in turn are expected to support capacity development of an estimated 150 government officials.

DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS

UNDP BRH is the Secretariat for the Asia Pacific Development Effectiveness Facility (AP-DEF), a country-led regional platform, chaired by the Government of Bangladesh. The Facility supports regional dialogue and sharing of knowledge and experiences on development effectiveness and development finance, responding to

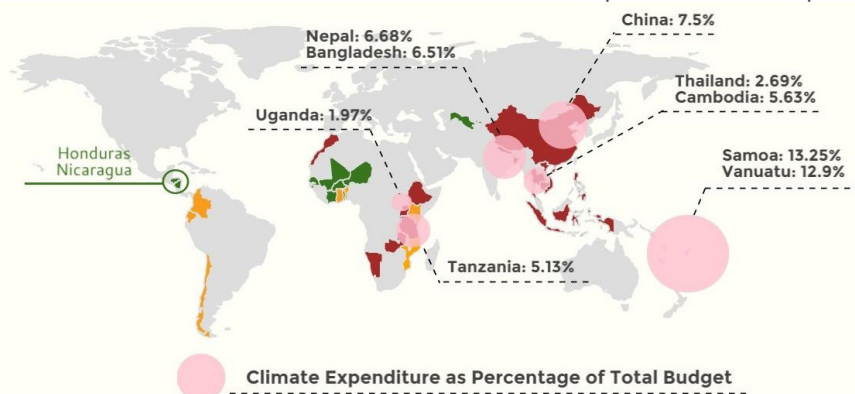
the growing demand from countries in Asia Pacific to establish evidence and analysis, and introduce policy and institutional reforms for managing the increasing complexity of domestic and international sources of finance for development.

UNDP has developed a tool to help countries construct Integrated National Financing Frameworks to implement the SDGs – the **Development Finance Assessment (DFA)**. The DFA provides Planning, Finance and other ministries, with data and analysis on the changing trends in development finance. It also provides a set of recommendations for how to adjust institutions and systems to manage different sources of development finance within a coherent framework, which better supports the achievement of national priorities and results.



Following the adoption of the SDGs and the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development in 2015, the DFA approach supports countries to move forward with translating global dialogue and processes into concrete national reform agendas aimed at better linking development finance to results. To date, seven countries have completed or launched a DFA: Bangladesh, Fiji, Lao, Myanmar, Philippines, PNG and Vietnam. BRH provides advice and technical support to partner governments to undertake a DFA, working closely with UNDP country offices and other development cooperation actors.

Strengthening the DFA methodology in assessing links between finance and results: In 2015, AP-DEF undertook a review of lessons learned from initial DFA studies. Based on the findings, and in conjunction with a GPEDC initiative on country results championed by Bangladesh and Switzerland, AP-DEF has strengthened



CPEIR COMPLETED

Nepal

Indonesia

Bangladesh

Nauru

Cambodia

Philippines

Samoa

Tanzania

Thailand

Uganda

Namibia

Vietnam

Zambia

Kiribati

Vanuatu

Morocco

Marshall Isld.

Pakistan

China

Ethiopia

Rwanda

CPEIR UNDERWAY

Bhutan

Colombia

El Salvador

Ecuador

Chile

Kenya

Ghana

Benin

Mozambique

Tonga

Fiji

CPEIR PLANNED

Nicaragua

Burkina Faso

Honduras

Cote d'Ivoire

Uzbekistan

Guinea Bissau

Niger

Mali

Senegal

Togo

These data are rough estimates. Caution is recommended in country comparisons. More data are available on our website.

These data are rough estimates. Caution is recommended in cross-country comparisons. More analyses are available on our website and UNDP's Lessons Learnt Paper (2015).

the DFA methodology to further enhance the results orientation of the assessment approach. The revised DFA methodology looks at issues such as: trends in finance flows and their allocations to national priorities; quality of national development strategies in terms of their articulation of results and links with fiscal planning and budgeting processes. The DFA approach has raised interest beyond the Asia-Pacific, with Mozambique being the first country to undertake a DFA in Africa.

In 2015, DFAs were launched in Bangladesh, Fiji and Myanmar. Initial discussions are underway for starting work in Cambodia, Nepal, Mongolia, and selected countries of the Pacific. In countries where a DFA has been completed, recommendations have contributed to policy or institutional reforms aiming at strengthening the management of development finance:

- In the Philippines, the DFA is informing the financing of their Long Term Vision policy
- Papua New Guinea has drawn on the DFA to formulate a new Development Finance and Aid Policy
- In Lao PDR, the assessment is being used to inform the financing framework for their next Five Year Plan and 10-year Vision
- Vietnam has used the DFA to inform the national development cooperation dialogue and reforms of FDI related policies
- In Bangladesh the government is taking forward groundbreaking institutional restructuring within the Ministry of Finance to more effectively manage flows of development finance
- In Fiji, the DFA has the potential to support the new aid policy and mandate of Ministry of Finance on climate finance.

Key publication: Dealing with Complexity: How Governments are Managing Financing for Sustainable Development. Lessons from Development Finance Assessments in Asia and the Pacific

CONTRIBUTING TO GLOBAL DISCOURSE ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT:

In 2015, AP-DEF contributed to ensuring that the global discussions on financing for development were informed by country experience and that the outcome of the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development, which took place in Addis Ababa in July 2015, took into account country realities.

In the lead-up to the Addis Ababa conference, AP-DEF organized an Asia-Pacific regional consultation, “Strengthening Coherence between Financing for Development and Effective Development Cooperation”, in Manila in March 2015. This forum, jointly hosted by the Governments of Philippines, Bangladesh, and Palau resulted in a set of key messages to feed into the Financing for Development Conference in Addis Ababa. AP-DEF and UNDP BRH also partnered with ESCAP to organize the Asia-Pacific High-level Consultations on Financing for Development in Jakarta, in April 2015.

Following the Addis Ababa conference, AP-DEF organized a regional workshop, “Realizing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda at Country Level and Using Development Finance to Achieve Country Results”, in Bangkok in October 2015. Discussions focused on the links between the management of different flows of development finance and the formulation and measurement of country results; the role of DFAs in establishing evidence of development finance flows at country level and the institutions and policies which govern them; and potential next steps for strengthening alignment of finance with

country results frameworks, taking into account lessons learned from performance-based budgeting.

Recommendations emerging from regional consultations highlighted the importance of strengthening country systems, in particular systems for planning and budgeting given their linchpin role as a platform for linking flows of development finance to national development results.

4) STRENGTHEN TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE LOCAL AND NATIONAL GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS TO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE AND EQUITABLE SERVICES

Strong national and local governance systems are vital for protecting the rights of all people, for managing resources, and for delivering equitable services that are responsive to the needs of the people. Weak governance systems, on the other hand, manifest not only as weak rule of law, and corruption, but also as multi-dimensional poverty, social exclusion, weak rule of law, corruption, and human rights violations—including through human trafficking, negative law enforcement practices against vulnerable and marginalized people.

UNDP BRH focuses on strengthening transparent and accountable national and local governance systems through its work on Core Government Functions (including public administration, civil service, and parliament), Anti-Corruption, Transparency and Accountability, and Local Governance and Decentralization. In addition, work on strengthening the governance of extractives sector aims at supporting transparent and accountable management of natural resources for sustainable development.

CORE GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS

The Core Government Functions portfolio provides policy advice and programmatic support in the area of core government functions - specifically public administration, civil service reform and parliamentary development, government accountability, and inclusiveness and responsiveness.

In 2015, under this portfolio, technical advice to planning and reform processes at national level was provided in Vietnam, Pakistan, Myanmar, Bhutan, Timor Leste, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan.

More specifically, in Sri Lanka, following the 2015 national elections, BRH assisted UNDP Sri Lanka to provide timely support to the Parliament.

The support includes: Member of Parliament orientation, detailed status quo analysis, needs assessment and the formulation of a comprehensive parliamentary support strategy, as well as assistance related to rationalizing and restructuring the committee system. In December 2015 Sri Lanka Parliament passed a motion⁴ to set up sectoral oversight parliamentary committees (including a Women and Gender Committee). The role of the committees is to examine, review and report on all bills, resolutions, etc., relating to the subject of their mandate to the Parliament prior to subject being considered by Parliament. The committees also formulate amendments, propose new legislation, review the implementation of laws, programmes and projects, and oversee the operation of executive bodies. In addition to sectoral oversight committees, a new Finance and Budget Committee and a Parliamentary Budget Office will also be set up. The new committee system will enable considerable strengthening of Sri Lanka Parliament's budget role and oversight function and create favorable conditions for exercising these functions in relation to SDGs. BRH has been assisting with the design of a comprehensive Parliamentary Strengthening Programme that will be launched in 2016 and backstopped the preparatory phase that was initiated in 2015. The new parliamentary programme aims at strengthening the institution and enabling it to perform its core legislative, oversight and representational functions more efficiently and effectively and to provide the necessary political support, orientation and oversight to the overall reform, reconciliation and development

agenda. It will also support activities to enhance transparency, accountability and citizens' participation in the work of Parliament. Successful implementation of this programme is expected to trigger other essential governance reforms in Sri Lanka and boost the strategic impact of UNDP's policy and programmatic engagement in Asia-Pacific countries that have experienced protracted conflict and significant peacebuilding challenges.

The leadership of the Parliament of Sri Lanka has endorsed the needs assessment conducted with BRH's support, and adopted the draft parliamentary strengthening strategy to inform its overall reform and international assistance focus. UNDP has also been requested by Parliament to support coordination of the overall international involvement in legislative strengthening. In addition, support was also provided to amending the Law on Elections in Vietnam; strengthening the parliamentary committee systems in Bhutan and planning for specific roles of parliamentary committees in integrating Agenda 2030 and overseeing SDGs implementation; and enhancing women representation and participation in the Parliament in Malaysia. BRH further provided strategic advice on UNDP support to civil service reforms in Pakistan, Myanmar and Bhutan. In addition, the Global Project on Gender in Public Administration (GEPA) has been assisted in 2015 to conduct a survey in 18 countries in Asia-Pacific. This initial survey aims to help developing a future global tracking mechanism that will institutionalize the monitoring of the state of gender equality in the civil service. The survey sought information on how data on civil service employees is collected, housed and updated, how many grades are available, which grades are considered decision-making level, and which is the UNDP engagement in gender projects related to public administration in each country office.

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Programme that will be launched in 2016. Successful implementation of this programme is expected to trigger other essential governance reforms in Sri Lanka and boost the strategic impact of UNDP's policy and programmatic engagement in Asia-Pacific countries that have experienced protracted conflict and significant peacebuilding challenges.

In Pakistan, BRH advised and supported the formulation and initiation of a government-funded public sector reforms programme entitled 'Reforms and Innovations in Government for High Performance'. UNDP provided strategic and technical advisory support to the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform to commence a comprehensive analysis of the public sector operating environment, identify major bottlenecks and establish reform priorities in the short and medium terms. The reform priorities include: human resource management, e-governance solutions for improved public sector performance and service delivery, and citizen engagement. UNDP supported inception and planning workshops and shared international and regional best practices and lessons learned. BRH advised on issues such as: risk assessment and management, regular and consistent engagement of a broad range of stakeholders and civil servants (including middle level) in problem and solution identification; communications and coalition building; building on and learning from past reform experiences; periodic evaluation of bottlenecks and strategic and operational adjustments as necessary. The first phase of the programme focused on forging partnerships, establishing performance contracts for a number of ministries (based on the Malaysian model) and developing a road map for civil service reforms.

In addition, support was also provided to amending the Law on Elections in Vietnam; strengthening the parliamentary committee

systems in Bhutan and planning for specific roles of parliamentary committees in integrating Agenda 2030 and overseeing SDGs implementation; and enhancing women representation and participation in the Parliament in Malaysia. BRH further provided strategic advice on UNDP support to civil service reforms in Pakistan, Myanmar and Bhutan. In addition, BRH also facilitated the Global Project on Gender in Public Administration (GEPA) to conduct a survey in 18 countries in Asia-Pacific in 2015. This initial survey aims to help developing a future global tracking mechanism that will institutionalize the monitoring of the state of gender equality in the civil service. The survey sought information on how data on civil service employees is collected, housed and updated, how many grades are available, which grades are considered decision-making level, and which is the UNDP engagement in gender projects related to public administration in each country office.

ANTI-CORRUPTION, TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The Anti-Corruption, Transparency and Accountability team supports countries in the region to mitigate corruption risks in the service delivery chain through adoption of community-based approaches at the local level, and empowering citizens to monitor governments and to hold them accountable. The team also offers advice to national governments to implement their international obligations under the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), especially in the area of prevention, by involving a range of actors such as anti-corruption agencies, government, private sector, civil society and development partners.

Key priority areas of work include:

- Developing, implementing and monitoring anti-corruptions strategies

New Ways to Fight Corruption & Deliver Justice For All

UNDP, together with the U4 Anti-Corruption Centre and GIZ, have joined efforts to identify new ways to fight corruption and deliver justice for all in the context of the newly approved SDG16.



Representatives from the judiciary, anti-corruption agencies, UNDP, as well as development partners discussed experiences from the field in promoting integrity in the criminal justice chain in a UNDP meeting organized in September 2015 in Malaysia. Participants highlighted that corruption is a major bottleneck to ensure equal access to justice and eventually for the implementation of the SDGs. On average 1 out of 4 citizens globally report that they paid a bribe to the judiciary within the last year, making the judiciary the second-most corruption-prone sector after the police (TI's 2013 Global Corruption Barometer).

While acknowledging the difficulty of the problem, participants discussed innovative initiatives from around the globe with the potential to make a difference. For example in Indonesia, people can now go online to access court documents and statistics on judgements, eliminating bureaucracy and increasing transparency. Even in challenging environments such as Afghanistan the use of local monitors of trials by Integrity Watch has resulted in marked improvement in the administration of justice. Building on these experiences UNDP is preparing a publication on A Transparent and Accountable Judiciary to Deliver Justice for All.

Story credit: Elodie Beth and Livio Sarandrea; Photo credit: David Wong, UNDP

- Mitigating corruption in key sectors for human development
- Empowering grassroots' communities to increase transparency and accountability at the local level
- Building capacities of government as well as youth, civil society and other stakeholders against corruption
- Raising awareness about the costs of corruption and illicit financial flows on development

The main results achieved in 2015 include:

1) Advocated on the importance of tackling corruption in the judiciary in the context of the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goal 16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

- Developed groundbreaking research on corruption in the judiciary sector, in cooperation with development partners (U4 Anti-corruption Centre, GIZ, and UNODC), judicial sector experts (including judges), and anti-corruption experts. The findings were discussed at a technical expert group meeting⁵ as well as at a high-level panel at the 16th International Anti-Corruption Conference held in Malaysia in September 2015.⁶
- Conducted an awareness-raising campaign about the detrimental effects of corruption on achieving "justice for all", one of the targets of the sustainable development goals, resonating the global campaign "Break the corruption chain – in the judiciary", on the occasion of the International Anti-Corruption Day. The Op-Ed "Aiming to deliver justice for all" by Nicholas Rosellini, Director of Bangkok Regional Hub, was published on the Straits Times. The Regional Anti-corruption Advisor

was interviewed by Al-Jazeera. In December 2015, we created, in cooperation with the Communications Team, an Anti-Corruption webpage on the Regional portal: <http://www.asia-pacific.undp.org/content/rbap/anti-corruption>. On the occasion of the IACD we launched an infographic which advocates for a wide range of stakeholders' involvement to "break the corruption chain" in the justice sector, highlighting the role of different actors, including judges, academics, as well as non-traditional actors such as citizens and civil society

- As part of the International Anti-Corruption Day campaign, an awareness-raising campaign on the detrimental effects of corruption on achieving "justice for all", one of the targets of the SDGs, was conducted. This campaign was in line with the global International Anti-Corruption Day campaign, "Break the corruption chain".
- The awareness-raising campaign involved highlighting the importance of addressing corruption in the judiciary sector on various media platforms, including an Op-Ed "Aiming to deliver justice for all" by Nicholas Rosellini, Director of Bangkok Regional Hub, in the Straits Times,⁷ and interview of Elodie Beth-Seo, the Regional Anti-corruption Advisor Al-Jazeera Television.⁸ A regional Anti-Corruption webpage was also launched, and an infographic illustrating the role and importance of wide range of stakeholders' (such as judges, academics, citizens, civil society and others) in "breaking the corruption chain" in the justice sector was shared widely.

2) Supported country offices in developing and implementing anti-corruption strategies and risk mitigation

"Other than organizing several youth camps and activities, the Youth Anti-Corruption Network gives my classmates and I a safe and productive platform to discuss issues that matter to us."

Thai Young Person

The Thai Youth Anti-Corruption Network, supported by UNDP, is a Youth Organization at the forefront of the fight against corruption. Students and the youth in general represent the future of the nation, and this is why it is important to sensitize them on the harmful effects of corruption on socio-economic development.

The Network was founded in 2012 in Khon Kaen, with the occasion of the first Anti-Corruption Youth Camp organized in cooperation with UNDP. Initially the Network consisted of only 30 members, each one representing a university student's union or a student association at different universities. Today, the Network has over 7,000 members from 90 universities.

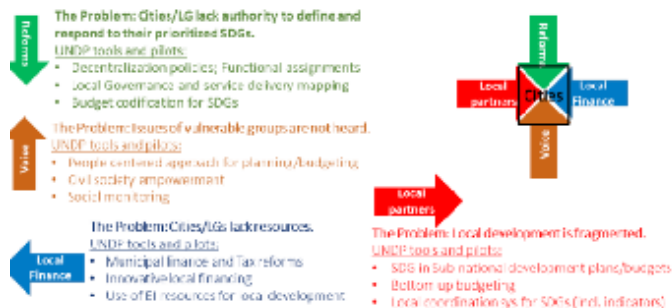


measures to improve service delivery

- Advised six countries to develop and implement anti-corruption strategies (Philippines, Lao PDR, Nepal, Sri Lanka) and build related capacities of public officials (China, Myanmar). For example after the earthquake in Nepal, an integrity strategy was developed for the whole of government to mitigate the heightened risks of corruption due to large inflows of aid for relief and reconstruction efforts. Supported the upscale of sectoral initiatives in countries in the Asia Pacific region to ensure the sustainability of these initiatives. For example in Thailand the setting up of the social enterprise café “Refuse to be corrupt” provides an innovative model for ensuring the sustainability of the advocacy – based on a strategy of empowerment of student, partnership with the private sector, and social enterprise where the revenues of the café are used to finance advocacy activities against corruption.
- Supported scaling up of sectoral initiatives in the region using social enterprise model to ensure sustainability of initiatives. For example in Thailand, UNDP supported the Thai Youth Anti-Corruption Network to set up the social enterprise café “Refuse to be corrupt”, with support from TRUE Coffee. The revenues from the café are used to finance anti-corruption advocacy activities and events (such as anti-corruption talks and forums), youth training activities in targeted universities, and expand activities of the Thai Youth Anti-Corruption Network. The Café also provides the space for students to plan advocacy activities. An online store also sells the “Refuse to be Corrupt” merchandise.
- Building on the sector risk assessment methodology in water, health, education, forestry, climate finance,

and procurement sectors, UNDP BRH piloted a corruption risk assessment tool in the extractive sector in Indonesia in partnership with KPK, the National Corruption Eradication Commission of Indonesia. The tool was developed in consultation with academic, experts, mining organizations, NGOs, Indigenous Peoples groups, and key government agencies, including National Corruption Eradication Commission, National Development Planning Agency, Ministry of Energy and Mining Resources. The tool was first piloted in East Nusa Tenggara province. More details on the corruption risk

UNDP's approach to strengthen Local governance for the SDGs The 4 LG dimensions in Asia-Pacific:



assessment in Indonesia are provided in the section on the governance of the extractives sector.

3) Fostered knowledge-sharing and partnership-building to mainstream anti-corruption in development strategies of governments and development partners

- Brought the attention of governments and development partners to the importance of “Tackling corruption in development projects”, which was the theme of the Regional Seminar of the ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific, co-organized with UNDP, in Mongolia in November 2015.

- We Worked with UN agencies in the Philippines to integrate anti-corruption, transparency and accountability projects and activities as part of the overall UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

- Deepened the knowledge and information exchange among the on-line community of practice Asia-Pacific Integrity in Action (AP-INTACT). The network provides a platform for its members to share information on anti-corruption, with a focus on the Asia-Pacific region. AP-INTACT currently has 850 members from 62 countries, who increasingly use the network to pose and address queries on anti-corruption practices. UNDP also uses the network to reach out to anti-corruption practitioners to collect data on good practices and experiences.

Reinforced partnerships with development partners such as the ADB/OECD Initiative against Corruption, ASEAN CSR Network, GIZ, and the U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre, in addition to the on-going partnership with UNODC, to raise the outreach of UNDP and ensure the coherence of anti-corruption efforts in the region.

LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND DECENTRALIZATION

The central role of local governments in promoting sustainable development is well established. The adoption of SDGs in September 2015 provided the opportunity for UNDP in Asia-Pacific to reinforce the importance of strong local governance systems to achieve the Agenda 2030 and implement the SDGs at sub-national and

local level.

As indicated above, strong local governance systems are essential for ensuring equitable delivery of services, promote economic opportunities, increase public participation, and address exclusion and inequalities in order to maintain (and strengthen) inclusive and peaceful societies (SDG 16).

To address these challenges, UNDP Bangkok regional Hub developed a 'Regional initiative on Local governance for the SDGs' which was endorsed at the UNDP Regional Management Meeting in Kuala Lumpur (October 2015). The initiative provides a framework for UNDP country offices to strengthen local governance systems for localizing the SDGs and delivering on the 2030 Agenda.

The initiative supports a four-pronged approach – 1) focus on completing the decentralization reforms, 2) strengthen local public financial management systems, 3) increase horizontal linkages between different actors to promote efficient delivery of services, and 4) enhance public engagement in local decision making processes.

The initiative also promotes linkages between local governance programmes and anti-corruption, social cohesion, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction projects/programmes to both deliver on the objectives of the sector/thematic programmes at the local level, and strengthen local governance systems.

As part of this initiative, the regional team supported, 16 UNDP Country Offices and government counterparts respond to emerging local governance demands in 2015.

Key achievements include:

In Pakistan, following local elections and a change in provisions related to fiscal transfers to local levels, UNDP BRH supported UNDP Pakistan to review its local governance portfolio to work more closely with provincial and sub-national administrations to establish local governance systems and capacities at the lower tiers of government (village level).

In Afghanistan, Lao PDR and Sri Lanka, local

economic development is increasingly used as an entry-point to advocate and strengthen local governance systems. This approach has given more the voice to communities in local decision making, helped establish new Public-Private Partnerships and simplified business processes (i.e.: One-Stop-Shops).

In the Solomon Islands and in Papua New Guinea, UNDP's work on local governance was commended for having improved sub-national public financial management and resulted in central governments deciding to increase fiscal allocations to sub-national administrations. In Vietnam, the Regional Hub helped organize, together with the Country Office and the University of Oxford, a regional workshop to discuss Ho Chi Minh City's experience on Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index. The workshop brought together participants from six countries and discuss how MPI helps improve targeting, planning and budgeting.

In 2015, partnerships were also strengthened with development partners, multilateral banks (ADB), technical/advocacy networks (LOGIN), municipalities and research institutes. The BRH team worked with India, China, Nepal, Myanmar and Republic of Korea to document innovative local governance processes for South-south Cooperation and is planning a regional forum on local governance in Chengdu (China) in September 2016. The team was also part of the regional Development Solutions Team (DST) on Urbanization and contributed to the Asia-Pacific urban strategy. It contributed to the development of the BPPS policy papers, "Local governance in fragile states"; "Local governance and Local Economic Development" and other policy briefs on localizing the SDGs.

STRENGTHENING THE GOVERNANCE OF EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES FOR SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

The extractives sector is a vital sector in Asia and the Pacific. Countries in the region are among the largest producers and consumers of fossil fuels and mineral resources in the world. The region accounts for nearly half of the global

production and consumption of oil and gas, and around 70 percent of mineral products such as coal, copper, iron, nickel and zinc. Although the extractives sector is vital for modern economies, the very nature of extraction is environmental destructive. Further, lack of a strong governance framework of the extractives sector is exacerbating existing challenges and has broad repercussions on inclusive economic development, environment protection, human rights, conflict, and gender equality in the region.

To address the multiple challenges of the extractives sector, BRH adopted a multidimensional and interdisciplinary approach to address the multiple challenges of the extractives sector in Asia-Pacific.

Through the extractives industries multi-disciplinary development solutions team (DST), BRH brought together different practice areas (governance, inclusive economic growth, environment protection, conflict prevention, and gender) to develop the Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development (EI4SD) area of work, and provide integrated support to countries in the region.

The Strengthening Governance of Extractive Industries for Sustainable Human Development project funded by BCPR (now BPPS) supported regional and country level activities. .

Activities were implemented in four countries (Indonesia, Mongolia, Pakistan and the Philippines).

In Indonesia, support was provided to the development of Coal Mining Road Map, Feasibility Study on Sovereign Wealth Fund in Bojonegoro, and the development of Mining Governance Index with the Anti-Corruption Agency (KPK). The Mining Governance Index builds on the corruption risk assessment pilot supported by the UNDP anti-corruption programme. The Mining Governance index methodology was developed and implemented by KPK, UNDP, and partners (academics, experts, NGOs working on mining issues, and Indigenous People's organizations). The

quality of governance in extractives sector in 12 provinces was assessed and scored in five categories: licensing arrangements, fulfillment of financial obligations, production supervision, processing supervision, and sales supervision.

Targeted activities are expected to be implemented in 2016, based on the findings from the mining governance index.

In Mongolia, preparatory activities were completed and experts were hired to conduct three studies: a. Mining revenue allocation study, b. Consultancy on Responsible mining, c. Study on Corruption Risk mitigation. The three studies will be completed in 2016.

In Pakistan, a mapping and analysis of constitutional, legal, institutional and financial aspects of the extractive industries governance is currently being conducted, and will be completed in 2016. .

In the Philippines, the GREENR project supported local and national consultations on governance

of the mining sector. The project also brought together all the oversight institutions to discuss their role in strengthening environmental governance in the Philippines.

A regional South-South Exchange and Training meeting was held in Bangkok in October 2015. The meeting brought together over 80 UNDP staff, experts, and partners to share information on addressing multi-sectoral challenges of extractive sector

Annex:

1.) UNESCAP (2015) Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 2015

2.) http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/HIV_5E.pdf

3.) <http://www.asia-pacific.undp.org/content/rbap/en/home/ourwork/democratic-governance-and-peacebuilding/successstories/two-multi-country-programmes-leverage-resources-and-partnerships.html>

4.) <https://www.parliament.lk/uploads/documents/addendums/1449927198082018.pdf>.

5.) Expert meeting agenda and findings available at <http://www.asia-pacific.undp.org/content/rbap/en/home/presscenter/events/2015/september/promoting-integrity-in-criminal-justice-chain.html>

6.) More information on the panel session are available at <http://16iacc.sched.org/event/3ZwU/assessing-corruption-risks-in-the-judiciary-what-role-for-the-community>

7.) <http://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/aiming-to-deliver-justice-for-all>

8.) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tGHqhmA9Igc>

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ACRONYMS

ICT	Information and communications technology
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
LGBT	Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNFPA	UN Population Fund
UNIFEM	UN Development Fund for Women
UNV	UN Volunteers



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