



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

GOVERNANCE & PEACEBUILDING

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Foreword

Calling it a “year of disruption” does not quite sum up the extraordinary year that was 2016. It should more productively be seen as a harbinger of things to come if governance systems and social structures are not improved or reshaped to address inequality and marginalization.

At its core, democratic governance should aim to support inclusive political processes to ensure the equitable participation of people in decision-making processes; strengthen responsive governance systems to meet the needs of all; and must remain ultimately and consistently underpinned by a normative framework which stands for civil, political, social, and economic rights for all peoples.

However we have seen globally and regionally a significant roll back of civil liberties and freedoms in 2016. Electoral strategies and public policies are violently pursued or enforced. Marginalized populations are also politicized and derogated to ensure success at the ballot box. And states have attempted to contain the emerging issue of violent extremism through a preference for coercion rather than addressing the root causes. The use of torture techniques and extra-judicial renditions in recent years, has been a drastic departure from democratic rule of law procedures and international human rights standards. The outcome appears to have resulted in an observable and global roll back of civil liberties, political freedoms and democratic governance.

The events of 2016 reinforce the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’s principal aim of “leaving no one behind” and, more specifically, of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 on providing “inclusive, peaceful, and just societies for all”.

While UNDP has decades of experience in supporting

democratic governance, it now needs to bolster—and possibly even reimagine—its position in increasingly politically polarized global, regional, national, and local contexts.

The Governance and Peacebuilding Team at UNDP’s Bangkok Regional Hub (BRH) was at the forefront of reshaping democratic governance work in 2016. New approaches in addressing political violent extremism, youth political and economic empowerment, and LGBTI rights focus on strengthening inclusive political and social processes, and in creating due space for those traditionally marginalized in decision-making processes. The team not only supports legal and policy reform in several areas, but also provides assistance to strengthen governance systems at national and local levels. Specific attention is paid to integrating social innovation approaches to redesign and deliver better services.

These new approaches have further helped to mobilize resources from traditional partners (such as donors and national governments) and non-traditional partners (including banks, foundations, and even local municipal governments).

As we move forward in this new and unfolding context, we also have to pay adequate attention to how rapid scientific and technological shifts are disrupting and reshaping every aspect of human society—from governance systems, to labour practices and production patterns, to family structures and communication patterns, and more. We must continue to champion the transformative agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals, and particularly facilitate, create the space for, and contribute to the discourse on democratic governance, and what that means in the twenty-first century.

Phil Matsheza, Team Leader
Effective Governance and Peacebuilding Team

Introduction

The Governance and Peacebuilding Team at the Bangkok Regional Hub (BRH) provides advisory support and technical assistance in 16 different areas of work to 24 UNDP Country Offices (COs) covering 36 countries in the Asia-Pacific region on strengthening governance systems for sustainable development. In addition, the team also leads on analysing the complex socio-political context of the region, identify emerging issues, and proposing potential opportunities and approaches for addressing these issues. Through various regional projects and programmes, the team initiates new areas of work in the region, including on sensitive issues such as violent extremism and human rights for all, including sexual and gender minorities and other marginalized groups.

To facilitate cohesion and foster more integrated approaches to addressing some of the complex governance challenges in the region, the team's work is clustered into four broad thematic areas:

- 1) Political Transitions for Resilient, Inclusive States and Lasting Peace;
- 2) Good Governance of Development Finance at Global and National Levels;
- 3) Rights and Voices of Vulnerable, Marginalized and At-Risk Groups;
- 4) Transparent and Accountable National and Local Governance Systems to Provide Effective and Equitable Services

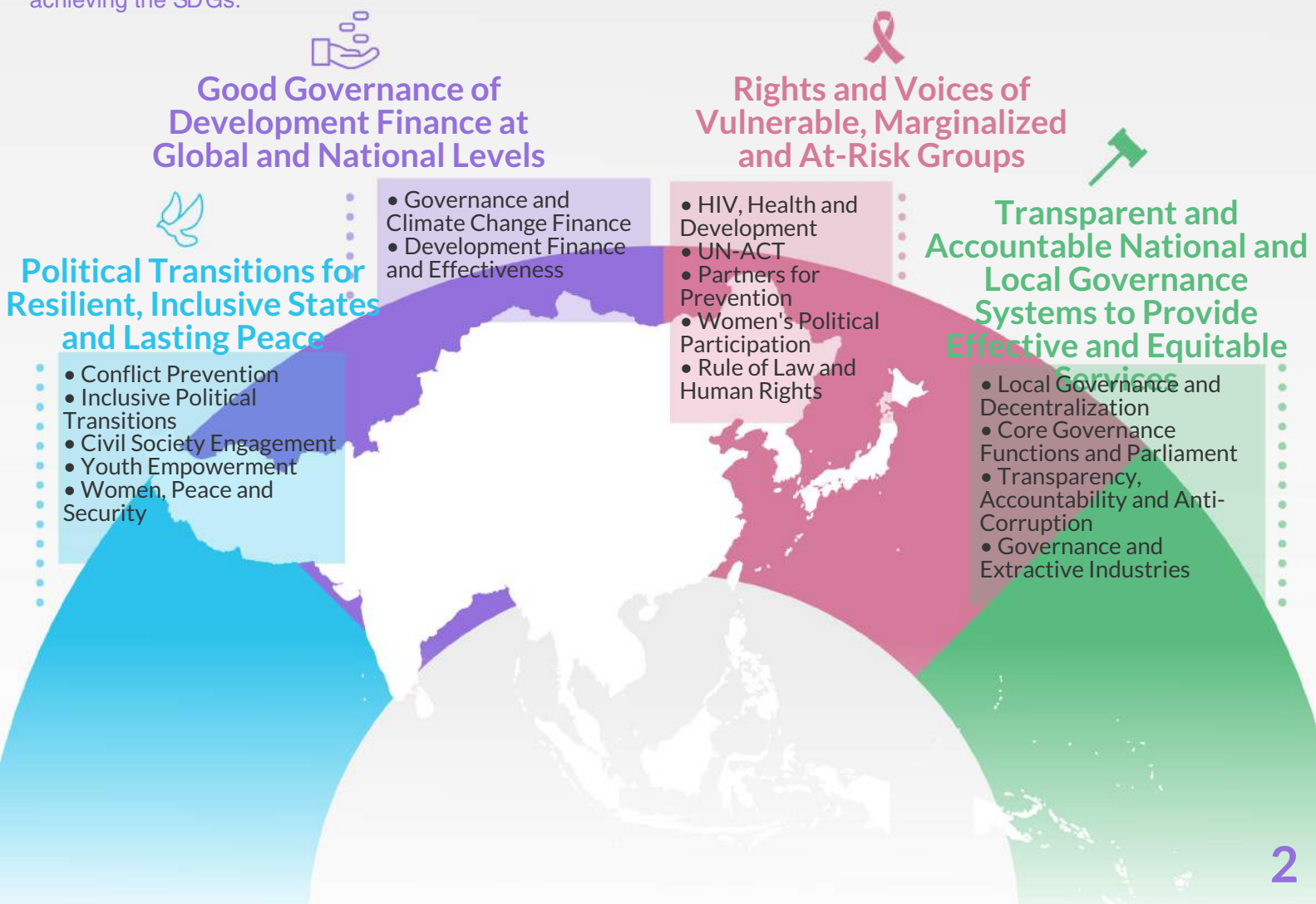
With the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the team's work is increasingly seen in the lens of achieving the SDGs.

The team's overall work, through the above four thematic areas of work, contributes to the achievement of SDG 16 on inclusive, peaceful and just societies. It also supports strengthening of Governance for the SDGs, i.e. SDG prioritization at the local level, and integrating SDGs with national planning and budgeting processes, and enhancing parliamentary oversight.

Further, the team also helps to strengthen Governance of SDGs, i.e. to improve the legal and regulatory framework, and governance systems for achieving other SDGs, specifically Goal 3 on good health and well-being, Goal 5 on gender equality, Goal 8 on decent work and economic growth (particularly Target 8.7 on human trafficking), Goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities, and Goal 13 on climate action (through governance of climate change finance).

In 2016, the Governance and Peacebuilding Team had several key achievements at the national and regional levels that contributed to the sustainable development agenda. The team was instrumental in leading the discourse on policies and programmes for promoting judicial integrity, preventing violent extremism; forging new partnerships for enhancing youth engagement in achieving the SDGs; and developing methodologies and tools for localizing SDGs. In the area of HIV and Health, the team applied multi-sectoral approaches for the control and prevention of non-communicable diseases and strengthened the outreach of HIV prevention services.

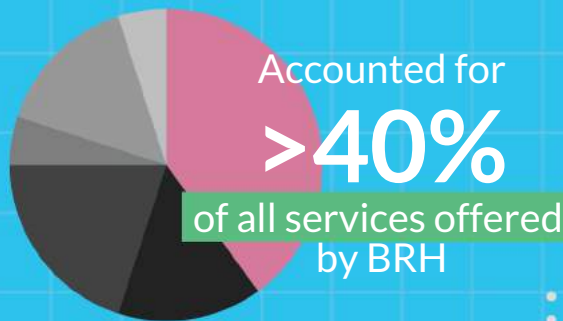
This report highlights the results and major activities of the BRH Governance and Peacebuilding Team in 2016 in all its varied areas of work.



UNDP BRH GOVERNANCE AND PEACEBUILDING

BY THE NUMBERS

In 2016, the BRH Governance and Peacebuilding Team made the following contributions to its four broad thematic areas:



Brought together

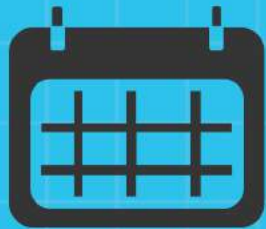
>270

researchers,
policymakers
& key influencers



to discuss drivers of
radicalization & ways to
prevent violent extremism

Provided close to



**1300
DAYS**

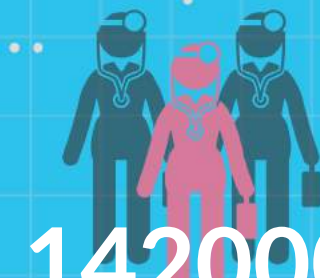
worth of advisory services to
COs in the region



Engaged

>2100

men & women to prevent
violence against women



**142000
PEOPLE**

reached with HIV
prevention services

Developed Local
Governance Diagnostic Tool
piloted in

3 COUNTRIES



6400 VICTIMS

of human trafficking supported
as part of COMMIT process
(2014 - 2016)





POLITICAL TRANSITIONS FOR RESILIENT, INCLUSIVE STATES AND LASTING PEACE

The Asia-Pacific region has experienced more conflicts than any other in the last 60 years, with over 130 million of Asia's citizens living in affected areas. Among the various factors contributing to conflict and insecurity are political and economic inequality and inclusion, which serve to keep political processes out of the reach of marginalized groups such as gender and ethnic minorities, youth, and other underrepresented social groups. Without the promotion of inclusion and integration, any form of social or political stability remains unsustainable.

Recognizing the above, the Political Transition for Resilient, Inclusive and Peaceful States thematic area focuses on making political processes (including peace processes) more inclusive by supporting policy-focused research on emerging issues, facilitating spaces for the participation of marginalized groups (including women and youth), and connecting different stakeholders to use data and findings from research to predict and prevent conflict. In 2016, under this thematic area, partnerships with key organizations, academics, data scientists, and the private sector were established to foster a more collaborative approach to address the systemic challenges that contribute to political exclusion and marginalization.

Further, the focus on supporting young people's engagement in political processes was reinforced by the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security in December 2015. To address growing radicalization and limited spaces for young people's engagement in political processes, the Resolution calls on countries and organizations working with youth to establish mechanisms that would support the meaningful participation of young people in peace and dispute resolution processes. And at the same time, there is also broader engagement among development actors and countries, the need for engaging young people to achieve the transformative agenda of the SDGs.

The different units that fall under this thematic area are Conflict Prevention; Inclusive Political Transitions; Civil Society and Youth; and Women, Peace and Security.



CONFLICT PREVENTION

The emphasis of conflict prevention work in 2016 was on building internal capacities of, and providing strategic technical support to UNDP country offices.

In June, BRH launched *Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding in Asia-Pacific*, a report on work in sustaining peace carried out in 13 countries in the region. The report highlights good practices and lessons learnt from supporting

peacebuilding efforts in the Asia-Pacific region.

Sustained support over a seven-month period (March to September, 2016) was provided to UNDP Afghanistan and the Afghanistan High Peace Council, a body established in 2010 to negotiate with elements of the Taliban, conduct conflict analysis, and use the results and findings from the analysis to draft a proposed Strategy for Peace and Reconciliation in Afghanistan.

As part of the UNDP and UN Department of Political Affairs' Joint Programme on National Capacities for Conflict Prevention, the Re-



gional Hub provided coordinated and supported the eight Peace and Development Advisors and four Conflict Prevention specialists based in Country Offices. The Conflict Prevention Specialists, while technically not part of the joint programme, also contribute to building national capacities (including knowledge) for conflict prevention, and are integral to UNDP's support to peacebuilding efforts in the region.



INCLUSIVE POLITICAL TRANSITIONS

Building on the outcome of the Mandalay Dialogue of 2015, the Regional Programme on Supporting Inclusive and Peaceful Societies in Asia-Pacific (SIPSAP) supported policy-based research on preventing violent extremism (PVE), and political transitions. It also connected civil society with big data to predict and prevent conflict, as well as their engagement with policy makers around evidence based policy.

Key results achieved in 2016 include:

Seminal research on violent extremism in South and Southeast Asia:

Research was supported to look at two distinct but related challenges for contemporary societies: the rise of violent extremism and its spread across national borders and the governance of diverse and multi-cultural societies. Two sub-regional research pieces for South and Southeast Asia were commissioned. These reports include a list of actors (research

institutions, think tanks, implementing agencies, etc.) working on addressing violent extremism in Asia. More importantly, the reports provide overviews of violent extremism in both sub-regions that include drivers for localized extremist organizations and drivers for foreign fighters; analyses of incidents, locations, and methods of attack; overviews of the security and development causes for violent extremism in South Asia; an analysis of effective tools for the mitigation violent extremism; and recommendations on a mixture of security and development preventative measures that can be undertaken to prevent violent extremism in Asia, and the potential role for UNDP in doing so.

One of the issues that was revealed in this research was that, despite increased access to data and information, there exists a limited ability of communities to utilize data and information to identify areas at risk of extremist ideology, or even to understand the underlying factors of resilience that underpin positive peace. Data is disparate, disconnected, difficult to access, and dislocated from citizens' normal lives. This means that local actors have a limited ability to identify areas at risk of extremism and also propose solutions to reduce those risks. Conversely, civil society members remain an untapped resource as producers of information and data to address existing gaps. For instance, different communities will have different perceptions of security and peace dynamics based on their local circumstance. Connecting people and their perceptions of predictors and incidences of extremism and peace could provide insights as to why and how extremist ideologies erupt, intensify, and disperse alongside identifying pathways to peace. This could illustrate how violent extremism is related to assumed locally-specific drivers such as restricted civic and political space, underemployment, and other grievances.

Data platforms for promoting peace:

BRH also progressed toward developing information platforms to help better understand peace and transitional processes in Asia and the Pacific. UNDP conducted a feasibility study for the data4peace platform, held validation workshops for data4peace in Thailand and Nepal, and held a data-architects meeting involving potential partners and data-sets were identified for the data4peace dashboard. Democratization of data and information help link citizens more closely to evidence-based policy and connect people's perceptions of security to existing data on extremism and peace.

For 2017, a hackathon to develop dashboard has been scheduled at Facebook Menlo Park Headquarters in the USA, and a citizen engagement methodology has been developed to be piloted with Build Peace, an NGO work-

working on community engagement in peace processes, in Indonesia, the Philippines and Myanmar.

Policy and programme approach to prevent and counter violent extremism:

As part of its efforts to strengthening policy engagement on countering violent extremism between researchers, civil society, and policy makers on countering violent extremism, BRH developed a strategic partnership with Hedayah, an International Center of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism based in Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. UNDP co-organized the third Global Research Conference on Countering Violent Extremism with Hedayah in Jakarta in December 2016. Over 270 researchers, policy makers, and key influencers participated in the conference to discuss drivers of radicalization—factors that contribute to—and protect against violent extremism. The conference placed UNDP at the heart of the global violent extremism research agenda, and has positioned UNDP to take a key role in linking the research on the ground with policy and programming.

A key outcome of the conference was identifying ways to turn research outcomes into practical policy and programme recommendations for practitioners and policy makers. These include:

- Localizing research by investing in and supporting local-level participatory research that recognizes temporal, cultural and spatial variables;
- Establishing methodological frameworks to ensure that research complies with ethical standards, and is conflict sensitive;
- Balancing structural approaches and counter-narratives by creating and enhancing channels of communication between policy-makers, mid-level and grassroots actors in order to influence local communities where narratives of violent extremism takes place;
- Developing a clear communications strategy to expand the influence and impact of research on countering and preventing violent extremism;
- Establishing networks, support trainings, and develop programmes that deepen the collaboration between researchers and practitioners, and support evidence based policies and programmes



CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT

Under the umbrella of the UNDG Asia-Pacific Human Rights Network (UNDG APHRN), which has a dedicated thematic working group on civil society, UNDP co-convened a consultation on civic space in Bangkok on 1 November 2016. The consultation took place in response to a call by the UNDG Asia-Pacific Regional Directors who identified the issue of shrinking space for civil society as a common regional concern with a significant impact on joint and individual UN programming. The meeting was attended by more than 60 representatives from the UN and civil society organizations actively involved in human rights and development issues. The meeting contributed to enhance capacity development and fostered proactive and constructive collaboration between all relevant stakeholders from governments, UN staff, civil society, and other private sector representatives. Participants identified key drivers of opportunity and challenges in the region, best practices and lessons learned related to civic space issues. In addition, participants also contributed to the development of a policy brief entitled



Civil Society Space and Stakeholder Engagement—which includes a list of re-

commendations on what the UN's response should be to address the issue of shrinking space in the region.



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

In line with the corporate UNDP Youth Strategy, UNDP in Asia and the Pacific is promoting youth empowerment through three core areas: (i) enhanced economic empowerment; (ii) enhanced civic engagement and political participation; and (iii) strengthened engagement in disaster preparedness, crisis response, and resilience building in crisis/conflict context. BRH—through its Regional Youth Programme and the Youth Development Solutions Team—recognizes the immense potential of young men and women to contribute to the implementation,

monitoring and reporting of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and facilitates spaces for youth to participate, innovate, and engage and influence policy makers. This work is informed and enhanced by BRH's leading research on youth empowerment in Asia and the Pacific, and youth-related projects in at least 19 UNDP Country Offices in the region.

Key results in 2016 are:

Regional Youth Project on Leadership, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship launched:

Regional Youth Project on Leadership, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship (RYPLIE)—approved and launched in 2016—is UNDP's multi-dimensional and multi-level response to tackle the challenges of social and political disenfranchisement and economic insecurity that young people, including the most marginalized, face today in Asia and the Pacific. The project brings young entrepreneurs together with the private sector and social impact investors to improve the entrepreneurship ecosystem for young people and provide spaces to build the skills and capacities of young entrepreneurs. The project focuses on establishing a network to foster youth-led social entrepreneurship, support youth leadership initiatives, and



provide grants for incubation financial mechanisms to fund youth-led programmes aimed at achieving the SDGs. It will also support research and knowledge exchange activities to inform current and new youth initiatives, and establish a partnership mechanism to support coherent resource mobilization, allocation and disbursement of donor resources.

Through this partnership mechanism, the project has pledged pipeline allocations from Baoshang Bank and Citi Group, and expects to work with more private sector actors in 2017.

Youth-led innovation for SDGs facilitated:

The BRH Youth Team supported several initiatives—awareness camp-

SHAPING THE FUTURE: How Changing Demographics Can Power Human Development

HOW YOUTH COULD UNLEASH ASIA'S NEXT ECONOMIC MIRACLE



MORE THAN HALF the young people in the world today live in the **ASIA-PACIFIC**

1.7 billion UNDER AGE 25

MORE WORKING AGE PEOPLE AND FEWER DEPENDANTS OFFER THE REGION ITS BIGGEST OPPORTUNITY TO GET RICH BEFORE IT GETS OLD



Empowered lives. Resilient nations.

HAS IT BEEN DONE BEFORE?

East Asian economies, further along in the demographic transition, have had tremendous success during periods with large working-age populations.

China's working-age population peaked in 2010 at **74%**. Driving stellar economic growth, millions of Chinese workers flooded labour markets. Trade and manufacturing with the world increased.

Japan's 'miracle' of growth during 1950-1970. When its economically active population was large. Today, Japan is better positioned to manage an ageing population.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?

UNEMPLOYMENT

33 M OF THE TOTAL **71 M** unemployed youth of the world live in Asia Pacific

220 M are neither at school nor at work

Youth in the region are **5-6x** MORE LIKELY TO BE UNEMPLOYED than adults at the same level of education

SKILLS MISMATCH



Unemployment among youth with higher and secondary education is often more than double those of youth with solely primary education.

Unemployment **2x** for youth with **HIGHER EDUCATION** compared to **PRIMARY EDUCATION**

WEAK LINKS BETWEEN EDUCATION SYSTEMS AND EMPLOYERS | POOR QUALITY + TRADITIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEMS

THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND

BY 2045 ASIA WILL REACH ITS MAXIMUM NUMBER OF WORKING-AGE PEOPLE, AT **3.1 billion**

Half of asia's peak era workforce will benefit from investments made by 2030

LACK OF VOICE

83% of young people in the region have never spoken to their public representatives

CONFLICT

60% of the world's people living in conflict are in Asia Pacific

GENDER DIVIDE



Women's participation in the labor force is **< 60%** in 30+ Asia Pacific countries that track it



South Asia has the highest gender pay gap with women earning **a full third less** than their male counterparts



aigns, workshops, incubation labs, and conferences—to bring young people to the center-stage of the efforts to achieve the SDGs. The top initiatives in 2016 included:

• **Regional Youth Focal Point Workshop (11 - 12 January):**

UNDP and UNV held their first Regional Youth Focal Point workshop with representatives from 12 UNDP Country Offices, namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Fiji, the Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. The key outcomes of this regional co-creation workshop included to:

- Raise awareness on youth-related issues in Asia and the Pacific;
- Assesse UNDP and UNV's ability to address those challenges and build on the opportunities in the context of the SDGs;
- Co-create the joint UNDP and UNV intervention at the regional level

• **2030 Youth Force Workshop (15 - 17 June 2016) and Campaign:**

UNDP and UNV brought together 19 young community leaders from over 10 countries in Asia and the Pacific for a three-day workshop, which culminated in the creation of a new youth-led network, the 2030 Youth Force. The network aims to raise



awareness and empower youth in the region to effectively engage with the SDGs. As a follow-up to the workshop, regular updates are shared on an online space connecting the 2030 Youth Force members, AIESEC volunteers as well as UNDP and UNV staff. To coordinate advocacy campaigns and promote networking and information-sharing. The 2030 Youth Force has also cooperated with UNDP Country Offices to raise SDG awareness campaigns in seven countries, namely Cambodia, China, Mongolia, Nepal, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam. In August 2016, the 2030 Youth Force initiated a successful SDG awareness-raising campaign on social media entitled “#SendLoveOn”.

• **Asian Youth Innovation Forum on “Leaving No One Behind’: Youth Innovation at the Heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (21 - 23 October):**

UNDP, together with partners from the

UN (UN Volunteers, ESCAP), civil society (the world’s largest youth-led organization AIESEC) and the private sector (INTEL, Citi Group, SAP) hosted an Asian Youth Innovation Forum on “Leaving No One Behind: Youth Innovation at the Heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” in October 2016. This forum convened over 100 participants across 12 different countries in the region with a majority of young women, and supported the winners of various innovation challenges (e.g. access to finance and financial sustainability, inclusivity, managing teams, partnerships and community engagement, productive use of new technologies) at the country level to compete at the regional scale and also to understand the challenges faced by the youth social entrepreneurs in the region.

• **“#The Case for Space: Youth at the Heart of the 2030 Agenda” Conference (30 November – 2 December):**

UNDP co-organized the #Case4Space #Case4Space event in partnership with leading UN agencies (UNESCO, UNFPA and ESCAP) and youth-led and civil society organizations (Restless Development and FORUM-ASIA). The event brought together more than 250 young leaders, activists, researchers, journalists together with representatives from the private sector (Google, Telenor), foundations, UNDP and UNFPA Country Offices and donor governments to engage in vibrant discussions on the challenges and opportunities related to civic space issues for young people. The agenda included both plenary sessions focusing on these core challenges and considerations for action, as well as breakout sessions to explore practical solutions and provide on-site capacity-building activities geared towards young people. Speakers included young researchers, activists, civil society and foundations, the private sector, and representatives from UN and multilateral organizations. Youth participants released a joint **111111 Youth Statement & Call to Action** at the end of the three-day forum, calling on governments to safeguard and promote free and safe spaces for civic engagement in the region.

The above-listed initiatives and events contributed to strengthen partnerships with and build multi-stakeholder networks of young people, youth-led organizations, UN and development agencies, private sector, and philanthropic organizations that are keen on supporting youth leadership and entrepreneurship. More importantly, the events provided the much needed space for youth engagement, and identified new ways and means to sustain such spaces at regional, national and local levels.

Youth engagement through partnerships with existing programmes on migration and peacebuilding supported:

The BRH Youth Team supported the United Nations Action for Cooperation Against Trafficking in Persons (UN-ACT) project by facilitating the engagement of young people and civil society representatives in the Regional COMMIT Youth Forum (Bangkok, 21 - 25 November 2016). Associated with the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative Against Trafficking (COMMIT), young people from six SEA countries helped shape decisions to counter human trafficking; assist in implementing the COMMIT sub-regional Plan of Action; and gain valuable training and networking skills.

The BRH Youth Team actively participated in the N-Peace Awards through the support to a separate award called “The Peace Generation” which recognizes the work of young men and women who have demonstrated volunteerism as a powerful means of promoting social cohesion and reconciliation. Their efforts in policy change, advocacy and mobilization, media communications, or community action have resulted in the advancement of women, peace and security issues. In the 2016 N-Peace, 2 young activists were awarded, including Rizky Murdiono, a member of the 2030 Youth Force in Indonesia.



WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

The N-Peace initiative was rolled out in 2010 to address the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325. N-Peace is now implemented in Myanmar, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri-Lanka and Nepal. N-Peace aims to create



institutional and social shifts to prioritize the inclusion and empowerment of women and girls, and ultimately change discourse on the roles of

women in peacebuilding. This is primarily pursued through capacity-strengthening and women's leadership promotion via specific activities including training programmes targeting peace mobilizers, advocacy of peacebuilding initiatives to strengthen women's networks, and the N-Peace Awards campaign, which provides a platform for recognizing local peace actors. An informal review done in 2016 with previous awardees demonstrated that over 75 percent of awardees are invited to either local or national committees on peacebuilding after winning the awards.

2016 adjusted the programme to ensure closer linkages with the work of UNDP Country Offices in peacebuilding. The Network was rolled out in Sri Lanka. Responding to emerging areas as outlined in UNSCR 2240 included in 2016 a special focus on preventing

violent extremism and initiated research to understand the social media narrative on gender and extremism in the region. Due to financial constraints, N-Peace adjusted to a leaner budget while maintaining—even enhancing—outreach (roughly a social media outreach of about 5 million) and rolling out a new structure to attract private sector funding for N-Peace, finding innovative solutions to developing and sharing N-Peace knowledge products.

N-Peace Indonesia launched the publication of *The Hidden Pearls: Heroic Stories of Women Peacebuilders*. At the regional level, N-Peace commenced researched using its innovative platform to understand the social media narrative on gender and extremism globally, a first of its kind. 2016 also saw the successful launch of the N-Peace Fund through un-



precedented private sector engagements for the N-Peace Awards Gala held in Bangkok, in which 9 peacebuilders were recognized. The N-Peace Fund is intended to provide grants to peacebuilders and communities to meet some of the financial constraints brought on by exhausted donor funding. In partnership with the Arab region, N-Peace is reviewing options for rolling out the initiative globally.

WPS AT THE FOREFRONT: The 2016 N-Peace Awards

The 2016 N-Peace Awards were held in Bangkok from 6 - 9 February 2017. The Awards Week consisted of four primary events: a week-long capacity-building workshop by Inclusive Security, the Exhibition on Women, Peace and Security at Siam Paragon, the Sharing Untold Stories media event at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand, and the N-Peace Awards Gala at Park Nai Lert Heritage Home.

2016 recognized nine men and women from Afghanistan, Indonesia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Nepal, and Sri Lanka and managed to successfully engage the private sector including Siam Knight Fund Management, Siam Paragon, Soroptimist International, and other sponsors. Earnings from the N-Peace Awards Gala are to be used to create the N-Peace Fund starting in 2017 to address remaining gaps in support potential.



GOOD GOVERNANCE OF DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AT GLOBAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS



As part of its holistic approach to supporting and improving regional governance capacities, BRH also works to support governments to develop integrated national financial frameworks to ensure overall development effectiveness and climate change resilience—and, in doing so, ensures the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. Efforts in this thematic area are two-fold, including regional programmes in the governance of climate change finance and development effectiveness



GOVERNANCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE FINANCE

The Governance of Climate Change Finance unit (GCCF) for Asia-Pacific provides technical and financial supports to seven countries to strengthen the formulation and management of their climate change-related public budget by adopting regional tools to their country context.



The unit also promotes South-South exchange by bringing all countries to share knowledge and experience at the regional workshops and forums. Countries currently supported are Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan and Thailand. A few more countries will be added from 2017 to 2021, including Tonga and Vanuatu.

In 2016, key activities achievements included successful resource mobilization to the programme amounting to USD 11.5 million from Sweden and the UK.

Sub-national CPEIRs highlight local-level expenditures related to climate change:

Nepal's first district-level Climate Public Expenditures and Institutional Review (CPEIR) was completed in 2016. CPEIRs are currently being rolled out in four more districts (Myagdi, Dhading, Udaypur, Achham, Bardiya). In Pakistan, CPEIRs were completed at federal and provincial levels (all provinces and administrative territories), and the Pakistan's Climate Change Financing Frameworks (CCFF) at federal and provincial level are in the process of being launched.

In Nepal, the draft district CPEIRs illustrated that districts are spending anywhere from 12 percent of the total district budget to 26 percent of the budget on climate related investments. In Pakistan, the draft provincial CPEIRs showed that the ratio of climate change expenditures to overall budgetary expenditures ranged from 5.7 percent to 18.1 percent.

However, to determine whether or not the climate change expenditures are improving climate change adaptation on ground, the GCCF team will support impact assessment of climate change expenditures, looking in particular at poverty and gender impacts of climate related investments (including through ethnographic studies).

Further, China launched its second CPEIR in collaboration with the Chinese Academy of Fiscal Sciences (CAFS) and the Ministry of Finance; UNDP supported and facilitated the China-Pakistan South-South Exchange on Climate Change Finance and provincial CPEIR.



Local Climate Change Fiscal Frameworks (LCFF):

In Bangladesh, the unit has also started supporting the development and implementation of LCFFs in two climate

Climate-Related Expenditures in the Region

MAP PRESENTING COUNTRIES CLIMATE-RELATED EXPENDITURES CATEGORIZED IN ADAPTATION, MITIGATION AND OTHERS



change-vulnerable districts in partnership with the Local Government Division and Local Government Unions. The implementation of the LCFFs will benefit both households through climate change adaptation grants and community-level adaptation activities that at least benefit more than 200 households through community grants. It is expected that the majority of the beneficiaries will be Bangladeshi women living below the poverty line.

Bangladesh also completed its draft of the Adaptive Social Protection analysis.

Climate change budget-related support and partnerships:

BRH provided support to Indonesia on performance-based budgeting and Thailand through its Climate Change Benefit Analysis (CCBA). UNDP also supported Cambodia in Climate Change Finance Learning and in skills-building.

UNDP strengthened strategic and technical partnership with International Budget Partnership (IBP) to jointly develop a regional synthesis report on the Climate Change Finance Accountability Landscape. GCCF is similarly collaborating with governments in South Asia on Actions on Climate Today (ACT).



DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS

The BRH Team operates as the Secretariat for the Asia-Pacific Development Effectiveness Facility (AP-DEF), a country-led regional platform, chaired by the Government of Bangladesh, which supports countries to implement their national agendas on development finance and cooperation.



The Facility is a platform for regional dialogue, cooperation, and sharing of country knowledge and experiences. It is 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. Specifically, this work has included the creation and rolling-out of the Development Finance Assessment tool to ten countries in the region so far. It has also included support to countries in developing their Integrated National Financing Frameworks as called for in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda from the 3rd International Financing for Development Conference of 2015.

BRH also contributed to the body of knowledge on financing the SDGs through a series of flagship reports, videos, case studies and other knowledge products on Development Finance. The 2016 AP-DEF regional report, *Achieving the SDGs in the Era of the Addis Action Ababa Agenda: Progress on Establishing Integrated National Financing Frameworks in the Asia-Pacific Region* explored, for the first time in detail, the concept of an Integrated National Financing Framework.

BRH also supported peer learning between countries at regional workshops such as the “Linking Finance with Results: Achieving the SDGs in Asia-Pacific” workshop in Bangkok and the sub-regional Pacific workshop on Development Finance and Consultations in Fiji. These consultations also ensured that regional perspectives and country priorities from this region were carried to global policy processes such as the Second High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC), which took place in Nairobi in November.

There was significant expansion in the demand for UNDP to support countries to manage development finance for the SDGs, specifically through the Development Finance Assessment (DFA) tool developed in BRH. DFAs were completed and published in Bangladesh and Lao PDR, with others still underway in Fiji, Cambodia, Nepal, Mongolia and Timor-Leste. These were used to inform country-level policies and reforms, including Bangladesh’s 7th Five Year Plan, the Philippines’ national long-term vision document, and Lao PDR’s implementation of their development cooperation policy. DFAs were also requested in 7 countries in Latin America and 12 in Africa.

LINKING FINANCE WITH RESULTS: The Development Finance Assessment and Integrated National Financing Frameworks

Realizing the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will require a significant increase in investments. The cost of the SDGs is estimated in the trillions of dollars, at levels well beyond

the resources currently available to countries. Meeting these investment needs will require raising and mobilizing significant additional resources from multiple sources. But it will also require using and channeling resources efficiently. All actors—public and private, domestic and international—have contributions to make. Using resources effectively will mean these resources working to their comparative advantages in meeting a variety of types of investment needs.

The 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development held in Addis Ababa in July 2015 opened the discussions on how to mobilize the unprecedented amounts of financial resources that will be required to achieve the SDGs. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) assumes that countries will use their own national development strategies and plans to respond to the SDGs and calls for the adoption of Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs)

UNDP BRH has developed the Development Finance Assessment (DFA), a tool to respond to the growing demand from countries in the region 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.

The DFA provides governments with data and analysis on the quality of their national development strategies and country results frameworks, changing trends in development finance and its alignment with national priorities and results. It also helps formulate recommendations for how institutions and systems might be adjusted to ensure that different sources of development finance are managed within a coherent framework (the INFF), which better supports the implementation of the SDGs.

UNDP is already supporting a number of countries to undertake DFAs. The findings emerging from DFAs provide useful data and analysis for discussing reforms at country level. Examples of DFA’s impact include: i) the restructuring of government departments to take a more integrated approach to managing finance for development across institutions or bringing closer together the planning and budgeting processes; ii) the development of new integrated policy frameworks that seek greater coherence across external financial flows; and iii) proposals for new policy dialogue structures for governments and their partners, providing a multi-stakeholder platform that could be used to review SDG implementation.

As an action oriented diagnostic tool, the DFA provides both the baseline and the road map for implementing reforms needed for countries to adopt INFFs.



CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITY: INNOVATION

Social Innovation became a stronger cross-cutting priority of the Governance and Peacebuilding Team in 2016 with three different units: Anti-Corruption, Local Governance, and Youth. The emphasis is not only on improving the overall enabling environment for adapting innovation at all levels of governance, but will focus on supporting innovation for transforming public services, and strengthening public administration systems, specifically transparency and accountability.

that provide public transportation services) for city's school transportation system. This solution will be prototyped and piloted in early 2017.

Informed by the findings of its *Human Trafficking Vulnerabilities in Asia: A Study on Forced Marriage between Cambodia and China* study and its work with anti-trafficking specialists actors and service providers, UN-ACT, together with World Vision International and Save the Children, has developed a mobile phone based app to help first responders, such as community police, immigration officials, marriage registration clerks, and civil affairs shelter staff overcome language barriers and identify victims of trafficking in China.

“It is the first time that the government and service providers are sitting together to discuss potential solutions, and not argue.”

The app provides links to Chinese interpreters who speak the relevant language, so that users can directly contact them if in-depth interview with the potential victims is needed. In addition, relevant international and domestic laws and policies regarding the protection of victims of trafficking can also be found in the app for quick and easy reference by the first responders.

This approach provided an opportunity for stakeholders to collaboratively engage on common issues and develop solutions, rather than await policy reforms. In the words of one participant at the multi-stakeholder workshop in Makassar: “It is the first time that the government and service providers are sitting together to discuss potential solutions, and not argue.”



City-I-LEAPS

City Innovation Learning, Exchange, Adaptation, Prototype and Scaling (City-I-LEAPS) pilots were supported in Makassar, Indonesia and Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam.

In Makassar, in collaboration with City's Department of Transport and UN Pulse Lab Jakarta, support was provided to make the city public transport system more user-friendly. In Ho Chi Minh City, the focus is on improving the city's solid waste management system. As a first step, research was undertaken to gain insights into users' needs, preferences, and practices. Based on the findings from the research, a multi-stakeholder design workshop was organized with the government counterparts, local citizens, academia, and service providers to agree on the common problems and develop solutions to address them. In Makassar, solutions co-created by all stakeholders during the November workshop (featured on *Govinsidr*) have gone through the incubation process, and one solution to repurpose some of the existing Pete-Pete (private minivans



UN-ACT AND MOBILE TECHNOLOGY

Identifying victims of trafficking can be challenging because there are significant disparities in relevant definitions and diverse criminal patterns. Additionally, language barriers between the first responders and those who are trafficked across-borders greatly hinders timely and effective identification of victims.



OGP/UNDP Partnership

An open government and innovation are essential tools for governments to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by partnering with civil society and the wider public.

UNDP has been a multilateral partner of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) since October 2013. In the Asia-Pacific region, Australia, Indonesia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, the Republic of Korea, and Sri Lanka are OGP-participating countries

that endorsed the Joint Declaration on Open Government for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

To help implement this commitment to the SDGs, BRH, OGP and ADB partnered in mapping out existing initiatives in countries of the region with a potential for “Transforming our world through open government.” For example, UNDP Pakistan’s initiative to develop a Citizen Satisfaction Index was recognized as being among the top three initiatives with the most potential. It aims to create a local dashboard based on citizens’ satisfaction that captures the SDGs’ performance in relation to various public services.

The findings from the mapping show that initiatives are most successful in contributing to the SDGs when they institutionalize partnership between governments and civil society; provide platforms to hear the people’s voice, especially of marginalized communities; utilize user-friendly, simple and accessible technologies; and go beyond traditional government statistics. Mapping out and disseminating

innovative experiences proved to be essential to inspire governments to modernize their own methods of delivering public services by involving civil society and the wider public.



youth organizations, private sector and young people from eight different countries. The two-day forum provided an opportunity for young people to incubate their ideas to address local challenges and achieve SDGs, and develop them into workable solutions with mentoring from experts, including from private sector investors. Of the eight solutions presented, three were selected as winners and grants were provided to implement the solutions:

Discover (Indonesia):

Map and rate the accessibility of public facilities and services in the city through a crowd-sourced mobile application with a reward system as incentive to use the service

Community Garden (The Maldives):

Establish community gardens in the community where people can grow vegetables and gather for social interaction, focusing on single parents

Green Earth (China):

Build a recycling structure, collecting wastes from homes and processing them properly, with rewards provided as incentives

YOUTH AND INNOVATION

The Asian Youth Innovation Forum on “Leaving No One Behind”: Youth innovation at the heart of the SDGs brought together various UN agencies,

EXCERPTS: Examples of initiatives supported by UNDP and OGP

Check My Service



In 2012, **Democracy Education Center (DEMO)** launched Check My Service—an initiative that assesses the transparency and performance of public services by recipients through Community Score Cards.

 Institutionalized Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) signed with service providers at the start of each project	 Leave no one behind On average, 60% of respondents from disadvantaged groups and around 75% from women	 Use of Technology Planning to develop and pilot a mobile application (eCheckMyService)	 Monitoring and Evaluation Checked action plan implementation, tracked changes in public services and advocated for policy action as a follow-up	 High Replicability Assessed 84 public services across different sectors resulting in service improvements like installing waste bins and renovating water kiosks
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Citizen Satisfaction Index



This **UNDP Pakistan**-led initiative measures citizen satisfaction with a range of public sector services through national surveys representative at the local level. Currently in the early stages, this initiative shows a high potential for success.

 Institutionalized Partnership Collaboration with the Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform with co-financing support from the government	 Leave no one behind Includes 50% women respondents to give attention to traditionally ignored women’s issues, like maternal health	 Use of Technology Data collection through geo-tagged electronic devices and dissemination through diverse channels	 Demand-side Data Complements traditional supply side statistics and grounds government data in actual citizen experiences in public service delivery	 Monitoring and Evaluation A local demand-side dashboard to capture SDGs’ performance through indicators measuring access, consumption, and quality of public services
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RIGHTS AND VOICES OF VULNERABLE, MARGINALIZED AND AT-RISK GROUPS

Addressing the very core of social inclusion in governance, UNDP BRH brings together units working on HIV and health with a focus on marginalized and at-risk groups, human trafficking through the UN-ACT initiative, gender-based violence through the joint Partners for Prevention (P4P) programme, women's political participation, and strengthening the rule of law, and promoting human rights.

Regional focus under this thematic area works to raise the profile of several sensitive issues, such as the rights of sexual and gender minorities, at all levels of governance. This is often done through supporting national-level multi-stakeholder dialogues, capacity building support to governments, and civil society organizations, and endorsement and funding of regional studies and their recommendations, which in turn help to advocate for policy and programme changes on national and local levels.



HIV, HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

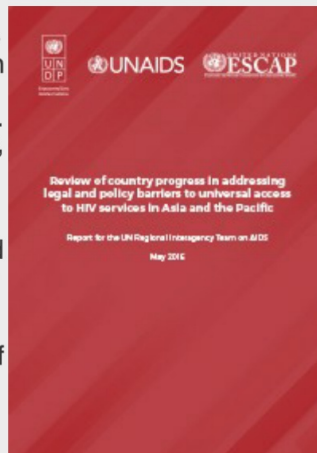
The HIV, Health and Development (HHD) unit focuses on promoting enabling legal and policy environment, and access to justice to reduce HIV-related stigma and discrimination and increase effectiveness of AIDS programmes. The unit also focuses on improving governance systems for addressing and preventing non-communicable diseases.

2016 key results include:

Legal and policy reform to remove barriers against HIV response:

UNDP contributed to a series of landmark developments in law and policy reform and significantly expanded delivery of HIV services to marginalized groups in 2016. Assessments and reviews of HIV-related laws and policies were conducted in Bhutan, Lao PDR and Pakistan, building on a collaboration with UNAIDS and ESCAP that has supported more than 20 countries to address legal and policy barriers that hinder effective responses to HIV. A *Review of progress in addressing legal and policy barriers to universal access to HIV services in Asia and the Pacific*

was published in partnership with UNAIDS and ESCAP. The report, which highlights progress, challenges and future priorities, informed preparations of Asia-Pacific delegations to the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Ending AIDS in New York.



In Bhutan, a multi-stakeholder national dialogue on HIV and the law, organized in partnership with the National Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) and HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Programme and a national Legal Environment Assessment, provided recommendations for removing legal barriers hindering the HIV response and for promoting gender equality. The dialogue and review are informing human rights and gender programming under the national Global Fund programme. In Lao PDR, a national HIV and law dialogue and a legal review were conducted in line with recommendations from the Global Fund concept note, helping to inform the development of the new penal code. In Pakistan, technical support provided to the formulation of the Islamabad Capital Territory HIV and AIDS Prevention, Treatment and Protection Act 2016 resulted in the introduction of the Act for review by parliament.

"The Time Has Come" training package,

which was developed by UNDP and WHO with the aim of reducing stigma and discrimination at health care settings, was adopted into national HIV training programmes in Bhutan, Indonesia, India, Nepal, the Philippines, and Timor-Leste. Through a system of national Trainings of Trainers workshops and local follow-up trainings in 12 countries, almost 400 health care providers were trained in 2016 using the package, and almost 1,500 have been trained since 2014. The roll-out of the training was supported through the Multi-Country South Asia Global Fund HIV Programme and the ISEAN-Hivos Multi-Country HIV Programme.

UNDP has improved access to and quality of HIV and health services with support from the Multi-Country South Asia Global Fund HIV Programme.

Multi-sectoral approaches to addressing non-communicable diseases:

UNDP has partnered with WHO to improve national capacities and advocate for multi-sectoral approaches for the prevention and control of non-communicable disease (NCDs). In Fiji and Mongolia, analyses were undertaken to demonstrate the economic benefits of investing in NCD responses, assess the institutional and governance contexts influencing responses, and recommend priority actions to prevent and control NCDs.



Addressing discrimination and violence against sexual and gender minorities:

The Being LGBT in Asia initiative continued to help address discrimination and violence against sexual and gender minorities, and the number of initiatives promoting the human rights of the LGBTI community has increased in 2016 as a result of UNDP support.



From 2015-2016, the programme engaged with 130 government departments, 357 civil society groups, 17 National Human Right Institutions (NHRI) and 88 private sector organizations across 33 countries in policy dialogue, contributing to a greater awareness and knowledge of LGBTI inclusion issues, increased political will and support, and progress towards more protective legal and policy environments.

In the Philippines, UNDP is supporting a consultation process with communities and the government on a comprehensive anti-discrimination bill that is inclusive of marginalized groups such as LGBTI people, in close collaboration with and co-financed by the Commission on Human Rights (CHR). Through local-level advocacy activities, the bill was strengthened with inputs from the communities. UNDP, CHR and the Stop the Discrimination Coalition (consisting of government representatives and eight CSOs) are working with the Presidential Human Rights Committee to fast-track the bill as a priority legislative agenda for submission to Congress.



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

The United Nations Action for Cooperation against Trafficking in Person (UN-ACT) is a regional project with offices across the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS): Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam.



Working to counter human trafficking in all its forms, UN-ACT aims to build the capacities of governmental agencies, civil society, academic institutions and the private sector. It also facilitates the coordination and cooperation among all relevant stakeholders to work in a mutually supportive manner to effectively combat trafficking.

Key to UN-ACT's work is its support to the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT), a sub-regional mechanism that brings together the six governments and multi-stakeholder in the GMS in a joint effort to fight trafficking, established in 2004. In addition, UN-ACT seeks to address patterns of human trafficking that go beyond the COMMIT countries, including in Malaysia and Indonesia. UN-ACT also aims to increase evidence-based research on trafficking issues and conducts research in-house and in collaboration with other institutions.



In 2016, the unit focused a large portion of work to supporting the effective implementation of the fourth COMMIT

Sub-Regional Plan of Action on trafficking

Experts call for renewed urgency to ensure access to affordable medicines in Asia

UNDP has advocated for innovative multi-sectoral approaches to achieve equitable and sustainable access to lifesaving medicines, diagnostics and vaccines.

Together with UNAIDS and ESCAP, UNDP convened a 'Regional Expert Consultation on Access to Affordable Medicines, Diagnostics and Vaccines', in collaboration with the Asia Pacific Coalition of AIDS Service Organizations and the Asia Pacific Network of People Living with HIV.

Participants from nine Asian countries attended the gathering, including representatives from various sectors of government, civil society and development partners. The consultation addressed key challenges faced by countries in achieving access to affordable medicines, diagnostics and vaccines, which is one of three key pillars of the 'Regional Framework for Action on HIV and AIDS beyond 2015'.

Participants engaged in discussions with the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines, and learned about successful experiences, opportunities and challenges of promoting access to medicines and striking a fair balance between economic interests and national development priorities, including the attainment and sustainable financing of universal health coverage and poverty reduction.

Access to affordable medicines and vaccines is firmly embedded in SDG 3 – "ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all" – and it also has direct relevance to other goals, such as SDG 1 on poverty eradication, and SDG 10 on reducing inequality within and between countries.

Progress on SDG 3 – including its targets on universal health coverage, non-communicable diseases, neglected tropical diseases, and ending epidemics of HIV, tuberculosis and malaria – could be jeopardized if access to affordable medicines and vaccines is compromised.

(SPA IV), regional and national COMMIT meetings, capacity development strategies and initiatives, reviews of legal frameworks and policies, and more. Support provided by UN-ACT helped the six COMMIT countries agree upon and adopt ASEAN-COMMIT Victim Identification Indicators and Guidelines on Victim Identification and Referral, and five of the countries successfully developed their own monitoring and evaluation frameworks which would help strengthen their national systems for counter-trafficking. Overall, COMMIT governments were able to increase their capacity and engagement with civil society, reporting that 6,400 victims of human trafficking were referred and supported through mechanisms as part of the COMMIT process between 2014 and 2016.

In terms of knowledge products, UN-ACT published an evidence-based research study on forced marriage/marriage migration and between Cambodia and China, developed a research report on Lao-Thai regular labour migration, and partnered with Mahidol University and People Serving People Foundation (PSPF) for a research study exploring the nexus between asylum and labour exploitation. UN-ACT also provided technical support to related research projects undertaken by ILO, UNODC, Liberty Asia, and others.



PARTNERS FOR PREVENTION

Partners for Prevention (P4P) is a joint programme between 4 agencies—UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women and UNV—intended to coordinate and strengthen efforts to prevent violence against women and girls (VAWG) across Asia and the Pacific. P4P promotes evidence- and theory-based approaches to prevention, including those that work with boys and men, alongside girls and women, to transform gender inequitable attitudes, practices and social norms, including harmful masculinities which lead to violence. The number of targeted countries designing, implementing and monitoring new initiatives that address sexual and GBV in 2016 exceeded milestones and expectations. P4P supported violence prevention interventions in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Viet Nam. In Viet Nam, 100 men participated in a one-year gender transformative and violence prevention curricula who became male advocates



in their communities in preventing VAWG. Similarly, 2000 men and women participated in a community-based intervention to prevent VAW, promote trauma healing and peacebuilding in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea. P4P also supported the training of 65 facilitators to implement violence prevention interventions with adolescents and caregivers in Cambodia and Indonesia, and implementation of the violence prevention interventions is underway. Capacity-building was carried out in Bangladesh with 40 individuals from Government, civil society and academia on how to design and implement violence prevention interventions.

P4P also supported the research *Men's Experiences of Violence against Women in Indonesia: and How We Can Begin to Prevent It*, which was finalized and published in 2016 as part of the larger UN multi-country study on men and violence.



MEN EXPERIENCES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN INDONESIA

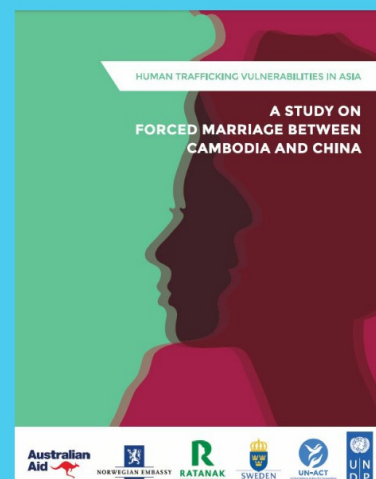
And How We Can Begin To Prevent It

HUMAN TRAFFICKING VULNERABILITIES IN ASIA: A Study on Forced Marriage between Cambodia and China

Human Trafficking Vulnerabilities in Asia: A Study on Forced Marriage between Cambodia and China primarily draws on the accounts of 42 Cambodian women who experienced conditions of forced marriage in China, with interviews having taken place in both countries. Key informants from government and non-government stakeholders in Cambodia and China were consulted as well.

The report analyses recruitment, brokering, transportation and exploitation patterns as well the links between these; determines service needs among Cambodians trafficked to China for forced marriage, in China, during the repatriation process and upon return to Cambodia; and identifies opportunities for interventions to prevent forced marriages from occurring and to extend protective services to those in need, at both policy and programming levels.

Whilst anecdotal evidence suggests that some, perhaps many, of the Cambodian women living in arranged marriages in China appear content in their situations, the research project was conducted in response to the increasing number of identified cases of forced marriage between the two countries.





WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

BRH partnered with International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) and the UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) to conduct the Asia-Pacific regional studies on Gender Equality in the Political Party Systems and Processes. The study examines how women participate in political parties and to what extent those parties encourage and support women's engagement and incorporate gender-equality concerns. The study is conducted in Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Fiji and Timor-Leste. Results are to be published in 2017.



RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The Regional Consultation on Sustainable Development Goals, Access to Justice and Legal Aid in ASEAN was held in Jakarta on 26 - 27 May, organized by the Government of Indonesia and the Legal Aid Foundation of Indonesia (YLBHI) with the support of UNDP, OSF, and IDLO.

Participants included representatives of ASEAN member state governments, the ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), members of the Open Government Partnership (OGP),

Bar Associations, civil society leaders and international experts to discuss strategies for strengthening access to justice in the ASEAN region.

Participants explored how regional, national, and sub-national initiatives can contribute to 2030 Agenda and SDGs—including SDG 16.3 on ensuring equal access to justice for all—and recommended the engagement of all stakeholders in the development, implementation and monitoring of national justice plans and policies; ensuring that access to justice and legal aid are integrated into and funded through national SDG plans and included in national and regional SDG indicators; and to establish a Thematic Group to strengthen access to legal aid in ASEAN.

Moreover, in 2016 a draft Regional Framework on Business and Human Rights was adopted in the AICHR context as a consequence of a regional workshop supported by UNDP in Singapore. UNDP also mapped the Business and Human Rights initiatives undertaken at country level which shall form the basis for a regional initiative to be launched in 2017.

HeForShe Campaign successfully launched at Bhutan National Assembly





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

Responsive, transparent and accountable governance systems at all levels is essential for achieving sustainable development. Such governance systems promote inclusiveness, identify and respond to the needs of the local population, transparently and accountably manage public services, and delivery equitable services. On the other hand, governance systems which do not uphold these standards prove unsustainable and weak in their management capacities, trigger manifestation of social issues such as multi-dimensional poverty, social exclusion, ineffective rule of law, corruption, and human rights violations.

The BRH works with governments, the private sector, and civil society in strengthening transparent and accountable national and local governance systems through its work in supporting core government functions and parliament, anti-corruption transparency and accountability, and local governance. Furthermore, work on strengthening the governance of the extractives sector aims at supporting transparent and accountable management of natural resources for sustainable development.



LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND DECENTRALIZATION

The Local Governance and Decentralization unit, in addition to providing technical and advisory support to UNDP Country Offices (specifically Mongolia and Palau in 2016), leads on developing tools, methodologies and initiative to strengthen local and urban

governance systems, and support localization of the SDGs.

SDG localization tool developed:

As part of the Regional Initiative on Local Governance and SDGs, the unit focused on developing tools that can support policy coherence, cohesion, as well as strengthen coordination and cooperation between different institutions at the local level to prioritize and achieve the SDGs. Towards this end, the unit developed the SDG Local Governance Diagnostic Tool. The tool consists of multiple components that can map, assess, analyze, layer and visualize different sets of data in order to get a comprehensive picture of the development and governance context at the local level. Different sets of data include: 1) Basic district/province data—such as demographic, geographic and economic data; 2) Development data—such as Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index, or Human Development Indicators at the district level; 3) Fiscal data—including local revenues, inter-government fiscal transfers, allocations and expenditures and analyses of allocation and expenditures by MPI/HDI indicators; and 4) Local Governance Assessments—related to decentralization and local governance environments, district administrations' and councils' capacities regarding core functions for planning and implementing SDGs, and local citizens' perception surveys on the performance of their local governments. The online platform for data visualization and comparison was developed in partnership with the Microsoft Innovation Center (Nepal) and the tool is piloted in Pakistan, Indonesia and the Philippines. It will be part of the Global UNDP toolkit to localize SDGs and likely be used for Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) missions.

Social innovation approaches for strengthening urban governance systems supported:

Urban municipal governance systems in the region have not kept pace with rapid urbanization, and face enormous challenges in providing equitable services to the large percentage of population now living in cities. Instead of taking the traditional route of undertaking governance reforms and the rolling out services, several cities in the region have adopted social innova-

tion approaches (i.e. collaboratively working with the public, civil society organization, private sector organizations, experts etc.) to identify problem areas, and design solutions for greater administrative efficiency, and transforming service delivery. These solutions are pilot tested, and then scaled up. One such pioneer city is the city of Seoul.

To support cities in the region to address complex governance challenges through mainstreaming social innovation approaches, UNDP partnered with the Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG) to organize an innovation exchange event, "City Innovation Learning, Exchange, Adaptation, Prototype and Scaling (City-I-LEAPS)" in June 2016. The exchange brought together officials from nine cities to discuss how social innovation can and is helping them address service delivery challenges.

A communique was signed between the SMG and UNDP highlighting areas of cooperation to promote the City-I-LEAPS. Following the June workshop, two urban governance and innovation pilots were implemented in Indonesia and Viet Nam to improve key municipal services such as public transport and solid waste management (for more details see the section on Innovation).



CORE GOVERNANCE FUNCTIONS AND PARLIAMENT

In 2016, technical and advisory support was provided to UNDP Country Offices in the region to strengthen

the oversight role of the parliaments, including in the achievement of national and international development goals (such as the SDGs), management of public finance, and achieving gender equality. In addition, BRH also contributed to development of new tools and resources for parliamentarians in collaboration with development partners.

Specifically, BRH provided UNDP Sri Lanka with substantial policy advice and technical support for developing a comprehensive legislative strengthening project, "Consolidating Sri Lankan Democracy and Sustaining Peace through Parliamentary Strengthening." The main objective of this project is to strengthen parliamentary oversight of the executive branch of government. The project also supports Parliament to ensure mainstreaming of SDGs in all development plans, policies and legislations. Further, the project also focuses on strengthening the role of Parliament as a peacebuilder and sustainer. The implementation of the project started in June 2016. BRH provided technical backstopping to support implementation. This support resulted in improvements to the committee structure to strengthen the Parliament's oversight function by establishing 15 sectoral oversight committees (including a committee on Women and Gender, and another on Public Finance and Budget).

The Core Government Functions and Parliament advisor contributed expert technical support to the development of a *Parliamentary Handbook on the Role of a Parliament in Implementing SDGs*. This tool, developed in cooperation with Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption and UNDP Hub for Arab States, will help parliaments and members of parliaments to strengthen their parliamentary oversight function by promoting international standards of parliamentary procedure and practice, useful experiences and lessons learned, as well as emerging innovative practices. The handbook was finalized after feedback from parliamentarians from South and Southeast Asia, who participated at an inter-parliamentary workshop organized in cooperation with development partners and the Indonesian Parliament in August 2016. In cooperation with Country Offices, BRH will support interested parliaments (including those of Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal and others) to utilize this new parliamentary strengthening tool.

Technical assistance was also offered by BRH to UNDP Nepal to support the Parliament of Nepal in mainstreaming the SDGs into its work and establishing a dedicated focal body. BRH supported UNDP Mongolia CO to formulate the second phase of the Local Governance/Hural Project.

The Pacific Office was also supported in conducting a legislative needs assessment in the Federated States of Micronesia. The assessment helped

identify challenges and priorities for institutional strengthening support and options for legislative strengthening and governance support. Additional support for resource mobilization was provided as well as for establishing a partnership with the Association of Pacific Islands Legislatures and the Hawaii State Legislature.

UNDP Pakistan and the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms were supported to establish a partnership with their New Zealand counterparts and prepare the implementation of a new initiative aimed at developing a performance improvement framework for select ministries under the umbrella project "Reforms and Innovation in Government for High Performance".

Further, BRH advised Country Offices on devising possible support to strengthening the gender responsiveness of the respective parliaments and provided examples of entry points. As a result, new activities and new engagements with parliaments have been planned at the country level. Regional exchanges have also been facilitated.



TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND ANTI-CORRUPTION

Despite the economic growth in many countries in the region, essential services do not always reach marginalized communities. Considerable amounts of investment in electricity, water and sanitation is estimated to be lost to corruption. UNDP plays a crucial role in building transparent and accountable systems to promote equitable access to services and prevent corruption in the context of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC). In particular, BRH supports countries to mitigate corruption risks along the service delivery value chain. Risk assessments are based on well-tested methodologies for education, water, health, and procurement/infrastructure sectors, and aim to identify bottlenecks in providing equitable services. Particular attention is devoted to open governance, where citizens are empowered to monitor

governments and hold them accountable.

Country-level initiatives often focus on achieving all the three aspects indicated above—i.e. the implementation of UNCAC, addressing corruption risks to improve service delivery, and promoting open governance.

In 2016, six countries in the region (Thailand, Viet Nam, Pakistan, the Philippines, Nepal and Myanmar) adapted UNDP's methodologies for identifying and mitigating corruption risks in key sectors (procurement and infrastructure, water, and judiciary) to accelerate service delivery.

Public procurement and infrastructure:

Legal reform and capacity development support was provided to the public procurement agency of Thailand. BRH's support led to the adoption of the country's first Public Procurement Act. In addition, BRH developed a regional guidebook on *Integrity in Public Procurement* targeted at anti-corruption agencies and procurement agencies building on the lessons learned from Thailand's experience. The draft guidebook provides a user-friendly point of reference for other governments in the region by highlighting existing international standards, good practices and tools. It is a useful tool for countries to implement article nine of UNCAC on public procurement. Thailand's adoption of the Public Procurement Act could possibly serve as an impetus for other ASEAN countries to undertake public procurement reforms.

Furthermore, knowledge exchange between South Korea, Viet Nam and Thailand on promoting transparency in public sector construction was facilitated. Knowledge materials and e-tools, building on South Korea's experience, were developed in cooperation with the UNDP's Seoul Policy Centre, and grants were provided to pilot the tools in Thailand and Viet Nam.

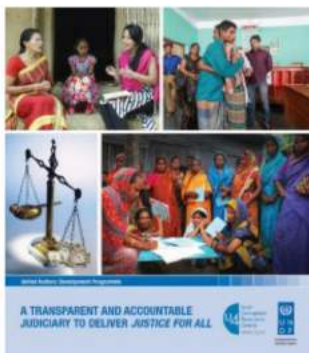
The water sector:

Support was provided to UNDP Pakistan to develop a project on water governance. In the Philippines, public engagement and monitoring activities supported through citizens' hub in the water sector led to more than 35 percent increase in the number of households with access to water services in targeted areas. Building on this success, the citizens' hubs were scaled-up to monitor service delivery in multiple sectors.

Justice:

To address corruption risks in the Justice sector, a flagship report, *A Transparent and Accountable Judiciary to Deliver Justice for All* was launched in 2016. This provided an entry point to engage judiciaries in the region on how to mainstream integrity

measures in judicial reforms, and help to achieve the overall objective of SDG 16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. The findings from the report, endorsed



by the Managing Director of Transparency International, were presented in a series of national capacity-building workshops (Myanmar, Nepal), regional workshops (in Thailand, and in Tunisia for the Middle East and North Africa region) and at a global event (such as Transparency International's Anti-Corruption Conference). The report is a valuable advocacy tool which has obtained the attention of several experts and anti-corruption practitioners.

BRH also provided capacity development support on judicial integrity to the Supreme Court, and the National Judicial Academy in Nepal. A judicial integrity risk assessment was initiated in Nepal in cooperation with the Supreme Court and the UNDP Rule of Law Team. In Myanmar, the Code of Ethics for judges was developed with support from BRH.

BRH also continued working with anti-corruption agencies and civil service commissions (specifically in Sri Lanka and the Philippines) to promote transparency and accountable systems and prevent corruption.

A four-year programme was approved in 2016 by the Australian Department of

Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) on Anti-Corruption for Peaceful and Inclusive Societies in Asia-Pacific (ACPIS) under the UNDP Global Anti-Corruption Initiative (GAIN). The programme aims to further expand the application of UNDP methodologies to identify and mitigate corruption risks in delivering basic services to people in Asia-Pacific. A new programme was also developed with the support of the United Kingdom's Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) to promote open government contracts in ASEAN countries, which will start in 2017.



GOVERNANCE AND EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

Implementation of the two-year 'Strengthening Governance of Extractive Industries for Sustainable Human Development' project was completed in 2016. The project adopted an interdisciplinary approach that brought together different practice areas

(governance, inclusive economic growth, environment protection, conflict prevention, and gender) to address the multi-dimensional challenges posed by the extractive industries. Project activities were completed in four countries (Indonesia, Mongolia, Pakistan and the Philippines).

In Indonesia, the Coal Mining Road Map, the Feasibility Study on Sovereign Wealth Fund in Bojonegoro, and the methodology for the Mining Governance Index with the Anti-Corruption Agency (KPK) were finalized. The Mining Governance Index assesses the commitment, and the ability of local governments to carry forth the agreed mining governance reforms. The index assessed all the 12 mining regions and helped to identify gaps in the implementation of key reforms—from noncompliance to reducing mining concessions overlap with the protected forest areas.

In Pakistan, a mapping and analysis of constitutional, legal, institutional and financial aspects of the extractive industries governance was completed. Key findings of the analysis were that, Pakistan has comprehensive legal and policy frameworks for its oil and gas sector and for mining. This framework calls for greater transparency in the extractives sector, and equitable share of revenues between federal and provincial governments. However, implementation of the legal and policy framework remains inadequate. Provincial governments are not involved in the extension of leases, block allocations, or in decisions regarding the pricing framework. They are also not represented in the Oil and Gas Regular Authority. Further, the mechanisms for

PROCUREMENT REFORM: Mitigating Risks in Public Procurement in Thailand

The UNDP Project on "Mitigating Risks to Integrity in Public Procurement in Thailand" was initiated in 2014 in cooperation with the Office of Public Sector Development Commission, and the Comptroller General's Department (CGD) of the Ministry of Finance. Since its inception, the project closely involved a wide range of stakeholders, including private sector, academia and civil society organizations. The integrity risk assessment in public procurement was carried out in 2014 - 2015, based on the analytical approach developed by the OECD and World Bank, as well as desk reviews, interviews and surveys with several stakeholders. As a result of the assessment, a twenty-point action plan was proposed. The main recommendations were the development of a sound, modern and coherent legal framework, with the adoption of a Public Procurement Law, the professionalization of the procurement function, as well as the adoption of greater transparency.

Strong commitment from the Thai government (which set up a sub-committee on procurement as part of its National Reform Council) was an essential ingredient to ensure the successful results of the project. CGD worked over the years in close cooperation with UNDP to draft the Public Procurement Act, based on international models, aiming at maximize value for money, enforcing integrity standards, as well as setting up a coherent public procurement system. UNDP also supported CGD in building the capacity of public procurement officials through trainings on mitigating corruption risks (UNDP checklist) and international standards (WTO, UNCITRAL, etc.). Immense progress has been made thanks to the pressing demands from private companies, organized through collective action initiatives, for regulating public procurement. Integrity Pacts—with the involvement of civil society and citizen monitoring groups—were also introduced for big infrastructure projects, thus opening up to external scrutiny to mitigate integrity risks.

The Public Procurement Act was approved on 15 December 2016. following sustained advocacy by UNDP with the Prime Minister's Office, and members of Parliament. The Royal Gazette published the public procurement law on 24 February 2017.

The project has now entered in its fourth phase. UNDP continues to provides technical assistance to CGD on the effective implementation of the law with the development of secondary regulations that need to be developed by 23 August 2017. In addition, in cooperation with the UNDP Procurement Centre in Denmark and CIPS, a curriculum will be developed as part of the professionalization of the public procurement functions.

provinces to address their grievances remain ineffective.

The findings for the report were presented to representatives of the provincial and federal governments in December 2016. Following the project closure, UNDP Pakistan may address the findings through existing local governance and decentralization programmes.

In the Philippines, the GREENR project supported the mapping and analysis of the environmental governance legal and institutional framework. Similar to findings in Pakistan, the mapping exercise revealed that, while legal and institutional frameworks exist, implementation remains weak, and that laws and policies require update. Necessary capacity development support should also be provided to all the agencies and institutions that have an environmental governance mandate,

including establishing appropriate coordination mechanisms. The project also supported local (in Bicol and Davao) and national consultations on the governance of the mining sector. A review on the impact of mining sector on women's human rights was also supported. A proposed framework on environmental governance was developed and presented to all agencies and institutions responsible for environmental governance in the Philippines. As part of capacity development support to the Ombudsmen office and strengthen its role in environmental governance, a draft toolkit on investigating mining sector related cases was developed. Results from this project are now incorporated in country-level initiatives (for example: the joint UNDP and Swedish Environment Protection Agency project, "Environmental Governance for Sustainable Natural Resources" in Mongolia).

Endnotes

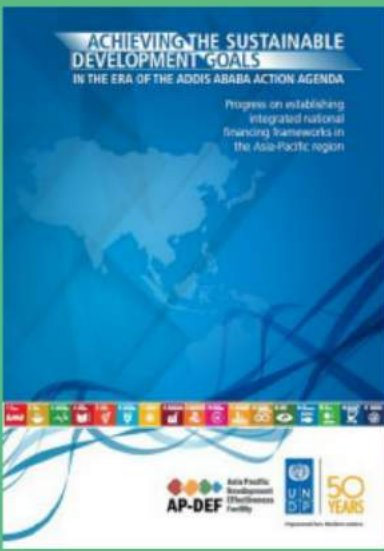
- 1 See UNDP (2015), Issue Brief on Governance for Sustainable Development. The Asia-Pacific Regional Dialogue on Governance and Peacebuilding (Thailand, 2015). A framework was adopted at the dialogue for strengthening governance for sustainable development
- 2 The UNDG APHRN is one of the most inclusive Regional UNDGs with 24 members from 20 agencies: ESCAP, FAO, ILO, IOM, OCHA, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNIDO, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO (Bangkok and Jakarta), UNFPA, UNHABITAT, UNHCR, UNICEF (ROSA and EAPRO), UN Women, UNODC, UNOPS, WFP, WHO (SEARO and WPRO). The network meets on a regular basis, and its work is supported by the UNDG Asia-Pacific Secretariat, including a regional Human Rights Adviser. It supports and works with 24 UN Country Teams covering 36 countries, namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, DPR Korea, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kiribati, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Niue, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.



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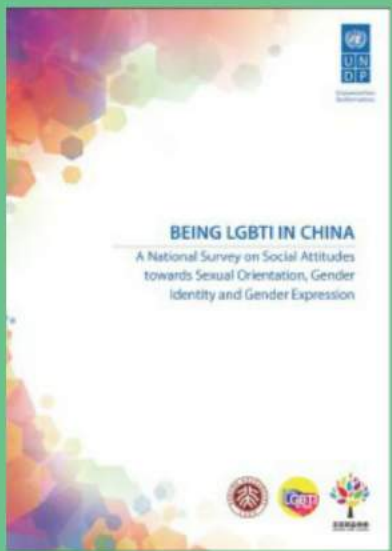
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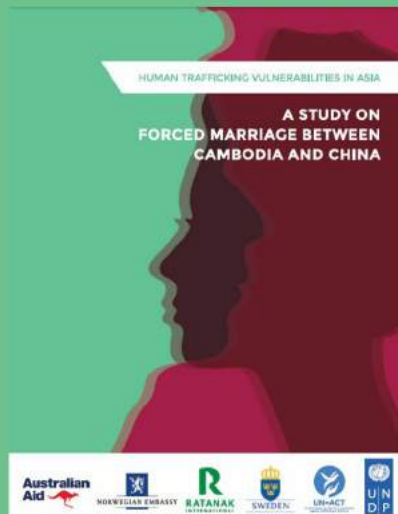
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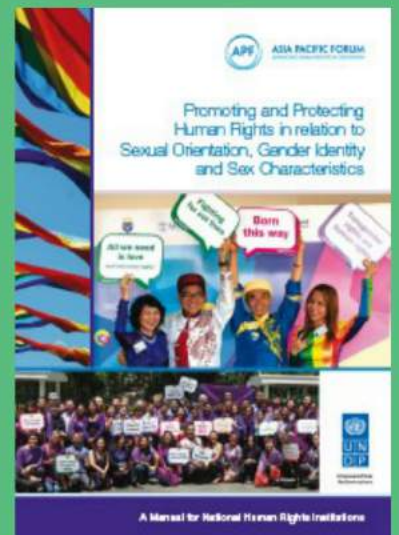
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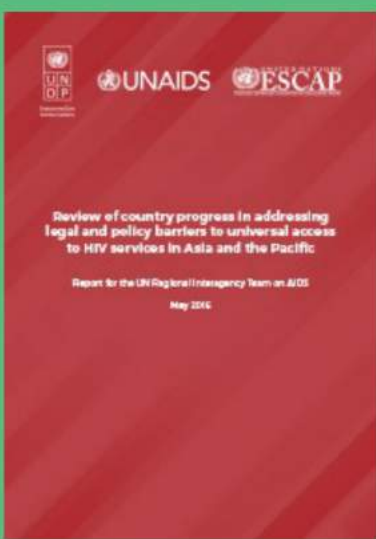


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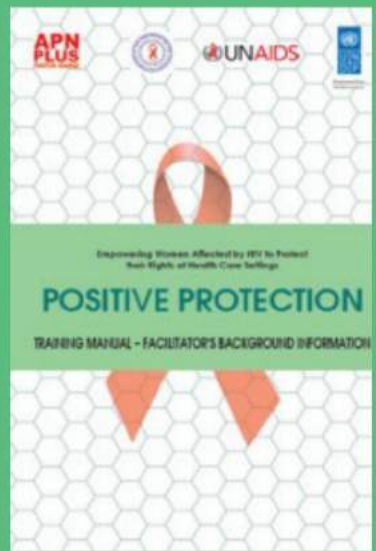
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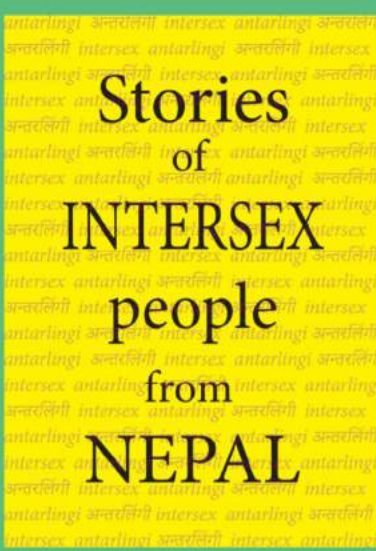
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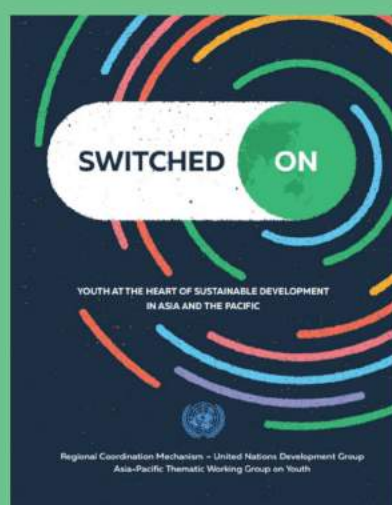
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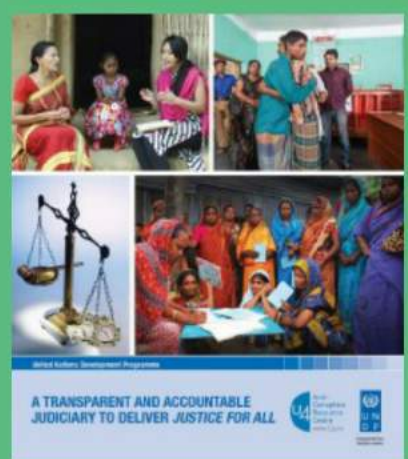
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