



BUSINESS & HUMAN RIGHTS IN ASIA

ENABLING SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC
GROWTH THROUGH THE PROTECT,
RESPECT AND REMEDY FRAMEWORK

PROJECT BRIEF



WHY?

REGIONAL BACKGROUND

Asia has long been synonymous with economic dynamism. Over the last several decades, new industries have taken root, employment rates and incomes have risen, health provision has widened, and hundreds of millions of people have been lifted out of poverty.

These gains have been primarily due to private sector forces, unleashed by pro-growth policies, backed by foreign direct investment, and driven by a dedicated workforce and growing consumer demand.

But in many countries, rapid economic growth has also been responsible for steep environmental and social costs, including labor exploitation and environmental degradation, with long-term implications for the well-being and prosperity of states, communities and individuals in the region.



WHAT?

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

UNDP and the European Union are addressing the risks and impacts of economic growth by jointly promoting the implementation of UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), through the action, **Business and Human Rights in Asia: Enabling Sustainable Economic Development through the Protect, Respect and Remedy Framework (B+HR Asia)**.

Working with governments, civil society and businesses, UNDP **B+HR Asia** supports awareness raising, capacity building, and policy coherence in the implementation of the UNGPs, including through support to National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights (BHR).

By reducing human rights risks and impacts in business operations and global supply chains, the BHR agenda facilitates value-driven trade and investment in furtherance of sustainable economic development and environmental sustainability.



WHERE?

GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS



The project is carried out in seven Asian countries: India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.



HOW?

FOUR WORKSTREAMS

B+HR Asia is focused on four workstreams:



Awareness raising of the UNGPs and peer-to-peer exchange on lessons learned among key stakeholders to build knowledge and political will.



Communication and public diplomacy efforts to build public support of the business and human rights agenda.



Promotion of access to remedy to ensure rights-based solutions and prevent future human rights abuses.

Knowledge sharing to foster action addressing the adverse role of business operations on the environment, climate and human rights.



WHEN?

PROJECT TIMEFRAME



The project is carried out over a period of 48 months, from January 2020 to December 2023.

During this timeframe, UNDP Country Offices prioritize activities based on annual Business and Human Rights workplans specific to each country.

LEARN MORE!

CONTACTS & RESOURCES



For more information, please reach out to the UNDP **B+HR Asia** team through email at bizhumanrights.asia@undp.org, follow @BizHRAsia_UNDP on Twitter, and visit:



WHO?

IMPLEMENTATION & FINANCING

In partnership with the European Union, UNDP is implementing the action through a project team of 11 full-time staff, including 7 National Specialists located in Country Offices to ensure partnerships and effective delivery.

The action is funded by the European Union with € 6.5 million. It is complemented by the *Promoting Responsible Business Practices through Regional Partnerships* project funded by the Government of Sweden.



UNDP B+HR Asia-Pacific website



UN Guiding Principles pdf copy



European Union

