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Turkey-UNDP Partnership Framework Agreement:

Progress Report for 2018 and Priority Areas for Cooperation in 2019



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January 2019

This document outlines the progress in 2018 of the expanded cooperation between the Government of Turkey and UNDP in the context of the Partnership Framework Agreement (PFA) signed in March 2011. It also presents an overview of the priorities for 2019 in line with the ongoing activities from 2018. As such, it will serve as a background material for discussion at the Annual Partnership Dialogue between Turkey and UNDP scheduled for 29 January 2019.

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1. FOREWORD

The partnership between the United Nations and the Government of Turkey has been one of the most dynamic and fruitful partnerships over 60 years. The UN's work in Turkey started in 1957, through a development assistance agreement whereby Turkey was a recipient country. The 1965 Revised Standard Agreement laid out the terms of technical cooperation between Turkey and UNDP – the UN's global development network. In time, Turkey showed a significant stride in its development level, increased its role in the UN system and the partnership evolved in 60 years into one existing at three levels: global, regional, and national levels. The partnership at regional and global levels gained new momentum after the signature of the **2011 Partnership Framework Agreement (PFA)**. Globally, Turkey was a contributor to **UNDP core resources (until 2017)**, the co-founder of the **Istanbul International Center for Private Sector in Development (IICPSD)** and contributes to development projects in **Least Developed Countries**. Regionally, Turkey is contributing to **UNDP's Regional Programme** and hosts the **Regional Hub for Europe and the CIS**, which was officially opened in Istanbul in April 2015. At the country level, UNDP continues with a strong Country Office presence, in support of Turkey's national development priorities and with major support from the host country.

This intensive engagement is an indication of Turkey's **commitment to multilateral development**, its willingness to play **an active role in shaping the global agenda** and willingness to **share its development knowledge** with partner countries regionally and globally in various forms. Partnering with actors other than DAC donors is increasingly relevant for UNDP, in leveraging the potential that exists in working hand-in-hand with an Upper Middle-income Country, centered on important South-South cooperation and directing expertise, knowledge, and resources to work together to address global development challenges.

Since the signature of the PFA in 2011, the progress achieved within this framework has been monitored through annual consultations. Six annual consultations have been conducted with a view to review the progress and set the future strategic priorities. These consultations increasingly focus on concrete and previously agreed areas of cooperation and underline results achieved at the global, regional and country level. The latest consultation took place at the end of March 2018 reviewing progress in 2017. During this sixth annual consultation meeting, the parties agreed to continue the efforts to increase cooperation with Turkish counterparts at the regional and local level, while also jointly putting more efforts on increasing the level of Istanbul organized events such as the Istanbul Development Dialogues. The review acknowledged the significant progress of the work of Istanbul Regional Hub (IRH) and IICPSD, strengthened cooperation between various UNDP units operating in Turkey, as well as the continuously growing benefit UNDP's presence in Istanbul generates to the **regional and global visibility and economic activity of Istanbul as an emerging UN center**.

During 2014-2018, IRH delivered development programmes totaling approximately \$92 million through regional (Europe and Central Asia), cross-regional (Latin America, Africa, and Asia-Pacific) and global projects (covering 60 countries). IRH is the only regional hub with a wide and increasing global focus. UN/UNDP¹ personnel in the IRH increased by 10% and reached a total of 205 personnel, including 98 international and 48 national staff, plus 25 consultants and 34 interns as of January 2019. Annual salaries and fees for **Turkish national UN staff and consultants** (UN Staff payments made through UNDP) exceed USD 2 million and is around USD 1.5 million only for UNDP staff in 2018. Between 2014-2018, IRH provided more than **540 services and expert missions** out of Istanbul in support of the projects/programmes implemented in the region- resulting in an **annual flight volume of around US\$1 million through Turkish Airlines**. Additionally, an average of **40 regional/global conferences organized in Istanbul** position Istanbul as a center of development debates, attracting development thinkers and actors to this city.

Building on this geopolitical advantage as well as the progress and strong institutional infrastructure of the Istanbul Hub, other UN agencies and units also consider moving their regional presence to Istanbul.

This progress report is prepared within the framework of the Partnership Framework Agreement, taking stock of 2018 progress and presenting some priority areas of cooperation for 2019. This review will build the basis for the annual consultation to be held in end January 2019. This is a critical time for the discussions on Turkey-UNDP Partnership, as the last contribution for the regional programme was received in May 2018, to be implemented until mid-2019; and 2019 is the last year of Turkey's contribution for the Istanbul Regional Hub's operational costs. Discussions on the continuation of this partnership continue between the Government of Turkey and UNDP as this report is prepared.

¹ The Istanbul Hub hosts UNDP, UNWomen, UNICEF, UNV, UN SSU and UNDSS.



2. REVIEW OF 2018

Globally, 2018 has been a remarkable year for UNDP, primarily due to the UN Development System (UNDS) reform and implementation of UNDP's new Strategic Plan, marking the emergence of the next generation UNDP. Intensive debate on the delinking of the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative functions took place throughout 2018, resulting in successful transition of the Resident Coordinator System to the UN Secretariat by 1 January 2019. 63 of most senior staff/Resident Representatives were seconded to serve as UN Resident Coordinators (RCs) and a new cadre of UNDP Resident Representatives were established, combining the existing pool with external and internal applicants.

With this change, UN level coordination will be the role of the UN Resident Coordinators and their respective Coordination offices directly connected to the UN Secretariat. This leaves UNDP Resident Representatives (and UNDP CO's) with the mandate of providing development services and implementation for achievement of the SDGs with a wide range of partners. While RC's and RC Offices will not have an implementation role at the local level, UNDP will keep its central and key role of implementing for integrated solutions to achieve the SDGs.

Adapting to this change and preparing for the central role of implementing the SDG agenda providing integrated support to sustainable development, UNDP pioneered a number of new initiatives. Country platforms to help UN work in a more coherent way are already emerging in a number of countries around various topics. The Accelerator Labs network – the world's largest and fastest learning network on development challenges – was announced in 2018 and 60 Labs will be created in 2019.

At the regional level, UNDP started implementing its new Regional Programme for Europe and the CIS (2018-2021) upon its approval by the UNDP Executive Board in January 2018. This Programme builds on the new Strategic Plan adapting to the MIC context of the region and has three interlinked pillars:

- i. Accelerating structural transformations for sustainable development through more effective governance systems;
- ii. Addressing poverty and inequalities through more inclusive growth and
- iii. Building resilience to shocks and crises.

Achieving these objectives will only be possible with strong IRH presence, capacity and support.

The annual consultation held in March 2018 resulted in a number of key action points with a view to further strengthen the impact and visibility of the partnership with Turkey. Throughout the year, these points have also been considered a priority and taken as a benchmark in the action plans and various formal and informal progress reviews. Some of these points as well as their progress are elaborated below:

- **Visibility of Turkey contribution to UNDP strengthened and actors from Turkey more strongly engaged in international events organized by UNDP:** In 2018, the visibility of the Turkish contribution was mainly achieved around Istanbul based events like Istanbul Development Dialogues and Istanbul Innovation Days. Increased engagement of Turkish actors from public and private sector was prioritized in these events. Participation of TIKA representatives were secured in project-based events (e.g. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Uzbekistan). On the other hand, visibility guidelines are also integrated in the Call for Proposals document of the second phase of the Turkey-UNDP Partnership for Development project launched by the Istanbul Regional Hub. UNDP's communication team strengthened its efforts to increase the visibility of the Istanbul Regional Hub, the contribution of the Government of Turkey as well as the results achieved through this partnership.
- **Close cooperation with the Government of Turkey in 2019 IDD preparations to secure higher level of participation:** Preparations for the 2019 IDD, which is planned for early Summer, started in end 2018. A draft Concept Note is ready to be discussed with Government counterparts and the possibility of a ministerial segment is also integrated to the IDD programme as suggested by the Government of Turkey last year.
- **Continued support to Government of Turkey in the establishment of the UN Technology Bank:** UN Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries was inaugurated in Gebze on June 4th, 2018, marking the achievement of the first target for LDCs of the 2030 Agenda (SDG target 17.8). IRH provided constant support (mostly operational and administrative) to the establishment of this facility and continues to provide such support on demand.
- **UNDP support extended at all levels to establishment of the SDG Impact Accelerator (formerly called SDG Incubation Center in last year's Annual Consultation):** UNDP provided support to the development of the business plan for the SDG Impact Accelerator at all levels, under the overall coordination of the Istanbul Regional Hub. IRH co-funded the initiative, contracted and coordinated a team of experts for the feasibility assessment and will fund the prototyping stage through funds secured from the Global Innovation Facility. The SDG Impact Accelerator was also presented in the High-level side event organized during the UN General Assembly in September 2018 as well as the Bosphorus Summit in November 2018, organized with the leadership of IICPSD. SDG Impact Accelerator work received full support from IRH, Turkey CO and IICPSD throughout 2018 and will continue to be a priority topic in 2019.
- **Continued cooperation between IICPSD, IRH and Turkey CO:** In 2018, IICPSD, IRH and CO worked in very close cooperation in a number of topics including SDG Impact Accelerator, Response to the Syrian Crisis and private sector engagement in development. A number of concrete cooperation took place particularly in private sector engagement (including engagement of Turkish and Turkey-based private sector companies in development as well as internal UNDP capacity building events). More detailed information on these activities is provided in this report.

As seen above, much progress has been achieved on the priorities set forward for 2018 cooperation, with some key follow up actions linked to 2019 priorities.



Photo: Sahika ÖNER/UNDP Flickr

2.1. Turkey-UNDP Partnership at Regional Level - Istanbul Regional Hub and the Regional Programme

2.1.1. Istanbul Regional Hub

The Istanbul Regional Hub reinforced its position as a key regional center of knowledge, implementation and policy dialogue in 2018, building on UNDP's strong engagement in regional and global development initiatives contributing to the achievement of the SDGs. With the Turkish Government's ambition and support to strengthen Istanbul's standing as a UN Hub as well as Istanbul's favorable geopolitical positioning, other UN agencies and units such as IFAD Country Office and Regional Center as well as UN DCO are also moving their regional presence to Istanbul.

Currently, the IRH accommodates **179 UNDP personnel** (staff, consultants and interns – see Table 1 below) including over 50 Turkish nationals, with about 25 Turkish specialists involved in the Regional Programme implementation. There has been an increase of IRH personnel by 10% compared to previous year. The IRH also hosts a **UNDP Global Policy Centre, the Istanbul International Center for Private Sector in Development (IICPSD)** (with a total of US\$ 5 million funding since 2011), as well as other UN agencies such as the **Regional Office of UN Women, the UN Office for South-South Cooperation, UN DSS and UNICEF**.

Table 1

Current personnel (based in Key Plaza, Istanbul Regional Hub)

Agency	Internationally recruited staff	Locally recruited staff	Service Contracts	Individual Consultants/ Secondments/ UN Volunteers	Interns	Total
UNDP (including):	83	28	13	23	32	179
1. Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS (RBECE)	18	20	6	17	19	80
2. Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS)	43	7				50
3. Bureau for External Relations and Advocacy (BERA)	2					2
4. Bureau of Management Services (BMS)	7					7
5. Office of Audits and Investigations (OAI)	6	1				7
6. UNDP Istanbul International Center for Private Sector in Development (IICPSD)	6		7	5	13	31
7. UN Volunteers	1			1	1	3
8. UN Office for South-South Cooperation	1					1
UN Women Europe and Central Asia Regional Office	10	6	1	2	1	20
UNICEF Regional Office	4					4
TOTAL (UN and UNDP)	98	34	14	25	34	205

The Istanbul Regional Hub works within a regional framework through provision of advisory services and technical support to UNDP programme countries and specific regional activities to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge throughout the region. Besides providing the office premises and utilities for the IRH, the **Government of Turkey** also delivered on its commitment to support the UNDP Regional Programme for Europe and CIS by pledging **\$15 million contribution for five years starting from June 2014**. The budget for the **Regional Programme for Europe and the CIS for 2014 – 2017 was \$53.6 million, including \$13.6 million from UNDP regular core resources**, but the RP managed to mobilize additional funding, making it \$72 million by the end of 2017. Major donors are the Governments of Turkey, Finland, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Romania as well as the European Commission, Swiss Development Co-operation, Austrian Development Agency, Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for Development, the Global Environmental Facility among others. Starting from 2018, IRH has launched a new Regional Programme for Europe and the CIS for 2018-2021, approved by the UNDP Executive Board in November 2017 with a total budget of \$66 million, including UNDP regular resources of \$4 million, and the rest coming from bilateral and multilateral donors, vertical and thematic funds, South-South contributions, and others.

In addition to regional activities and projects and advisory/technical services to UNDP country offices, IRH continued implementing the Regional Impact Investment Facility supported projects started in 2017 in selected countries. Adopting the modality of providing seed funding to local initiatives, IRH also launched the **Turkey-UNDP Partnership for Development Project-Phase 2**, as an alternative programme modality to strengthen Turkey's triangular cooperation in selected LDCs. This initiative builds upon the first phase of the project completed in early 2018, implemented in Georgia, Kosovo (under UN SCR 1244), Uzbekistan and the Comoros Union.

The overall focus of the IRH is to support **17 countries and one territory in Europe and the CIS** build and share solutions to address the development challenges and achieve: inclusive and sustainable growth; stronger systems of democratic governance; resilience building and risk management; and contribution to global development agenda and effective development cooperation. The IRH has also taken a prominent role in the region in making efforts to bring the Agenda 2030 to the national level. To support the roll-out of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Istanbul Regional Hub has been organizing various forums and events to understand emerging needs around SDGs and to discuss available tools and expertise at global, regional and national levels to further mainstream SDGs into development planning, nationalizing and localizing SDGs on the ground.

IRH hosts and implements not just regional projects within Europe and the CIS, but also an increasing number of global projects outside of the region. For example, the Global Environment Finance advisors based at the IRH guide and oversee about 137 global, regional and country projects (annual portfolio of \$89 million) covering the ECIS, Arab States and Africa. In 2018 only for Europe and the CIS region, GEF approved a portfolio of \$47.2 million for 15 projects, including 3 regional. IRH HIV, Health and Development (HHD) Team is also working at a global level from Istanbul since 2016, after joining with teams from Arab States and Africa Hubs, creating cross-regional cooperation.

IRH increasingly played a central role in international fora, workshops and meetings, with about 125 events hosted and/or organized by the IRH in 2018 in Istanbul (65) and in the region (60)², including:

- Istanbul Development Dialogues: Breakthrough to 2030-
- Istanbul Innovation Days 2018: #NextGenGov
- Annual Regional Meeting for Resident Representatives, Country Directors, Deputy Resident Representatives in Europe and the CIS from 18 countries and territory
- UN Volunteers HQs Management Retreat
- UNCDF Management Support Unit Operations Workshop
- UNDP Regional Consultations on Rule of Law, Justice, Human Rights & Social Cohesion in South Caucasus & Western CIS
- European Investment Fund Workshop for UNDP Country Offices
- UNDP Regional Conference on financial instruments for resilience building for countries in Europe and the CIS
- Global UNDP Workshop for ICT Managers from Country Offices
- Global UNDP Workshop on Gender Seal for UNDP Country Offices

Currently, about 30 global and regional events are on the agenda of the IRH for 2019, including Istanbul Development Dialogues planned for June 2019.

2 Full list of the meetings organized in 2018 is presented in Annex-I

The IRH continued to establish itself as a thought leader in the region and beyond. During 2018, it produced and/or supported over 25 knowledge products and publications. Some of the selected knowledge products include 'Climate change adaptation in Europe and Central Asia' http://www.eurasia.undp.org/content/rbec/en/home/library/environment_energy/climate-change-adaptation-in-europe-and-central-asia.html, 'Roma returnees to Western Balkans' <http://www.eurasia.undp.org/content/rbec/en/home/library/roma/roma-returnees-to-the-western-balkans.html>, and 'Five approaches to build functional early warning' systems http://www.eurasia.undp.org/content/rbec/en/home/library/environment_energy/five-approaches-to-build-functional-early-warning-systems.html.

The Hub worked on **541 service requests** from the UNDP country offices in the region. The support requests were mainly related to Governance and Peacebuilding (20.3%), Sustainable Development (16.7%), Energy, Climate and Disaster Resilience (13.7%), followed by GEF (12.4); RBM, quality assurance, and M&E (9.6%); KM Innovation (8.5%); as well as Gender (4.1%); Operations (3.9%); Communications (2.8 %); HIV, Health and Development (1.8%); and Partnerships (1.3%).

In 2018, the Istanbul Regional Hub (IRH) continued to grow and remain the strongest and most successful UNDP regional hub, whereas Europe and CIS region is the best performing region of UNDP in terms of program implementation. The expanding portfolio gives the IRH programmes a coverage of more than 90 countries globally. There are currently 12 global projects that are being implemented under the framework of the Regional Programme under the IRH, which constitute 30% of the entire portfolio which is increasing due to the location and capacities of IRH.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) mainstreaming in the region continued to be the highest priority. Mainstreaming, acceleration and Policy support (**MAPS**) missions of the Hub's advisors supported six countries³ in the development of their national strategies for SDGs integration and localization. IRH also continued its pioneering stance on **innovation work** of UNDP globally. The SDG Innovation Lab concept, piloted in the region (Armenia, Moldova, Georgia among others) was scaled to the global level by UNDP Headquarters, to be implemented in 60 countries, as a key tool for implementation of the UNDP Strategic Plan 2018-2021.

As part of the wider regional UN system, UNDP made substantive contributions into policy work and led many inter-agency initiatives in the Europe and the CIS region. During the UN Development System reform discussion, this region has been frequently referred to as a role model in terms of how policy coherence and strategic cooperation can be achieved at the regional level.

RBEC's ongoing and expanded work with new or non-DAC donors, and deepening of partnerships with major International Financial Institutions (IFIs) active in the region helped programme countries benefit from new sources of development finance and expertise. These donors included Russian Federation, Slovakia, Czech Republic and Romania, all of which employed various modalities such as trust funds, challenges, expert mobilization schemes, etc. through IRH, with increasing volume of funds. IRH also engaged with the private sector, with particular focus on Turkish companies in cooperation with IICPSD. These engagements took place in sustainable development debates and actual programming for inclusive business models. Significant resources were also invested in engaging with Turkish private companies with business interests throughout the RBEC region. Regarding IFIs, significant progress was achieved in partnering with EBRD (Armenia, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan), EIB (Ukraine, Armenia and Serbia), EIF (Western Balkans on employment and income generation), and CEB (Serbia, BiH). Country Office capacities to engage IFIs and the private sector were strengthened with two cutting-edge training workshops.



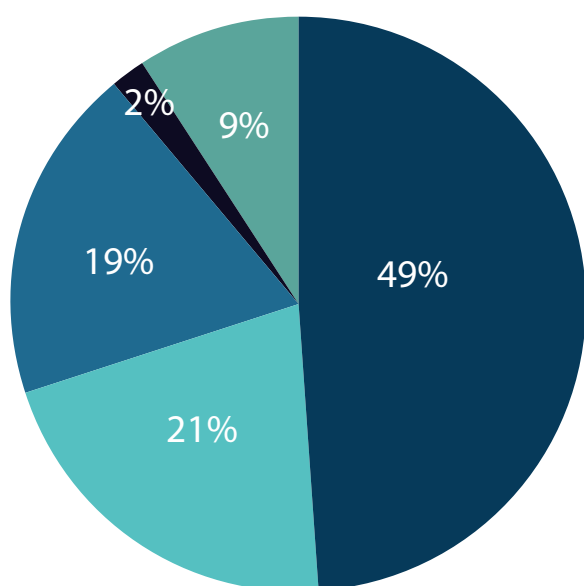
Photo: Jodi Hilton/ UNDP Flickr

2.1.2. 2018 Progress of the Regional Programme 2018-2020



The overall delivery of the Istanbul Regional Hub has amounted to an estimated \$ 19.9 million in 2018 (including \$1,9 million delivered by IRH jointly with Country Offices under Regional Impact Investment Facility) through more than 28 regional and 12 global projects. The below table presents a brief snapshot of the overall spending of the Regional Programme, including the spending of Turkey's contribution in 2018, highlighting some of the major results.

2018 Expenditure



- 1. Accelerating structural transformations through more effective governance systems - **49%**
- 2. Addressing poverty and inequalities through more inclusive and sustainable development pathways - **21%**
- 3. Accelerating structural transformations through more effective governance systems - **19%**
- 4. Other Global Projects and other non-regional Programme related activities - **2%**
- 5. Regional Impact Investment Facility - **9%**

Regional Programme main area 1: Accelerating structural transformations through more effective governance systems



Photo: UNDP Eurasia

Under this area, the regional programme supports the aspirations of programme countries to sustain and advance progress at regional, subregional and national levels through:

- (a) Applying innovative, data-driven, and scalable solutions for more inclusive governance processes,
- (b) In partnership with the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and the Montreal Protocol, support efforts for environmental sustainability and resource management
- (c) Continue to support the implementation of the Paris Climate Change agreement in the region

Total expenditures in 2018: est. \$9.7 million

Of which spending from Turkish contribution: \$0.6 million

Major highlights

- The Istanbul Innovation Days 2018 (#NextGenGov) brought together 200+ UNDP and government participants to design and implement new experiments in public policy and governance.
- Four countries⁴ in the region supported through the Innovation Facility to test out the use of new data in urban development, sustainable tourism and public service satisfaction. A new methodology for transparent allocation of public funds to CSOs was implemented in six countries in the Western Balkans.
- UNDP together with the regional offices of UN Women, UNFPA and UNICEF organized a regional conference in Central Asia, to achieve policy dialogue on how to combat all forms of violence against women and girls on 5-6 November 2018, in Bishkek with the participation of more than 60 government and parliamentary representatives from Central Asia. <http://www.eurasia.undp.org/content/rbec/en/home/presscenter/events/2018/turning-policies-into-action.html>
- UNDP IRH supported Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan in Central Asia to produce a sub-regional advocacy campaign for #16days, giving voice to survivors and activists working to end violence against women and girls. The campaign was promoted on social media channels and gathered 120,000 views and 1,500 user engagements on Facebook. - <http://www.eurasia.undp.org/content/rbec/en/home/stories/hearmetoo-activists->

⁴ Kyrgyzstan, Albania, FYRoM and Moldova received funding through the proposal awarded by the Global Innovation Facility. The second proposal awarded through this Facility was the SDG Impact Accelerator

- Four regional collaboration fora on rule of law, justice and human rights were initiated or facilitated covering Western Balkans and Central Asia (focus areas: solving war crimes and search for missing persons, National Human Rights Institutions, Legal Aid Conference in Tbilisi Youth and regional Central Asia dialogue on preventive extremism for exchanges and dialogue among government representatives, youth and civil society from Central Asia region).
- Countries in the region have been supported in accessing climate finance: five COs received funding, advice and technical assistance for the development of new Green Climate Fund, and Adaptation Fund proposals. IRH Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Team mobilized 8 million Euro for a new regional climate policy initiative EU4Climate for the countries in the region for next three years.
- Through Climate education and awareness programme, IRH has successfully scaled up the Climate Box Interactive Learning Toolkit (funded by Russian Federation) for school children to cover 8 countries. The Climate Box was presented at COP24; its first regional education conference was conducted in Yerevan in November 2018. By the end of 2018, 750 teachers were trained in the region, overall 1500 teachers engaged in the programme, 50,000 school children use the Climate Box.
- A Financing dialogue platform on disaster risk reduction was established for the ECIS region in association with major international private and public-sector actors and resulted in a multi-stakeholder platform for disaster financing knowledge sharing in ECIS and coordinated actions for disaster financing development.
- Through Sustainable Health in Procurement project leveraged resources for Ukraine and Moldova on climate smart healthcare programming to address the lack of data and information on low carbon healthcare and facilitated sharing of good practices on sustainable procurement in the health sector through the Asia Forum for manufacturers and suppliers of health commodities.
- As a follow-up to the recommendations of the Global Commission on the HIV and the Law, UNDP conducted Legal Environment Assessments on HIV and/or TB in 3 countries (Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine), laying out the barriers for marginalized populations to access health services.
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- Four regional collaboration fora on rule of law, justice and human rights were initiated or facilitated covering Western Balkans and Central Asia (focus areas: solving war crimes and search for missing persons, National Human Rights Institutions, Legal Aid Conference in Tbilisi Youth and regional Central Asia dialogue on preventive extremism for exchanges and dialogue among government representatives, youth and civil society from Central Asia region).
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There are currently 12 global projects that are being implemented under the framework of the Regional Programme, which constitute 30% of the entire portfolio and cover 90 countries out of IRH. These global projects are mainly funded by GEF and aim to achieve the regional programme output “Solutions and regulatory frameworks to address conservation, sustainable use and equitable benefit-sharing of natural resources, developed in line with international conventions and national legislation through regional and cross-regional initiatives”.



Photo: Jodi Hilton/ UNDP Flickr

Regional Programme main area 2: Addressing poverty and inequalities through more inclusive and sustainable development pathways



Under the area 2, the Regional Programme supports programme countries to 'go the last mile' in eradicating poverty and addressing inequalities and exclusion through such approaches:

- (a) Help create rights-based, sustainable development pathways which integrate the various international agreements with the 2030 Agenda ensuring effective and transparent use of public- and private-sector financing
- (b) Promote inclusive labour markets, social protection and care policies, and business support for women and the marginalized (people with disabilities, Roma, migrants, displaced populations and returnees), in cooperation UN and other partners; and continue building productive capacities for cross-border trade in goods and services.

Total expenditures in 2018: est. \$4,1 million

Of which spending from Turkish contribution: \$1.4 million

Major highlights

- Support provided to five (5) multi-agency Mainstreaming, Acceleration, Policy Support (MAPS) missions to structure UN support for the implementation of the ambitious and complex SDG agenda in Albania, Belarus, BiH, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. The MAPS is a UN common approach to supporting SDG implementation comprising: Mainstreaming of the 2030 Agenda, Acceleration towards the SDGs, and Policy Support drawing on the expertise and programmatic experience of different parts of the UN.
- A global initiative, including in the ECIS region, for strengthening data innovations and analytics for measuring progress on SDG16 was initiated to support 16 countries in their implementation, monitoring and reporting on SDG 16.
- Integrated policy solutions to inclusive employment in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan were developed, targeting persons with disabilities, youth at risk of radicalization and former inmates in penitentiary institutions. Advisory support provided to Azerbaijan contributed to resource mobilization of USD 3 million for self-employment programmes for persons with disabilities.
- Countries were supported in using human-centered methodologies to mobilize dialogue between users and service providers in redesigning employment and social services for vulnerable job-seekers. For example, with this support Montenegro public employment office implemented a new service model for reaching out to youth.

- Through the support provided to the six municipalities in Western Balkans for employment policy and service provision, UNDP Country offices mobilized funds from the SDC (in FYR Macedonia), the Government of the Netherlands (in BiH) and the local authority of Baldushk/Tiirana (in Albania) for the implementation of locally identified employment and social protection priorities.
- Collaboration with Oxford Internet Institute, Data Pop Alliance, the European Space Agency and the EBRD enables UNDP to tap new data and data analytic capacities including on smart contracting and on design and delivery of Social Impact Bonds, for more effective policy and programme design.
- A CO support mechanism was created to establish Country Support Platforms for the SDGs and prototyped in 9 countries in the region. Through Transformative Governance and Finance Facility (TGFF, supported by Slovakia), over \$ 2.3 million have been raised for alternative financial mechanisms – on crowdfunding in cities, development of social impact bonds and using alternative financial mechanisms to address energy poverty. Furthermore, the TGFF and the Global Innovation Facility support on Islamic Financing contributed to the CO and the Government of Indonesia design the 5-year Global Green Sukuk, which unlocks \$1.25 billion Investments in country level as well as \$2.6 million on digitalization and another \$3.6 million hard pipeline on smart cities.
- Innovative Finance for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) first regional conference held in Istanbul, has initiated the first regional dialogue on Insurance for Development discussing new integrated approaches to private sector investment in the implementation of Sendai Framework, Paris Climate Agreement and Agenda 2030, and led to the initiation of DRR financing regional platforms.
- Regional Programme has also provided support to strengthening the partnerships with key International Financial Institutions active in RBEC as follows:
 - » **Partnership with EBRD:** Country level progress achieved on the Action Plan adopted in January 2018: grant in Turkey and loan implementation in Armenia in preparation. In addition, continued thematic discussions and joint events and corporate cooperation (series of high-level meetings, staff exchange, progress on procurement, continuous dialogue with EBRD corporate strategy).
 - » **Partnership with EIB:** excellent corporate cooperation combined with the quality of our ongoing projects translated into new opportunities: technical assistance (TA) programme extension in Ukraine and ongoing discussion on TA Phase 2 after 2019, launch of the implementation of the EE project in Armenia in cooperation with EIB, very advanced discussion in Serbia.
 - » **Partnership with EIF:** series of consultations including Western Balkan Country Offices that led to the creation of roadmap with clear objectives and milestones for 2019.
 - » **Partnership with CEB:** In Serbia, ongoing work is solid and new projects have been identified during 2018 (to support EE investments, to support the Ministry of Education and related CEB loan implementation) which should materialize in 2019. First CEB grant contribution to UNDP since 2001 is at a very advanced stage (Reconstruction and rehabilitation of few psychiatric hospitals in BiH).
 - » **General capacity building & liaising** – conducted an internal RBEC IFI workshop with the participation of 15 COs, launched RBEC online community of practice on IFI partnerships, conducted sub-regional consultations with the COs and EBRD, EIB, EIF, CEB (as part of the cluster meetings).
 - » Continued to mature the partnership with **ECIS donors**, including Turkey (new partnership on bilateral development cooperation initiatives), Russia (TFD has allocated close to \$10 million to 12 new projects to be implemented in Armenia, Belarus, Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and in CIS countries - regional project on strengthening volunteerism - from the climate and youth windows, while supporting additional resource mobilization efforts of various COs in RBEC and beyond), the Czech Republic (a new phase of the partnership signed in 2018, with new budget and activities, mainly focusing on engaging the private sector in development), Slovakia (new partnerships with the MFA, steady delivery and replenishment of the MFIN project), Romania (successful handover of the project results to the RoAID agency, which is now staffed and functional), Western Balkans emerging donors (new ODA strategy for Montenegro and new draft ODA law for Serbia), and others (series of regional capacity building events for ECIS donors).
 - » Building on the first regional private sector engagement workshop in RBEC in July 2018, the Partnerships team organized consultations with a number of multinational companies, agreeing on preliminary engagement plans (H&M, Limak, Visa Europe, Koc Holding, HSBC, Citi Bank). Building up on the corporate efforts around mobilizing private capital for the SDGs, the team has started working with HQ on elaborating a value proposition for bilateral Development Finance Institutions (DFIs), to be continued with targeted bilateral consultations with the highest potential DFIs in 2019.

- Anti-corruption and integrity measures strengthened in several municipalities in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, through production and implementation of a Guide on Corruption-Free Local Government to strengthen governments' capacities for anti-corruption.
- An online knowledge sharing platform to enhance transparency in public service delivery tools was developed for 6 countries/territory in Western Balkans.
- Capacitated national partners (government, civil society and UNDP COs) from 7 EECA countries to increase access to medicines, health services for HIV, TB and hepatitis and beyond, by addressing corruption in the health sector.
- Produced a toolkit with 10 principles of gender-responsive communications that BERA will adopt as corporate UNDP guidelines. The toolkit has been translated into French and Spanish (by the respective regional hubs, with technical support from IRH). A blog introducing the toolkit got 2000 views on Medium and was the third most viewed piece on the UNDP Eurasia Medium page.



Photo: Jodi Hilton / UNDP Flickr

Regional Programme main area 3: Building resilience to shocks and crises through enhanced prevention and risk-informed development.



Under this area, the Regional Programme aims to enhance risk-informed development by supporting programme countries in building resilience to shocks and crises by:

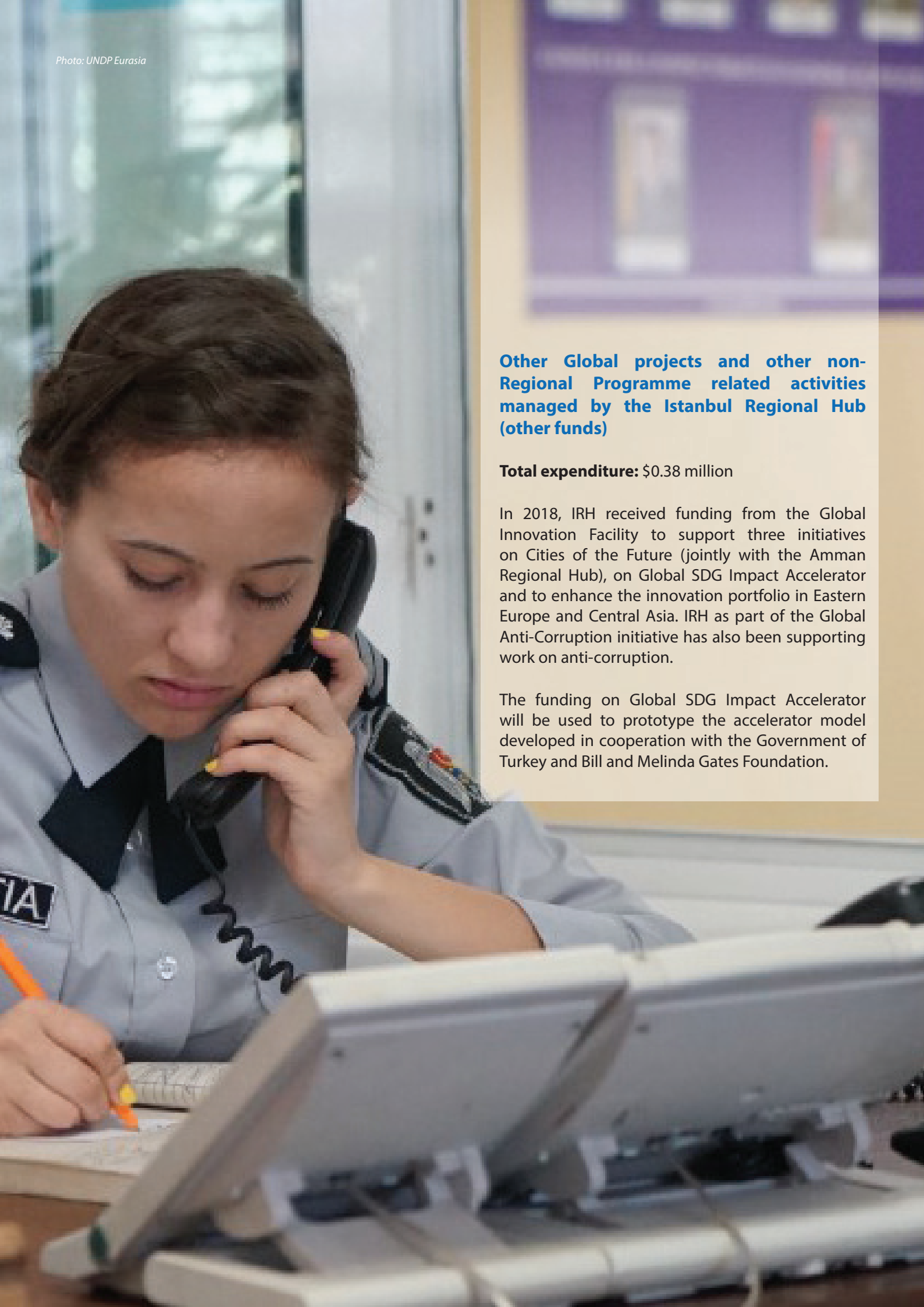
- (a) Strengthening conflict prevention capacities; and
- (b) Reducing disaster risks by expanding the use of innovative technologies and partnerships for disaster risk reduction and improving the use of financial instruments for disaster resilience.

Total expenditures in 2018: \$3.9 million

Of which spending from Turkish contribution: \$0.45 million

Major highlights

- Regional capacities for disaster risk assessment, policy framework and disaster response were strengthened through a number of pilot implementations, training programmes and conferences targeting mainly Central Asia and South Caucasus. Action plan for surge support strengthened for Sarajevo International Airport, completed within the GARD program (Get Airports Ready for Disaster Programme-with DHL). The first ever regional DRR financing dialogue platform established with international and public-sector players, leading to the initiation of a multi-stakeholder platform for disaster financing and knowledge sharing on disaster finance in ECIS.
- Two regional dialogues convened to support research conceptualization of engagement with youth in relation to efforts for preventing violent extremism (PVE), supporting the implementation of UNDP Global PVE strategy.
- UNDP (GE and DRR teams), in partnership with UN Women and UNFPA, organized a sub-regional gender and disaster risk reduction workshop in Chisinau, Moldova, on 24-25 May 2018. The workshop covered the CIS and Caucasus countries, with additional participants from Tajikistan and Kazakhstan's Almaty Disaster Risk Reduction Centre.
- Regional cooperation mechanisms on security and small arms and light weapons (SALW) control were strengthened in South Eastern Europe through regional meetings engaging Small Arms and Light Weapons Commissions, Armed Violence Monitoring Platform, South East Europe Firearms Experts Network and the Regional Steering Group. Three knowledge products produced: (i,ii) the ninth and tenth Regional Reports on Arms Export, and (iii) study on Gender Aspects of SALW and How to Address Them in Practice in Russian and English languages, outlining the most relevant gender aspects of SALW and contains revised methodology for mainstreaming gender in SALW control.



Other Global projects and other non-Regional Programme related activities managed by the Istanbul Regional Hub (other funds)

Total expenditure: \$0.38 million

In 2018, IRH received funding from the Global Innovation Facility to support three initiatives on Cities of the Future (jointly with the Amman Regional Hub), on Global SDG Impact Accelerator and to enhance the innovation portfolio in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. IRH as part of the Global Anti-Corruption initiative has also been supporting work on anti-corruption.

The funding on Global SDG Impact Accelerator will be used to prototype the accelerator model developed in cooperation with the Government of Turkey and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Regional Impact Investment Facility: \$1.85 million funded from Turkish Funds disbursed in late 2017 and mid-2018 and implemented during 2018. ⁵



Photo: UNDP Eurasia

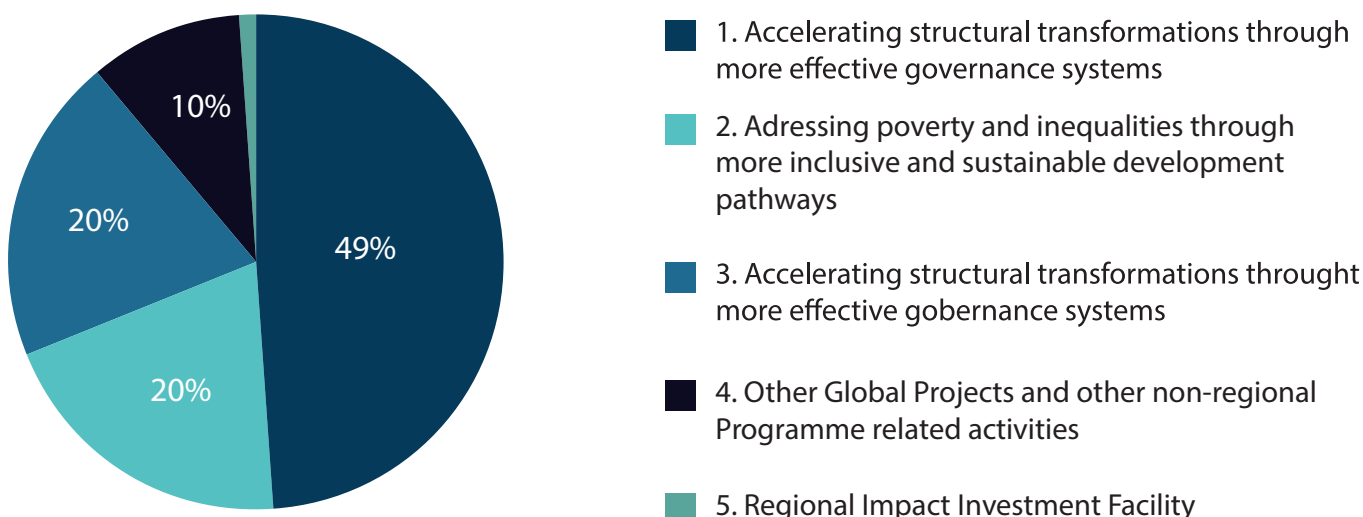
Following two successful rounds of the Catalytic Facility funded by Regional Programme (UNDP and Turkish Funds), in 2017 UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and CIS established a Regional Impact Investment Facility. This facility aims to support country offices (COs) in generating new development solutions to address emerging priorities and challenges. Eleven country offices used the resources of the facility to co-fund promising programmes partnering with IFIs, governments, private sector, and other development partners. Regional Impact Investment Facility supported only those initiatives from country offices that have a significant resource mobilization potential, and that represent investments into the new promising growth areas for the COs in the coming years. While some of the project have been completed already, the comprehensive report of the Facility is expected in the end of January 2019.

Countries benefitted from the Facility: Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYR Macedonia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Serbia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine.

Total expenditure of the Regional Programme in 2018: \$19.9 million (out of which \$1.9 million of Turkish funds delivered by IRH jointly with Country Offices)

Of which spending from Turkish contribution: \$4.3 million

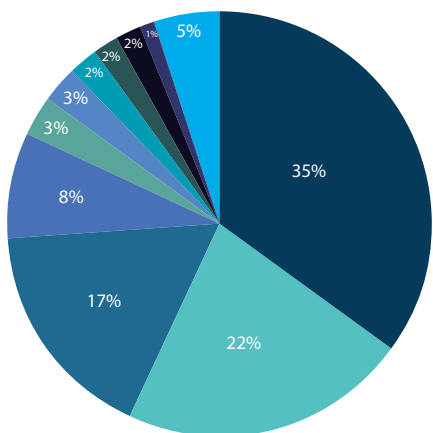
2018 Expenditure



⁵ This Facility is implemented through allocations made to the Country Offices. Hence the figures indicate the planned expenditures through these allocations.

In 2018, Turkey remained one of the top three donors to the Regional Programme in 2018, together with the Global Environment Facility and European Commission.

Top 10 Funding Sources



Sources of Funding	\$ million
Global Environment Facility	\$7.00
Turkey	\$4.30
European Commission	\$3.30
Slovakia	\$1.52
UNDP	\$0.59
Russia	\$0.61
USA	\$0.46
Finland	\$0.39
Czech Republic	\$0.36
Germany	\$0.31
Romania	\$0.25
Sweden	\$0.22
Denmark	\$0.21
Austria	\$0.16
Other Contributions	\$0.21



Photo: UNDP Eurasia

2.2. Turkey and UNDP partnering in key multilateral settings



Throughout the year, IRH co-organized, led or supported some key initiatives with Turkey and other UNDP units intended to drive SDG progress in the region, sharing of experiences among countries, and advocate for change towards achievement of the SDGs. Some selected ones are as below:

- **Istanbul Development Dialogues (IDD)** were held for the fourth consecutive year during 3-4 April 2018. Focusing on partnerships in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and their accompanying global Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, IDD 2018 examined questions in four key areas:
 - » How can international development partners, the private sector, academia, and civil society help governments to capture the potential of the SDGs and Agenda 2030 for sustainable development?
 - » What are governments, and their development partners, doing differently, with the advent of the SDGs?
 - » What is the current state of national efforts to transform the promises of sustainable development into reality? What initial lessons have been learned that can be shared?
 - » What policy reforms are needed to accelerate national transitions to sustainable development? Which political, economic, financial, and social constraints must be addressed?

With over 400 participants from a wide range of settings, IDD resulted in significant social and conventional media coverage. The #IDD2018 hashtag had 7.2 million impressions (up from 5 million for IDD 2017) and 2.9 million reach during the event. It also briefly was a trending hashtag in Turkey on the first day of the conference.

- **Istanbul Innovation Days 2018** was organized in November 2018, for the fourth time in Istanbul, as a key event of the Europe and CIS region offering new and innovative ways to address development challenges. IID 2018 featured #NextGenGov, focusing on emerging global trends impacting governance mechanisms and approaches and aiming to contextualize their potential implications around the world through collaborative experimentation. With the active engagement of 200+ participants from diverse backgrounds, the event showcased over 20 experiments for governance and peacebuilding. The intent of putting the Next Generation Governance (#NextGenGov) agenda at the centre of the Istanbul Innovation Days 2018 was to start to explore the future of the world's governance challenges, and to debate how a new set of models are needed to address a growing 'relevance gap' in governance and peacebuilding. With the understanding that unless a major rethink of the development practice is introduced this gap will further increase, this event challenged the existing assumptions of our governance systems and resulted in some shared lessons for the future of governance and peacebuilding. For further reading: <https://medium.com/@UNDPEurasia/7-lessons-3-big-questions-for-the-next-10-years-of-governance-65bbafacb662>

- UNDP IICPSD collaborated with Securities Commission Malaysia (SC) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) to organise a side event Achieving SDGs: Unleashing the Potential of Islamic Finance from Investors and

Instruments at the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in New York. Organized under the Global Islamic Finance and Impact Investing Platform (GIFIIP), the event aimed at advancing the use of Islamic financing tools to fund the ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Due to the high interest of stakeholders from the private sector, governments, and international organizations, the event was oversubscribed. Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamad delivered the honorary keynote speech following the opening speech by Tegegnetwork Gettu, UNDP Associate Administrator and UN Under-Secretary-General. Dr. Mohamed Nouri Jouini, IsDB Vice President, and Amb. Salih Mutlu Şen, the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the OIC, also delivered keynote speeches. Vakıf Yatırım also presented cases and best practices based on Turkish experience in mobilising Islamic finance resources to address development challenges.

- **UN Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries:** On 4 June 2018, the UN Technology Bank for LDCs was launched in Gebze, Turkey. **The Technology Bank was initially called for by the Istanbul Programme of Action for the LDCs**, adopted at the Fourth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), held in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2011. It was then included in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development and the 2030 Agenda in 2015. In December 2016, the UNGA adopted Resolution 71/251 on the “Establishment of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries”, and in September 2017, the operationalization phase of the Technology Bank began with the signing of the host country agreement and contribution agreement between the Government of Turkey and the UN. **UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub for Europe and the CIS has been continuously extending its technical and logistical support to the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries (OHRLLS) with the establishment of the Technology Bank in Gebze.** The Technology Bank is a major milestone in helping LDCs to use science, technology and innovation and a significant contribution to the 2030 Agenda’s principle of “leaving no one behind” by strengthening the knowledge capacity of the world’s 47 least developed countries. **The Bank also has become a visible symbol as it is the first SDG target achieved: 17.8.**

The first intervention of the Technology Bank was identified as initiation of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) baseline reviews and Technology Needs Assessments in **5 least developed countries (Guinea, Haiti, Sudan, Timor-Leste, and Uganda)** in collaboration with all relevant UN agencies. The Technology Bank will also focus on improving access for scientists and researchers to data, publications, and STI initiatives in twelve least developed countries (Bangladesh, Mozambique, Nepal, Rwanda, Senegal, Uganda, Tanzania, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Liberia, Madagascar, and Malawi). In early December 2018, Joshua Setipa was appointed as the Managing Director of the Bank and IRH will continue to provide the support needed to make the Technology Bank fully functional.

<http://www.eurasia.undp.org/content/rbec/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2018/technology-bank-for-least-developed-countries-inaugurated-in-tur.html>

- **SDG Impact Accelerator:** The Government of Turkey and UNDP initiated a feasibility study for an SDG Impact Accelerator Programme, continuing the discussions held for over a year around Turkey’s stronger contributions to the SDG agenda in the LDCs, also linked to the Technology Bank for the LDCs to be established. Started in August 2018 and implemented by a team of five international experts, the feasibility study involved desk research, 80 interviews, expert and workshops with experts and beneficiaries. The initial outcomes of the study were presented at a high-profile side-event at the UN General Assembly in New York on 25 September 2018, with keynote addresses by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Turkey and Sri Lanka, the Minister of International Development of Norway, the UNDP Administrator and Sir Ronald Cohen, Chairman of the Global Steering Group for Impact Investment. The study was co-funded by the UNDP IRH and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and Global Good⁶ acted in an advisory capacity.

Led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and coordinated by the IRH, the feasibility study incorporated the inputs and expertise of relevant UNDP units including the Innovation and Partnerships teams of IRH, IICPSD and Turkey Country Office. The initial blueprint is ready adopting a systems accelerator approach bringing together a think&do tank, accelerator working with ecosystem actors and impact fund. The next steps planned for 2019 are prototyping the design of the impact accelerator, around two big questions of digital ID and non-sewered toilette systems. While funding is secured by IRH through global Innovation Facility and Limak as a private sector partner for this prototyping stage, project partners continue the search for new partnerships and funding sources. The initial prototyping stage is planned in Turkey, later to be expanded to outside of the country. Once implemented, this impact accelerator will seek complementarity to the LDC Technology Bank and other initiatives by UNDP.

⁶ Funded by Bill Gates and focused on a shared vision with Nathan Myhrvold, Global Good invents technology to solve some of humanity’s most daunting problems.



2.3. Turkey and UNDP Partnership in action at country level

2.3.1. Turkey-UNDP Partnership for Development Project, Phase 2

The first phase of Turkey-UNDP Partnership in Development Programme provided a framework for implementation of pilot projects in third countries in key areas identified in the PFA. Building on the progress and lessons learned from this first phase (implemented in 2015-2017), UNDP and Government of Turkey (Strategy and Budget Office of the Presidency, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and TIKA) designed the second phase of this partnership project and project was approved in July 2018.

Phase 1 helped clarify the added value of UNDP as a facilitator among a number of actors, particularly for soft assistance type of projects. This value added is even more critical in locations where Turkey does not have a representation. Additionally, the involvement of Turkish embassies and TIKA offices in partner countries (where this involvement took place) provided significant opportunity for better ownership and motivation at the local level. This need for closer engagement of Turkish actors at all stages is one of the lessons learned, which was also incorporated into the second phase of the project. One other issue to mention is the need for planning for visibility at the onset to ensure that the support provided by the Government of Turkey is communicated consistently at all levels.

The experience in the first phase, as well as the interactions of the IRH with Turkish private sector shows that there is a significant potential for partnering with the Turkish private sector companies building on their investments and plans in the region. This partnership can be in any form and modality in support of the SDGs. This phase will also seek to bring together private sector companies around SDGs, on the basis of the interest of both sides.

The project will provide a framework for implementation of specific initiatives to be agreed upon by the Government of Turkey and UNDP. Under the overall management responsibility of the UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub, the project will facilitate implementation of a series of development solutions designed by UNDP Country Offices, the UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub and the Turkish partners, addressing the geographical and thematic priorities of Turkey's official development assistance within the overall SDG framework. The project proposals will be collected by UNDP and evaluated by the Project Board. Implementation will be closely monitored by UNDP IRH and other members of the Project Board. As agreed with the project partners, the second phase of this project will target seven Least Developed Countries: Eritrea, Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola, Cambodia, Laos PDR, Benin and Rwanda. UNDP IRH will announce Call for Proposals addressing these offices and the Project Board will select the most qualified projects for funding. As of January 2019, the Call for Proposals have been finalized.

2.3.2. Catalytic and Scaling Up Facility, Support Mechanism and Results

The Istanbul Regional Hub supported a number of selected country-level initiatives of catalytic nature through the **Catalytic and Scaling up Facility** (2015-2017). While the initiatives are relatively small in volume, the Facility provided an enabling mechanism to support the UNDP country offices to accelerate the achievement of development priorities at country level closely linked to global and regional strategic priorities.

This Facility, with the contribution from Turkey, has benefited almost the entirety of the region advancing their development priorities ranging from employment, innovations, conflict and disaster risk reduction, to the implementation of the SDG agenda. As such, these contributions were instrumental in upscaling the region's innovation and public service capacity as well as its readiness for Agenda 2030. Some projects funded by the Catalytic and Scaling Up Facility in 2017 were completed in 2018 with the results as below:

“Support to the Government of Uzbekistan in Localization of SDGs”

In 2018, UNDP Uzbekistan completed the project funded through the Catalytic and Scaling Up Facility, to complement Uzbekistan’s efforts on SDGs. This funding was instrumental in providing a new impulse to the work on nationalization of the SDGs and in integrating the SDGs in policy dialogue and establishing base for effective monitoring and reporting system in Uzbekistan. Key results contributed through this facility include:

- Government Resolution on National SDGs and targets was developed through joint consultations with UN Agencies, government institutions, including inputs from think tanks, donor community, and NGOs and international experts. **Resolution was adopted on 20 October 2018.**
- Analytical work and extensive work on nationalization of the SDG goals, targets and indicators laid an effective ground for MAPS mission to facilitate further work on integration of the SDGs in the policy agenda of the Government.
- Draft Strategy on Innovative Development of Uzbekistan was elaborated. It set a vision until 2030 and provided a very broad reach and use of a complex set of KPIs many of which are harmonized with the SDG indicators and their end-values for 2030 (science and technologies, gender, infrastructure, education, financing and other indicators). **The Strategy was adopted on 21 September 2018.**
- Draft methodology on measuring multidimensional poverty was prepared using: (1) SDG1 and SDG10 poverty indicators; (2) AROPE - **at risk of poverty**, or deprived or **living in a household with a very low work intensity** method. An official web site for monitoring of National SDG has been developed and is now being populated with data content. The Government of Uzbekistan has identified the State Statistical Committee as the responsible institute for monitoring and regular updating on SDG progresses, facilitation of the wider awareness and use of data by stakeholders and general public.

Finally, two SDG policy Dialogues were held by Country Office in Uzbekistan in October and December 2018: 1) SDG Policy Dialogue session on Sustainable Employment in Uzbekistan: Current Situation, Issues and Solutions, held on 29 October 2018 with participation of the TIKA Programme Coordinator; and 2) Meeting organized by UNDP “Support to policy research for sustainable development” project on 4 December 2018, with participation of the Deputy Programme Coordinator of TIKA.



“Municipal Energy Tracking Platform in Albania”

This initiative funded by the Catalytic and Scaling up Facility and implemented with the support of IRH helped Albania meet energy efficiency and renewable energy related EU requirements and the targets for the Energy Community Treaty through development of a municipal energy tracking platform.

The new **municipal energy tracer tool** was proposed to Durres municipality for energy benchmarking and sector prioritization. The tool is easy to replicate within other municipalities of the same typology. It started with benchmark data collection, went through an on-location assessment involving experts and decision makers, to end with energy efficient project proposals.

These efforts are also seen in the framework of other reforms that are being undertaken such as the energy sector reform, modernization of public services, the enforcement of the rule of law and the promotion of inclusive access to economic opportunities; areas where UNDP has a significant focus and aims for expansion. Furthermore, the intervention exchanged and benefited from similar UNDP interventions in the region and the existing platforms that broker knowledge on scalable development solutions and analysis on what has worked, what has not, along with systematic information on energy management systems operational in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, just to mention a few.



Photo: Karen Cirillo / UNDP Flickr

2.4. Partnerships with the Private Sector



UNDP – through the work of its various bodies – supports engagement of the private sector in sustainable development as a key actor, through advocacy for inclusive business and brokering partnerships for action in the field. In addition to brokering partnerships with various private sector companies in the programme countries and advocating for change in regional platforms, Istanbul Regional Hub also supports a stronger engagement of Turkish private sector in sustainable development challenges while also facilitating sharing of knowledge of the good practices in Turkey, building on the dynamic private sector and markets in Turkey.

2018 has been a year when IRH increased its focus on private sector engagement, also in line with the corporate agenda, including adoption of UNDP’s private sector strategy-led by Istanbul Private Sector Center. The Istanbul Regional Hub and IICPSD have established an increasing level of coordination and collaboration in the area of private sector engagement for sustainable development and cooperates in bringing in private sector in key UNDP events as well as for capacity development of programme countries for more impactful engagement of the private sector.

Private Sector approach adopted by Istanbul Regional Hub can be summarized as below:

- » Advocacy on the role of the private sector for achievement of the SDGs, building alliances;
- » Building UNDP’s internal capacities to partner with the private sector;
- » Establishing direct partnership opportunities with companies at the local level;

IRH Partnerships Team worked on these pillars in cooperation with relevant teams of the IRH as well as with IICPSD and Country offices.

- Advocacy and building alliances: UNDP engaged with the private sector more strongly to include them in policy discussions and events organized by the IRH. One example was the Istanbul Innovation Days: Breakthrough to 2030, which was a great platform to bring together actors from different backgrounds. One panel in the IDD, organized jointly with the IICPSD, was reserved for the private sector to discuss business perspectives for the SDGs. This panel included high level representatives from Allianz, Unilever, HSBC and Visa, representing global corporations and their vision for sustainable development. Similarly, private sector representatives, particularly coming from small scale start-ups attended the Istanbul Innovation Days inputting with their experience, foresight and perspective.

- **Building UNDP internal capacities:** In July 2018, IRH Partnerships team organized an internal workshop for the Country offices in the region, focusing on ways to engage with the private sector as well as UNDP rules and procedures to set up partnership. Another event organized by the Partnerships Team focused on the ways to engage with the private sector for development cooperation, mainly targeting the emerging donors. Representatives from countries including Turkey, Russia, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Montenegro and Romania attended this event focusing on how private sector can actively engage in development cooperation. Both of these events were co-organized by IICPSD. Continuous and on-demand support is also provided to selected Country Offices.
- **Direct programmatic cooperation:** IRH continued its efforts to facilitate partnerships at the country level for inclusive business models in support of the SDGs, with companies based in Turkey (including companies of non-Turkish origin). Possible topics of cooperation include skills building and employment, circular economy and sustainable tourism. Some of these opportunities are built on the positive experience and partnership UNDP Turkey has had with these companies. Examples of these companies include Visa, Limak and HSBC.



Photo: UNDP Eurasia



3. PRIORITY AREAS OF COOPERATION FOR 2019

Building on the status of the partnership and the progress achieved in 2018, priority areas for cooperation in 2019 are suggested as below:

3.1. Replenishment of Regional Programme and continued presence in Istanbul Regional Hub

As per the agreement between the Turkish Government and UNDP, the timeframe for the Turkish contribution will be coming to and end in mid 2019. Similarly, the five year contribution for the operation of the Istanbul Regional Hub is also ending in 2019. Therefore there is an urgent need to replenish the contributions to ensure an uninterrupted operation for the Istanbul Regional Hub. While the regional programme fund availability will allow IRH to operate until end 2019 with a tight budget planning, unless the newly allocated funds are put in use, IRH might have to drastically downsize its regional programme operations as well as country support it provides to the Country offices in 2020.

On the other hand, there is a continued support to increased presence of Turkey in Istanbul. It is planned that IFAD Country Office and Regional Center will move to Istanbul upon the ratification of the signed host country agreement between IFAD and the Government of Turkey.

3.2. Increasing impact and visibility of the partnership

UNDP – Turkey Partnership in third countries will be strengthened in 2019 through a number of opportunities. One concrete area is the Turkey – UNDP Partnership in Development Programme (Phase 2), which will be implemented in selected least developed countries. UNDP will implement the visibility guidelines integrated into the Call for Proposals for this project. The PFD clearly shows potentially for scaling beyond its piloting nature (USD 500,000) and a discussion on the future direction, scale and ambition should take place.

Open for discussion at the 2019 Annual Consultation and beyond, the following key global events can provide a good opportunity to increase the visibility of the partnership and to strengthen Turkey's positioning in the international development cooperation arena:

- Potential joint events with the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the UN on the margins of the UN General Assembly in September 2019
- Key events on the SDG Agenda, including the High Level Political Forum,
- Other events deemed appropriate by the partners in particular global events to be hosted in Turkey.

UNDP will increasingly prioritize participation of Turkish government and private sector representatives to serve for the visibility of Turkey in key global and regional events (e.g. IDD, SDG consultations, etc.) organized by UNDP or its partners. UNDP will continue to centrally engage with the Government of Turkey to ensure that the participation of Turkish actors is maximized in events such as the Istanbul Development Dialogue and Istanbul Innovation Days.

Similarly, Turkey's contribution to the global SDG agenda through initiatives such as the UN LDC Technology Bank or the SDG Impact Accelerator will provide opportunities for high level visibility at the global level.

Moreover, should Turkey consider a possibility of increasing its contribution to UNDP's core (regular) resources, efforts to ensure maximum visibility of such a contribution will continue, given the importance of core funding for UNDP's sustainability in the current constrained resource environment.

3.3. Partnership with Turkey in key Multilateral Development Platforms

While there are currently no concrete plans for joint events, the positive experience of partnering in key Multilateral Development Platforms, which yielded important results and amplified the partnership, provides the basis for future joint approaches. Therefore, a proactive and flexible approach to identifying opportunities in 2019 should be maintained in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to ensure the continuation of the fruitful cooperation.

3.4. Partnerships with the Private Sector

UNDP will continue to engage with the private sector on issues around achieving the SDGs. While 2018 has been productive in terms of more strongly engaging with the Turkish private sector in the area of development, UNDP will focus its efforts to further develop various means through which the private sector can engage in the SDGs agenda. Partnerships with Turkish private sector (e.g. Turkish Airlines) might call for some support from Government of Turkey.

3.5. Partnerships with the Turkey-based International Organizations

In 2018, UNDP continued its dialogue for closer cooperation with the Turkic Council and Black Sea Economic Cooperation-Permanent International Secretariat (BSEC-PERMIS). With Turkic Council, the main area of cooperation remained to be preventing violent extremism in Central Asia, which did not result in programmatic partnership. There is room for partnering in multilateral settings and events, bringing in the expertise and experience of the countries of Turkic region.

UNDP IRH continued its dialogue with BSEC to explore potential areas of cooperation in broad regional topics and mutually ensure that partners attend each other's events to further seek opportunities for cooperation.



ANNEX I - EVENTS

2018 EVENTS HOSTED AND/OR ORGANIZED BY THE ISTANBUL REGIONAL HUB IN ISTANBUL

#	Event	Dates
1.	3rd Annual Partners' Meeting of the Africa Regional HIV Grant on Removing Legal Barriers	14-15 February 2018
2.	UNRCCA (Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia) Coordination Meeting	23 February 2018
3.	Aid for Trade Team Planning Meeting	27-28 February 2018
4.	Regional Consultation to develop proposal for the Global Fund Multi-Country Request for Proposal	6-7 March 2018
5.	Platform Design Workshop for COs, IRH, Bangkok Regional Hub, Amman Regional Hub	5-7 March 2018
6.	UNAIDS Regional Joint Team Meeting	12-14 March 2018
7.	UNDP Security Office Global Retreat	19-23 March 2018
8.	UNDP Salary Survey Workshop I	21-23 March 2018
9.	UNDP Salary Survey Workshop II	26-28 March 2018
10.	ECIS Regional Technical Dialogue MAPS for Country Platforms	2 April 2018
11.	Istanbul Development Dialogues 2018	3-4 April 2018
12.	RBEC Regional Meeting for RRs/CDs/DRRs/DCDs	5-6 April 2018
13.	Regional Advisory Board Meeting for Regional Programme, Europe and the CIS	4 April 2018
14.	Conflict horizon scanning and reflection event convening Peace and development advisors, UN and other partner agencies	12-13 April 2018
15.	UNV HQ Management Meeting	23-26 April 2018
16.	Workshop on the Roadmap to a Network of Women in Elections in the Arab States	27 April-1 May 2018
17.	Meeting of UNDP and PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC)	4 May 2018
18.	Inter-Agency Security Management Network (IASMN) Security Steering Committee Meeting	8-10 May 2018
19.	IASMN Steering Group	9-10 May 2018
20.	Issue Based Coalition on Social Protection Floor Initiative (SPF-I) Capacity Development Workshop	10 May 2018
21.	Regional Consultations on Rule of Law, Justice, Human Rights & Social Cohesion in South Caucasus & Western CIS	15-16 May 2018

22.	RBEC Crisis Response Training	21-25 May 2018
23.	Bureaucrat Hackers' Retreat	28-30 May 2018
24.	European Investment Fund Workshop "SME support and job creation in the Western Balkans"	14 June 2018
25.	OFID Project Kick-off Meeting	19 June 2018
26.	UNCDF Management Support Unit (MSU) Operations Workshop	20-22 June 2018
27.	Ministry of Data Redesign Workshop	26-27 June 2018
28.	Private Sector Engagement Workshop	9-11 July 2018
29.	RBEC Crisis Response Training II -Disaster Recovery Planning	9-13 July 2018
30.	UNDP Capacity Building Workshop on Mobilizing Islamic Finance for SDGs	28-30 August 2018
31.	Global Fund/HIV, Health and Development Team Global Workshop	10-14 September 2018
32.	4th Regional Consultation on Enhancing Regional Cooperation in Processing of War Crimes and the Search for Missing Persons	19-20 September 2018
33.	UNDP Strategic Plan Rollout and Platform Workshop for Europe and the CIS	1-5 October 2018
34.	Regional Conference on DRR financial instruments for Resilience Building	4-5 October 2018
35.	Advanced Certificate in Public Procurement- Level 3	8-12 October 2018
36.	Gender Responsive Peacebuilding Workshop	8-12 October 2018
37.	Transformative Governance and Finance Facility and Knowledge and Innovation Team Meeting: Building Blocks	08 October 2018
38.	Procurement L3 Training	8-12 October 2018
39.	Meeting on Smart Cities	12-13 October
40.	Integrity Methodology Workshop	15-16 October 2018
41.	UN Women: CIPS Training	15-19 October 2018
42.	PVE Community of Practice with Bangkok Regional Hub	18-19 October 2018
43.	UNDP Global ICT Workshop	22-26 October 2018
44.	ECIS Travel & Expense New Module Training	23-25 October 2018
45.	Meeting of Practitioners on Energy and Environment for RBEC and RBA	22-26 October 2018
46.	Global ICT Workshop	22-26 October 2018
47.	Environmental Monitoring in the Black Sea Region Project Steering Committee Meeting	26 October 2018
48.	Addressing Gender Based Violence in Central Asa Workshop	5-6 November 2018
49.	UNDP - H&M Co-Design for Partnership Workshop	6 November 2018
50.	Regional Meeting on working with the International Finance Institutions in RBEC	7-8 November 2018
51.	Meeting to Present and Validate Tailor Toolkit on Anti-Corruption in Health Sector	12-14 November 2018
52.	PDA South Caucasus Media and Conflict/Peace Workshop	15 November 2018
53.	HIV, Health and Development Focal Points Meeting	23 November 2018
54.	Digital Economy Meeting	26 November 2018
55.	Data Innovations for Measuring Progress on SDG 16	26 November 2018
56.	Bangkok and Istanbul Hubs Innovation Teams Meeting	23-24 November 2018
57.	Istanbul Innovation Days #NextGenGov	27-29 November 2018
58.	ECIS Donors and Private Sector Engagement	29-30 November 2018
59.	Communications Team Social Media Strategy Training	30 November 2018
60.	Training on Programme and Project Management I	4 December 2018
61.	Global Workshop on Gender Equality Seal	11-13 December 2018
62.	Training on Programme and Project Management II	12 December 2018

2018 EVENTS ORGANIZED BY ISTANBUL REGIONAL HUB OUTSIDE IN EUROPE AND THE CIS

#	Event	Dates	Venue
1.	FutureMakers Evaluation Meeting, joint UNDP and UNV project	21-22 January 2018	Cairo, Egypt
2.	Data Innovation Project, Mid-Term Meeting	23-24 January 2018	Cairo, Egypt
3.	Regional War Crimes Project, Regional meeting of IMPS	26 January 2018	Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
4.	SEESAC High Level Conference on SALW	31 January-1 February 2018	Podgorica, Montenegro
5.	Technical Meeting of RWC SPO Focal Points	1 February 2018	Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
6.	Working Group Government of Tajikistan 'Counter-Terrorism' Conference	1-2 February 2018	Dushanbe, Tajikistan
7.	GANHRI – Central Asia NHRIs side event	22-23 February 2018	Geneva, Switzerland
8.	Central Asia 'Journey' Research expert meeting	19-21 March 2018	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
9.	Roma Survey Launch in the European Parliament and Roma week	9-13 April 2018	Brussels, Belgium
10.	Biennial Conference of National Preventive Mechanism (NPM)	26-27 April 2018	Astana, Kazakhstan
11.	Roma work: Dissemination Workshops	1-18 May 2018	Tirana, Albania Pristina, Kosovo* Skopje, FYR Macedonia Podgorica, Montenegro Belgrade, Serbia
	Regional GEF: KURA II Advancing IWRM Across the Kura River Basin - Project Board Meeting	10 – 11 May 2018	Baku, Azerbaijan
12.	Regional Project Meeting and Project Board Meeting of GEF/ Medical Waste Africa	12-15 May 2018	Zanzibar, Tanzania
13.	Open Cities Design Workshop	15-17 May 2018	Tbilisi, Georgia
14.	Regional Consultations on Rule of Law, Justice, Human Rights & Social Cohesion in South Caucasus & Western	17 – 18 May 2018	Kiev, Ukraine
15.	Regional Dialogue on NDCs	21-23 May 2018	Tbilisi, Georgia
16.	PDNA regional training for EE/SC	21-23 May 2018	Chisinau, Moldova
17.	Russia Trust Fund Steering Committee Meeting	22 May 2018	Moscow, Russian Federation
18.	Gender Equality and DRR Training	24-25 May 2018	Chisinau, Moldova
19.	OSLO 2 global UNDP event on preventive extremism	24-26 May 2018	Oslo, Norway
20.	GARD pre-assessment in South East Europe	4-8 June 2018	Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
21.	Open Government Partnership Global Summit	17-19 June 2018	Tbilisi, Georgia
22.	Czech Contribution to EDI - Final Board Meeting	27 June 2018	Prague, Czech Republic
23.	Regional Project Closure meeting of GEF/Ozone CEIT	3-6 July 2018	Tashkent, Uzbekistan
24.	RBEC Central Asia Sub-Regional Meeting & EU-UNDP Consultations	5-7 September 2018	Brussels, Belgium
25.	Round Table – Regional Cooperation on rule of law and human rights in Central Asia	6 September 2018	Brussels, UNDP Office, Belgium
26.	Symposium on Strengthening Legal Frameworks to Combat Wildlife Crime in Central and West Africa	11-12 September 2018	Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire
27.	Regional Research Conference on preventive extremism in Central Asia and Japan Project	12-14 September 2018	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

28.	Western Balkans Sub-regional meeting on SDGs	13-14 September 2018	Belgrade, Serbia
29.	Central Asian NHRIs professional staff networking and training on selected topic/CASI NHRI	16-17 September 2018	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
30.	South Caucasus CSO round table for Peace and Development Advisors	24 September 2018	Tbilisi, Georgia
31.	Business Integrity Seminar UNDP-OECD-EBRD	25-26 September 2018	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
32.	International Open Data Conference 2018	27-28 September	Buenos Aires, Argentina
33.	Kosovo* conflict analysis with Folke Bernadotte Academy	1 October 2018	Pristina, Kosovo
34.	Aid for Trade Project Board meeting	3 October 2018	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
35.	Regional consultations of National Human Rights Institutions of Central Asian Studies Institute	3-5 October 2018	Tashkent, Uzbekistan
36.	Regional Conference of Anti-Corruption Agencies	4-5 October 2018	Pristina, Kosovo
37.	Disaster Risk Reduction and SDGs Regional Knowledge Management event	8-9 October 2018	Tirana, Albania
38.	GEF Maritime Project Board Meeting	9 October 2018	London, UK
39.	Meeting on Smart Cities	11-12 October 2018	Venice
40.	UNDP side event - The future of Cities	10- 11 October 2018	Brussels, UNDP Office, Belgium
41.	Western CIS and Southern Caucasus Cluster Meeting and EU-UNDP Consultations	10-12 October 2018	Brussels, UNDP Office, Belgium
42.	The 2nd Regional Conference on Urban DRR within the framework of SEE Urban Project	15-17 October 2018	Skopje, fYR Macedonia
43.	Open Contracting Workshop	22 October 2018	Chisinau, Moldova
44.	Side event at UN World Data Forum	22-24 October 2018	Dubai, UAE
45.	Kosovo conflict analysis with Folke Bernadotte Academy	22-25 October 2018	Pristina, Kosovo
46.	Business Integrity Seminar	30-31 October 2018	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
47.	Addressing Gender Based Violence in Central Asia	5-6 November 2018	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
48.	Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) Commissions meeting	12-13 November 2018	Belgrade, Serbia
49.	Global Conference on Access to Legal Aid	13-15 November 2018	Tbilisi, Georgia
50.	South East Europe Firearms Expert Network (SEEFEN) meeting	20-21 November 2018	Budva, Montenegro
51.	Asia Forum on Human Rights	22-23 November 2018	Samarkand, Uzbekistan
52.	Public and Private Finance for Development Project Board Meeting	23 November 2018	Bratislava, Slovakia
53.	Governing the Future of Cities and Municipalities: Exploring Institutional Structures, Competencies and Standards for the 21st Century	4-5 December 2018	Tirana, Albania
54.	Western Balkans Sub-Regional Meeting and EU-UNDP Consultations	4-7 December 2018	Brussels, Belgium
55.	Regional Conference to highlight International Anti-Corruption Day 2018	10-11 December 2018	Tashkent
56.	Final ODA Partnership with Romania Project Board	13 December 2018	
57.	Elimination of Violence against Women and Gender-based Violence in St Helena	14 December 2018	St. Helena
58.	Reducing UPOPs and Mercury Releases from the Health Sector in Africa Project Board Meeting	14 December 2018	Cape Coast, Ghana
59.	Central Asia Workshop on Human Rights Education for National Human Rights Commissions	17-18 December 2018	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
60.	South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC) Project Board Meeting	20 December 2018	Belgrade, Serbia



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