

United Nations Development Programme



50
YEARS

Empowered lives. Resilient nations

People and Planet



50 years

of empowering lives and building resilient nations

Since 1966

UNDP Global—Our History

UNDP is 50 years. It was formed in January 1966 through the merger of two predecessor organizations: The Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and the UN Special Fund.



UNDP started as a provider of technical assistance and pre-investment services to strengthen state capacity and expand development potential. The organization was built around the idea that development required a judicious blend of external advice and resources and local knowledge, capacities, experiences, and needs.

UNDP sought to enlarge people's choices, and not simply expand economic growth. It emphasized enhancing the richness of human lives, treating economic growth as a means to human development, and not as an end in itself; the central role of women in development; the importance of associating sustainability with development; and the need for attention to governance and resilience.

UNDP has seen major shifts: from being a central funding source for specialized UN agencies to being a major implementer using primarily national systems; from contracting expertise to developing in-house capabilities in specific areas; from being relatively centralized to becoming a decentralized, flexible, and country-driven global network; and from working exclusively with governments to increasing collaboration with CSOs and the private sector. UNDP has thus become an agile global organization with strong local roots and sensitivities, longstanding relationships, and a deep pool of knowledge, experience, and expertise.

Today, UNDP works in nearly 170 countries and territories, helping to achieve the eradication of poverty, and the reduction of inequalities and exclusion; and to help countries to develop policies, leadership skills, partnering abilities, institutional capabilities and build resilience in order to sustain development results.

Our Work in Ghana

UNDP signed its Standard Basic Agreement with the Government of Ghana back in 1978. Since then, UNDP has accompanied Ghana through its transformation and quest for ensuring better living standards for its people.

In Ghana, UNDP supports national efforts and capacity building for sustainable human development in line with Ghana's development strategies.



Our work is organized around three programme clusters: Inclusive Growth and Development, Democratic Governance and Sustainable Development.



In all this, our work leverages the broader context of the UN Delivering as One and derives from the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), and is in line with the Ghana Shared Growth Development Agenda.

We encourage the protection of human rights and the empowerment of women, minorities and the poorest and most vulnerable.

UNDP's work in Ghana is focused on empowering lives and building a more resilient Ghana through eradicating extreme poverty, promoting gender equality, bridging inequality, promoting representation and participation in decision making at all levels and building credible national institutions.

Our Partners

UNDP is champion of the believe that co-operation for economic and social development is a practical working proposition. We are proud to have always been a close partner to the Government of Ghana and acknowledges its incredible support through the years, helping UNDP deliver on its mandate.

UNDP has also benefitted from strong partnerships with Development Partners (DPs), civil society, private sector as well as research and academia. In supporting Ghana implement the MDGs, UNDP worked as an integral part of the UN system Delivering As One (DAO). Under the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) UNDP seeks to work with the Government and other partners to monitor, learn, report and apply lessons learned in SDG implementation, building on the organization's experience with the MDGs.

Some of UNDP's flagship projects/programmes in Ghana include support for the establishment of Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA), Ghana Stock Exchange, Ghana Commodity Exchange, Kakum National Park, Ghana Tourism Training School, National Peace Council and the Ghana National Commission on Small Arms.

We have also supported the strengthening of Ghana's democratic dispensation and access to justice through the establishment of Legal Aid Centres in all regions. Additionally, UNDP has supported economic empowerment of women through micro-credit schemes and several livelihoods support programmes as well as Entrepreneurship training, EMPRETEC and Private Enterprise Foundation (PEF).

Our policy support has included the development of national and district human development reports, national statistics and data, which have promoted evidenced based planning and inclusive growth.

UNDP's biggest achievements in the past 50 years?

We have played a transformational role in reducing poverty, creating jobs, empowering women, protecting the environment and much more.



For 50 years, UNDP has been on the frontlines of development, building institutions, increasing resilience, helping countries implement reforms and coordinating the work of the UN system. UNDP has contributed to major development gains in many countries around the world.

UNDP's most important lessons learnt in the past five decades

Development, ultimately, is a marathon, not a sprint. Five decades at the frontline of development has put UNDP in a unique position. As the world's leading development organization working in nearly 170 countries, UNDP relies on building global partnerships between UN agencies, governments, DPs, civil society and private sector.

UNDP's coordination role ensures a coherent UN development system at country level. This has enabled us to continue connecting the dots in multiple areas, be it gender equality, crisis response, climate change or democratic governance, to name a few. It has also ensured that UNDP continues to represent those most in need, work effectively and transparently, and advance the cause of human and economic development.

Looking Forward: People, Planet and Prosperity

On the occasion of our 50th anniversary, UNDP is looking toward to the future of people and planet. That future is uncertain. On the one hand, climate change, political turbulence, economic inequality, and other challenges. On the other hand, technological advances, tremendous economic growth, and an unprecedented global consensus about the best way forward.

At UNDP, we are committed to finish the job we started 50 years ago, and end poverty once and for all. We imagine a world where all people prosper, societies are more inclusive, and the planet is protected from the worst effects of climate change. We want to leave no one behind. This is the agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals, also known as Agenda 2030, and it's what guides our work for the next 15 years.

Agenda 2030 is the most ambitious effort on development in world history. UNDP is prepared to lead the way to achieve this global agenda.

We will connect the dots and integrate diverse efforts internationally, such as on health, energy, work and climate—so that we're advancing development on all fronts.

We'll constantly look for multiplier effects that yield big benefits—such as our work on women's and girls' education, which advances life in other areas, such as health and governance. And we'll identify points where we can accelerate our progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. The final result: a more prosperous, fair, and inclusive world for all. This is a job not just for the poor countries or the rich countries. Not only for the people or their leaders. It's a shared vision of the future of humanity.

To remain a trusted and relevant partner to deliver on our mandate and the SDGs, UNDP has undergone some reforms and restructuring. This has repositioned us as a transparent and accountable organisation, able to deliver quality results effectively and efficiently.



Postal address

P. O. Box 1423
Accra-Ghana

Tel: +233 (0) 302 215 670

Fax: +233 (0) 302 773 899

E-mail: registry-gh@undp.org



www.gh.undp.org



UNDP-Ghana



@UNDPGhana



UNDP Ghana