



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

LEVERAGING CHANGE FOR BETTER LIVES:

UNDP in Asia and the Pacific
(2008 - 2012)



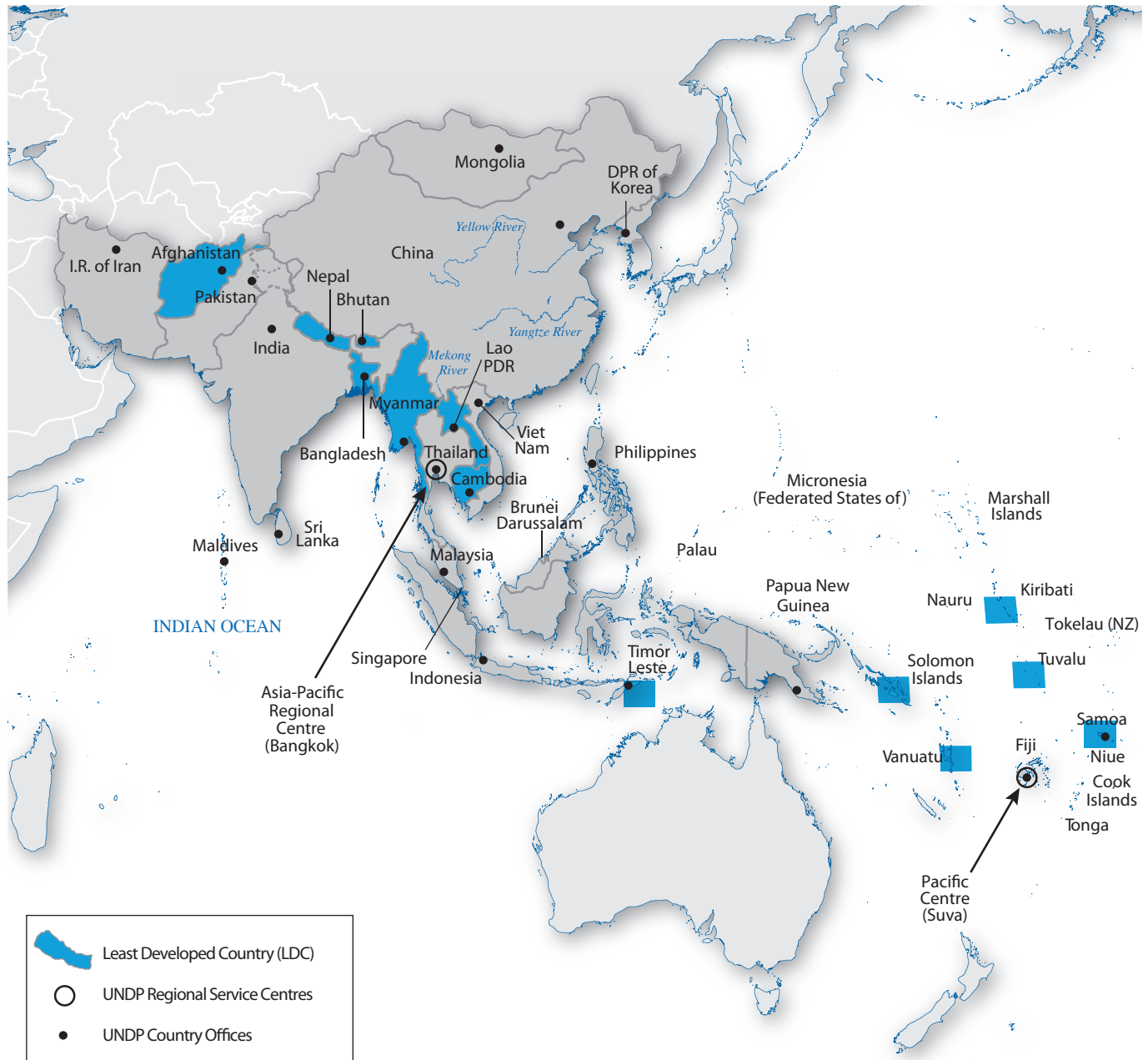
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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I am indebted to colleagues in other Bureaus for their contributions to the report. These include the UNDP – Global Environment Facility and the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery who provided advice on the relevant sections of the publication. The Executive Office Operations Support Group provided invaluable support through the Results Oriented Annual Report Tool and advice in the interpretation of results. Last but not least, thanks are also due to the Communications Office for their advice on the production and dissemination of the publication.

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FIGURE 1: UNDP IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Jammu and Kashmir: Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

Sources: UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS), 2012.
Boundaries from FAO GAUL 2009
Map projection: Winkel Tripel

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR	
FOREWORD	
I. EMPOWERED LIVES, RESILIENT NATIONS	8
II. SIGNATURE APPROACHES AND ACHIEVEMENTS	18
GREATER FOCUS AND QUALITY OF COUNTRY PROGRAMMES	19
SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIPS: CONNECTING COUNTRIES AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE	20
Case Study: An Effective Approach for Improving Service Delivery at Provincial and District Levels in Papua New Guinea	24
III. TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE	28
a. POVERTY REDUCTION AND MDGS	28
Case Study: Guaranteeing Jobs for the Rural Poor in India	32
b. BUILDING DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE	34
Case Study: Improving the Quality of Public Administration in Viet Nam	40
c. BUILDING RESILIENCE AND RESPONDING TO CRISIS	42
Case Study: Saving Lives and Supporting Livelihoods Ravaged by UXO in Lao PDR	48
d. CONSERVING NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY	50
Case Study: Giving the Green Light to Energy Efficiency in China	56
IV. MOVING FORWARD	58
V. RESOURCES	60
SELECTED PUBLICATIONS	62
ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	63
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	65

FIGURES

Figure 1: UNDP in the Asia-Pacific Region	
Figure 2A: Extreme Poverty Rate and Income Status 2000	6
Figure 2B: Extreme Poverty Rate and Income Status 2012	7
Figure 3A: Human Development Index 2000	10
Figure 3B: Human Development Index 2012	11
Figure 4: Gender Inequality Index 2012	13
Figure 5: UNDP Total Expenditure in Asia-Pacific by Focus Area 2008 - 2012	14
Figure 6: UNDP Expenditure in Asia-Pacific in LICs and MICs by Focus Area 2008 - 2012	15
Figure 7: Timeline of Events	16
Figure 8: Country Outcome Status according to adoption of a Scaling-Up Approach	20
Figure 9: UNDP-Supported Policy Processes Underway in 2012	26
Figure 10: The Asia-Pacific Share of the Developing World's Deprived People	31
Figure 11: Average Number of People Affected and Killed per Disaster in Asia-Pacific	46
Figure 12: Emission Savings in Asia-Pacific as a result of UNDP-supported GEF-financed projects	51
Figure 13: Protected Areas supported by UNDP through GEF-financed projects	52
Figure 14: Donor Funding to UNDP Asia-Pacific Programmes 2008 - 2012	60
Figure 15: Funding to UNDP Asia-Pacific Programmes 2008-2012	61
Figure 16: UNDP Expenditure in Asia-Pacific by Focus Area and Year (excluding Afghanistan)	61

BOXES

Box 1: Fostering a Turning Point for Gender Equality	9
Box 2: A Focus on Development Effectiveness	12
Box 3: On the Ground for Reform in Myanmar	19
Box 4: Addressing Governance and Conflict Prevention Across the Pacific	22
Box 5: Supporting the Critical Transition in Afghanistan	36



LETTER FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

I am pleased to introduce 'Leveraging Change for Better Lives: UNDP in Asia and the Pacific (2008-2012)', a synthesis of results achieved in the region pursuant to UNDP's Strategic Plan 2008-2012.

The Asia - Pacific region is both dynamic and diverse, covering 37 countries and territories. Tremendous progress in economic and human development has been achieved in recent years. Ensuring that this progress in economic and human development continues and benefits all peoples will be critical to eliminating poverty and reducing inequality within the region.

This publication shows how UNDP has contributed to transformational change in people's lives in Asia and the Pacific. UNDP has delivered US\$5.7 billion in programmes between 2008 and 2012 to achieve the mutual aspirations of partner governments and donors in UNDP's four focus areas of poverty reduction and the MDGs, democratic governance, crisis prevention and recovery and environment and sustainable development. Promoting gender equality is a cross-cutting theme of our work.

The achievements described in this publication illustrate the importance of partnerships and South-South Cooperation for the achievement of sustainable and transformational change. They also show how UNDP uses its downstream experience to inform upstream policy work. Many of the examples in the publication describe how UNDP has worked with governments and other partners to convert successful pilots into larger scale change. Through the results charted in data, maps and graphs, this publication is testament to the importance of focused and evidence-based programming aligned with the interests of the countries that UNDP serves.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Helen Clark
UNDP Administrator



FOREWORD

Asia and the Pacific's unparalleled economic performance overall in the past decade has resulted in dramatically decreased levels in poverty. Already, the region has reached the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of halving poverty by 2015. As the maps on the following pages show, eight countries of the region have moved from low-income to middle-income between 2000 and 2011. Looking back over the last five years, to when UNDP embarked on its Strategic Plan 2008-2012, it is clear that the region has continued to progress on human development (Figure 2A and B). In fact, in the last decade the annual growth in human development has been higher for Asia-Pacific than any other region worldwide, according to the Human Development Report 2013. Similarly, as a sign of the region's growing maturity and resilience on the economic front, Asia-Pacific weathered the impact of the financial and economic crises of 2007-2008 relatively well.

At the same time, the sustainability, quality and inclusiveness of rapid growth, combined with persistent income, social and gender disparities, continue to be critical development challenges. With these challenges in mind, the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (RBAP) has placed special emphasis on three emerging issues over the past five years: gender equality, social protection and climate change, while working within the UNDP themes of poverty reduction and the MDGs; democratic governance; crisis prevention and recovery; and environment and sustainable development. The Bureau

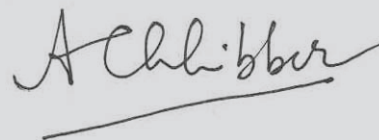
has engaged in pioneering work in these areas through the earmarking of programme funds to Country Offices, as well as through regional knowledge products such as the Regional Human Development Reports on gender (2010) and climate change (2012), and the United Nations Development Group report on social protection (2010). It also has identified and promoted innovative country-level programmes and projects on these priority areas through the bestowing of annual awards. More recently, the management of extractive industries for human development likewise has emerged as an important development issue relevant to the region's resource-rich countries.

In 2011 the Bureau developed its "Good to Great" Plan to articulate further the Agenda for Organizational Change developed by the Administrator in 2010. The Bureau has proactively supported the change agenda to ensure UNDP's continued relevance in a fast-changing environment in the region. A particular organizational priority within this Plan has been to support South-South partnerships and to work with newly emergent middle-income countries (MICs) as they become global development actors. Through agreements such as UNDP's strategic partnerships with China, India and Indonesia, as well as establishment of a Global Centre for Public Service Excellence in Singapore and International Centre on Human Development in New Delhi, Asia-Pacific countries can offer other countries learning from their experience and a basis for stronger cooperation.

The improvement of programme quality for deeper and more lasting development impact has represented a further priority. UNDP has brought greater focus to its programmes and projects, reducing their number, increasing their size and ensuring their alignment with national priorities. UNDP also has adopted a scaling-up approach to improve programme quality, allocating more funds to initiatives that have the potential to achieve greater impact. As more countries in the region graduate to middle-income status and demand policy services, the Bureau has likewise strengthened its technical and advisory capacity. The provision of quality support and advice for Country Programme Documents (CPDs) and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) continued as a priority function and has helped to achieve more strategic results.

Finally, we are delighted that with the recent approval of a regular Country Programme for Myanmar, UNDP and Myanmar have opened a new chapter of partnership during a period of rapid change (Box 3).

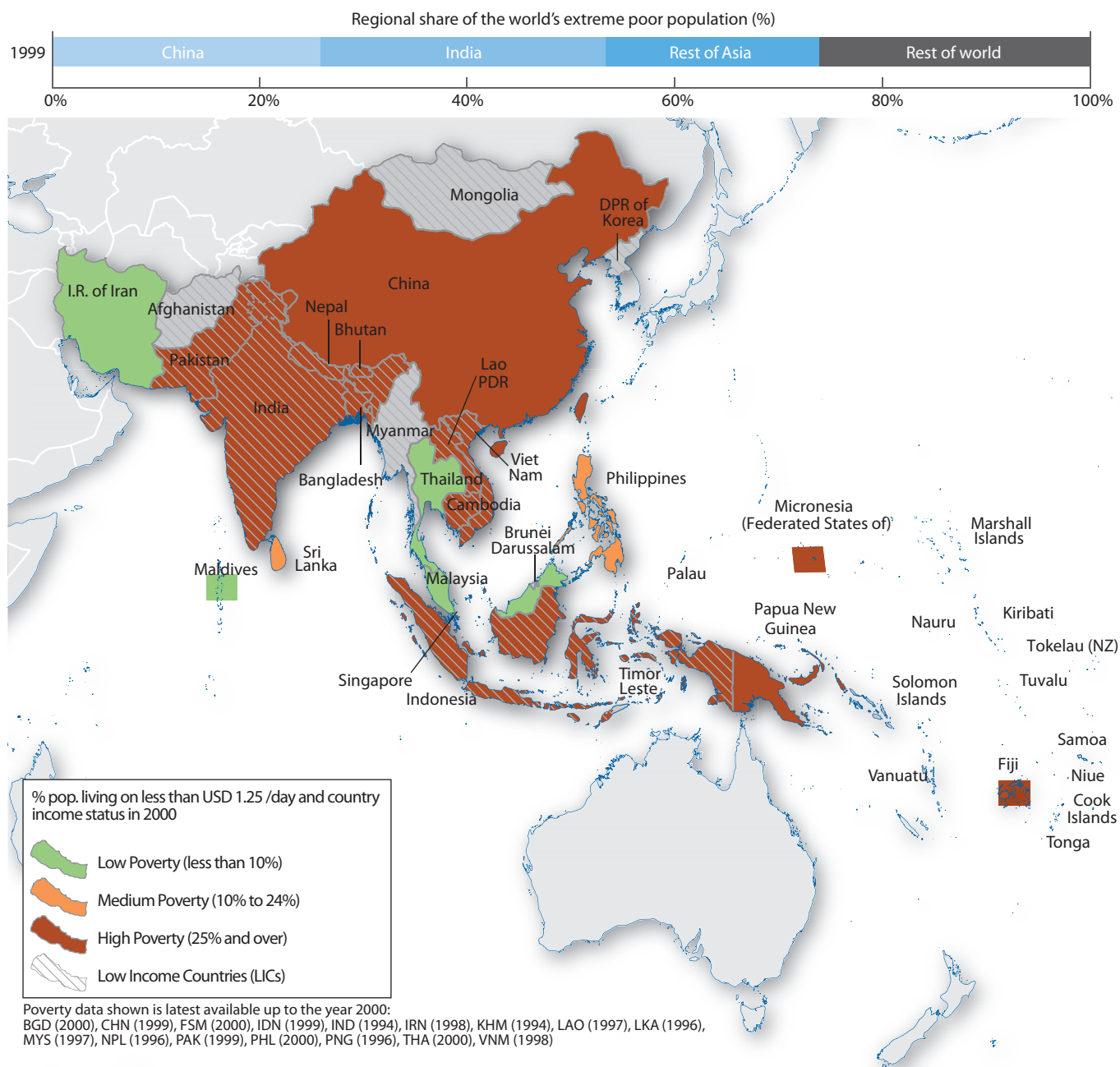
In this publication you will find a selection of development results from UNDP's programmes and projects in Asia and the Pacific. Although much remains to be done, these examples illustrate that poverty can be eradicated in our lifetime.



Ajay Chhibber
*UN Assistant Secretary-General
UNDP Assistant Administrator and
Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific*

2000

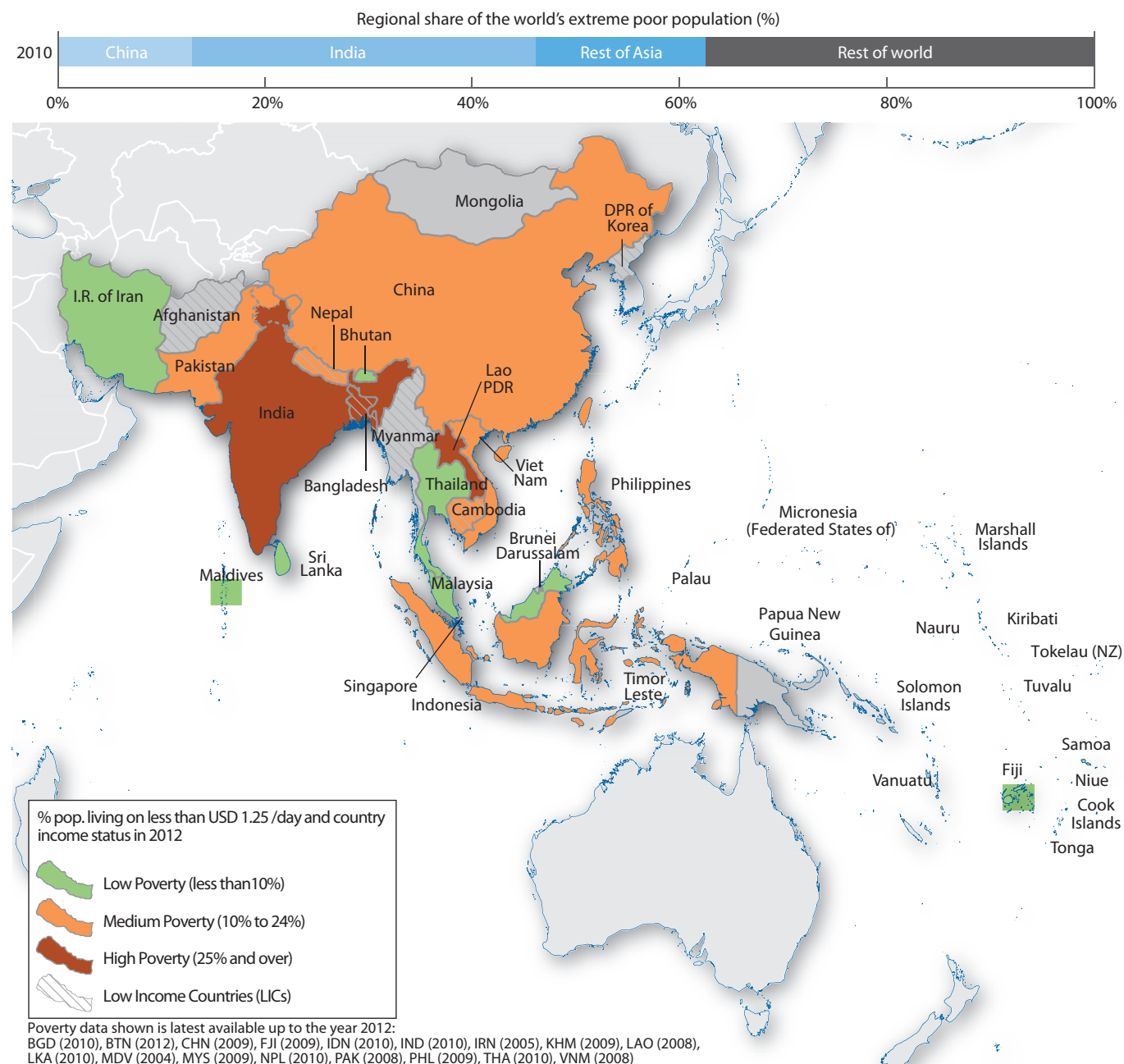
FIGURE 2A: EXTREME POVERTY RATE AND INCOME STATUS



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Jammu and Kashmir: Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

Sources: Poverty data and income classification from World Bank World Development Indicators database: data.worldbank.org
 Boundaries from FAO GAUL 2009
 Map projection : Winkel Tripel

FIGURE 2B: EXTREME POVERTY RATE AND INCOME STATUS



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Sources: Poverty data and income classification from World Bank World Development Indicators database: data.worldbank.org
 Boundaries from FAO GAUL 2009
 Map projection : Winkel Tripel



UNDP in Cambodia conducts a training on gender-responsive budgeting with government officials to increase awareness on its importance for sustainable economic growth. UNDP Cambodia

I. EMPOWERED LIVES, RESILIENT NATIONS

The Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific has 24 Country Offices as well as Regional Service Centres in Bangkok and Suva, covering 37 countries and territories (Figure 1). From the world's most populous nation to the smallest island territory, UNDP in Asia-Pacific draws inspiration from the resilience of the people in the region. It builds on

trust, and a long-term commitment to work with people and their governments to find solutions that work for each country and each community, to design sustainable development interventions, and to foster lasting recovery from disasters or armed conflict. UNDP's strategic approaches and results between 2008 and 2012, which are

highlighted in this Five Year Report, thus reflect this commitment and the vision of human development to enlarge people's choices, in a region where human development has continued to strengthen between 2000 and 2012 (Figure 3A and B).

BOX 1: FOSTERING A TURNING POINT FOR GENDER EQUALITY

As a core regional priority for UNDP in Asia-Pacific, gender equality and women's empowerment is central to the organization's commitment to reduce poverty and vulnerability and contribute to sustainable pro-poor growth and human development.

The 2010 Asia-Pacific Human Development Report (APHDR), *Power, Voice and Rights: A Turning Point for Gender Equality in Asia and the Pacific*, argues that empowering women is vital for achieving development goals as well as for boosting economic growth and sustainable development. The APHDR 2010 has made conceptual contributions to improving measurement of gender equality and introduced several innovative indicators for measuring gender gaps in areas such as employment, inheritance laws, marital property rights in case of divorce, nationality laws, gender-based violence and paternity laws. It draws upon quantitative data when available and case studies, stories and individual and group contributions to create a holistic report on the complex dimensions of gender equality in the region.

The Report has stimulated high-level dialogues by political and government leaders. A total of 17 countries in the region launched the APHDR in a series of events and high-level policy dialogues. In Malaysia, the Report's findings on the male-female wage gap were used as a basis for discussion by the Finance Ministry in response to questions by the country's parliamentarians' on the issue. In Cambodia, the Report was launched and discussed

at the second annual Parliamentarians Forum on MDGs; both English and Khmer versions were disseminated.

The APHDR 2010 also has informed development projects. In Malaysia, a UNDP project was developed to support the formulation of national policies and programmes to increase and retain the participation of women in the labour force. The report found that Malaysian women who work earn only \$0.42 for every \$1 earned by men – the lowest among all ASEAN countries. Meanwhile, UNDP Viet Nam launched a project on women's property rights that was informed by the Report's analysis.

Likewise, the APHDR 2010 has informed UNDP's regional work on gender. The UNDP Asia-Pacific Regional Centre (APRC) developed the Gender Operational Note based on the Report. This served as the conceptual basis for a new Gender Equality Fund for UNDP's Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, with an allocation of US\$500,000 from its regional programme for action-oriented policy, advocacy and programme initiatives.

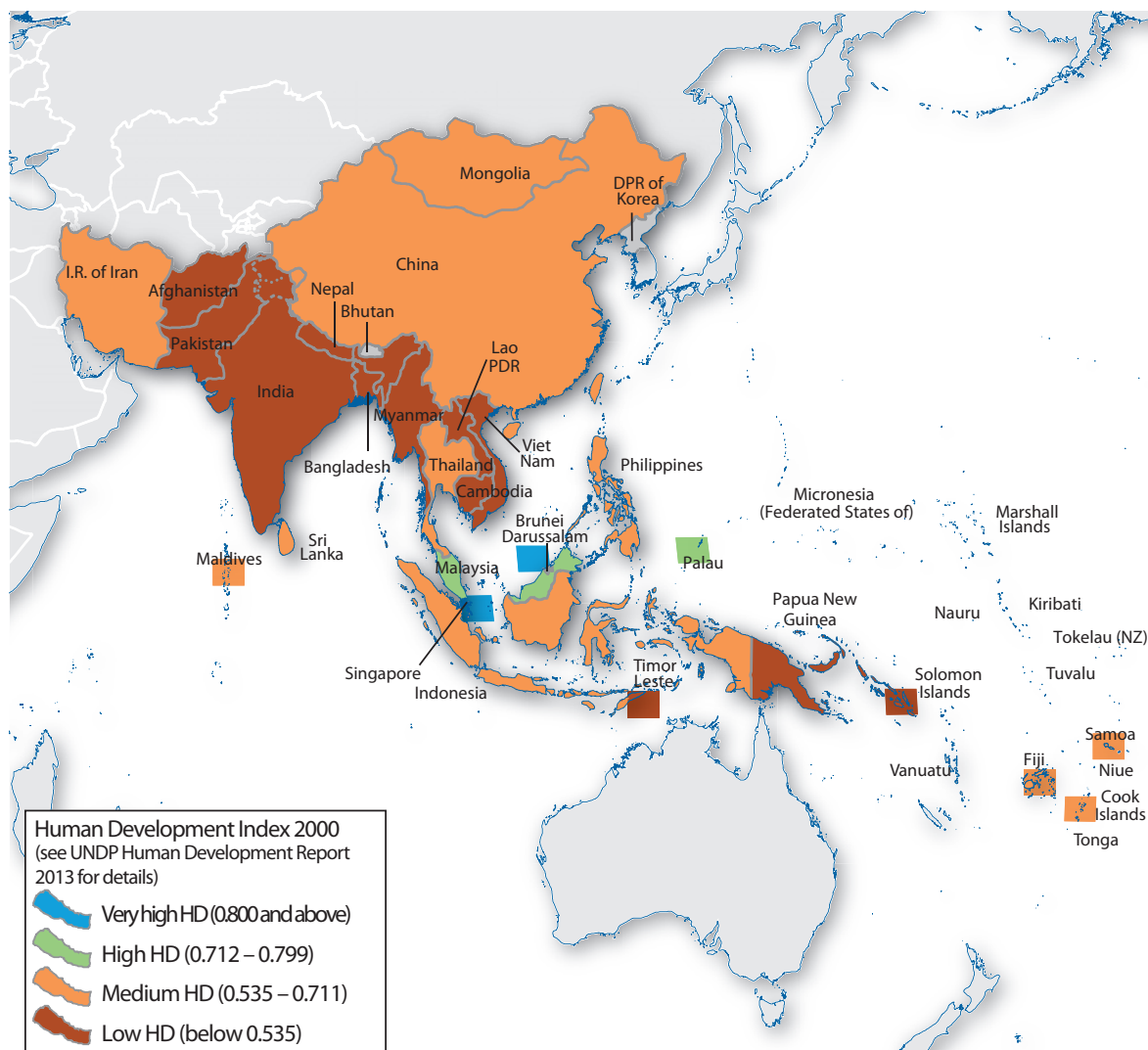
Lastly, the APHDR 2010 informed the work of development partners. In 2011, the Report's findings informed recommendations by a United Nations expert group meeting for sub-regional cooperation and national actions relating to institutional strengthening of national women's mechanisms in South and South West Asia. In addition, Asian Development Bank officials have widely noted the APHDR in their work.

2000

FIGURE 3A: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

Sources:
UNDP Human
Development
Report 2013.
Boundaries from
FAO GAUL 2009
Map projection:
Winkel Tripel

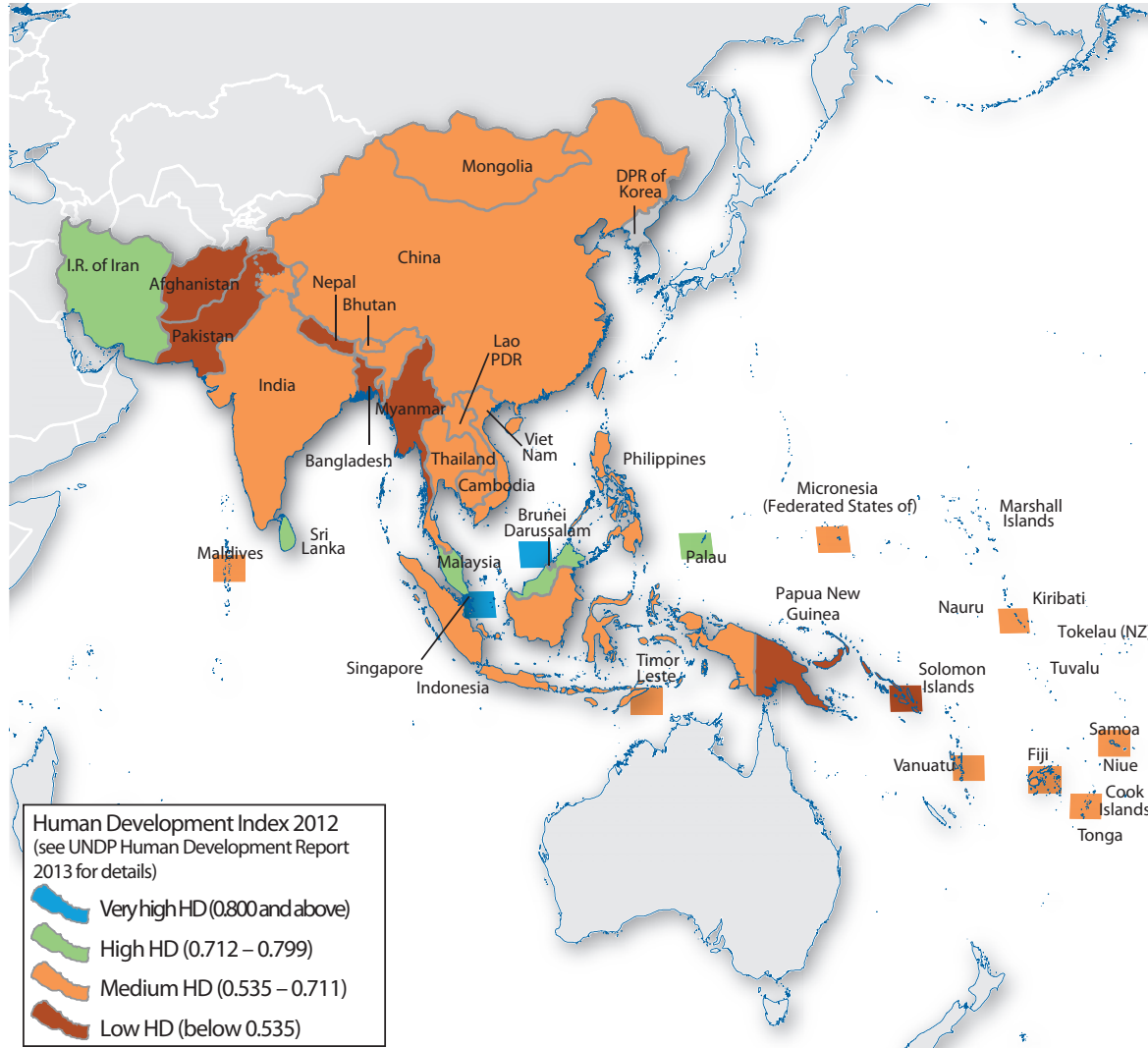
Cut-offs for Human
Development
classifications used
in the 2013 Human
Development
Report were
applied to both
2012 and 2000
maps.



Yet it is critical to understand the challenging context in which these results occurred: six years ago the global food, fuel and financial crises hit, which slowed the notable acceleration of economic growth and poverty reduction across Asia and the Pacific and sharply affected vulnerable populations in particular. Still home

to almost two-thirds of the world's extreme poor (Figure 2A and B), people lacking access to basic sanitation and underweight children, the region is thus at a development crossroads: it has achieved an "economic miracle" – but not yet a "human development miracle."

FIGURE 3B: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX



Sources:
UNDP Human Development Report 2013.
Boundaries from FAO GAUL 2009
Map projection: Winkel Tripel

Cut-offs for Human Development classifications used in the 2013 Human Development Report were applied to both 2012 and 2000 maps.

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As part of this, income inequality has risen in many Asia-Pacific countries, even as gender inequality and other forms of non-income inequalities, such as unequal access to and quality of education, health, drinking water and sanitation, remain important challenges. For example, the map shows considerable range

in gender inequality across the region, with South and West Asia standing out as particularly unequal (Figure 4). While the UNDP Asia-Pacific Regional Human Development Report on Gender Equality showed that many women have benefited from improved education, health and prosperity, their continued exclusion

BOX 2: A FOCUS ON DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS

Since the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF3) in 2008, UNDP's Asia-Pacific Regional Centre (APRC) has been pivotal in improving the quality and impact of international assistance in the region. After consultations with 34 countries, UNDP established a Capacity Development for Development Effectiveness (CDDE) Facility in partnership with the Asian Development Bank. This has helped to support countries to develop important aid policies between governments and development partners, including the Joint Cooperation Strategy for Bangladesh and the Jakarta Commitments in Indonesia. It also has:

- Assisted in the reform or establishment of aid coordination structures such as the Aid Effectiveness Forum in Viet Nam and the Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum process
- Supported budget and public financial management reform to strengthen management on the critical issue of climate finance, including the establishment of relevant tracking systems in seven countries
- Established a knowledge platform (www.aideffectiveness.org) for sharing experience and expertise across countries in the region. Eventually, the site was funded by the Republic of Korea as the official website for HLF4 in 2011.
- Been replicated in Africa under the Africa Platform for Development Effectiveness (APDev), with discussions under way for a similar facility in Latin America
- Mobilized US\$1.2 million from regional investments of US\$0.2 million

threatens social cohesion, as does exclusion of marginalized groups and communities (Box 1). In addition, corruption and the lack of transparency and accountability of public institutions persist in undermining democratic institutions and fair elections.

Despite much progress in environmental protection, the region is also losing the productivity of its land, its seas, and its ecosystems. Data have shown that the region is depleting natural assets at an unsustainable rate: water scarcity

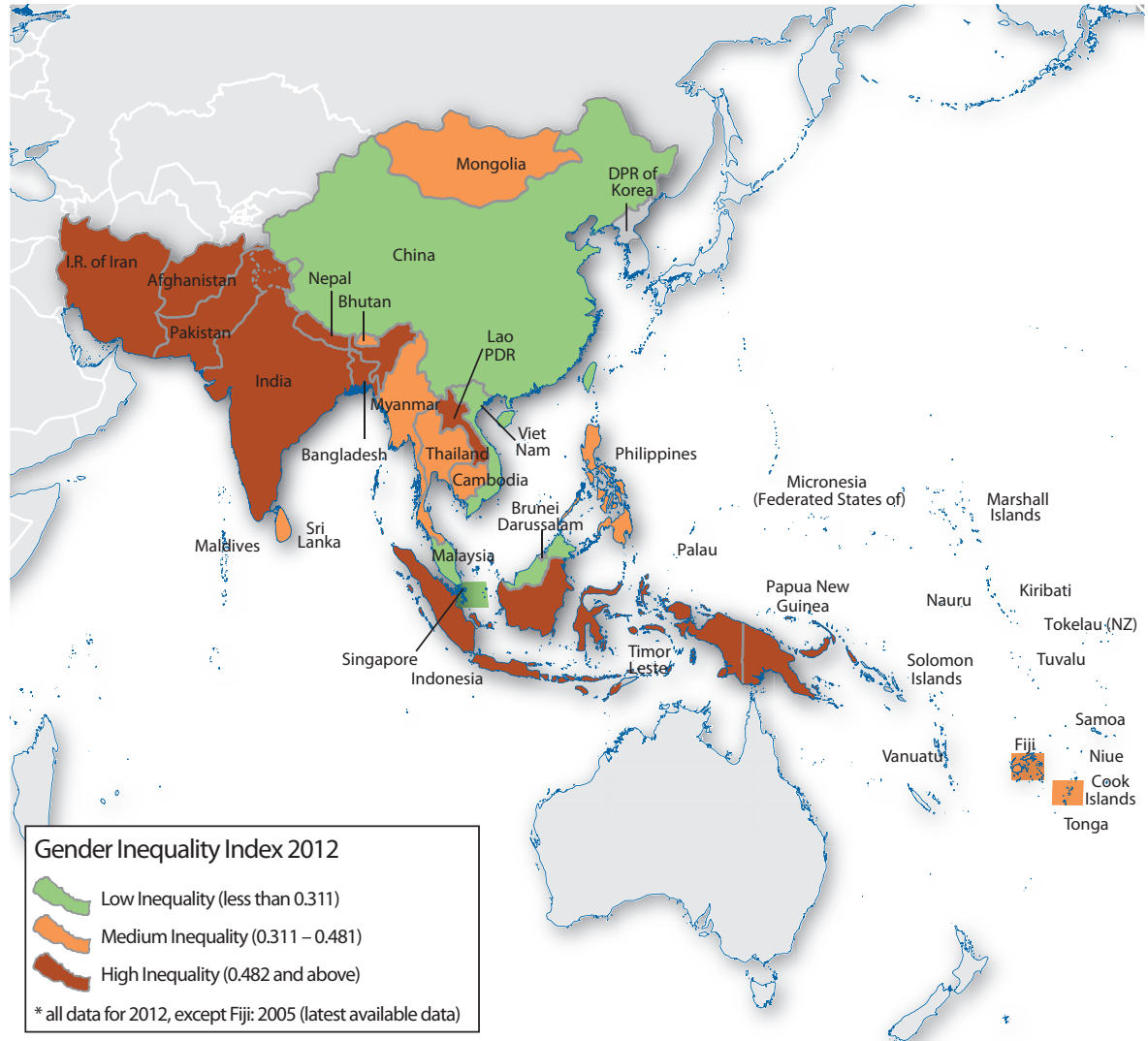
is increasing; tropical forests are shrinking; and climate change is worsening these threats. The risk of natural disasters, also exacerbated by climate change as well as economic shocks, adds to existing vulnerabilities. In the past decade, the Asia-Pacific region accounted for about three-fourths of global casualties from natural disasters. Rising sea levels threaten the very existence of small islands states, while the melting of Himalaya glaciers will pose a serious challenge for many countries. The frequency and intensity of these natural

disasters, coupled with rapid urbanization, make more inclusive and green economic development imperative for the region.

The scale of these development challenges has translated into three thematic priorities for the region for UNDP. As a growing number of Asian countries achieve or move toward middle-income status, the first priority is the quality of this growth, ensuring that it is inclusive and that inequalities (gender, urban-rural, regional, ethnic) are curbed. This requires using innovative ways to

FIGURE 4: GENDER INEQUALITY INDEX 2012

Sources:
UNDP Human
Development
Report 2013.
Boundaries from
FAO GAUL 2009
Map projection:
Winkel Tripel

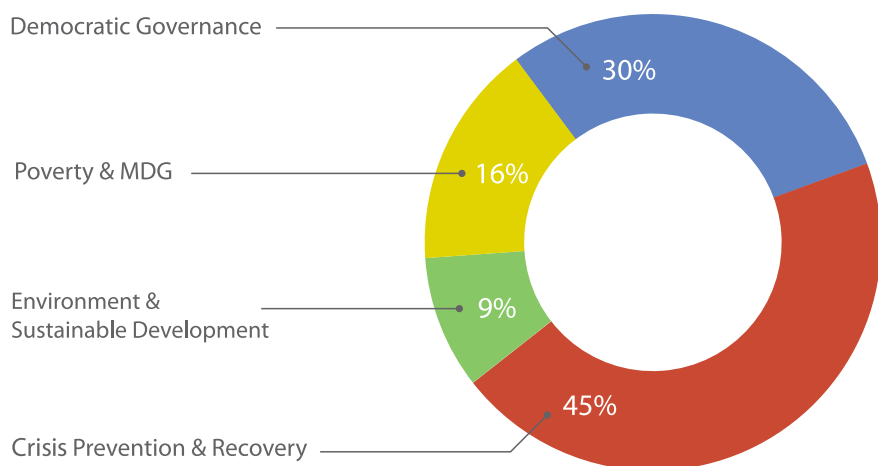


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create jobs for the most deprived populations and increase their control over assets. Improving access to social protection schemes also is proving crucial to support poverty reduction amid a large informal economy and growing dependency ratios of youth and aging populations alike.

Ensuring that economic growth is sustained also requires addressing climate change, the second regional priority for UNDP in Asia-Pacific. Countries in the region have been supported to change the way they manufacture goods, raise crops and livestock, and generate energy, by moving to more resilient and lower-emission

FIGURE 5: UNDP TOTAL EXPENDITURE IN ASIA- PACIFIC BY FOCUS AREA 2008 -2012



Source: UNDP ROAR database 2012

systems and technologies that sustain the environment but also offer income-earning opportunities for the poor. Importance also is given to the identification of policies that can minimize the detrimental impact of natural disasters on the poorest and build disaster preparedness/ risk reduction and management capacities and systems.

A third regional priority is strengthening democratic governance institutions that are inclusive of young people, women and ethnic and religious groups, not only because this helps advance human development but also because it can prevent violent conflict. In fragile states as well as those experiencing special development situations,

UNDP prioritizes support to human security, rule of law and access to justice, reconciliation and economic revival. Improving women's economic and political participation and combating gender-based violence represent pressing concerns. Addressing economic and political constraints is expected to help prevent increasing hunger and malnutrition, which is likely to be central to the post-2015 development agenda.

The main focus of UNDP's work in the region has been to improve livelihoods and reduce poverty. This has been done directly through programmes on poverty and the MDGs, which comprised 16 percent of total expenditure. In addition, the work on crisis prevention

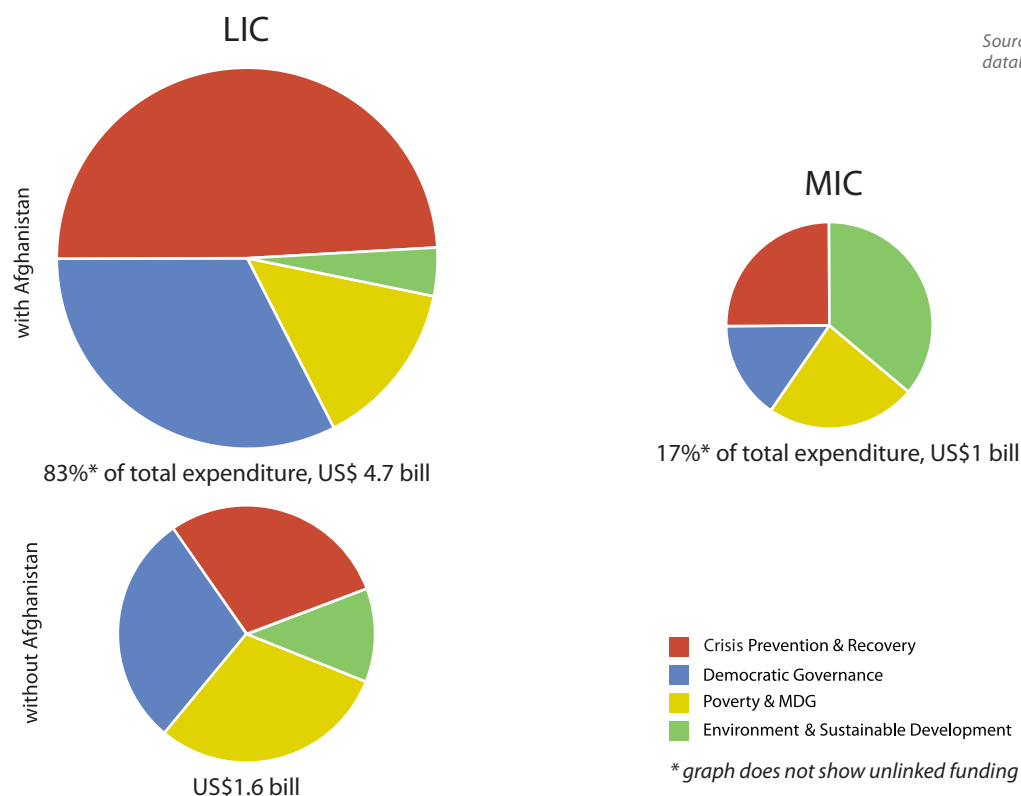
and recovery, which comprised 45 percent of expenditure, and environment and sustainable development, which comprised nine percent of expenditure, built resilience to ensure that people did not fall back into poverty. UNDP's governance work, which comprised 30 percent of expenditures, supported the better delivery of services to under-served populations and the reduction of corruption, as corruption hurts the poor the most (Figure 5).

In these four areas, UNDP in Asia-Pacific delivered US\$5.7 billion in programmes between 2008 and 2012 to achieve the mutual aspirations of partner governments and donors. In Afghanistan alone, which accounts for 54 percent of UNDP's Asia-Pacific cumulative programme expenditures, US\$3.09 billion was spent toward building democratic governance and crisis prevention and enabling post-crisis recovery. Eighty-three percent of total UNDP expenditures in the region have taken place in LICs (Figure 6).

In addition, UNDP coordinates United Nations efforts in developing countries to avoid overlapping and duplication of programmes among different United Nations Agencies, and provides strong support to overall development aid effectiveness (Box 2). At the level of individual countries, this occurs through participation in common country programming as well as by sharing of resources. At the global and regional levels,

FIGURE 6: UNDP EXPENDITURE IN ASIA-PACIFIC IN LICs AND MICs BY FOCUS AREA 2008 - 2012

Source: UNDP ROAR database 2012



UNDP chairs the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), which aims to develop common planning policies, tools and strategies. Together with other UNDG Agencies, UNDP prepared 21 UNDAFs, or their equivalents, with governments in the region during 2008-2012, and worked with other Agencies to strategically re-position the United Nations as a whole to move towards partnership agreements in several MICs (such as Thailand and Indonesia) as well as to drive forward the Delivering as One agenda (Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Vietnam and Bhutan). This has been complemented by an increased focus on United Nations coherence in fragile states and those in transition such as Timor-Leste and Afghanistan, as

well as a multi-country UNDAF covering the Pacific Island countries.

Lastly, UNDP also plays a key intellectual leadership role in re-thinking approaches to development across Asia and the Pacific. Through regional and national Human Development Reports and other thematic reports, UNDP has played a crucial role in raising awareness on critical issues such as corruption, gender equality and climate change. Since 2004, it also has worked with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) and the Asian Development Bank on action-oriented Asia-Pacific Regional MDG Reports, which measure MDG progress.

FIGURE 7: TIMELINE OF EVENTS

JAKARTA
12 JUNE 2007



UNDP launches the Regional HDR "Tackling Corruption, Transforming Lives: Accelerating Human Development in Asia and the Pacific."

NEW DELHI
8 MARCH 2010

UNDP launches the 2010 Asia-Pacific Human Development Report, "Power, Voice and Rights: A Turning Point for Gender Equality in Asia and the Pacific."



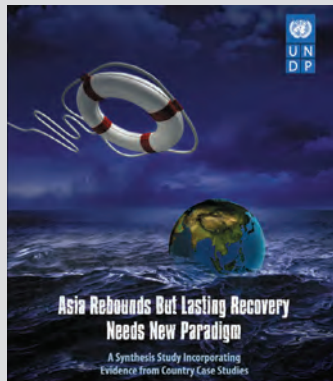
NEW YORK
22 SEPTEMBER 2010



UNDP and the Government of China sign an MOU on strengthened cooperation.

2007

SINGAPORE
30 NOVEMBER 2009



Launch of UNDP's "Global Financial Crisis and the Asia-Pacific Region: A Synthesis Study Incorporating Evidence from Country Case Studies".

THIMPHU
15 SEPTEMBER 2010

A UNDP book, "Beyond the Ballot Box," is launched based on a 2009 Regional Conference on Deepening and Sustaining Democracy in Asia, which gathered representatives of 12 countries from Asia.



BANGKOK
12 MARCH 2011

Hard Rain, produced by DevTV with UNDP support, is a two-part independent production on climate change and human development in Asia and the Pacific.

ULAANBAATAR
20 OCTOBER 2011



The Government of Mongolia and UNDP co-organize a high-level international conference on "Avoiding the Resource Curse: Managing Extractive Industries for Human Development."

NEW YORK
21 SEPTEMBER 2011



An MOU is signed between the Government of Indonesia and the UNDP Administrator on the creation of a coordination office on the REDD+ initiative.

JAKARTA
10 MAY 2012

UNDP launches 2011-2012 Asia-Pacific Human Development Report, "One Planet to Share," with the President of Indonesia, Dr. H. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.



NEW YORK
28 JANUARY 2013

UNDP Executive Board approves a normal Country Programme for Myanmar after 20 years.



NEW DELHI
4 JANUARY 2013

The newly established International Centre for Human Development is officially launched with the inaugural address by Prof. Amartya Sen.

NEW DELHI
14 MARCH 2012

UNDP and the Government of India sign a Partnership Framework Agreement



HOUSTON
23 APRIL 2012



The UNDP documentary "Revealed: The Himalayan Meltdown" wins the top prize at the 45th Annual Worldfest International Film Festival.

NEW YORK
28 SEPTEMBER 2012

The Partnership Framework is signed between the Government of Indonesia and UNDP.

SINGAPORE
2 JULY 2012



UNDP and the Government of Singapore jointly establish a Global Centre for Public Service Excellence.

2013



As part of UNDP's effort to support women's economic empowerment in Pakistan and in partnership with the private sector, almost 8,700 women were trained in textiles and employed by the garment industry in Faisalabad. CREDIT: Marta Ramoneda/UNDP

II. SIGNATURE APPROACHES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

UNDP's work can be characterized in three ways: (1) awareness-raising, which not only helps to broaden understanding and change attitudes but also encompasses brokering and convening partnerships; (2) policy advice; and (3) implementation of projects and programmes. In 2012,

one-quarter of UNDP's country-level outcomes in the region supported awareness-raising; of these, for example, 60 percent contributed to measurable positive changes in attitudes related to gender inequalities. Almost half of UNDP's country-level outcomes contributed

to policymaking, through support to assessment, planning, budgeting, and policymaking or legislative processes. A further one-fourth of interventions were focused on implementation of projects and programmes, primarily to improve the delivery of public services to vulnerable or marginalized groups.

BOX 3: ON THE GROUND FOR REFORM IN MYANMAR

Between 1993 and 2012, UNDP directed its programming in Myanmar to the grassroots level, working with communities and civil society and focusing on strengthening the institutional capacities of more than 8,000 community-based groups to make them self-reliant. UNDP's approach also built the groups' capacity to represent community interests and needs of some three million people. Group members were trained on organizational and financial management, including managing group-owned revolving funds to sustain them after the end of UNDP support. By the end of 2012, 79 percent of the groups were assessed as having achieved self-reliance. UNDP also provided microfinance services to more than 450,000 clients across the country, and contributed to poverty reduction and enhanced food security of poor rural households through agricultural

interventions: About 162,000 people achieved a ten percent yield increase in paddy and oil seeds, 97,000 people achieved a 25 percent increase in income from livestock raising, and 142,000 people had at least three additional food-secure months from food banks. In addition, after Cyclone Nargis in 2008, UNDP helped more than 650,000 people recover through support to livelihoods and rebuilding of community infrastructure.

From 2013, UNDP will expand its mandate and provide policy advice and capacity building support to the Government's reform agenda, helping local governments establish more effective and inclusive development planning and service delivery mechanisms. UNDP also will support institutional development of the Parliament, judiciary, civil service and other key governance institutions.

Two approaches define how UNDP in Asia-Pacific has worked to achieve development results in UNDP's four thematic areas.

GREATER FOCUS AND QUALITY OF COUNTRY PROGRAMMES

To deepen its development impact, UNDP in Asia-Pacific has continued to improve its programme quality by increasing the focus and alignment of projects with a country's strategic interests. Sharpening the focus of Country Programmes has been vital, through a reduction of expected

total outcomes by 17 percent since 2008. Projects that were once scattered have been consolidated; numbers have decreased even more, by 35 percent, even as project size has risen by 15 percent.

In all, UNDP has demonstrated success in piloting and innovation, often in the most challenging contexts, but could do more to systematically convert these pilots into larger-scale change. A Scaling-Up Scan of seven Asia-Pacific countries in 2012 showed a significant degree of awareness of the scaling-up agenda but

concluded that more could be done. Scaling up can happen in three different ways, through mainstreaming into government planning and budgeting to affect the entire population (Figure 9); by taking ongoing successful pilots to a larger scale; and by transferring knowledge from one part of the country to another, or from one country to another. For example, in Timor-Leste, the successful Bolsa da Mae cash transfer scheme was replicated from Latin America with facilitation by Brazil's International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth. To more strategically promote all of

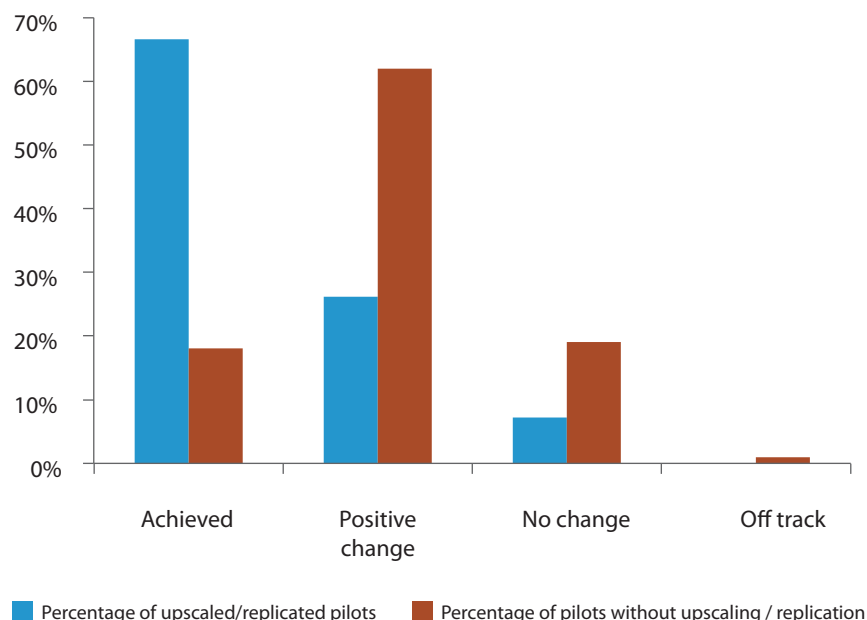
the scaling-up approaches, US\$9.3 million in core UNDP funds in Asia-Pacific for 2013-2014 were allocated to a Scaling-Up Fund where Country Offices could seek support for upscaling successful initiatives.

In 2012, almost half of UNDP's 838 small-scale and pilot projects in Asia-Pacific were upscaled or replicated (Case Study, Papua New Guinea). More than two-thirds were in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), with the vast majority (70 percent) focused on poverty and MDGs and 13 percent on crisis prevention and recovery. Moreover, the country outcomes associated with small-scale or pilot projects that were upscaled or replicated were far more likely to achieve results: two-thirds of country outcomes associated with upscaled pilots have been achieved, compared to just 18 percent for pilots that have not upscaled (Figure 8). In many instances, using downstream project success to inform upstream policy work has been key to achieving wider impact and transformational change.

SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIPS: CONNECTING COUNTRIES AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE

Development today is driven by partnerships and the sharing of knowledge and other resources to achieve common global objectives. Many countries which until recently were simply net recipients of traditional development aid are

FIGURE 8: COUNTRY OUTCOME STATUS ACCORDING TO ADOPTION OF A SCALING-UP APPROACH



Source: UNDP ROAR database 2012

now proving also to be influential development actors with meaningful experiences, lessons and resources to share. UNDP is committed to drawing out these appropriate lessons to share and implement throughout the world.

Illustrative of this South-South Cooperation (SSC) approach, China, India and Indonesia have each entered into Partnership Framework Agreements (Figure 7). These partnerships support the enhancing of South-South and Trilateral Cooperation; expanding

of perspectives on development cooperation and sharing of experiences; and supporting strategic Southern engagement in multilateral platforms and forums.

In October 2012, UNDP signed an MOU with the Election Commission of India on sharing India's experience and best practices in election management and developing capacities in other countries using the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management.

A law student reads a brochure about a project for Cambodian indigenous people during a project presentation at the Royal School of Administration, as part of the UNDP-supported project focused on alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. CREDIT: UNDP CAMBODIA



The first phase of a trilateral cooperation initiative with UNDP, the Chinese Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Agriculture of Cambodia was completed in late 2012. Thirty Cambodian cassava growers took part in training on cassava cultivation techniques in China. Based on the results achieved, the Government of China for the first time has made a contribution of US\$400,000 for the second phase.

The second phase is expected to promote job creation and poverty reduction by moving Cambodian cassava producers, processors and exporters up the value chain.

A key part of the SSC approach has been to establish Centres of Excellence in various disciplines. This has been done in Singapore with the Global Centre for Public Service Excellence, in India with

the International Centre for Human Development in New Delhi, and in China with the Institute for Poverty Reduction in Beijing. These Centres of Excellence focus on South-South learning, serving as a knowledge hub for developing countries and providing technical support to governments and civil society.

UNDP in Asia-Pacific has also forged private sector partnerships for

BOX 4: ADDRESSING GOVERNANCE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION ACROSS THE PACIFIC

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) is one of nine inter-governmental organizations in the Pacific, with the core responsibility of ensuring the effective implementation of decisions by the annual meeting of Pacific Island Forum Leaders. Through its Pacific Centre, UNDP has developed a strong partnership with PIFS in areas of conflict prevention, political governance, gender equality, development effectiveness, sustainable development and financial inclusion. Key results since 2008 include:

- A Human Security Framework that provides strategic guidance for improving planning and implementation of human security approaches in peace, security and development initiatives
- The Pacific's first Regional Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security, which will guide women's empowerment and engagement in conflict prevention and human security initiatives
- An influential joint UNDP/PIFS report on Urban Youth in the Pacific: Increasing Resilience and

Reducing Risk for Involvement in Crime and Violence

- The first Mock Parliaments for Women in Kiribati, Marshall Islands and Palau, assisting women participants to develop leadership skills and increasing community awareness of the importance of ensuring women contribute to decision-making processes
- Following joint advocacy and technical advice, ratification of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption by 6 additional Pacific countries since 2009
- Establishment of regional "Money Pacific Goals," with high-level endorsement, that promote the creation by 2020 of national financial systems that serve and empower most low-income and rural people
- Formation of the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organization (PIPSO), a central agency to promote private sector development and cooperation

human development. Public-private partnership initiatives in Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka have focused on trades whose members are principally low-income. In India, for example, UNDP has helped 50,000 women in 500 villages of eastern Uttar Pradesh, the country's most populous state and also one of its poorest, enhance their incomes and

effectively participate in both public and domestic decision making. This "Swaayam" integrated women's empowerment model, established in 2009 in partnership with the IKEA Foundation, is now being scaled up to reach 2.2 million women and their families in 16,800 poor villages across four states.

Regional cooperation can accomplish broad reach and have elements of experimentation in places where cross-border issues make national work difficult or less effective (Box 4). By taking joint actions, shared problems can thus reach shared solutions. Standard setting, testing of new ideas, and sharing of knowledge are all features

of regional cooperation, which also serves as a strong platform for SSC.

Learning from the 2004 tsunami, newly designed and installed early warning systems in the Indian Ocean, supported by UNDP, enabled early warning centres in Indonesia, India and Australia to quickly issue alerts when an 8.7 earthquake struck north Sumatra in 2012. At the regional policy level, UNDP's advocacy was instrumental in moving forward the commitment by ten ASEAN health ministers to regional collaboration for the establishment of HIV controls such as decentralized, simplified service delivery and mobilization of a greater proportion of domestic resources. All these efforts aim to achieve the "triple zero" targets of no discrimination, no new infections and no deaths from AIDS. Meanwhile, UNDP established the South Asia Economic Summit jointly with the Asian Development Bank, the UN ESCAP, and the South Asia Centre for Policy Studies. In becoming a credible, broad-based platform for policymakers to address barriers to intra-regional economic cooperation, it has successfully put forward recommendations for equitable regional integration for LDCs and a proposed regional seed bank.

The Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIP) has transformed financial services for the poor in the Pacific sub-region, as well as transformed how mainstream firms deliver their core products to the poor or rural communities.

By designing lower-cost delivery mechanisms and increasing market information and access to knowledge, PFIP has given access to quality and affordable financial services and related education to 500,000 persons. This has focused on branchless banking (smart cards, mobile phones, vans); financial competency (education events, school curriculum); micro-insurance for low-income persons (disaster risk, illness, death, crop loss); and research on financial inclusion policies and regulations.

Facilitating the sharing of knowledge is at the core of UNDP's work in the region. Solution Exchange is a knowledge facilitation service from United Nations Country Team Agencies, including UNDP, that offers a free, United Nations-sponsored space where development professionals with similar interests connect around common problem-solving objectives. Members come from governments, NGOs and community groups, development partners, the private sector, research institutes and academia. By the end of 2012, 14 Solution Exchange communities were active in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and the Pacific sub-region, helping more than 25,000 development professionals address some 1,100 policy, programme and implementation concerns. Policy impact has been considerable. For example, views of the 4,000-member Microfinance Community of India were sought by the head of a working group charged with

restructuring the nation's biggest poverty alleviation programme, and some of the recommendations from two e-discussions were taken up in decisions approved by the Cabinet. The Community was particularly influential in advocating for bringing self-help groups, federations and other collectives into the National Savings Scheme. In terms of programme impact, Solution Exchange Bhutan, with 1,000 members, has offered practical suggestions to promote women's participation in politics, following the country's transition to parliamentary democracy in 2008; results have helped to define strategies for the Government and for donor agencies working toward this objective.

CASE STUDY

An Effective Approach for Improving Service Delivery at Provincial and District Levels in Papua New Guinea

Every year, the national Government in Papua New Guinea disburses funds through the 22 provincial Departments of Finance, which are responsible for all treasuries at lower levels of government. But delivery of basic services to the population – particularly the 85 percent living in rural areas – remains slow, in large part because of low capacity for effective delivery among provincial, district and local level governments.

Concerned about this lack of capacity, the Government, supported by UNDP and AusAID, initiated a pilot capacity building programme in six provinces in 2005 to strengthen public financial management among provincial and district treasuries. Local advisers, working on-site, provided a practical and customized approach of mentoring, coaching and on-the-job training to 74 staff, 40 percent of whom were women. Partnership with national- and local-level stakeholders alike resulted in their contributing lessons learned and sharing common interests that complemented each other for greater efficiency. In turn, the situation in the pilot provinces improved significantly over the years, as confirmed in an independent

review by AusAID, with more accurate and timely submission of financial reports and bank reconciliations, as well as improved levels of accountability and transparency in management of public funds. All these results led to additional resources being made available to provincial governments, which were then able to deliver more and better services to the people in the six provinces.

Now, the Government, UNDP and AusAID have decided to scale up the programme to four new provinces, and gradually expand further, with priority given to areas where delivery of basic social services is so much below average that it has contributed to high levels of poverty. Moreover, additional governance components such as anti-corruption measures will be included in the approach. Already, the Government has prioritized the scaling up by committing US\$1 million per year for the period 2013-2018 – and based on the results achieved, other government institutions (National Economic Fiscal Commission, Department of National Planning and Monitoring, Department of Provincial and Local Level Governments) have expressed interest in participating as well.



CREDIT: UNDP Papua New Guinea

UNDP assisted the development and implementation of a legal framework for CSOs and public participation in Lao PDR. This new policy reflects official recognition of the role that the CSOs play in the country's development process and will pave the way for their increased engagement in discussing critical development issues. Following the new policy, 102 national CSOs were registered, of which 70 operate at provincial level.



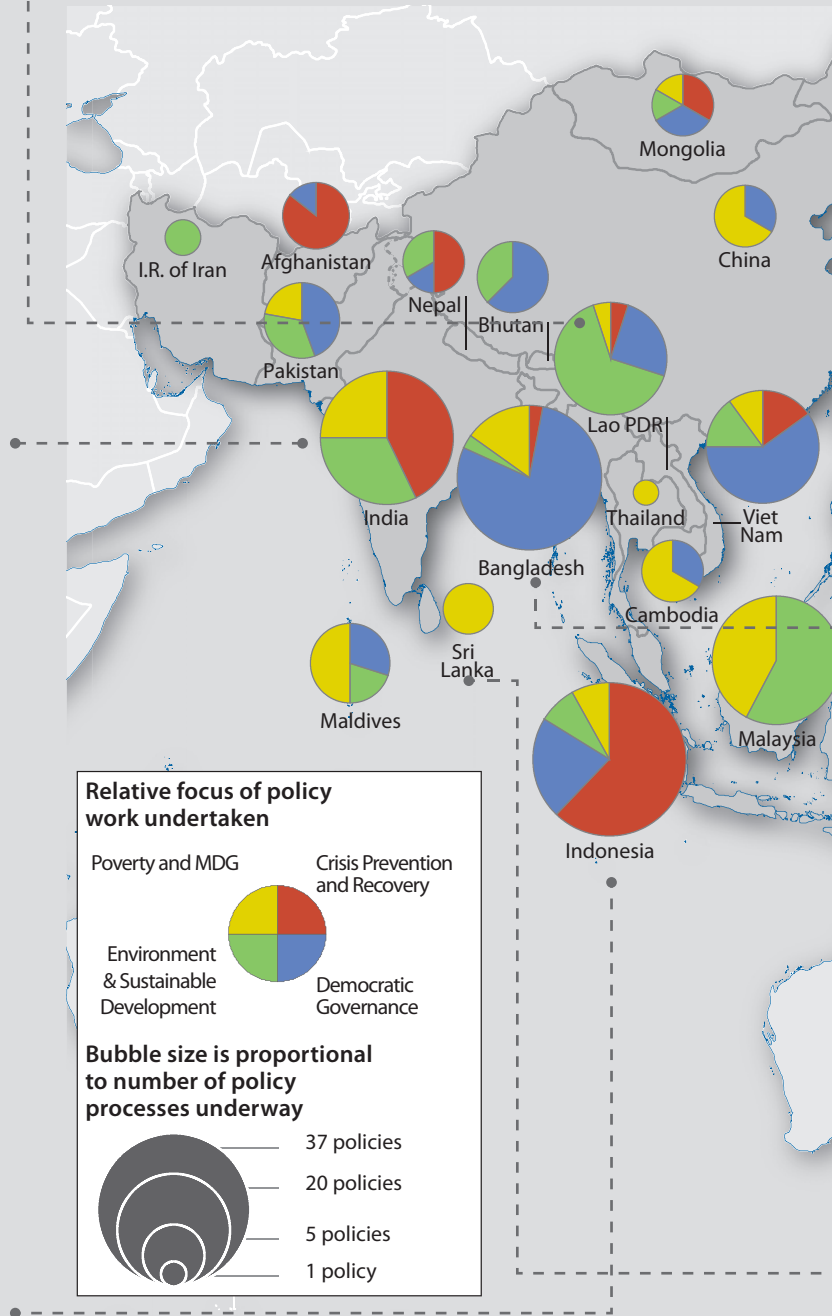
In India, UNDP partnered with the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) to address the financial impact of HIV and AIDS on households in India. UNDP and NACO have advocated for the modification of existing government policies and schemes, and formulation of HIV-specific social protection policies and schemes. 35 government social protection schemes have been amended and 29 directives by the State Council on AIDS have enabled social protection of marginalized groups.



In Indonesia, through the UNDP-supported MDG Roadmap project, action plans for each province were developed. They built on UNDP's support to pro-poor planning, budgeting and monitoring, provincial Human Development Reports, and national MDG Reports. As a result, there has been a growth of 17 to 20 percent in provincial budgetary allocations for service provision to the poor in the five targeted provinces.

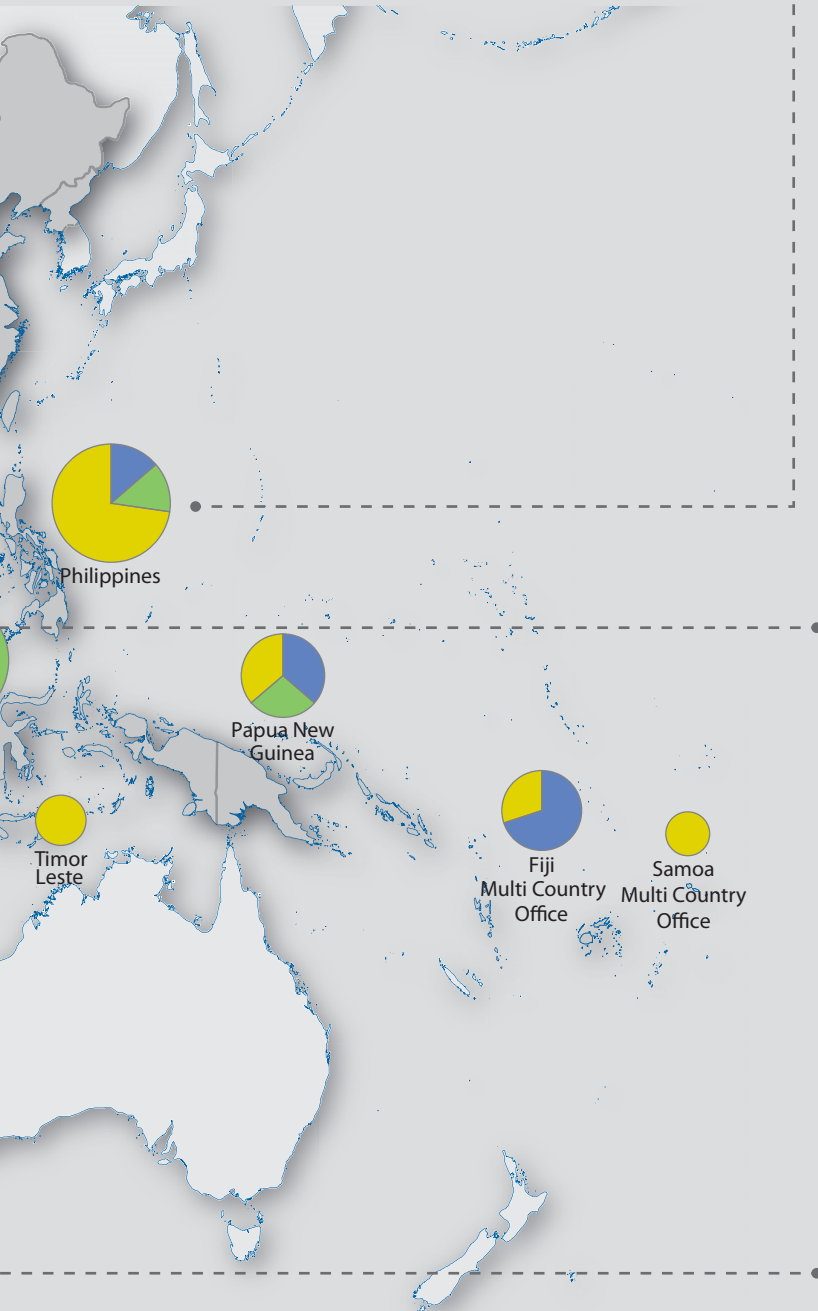


FIGURE 9: UNDP-SUPPORTED POLICY



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Jammu and Kashmir: Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

CY PROCESSES UNDERWAY IN 2012



Sources: UNDP ROAR database.
Boundaries from FAO GAUL 2009
Map projection: Winkel Tripel



The Government of Philippines, with UNDP support, has mainstreamed an integrated approach to DRR and climate change adaptation in local decision making and planning, engaging government and communities, resulting in no casualties during recent extreme meteorological events and improved economic output in provinces involved.



Every month, over 4.5 million hard-to-reach Bangladeshi citizens electronically access critical services - birth registration, mobile banking, life insurance, exam results, telemedicine - at 4,500 Union Information and Service Centres. This scaling-up was the result of reform of local government policies, ICT Policy, Right to Information Act, PPP Policy, 6th National

5-year Plan, e-Agriculture Policy, and Guidelines on Utility Bill Payments and Mobile Banking - all supported by UNDP-funded Access to Information Programme at the Prime Minister's Office.



In Sri Lanka, 15,000 zero-emission electric vehicles were introduced in dense areas of Colombo as a result of the upscaling of a pilot project supported by UNDP with a grant from GEF. Working with the Lanka Electric Vehicle Association, an improved regulatory framework and awareness raising on electric vehicles facilitated private sector

investment in the technology. These zero-emission vehicles improved air quality and decreased the GHG emissions from the transport sector.

III. TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE

Poverty Reduction and MDGs



UNDP's Micro-Enterprise Development Programme has created more than 8,000 enterprises, 57,000 micro-entrepreneurs and 58,000 jobs (70% for women) in the rural areas of Nepal. CREDIT: UNDP NEPAL

Between 2008 and 2012, US\$842 million was spent to achieve outcomes directly related to poverty reduction and MDG attainment, amounting to 16 percent of country-level expenditures in Asia and the Pacific.

Gross Domestic Product figures across the region belie persistent poverty, income disparities and gender gaps (Figure 10). Countries such as Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Pakistan, Solomon Islands and Viet Nam have become middle-income, while others such as Thailand and Malaysia are moving beyond middle-income status. Yet most of the world's poor continue to live in Asia, concentrated in India (Case Study, India) and China. Two-thirds are women, with their share rising. Women's participation in education, politics, employment and access to land tenure all remain hindered by gender discrimination.

ADDRESSING PERSISTENT POVERTY AND INEQUALITIES

The MDGs have served as a key entry point to measure and lead policy reform on poverty reduction. Two-thirds of poverty-related country level outcomes focused on building capacities through national development strategies to scale up MDG interventions and to plan, monitor and report on the MDGs and related national development priorities. A total of US\$482 million has been spent in 34 countries to achieve these outcomes and represents 8 percent of RBAP's cumulative spending.

UNDP has positively influenced the policy environment and helped

internalize the MDG agenda within the region while raising awareness of lagging goals. Six Asia-Pacific reports and 13 national/sub-national Human Development Reports were published in countries of the region between 2008 and 2012. In addition, 37 national MDG reports have been prepared by countries within the region. Six countries completed MDG Needs Assessments and 12 applied the MDG Acceleration Framework, at national and local levels, to generate action plans, partnerships and resource mobilization opportunities on lagging goals. In 12 countries in the region UNDP strengthened capacities for costing the goals, resulting in higher proportions of government spending on social sectors and better targeting of vulnerable populations.

Progress in the achievement of outcomes has been reported on a wide range of indicators, including the reflection of MDG priorities in national development plans, monitoring of MDG indicators at national and local levels, use of poverty and MDG analysis to inform policy and planning, increased budget allocations toward the MDGs, and expansion of district- or state- level poverty alleviation and microfinance schemes.

While extreme poverty and hunger are low in the Pacific, the proportion of people without

basic needs and inequality have risen in several countries, due to the economic global crisis, limited economic activity and a large youth population. MDG tracking and reporting have been used at the national level to develop MDG acceleration programmes and at the regional level have helped focus discussions around the Pacific Plan implementation.

ENSURING INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

Promoting inclusive growth is a priority of UNDP in Asia-Pacific, and support for income, employment and social protection, particularly for vulnerable groups, represents US\$20 million in cumulative expenditures in eight countries.

Progress in the achievement of outcomes includes on indicators of expansion of the safety net for vulnerable groups, through national policy changes or strategies related to social inclusion and income distribution; private enterprise development; better access to financial services; data collection; and income guarantee schemes.

In China, gaps were identified in the registration system for 130 to 150 million economic migrants, which led to piloting of a new system with simplified household registration

for migrant workers in Tianjin. This model enhanced migrants' ability to access health and education services for their families and was included in the National Plan of Action 2011-2020 of the National Working Committee for Children and Women. With a rapidly increasing ageing population, an urban residents' pension scheme also was launched, with 100 percent coverage expected in two years. Also in China, the Agriculture Extension Special Task Force is being supported in use of demand-driven, market-oriented mechanisms to link farmers to improved technology, business models and markets, which has raised the average income of more than 430 million rural people by 67 percent.

In Timor-Leste, meanwhile, nearly half the married women are widowed and sole providers; the Government has introduced the Social Action Policy containing the first conditional cash transfer scheme. UNDP has supported this pilot which reaches 7,000 widows who are heads of households, as well as orphans, through technical support to improve the vulnerability criteria for determining eligibility.

UNDP further supported the training of district personnel in data collection and registration.

UNDP's poverty reduction efforts in Bangladesh benefited nearly 13 million people with sophisticated targeting and community empowerment focusing on the poorest. Household data collected in 23 towns demonstrated that the most needy were being reached. More than 400,000 slum dwellers were mobilized into development committees, resulting in 133,000 benefiting from improved sanitation, and nearly 10,000 children who might otherwise have dropped out (67 percent girls) were kept in school.

COMBATING HIV/AIDS

As a whole, the number of new HIV infections in the region every year has stabilized. However, HIV infections among women are sharply rising: of all HIV-positive people in the region, the proportion of women living with HIV rose from 19 percent in 2000 to 35 percent in 2008. Women migrants are most vulnerable, due to movement under unsafe conditions and to sex trafficking, which increases their risk of infection.

In seven countries in the region (Cambodia, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Thailand and Viet Nam), UNDP helped strengthen capacities to mainstream actions on HIV into national policies, plans and strategies, spending more than US\$7 million. A further US\$128 million was spent in nine countries (China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Lao PDR, Maldives, Nepal, and Papua New Guinea), targeted at strengthening national capacities for coordination of AIDS responses as well as increased participation of civil society and people living with HIV.

Targets that were achieved or showed significant progress include the number of people having received an HIV test; access of people from sexual minorities and other vulnerable groups to HIV services; HIV service providers trained; and national strategies and plans on HIV in place.

As a result of UNDP's mainstreaming efforts towards increased social protection in India, 380,000 people living with HIV have benefited from central and state schemes. Replication of these experiences has been sought by Cambodia,

2.6 million *the number of jobs that UNDP in*

Asia and the Pacific strengthened or generated in 2012, 2.1 million of which were through interventions for achievement of the MDGs

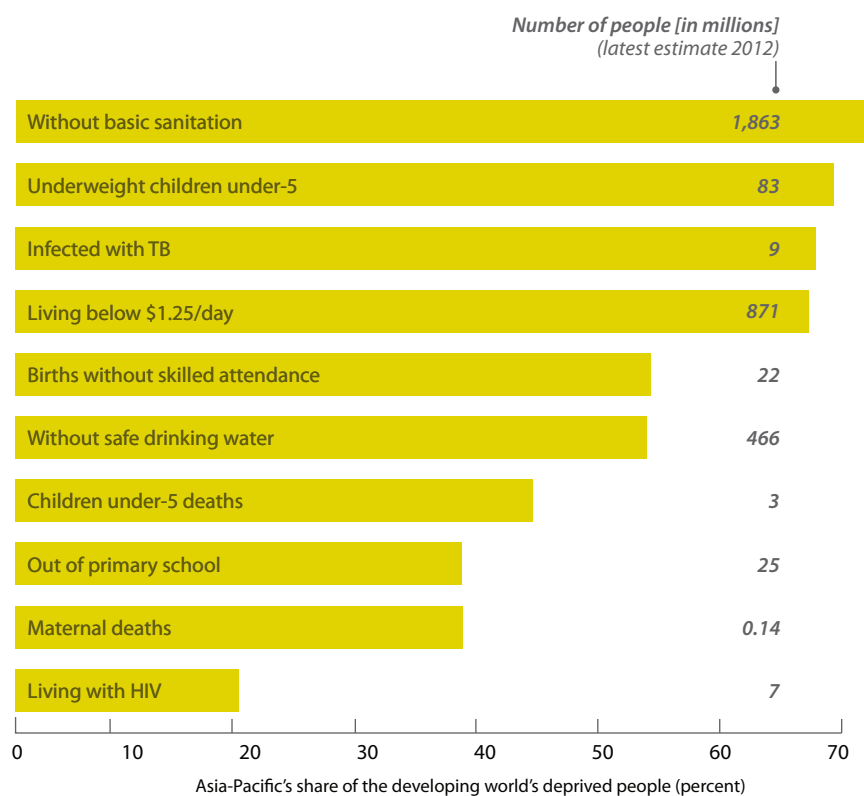
405,947 *the number of people*

for which UNDP helped provide social protection in the region through small-scale pilots and other initiatives

Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Thailand. UNDP worked with government and civil society partners from multiple sectors across the region to advocate for the right to health of migrants and the removal of travel restrictions. Between 2010 and 2013 Fiji, the Republic of Korea and Mongolia changed their immigration laws, allowing people living with HIV to enter, live and work in those countries.

Meanwhile, more countries in Asia are beginning to recognize the importance of access to affordable medicines for people living with HIV and the direct linkage to long-term socioeconomic impacts. As a result of UNDP advocacy, several countries, including Indonesia, began to take steps to protect their rights to affordable medicines, increasingly threatened by growing restrictive intellectual property regimes. At the regional policy level, the ASEAN and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) responded to UNDP advocacy by for the first time clearly identifying women and girls as among key HIV-affected groups and calling for greater attention to their needs.

FIGURE 10: THE ASIA-PACIFIC SHARE OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD'S DEPRIVED PEOPLE



Source: UN ESCAP, ADB, UNDP Asia-Pacific Regional MDG Report 2011/2012, page 14

1.18 million

people in the region were assisted by UNDP to improve their food security in 2012

32,000

hectares of land were recovered for food production in 2012

3,500

institutions related to jobs and livelihoods were strengthened through UNDP's work

CASE STUDY

Guaranteeing Jobs for the Rural Poor in India

Two years ago, Badam Devi, the wife of a struggling farmer from Kandha village in the western Indian state of Rajasthan, registered for a job under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (MGNREGP). With the wages that she earned through the programme, popularly known as the Job Guarantee Act, she was able to afford sufficient food for her family and pay for her daughter-in-law to deliver Badam's first grandchild in a well-equipped hospital. She also built two new concrete rooms for her sons and their families, so that all can live under the same roof.

In a country where 405.8 million people live below the international poverty line of US\$1.25 a day, Badam is only one of millions registered under the world's largest rural employment guarantee scheme, a flagship programme of the Government that has been supported by UNDP. This innovative programme differs from previous employment initiatives in that it legally obliges the Government to provide employment for those families who demand it. A total of 100 days of work per year is guaranteed to any rural household whose adult members volunteer for unskilled manual labour at minimum wages. In the fiscal year 2012-2013, more than 49 million households, including

those often marginalized, benefited from the programme. Women accounted for 52 percent of days worked, members of Scheduled Castes for 22 percent, and members of Scheduled Tribes for 17 percent.

UNDP has strengthened the Government's institutional capacity to implement the programme by establishing a Technical Secretariat at national level staffed with experts in monitoring and evaluation, management information systems and data analysis, training and communications. To facilitate sharing of knowledge, good practices and ideas, UNDP helped set up an e-knowledge network that brings together all people involved in implementation. In addition, UNDP has generated better awareness of the programme among rural households – which has proved crucial in creating the demand for work – and has piloted low-cost ATMs and smart cards to make it faster and easier for poor people to receive their wages. To improve transparency and accountability in monitoring, social audits were introduced with UNDP support and piloted in districts across 23 states.



III. TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE

Building Democratic Governance



Woman in Liquica District holds up her voter registration card as she waits to participate in Timor-Leste's 2012 Parliamentary Elections

CREDIT: Louise Stoddard/ UNDP TL

Between 2008 and 2012, almost US\$1.6 billion was spent to achieve democratic governance outcomes, amounting to 30 percent of country-level expenditures in Asia and the Pacific.

The different forms of government in Asia and the Pacific require adroit and responsive advice and support to ensure smooth transitions of power and forms of governance. The scope of UNDP's support ranges from electoral support and civil society inclusion to improved delivery of public services, from strengthened legislative and local authorities to access to justice for vulnerable groups, and from women's empowerment to anti-corruption initiatives.

BEYOND THE BALLOT BOX

UNDP in Asia-Pacific gives importance to going "beyond the ballot box," focusing not only on elections themselves but also on strengthening electoral systems overall, building democratic societies through encouraging participation, promoting the media, and civic education on the roles and responsibilities of a democratic citizen.

In Afghanistan, UNDP has contributed to rebuilding and improving critical state institutions, including the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) and Parliament. As the IEC steadily takes over responsibility for the electoral process, UNDP is working to help the Commission improve voter identification methods and broaden democratic participation for the 2014

presidential election, building on lessons learned from past elections. UNDP is also strengthening governing bodies at provincial and municipal levels (Box 5).

Support and guidance to elections, constitutional reform and parliaments are important components of UNDP's democratic governance work, particularly to ensure women's political participation. UNDP in the region supported the formulation of election laws and capacity building on elections processes, while policy-based research on the prevention of election violence and initiatives to increase inclusive participation by indigenous peoples also were emphasized. To improve the functioning of national Election Commissions, which is a cornerstone to conducting fair elections, UNDP engaged in 13 countries to strengthen election policy frameworks, administrative skills and processes. UNDP also contributed to strengthening the institutional capacity of legislatures, regional elected bodies and local assemblies to represent their constituents more effectively. Delivery in both of these areas was US\$537 million between 2008 and 2012, of which two-thirds was in Afghanistan. In Timor-Leste, the successful convening of presidential and parliamentary elections in 2009, supported by UNDP, was a key factor in the United

Nations Security Council's decision to draw down the UN peacekeeping mission at the close of 2012. UNDP also helped the Kingdoms of Tonga and Bhutan to establish democratically elected governments.

In Pakistan, UNDP similarly supported women's caucuses to promote policy formation on gender equality and women's rights. Concerted advocacy also has assisted in several countries, including Mongolia, Nepal and Timor-Leste, increasing women's participation in political life through legal quotas and/or reserved seats for women in parliamentary elections. For example, nine women members were elected to the national Parliament in Mongolia, up from only three during the previous election. Moreover, a 2010 UNDP report introduced a sub-national measure of women's political representation in Asia-Pacific, forming a baseline measure of women's local government representation.

In terms of regional policies, Mongolia, Thailand and Viet Nam have applied the recommendations for institutional reform that can lead to political equality, contained in the 2012 regional policy framework "Gender Equality in Elected Office in Asia-Pacific: Six Actions to Expand Women's Empowerment," which was spearheaded by UNDP.

BOX 5: SUPPORTING THE CRITICAL TRANSITION IN AFGHANISTAN

As a country gradually emerging from conflict, Afghanistan receives special focus from UNDP, and the Afghanistan Country Programme remains the organization's largest operation. To strengthen the ability of the Government to maintain law and order as well as justice-related services, UNDP's Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA) supports timely and transparent disbursements of salaries and remunerations among nearly 140,000 Afghan National Police forces. Beginning in 2010, UNDP and the Ministry of Interior also established a system for the national police to begin recruiting women officers; by August 2012 there were 1,445 female police officers in various ranks, an increase of 1,000 since the recruitment programme began.

Through the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme, UNDP has provided critical technical and operational support toward developing the capacity of the Joint Secretariat of the High Peace Council, which is responsible for facilitating peace and reintegrating former combatants. To date, about 6,500 Government opponents have been reintegrated into civilian life. Some 96 percent of these have received transition assistance packages. By the end of 2012, a total of 136 small grants projects for livelihoods promotion and poverty reduction had been approved in 22 districts where those being reintegrated live.

During the 2010 elections, UNDP not only provided technical advice to electoral authorities, but also effectively channelled large-scale donor funding to the electoral process. In turn, UNDP support to the Independent Election Commission has strengthened its organizational, human, physical

and technological capacities to be able to organize and manage the 2014 and 2015 Presidential and parliamentary elections. Furthermore, as part of coordinated international efforts, UNDP's support to the effective management and coordination of aid and strengthened execution of the national budget enabled the Government to successfully present the country's development priorities at the 2012 Tokyo Conference and secure pledges of US\$16 billion from donors.

At the sub-national level, UNDP support to a nationwide programme focused on creating legitimate and accountable local governing bodies resulted in 338 out of 402 districts in Afghanistan appointing a District Development Assembly (DDA). Capacity of the DDAs was developed so that they are able to plan, implement and monitor local community projects; for example, in an effort to increase access to electricity, 72 micro-hydro power projects were completed, providing electricity to nearly 11,000 households. Electricity is now providing a cheap substitute for oil lamps and smoky woodstoves, reducing household lighting costs by almost 90 percent as well as indoor pollution. Similarly, more than 630,000 families now have access to improved transport infrastructure, and nearly 640,000 households have been protected from floods and other natural disasters. Employment was bolstered by the creation of 340,000 labour days and the completion of 68 projects linked to reintegration support activities.

UNDP work on sustainable environmental management has resulted in 22 of 34 Afghan provinces having Provincial Environment Advisory

Religious leaders attend a training on Family Law. Public legal awareness activities like these, supported by UNDP, have increased the legal understanding of community and religious leaders as well as the broader population.
CREDIT: UNDP Afghanistan



Councils, which is leading to stronger enforcement of environmental standards and large-scale efforts to “green” the regions.

Lastly, in another response to the need to promote gender equity and empower women, UNDP provided support for the legal and economic empowerment of women. At the provincial level, Women’s Provincial Development Councils were established to address the needs of women subjected to domestic violence and other forms of abuse, and to raise awareness about women’s

rights and reduce gender-based violence. Similarly, a gender-responsive budgeting cell has been established in the Budget Directorate of the Ministry of Finance and supports the integration of gender-specific elements in Ministries’ budget statements and planning processes. At the provincial level, 24 Legal Help Centres were established in four provinces, paralegals were trained in women’s legal rights, and toll-free hotline services were established to assist vulnerable women in accessing the justice system.

ENHANCING LOCAL AUTHORITIES' CAPACITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY

In 19 countries UNDP contributed to national, regional and local levels of governance through enhancing their capacities to manage the equitable delivery of public services, with expenditures during 2008-2012 of US\$731 million. Funding in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia and India represent 91 percent of these resources.

Strengthening local authorities to effectively deliver essential public services and to formulate relevant development plans and programmes has taken place across the region (Case study, Viet Nam). Devolving all management of public finances to local authorities in Papua New Guinea challenged provincial and district officials, who lacked the required expertise and knowledge (Case study, Papua New Guinea). UNDP has supported the development of capacities of provincial and district treasuries to function effectively.

In rural Bangladesh, more than 4,000 e-service delivery centres in government facilities provide land records, mobile banking, life insurance, English-language training, online registration for work permits abroad and 50 other services to nearly 4.5 million hard-to-reach people every month.

Lastly, with UNDP support more than 3,000 people in India, including members of excluded groups and people living in remote areas, participated in what is recognized as the first people's mid-term appraisal of a Government Five Year Plan, reviewing the 11th Five Year Plan 2007-2012. With the success of this initiative, led by UNDP and a strengthened coalition of CSOs, the Planning Commission invited CSO contributions during preparation of the 12th Plan (2012-2017).

DEEPENING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Establishment of legal aid centres, promoting access to alternative dispute resolution and mobile justice, enhancing capacities of

courts and judges and awareness-raising on human rights were among UNDP's key initiatives to further the rule of law and access to justice, particularly for the poor, women and vulnerable groups in 11 countries. Expenditures between 2008 and 2012 totaled nearly US\$100 million, with programmes in Afghanistan, Timor-Leste, Nepal and Indonesia comprising more than three-fourths of these resources spent.

For the new government in Timor-Leste, UNDP supported a strategic plan in the justice sector from 2011 to 2030 that helps lay out a legal framework, institutional development and other priorities. Among institutions, the Legal Training Centre (LTC) is the country's only professional training facility for justice sector officials; the 51 judges, prosecutors and public defenders who have graduated from the LTC now comprise the backbone of the country's justice system. This is a particularly remarkable achievement given that, as recently as 2002, there were no Timorese judges, prosecutors or public defenders.

13 the number of countries where UNDP provided electoral assistance in Asia and the Pacific during 2008-2012

3,965 the number of electoral support institutions that UNDP helped strengthen in 2012, ranging from national electoral bodies to local NGOs promoting women's participation

National legislation on legal services and extending these services to marginalized and vulnerable populations through legal aid clinics, Legal Aid Commissions or bar associations was initiated in Indonesia, Lao PDR, Pakistan, Maldives and Sri Lanka.

In Timor-Leste, violence against women has been an important focus, where research on how the issue is addressed outside the formal justice system has provided an empirical basis for policy review. Under a joint United Nations programme in Bangladesh, all marriages in the targeted districts have been registered, leading to 68 percent of underage marriages being prevented and 145 family conflicts amicably resolved. At the regional level, UNDP's Partners for Prevention programme has produced its first multi-country study and analysis, covering six countries, on men's experiences and attitudes with regard to physical and sexual violence against women, which is expected to further inform evidence-based policies and programmes.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND TRANSPARENCY

Lastly, UNDP expenditures between 2008 and 2012 totaled US\$7 million on strengthening capacity to implement anti-corruption initiatives and US\$18 million on strengthening the capacities of human rights institutions. For example, aligning states with United Nations Conventions brings rigour, transparency and global standards to the relevant issue. Bhutan, Fiji, Lao PDR, Maldives, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea and Viet Nam all undertook a self-assessment/peer review process on corruption under the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. In Malaysia, Mongolia and Timor-Leste, UNDP has supported the establishment of national anti-corruption agencies. For the first time, Lao PDR took part in the Universal Periodic Review of the fulfilment of its Human Rights obligations and commitments before the Human Rights Council in May 2010. Out of 107 recommendations, 71 have been accepted by the

Government, and implementation through Government-led working groups is in progress.

11.9 million

additional people were able to vote as a result of UNDP's work in the region in 2012

18

the number of countries where UNDP supported assessment of punitive and discriminatory laws in Asia and the Pacific between 2008 and 2012. As a result, Fiji and India decriminalized same-sex sexual activity, and Pakistan recognized transgender citizenship rights

CASE STUDY

Improving the Quality of Public Administration in Viet Nam

UNDP has supported the Government of Viet Nam to implement its ambitious Public Administration Reform (PAR) since its inception, with the one-stop shop model initiated by UNDP in the early 2000s now rolled out across the country by the Government. As of December 2011, 97 percent of the country's 11,111 communes had applied the one-stop shop as their service delivery model. This approach makes it easier, faster and cheaper for citizens to acquire essential personal administrative documents (e.g. birth and marriage certificates, identification cards, driver's licenses, residential permits). It also allows people to get better access to other services – construction permits, land use rights certificates, home titles – which help broaden their development opportunities.

The rollout of the one-stop shop model went hand in hand with an effort to simplify administrative procedures. As of June 2012, 3,664 government administrative procedures across various Ministries and agencies have been rationalized and made more user-friendly. Better access to a streamlined set of procedures has made a difference in people's experiences of interacting with the Government. An independent mid-term evaluation of UNDP's support to PAR, conducted in 2011, showed positive results in terms of acceleration of document processing at district-level one-stop shops, as well as with regard to civil servants'

sense of responsibility to provide quality services.

UNDP also has introduced nationwide results-based monitoring systems to measure Government's performance in the provision of public administrative services. For the first time in Viet Nam, UNDP has factored in people's voices regarding the quality of public services they receive. The Governance and Public Administration Performance Index (PAPI) is an annual social accountability tool that measures the performance and quality of provincial governance and public administration. PAPI informs policymakers and executives at various levels about citizens' experiences in dealing with public servants, as well as their satisfaction levels.

Evidence provided by PAPI is used by provincial authorities to assess their performance. Three provinces, Kon Tum, Quang Ngai and Dak Lak, have taken up concrete action plans to address the issues identified in PAPI. More than ten provinces have started policy discussions. Results have already started to emerge: Kon Tum Province has issued a detailed action plan to lift the quality of its public services, and has consequently moved up in its performance from the lowest position in 2010 to a low-average category in 2012. The central city of Da Nang has improved its ranking as well, going from 11th place in 2011 to 2nd place out of 63 provinces and cities in 2012.

At national level, PAPI data were included in the Government's annual report to the National Assembly as a key source of information to evaluate anti-corruption efforts. PAPI was instrumental in getting a more accurate estimate of the size and frequency of informal payments across three vital public sector services encountered by most Vietnamese – land use, medical services and primary education. Such an objective examination has never been attempted before; it showed that bribe requests are not only frequent and experienced by many citizens, but also that the amounts paid are substantial and burdensome to households.

The substantive results of all these efforts are being recognized at the highest levels. In December 2012, at a speech to the annual Anti-Corruption Dialogue between the Government and international development partners, Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc declared: "We can clearly recognize the important role of local governments at different levels when analyzing variances in the ranking of provinces in the Provincial Competitiveness Index and the Provincial Governance and Public Administration Performance Index. For land administration, in many provinces denunciations and complaints about land are very hot and difficult-to-solve issues; meanwhile, in many other areas, local governments are doing well."



III. TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE

Building Resilience and Responding to Crisis



Evacuation mock drill in Cyclone Nargis-hit Delta Area. UNDP continues to assist the people of the Ayeyarwady Delta through the Integrated Community-based Early Recovery Framework. CREDIT:UNDP MYANMAR

Between 2008 and 2012, nearly US\$2.5 billion was spent to achieve crisis prevention and recovery outcomes, representing 45 percent of country-level expenditures in Asia-Pacific.

UNDP in Asia-Pacific has helped countries build peace, alleviate the effects of natural disasters and build back better and stronger when crises happen. UNDP has integrated peace-building into many of its poverty and democratic governance programmes and has supported governments and communities on ways to reduce risk from crises.

Progress in the achievement of outcomes has been reported on a wide range of indicators. These include: national and/or state plans explicitly incorporating Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration; increased government capacity to respond to natural disasters at national and community levels and lead the recovery process, based on priorities identified through participatory processes; measurable increases in production following recovery; sustainable livelihoods and viable job opportunities for ex-combatants and numbers of crisis-affected men and women who are wage- or self-employed; workdays of emergency jobs created in crisis or post-crisis countries; justice and security services covering more conflict-affected people; and mine action.

PRIORITIZING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

In disaster risk management across Asia-Pacific, UNDP worked with national and local institutions to strengthen their capacity to reduce the impact of disasters on vulnerable communities. UNDP worked in 18 countries to achieve this needed capacity, spending US\$300 million over the five-year period; four countries (Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Myanmar) absorbed US\$223 million of this total.

Support was provided to increasing the assessment and diagnostic capacities of partners regarding existing hazards and vulnerabilities, and needed development of policy, legislative and institutional frameworks for Disaster Risk Reduction. During the last five years, there has been a declining trend in mortality caused by disasters in most countries of the Asia-Pacific region (Figure 11). If extraordinary disasters such as the Sichuan earthquake in China (2008) or Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar (2008) are excluded, disaster-prone countries have experienced a lower number of deaths over these years. In many of these countries, the new institutions, laws, and policies developed with UNDP support have strengthened early warning systems, search and rescue capacities, and evacuation

procedures, leading to saving of human lives and property.

To illustrate, UNDP has engaged with the Government of Bangladesh in developing disaster management capacities through a Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) for the last decade. During this period, the CDMP has supported the framing of the National Plan for Disaster Management, trained more than 6,000 government officials in emergency response, set up the Local Disaster Risk Reduction Fund, and constituted the Early Recovery Facility. These developments helped the Government respond to Cyclone Mahasen in May 2013 more effectively, which caused just 17 deaths as compared to hundreds, or in some instances, thousands, in earlier cyclones.

In Indonesia, UNDP supported the process of framing a new Law on Disaster Management in 2007, which led to setting up of the National Agency for Disaster Management. During the last five years, a National Disaster Management Plan was developed and passed, disaster management agencies have been established in all provinces, and capacities for risk assessment and community-based Disaster Risk Reduction were established in the country. Over the years, Indonesia has strengthened its Disaster Risk Reduction system, reduced human

losses and emerged as a great champion of Disaster Risk Reduction internationally.

In these countries, UNDP's support has leveraged governments' own investment in Disaster Risk Reduction. In Indonesia, the Government has allocated more than US\$500 million for its recovery programmes over the last five years. In India, although UNDP invested just US\$50 million in Disaster Risk Reduction, the Government has allocated US\$226 million for the next five years for its mitigation interventions. In Bangladesh, the Government allocates its own resources for disaster response, estimated at US\$336 million for 2011-2012, thus reducing the need for international assistance for disaster response. In all the countries, governments have taken decisions to recognize Disaster Risk Reduction as an important issue for capacity development, and have gone beyond the usual relief expenditures and invested in critical resources and facilities through new plans and budget lines. UNDP has thus played an important role in bringing Disaster Risk Reduction to the centre stage of public policies, with dividends being realized in

stronger early warning systems, better preparedness and response, and a more sensitive recovery.

FACILITATING CRISIS PREVENTION

Conflicts are increasingly being played out within rather than between countries, often caused by historical legacies, inefficient and inequitable management and distribution of resources, struggles over identity and rising inequalities. Expenditures between 2008 and 2012 in Asia-Pacific to strengthen capacities of institutions to prevent, reduce and mitigate the impact of conflict totaled US\$20 million. In Timor-Leste, UNDP has contributed to Government efforts in establishing local-level dialogue and mediation capacities through the Department of Peacebuilding. These have defused potentially violent tensions in four instances and restored confidence in three districts, while resolving a violent conflict in another district that had initially resulted in the burning of 58 houses. An independent evaluation confirmed in 2012 that UNDP assistance in training community mediators helped reduce conflict when the country had a

dramatic influx of returnees in 2009 following several years of conflict. In Pakistan, following the 2010 floods, UNDP supported capacity-building of the provincial disaster management authority in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, including the establishment a central 24-hour situation room, connected with district level situation rooms in 11 high-risk districts. The provincial government is now replicating this structure in 25 high-risk districts of the same province with its own resources.

The N-Peace network is a gender equality initiative funded by UNDP established in October 2010. It supports the leadership of women in building peace and preventing conflicts and provides a much-needed platform (including Facebook and Twitter) for dialogue among key actors working on women, peace and security. Stories of over 200 women peace-builders have been featured and raised the awareness of more than 75,000 people. This multi-country initiative operates in Afghanistan, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste.

2 million

the number of workdays that UNDP helped create in Pakistan, Myanmar and Nepal -- 23% of which were for women -- to support early recovery in the immediate aftermath of crises between 2008 and 2012

US\$1 billion

the increase in government investment in Disaster Risk Reduction in seven disaster-prone countries where UNDP has provided institutional and policy support

BROADENING EARLY RECOVERY

UNDP planned and led recovery processes based upon priorities identified through participatory processes, restarting service delivery and rebuilding trust in state agencies after both natural and manmade disasters. Expenditures between 2008 and 2012 in this area totaled US\$1.7 billion in the Asia-Pacific region. During the 2010 floods in Pakistan, UNDP's earlier support to district-level disaster management institutions proved critical in the saving of numerous lives. As a result of UNDP support, these institutions had the capacity to coordinate and provide timely rescue and relief efforts for affected people, including evacuation from vulnerable areas, through deployment of Community Rapid Response Teams. As part of the early recovery response, meanwhile, UNDP supported flood-affected communities in 29 prioritized districts through efforts covering more than 3,800 villages, and supporting about five million people with community rehabilitation, livelihoods revival, and enhanced public service delivery. Over half a million people benefited from cash-for-work schemes. Other

interventions included one-stop facilities to facilitate retrieval of lost records/legal documents and provision of free legal aid.

Emergency employment and cash-for-work schemes also contributed to increased purchasing power of beneficiaries, food security, micro and small business start-ups, mitigation and response to disasters, and access to key basic social and productive services. In 2010, during a dzud – an extremely harsh Mongolian winter in which livestock fodder is buried beneath snow – UNDP supported a cash-for-work programme to remove millions of dead cattle, camels and horses. Cash-for-work also was deployed in Tonga following the 2009 tsunami to clear damage. In these instances, even before the crisis, most of the people did not have secure sources of income, and hence, any support provided during or after a crisis had a “multiplier” effect on crisis-affected communities' livelihoods and well-being, as well as stimulating the local economy. As a result of UNDP's use of a pro-poor approach, the support to livelihoods targeted the most vulnerable, including returning Internally Displaced Persons, women and youth.

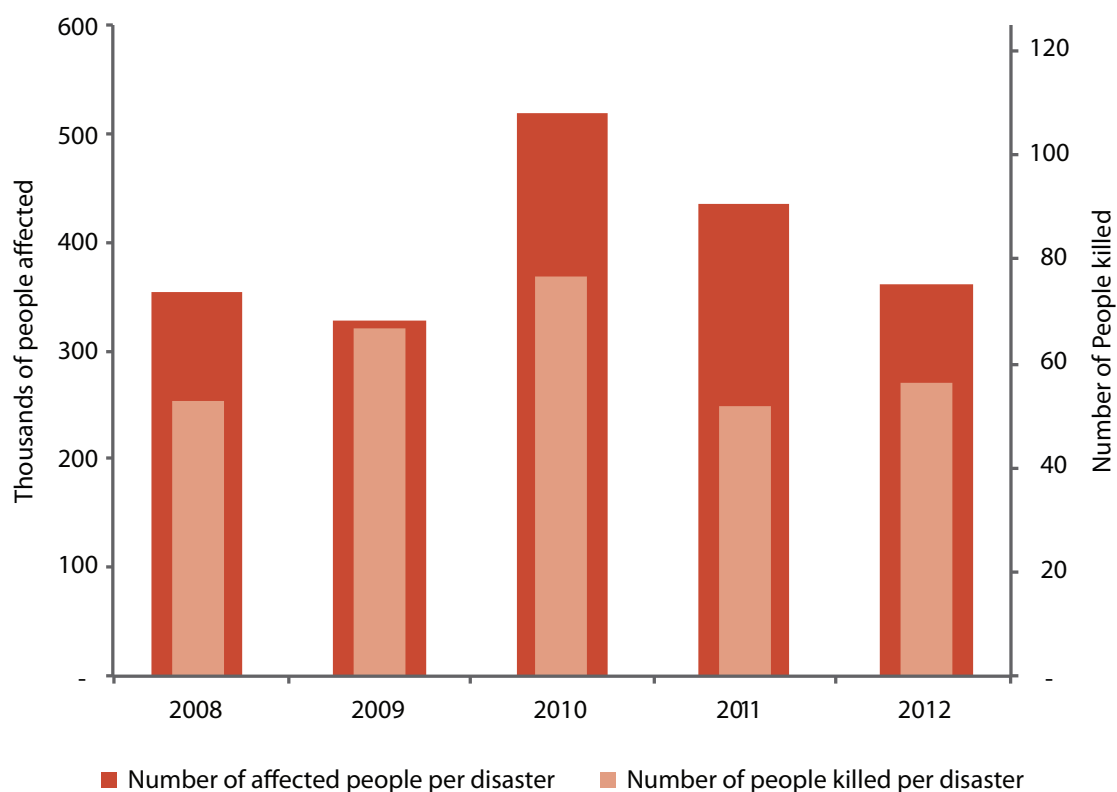
In Solomon Islands, UNDP supported efforts to establish the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The Commission reached out to conflict-affected people to establish the facts of events and contribute to justice. This outreach resulted in debates on the former Government's role in the period of ethnic tension and a certain sense of immaterial compensation, reconciliation and reparation. In 2011 this process led to more than 2,350 individual statements being collected and three public hearings, four closed hearings, 100 interviews and 11 focus group discussions, a substantial increase as compared to 2010, when about 200 statements were collected.

In the post-crisis phase, there is now a greater emphasis on longer-term recovery rather than humanitarian response. This work involves building community-level resilience and restoring livelihoods to help create a peace dividend for people affected by conflict. For example, more than 3 million Afghan refugees have crossed into Pakistan since 1979, resulting in severe social, economic and environmental consequences for host communities. Together with UNHCR, UNDP is working

7

the number of most disaster-prone countries of the region where deaths from natural disasters fell between 2008 and 2012, following UNDP's strengthening of preparedness, response and recovery as well as its support to the establishment of institutional and legal frameworks for Disaster Risk Reduction

FIGURE 11: AVERAGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE AFFECTED AND KILLED PER DISASTER IN ASIA-PACIFIC (Data does not include China or Myanmar)



Source: EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database www.emdat.be, Université Catholique de Louvain, Brussels (Belgium)

to ensure peaceful coexistence between Afghan refugees and their host communities through socioeconomic development and environmental rehabilitation. Restoration of social services and livelihoods has benefited about 600,000 individuals.

The reintegration of male and female ex-combatants also can be an important component of economic recovery. In Nepal, UNDP supported reintegration and rehabilitation of 4,008 verified minors and late recruits; it also increased the safety and security of former Maoist fighters (more than 2,500 men,

1,500 women and children), leading to reduced stigma associated with being an ex-combatant for over 600 female verified minors and late recruits. The former were accepted back in the community as a result of local peace efforts and helped to set up 200 group businesses that have since generated 1,100 sustainable jobs. In this way, social integration and acceptance of the ex-combatants, Internally Displaced Persons and returnees is reinforced with economic reintegration, both of which are necessary elements for sustainable reintegration and livelihood development.



During the 2010 flood in Pakistan, more than 1.6 million homes were destroyed or damaged and 2.2 million hectares of crops were destroyed, affecting almost 20 million people. UNDP provided early recovery support to almost 3,800 affected villages, helping five million people to rebuild their lives. CREDIT: UNDP PAKISTAN

Decades of armed conflict have left landmines and unexploded ordinance contamination in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam (Case study, Lao PDR). In Cambodia, more than 220,000 individuals have benefited from landmine/Explosive Remnants of War clearance, and the number of casualties has reduced by 95 percent since 1996. Most of the land cleared in 2011 was used for agricultural and resettlement purposes. Lessons

learned from UNDP's support to the successful clearance and, critically, to the restoration of productivity and human security to these contaminated areas, are being shared worldwide.

UNDP in Lao PDR supported strategic preparations for the historic first global Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), held in Vientiane in 2010, which brought together

about 110 signatory countries and States Parties as well as numerous observer states and representatives of international organizations and civil society from around the world. Specific actions for States Parties to the CCM were set out in the Vientiane Action Plan.

CASE STUDY

Saving Lives and Supporting Livelihoods Ravaged by UXO in Lao PDR

A 20-minute ride down a muddy lane stands Nanou Village, where residents earn their living from farming and making rice noodles. Lavong Heungnouxay was looking forward to his first harvest since his land was cleared of unexploded ordnance (UXO) in 2012. During the first planting after the clearance, he had been happy to discover that there was no need for fertilizer. “Thanks to the clearance, we could use a buffalo for ploughing instead of hands and a shovel, and this helped to develop better soil,” says the 48-year-old farmer. Even a bomb crater had been converted to a paddy field. This was a big change from 1975, when Lavong’s family came back to the village after fleeing the Second Indo-China War: Lao PDR is, per capita, the most heavily bombed country on Earth, but nearly one in three of these bombs failed to explode, potentially contaminating about one-fourth of villages in 14 out of 17 provinces. Many of Lavong’s neighbours were among the more than 20,000 people who have since been killed or injured by UXO, with about two-thirds of survivors losing limbs. About 400 “bombies” were found on just the 16,783 square metres of Lavong’s land that were cleared.

Yet the impact of UXO goes far beyond the human toll of death, injury and disability. It also prevents millions of Lao people from pursuing their livelihoods, particularly in the agriculture-dependent poorest districts, which also are the

most heavily contaminated. This negatively affects long-term development of the country as a whole. Poverty also plays a role in some UXO accidents by forcing people to risk using contaminated land even before clearance or to “collect” dangerous ordnance to sell for the value of the metal.

For more than 15 years, UNDP has provided training and technology to develop Government capacity to clear contaminated areas at reduced cost, and at an accelerated pace, through the national clearance operator UXO Lao. With UNDP’s support, so far more than 1.3 million items of UXO have been destroyed; of the 31,700 hectares of land cleared, more than 22,800 were used for agriculture and nearly 8,900 hectares for development purposes such as schools and health clinics. UNDP also has supported effective risk education through nearly 15,000 sessions in 9,603 villages, reaching more than 2.4 million people, and assisted UXO accident survivors and affected family members. Critically, as part of its focus on the long-term development challenges posed by UXO, UNDP has played a key role in supporting the formulation of the Government’s 7th National Socio-Economic Development Plan 2011-2015, which focuses on UXO as a priority goal. In 2012, Lao PDR achieved a dramatic reduction in UXO accidents and victims, with 56 casualties compared to 99 in 2011 and 118 in 2010.



CREDIT: Paul Wager/Lao PDR

III. TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE Conserving Natural Resources and Energy Efficiency



Herder groups in Must Soum, Mongolia, are collectively developing their own land use plans and best practices for wild life protection, water and food management which can be reproduced nationwide. UNDP supports herder groups to improve their economic activities, while reorienting grazing, forest use, tourism and sport hunting to protect biodiversity. CREDIT: Eskender Debebe/UNDP Mongolia

Between 2008 and 2012, US\$493 million was spent to conserve natural resources and promote energy efficiency, representing 9 percent of country-level expenditures in Asia-Pacific.

In 29 countries and one island territory, UNDP promoted the integration of climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable policies into development plans and programmes, spending about US\$333 million between 2008 and 2012. Further, in 15 countries and one territory, UNDP expenditures totaled US\$105 million to support capacities to adapt to climate change and make inclusive and sustainable environment and energy decisions benefiting under-served populations.

UNDP in Asia-Pacific supported countries across the region to respond to the growing threat of climate change and catalyze carbon financing as part of environmental finance; to mainstream environment and energy concerns into national development planning processes; and to expand access to environmental and energy services for the poor. In particular, UNDP sought to ensure that the poor have stronger capacities to manage, adapt to and monitor climate change.

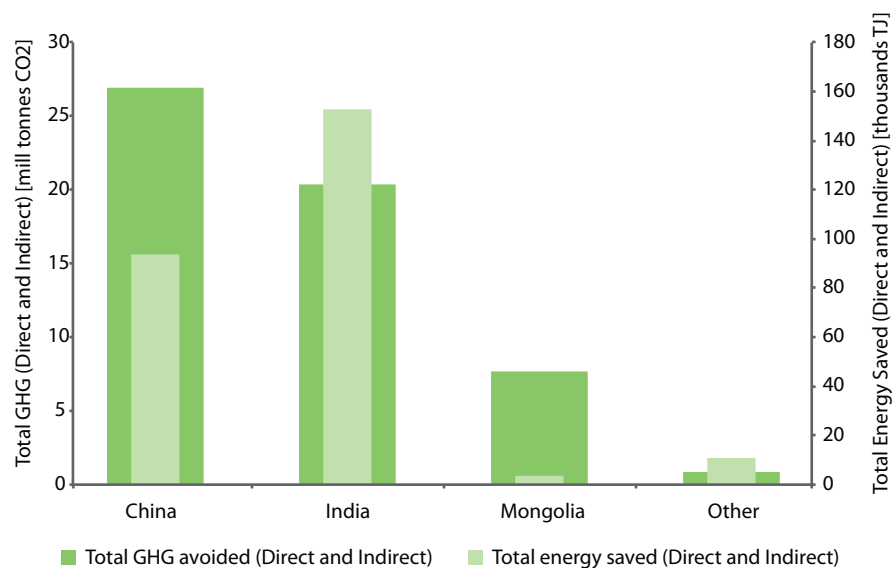
Most country-level outcomes supported the development of plans and programmes that integrate environmentally sustainable solutions in a manner that promotes poverty reduction, achievement of the MDGs and low-emission, climate-resilient development (Figure 12). To a lesser degree, country outcomes also supported national and local governments

and communities to strengthen their capacities to adapt to climate change and make inclusive and sustainable environment and energy decisions that benefit underserved populations.

UNDP's environment work has recognized the importance of poverty issues and moving the environmental discussion beyond Ministries of Environment to include policy and economic decision-making bodies. In Asia-Pacific, the Poverty Environment Initiative has

supported countries in two main ways. Firstly, it has encouraged Ministries of Planning and Local Government to integrate poverty, environment and climate issues into their planning processes and to work more closely with Ministries of Environment. Secondly, at the budgetary level, seven Ministries of Finance have been supported to better understand their expenditures on climate-related issues and adjust their public spending accordingly, with the ultimate aim of achieving greener, more inclusive economies.

FIGURE 12: EMISSION SAVINGS IN ASIA-PACIFIC AS A RESULT OF UNDP-SUPPORTED GEF-FINANCED PROJECTS



Source: 2012 estimates from 29 on-going UNDP-supported GEF-financed climate change mitigation projects in the Asia-Pacific region

FIGURE 13: PROTECTED AREAS SUPPORTED BY UNDP THROUGH GEF-FINANCED PROJECTS

Sources: UNDP-GEF 2012.
Boundaries from FAO
GAUL 2009



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Jammu and Kashmir: Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

97 million

hectares of marine and land protected areas in the region – an area the size of Pakistan – were strengthened or newly created in 2011-2012 through UNDP-supported GEF-financed projects

Country Name	Number of Protected Areas Supported by UNDP	Coverage in Km ²
Bhutan	3	6,250
Cambodia	2	4,306
China	70	101,348
India	3	11,296
Iran	18	12,648
Lao People's Democratic Republic	03	-
Malaysia	420	5,757
Maldives	18	55
Mongolia	94	357,192
Nepal	4	2,297
Pakistan	61	24,165
Philippines	22	12,331
Sri Lanka	4	795
Thailand	13	7,585
Viet Nam	6	1,901
Grand Total	360	547,925

PROTECTING ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY

Recognizing the potential of protected areas to conserve biodiversity while contributing to sustainable development, UNDP has supported the strengthening of national protected area systems in 14 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. UNDP's strategy, following the global framework on biodiversity is to unlock the potential of protected areas so they are effectively managed and sustainably financed. With financing from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the protected area portfolio directly affects 360 Protected Areas, including indigenous and community-conserved areas, covering a total area of 547,925 km². In China's Qinghai Province, for example, a protected area project focuses on protecting the source area of three of Asia's major rivers, the Yellow, Yangtze and Mekong. In Malaysia, UNDP support is creating novel financing mechanisms to offer incentives to state governments so that they are encouraged to increase

their investments in protected area management. In particular, the project aims to safeguard remaining forest areas, which serve as natural "water towers" for Peninsular Malaysia and neighbouring Singapore because of their water catchment function; the forests also harbor an array of unique animal and plant species, including the critically endangered Malayan tiger.

ACCELERATING ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Countries in the Asia-Pacific region are requesting strategic and prioritized support from UNDP to respond and adapt to climate change, which is causing further land degradation and deforestation, inundation of low-lying coastal areas, and increased frequency and intensity of storms, to the detriment of human security, livelihoods and well-being.

In Bangladesh, UNDP is working with the Government to establish coastal greenbelts that serve multiple functions: they will help to trap

190,657

people were trained in chemicals management in 2012 through UNDP-supported GEF-financed projects

56 million

the tonnage of greenhouse gas emissions reduced through UNDP-supported GEF-financed projects, equivalent to GHG emissions produced by Bangladesh in 2009

sediment, countering the effects of coastal erosion; they will provide food and fibre products for local communities; and they will serve to reduce pressure on remaining natural forest areas, which can then provide much-needed coastal protection.

Resilience has been strengthened to respond to climate and other environmental impacts through effective conservation and management of natural resources and the implementation of related national policies. In Cambodia, 353 drought- and flood-prone villages in 18 provinces have implemented climate change resilience plans with UNDP support. In the Pacific, meanwhile, local communities in 13 island countries and territories are implementing adaptation projects involving 40,000 villagers.

GREENING ENERGY SERVICES

Countries in Asia-Pacific have sought support to increase access to modern energy services and improve energy efficiency (Case study, China). The Rural Energy Development Programme introduced decentralized renewable energy services to the most remote populations of Nepal, benefiting more than one million people; this is now widely recognized as a successful model for rural development. By building micro-hydropower systems and providing improved cooking stoves, the programme provided reliable, low-cost electricity to rural communities. Its decentralized approach not only strengthened local governance but also supported the development of rural economies and livelihoods. The initiative covers all 75 districts of Nepal and has resulted in an average increase of US\$121 in household income, reduced indoor pollution and created 40 new businesses per district.

Work on climate change mitigation to remove barriers to widespread implementation of renewable energy programmes has contributed to the ability of the Cook Islands and Samoa to move toward carbon-neutral status by 2020 and for Tokelau to become 100 percent renewable in 2012. These are significant contributions toward energy security in the sub-region, given that fossil fuel represents between 20 and 38 percent of total imports. Establishment of the Sustainable Energy Industry Association of the Pacific by UNDP is further contributing to lowered market barriers.

The Asia-Pacific region is becoming a hub for chemicals manufacturing, and more and more hazardous chemicals are manufactured, used and disposed inadequately into the environment. Countries are seeking support to build their capacities to manage these chemicals. In China and Viet Nam, with GEF financing, 3,375 metric tonnes of Persistent Organic Pollutants were disposed of or safeguarded in 2012.

3,375 metric tonnes of Persistent Organic Pollutants – 3.5 times the annual emissions of Great Britain – were disposed of or safeguarded in 2012 through GEF-financed projects

261,084 *the terajoules of energy saved directly or indirectly by the end of 2012, through 29 UNDP-supported GEF-financed projects. This is equivalent to the power consumption of Pakistan in 2010*



Flash floods from glacial lakes pose the biggest danger to lives and economies in Himalayan countries such as Bhutan. UNDP supports the governments of Nepal, India, Pakistan and Bhutan to reduce the risk of glacial lake floods by integrating disaster risk reduction strategies with climate change adaptation in high risk areas. CREDIT: UNDP Bhutan

REDUCING EMISSIONS FROM DEFORESTATION AND DEGRADATION (REDD)

Countries in Asia-Pacific have sought UN assistance in forest management and, in particular, reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. REDD is a dedicated effort to value the carbon stored in standing forests as a way to create incentives for developing countries to protect forests. Financial flows

resulting from REDD will not only reduce carbon emissions, but also can benefit developing countries by supporting poverty reduction and preserving biodiversity and other vital ecosystems. REDD initiatives are active in Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, and Viet Nam, supported in cooperation with UNEP and FAO. UNDP has been assisting the Government of Indonesia on an ambitious REDD+

agenda, building the political consensus and the infrastructure for the establishment of a National REDD+ Agency, the Fund for REDD+ in Indonesia, and a Measurement, Reporting and Verification institution. The logging moratorium on primary forest and peat land was recently extended for two years, reflecting Indonesia's commitment to improve forest governance in the country.

CASE STUDY

CASE STUDY *Giving the Green Light to Energy Efficiency in China*

In a bold move, China has positioned itself among only a handful of countries aiming to slash electricity consumption in a comparatively brief time as it moves toward a low-carbon economy and society. Since 2009, UNDP and the National Development and Reform Commission have combined efforts and with GEF financing have transformed China's lighting industry, replacing every conventional incandescent light bulb in the country with a new energy-saving lamp (EnSL), which uses only one-fourth of the energy. Through the Green Lights Project, also known as PILESLAMP, this also has been expected to reduce China's electricity consumption by 48 billion kilowatt hours per year and, in turn, its carbon dioxide emissions by up to 48 million tonnes annually, according to the Energy Research Institute of China.

A key innovation lies in the project's ability to translate into lower household utility bills and reduced operating costs for small businesses, while simultaneously reducing poverty and freeing up additional resources for families. So far, the project has donated 2.17 million energy-saving lamps in partnership with the private sector (Zhejiang Yankon Group and Philips China Investment Company), benefiting more than 500,000 low-income families and 2,300 primary and secondary schools in 17

provinces. It also is examining incentives to offset the higher costs of the lights among the poor. Savings already stand at US\$8.4 million annually, with an estimated reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 5.58 million tonnes of CO₂, according to the Energy Research Institute of China.

On the production side, since China is the world's leading manufacturer of both incandescent lamps and EnSLs, the project has assisted manufacturers in increasing their capacities to produce energy-saving lamps and developed energy-efficient industrial supply chains by working with light bulb production companies to replace or modernize outdated technologies. Incandescent light bulbs that exceed 100 watts were banned in October 2012, with those of 60 watts and above slated to be eliminated in October 2014. All remaining bulbs will be banned from 2016.

As the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, declared at the launching of the PILESLAMP project in Beijing in 2008: "By changing a light bulb, and changing our mindset, we can change the world." China seems well on the way.



CREDIT: UNDP CHINA

Picture This 2010 Awards, First prize winner in the professional category: 'A Step Ahead' – a young boy climbs the stairs of his school in Bhopal, India. CREDIT: Prakash Hatvalne



IV. MOVING FORWARD

As the current Strategic Plan comes to an end and UNDP embarks on its new Plan in 2014, three development challenges serve as priorities for UNDP in Asia-Pacific. First is sustainability and equity, which refers to the quality of economic growth and ensuring that those who have not benefited from the region's prosperity thus far are included.

It also links to environmental sustainability and the governance of natural resources in a manner that ensures equitable growth. A second priority is building resilience to shocks caused by a range of external forces, including climate change, natural disasters, high and volatile commodity prices, and global economic and financial crises. The

third priority relates to strengthening democratic governance and the identification of solutions to improve service delivery that tackle poverty and inequality, including gender discrimination.

To stay relevant in the fast-changing development landscape, UNDP in Asia-Pacific will respond by striving

to strengthen partnerships with the countries that it serves, improve the quality of programmes and the services that it offers, and increase its productivity, employing three approaches:

First, it will build new types of partnerships. Work to support South-South partnerships – and specifically, working with MICs as they become global development actors – has already progressed through the signing of strategic partnership agreements with countries such as India, China and Indonesia, as well as through the establishment of Global Centres of Excellence. Now, the focus must be to effectively implement these agreements and ensure that UNDP in Asia-Pacific provides relevant policy services for MICs based on client demand. In the lead-up to the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, promotion of new approaches to international development cooperation will need to be complemented through further engagement to forge private-sector partnerships that promote human development as well as

deeper partnerships with regional institutions. Working closely with other UN Agencies, UNDP in Asia-Pacific can do more to bring value to coordination via inter-Agency operational and programmatic coordination services that can be provided under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator.

The second pathway is related to programme quality for greater development impact. In this regard, UNDP in Asia-Pacific will continue to improve programme focus, design, implementation, sustainability monitoring, evaluation and reporting alike. Critical to this is improving the way evidence is approached to inform decision-making and the building of an issue-oriented approach that brings in different stakeholders from numerous sectors and works coherently with all United Nations partners. Continued improvement of alignment with countries' strategic interests will be needed, while still ensuring government ownership. More will be done to use evidence from "downstream" experience to

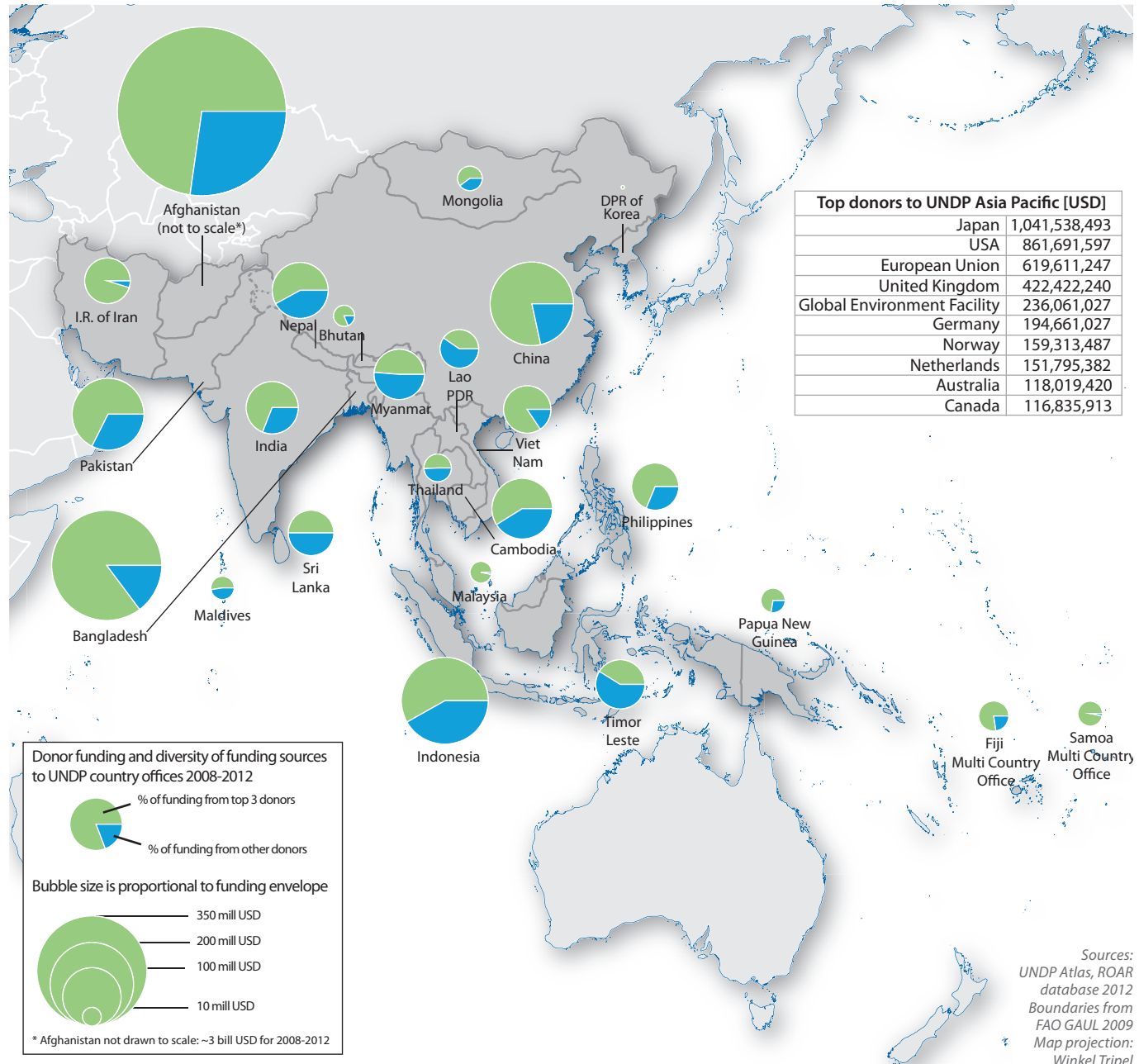
inform "upstream" policy work, coordination and partnerships. In addition, more attention will be paid to documenting and sharing good practices, including through SSC.

The third organizational priority will be to tailor the business models of UNDP in Asia-Pacific to country interests and needs, whether with regard to policies, partnerships or programmes. Creating a more agile workforce whereby expertise from one Country Office can be used to support problem-solving teams working in other countries will be crucial to support this enhanced country-level policy advisory role.

In all, this work to improve our organizational performance in readiness for the next Strategic Plan is intended to underscore the commitment of UNDP in Asia-Pacific to accelerate the transition from "Good to Great," building on important experiences and lessons from the last five years and carrying them forward in the years to come.

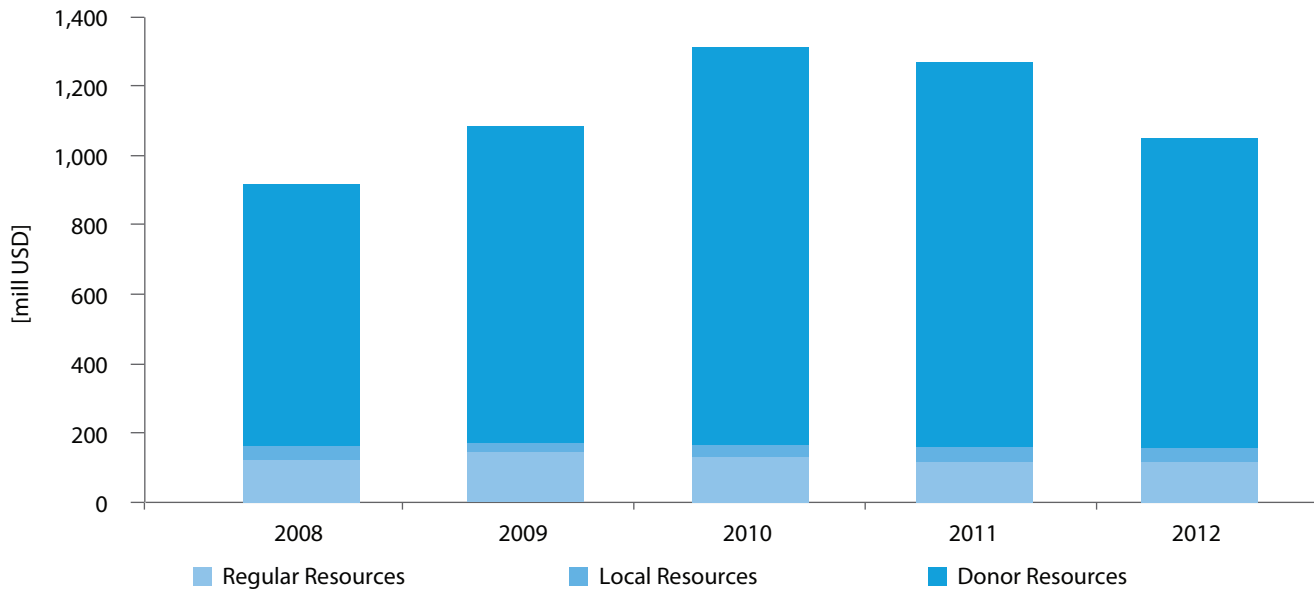
V. RESOURCES

FIGURE 14: DONOR FUNDING TO UNDP ASIA-PACIFIC PROGRAMMES 2008 - 2012



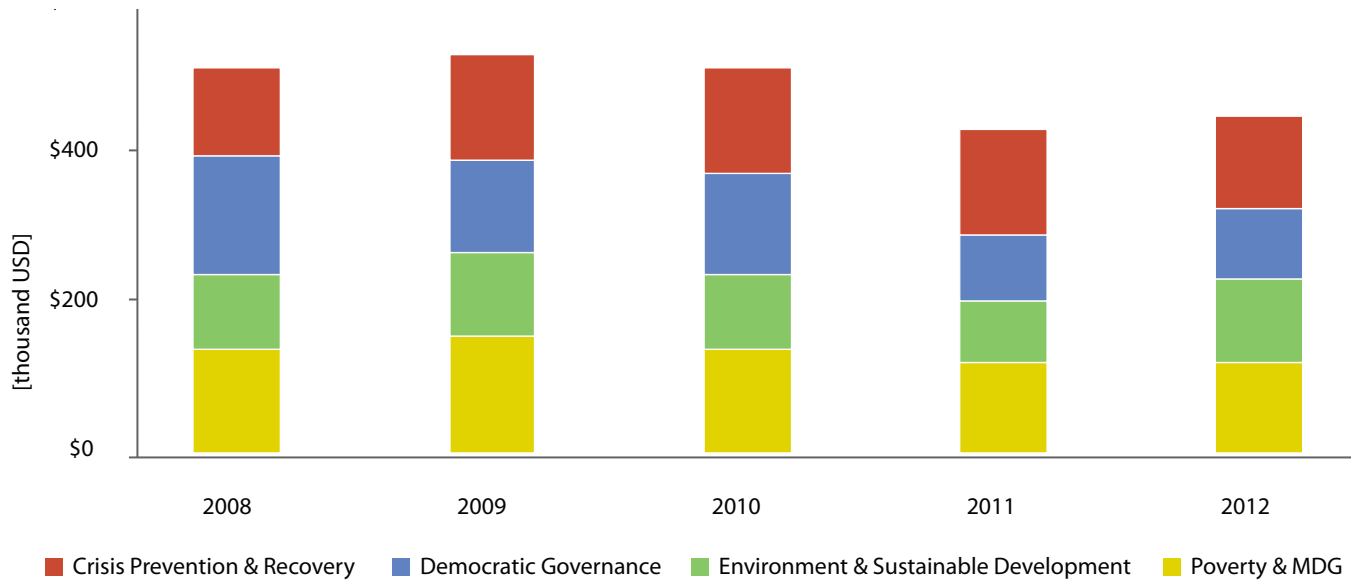
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Jammu and Kashmir: Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

FIGURE 15: FUNDING TO UNDP ASIA-PACIFIC PROGRAMMES 2008 - 2012



Source: UNDP ROAR database 2012

FIGURE 16: UNDP EXPENDITURE IN ASIA-PACIFIC BY FOCUS AREA AND YEAR (excluding Afghanistan)



Source: UNDP ROAR database 2012

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

2008	<p>Towards Inclusive Governance</p> <p>Mainstreaming Anti-Corruption in Development</p> <p>Women and HIV in the Asia-Pacific Region: A Development Practitioner's Guide</p> <p>Asia-Pacific Human Development Report – Tackling Corruption, Transforming Lives: Accelerating Human Development in Asia and the Pacific</p> <p>Rising Food and Fuel Prices in Asia and the Pacific: Causes, Impacts and Policy Responses</p> <p>South-South Regionalism and Trade Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region</p>
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2013	<p>Advancing Sustainable Development: The Case of Extractive Industries - Summary of e-Discussion</p>

These publications are available at: <http://www.snap-undp.org/elibrary>

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome	LOTFA	Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan
APHDR	Asia-Pacific Human Development Report	LTC	Legal Training Centre of Timor-Leste
APRC	Asia-Pacific Regional Centre	MDG	Millennium Development Goal
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations	MIC	Middle Income Country
AusAID	Australian Government Overseas Aid Programme	MRV	Monitoring Reporting and Verification
BNPB	Indonesian National Agency for Disaster Management	PAPI	Governance and Public Administration Performance Index
CCM	Convention on Cluster Munitions	PAR	Public Administration Reform
CDDE	Capacity Development for Development Effectiveness	PFIP	Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme
CDMP	Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme	PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
CPD	Country Programme Document	PIPSO	Pacific Islands Private Sector Organization
CSO	Civil Society Organization	PPI	Public Performance Index
DDA	District Development Assembly	RBAP	Regional Bureau for Asia-Pacific
DDR	Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration	REDD	Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation
EnSL	Energy-saving lamp	SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	SSC	South-South Cooperation
GEF	Global Environment Facility	UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
GHG	Greenhouse gas	UNDG	United Nations Development Group
HLF	High Level Forum	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
IED	Independent Electoral Commission of Afghanistan	UN ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
LDC	Least Developed Country	UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
LIC	Low Income Country	UXO	Unexploded Ordnance

Noor Islam was among 81 million people who received National ID cards, through a UNDP-funded project, when they registered to vote ahead of the December 2008 national elections.



Cover photo: Reena, from Hamirpur district in Uttar Pradesh, India, belongs to the Scheduled Caste community. Under a government scheme to encourage girls to attend school, students her age were entitled to receive a bicycle each. However her request was denied without an explanation. UNDP's partnership with the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, not only helped Reena and other members of her community learn about their legal rights, but also empowered them to secure their entitlements, like bicycles, which have made it easier for them to ride to school.



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