



50
YEARS

Empowered lives. Resilient nations.

A photograph of two men in a field of green plants. One man, wearing a blue and white striped shirt and green overalls, is using a yellow hose and a spray nozzle. The other man, wearing a dark plaid shirt and dark pants, is standing next to him, looking down at the plants. A large watermelon is visible in the foreground on the left.

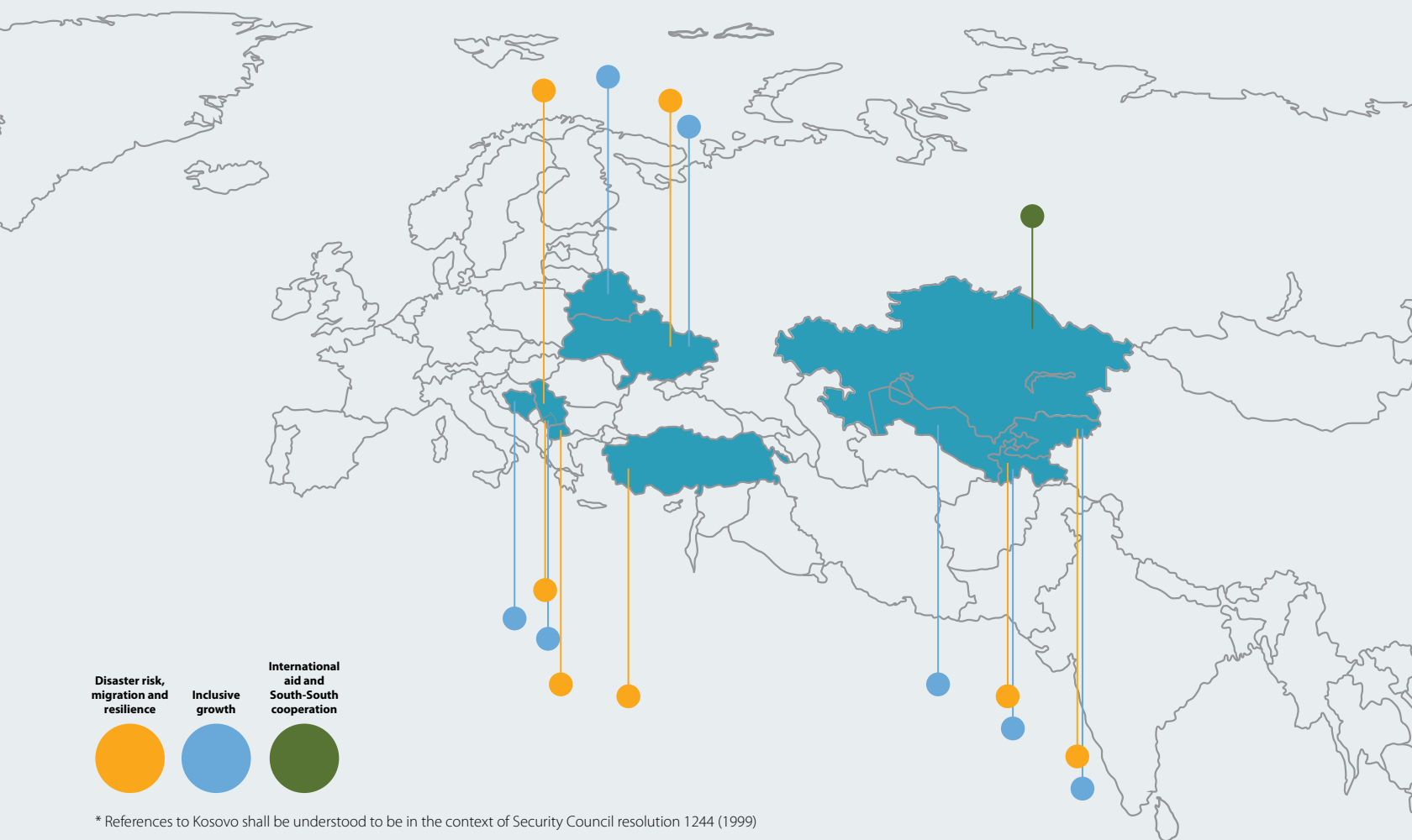
Japan and UNDP: **Building human security in Europe and the CIS**

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Building human security in Europe and the CIS

UNDP's presence in the region covers the following countries and territories:

Albania	Cyprus	Moldova	
Armenia	Georgia	Montenegro	Turkey
Azerbaijan	Kazakhstan	Serbia	Turkmenistan
Belarus	Kosovo*	Tajikistan	Ukraine
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Kyrgyzstan	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Uzbekistan



* References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999)

Foreword by Cihan Sultanoğlu

In recent years, Japan's engagement with UNDP in the Europe and CIS region has grown dramatically. From its support for disaster recovery in the aftermath of the Western Balkans' devastating floods, to its support for internally displaced, refugee and host populations in Ukraine, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, the Government of Japan has helped to make a difference in the lives of millions of people across the region.

Guided by the principle of human security, Japan has been leading efforts to put people at the center of all development activities. The human security concept provides a very useful lens for conducting deeper analyses of the root causes of insecurity, and for addressing the needs and capacity requirements of countries and their people. This approach is very relevant to Japan's cooperation with UNDP in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), whether in reducing poverty, ensuring climate and disaster resilience or building inclusive societies and promoting peace.

Of course, Japan's unparalleled expertise and know-how when it comes to disaster risk reduction has been a huge asset in light of the increasing number of climate-related extreme weather events that recently hit our region. Further, what makes Japan an outstanding global citizen is its unparalleled resolve to work with UNDP and governments in an innovative manner, across a wide spectrum of sectors, line ministries and contributing partners, transforming the way we do development and make a difference in the life of people. Our joint support for Kazakhstan's emerging aid architecture exemplifies that drive. So does our extensive cooperation in the Western Balkans, Turkey, Ukraine and Central Asia, which demonstrates that the Government of Japan sees long-term regional impact as a key outcome.

UNDP believes that the best way to address the region's challenges is to help countries and territories to mainstream, implement and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Japan has the experience, the know-how and the technical capacity required to give this endeavor a decisive push. Thus, we are grateful for this partnership and look forward to expanding our work together in 2017 and beyond.



Cihan Sultanoğlu

United Nations Assistant Secretary-General,
UNDP Assistant Administrator and
Director, Regional Bureau for Europe and CIS

Regional context

UNDP in Europe and the CIS

UNDP's work in Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) spans 21 countries and territories across Eastern Europe, Turkey and Central Asia.

UNDP works with Japan and other partners to help the region reach the Sustainable Development Goals, aiming to bolster human security and resilience; empower people through better governance and human rights; and promote more sustainable growth models.

In the past 25 years, many millions of people have come to enjoy higher levels of health, education and income as their countries transitioned from state socialism, with some joining the European Union or becoming international aid donors. Since 2001, for instance, the middle class is estimated to have tripled in size.

But with low commodity prices, shrinking remittances and slow economic growth in Europe and the Russian Federation and much of the rest of the region, income and employment generation opportunities are disappearing. People without decent jobs face high risks of poverty and exclusion, with women, young workers, people living with HIV and people with disabilities particularly prone to living on the margins of society.

The region also faces a number of risks. Many of these are associated with protracted and geopolitical conflicts in the Black and Caspian Sea basins, as well as massive refugee flows.

Further, while the region is not a significant producer of greenhouse gas emissions, its less wealthy countries have been disproportionately affected by the consequences of climate change, such as extreme weather events and increased pressure on water resources. These challenges are making it even more difficult for these countries to move forward with their development agendas.

The region's well educated labor force, relatively high levels of gender equality, and its youthful populations hold the key to peace and creating modern and dynamic economies. Its vast renewable natural resources can also help promote more sustainable growth models.

The SDGs—especially SDG16 (“promote peaceful and inclusive societies”), SDG10 (“reduce inequalities within and between countries”), but also SDG8 (“promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”) — all offer important opportunities for the region to address some of these critical challenges with support of partners, such as Japan.

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UNDP and Japan
are working
to help
the region fulfill
the SDGs



FUNDING HIGHLIGHTS

Japan's contribution to the Europe and CIS region has increased in the past few years. In 2011, Japan contributed \$0.3 million but this figure rose to over \$68.7 million in 2014-2016, thanks to additional contributions for early recovery in Ukraine, disaster risk management efforts and migration crisis in the Western Balkans.

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LITACA has been building infrastructure and services, business opportunities and promoting cross-border cooperation between Afghanistan and Tajikistan. Photo: UNDP

APPROACH

The Government of Japan and UNDP have applied the human security approach to their cooperation. This is particularly true when it comes to protecting people, promoting peace and ensuring sustainable development in times of crisis, such as conflict or natural disaster. This approach has helped to tackle extreme poverty and hunger; protect the environment; expand education; advance health, gender equality, and women's empowerment; and foster global partnerships for development in achieving SDGs in the region.

List of ongoing projects funded by the Government of Japan

2014-2016

No	Countries and territories	Project title	Budget
1	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Landslide Disaster Risk Management	USD2,940,000
2	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Kantarevac Sports Field	USD 248,879
3	Kosovo*	Disaster Resilience Initiative Support	USD 300,000
4	FYR Macedonia	Support to Local Government Response to the Migration Crisis	USD 2,225,000
5	Serbia	Strengthening Local Resilience in Serbia: Mitigating the Impact of the Migration Crisis	USD 1,095,000
6	Turkey	Strengthening Social Stability in Southeast Anatolia	USD 10,100,000
7	Kazakhstan	Promoting Kazakhstan's ODA Cooperation with Afghanistan	USD 300,000
8	Kyrgyzstan	Automation of the Voter Registration and Identification Process During the Kyrgyzstan Electoral Cycle	USD 5,957,000
9	Tajikistan	Promoting Cross-border Cooperation Through Effective Management of Tajikistan's Border with Afghanistan	USD 3,928,000
10	Tajikistan	Livelihood Improvement in Tajik-Afghan Cross-border Areas (LITACA)	USD 11,058,000
11	Tajikistan	Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Response Capacities	USD 11,537,000
12	Ukraine	Rapid Response to Social and Economic Issues of IDPs in Ukraine	USD 6,320,000
13	Ukraine	Economic and Social Recovery of Donbas Region	USD 5,000,000
14	Ukraine	Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme (Restoration of Critical Infrastructure)	USD 2,600,000
	Total		USD 68,721,000

Source: UNDP

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Livelihoods and social infrastructure

Japan was the first bilateral partner to provide around USD 19 million for early recovery following the crisis in Ukraine. Since then, Japan and UNDP's efforts have focused on the rehabilitation of hospitals, schools, water and electricity distribution, as well as improving livelihoods and the overall situation of Internally Displaced People (IDPs). More than 81,000 people in the conflict areas of Eastern Ukraine have gained access to improved social services, while water supply has been maintained or re-established for 3.8 million people.

3.8 million

The number of people who have running water in Eastern Ukraine thanks to a Japan-UNDP programme



Sasha Dobyri, an internally displaced person from Donetsk, helps a coworker weld metal together as part of a Japan-UNDP programme. Photo: Mackenzie Knowles-Coursin/UNDP

Ukraine: Heroic duty

Olexandr Bilanov is the Chief Doctor of Sloviansk Central Rayon Hospital in the small town of Mykolaivka in Donetsk oblast. The town became an epicenter of the heavy fighting that unfolded in the summer of 2014.

Numerous public and residential buildings were damaged and hundreds of local residents were injured.

“People arrived all the time, wounded and frightened,” recalled Bilanov. “We did what any doctor has to do – we stayed at our posts and helped all those in need. During the shelling we were the only hospital still open in the area.”

During the most intense phase of the conflict, missiles were falling a few metres away from the hospital and the heavy blasts damaged windows and even the roof of the building. Doctors had to operate in the basement and put buckets near the operating table to collect the water falling from the ceiling.

The hospital played an important role in the health of the region: 42,000 people, both locals and internally displaced people, were treated there in 2015 alone. With support from the Government of Japan, UNDP managed to repair all damages and renovated and re-equipped the surgery room. In total, 28 infrastructure sites were renovated in 2015-2016.

Disaster recovery and risk reduction

Following the catastrophic floods of 2014 and 2015 in the Western Balkans, UNDP and Japan worked swiftly to facilitate the recovery of affected populations while boosting disaster preparedness in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. In Serbia, thanks to a USD 3.6 million project, support was provided to 27 municipalities, benefiting approximately 1.3 million people. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, land that is prone to landslides was rehabilitated, while technical assistance was provided to ensure better landslide management for the future.

In Tajikistan, the Government of Japan committed USD 11.5 million in 2016 to strengthen disaster risk reduction and response capacities for the benefit of more than 8 million people. The 4-year project, to be implemented by UNDP, will include a nation-wide risk assessment, improvement of early warning, preparedness and response capabilities, and support for search and rescue teams. In addition, UNDP and JICA are training border agencies and communities living close to the Afghanistan-Tajikistan border to respond to disasters such as earthquakes, floods, landslides and avalanches.

In Kyrgyzstan, a project funded by Japan, supported by the Kyrgyz Ministry of Emergencies and other key partners successfully established an information management system for preventing, monitoring and responding to disasters that has strengthened the country's resilience to natural hazards.



With UNDP and Japan's support, Tajikistan is strengthening its disaster preparedness. Photo: UNOCHA



A UNDP-Japan programme has provided safety for 984 people in 13 landslides zones in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Photo: UNDP

Disaster averted: In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, hundreds safer from fatal landslides

Avdo Ahmespahic, a married man with four children, has been living in the Dreskovaca settlement, in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) for twenty-one years.

During the heavy rain falls in May 2014, more than 3,000 landslides caused destruction to nearly 2,000 houses. When disaster hit, Avdo and his family spent six days living outside of their house. For the next year and a half, he and his wife were afraid to sleep during rainy nights because they wanted to be prepared to evacuate their kids in case of a landslide.

Avdo and his family's lives and home were endangered by the landslide in Dreskovaca.

With support from the Government of Japan at US\$2.94 million, an initiative titled "Landslide Disaster Risk Management in BiH" has provided safety for 984 people in 13 landslides zones, including the one in Dreskovaca. Even more impressively, it rehabilitated a landslide which threatened the city hospital of Doboj, preserving health services for approximately 270,000 inhabitants who use the hospital.

The rehabilitation efforts are one of the cornerstones of UNDP's larger efforts to move the country towards sustainable development through risk reduction, prevention and resilience building.

Migration and resilience

In 2015 and 2016, the Government of Japan worked with UNDP to increase the capacity of municipalities in Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to manage waste and provide clean water and electricity to host communities and transit camps welcoming hundreds of thousands of displaced people. In 2016, Japan and UNDP jointly initiated similar interventions in Turkey's Şanlıurfa, Gaziantep, Kilis and Hatay cities in Southeast Anatolia, which have received vast numbers of Syrian refugees. Among other things, the project aims to strengthen livelihood opportunities for Syrians and the host communities through developing their skills and competencies. UNDP, as the co-lead of the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) and as the resilience coordinator, is responsible for ensuring that a strong resilience dimension is maintained in the Syrian crisis response. In undertaking this role, UNDP cooperates very closely with UNHCR.

UNDP and Japan
are helping
to ensure resilience
is integrated
in the response
in Syria



In the Western Balkans, UNDP and Japan are working to strengthen municipal resilience in the context of vastly increased numbers of transiting refugees. Photo: UNDP

In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, a small town overwhelmed by refugee crisis finds relief

“We had problems with waste collection even before the refugee crisis,” says Ubavka Vegova, the Director of Gevgelija’s Public Communal Enterprise. “Once the solid waste started piling up, the landfill system we had in place became a serious environmental risk.”

In 2015, some 900,000 refugees and migrants crossed the Greek border into Gevgelija in 2015. At the peak of the crisis, the town of 23,000 was receiving 11,000 visitors each day. The municipal dump, located at an ecologically sensitive point on the Vardar River, quickly overflowed and local citizens became alarmed by the potential health hazards involved.

The solution devised by UNDP as part of a broader US\$2.2-million project funded by the Government of Japan, was to help Gevgelija fulfill its public-service responsibilities by investing in equipment for the municipality.

“Without the help we received from UNDP and Japan we would have faced a major health crisis,” Ubavka reflects.

UNDP and the Government of Japan are now focused on the long-term. A site has been approved for a new \$1-million landfill that will conform to EU norms, reduce pollution, encourage recycling and create new job opportunities for local people. UNDP expects to complete construction in 2017.

Border security

In Central Asia, Japan's efforts to improve security in the countries neighboring Afghanistan has proven critical. Through the Project for Livelihood Improvement in Tajik-Afghan Cross-border Areas (LITACA), for instance, infrastructure and services, business opportunities and cross-border cooperation have received an important boost. The project, with Japanese financing totaling \$11 million, has renovated 75 facilities such as schools, health and community centers and given access to 126,500 vulnerable people. It is estimated that the livelihoods of more than 1,123,000 people will have been supported by the time the project ends in 2017.

The livelihoods of more than 1,123,000 people living along the Afghanistan-Tajikistan border will have been supported by 2017.

Generating income and happiness in **Tajik-Afghan** border areas

Olima Amirbekova is 30 years old, from Tajikistan. After a sewing course, she became fully trained to earn her own salary.

“I have a problem with my knee. That is why it is hard for me to move around...I was not self-sufficient. My life changed after I became fully trained... Now I have job that I like and...do not feel alone and isolated from my community,” she says.

Now Olima is confident, earning income and contributing to her family. Being disabled, she is happy to provide services to her rural community, including other people with disabilities.

Many women like Olima have been supported by a livelihoods project in Tajik-Afghan cross-border areas, financed by the Government of Japan. Since April 2014, 185 entrepreneurs (including 55 women) received business planning and development support and 500 unemployed women and men received vocational training for in-demand professions.

Business-to-Business match making events, business forums and trade fairs between entrepreneurs from Tajikistan and Afghanistan are fueling cross-border economic cooperation.

Small grants have directly targeted at least 3,000 people (including 1,400 women) and indirectly benefited 43,500. 60 rural infrastructure facilities were constructed or rehabilitated, benefitting 270,682 vulnerable people. The project is expected to improve the livelihoods of over 1.1 million people living in the border areas, contributing to stability and security in the region.



A programme along the Tajik-Afghan border is aiming to strengthen the livelihoods of more than 1,123,000 people. Photo: UNDP

Building inclusive societies

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Government of Japan, through the UN Trust Fund for Human Security, contributed \$2.3 million towards a UNDP/UNESCO project to conduct mine clearance, manage waste, restore cultural heritage sites and promote tourism, contributing to poverty reduction and community reconciliation efforts.

In addition, the Government of Japan is now supporting the reconstruction of a sports field in Mostar, contributing to reconciliation efforts among youths in this long-divided city.

In Kyrgyzstan, UNDP and Japan signed a new agreement to automate the voter registration and identification process for the Kyrgyzstan electoral cycle in 2015-2017 and the project successfully supported the parliamentary elections of October 2015 and municipal elections of March 2016. The elections marked an important milestone in the democratic transition of the country.

In Uzbekistan, UNDP and JICA have been helping small and medium enterprises flourish, generating livelihoods for entrepreneurs and communities.

The project supported the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in developing proposals for key legislation that regulates the business environment in the country. These efforts resulted in the introduction of “single window” centers across the country, an innovative mechanism of public service provision for entrepreneurs. UNDP also supported the development of an Action Plan to further streamline all types of registration, permit, licensing and foreign trade procedures for businesses.

In Uzbekistan,
Japan and UNDP
are helping
businesses to register
themselves, obtain licenses
and follow procedures
for exporting



The Kantarevac Sports centre in Mostar, BiH was rebuilt in 2016. Photo: UNDP



The Government of Kyrgyzstan, JICA, the Japanese Embassy and UNDP sign an agreement ahead of the country's elections Photo: UNDP/Kairatbek Murzakimov



In Kyrgyzstan, UNDP helped introduce modern information-communication electoral technologies to conduct successful elections. Photo: UNDP

In **Kyrgyzstan**, democracy sees a new day

Two previous elections in the Kyrgyz Republic in 2005 and 2010 resulted in civil unrest, with claims at large about lack of transparency and violation of freedoms.

Then the Kyrgyz Government, with ambitious plans to introduce modern information-communication electoral technologies, asked UNDP to support the elections of 2015.

The goal was to use an equipment to automate voters' identification process on Election Day to avoid one of the main manipulation techniques: multiple voting.

With a significant pledge from Japan of about US\$6.1 million, and a contribution from the Kyrgyz government of more than \$800,000, UNDP delivered 6,000 sets of voter identification equipment (including laptops, thermometers and fingerprint scanners.)

With a total voter turnout at 59 percent, the results of the Preliminary Elections in 2015 were accepted by all major political actors and no civil unrest in sight. The State Registry Service did report 144 minor technical issues, but they were addressed locally.

The President of the Kyrgyz Republic, Almazbek Atambayev, stated: "This is one of the happiest days of my life. I've lived to see clean and fair elections come true in my country."

**"I've lived to see
clean and fair
elections come true
in my country."**

In Belarus,
Japan helped build
livelihoods in areas
contaminated by
the Chernobyl
disaster

Jobs and economic growth

The Government of Japan has provided assistance to rehabilitate natural areas, boost ecotourism and create jobs in Bosnia and Herzegovina's River Vrbas Basin, situated in the country's West. The project also helped secure funding from the Global Environment Facility for floods risk management and integrated climate change resilience.

In Canton 10, situated in the West, UNDP and Japan, together with UNICEF, UNHCR and IOM, have worked to address economic, social and other disparities affecting vulnerable groups. The project promoted employment by creating value chains, helped local governments and public institutions to provide social services to people, and introduced measures to prevent discrimination and violence in schools.

In Belarus, Japan contributed USD 1.4 million, through the UN Trust Fund for Human Security, towards building livelihoods in areas contaminated by the Chernobyl disaster. The project was completed in 2012.

In Tajikistan, UNDP and four other UN Agencies -- WFP, UNICEF, UN WOMEN, UNFPA -- are implementing a project with a USD 1.95 million contribution from Japan, through the UN Trust Fund for Human Security that is helping to improve livelihoods, food security, and health in the Rasht Valley of Tajikistan. The project is diversifying crops and improving land management practices through improved access to water, irrigation, pasture and energy. It is also supporting birth registration of all children and civil registration of all marriages and helping girls to attend secondary education.



Kosovo is finding new ways of creating green jobs with support from UNDP and Japan. Photo: UNDP*

Kosovo*: Municipalities try new approach to boost jobs

Bajram Krasniqi, a 38-year-old Ashkali from Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje municipality says it's a good thing he learned to ride a bike when he was a kid.

He never imagined he may one day end up riding it to make a living.

Having never had a steady job, Bajram, father of four, now rides his eco-bike and collects cans which he then sells for income. He is one of the approximately 500 people from Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje and Obiliq/ć municipalities that are widely considered among the most vulnerable in Kosovo* due to their extremely high levels of unemployment.

With funding from Japan, UNDP has combined an approach that focuses on creating jobs for the most vulnerable while subsidizing employment for women that have been out of work for a long time. The project promotes a cleaner environment, and supports micro-enterprises and better housing conditions for the poorest.

The project created 167 jobs - including 41 for women-, established two social enterprises to generate local employment opportunities, supported 85 micro and small enterprises, and improved the housing conditions of 44 households.

* References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999)

International aid and South-South cooperation

As the international development cooperation landscape evolves, so is the list of countries willing to assist others with creating better development outcomes. UNDP continues to work on South-South Cooperation as a significant dimension of its contribution to the global partnership for development. We are also helping countries to develop institutional capacities to effectively manage, design and implement national aid programmes. Japan's unparalleled experience in managing such programmes has been a vital asset in this process.

South-South
Cooperation is
a significant part of
the global partnership
for development



Kazakhstan: helping to build an emerging aid architecture

Kazakhstan and Japan will for the first time work in tandem on a USD 300,000 programme designed to expand women's economic independence and rights in Afghanistan. Although Kazakhstan has helped other countries in the past, this is the first project that the country will implement in line with international standards for providing official development assistance. Through the initiative, women civil servants and healthcare workers from Afghanistan will undertake training in Kazakhstan. In addition, Kazakhstan will share its experience with Afghan policy-makers in the area of gender equality, which the country considers a critical step for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

*UNDP and Japan are working with Kazakhstan to give women's empowerment a boost in Afghanistan.
Photo: UNDP*



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For more information visit:
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