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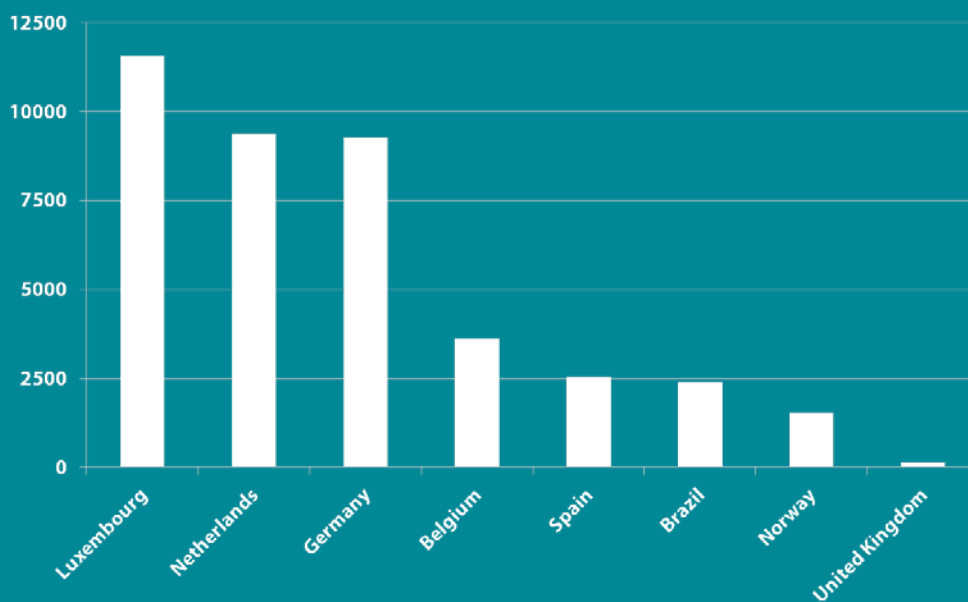


POVERTY THEMATIC TRUST FUND 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

POVERTY REDUCTION

With many thanks to the generous contributions from our governmental partners, the Poverty Thematic Trust Fund (PTTF) has been able to support, in an efficient and effective manner, innovative and highly strategic initiatives for poverty reduction and MDG achievement.

Major Donors to Poverty TTF: 2002–2011 [US\$'000]



FOREWORD

The Poverty Thematic Trust Fund (PTTF) has been a catalytic support to country, regional and global projects for poverty reduction for over a decade. During the past two years, the PTTF has funded 28 country projects, 6 regional initiatives and global policy advisory services.

From supporting the local market access of rural farmers to stimulating global dialogues on the effects of economic crises on developing economies, 2011 was an exciting year for the PTTF. It builds on efforts for MDG achievement that have been ongoing for the last ten years, and seizes emerging challenges of building resilient communities and turning them into opportunities for inclusive and sustainable growth for the most vulnerable. This report highlights some of the key successes supported by the PTTF in 2011 to help countries respond to the economic and financial crises, accelerate their MDG targets, implement and scale up successful local-level development innovations and policies, and strengthen trade capacity for human development.



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
EIF	Enhanced Integrated Framework
EU	European Union
GA	General Assembly (UN)
GTHDU	Geneva Trade and Human Development Unit (UNDP)
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MAF	MDG Acceleration Framework
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MIC	Middle Income Country
NGOs	Non-governmental Organizations
PSIA	Poverty and Social Impact Analysis
PTTF	Poverty Thematic Trust Fund
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WTO	World Trade Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Poverty Thematic Trust Fund (PTTF) has been funding projects in support of the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) poverty reduction focus area since 2001. In 2011, the PTTF disbursed USD 1.9 million to support countries on four key areas: (1) building resilience in the aftermath of the economic and financial crises, (2) attaining Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets through national MDG-based development planning and implementation; (3) local-level development policies, implementation and scaling up; and (4) strengthening trade capacity for human development.

In response to the economic and financial crises, the PTTF supported the provision of evidence-based practical and innovative guidance to enhance the capacity of local governments to build resilience of poor communities to economic and financial shocks. It also encouraged locally based, policy relevant analytical work through strengthened capacities, targeted partnerships and linkages to ongoing development policy debates on building resilience. Regional and global assessments were also conducted that analyzed the impacts of recent crises and offered policy recommendations for coping with such impacts.

Policy advice was also provided to developing countries on integrating the MDGs in their national development plans, establishing comprehensive poverty assessment and monitoring systems, and supporting countries to implement cross-sectoral strategies and plans affecting those MDGs that are particularly off-track. The MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF) was rolled out in nine countries and MDG Action Plans were implemented in seven countries.

In supporting local-level development, the PTTF supported local-level implementation of policies and strategies for private sector and market development benefiting low-income households and small enterprises. It also provided strategic policy analysis and advice on scaling up local development innovations and strengthening policymakers' understanding of South-South cooperation for local development.

Finally, the PTTF sought to enhance developing country productive and export capacities as well as adjustment costs arising from trade liberalization by providing policy advisory support on trade and development issues. In particular, the PTTF supported activities that have an important bearing on how developing countries integrate into the global economy. This support directly contributed to leveraging partnerships for the better articulation of trade policies in support of the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) in-country work, and translated into country level work in over 20 countries. It also supported global advocacy on critical issues related to corruption, such as a discussion paper that provided a comprehensive analysis of the

The PTTF in 2011 helped countries respond to the economic and financial crises, accelerate their MDG targets, implement and scale up successful local-level development innovations and policies, and strengthen trade capacity for human development.

scale and impact of illicit financial flows away from least developed countries (LDCs), and their debilitating effects on human development.

Moving forward, in 2012 the PTF will support the provision of policy guidance and technical advice for the design and implementation of social protection programmes. In particular, it will fund initiatives that catalyze innovations for policy developments in social protection that improve the coverage of women, and youth in social protection schemes; improve the linkages to policies in other sectors such as connecting employment promotion policies with social protection; support programme design options and fiscal space assessments; and promote knowledge sharing and South-South learning in social protection.



Photo by Pedro Cote

RESILIENCE IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS

In 2011, the PTTF supported the provision of evidence-based practical and innovative guidance to enhance the capacity of local governments to build resilience of poor communities to economic and financial shocks, such as by producing a wide and diverse set of studies in order to provide workable policy recommendations regarding the way current financial/fiscal decentralization processes can be improved to enhance local resilience in the context of systemic shocks. Not only did these studies fill important knowledge gaps and informed ongoing development initiatives in support of decentralization and local development, but they also provided a deepened analysis of the socio-economic impacts of the crisis, a renewed opportunity to promote dialogue between central and local stakeholders and windows for South-South sharing and exchanges of experiences.

For example, in the wake of the crisis, no comprehensive, in-depth country level assessments had been conducted in Western and Central Africa on the impacts of the global economic crisis on local governments (most studies addressed them at the macro-level, with limited attention to their incidence on local governments). The PTTF therefore provided support to the editing and the publication process of the participatory country studies in Benin and Mali that deepened the analysis of the socio-economic impacts of the crisis and provided a renewed opportunity to promote dialogue between central and local stakeholders on the management of economic and other systemic shocks. Two national consultations in these countries (in Cotonou, Benin and Bamako, Mali) brought together a wide range of decentralization stakeholders at all levels of government, stimulating policy dialogue on challenges as well as strategic options for improving the management of economic shocks and strengthening the response capacity of local governments under current decentralization frameworks. The local consultations conducted in vulnerable communities as part of the study work also provided important additional insights particularly from gender dimensions, and were instrumental in ensuring accountability and inclusive dialogue. In addition, the national consultations and validation workshops provided windows for South-South sharing of the experiences of Benin and Mali, notably regarding the implications of countries' local government investment financing systems in terms of equity and responsiveness to needs, sustainability and aid effectiveness.

The PTTF also encouraged locally based, policy relevant analytical work through strengthened capacities, targeted partnerships and linkages to ongoing development policy debates on building resilience in 11 countries in the Eastern and Southern African sub-region: Angola, Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. For example, the PTTF strengthened the capacities of national governments and other relevant

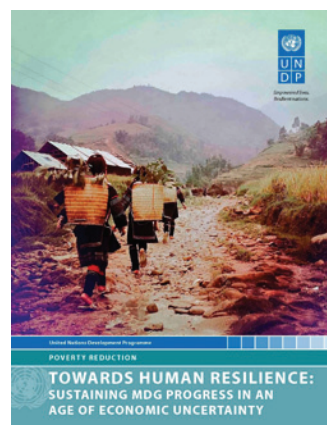
The PTTF supported participatory country studies in Benin and Mali on the socio-economic impacts of the crisis which promoted a dialogue between central and local stakeholders on the management of economic shocks.



Photo by Andrei Liankevich

stakeholders in the Gambia, Kenya, Malawi and Namibia to undertake policy and strategic analyses on development priorities, as well as to make informed long-term decisions that stimulate economic growth and MDG achievement. PTF activities deepened knowledge on innovative poverty reduction strategies and experiences, documented evidence of achievements and key drivers of growth and poverty reduction, and facilitated the implementation of poverty reduction policy options. A diverse set of 10 knowledge products were produced on the experiences and lessons learnt of inclusive growth, economic recovery, regional trade agreements, agricultural development, resource efficiency, and food security. These knowledge products created the conditions for a rigorous testing of the validity and value addition of policy options for poverty reduction, thereby helping to ensure the consistency and convergence of efforts made by both governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to sustain and broaden ongoing economic recovery processes in the region.

In addition to its work at the national and subnational levels, UNDP also helped build resilience to economic crisis through regional and global assessments that analyzed the impacts of recent crises, offering policy recommendations for coping with present — and avoiding future — impacts. For example, the PTF supported UNDP policy advisers in Asia and the Pacific in producing a series of knowledge tools that help policymakers prioritize measures to mitigate the impact of the economic crisis on the MDGs. In addition to 13 country case studies, the project produced a regional analysis of social safety nets and social protection, and a regional impact analysis of the food and economic crisis on health and nutrition outcomes. The project provided a forum for countries to learn from each other's experiences in mitigating the impacts of economic crisis. In the Arab region, the PTF funded the development of the *Arab Development Challenges Report 2011* which offered a fresh look at development challenges of the region by exploring the underlying exclusionary processes as well as the interrelationship between political and economic transitions. It provided a set of policy recommendations and opportunities for addressing social and economic inequalities and outlining different pathways for democratic transition, and made a substantive case for Arab economic integration. The report has already provided the underpinning for the United Nations Development Group's regional response strategy to the recent citizens movements in the region, provided key inputs to the socio-economic and governance database hosted by the League of Arab States, informed country level programming that seek to address substantial sub-national disparities, and contributed to the capacity building of civil society actors. And in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) region, the PTF supported the development of a set of key recommendations for decision-makers and stakeholders to address challenges in non-state social service delivery models, enhance the effectiveness of social contracting mechanisms at the local level, and improve access to social services in the region. While these recommendations drew on research that was conducted in Armenia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine, they are applicable to all countries in the CIS region.



Towards Human Resilience: Sustaining MDG Progress in an Age of Economic Uncertainty

The Roma are a marginalized and particularly vulnerable group in Southeastern Europe that was hit hard by the financial crisis, yet existing statistical systems did not have information on this specific ethnic group. The PTF therefore co-funded a regional survey to fill this gap through a comprehensive and cross-country analysis of the socio-economic status of the Roma, thus facilitating the formulation of sound, evidence-based policies in both European Union (EU) member states and neighbouring countries with significant Roma populations. The survey used an innovative sampling methodology to interview more than 56,700 individuals living in 12 countries of Central and Southeastern Europe. The results of the survey are being used not only by the European Commission to assess the National Roma Integration Strategies submitted by individual EU member states but also by individual countries to update their national policies on social inclusion of the marginalized Roma.

Finally, at the global level, the PTF supported the development of a global report, *Towards Human Resilience: Sustaining MDG Progress in an Age of Economic Uncertainty*, that examined how economic crises affect developing economies. It identified the structural determinants that shape how countries experience and cope with economic and financial shocks and examines policies and practices that build systemic resilience. Following from the report, an indicator framework has been developed to guide national assessments on resilience and macroeconomic vulnerability in developing countries. Egypt, for instance, is preparing a national macroeconomic vulnerability and resilience report guided by such a framework. The UNDP country office in Viet Nam has undertaken a rapid assessment using this framework to initiate a policy dialogue with government on strengthening national resilience capacities..



Photo by UNDP

NATIONAL MDG-BASED DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

In 2011, the PTF continued to support the provision of policy advice to developing countries on integrating the MDGs in their national development plans, establishing comprehensive poverty assessment and monitoring systems, and supporting countries to implement cross-sectoral strategies and plans affecting those MDGs that are particularly off-track. In Tokelau, for instance, the PTF supported the mainstreaming of the MDGs into the National Development Plan launched by the Government, and initiated Tokelau's first National MDG Report. Samoa, for instance, the PTF supported the development of the country's Second MDG Report, launched in Parliament in October 2011, which has already influenced the formulation of pro-poor policy options and the establishment of the government's first Trade, Commerce and Manufacturing Sector Plan.

The PTF also strengthened national capacities to generate information for evidence-based policy making by providing technical and institutional support on producing poverty analyses and data, such as in El Salvador and Jordan. In El Salvador, in particular, the PTF-funded project strengthened the national policy framework through diagnosis, evaluation and development of recommendations and scenarios that contribute to achieving the MDGs that are harder to reach. The provision of adequate physical and technological infrastructure of the Ministry of Health was key, as it will enable the collection and organization of data on the health sector at a later stage. Additionally, the PTF supported Poverty and Social Impact Analyses (PSIA) in 16 countries to promote the development of national programmes and strategies for decentralization and local development, such as in Egypt, where local level budget allocation was disbursed directly to governorates and municipalities using the funding formula developed in the national decentralization strategy. And in Kyrgyzstan, UNDP supported the drafting of laws on local self-governance and public services delivery, leading to the adoption of the law on local self-governance by the Parliament in 2011, with other laws (including one on state and municipal services) currently under consideration.

In recognition of the urgent need to prioritize off-track MDGs, in 2011 UNDP rolled out the MAF in nine countries (Armenia, Benin, Central African Republic, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Ghana, Indonesia, Lesotho, Moldova and Peru) and implementation of MDG Action Plans for off-track MDGs in seven countries (Belize, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Ghana, Lao PDR, Niger and Togo). Results obtained so far demonstrate the potential of the MAF to make a concrete difference and that many countries could benefit from the MAF by focusing the fragmented efforts and resources of government ministries,

development partners and other stakeholders on concrete and targeted measures designed to address off-track MDGs; determining priorities within existing strategies and plans thus ensuring country ownership—through a consideration of evidence (making use of and in some cases supplementing existing studies, statistics, evaluations and lessons learned); and breaking down the silos between sectors and MDGs in favour of a pragmatic, cross-sectoral, problem-solving approach that exploits synergies and leads to new types of collaboration and partnership.



Photo by Martine Perret/ UN Timor-Leste

LOCAL-LEVEL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES, IMPLEMENTATION AND SCALING UP

The PTF supported local level implementation of policies and strategies for private sector and market development benefiting low-income households and small enterprises. In Timor-Leste, for example, the PTF supported the people of the enclave district of Oecusse—a geographically isolated area with little access to markets, communications or services—by improving their access to a safe market with clean water, sanitation and electricity. As a result of the PTF support, the local Tono marketplace is now easily accessible through improved roads and is equipped with water, sanitation and sustainable energy facilities, so that vendors can operate in a conjoined space with paved access to other local services. These improvements have encouraged the local population to increasingly make use of the market, and particularly benefited women in the Oecusse district who play a very important role in the family economy, including the responsibility to go to the market for economic purposes. The PTF successfully responded to this need by improving the quality of road access to the market. And in Georgia, the PTF supported small farmers to process and market their produce not just locally but through larger retail channels in the country by providing an analysis of the technological and commercial operations that served as the basis for the development of a two-year action plan. The project also provided training programmes for entrepreneurs and small farmers, and developed a market information system to not only provide the users (farmers) and buyers with market information but also to connect farmers to buyers for the promotion and sale of their products.

In addition to supporting the implementation of local level development policies, the PTF also supported the scaling up of successful pilot initiatives and policies on local development. In Nicaragua, the PTF supported the scaling up of a 2007 pilot to strengthen the capacity of 19 of the poorest municipalities to address “pockets of poverty” by formulating and implementing strategic plans on food security. The project also established and improved coordination between institutions and different actors at the local level to coordinate efforts in achieving the MDGs at the local level. As a result, six municipalities formulated and approved medium-term strategies on food security, and 15 municipalities incorporated food security-related projects into annual municipal investment plans. Family consumption of different varieties of basic foodstuff increased remarkably in all beneficiary communities, according to a study conducted in all the communities. Families have also been able to commercialize their products, and have reported that they are now selling eggs, vegetables goats or basic grains either within their communities or at municipal markets.

At the global level, the PTF supported work leveraged resources from other partners to jointly support the provision of strategic policy analysis and advice on scaling up local development innovations and strengthening policymakers' understanding of South-South cooperation for local development. UNDP country offices were provided with practical guidance on how to identify pilot projects that have achieved success at the local level and scale them up for a wider development impact with spillover effects that are sustained over time. To help scale up proven development approaches, six successful country-specific initiatives around the world has been analyzed. These case studies identified the enablers, conditions and processes that drive innovations to scale and served as key inputs to a variety of global discussions and dialogue.



Photo by Ardian Pratonmo

STRENGTHENED TRADE CAPACITY FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

In an effort to enhance developing country productive and export capacities as well as adjustment costs arising from trade liberalization, the PTF supported the provision of policy advisory support on trade and development issues. In particular, the PTF supported activities that have an important bearing on how developing and least developed countries integrate into the global economy, directly contributing to leveraging partnerships for the better articulation of trade policies through the EIF in-country work. Through its Geneva Trade and Human Development Unit (GTHDU), UNDP strengthened the formulation and implementation of trade strategies in several countries. Trade capacity development interventions were provided in 23 LDCs through the EIF programme, and diagnostic work was finalized in Bhutan and initiated in three other LDCs. With UNDP support, LDCs gained information and developed proposals to access policy and financial support from this initiative. As part of the EIF Tier 1 project implementation, UNDP supported Sierra Leone, for example, in the preparation of a medium-term programme for the Trade Ministry to enhance coherence in the Ministry's activities.

In Vanuatu, UNDP supported the Government in developing a mainstreaming trade road map which features country tailored actions for mainstreaming trade at the policy, institutional and international cooperation levels. The Ministry of Trade of Vanuatu now has a clear and validated tool for ensuring trade policy and institutional coherence in the country.

In 2011, the PTF supported a diverse scope of work in areas related to trade and development at the country level in as much as 20 countries. In LDCs, activities concentrate on support to trade diagnostics, mainstreaming trade into national development plans and sectoral policies and jumpstarting the implementation of high priority capacity building activities in the trade area (e.g. Bhutan, Lao PDR, Pacific Islands, the Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, and Yemen). UNDP has also been at the forefront of supporting smooth transition strategies for countries graduating from the LDC category (e.g. Cape Verde). In other developing countries, including many middle-income countries (MICs), UNDP supported the World Trade Organization (WTO) compliance efforts and the analysis of impacts of free trade agreements on economic policies and strategies (e.g. Belarus, Ukraine), or integrated border management cooperation with some results regarding more effective operations of border checkpoints (e.g. Azerbaijan). Notably, many countries in the Central Asian and Caucasus region conducted comprehensive aid for trade assessments, which served to identify a set of policy recommendations and technical assistance needs

STRENGTHENED TRADE CAPACITY FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

aimed at improving the contribution of trade to human development and poverty reduction and to guide pro-poor trade reforms (e.g. Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, and Moldova).

In Georgia, results of the assessment were adopted by the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara: trade facilitation is now part of the Ajara Development Strategy, Trade Promotion and Agriservice Centers have been set up, and a special unit has been established in the Ministry of Economy and Finance in Ajara.

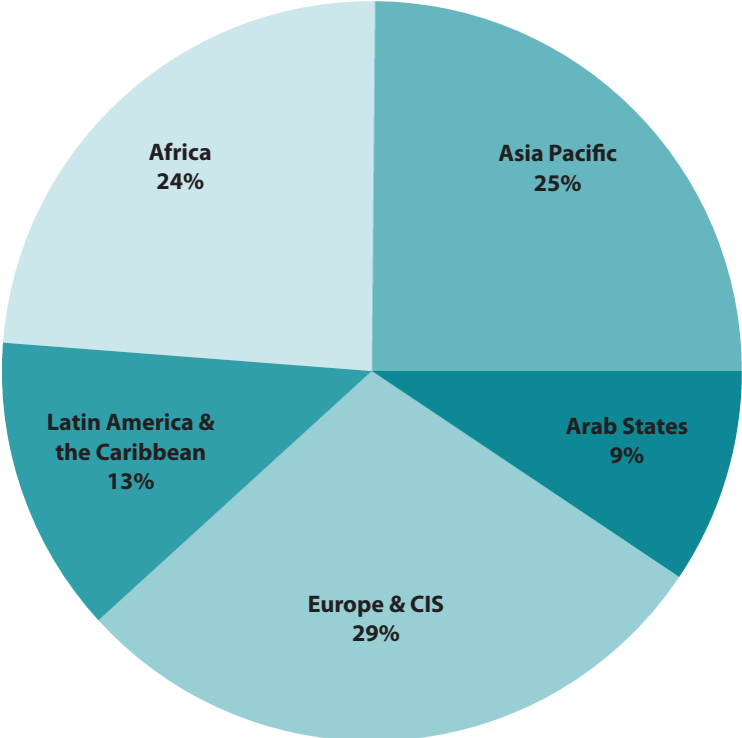
And at the global level, the PTF also supported UNDP in focusing global attention on critical issues related to corruption through its participation in high-level dialogues and forums. For example, a UNDP discussion paper was produced that highlighted the debilitating effects of illicit financial flows on human development through a comprehensive analysis of the scale and impact of illicit financial flows from LDCs. Its analysis has spurred several countries to examine the problem within their own borders, and its data and policy recommendations are informing the development of national strategies on illicit financial flows in Benin and Ethiopia.



Photo by UNDP

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The following chart provides a breakdown of the approximately USD 1.9 million that was disbursed in 2011, by region:



WAY FORWARD

Because disadvantaged households and communities are disproportionately hit by the shockwaves of economic crises, there is an increased country demand to build longer-term resilience in the immediate aftermath of the crises. In 2012 the PTTF supports the provision of policy guidance and technical advice for the design, implementation monitoring and evaluation, and capacity development of social protection programmes, which 1) improve the coverage of women, youth and vulnerable groups in social protection schemes; 2) improve the linkages to policies in other sectors, such as connecting employment promotion policies with social protection; 3) support programme design options and fiscal space assessments; and 4) promote knowledge sharing and South-South learning in social protection.

Region	Country/ Territory	Project
Support for the design of social protection schemes	Belarus	Support to Socially Responsible Enterprise Restructuring in Belarus
	Benin	Project to Improve Food Security in Borgou
	Cameroon	Strengthening Social Protection for Inclusive Growth
	Djibouti	Strengthening of Level of Long-term Resilience to Economic Crisis and Drought
	Guinea Bissau	Support to Food Security in the Cacheu Region
	Lebanon	Supporting the Establishment on an Employment Fund in Lebanon
	Kosovo	Social Protection for Rebuilt Livelihoods
	Togo	Building Resilience of Youth and Women Through Self-employment
Support for the implementation of social protection schemes	Belarus	Support to Socially Responsible Enterprise Restructuring in Belarus
	Honduras	Institutional Strengthening of the Social Development Secretariat in Honduras
	Iran	Localised Inclusive Growth Model for Development
	Kosovo	Social Protection for Rebuilt Livelihoods
	Timor-Leste	Supporting Gender Equality and Women's Rights in Timor-Leste (Conditional Cash Transfer)

Region	Country/ Territory	Project
Capacity Development	Bhutan	Capacity Building Support for Social Protection in Bhutan
	Cameroon	Strengthening Social Protection for Inclusive Growth
	Guyana	Support to Victims of and Families Affected by Human Trafficking in Guyana
	Haiti	National Rehabilitations West
Support for monitoring and evaluation	Egypt	Monitoring and Evaluation of Egypt's Conditional Cash Transfer programme
	Timor-Leste	Supporting Gender Equality and Women's Rights in Timor-Leste (Conditional Cash Transfer)
Knowledge products to inform social protection schemes	Bolivia	Social Protection in Bolivia: Impact Analysis and Policy Proposal
	Cameroon	Strengthening Social Protection for Inclusive Growth
	Djibouti	Strengthening of Level of Long-term Resilience to Economic Crisis and Drought
	Haiti	National Rehabilitations West
	Kosovo	Social Protection for Rebuilt Livelihoods
	Namibia	The Impact of Public Work Programmes (PWP) on Employment Creation Poverty Reduction and Addressing Inequality
	Uzbekistan	Transformative Social Protection in a Transforming Society

As we approach 2015, the world needs to remain focused on securing as much progress as possible on the current set MDGs. At the same time, discussions have already begun on the goals and targets that could build on and succeed the MDGs.

It will be critically important that the vision for the world and any ensuing goals and targets be informed by the perspectives of people from all parts of the world, including poor and vulnerable people. In setting out his vision for developing a post-2015 agenda, the UN's Secretary General (SG) announced that the United Nations will seek to be an advocate for and facilitator of a bottom-up and inclusive approach defined by national and local priorities.

As Chair of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), UNDP is currently mobilising support around an initiative that aims to:

- Build a strategic coalition of partners to shape the post-2015 development agenda through broad engagement of people in developing and developed countries, governments, non-governmental and grassroots organisations, the private sector, trade unions and workers, and the academic community; and
- ensure that the post-2015 development agenda accounts for the changing development context and critical challenges of our time, builds on the momentum of and lessons learned from the MDGs, and is guided by core UN norms, values and commitments.

To facilitate the process, in 2012 the PTTF will serve as a financing channel to support activities including:

- Inclusive national consultation processes to stimulate the debate on the post-2015 development agenda. These outreach exercises would complement formal consultations led by the UN's Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) on behalf of the General Assembly (GA), and others that the UN is supporting such as those in preparation of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20);
- thematic consultations with academia, media, private sector, employers and trade unions, civil society, and decision makers to discuss key issues pertaining to the post-2015 development agenda; and
- support an open interaction and information exchange between stakeholders and harness the voices of citizens around the world and connect them to the formal UN post-2015 by using social media tools and web based technologies.

The evidence and perspectives from around the world, generated through these activities listed above, will be synthesised so as to feed into the work of the High Level Panel that the UN SG will convene in summer 2012, and also to the special event that UN member states have asked the President of the GA to convene in September 2013. It will therefore be a key input into intergovernmental discussions on options for a post-2015 development framework.

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Cover photo: Women attending a community event in North Darfur, Sudan. UN Photo/ Albert Gonzalez Farran



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