UNDP Results
Spain-UNDP Trust Fund

Approach

The Spain-UNDP Trust Fund was established in April 2007, to support the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) democratic governance and poverty-reduction initiatives in Latin America and the Caribbean. Fund-supported projects have been resoundingly successful, and the Spanish Government by December 2009 had increased funding to US$62 million, from the initial $10 million.

Thanks to the support of the Spain-UNDP Trust Fund, UNDP has put into operation, in just 33 months, 117 national projects and 17 high-impact regional initiatives. These are operating in 20 countries. Many initiatives began as small pilot projects and were later adopted by national governments and incorporated into public policies. Projects were established in partnership with civic organizations, private companies and universities.

RESULTS

The Spain-UNDP Trust Fund is uniquely positioned to tackle development challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Fund has supported UNDP's work in several critical areas, such as the fostering of national dialogue, strengthening legislatures, supporting constitutional reforms, protecting human rights, improving public security, improving local governance, advocating for social inclusion, lowering maternal and infant mortality rates, tackling educational reform and addressing gender discrimination.

The Fund has allowed UNDP to reach out to some of the poorest and most remote areas of Latin America, via programmes that focus on the most marginalized people.

That means Fund-supported projects are bringing about real change.

Some highlights from the past three years include:

Spain-UNDP Trust Fund: National Programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2009

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

National projects

- In **Haiti**, after the devastating earthquake of 12 January 2010, the Fund was the first to support UNDP's cash-for-work programme, hiring Haitians to help jump-start the Haitian economy while delivering urgent humanitarian assistance. Haitians are paid to remove rubble from the streets, to crush and sort reusable material and to dispose of debris. The purpose of the programme is to restore essential public services and to help lay the foundation for medium-term recovery and development.

- In **Peru**, a UNDP registration programme in the Andes has helped the Government provide national identity documents to almost 25,000 people living in extreme poverty there. The project, "Invisible Citizens," has helped give poor adults and children access to vital education and health programmes, often available only to identity-card holders. UNDP financed the registration process and helped to conduct public information campaigns to encourage sign-ups and supported the local government in the delivery of the identity documents to registrants.

- In **Guatemala**, a UNDP food security programme has benefited 1,755 families, by reducing malnutrition rates in the 100,000-inhabitant Mayan municipality of Totonicapan. The programme, developed in partnership with an indigenous civil society organization (CSO), strengthened local mothers' groups; trained young people to become teachers of good nutrition; created health and surveillance units to promote good nutrition; and strengthened the connection between farmers and community centres to help generate a more secure food supply.

- In **Bolivia**, the Fund has generated new public policies meant to lower very high maternal mortality rates in the indigenous population. Dozens of rural nurses and midwives have been trained to give instruction and care in sexual and reproductive health.

- In **Venezuela**, the Fund has allowed UNDP to offer technical support to the local government in Tachira state, aimed at building sustainable communal housing for the sizable population there displaced by violence in **Colombia**. UNDP has also trained University of Tachira personnel in communal housing construction methods.

Regional projects

Regionally, Trust Fund monies have helped UNDP:

- **Establish The Forum for Strategic Social Thinking**, an annual meeting bringing together three dozen cabinet ministers from 20 countries to discuss cutting-edge social policy. Leading anti-poverty thinkers Amartya Sen, Joseph Stiglitz and Muhammad Yunus, Nobel laureates all, have participated. An online forum was also set up to allow participants to continue exchanging ideas on best practices throughout the year.

- **Produce Latin America's first regional Human Development Report** (to be launched in 2010) and two sub-regional special reports, released in 2009. The main report focused on regional inequality. A second report analysed regional crime and violence. A third examined the living conditions and prospects of 65 million young people in the four MERCOSUR countries of **Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay** and **Uruguay**. These reports are contributing significantly to Latin America's fervid debates over inequality and social development.

- **Forge an alliance of 145 universities from 22 countries, to set ethical business standards and to strengthen corporate social responsibility.** The alliance, called REDUNIRSE, has already trained 300 professors from 100 universities in how to teach these topics and the course work has been incorporated into the universities' permanent curricula.

- **Contribute, in partnership with UNV Volunteers, to the establishment of the Ibero-American University Volunteer Network for Social Inclusion**, whose goal is to build a 15 million-student volunteer corps. With the help of the Autonomous University of Madrid, an Ibero-American School for Social Commitment and University Voluntary Service has also been established in the region.

- **Create a network of regional journalists to enhance the role of media in improving public security and development** to encourage media to promote development and social inclusion messages as a way of fighting crime. The network includes more than 100 journalists from 18 Latin American countries.

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