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UNDP in Latin America and the Caribbean

A PARTNER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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Countries in Latin America and the Caribbean should address social, economic and political exclusions in this new era of sustainable development. Power, gender and racial relations must be at the centre of responses.

New challenges for a changing region

The Latin American and Caribbean region has made enormous development strides in recent decades, from the consolidation of democratic Governments and continued advances in health and education to more recent progress in protecting the environment and reducing inequality. By 2015, the region as a whole met the majority of the **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)** – a historic achievement.

As countries adopt and work to achieve the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030,** we must also think of progress as 'multidimensional' – beyond economic gains alone. This requires transforming traditional development models and raising the quality of life of all people, while also preserving and restoring biodiversity and protecting ecosystems. This is crucial for the Latin America and the Caribbean region, a "biodiversity superpower", with one of the greatest endowments of natural capital in the world, according to a UNDP report.

There is no doubt that countries enjoy stronger, better-integrated **economies** and more solid democracies than they did 20 or 30 years ago. Despite some setbacks, the region has experienced its longest period of **democratic** rule, beginning in the 1980s and, more broadly, in the 1990s. Apathy has turned to activism, particularly among the social media-savvy, especially youth. Citizens demand more effective and transparent

governments that play a substantive role in boosting employment, education, and health – and guarantee safer societies.

The region is more prosperous, less poor and unequal. It was the only region in the world that managed to reduce income **inequality** during the first decade of the 21st century. Latin America and the Caribbean also added 90 million people to an emerging middle class between 2000 and 2012. This took place following that decade's economic boom and innovative social transfer programmes, which helped to keep children in schools while improving the lives of women and their families. Other countries worldwide have adapted such programmes. UNDP is proud to have worked with governments across the region in support of more inclusive and equitable social policies and programmes.

However, the region continues to be marked by inequalities, even though some countries rank among the world's top economies. Driven by high prices in the last decade, countries have increasingly prioritized agricultural commodities and extractive industries in their development strategies. These generate resources for economies and can play a role in lowering food costs while providing resources for cash-transfers and fiscal incentives for poverty reduction. But they also tend to accumulate wealth in specific sectors,
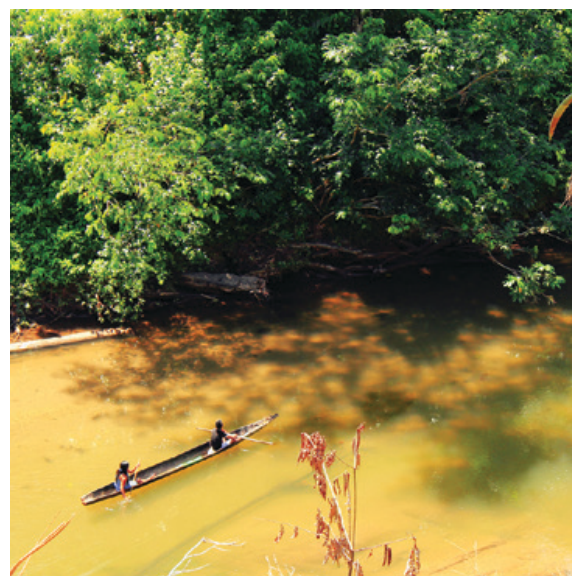
The Latin America and the Caribbean region is a biodiversity superpower according to a UNDP report. Policies in a sustainable development era must unleash the potential to transform traditional development models and raise the quality of life of millions by preserving and restoring biodiversity and eco-system services.

A couple living and working in a rural area near the Haiti-Dominican Republic border, part of a focal group on multidimensional poverty and progress: what well-being means, beyond living above or below the poverty line.

further increasing inequalities and in many cases causing significant environmental degradation. Despite all the progress made, Latin America and the Caribbean is home to 10 of the world's 15 most unequal countries, according to a UNDP report.

Many citizens have not reaped the benefits of the last decade's economic boom. Over 220 million people in the region have neither been able to rise into the middle class nor are classified as poor, according to UNDP estimates. These are the region's **vulnerable** women and men, who live on slightly more than the poverty threshold of $4 per day but risk falling into poverty if a financial crisis or natural disaster occurs.

Among the most vulnerable are women and youth – particularly in poor or rural communities –people of African descent and indigenous peoples. Boosting their social, economic and political inclusion is an essential part of UNDP's work in the region.

A crucial challenge is the slowdown in inequality reduction rates and increase in the number of poor – for the first time in a decade – caused by the recent economic downturn.

Poor men – and especially women – also stand to suffer disproportionately from **climate change**, natural disasters and irreversible changes to ecosystems, which decrease their options for direct and indirect income and well-being. This is particularly important for Latin America and the Caribbean, the world's second most disaster-affected region according to the International Disaster Database, and a problem that is likely to worsen with the impacts of climate change.

Cities need to be at the heart of the solution. This is particularly important since ours is the most urbanized developing region on the planet, according to a 2012 report by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN- Habitat). Urbanization rates jumped from 68 per cent in 1980 to 80 per cent in 2012, and by 2050, 90 per cent of the population will be living in cities. This raises a different set of energy challenges, in particular related to transport and public services.

We work with countries to secure hard-won social, economic and environmental gains, to prevent people from falling back into poverty and to continue improving the lives of all women and men.

On-the-ground partnerships

With 26 offices covering 41 countries and territories in Latin America and the Caribbean, we work with Governments, civil society organizations and the private sector to help countries drive and sustain growth that improves everyone's lives while protecting the environment.

At the national and regional levels, our work is in line with the UNDP Strategic Plan 2014-2017, focusing expertise on three critical priorities: **sustainable development pathways; inclusive and effective democratic governance; and climate and disaster resilience.** We are improving the way we plan, design, monitor and implement programmes, ensuring that we deliver results effectively and efficiently.

WHAT WE DO

- **Advocacy**, including policy advice, facilitating dialogue and providing technical support.

- **Knowledge-sharing and capacity development**, inducing knowledge products, on-the-job training and sharing know-how from the region and other parts of world. We actively promote South-South cooperation within the region and beyond.

- **Implementation support**, focusing on the execution of projects aligned with national development plans as well as the UNDP global Strategic Plan, 2014-2017, promotion of results-based management, fund management and procurement support.

- **Resource mobilization,** supporting countries to access funds for sustainable development.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

For the past 25 years, the **Human Development Reports** – at the global, regional and national levels – have brought new thinking to major development issues. The Human Development Index (HDI), our composite measure of longevity, education and income, has become the most widely accepted alternative to narrow measures of national progress such as the gross domestic product (GDP). The official incorporation of HDI data and analysis in policy planning in our region, accomplished in partnership with UNDP, has helped to raise health and education standards for millions. In several countries, state- and municipal-level HDIs have been useful to help governments at the national and local levels assess the most vulnerable areas and tailor more effective social policies for those with greater needs.

UNDP partners with governments, civil society and the private sector to help countries drive and sustain growth that improves everyone's lives while protecting the environment.

Young women read UNDP Nicaragua's national Human Development Report on youth.

REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

Human Development Report for Latin America and the Caribbean 2013-2014
'Citizen Security with a Human Face: Evidence and Proposals for Latin America'

Caribbean Human Development Report 2012
'Human Development and the Shift to Better Citizen Security'

Regional Human Development Report for Latin America and the Caribbean 2010
'Acting on the Future: Breaking the Intergenerational Transmission of Inequality'

Human Development Report for Central America 2009-2010
'Open Spaces for Citizen Security and Human Development'

Human Development Report for MERCOSUR (Southern Common Market) 2009-2010
'Innovation for Inclusion'

2016 Human Development Report for Latin America and the Caribbean
'Multidimensional Progress: Well-being beyond Income'

People's well-being should mean more than income alone: it goes beyond living above or below the poverty line and must reflect 'multidimensional progress', in line with the SDGs. This includes investing in people, particularly the most vulnerable women and men, by reducing gender, racial and other historic inequalities and boosting skills for better education and employment opportunities.

This report demonstrates that the factors that 'lift people from poverty' (quality education and employment) are different from what helps them to avoid 'falling back into poverty' (existence of social safety nets and household assets).

We focus on how to build 'resilience', the ability to absorb external shocks – financial crisis or natural disasters – without major social and economic setbacks. This is particularly important for the region's over 220 million vulnerable women and men: those who are neither 'poor', living below a poverty line of $4 per day, nor have risen to the middle class.

In this context, our 2016 regional Human Development Report also includes policy recommendations that reflect the transition from the MDGs to the SDGs.

A woman works at a fish market in the outskirts of Kingston, Jamaica. UNDP works with national and local authorities and civil society organizations to prepare most disaster-prone communities for natural hazards.

CARIBBEAN SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS)

Caribbean SIDS are more vulnerable than other countries to challenges including debt, unemployment, climate change and sea level rise, which make their path towards sustainable development even more complex. Climate change, for example, hits the Caribbean SIDS hard – even though these countries have not historically contributed significantly to the problem. Extreme exposure to natural disasters such as flooding, hurricanes, droughts, landslides and earthquakes place these countries in an extremely vulnerable position.

Caribbean countries also urgently need increases in all forms of financing to meet the SDGs, according to the UNDP report, 'Financing for Development Challenges in Caribbean SIDS: A case for review of eligibility criteria for access to concessional financing'. The report shows how Caribbean countries for the most part are ineligible for concessional finance due to their status as middle-income countries (MICs), with average national per capita income levels above the international financial eligibility benchmark. The report highlights the development financing context in the

Caribbean and makes a case for a review of eligibility criteria to access concessional financing, taking into account factors beyond income and adopting a more 'multidimensional' approach to finance needs.

UNDP works in all Caribbean SIDS: Antigua and Barbuda; Bahamas; Barbados; Belize; Cuba; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Grenada; Guyana; Haiti; Jamaica; Saint Kitts and Nevis; Saint Lucia; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Suriname; and Trinidad and Tobago.

A father and two children collect newspapers and other recyclable items in Guatemala.

FOCUS ON THE MOST VULNERABLE

Economic growth alone will not build **resilience**, which is the ability to absorb external shocks without major social and economic setbacks. It is essential to focus on the most vulnerable and poorest people, who are also the hardest hit when disasters strike. We work hand in hand with Governments, civil society and the private sector to help women and men leave poverty behind – and to avoid sliding back into poverty.

Addressing progress and well-being in all their multiple dimensions is a crucial step towards reducing vulnerabilities and boosting resilience, particularly in a region with a legacy of class, race and gender-based discrimination. For example, women of distinct social groups and ages have less access to the benefits of social and economic development and a smaller political voice.

This is part of our strategic partnership with Governments, civil society and the private sector, as countries prepare to adopt and ultimately achieve the SDGs.

KNOWLEDGE-SHARING

We work with Governments to share our knowledge and expertise in areas such as social protection, cash transfer initiatives, gender parity in the private and public sectors, citizen security, disaster risk reduction and clean energy.

NUMBER 1 IN TRANSPARENCY

Transparency is core to UNDP's mission and we are committed to working openly to accelerate the development of a sustainable future for all. In 2014, we were ranked the top performer in the Aid Transparency Index, an evaluation of 68 development agencies worldwide. Information and online data about activities, funding, results and stories are now more open and accessible than ever. See open.undp.org for more information.

HOST GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS

In most countries, we work essentially with **government cost-sharing**, through which host Governments provide financial support

to UNDP programmes, in line with both national development priorities and UNDP's Strategic Plan. This modality supports around 60 per cent of all funding for our work in the region, exemplifying the status of UNDP as a trusted partner in the domestic context.

PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In several countries, UNDP engages with the private sector as a key ally to achieve sustainable development.

In **Brazil**, UNDP acts as the secretariat of the United Nations Global Compact, a call to companies to align strategies and operations with universal principles including human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. Founded in 2003, the Global Compact's Brazilian Network includes more than 670 signatories. At least 38 leading companies in sustainability practices are funding policy and advocacy tools. For example, over 80 business and civil society representatives gathered for a public consultation on the implementation of the

Over 1600 indigenous people of 16 different tribes in Honduras received national identification documents for the first time. This will enable men and women to access social benefits and fulfill their rights as citizens. The UNDP-backed initiative with the Government of Honduras also received funding from the Government of Spain.

post-2015 development agenda. UNDP and other United Nations agencies joined Global Compact members to prepare a toolkit on 'Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) rights in the workplace' in 2014.

In 10 countries – **Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Uruguay** – we have been working with private and public companies to help them obtain the UNDP Gender Seal, which recognizes entities that meet specific standards to promote gender equality in the workplace and empower women. Since the Gender Seal initiative was launched in 2007, more than 1,700 national and multinational institutions in both the public and private sectors have joined.

CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERSHIPS AND INCREASED CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

We work with a diverse range of civil society organizations at regional, national and local levels to help lift people out of poverty, build strong, independent and resilient communities and promote a rights-based approach to development, and thus advance towards the SDGs. This entails helping to facilitate dialogue between governments and civil society to enhance partnerships and ensure civic participation in policy planning and reform, and foster an environment in which civil society can develop and operate.

In **Colombia**, local elected officials play a key role in post-conflict recovery, bringing together a country hindered by over five decades of armed conflict. For the October 2015 local elections, we partnered with more than 80 civil society organizations in eight different regions, designing and rolling out a campaign to unite Colombians and rebuild the country's social fabric.

While improving responses to HIV and other health challenges in 17 countries, UNDP has supported the first **Regional Network of Transgender People (REDLACTRANS),** increasing participation in decision-making spaces, boosting leadership skills and mobilizing resources to advance legal protection. As a result of advocacy efforts by REDLACTRANS, a gender identity law was passed in Argentina in May 2012.

UNITED NATIONS COORDINATION

The Latin America and the Caribbean United Nations Development Group (UNDG-LAC), which brings together 19 United Nations agencies and entities, enhances system-wide coherence at the regional level and supports United Nations country teams (UNCTs), which comprise the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in the country, to work together and achieve sustainable development for all.

At the country level, the UNDP Resident Representative also acts as the United Nations Resident Coordinator, working closely with national Governments and the UNCT for coordination and agenda setting.

In Arequipa, southern Peru, UNDP works with the Ministry of Environment and local partners to boost a public-private partnership to manage solid waste. Over 60 community leaders – men and women – were trained on recycling methods, forming associations that led them to transition from the informal to the formal sector, improving their working condition and social security.

Closing gaps and securing hard-won gains

AREA OF WORK 1:
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PATHWAYS

We partner with countries– the vast majority of them MICs – as they find their own paths towards sustainable development and seek to reduce poverty and inequality. This entails policies that encourage economic growth and deliver social gains for all while ensuring environmental sustainability.

Latin America and the Caribbean has an extraordinarily rich endowment of natural resources that provide goods and services that are essential for development and on which the poor rely heavily. Yet these resources are being increasingly degraded, affecting economies and particularly the poor, who are heavily dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods and subsistence.

Goals: Our partnerships enhance knowledge and skills to strengthen institutions that can deliver quality services to all citizens, promote policies that reduce poverty, including among women, and boost livelihoods and decent work. They also encourage sustainable production technologies, ecosystem management and disaster risk reduction programmes.

We work to build countries' capacities to integrate environmental considerations into development plans and strategies, including management and sustainable use of natural resources, ensuring that natural wealth is used to improve livelihoods and increase climate resilience.

OUTCOME 1:
INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Priority area 1: Fostering inclusive economic growth and productivity through value chains, employment and livelihoods

We partner with governments and businesses at the national and local levels to promote sustainable livelihoods and employment creation, through support to development plans at various levels, improving value chains and making businesses more sustainable and beneficial for workers and companies alike.

Costa Rica's National Platform for Responsible Pineapple Production and Trade – a project UNDP funds and supports with help from the Netherlands Sustainable Trade Initiative and Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation – encourages producers, marketers, workers, the community and the Government to agree on and promote responsible production models that benefit all sectors and follow strict standards to protect the environment. At present, more than 50 organizations, businesses and related institutions are part

TARGETING THREE BIG IDEAS

1
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PATHWAYS
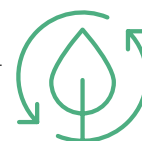
2
INCLUSIVE AND EFFECTIVE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

3
CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENCE

ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

In Latin America and the Caribbean, around 24 million people still live without electricity and 68 million use firewood for cooking, which leads to severe health problems, especially for women and their young children, entrenches cycles of poverty and contributes to local environmental degradation, including deforestation.

With appropriate technology and investment, the region can provide sustainable energy for all by 2030. Investing in access to energy is transformational. It means lighting for schools, functioning health clinics, pumps for water and sanitation, cleaner indoor air, faster food processing and more income-generating opportunities.

It also entails liberating women and girls from time-consuming tasks such as collecting fuel, pounding grain and hauling water, freeing time for education and paid work.

We support countries to adopt low-emission, climate-resilient strategies and actions that help to transform economies and support the poor. These efforts also directly support the United Nations Secretary General's global initiative on Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) and SDG 7.

In the **Dominican Republic**, where 400,000 people live in villages without electricity, a UNDP-supported rural energy project is providing clean, locally generated hydropower throughout the country. Funded by the national Government, the European Union and the Global Environment Facility (GEF)/Small

Grants Programme (SGP), the first 23 of these small new power-generating dams are already supplying electricity to more than 3,000 families.

In **Honduras**, almost a century after the isolated northern village of Plan Grande was founded, its inhabitants were still living in semi-darkness. To tackle this problem, a UNDP-supported project helped to build a small hydroelectric power plant, eliminating the use of fuel, candles and batteries. Of the 80 houses located in this community, 53 have been connected to the system through funding provided by the GEF/SGP, the Honduran Foundation for Agricultural Research, the German Agency for International Cooperation and the community.

Eight years ago, **Uruguay** relied primarily on hydropower and fossil fuel imports to meet its domestic electricity demand. But under a GEF-funded initiative cofinanced by the Government, UNDP worked with Uruguayan entities from 2008 to 2013 to remove regulatory, financial and technical barriers to the renewable energy market. This led to a revamped framework for boosting private sector investment in wind power and other renewable energy sources, while reducing the country's carbon emissions and fossil fuel dependency. The economic case for such shifts is clear: the $7 million initially invested have triggered over $2 billion in private sector investment. This has resulted in the establishment of 32 wind farms, of which 17 are currently in operation, and an installed capacity of 530 megawatts.

of the Platform. UNDP also supported the Government to introduce a Plan of Action that defines the strategies, actions and responsibilities to promote responsible and fair production and trade of pineapple.

In **Colombia**, UNDP worked in partnership with the Ministry of Employment to develop policies that support the elimination of gender inequalities in the labour market, which are applicable to both public and private enterprises. A first group of 20 private companies with more than 60,000 employees has developed action plans to reduce gender gaps in recruitment, address salary differentials and promote career development for women. The plan also tackles sexual harassment in the workplace and family-oriented policies.

In **Argentina,** we supported the Ministry of Employment to integrate gender in its employment promotion policies. As a result, job opportunities were increased for more than 57,000 young women through professional training and job-seeking advisory services in 2014.

In **Ecuador**, we partnered with the Government to help empower women, improve livelihoods and boost climate resilience. Over 770 women were trained on sustainable management and irrigation of ecological farms, improving food production at 200 organic farms, benefiting around 28,000 people from 2008 to 2015.

Up Close

IN BOLIVIA, MICROLOANS LIFT THOUSANDS OF WOMEN FROM POVERTY
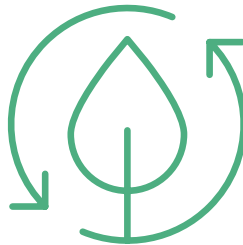
Linet Claros Yevara, a resident of Mizque, a municipality in Bolivia where 84 per cent of the residents live in poverty, has seen her situation improve recently.

"My family eats better," she says. "Every day I give them fruit."

These improvements are thanks to the 'Semilla' (Seed) programme, a microcredit and skills-development programme financed by the Government of Spain (through the MDG Fund), and supported by the Bolivian Ministry of Justice.

Under the $9 million Semilla programme, Over 4,600 indigenous women have received microloans which have afforded them the opportunity to open small sewing shops; buy tools to make jewelry, weave or craft leather; start small-scale production of handmade yogurt, cheese, honey, ice cream, sodas and pastries; or raise hens, chicken and pigs, among other businesses.

Communities have also contributed to their efforts. Copacabana, an Aymara village located on the shores of Lake Titicaca with two thirds of its people living in poverty, invested $3,325 (along with a $11,000 loan provided by the Semilla programme) to facilitate production of quinoa-based food products in the area. In Colomi, a Quechua valley village in Cochabamba with a 73 per cent poverty rate, the community contributed $200 towards the acquisition of bees, while the Semilla programme paid $770 to purchase five beehives, a centrifuge and beekeeping suits (to protect against bee stings). The Colomi women are now able to harvest and sell honey.

The programme has also enabled nearly 13,000 women to fully enjoy their citizen rights for the first time by helping them to obtain birth certificates and identification cards, documents required to have access to bank loans and to exercise the right to vote.

In addition, nearly 2,000 women received basic management training and learned how to account for expenses and revenues in order to better understand how much money their businesses are making or losing. Many others received technical assistance to improve production.

Under an inter-agency framework aimed at achieving the MDGs in Bolivia, UNDP managed the microcredit scheme and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and UN-Women provided training and legal support.

The intervention methodology developed during the four years of the Semilla programme (2009-2012), based on Bolivia's specific conditions, now serves as blueprint for a public policy framework focused on reducing poverty and empowering women. With UNDP support, the Ministry of Productive Development is designing the new national policy.

Participants in the Semilla programme tend to a sweet-onion harvest.

FAST FACTS

Even if the region were to grow during the period 2017-2020 at the same rate as it did during the last decade – 3.9 per cent annually – our estimates show that fewer people in Latin America and the Caribbean would be lifted from poverty than in the previous decade. While an average of 6.5 million women and men in the region left poverty every year from 2003 to 2012, only about 2.6 million a year would leave poverty behind (earning more than $4 per day) between 2017 and 2020, according to a UNDP report.

Harder challenges lie ahead: addressing exclusion, discrimination and historical inequalities that are not explained by income alone. Moving towards **'multidimensional progress'** should include measures such as investing in skills for better employment opportunities, financial systems that prevent over-indebtedness, climate resilience and reducing gender gaps. We are working with several countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to develop and adopt multidimensional measurements of poverty, which integrate identifying, recognizing and addressing the problem of **'time poverty'**. This means paid or unpaid work for long hours (in the labour market or doing household chores) with no choice to do otherwise.

Job quality is a key concern for our region. Workers, mostly in the informal sector and living in precarious urban dwellings, are highly vulnerable to shocks. In the long term, access to decent jobs will be critical to advancing human development, social cohesion and citizen security, another key challenge for the region

Priority area 2: Moving towards social protection with universal and inclusive approaches

We work with national and local governments to design, implement and evaluate evidence-based and gender-sensitive policies and fiscal reforms that strengthen social protection in areas such as unemployment, health and pensions, especially for the most vulnerable populations.

Since women often bear the burden of **unpaid work and care** in Latin America and the Caribbean, UNDP has also pioneered the inclusion of gender and the care economy into social protection schemes, a crucial issue to address women's multiple aspects of poverty.

In **Mexico**, as central government authorities considered tax reforms, we worked with the Ministry of Social Development to show that a proposed value added tax on previously exempted food and medicine would push 14 million people into extreme poverty. The information guided more nuanced reforms in 2013 that minimize burdens on the poor and balance economic and social development.

In **Uruguay,** UNDP and sister United Nations agencies have been working with the Government on a more inclusive social protection scheme that includes care services as a critical component of social protection, to allow women to balance their work and family lives. In collaboration with civil society and the Government, we were able to position early childhood, disability, old age and care services in the Government's social protection agenda. The President highlighted the National Integrated Care System as one of the priorities of his administration with an initial $45 million budget for 2015, aiming to reach around $240 million by 2020.

In the **Dominican Republic** and in **El Salvador**, we contributed to the inclusion of gender as a key component in the countries' social protection schemes as a means to reduce gender inequalities. A joint report by UNDP, the International Labour Organization and (ILO) and UN-Women, 'Fighting inequality from the basics: The social protection floor and gender equality', contributed to the debate on social security models in Central America and the Dominican Republic and to the analysis of their frameworks, methodologies and practical implementation from a gender equality perspective. Governments formally requested the United Nations system to support the inclusion of a gender dimension into the existing social protection systems, and to help implement the initiative.

Priority area 3: Increasing focus on excluded and vulnerable groups

We work with government institutions to develop indicators that assess measurements of inequality and multi-dimensional progress to address various aspects of well-being beyond income. UNDP programmes also target women, youth, people of African descent and indigenous peoples to promote engagement in decision-making at various levels.

Brazil: Mapping inequalities between cities and states. Historical inequalities within countries – between states and cities – reveal disparities often masked by national averages. In Brazil, UNDP partnered with the Institute of Applied Economic Research and a local foundation to map human development trends in over 5,500 municipalities, 27 states and 16 metropolitan areas. Funded by some of the country's biggest national companies and a regional bank (*Banco do Nordeste*), the

information was made available in an online portal. Policymakers at the national and local levels have been using the municipal HDI – UNDP's composite measure of life expectancy, education and income – to better tailor public policies that target those with greater needs. For example, the Ministries of Education, Health and Social Development have all used this tool, including for nationwide programmes such as 'More Doctors' and 'Light for All'. The state of Maranhão created the 'More HDI Programme' which seeks to improve the lives of people in the 30 municipalities with the lowest HDI rankings.

Venezuela: Music as a tool for social inclusion. In Venezuela, a world-renowned project backed by UNDP uses the power of music to give young women and men important life skills, opportunities for creative expression and the possibility of professional employment. UNDP has supported this government initiative, known as the Youth and Children's Orchestras System of Venezuela, since 2002. It targets impoverished youth ages 3-29 years, teaching them to play instruments and perform classical music with a high level of accomplishment. More than 350,000 young Venezuelans have benefited from this rigorous musical education, including Gustavo Dudamel, the celebrated Music and Artistic Director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, who credits the programme for his early success at a time when many of his young peers were threatened by crime and drugs. The initiative is designed to promote discipline and help set children on a path to better lives for themselves and their families. UNDP has also taken the initiative to the state of Bahia, in northeastern **Brazil**, where *Orquestra Neojiba* encourages children and youth to learn classical music as a means for personal and professional development.

In Haiti, an electoral worker keeps track of the counted ballots at the end of the voting day.

AREA OF WORK 2:
INCLUSIVE AND EFFECTIVE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

OUTCOME 2.
STRONGER DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE TO MEET CITIZENS' EXPECTATIONS

Democratic governance is essential to achieve and secure sustainable development. Strong vision and leadership at the political level, together with policies that put people first and high-quality public services, can produce transformational changes in people's lives.

Goal: UNDP supports national and local institutions to build efficient and accountable public administrations, fight corruption, promote fair and accessible justice systems and ensure that public services reach all

citizens, including those who need them most. We partner with institutions to strengthen Governments, parliaments, judicial institutions and local authorities.

UNDP also promotes the rule of law and the modernization of the security and justice sectors, strengthening of criminal policies, reduction of impunity, institutional development and training of civil servants to prevent violence and improve citizen security. This includes preventing, managing and resolving conflicts by supporting legal reform and regulation and human rights-based approaches that avoid the recurrence of violent conflicts.

A key area of our work is supporting Governments to ensure that public policies and provision of services include gender considerations, and also to collect and present separate data on men and women

Up Close

LEGAL AID IN GUATEMALA: HELPING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES GET ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Elena de Paz (43) made history by testifying about the violence she lived when she was 12 years old, during Guatemala's more than three decade-long conflict. She stands between to her son Miguel (13) and her daughter Jacinta (11).

Elena de Paz, a Mayan Ixil woman from a small village in Guatemala's western highlands, recently did something extremely courageous and unusual: she walked into a courtroom and publicly testified about the horrors she had endured many years earlier, when army troops occupied her town. It was 1982. The soldiers killed her mother, along with many other villagers. Elena was brutally raped, but left alive. She was just 12 years old.

More than 200,000 Guatemalans were killed and more than 50,000 disappeared during a 36-year-long internal armed conflict that lasted from 1960 until 1996. With the support of the United Nations system, the country has been trying to heal the deep wounds left by those decades of conflict. Working with the Government of Guatemala and civil society, UNDP is supporting national efforts to build a more peaceful and secure country for all Guatemalans.

The testimony from Elena and nine other Ixil women who suffered sexual violence during the conflict marked the first time that accounts of these atrocities were placed on the public record. Their statements were part of 97 testimonies heard by national courts as evidence for Guatemala's historic war crimes trials, where army commanders and a former president have been charged with crimes against indigenous peoples and opposition groups.

"Getting to know other women who endured what I did gave me more strength and courage, because I didn't have to go through this alone," Elena said after she testified.

Many victims of violence during that period have yet to tell their stories to these tribunals, in part because of economic, geographic and cultural barriers. While 83 per cent of victims recorded by the Truth Commission belonged to indigenous Mayan groups, hearings are held in the capital, far from the mountain communities where the violations occurred and most of the witnesses still live. They are conducted in Spanish, a language that is not understood by many of the 6 million Guatemalans who are native speakers of indigenous languages. People remain fearful of coming forward.

To help overcome these obstacles, the UNDP Transitional Justice Programme promotes the rights of victims to truth, justice, integral reparations and a culture of peace to prevent the recurrence of atrocities. Elena is one of many indigenous victims of human rights abuses who has received legal assistance, psychological counselling and logistical aid. UNDP also ensured that their testimonies would be protected and preserved. Guatemala's peace accords, brokered by the United Nations, called for thorough investigations and full disclosure of the country's experience and cases of human rights violations.

With UNDP technical assistance and resources from the Governments of Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United States of America, as well as from the Basque Country, Catalonia and the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund, more than 17 million documents from the archives of the former national police are now accessible to all Guatemalans. Hundreds of exhumations have been performed and as a result, more than 2,000 victims have been identified for proper burial. Annually, more than 20,000 family members of victims have received legal and psychological counselling while searching for their loved ones.

to better assess their different needs and challenges. This includes guaranteeing political participation and inclusion to attain equal involvement of men and women in politics. This 'gender lens' helps to provide tailored responses to ensure that public services effectively reach women and girls while promoting coordination mechanisms.

In **Colombia**, UNDP continues to support the participation of victims in the peace talks between the Government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces in Colombia (FARC). In 2014, the participation of victims in negotiations set a precedent for the recognition and realization of rights and reparation for victims of armed conflict. In collaboration with the National University and other United Nations agencies, we highlighted the voices of more than 3,162 citizens, almost half of them women. We also facilitated the selection and participation of 60 victims in the peace talks in Havana.

In 2014, UNDP joined with local partners to support 1,326 leaders of victims' organizations, providing training in leadership skills, improving access to justice and reparations. This support resulted in the return of 50,000 hectares of land to 33 indigenous communities in one of the poorest regions, the Chocó Department, and legal counsel for 10,570 victims. As of November 2014, 50,567 victims had received reparations assistance, achieving coverage of over 10 per cent of total casualties recorded in the Victims' Law. In cooperation with the Ombudsman, the Ministry of Justice and the Attorney General's Office, we provided psychological support and legal advice to 340 women who experienced sexual violence.

MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR GOVERNANCE

The UNDP Management System for Governance (known by its Spanish acronym SIGOB, for *Sistema de Información Gubernamental*) is a team of management, governance and information technology experts that works with public institutions – in the region and beyond – to boost effectiveness in public programme implementation by strengthening efficiency, coordination, transparency and accountability through enhanced work methods and information tools. UNDP-SIGOB has carried out more than 180 projects with 95 institutions in 18 countries, most of them in Latin America and the Caribbean, often working with the offices of presidents and governors, but also with ministries, Supreme Courts and specialized agencies. About 15,000 public officials in Latin America work regularly with these methods and information tools to meet citizens' expectations. Beyond our region, SIGOB has worked in Afghanistan, Georgia and Timor-Leste.

In **Brazil**, we worked with the Presidency from 2003 to 2011 in developing a management system to coordinate and oversee day-to-day implementation of 12 flagship federal programmes including *Bolsa Familia* (conditional cash transfer programme), *Fome Zero* (Zero Hunger) and First Employment to raise the living standards of the poor and reduce social and regional inequalities. In a decade, *Bolsa Familia* alone helped to lift 36 million people from poverty, according to official figures.

In the **Dominican Republic**, UNDP-SIGOB methods and software support the day-to-day management and delivery across eight priorities in government programmes including expansion of coverage of primary education, social security and electricity; improving livelihoods of the poor and excluded; and state reform. Part of this initiative is the web portal *manosalaobra.do*, which provides daily updates on the President's more than 600 local-level commitments and an accountability mechanism tailored for citizen-based monitoring.

In **Colombia**, we worked with the Presidency, ministries and Superior Council of Justice Administration to improve effectiveness and coordination across state institutions with a new system for official correspondence and archives that today is a core management tool for more than 3,000 public officials and is also used to handle citizens' requests for information.

We have supported partners in institutions such as the Ministry of the Interior, the Municipal Ombudspersons Offices, the Ombudsman and the Presidential Office for Human Rights to promote human rights and prevent violations at the local level. These efforts were complemented by high-level dialogue, national communication campaigns and empowerment strategies developed together with civil society organizations and human rights leaders. Institutions and civil society are facing the challenge of designing and implementing strategies to fulfil the peace process.

Up Close

COLOMBIA: HARNESSING THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF SUSTAINABLE COFFEE

Farmers in Colombia plant seedlings of native plants for a biological conservation corridor in an area of coffee farms.

In Colombia, coffee has been the main engine of economic growth and development in the biodiverse landscapes of the Andean region for over 50 years. In recent years, however, coffee farmers either have adopted unsustainable practices or moved to less sustainable land use amid falling coffee prices and climate variability. This trend has affected the resilience of ecosystems essential to long-term production in the coffee landscapes and has jeopardized the livelihoods of about 600,000 families.

A project supported by UNDP, with funding from the GEF and implemented in partnership with the National Coffee Federation (FNC), provided farmers with a payment and certification scheme to boost sustainable farming practices and climate resilience. The partnership has planted conservation corridors, enriched existing forests and renewed agroforestry systems.

The trees sequestered about 9,500 tons of carbon dioxide (CO2) equivalent that were sold in domestic markets. The economic benefits delivered to each farmer were proportional to the number of trees planted, so that famers were incentivized. Farmers who maintained a certain percentage of their land covered by trees received tax breaks.

These measures also increased the resilience of farms to climate variability and natural disasters. Crops were able to withstand the impacts of both the El Niño and La Niña phenomena. Across all of the project's interventions in the 13 targeted municipalities, the average net income of beneficiaries increased by 8.5 per cent. The project approach – which is now being replicated by the FNC in an additional 52 coffee-growing municipalities nationwide – represents a new, sustainable way of growing coffee that is also building resilient livelihoods in Colombia.

Priority area 4: Supporting countries to sustainably manage natural resources and govern extractive industries

The management of land and natural resources is one of the most critical challenges facing developing countries today, which is why UNDP supports countries to sustainably manage ecosystem services and goods, improve governance of water sources and oceans and properly manage waste and chemical residues.

UNDP supports efforts to expand clean energy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, partnering with Governments, the private sector and communities to work together to address challenging issues.

Goal: We partner with Governments to harness their extractive industries for a people-centred and sustainable development process by strengthening democratic governance and preventing environmental degradation and conflicts,

while assisting in post-conflict recovery. UNDP's impartiality and convening role is an important factor in facilitating dialogue and collaboration among communities, with a special focus on indigenous peoples, and in working with Governments and the private sector.

In **Cuba**, extensive land degradation is jeopardizing the functioning, resilience and productivity of ecosystems, negatively impacting people's livelihoods. A GEF-funded

Up Close

PERU: CONFLICT PREVENTION IN THE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Indigenous peoples have been largely left out of development processes for achieving the MDGs. They remain among the least educated and least healthy populations and are frequently at risk of displacement because of the increasing demand for natural resources, which often are located on their ancestral lands and territories. Indigenous peoples continue to face systemic discrimination and exclusion from political and economic decision-making and governance processes, despite positive developments in terms of establishing legal and policy frameworks that advocate for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in matters that concern them.

In recent years, a growing number of countries have requested UNDP's support in managing the social and environmental risks associated with natural resource wealth. In Peru, even though 25 per cent of the population is indigenous, according to the 2007 census, they are not proportionately represented in decision-making institutions. For example, in the most recent regional and local elections, held in 2015, only 137 indigenous representatives were elected, comprising less than 2 per cent of all elected local leaders.

Social conflict related to environmental management remains one of the most important sources of contention, with more than 200 active conflicts

UNDP has been working with Peruvian institutions regulating the management of water and environmental assets in the establishment of a comprehensive framework for a human rights-based approach, with special focus on indigenous communities, when dealing with extractive industry activities.

nationwide in 2015. According to the National Office for Sustainability and Dialogue and the Office of the Ombudsman, 70 per cent of all conflicts are linked to the extraction of natural resources in indigenous territories.

Addressing this situation is essential for sustainable development. A crucial step is to level the playing field so that the perspectives of indigenous communities and the State can be addressed fairly in policymaking. Since 2012, UNDP has worked with national institutions and subnational and local authorities regulating the management of water and environmental assets in the establishment of a comprehensive framework for a human rights-based approach, with special focus on indigenous communities, when dealing with extractive industry activities.

The joint project, 'Prevention of Social Conflicts with the Use of Natural Resources', has created the Permanent Working Group on Indigenous Public Policies, a platform that gathers indigenous organizations and the Vice-

Ministry for Interculturality (VMI) for the joint design of policies that affect indigenous communities. UNDP and the VMI have worked on several instruments to support the implementation of the Prior Consultation Law, such as the 'Guide to Public Facilitators of Prior Consultation Processes' and the 'Guide on the Identification of Indigenous Peoples'. The project has also supported the training of government facilitators on prior consultation, in addition to supporting the participation of indigenous communities within the consultation processes.

We worked to improve the capacity of public officials in 38 decentralized units of the Ombudsman Office, boosting social conflict management and negotiation. The Peru-UNDP initiative also supported the creation of instruments for indigenous peoples' participation in Prior Consultation Processes and intercultural dialogue. Working with national partners, we helped to develop a nationwide system for prevention and management of conflict in the use of natural resources.

UNDP is currently working in seven countries in the region to strengthen the capacities of both right holders and duty bearers so they can respond to the claims of the indigenous peoples.

UN-REDD

Through the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD), UNDP is currently working in seven countries in the region to strengthen the capacities of both right holders and duty bearers so they can respond to the claims of the indigenous peoples. The UN-REDD facilitates spaces for dialogue between Governments, ILO and non-governmental and indigenous people's organizations. This has led to a better understanding of the national and local contexts, the different needs of indigenous men and women and the strengthening of capacities of local and national civil servants.

In **Honduras**, UNDP/UN-REDD is currently fostering the collaboration between indigenous peoples' organizations (the Confederation of Indigenous Peoples of Honduras and MASTA (a Miskito people association), the Government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to develop a first draft of a national law for the full and effective implementation of free prior and informed consent. We also support the mainstreaming of gender considerations into this law.

UNDP partnership with the Government is reducing land degradation to help the country achieve its goals for sustainable development and increased food security. The Cuba-UNDP initiative is applying sustainable land management practices to improve food security with increased food crop yields (vegetables, fruit, cereals) and reduced post–harvest losses. The 74 workers involved, 41 of them women have increased their salaries by approximately $12 per month. Moreover, the initiative led to more efficient water use, with estimates of 70 per cent water savings at one site. With the project's contribution, the National Forest Programme is achieving a reforestation rate of 29 per cent in 2015. Beyond that, 72 development projects within eight Government programmes are now making management decisions based on current information from sustainable land management initiatives; this integration of sustainable land management into Government programmes will ensure the replication and sustainability of the project's successes across the country.

Priority area 5: Boosting the political participation and inclusion of women, youth, people of African descent and indigenous peoples

UNDP strengthens individual, collective and institutional capacities to increase political and electoral participation and ensure respect for civic, political, economic, social and cultural rights, with special attention to women, youth, people of African descent and indigenous peoples. We contribute to expanding the legislative and executive representation of these groups at the national and local levels, provide technical

advice for more inclusive legal reforms and public policies and promote civic engagement for accountable, open and transparent governments.

Working in close partnership with indigenous peoples, we help to promote their full and effective participation and secure their free, prior and informed consent in public and private decision-making processes which may affect their rights, lands, resources, territories and traditional livelihoods.

The UNDP **Youth Innovation Initiative** (Youth-IN) has offered training to boost the entrepreneurship skills of more than 2,000 **Caribbean** youth. Youth-IN has partnered with the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) Secretariat to promote entrepreneurship among 149 youth in **Bahamas**, **Belize**, **Dominica**, **Jamaica** and **Saint Kitts and Nevis**. A Youth-IN Caribbean Innovation Challenge selected six finalists to receive start-up capital of $6,000, mostly for eco-friendly start-ups focusing on sustainable farming, solar and wind energy, ecotourism and recycling.

In **Ecuador**, we partnered with the Government at the national and local levels to boost decent employment and promote youth entrepreneurship, and more than 1,130 youth-led small businesses were created under a local development initiative.

In **Panama,** UNDP promoted the active participation of indigenous peoples, peasants and women of African descent to set recommendations for the country's strategy for UN-REDD. This also included training to boost their roles in local-level forestry management.

In **Honduras,** we worked with the Government, people African descent and indigenous peoples on the new National Policy against Racism and Racial Discrimination and the Political Agenda of Women of Indigenous and African Descent.

In **Haiti**, for the 2015 local, legislative and presidential elections, the Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) initiative, funded by the Governments of Haiti, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, the United States and the European Union, boosted the capacities of the country's electoral body, the Provisional Electoral Council, including through training 100 women and men. We also engaged with the Council in a campaign to increase voter turnout and encourage peaceful elections, partnering with radio, TV and other outlets in addition to cell phone companies. Over 4.5 million people received election-related information through SMS in a three-day period. In partnership with UN-Women, UNDP trained more than 74 journalists on neutral and gender-sensitive coverage. We also encouraged the country's network of young parliamentarians and youth volunteers to take part in a radio spot to promote youth participation in the elections.

For the May 2015 general and regional elections, the **Guyana** Elections Commission requested technical support from UNDP to create a media centre and improve the transmission of election results, data systems, transparency and communications in a campaign to improve voter turnout and encourage peaceful elections. Different observation missions recognized the electoral process as "successful".

UNDP supports women's participation in politics, a crucial step to consolidate democratic governance in the region.

INCREASING WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

The gender gap in political participation has been greatly reduced in Latin America and the Caribbean. In 1995, only 12 per cent of parliamentarians were women but today women hold 27 per cent of seats, according to the Inter-Parliamentary Union. In the lower houses, women's rate of participation increased from 22 to 28 per cent due to the extension of quota laws and parity measures throughout the region. However, there is still a long way to go to guarantee equality, with huge differences between countries. In **Nicaragua**, 47 per cent of members of parliament (MPs) are women; in Costa Rica, women hold 40 per cent of seats, but in **Antigua and Barbuda, Paraguay, Suriname** and **Trinidad and Tobago**, women comprise less than 10 per cent of MPs. UNDP has promoted women's political participation by supporting 1,265 women candidates in national and local electoral processes in **Belize, Bolivia, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Peru** and **Suriname**.

These experiences show that gender parity is possible, but requires a long and systematic process.

- In **Bolivia**, we have trained women candidates in political parties to increase their electoral opportunities. This process also contributed to the positive electoral outcomes in 2014, with nearly 50 per cent of women elected to the Assembly.

- In countries such as **Belize, Haiti** and **Guatemala**, we have collaborated with government and non-governmental partners to remove obstacles to women's political participation

- In **Haiti**, we trained the Provisional Electoral Council, resulting in the generation of separate ('gender disaggregated') electoral statistics for women and men and the training of more than 150 women from different political parties in leadership skills.

- In **Chile**, UNDP partnered with civil society to promote a law, passed in January 2015, which ensures that at least 40 per cent of political parties' candidates for the upper and lower houses of parliament are women.

Indigenous women played a key role in a consultation on dialogue and conflict prevention around the use of natural resources in Peru.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, YOUTH AND AFRO-DESCENDANTS

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

There are more than 800 different indigenous peoples in Latin America, accounting for close to 45 million women and men or around 8 per cent of the region's population. The immense socio-demographic, territorial and cultural diversity of this population ranges from thousands of people living in large urban settlements in cities like Mexico City or Quito to around 200 peoples living in "voluntary isolation and initial contact" (not having permanent relations with today's predominant societies) in countries like Brazil, Ecuador, Peru or Paraguay.

Despite the progress made in promoting the participation of indigenous peoples in policymaking and the political sphere, they have largely been left out of social and economic strides made by the region in recent decades. These populations remain among the least healthy and educated and suffer disproportionately from the effects of climate change and natural catastrophes.

In spite of many challenges, Latin America has seen an unprecedented mobilization of indigenous peoples in the past 20 years, although their rate of political participation, particularly among women, remains low. A UNDP report which assesses the six countries with highest percentage of indigenous peoples and greatest progress in political participation (Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru) has analysed this trend.

The political inclusion of indigenous women has been a major challenge because they face 'triple discrimination' for being female, indigenous and poor. Beyond women's usual difficulties in breaking the political glass ceiling, indigenous customary law further hinders women's political participation in the region, according to a UNDP report.

We have supported the Integral Development Plan of Indigenous Peoples of **Panama**; the draft Law on Prior Consultation in **Bolivia**; the national Policy against Racism and Racial Discrimination 2014-2022 in **Honduras**; and the regulation of the Prior Consultation Law in **Peru**.

YOUTH

The region is witnessing an unprecedented demographic window: in 2012, the total population was nearly 570 million, of whom 156 million were young people aged 15-29 years, accounting for 26 per cent of

Young leaders join UNDP in Brazil to celebrate the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals.

the population, according to World Bank development indicators. However, youth's basic needs are still not met, and around one in four young people aged 15-29 years is affected by poverty or extreme poverty. Access to education is still a privilege for most of them, with only 35 per cent of young men and women attending school. Worryingly, one in every four young Latin Americans is neither working nor studying.

Access to decent employment is still not a reality for 7 million young people aged 15-24 years, which also makes them more vulnerable to an increasingly insecure and violent environment. Less than 2 per cent of MPs are under age 30, according to a 2013 UNDP report.

We work to boost young leaders' skills through training and creating spaces for engagement, particularly in major regional political events.

- **JuventudConVoz.org** is a platform run by young women and men in Latin America that focuses on boosting youth political participation and addressing inequalities, particularly through the LGBTI, gender and racial lenses.

- **Ibero-American Youth Programme/ IberJóvenes** is a joint UNDP initiative with the Ibero-American Youth Organization and the Ibero-American Secretariat to boost public policies for youth in Latin America and in Portugal and Spain. It stems directly from the 2014 Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State, in response to the challenges presented by the young participants at the summit. The initiative targets young women and men in the region and aims to create new opportunities for participation and dialogue. This entails training young people, boosting social inclusion and innovation, improving their leadership skills and encouraging more young men and women to become involved in politics.

AFRO-DESCENDANTS

Despite the fact that around one in three Latin Americans is of African descent and that international and national legal frameworks protect human rights, members of this population remain marginalized and face major obstacles to the exercise of their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. Afro-descendants encounter serious obstacles in accessing health and education

A young woman in the Dominican Republic sets out to gather inputs for the UN's My World campaign. Over 8 million people – nearly 2.5 million in the Americas – voted on their priorities for a better future.

services and obtaining housing and employment. Most live in poor urban dwellings with precarious infrastructure and are more exposed to crime and violence. The under-representation and low participation of both women and men of African descent in politics demonstrates the evident barriers faced in gaining access to political power structures and playing active roles in the design of public policies to reduce discrimination.

- In **Peru**, from 2001 to 2010, the poverty rate among Afro-descendants remained at around 33 per cent, while the proportion of indigenous peoples living in poverty declined considerably, from 63 to 37 per cent, with the mestizo population also experiencing a decline, from 45 to 23 per cent, according to a 2012 UNDP report.

- In **Brazil**, the percentage of people of African descent (18-24 years old) accessing higher education rose from 2.2 per cent in 1997 to 12 per cent in 2012 following the use of quotas and preferential enrolment for Afro-Brazilian and mixed-race students. The number of seats reserved in federal universities for this population increased from 30,000 to 60,000, according to national figures. Nonetheless, a 2015 report by UNDP and Brazil's Youth Secretariat revealed that the majority of prison inmates are young (18-24 years old) and of African descent, and the prison population has increased 74 per cent in the last seven years, with a corresponding increase in the number of young inmates.

- In **Uruguay**, the 2012 national census found that around 8 per cent of the total population was of African descent. Almost 3 out of 10 Afro-Uruguayans lived in poverty in 2012, and fewer than 1 per cent held top positions in the public and private sectors, according to a 2013 UNDP report.

CITIZEN INSECURITY

Crime and violence are the cause and consequence of development problems confronting Latin America and the Caribbean. Despite its economic growth, the region continues to be the most unequal on the planet, as well as one of the most violent.

According to the 'Human Development Report for Latin America 2013-2014: Citizen Security with a Human Face', Latin America is the only region in the world where lethal violence increased between 2000 and 2010, and its citizens identified crime and violence as their main concern.

Violence and fear limit people's opportunities and are obstacles to human development, the exercise of human rights and the strengthening of democratic governance. For that reason, citizen security should not be seen exclusively as a reduction of delinquency rates, but rather as a result of policy linked to an integral, sustainable, participatory and multidisciplinary strategy. This strategy should include elements for the improvement of the quality of life of the population; community action for crime prevention; accessible, agile and effective justice; and education based on values and respect for the law and human rights.

In addition to reducing crime, efforts should focus on preventing violence or creating living conditions that dissuade criminality. Protecting the lives of the entire population, as well as safeguarding people's integrity and patrimony, are fundamental elements for human development, free from fear, risks, and threats.

There is no single type of violence, but rather different forms of violence that affect people in different ways. For more than 20 years, UNDP has developed projects and activities in citizen security in 19 countries in the region with an integral and multidisciplinary approach.

UNDP works to boost government's capacity to deliver quality service to all citizens.

OUTCOME 3:
INSTITUTIONS ENABLED TO DELIVER UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES

Priority area 6: Strengthening the State's capacity to deliver quality services to excluded populations at the national and local levels

From the MDGs to the new SDGs, UNDP works with the participation of populations and governments at the national and local levels to improve public services that make a difference in people's lives, especially the most excluded groups.

We facilitate locally driven (territorial) development processes that empower local actors, facilitate participatory processes and stimulate inclusive growth, in line with national development policies. We work to ensure that local governments and citizens find enabling conditions to promote the development of their territories, boosting transparency and increased access to information and monitoring.

Goal: Our ultimate goal is the effective and equitable delivery of service to citizens –

including the poor, Afro-descendant, indigenous and local communities – and reinforce the rule of law and citizen security. This includes designing appropriate policy, legal and regulatory frameworks and strengthening local governance institutions..

In **Chile,** UNDP has worked with government counterparts at the national and local levels to train 120 civil servants in seven of the country's 13 regions on energy-efficient lighting systems. The programme also includes monitoring of and improving energy-efficient street lighting in 62 municipalities, bringing light to poor communities while replacing outdated lamps to boost efficiency, which is crucial to save taxpayers' money and address climate change.

Priority area 7: Strengthening citizen security through engagement and capacity development

UNDP works with Governments, national institutions and civil society organizations at the national and local levels to improve legal frameworks and ensure the comprehensive design and effective implementation of public policies. We contribute to the development of national capacities and

Angelica Mendez is one of 20 women in El Salvador who who were trained in awareness raising on HIV/AIDS, STDs and gender equity following a UNDP initiative with a health civil society organization funded by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS Tuberculosis and Malaria.

WORKING ON HIV, HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

The HIV epidemic in Latin America and the Caribbean remains an important public health challenge. While the number of people with HIV in the region has decreased slightly due to increased access to antiretroviral treatment, structural factors such as stigma and discrimination, gender inequality and the presence of punitive laws continue to limit progress towards eliminating the epidemic.

The majority of countries have concentrated HIV epidemics with high prevalence among men who have sex with men, transgender women, female and male sex workers and people who use drugs. These populations have prevalence rates that are 5-30 times higher than those of the general population. Transgender women are 50 per cent more likely to be infected with HIV than the general population.

We support countries in assessing and responding to the development dimensions of HIV and other health priorities, complementing the health sector work of other United Nations partners. This approach recognizes that development action outside the health sector – including social protection, gender, governance, human rights, capacity development and related fields – can contribute significantly to better health outcomes, especially for the poor.

The Caribbean has the highest rate of HIV prevalence in the region and the second highest globally after sub-Saharan Africa. Over 1 per cent of adults in the Caribbean are living with HIV (280,000 people), even though there has been a 54 per cent decline in cases between 2005 and 2013, according to UNAIDS.

Working with local governments in **Guyana**, we are targeting two important cities, New Amsterdam and Linden, through the 'Urban Health and Justice Initiative', which addresses the needs of men who have sex with men, sex workers and transgender people. The leading authorities of both cities signed a Municipal Declaration on HIV and Human Rights that "reflects the fundamental principle of respect for the human rights of all those who suffer from stigma and discrimination and it reaffirms the spirit of the universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support under a human rights frame as we collectively work towards getting to Zero".

In **Argentina,** UNDP and sister United Nations agencies partnered with the Government and civil society groups, particularly LGBTI rights activists, to boost access to free public health services for lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender people by setting up dedicated areas as part of the public health service. These areas are supervised through joint action by social organizations, local HIV programmes and public hospital services.

In **Uruguay,** a joint UNDP-UNICEF initiative with the national and local governments is helping parents to keep children healthy. The initiative targets families in need, giving special attention to pregnant women and children from birth to three years of age. The programme decreased the rates of malnutrition, low height, low birth weight and premature birth. Coverage of medical checkups for children increased from 50 to 82 per cent from 2009 to 2010.

CURBING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Reducing violence against women is a key priority in our region. Latin America and the Caribbean has the second highest rate of intimate partner violence and the highest prevalence of violence against women in the world, according to the World Health Organization. Two of three women killed in Central America are murdered because they are women; 3 of the top 10 recorded rape rates in the world occur in the Caribbean, according to a World Bank-UNODC report, based on police statistics. Sexual offenses represent 8 per cent of crimes in **Argentina**, 11 per cent in **El Salvador**, 14 per cent in **Brazil** and 22 per cent in **Peru**. Between 75 and 90 per cent of respondents in a survey knew their victims, according to the 2013 regional Human Development Report on citizen security.

In response, UNDP promotes integrated approaches involving security, justice, health, education, social protection agents and engaging communities in the debate and design of public policy to eliminate violence against women. The approach includes integrating gender issues into the development of local-level citizen security plans and building the capacities

of regional institutions to collect, analyse and use information on violence against women more effectively for policy development and response.

In **Nicaragua,** we supported the National Commission Against Violence, comprised of 16 governmental institutions and civil society organizations, and provided technical assistance to the Commissioners for Women and Children, Public Prosecutor Office, Judiciary, Office of Alternative Dispute Resolution and the Institute of Legal Medicine to develop a national policy and action plan on violence against women.

We helped to establish or strengthen mechanisms to eradicate gender-based violence and provide support and services in 10 countries (**Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua and Paraguay).** In **Colombia**, in cooperation with the Ombudsman, the Ministry of Justice and the Attorney General's Office, we provided support to 340 women who were victims of sexual violence, including access to justice, improved prosecution processes and psychosocial assistance.

In **Belize**, we work with at-risk youth to boost training and apprenticeship programmes. Funded by the United States Department of State, this programme targets young males aged 14-17 years, focusing on mentoring and training services and partnering with the business community, NGOs and governmental agencies. Around 100 young men from poor neighbourhoods with high crime and violence rates have benefited from the initiative; 59 young men have found full-time employment and 21 are enrolled in formal and informal educational programmes ranging from primary school to high school to follow-on skills training programmes.

UNDP provided support to legal and policy reforms to accelerate women's rights in law and practice, eliminate discrimination and eradicate sexual and gender-based violence in four countries (**Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador**). In **Argentina**, within the framework of the United Nations Secretary General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign, we implemented a series of awareness initiatives aimed at engaging specific groups, including men, youth and public officers, in gender-based violence prevention. UNDP and other United Nations agencies supported improved access to justice for women survivors through training 35,000 judicial officers on gender, human trafficking and gender-based violence. The initiative helped reduce the time span for women to access protection measures such as restraining orders, from three months to less than 48 hours.

boost institutional reforms, particularly in the justice and security sectors.

Violence prevention is at the heart of UNDP's work. Focusing on social cohesion and dialogue, job creation for target groups and implementation of advocacy initiatives, data analysis and sharing of best practices are all essential aspects. Sharing of knowledge and experience between developing countries (South-South cooperation) plays a crucial role in our region.

We support conflict prevention and management with a wide range of public and private partners and local communities, with the objective of reducing social, economic, ethnic and gender-related inequalities in the region. This includes supporting the improvement of people's quality of life and strengthening communities to prevent violence and crime, while promoting accessible, agile and effective justice systems and education based on values and respect for the rule of law and human rights.

Cuba is a country that prepares well ahead of natural hazards. Risk reduction management centres, set up by the Government with support from UNDP, have helped sustainably manage the impact of hurricanes. Right after Hurricane Sandy hit Santiago de Cuba, in 2012, workers gathered to build back better, with more disaster-resilient material.

AREA OF WORK 3:
CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENCE

OUTCOME 5:
DISASTER PREVENTION AND RISK MANAGEMENT

The changing climate and increasing exposure to related risks of natural disasters is a challenge for Latin America and especially for the Caribbean. Although the region is responsible for a relatively low share of global greenhouse gas emissions, 12 per cent according to the World Resources Institute, it will be one of the most severely affected by temperature spikes.

Poor people are heavily dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods and subsistence and stand to suffer disproportionately from irreversible changes to ecosystems, which decrease their options for both direct and indirect income generation.

In Latin America, between 2005 and 2012, disasters killed more than 240,000 people, affected another 57 million and resulted in losses equal to $85 billion.

Rapid urbanization, rural and urban poverty, exclusion and inequity, declining ecosystems and environmental degradation further exacerbate climate vulnerability, and threaten hard-won achievements in poverty reduction and human development.

On the positive side, as a result of better preparedness and prevention measures, the region has experienced a consistent decrease in the number of disaster-related deaths. However, the number of affected persons is constantly increasing. While there is ample evidence that good prevention and preparation plans are effective in reducing risks, many countries in the region have not yet been able to fully incorporate such measures in their legislation or norms and/or implement those instruments.

Goals: UNDP works with governments, the private sector and civil society in the region to integrate issues of climate change, disaster risk and energy at national and local levels. Building resilience – the ability to absorb external shocks without major social, economic and environmental setbacks – is a key pillar of our work, along with ensuring that development remains risk-informed and sustainable.

We help countries to improve their capacities to prevent and respond to disasters.

In **Brazil**, UNDP supported the Government in developing a national strategy for capacity-building in risk management. The programme also trained more than

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: READY TO ACT WHEN FACED WITH DISASTER

The UNDP project, "Communities Resilient to Earthquakes and Tsunamis in Puerto Plata", partnered with local governments and universities to train over 160 master builders and 30 professional engineers and architects on earthquake-resistant buildings, and conducted workshops for municipal officials. About 1,000 families were briefed on how to construct quake-resistant buildings.

In Puerto Plata, **Dominican Republic,** a city of high seismic risk with 150,000 inhabitants, an estimated 70 per cent of the buildings have precarious structures. Most of these buildings are inhabited by poor families who cannot afford professional construction and therefore must rely on builders who are not qualified to design safe structures.

To address this situation, the UNDP project, 'Communities that are Resilient to Earthquakes and Tsunamis in Puerto Plata', undertaken jointly with the Dominican College of Engineers, Architects and Surveyors and the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo, trained over 160 master builders and 30 professional engineers

and architects on earthquake-resistant buildings, and conducted workshops for municipal officials.

Professionals who received this training provided free advice to over 100 low-income families who were starting the construction or expansion of their homes. About 1,000 families were briefed on how to construct quake-resistant buildings through flyers providing information on existing national regulations.

As part of the project, 32 facilitators who belong to the provincial civil defense, Red Cross and fire department were also trained in disaster prevention. The facilitators conducted awareness and community organization campaigns

in five areas in Puerto Plata that are most vulnerable to disaster, offering workshops that included lectures, plays, puppet shows, dances and drills aimed at promoting a culture of disaster prevention.

Eight temporary shelters have been identified and improved, and more than 200 staff in key institutions have been trained in the proper management of these centres. A consciousness-raising campaign educated 10,000 people in high-risk areas on the use and location of these and other shelters.

It is expected that this initiative will be replicated in other cities in the country, and in the Greater Santo Domingo area.

Following the 2010 earthquake that devastated Haiti, in one of the largest-scale clearance operations of its kind by the United Nations and partners, coordinated UNDP, nearly 10 million cubic metres of debris were removed, providing temporary employment to thousands of Haitian men and women. Communities were deeply involved in building back better. They were trained on how to use more resilient material and techniques.

1,200 civil servants at national, state and municipal levels on improving disaster risk management, including understanding and putting into practice key policy, methodological and practical tools.

At the **regional** level, we created a network of experts from national and regional institutions and United Nations agencies on post-disaster needs assessments in different sectors. When a disaster strikes, these experts are ready to be swiftly deployed to support Governments, if requested.

In **Honduras**, UNDP supported the Permanent Contingencies Committee in including gender aspects into the national policy on disaster risk management. This included the involvement of more women in community and local management structures in disaster-prone areas. As a result, over 40 per cent of local emergency committees and 34 per cent of municipal-level committees have more women working on disaster risk reduction.

OUTCOME 6. EARLY RECOVERY AND RAPID RETURN TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PATHWAYS

Priority area 8: Promoting resilience with a focus on climate change and disaster preparedness

UNDP supports countries to develop and implement strategies for low-carbon development, and promotes adaptation to climate change at territorial level and in various productive sectors. We offer technical advice to countries in their efforts to develop climate and disaster risk reduction policies. We promote access to sustainable energy, renewable energy and energy efficiency.

In **Haiti**, which has suffered the most severe deforestation in the Western Hemisphere, we work on climate change adaptation and to strengthen the management of watersheds and protected areas. During 2014, 150 environmental monitoring officers were deployed to Port-au-Prince and to protected areas in the West. In southern Haiti, under the coordination of the local government, a UNDP programme funded

by the Government of Norway led to the production of 5.5 million seedlings planted on 5,000 hectares of land between 2010 and 2014. During the same period, our projects have planted 10 million trees and reinforced over four kilometres of riverbank.

In **Mexico**, UNDP supported a programme to include both international biodiversity conservation standards and gender equality concerns into the Mexican Standard for Sustainable Forest Management Certification. The national standard now takes gender issues into consideration, including criteria specifying that profit sharing among forest community owners must be equal, including for women and indigenous populations. It also envisions that existing forest ownership groups provide equal access to job and training opportunities and that discrimination in management arrangements, particularly against women and indigenous peoples, is not allowed. We also supported the updating of the General Law of Sustainable Forest Development to include a provision to promote equal rights between women and men in every area of sustainable forestry development.

Up Close

ADOPTING INNOVATIVE MEASURES TO COPE WITH DISASTERS IN CENTRAL AMERICA

In Honduras UNDP and sister UN agencies work with national and local governments and NGOs in a 'solidarity remittances' initiative. With support from the Honduran diaspora in the United States, the programme provided temporary employment to men and women who worked on a contention wall to reduce the impact of landslides.

During every rainy season, the citizens of countries like **El Salvador Guatemala, Honduras** and **Nicaragua** look at the mountains, the sea and the sky with fear of another looming disaster. Earthquakes have caused death and untold destruction of property and transport infrastructure. Sometimes, the long spells of the dry season or plagues and epidemics are a cause of worry for their harvests and livestock. Hurricane Mitch affected the lives of 3 million people in 1998. Tropical Depression 12-E affected 2 million people with estimated damages of nearly $4 million in 2011. Earthquakes affected **El Salvador** and **Guatemala** in 2012, and other Central American countries annually experience floods and landslides during the rainy season.

The human and material losses in these four countries confirm the urgent need for innovations in disaster risk management, and to enhance institutional and social policies to ensure their efficiency.

In **Central America,** UNDP has supported countries in pre-disaster recovery planning and in post- disaster recovery processes. This included providing technical assistance to six countries to develop national recovery plans, which have been adopted in **Guatemala** and **Panama**. In **Costa Rica**, **Honduras** and **Nicaragua,** the recovery plans were integrated in the national disaster risk reduction policies. We also supported the Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America in developing capacities to conduct post-disaster needs assessment, creating the internal capacity to assess recovery needs in the event of a disaster. Central American countries are better able to plan, implement and coordinate recovery processes.

Recovery preparedness at the local level is also essential. In **El Salvador**, through an initiative funded by the European Union, UNDP encouraged community members to take part in decision-making and develop, together with authorities, a municipal guide for recovery and preparedness in urban and rural settings.

In **Honduras**, local authorities, the private sector and civil society are jointly preparing a local-level recovery framework.

In **Nicaragua**, UNDP supported the National System for Prevention, Mitigation and Attention to Disasters in establishing recovery preparedness guidelines and the national risk management system, which were validated in municipalities affected by seismic events.

OUTCOME 7.
THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

**Priority area 9:
Bringing countries
together, in the region and beyond:
South-South cooperation**

Sharing of knowledge and experiences between developing countries, or South-South cooperation, is a crucial pillar of UNDP's work in Latin America and the Caribbean and beyond. Recent initiatives include taking Latin American initiatives to reduce poverty and inequality to Africa, sharing the region's democratic transition experience with Arab States and sharing knowledge about climate resilience within the Caribbean. We support national capacities in South-South and triangular cooperation by participating in key forums, promoting country-led dialogues, knowledge sharing and exchanges, and providing methodological assistance. This includes transfers of best practices through diverse instruments and methodologies aimed at capturing, systematizing and adapting successful experiences, and also mapping and researching multilateral support for such exchanges in the region.

OUTCOME 4.
GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Priority area 10: Gender equality

In order to empower women and support physical, political and economic autonomy, it is crucial that public policies, projects, legal frameworks and regulations have a 'gender lens' that takes the different needs of women and men into consideration to tailor more effective responses.

In Paraguay, 500 national and 1,200 Chilean volunteers helped to build over 250 houses with funding and knowledge sharing from the 'Chile Fund Against Hunger and Poverty', a UNDP-Government of Chile South-South Cooperation partnership.

Established in 2013, the **Chile Fund Against Hunger and Poverty** – a joint initiative of the Government and UNDP initiative – seeks to accelerate sustainable development by sharing Chile's social and economic transformation experience with other countries through South-South cooperation. Over the last two years, the fund has awarded $ 2.4 million to some 20 South-South cooperation projects implemented by civil society organizations, Chilean public institutions and United Nations agencies in 18 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and the Pacific. In 2015, the Government of Chile provided an additional $12 million for a period of four years. The fund has also fast-tracked an additional $605,000 to support humanitarian responses to crises in Gaza, Mali and South Sudan.

In **Paraguay**, 500 national and 1,200 Chilean volunteers helped to build over 250 houses with funding and knowledge sharing from the Chile Fund Against Hunger and Poverty. As a result, around 1,000 adults and children living in extreme poverty were better prepared for winter. Chilean and Paraguayan volunteers, most of them young men and women under age 30, joined the NGO TECHO in focusing on the most at-need departments, Caaguazú and San Pedro, during the coldest months of July and August 2015.

Up Close

SHARING CARIBBEAN DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT EXPERTISE

Fishermen in Saint Catherine parish, Jamaica, have been trained and know they need to evacuate swiftly upon their community leader's direction.

Casualties from hurricanes have become comparatively rare in Cuba, even when scores of people on neighbouring islands have been killed by the same storms. This is largely attributed to Cuba's decade-old network of risk reduction management centres, which give top priority to prevention and monitoring of vulnerabilities. These centres provide support during response and recovery by promoting a culture of disaster risk reduction through training and providing information to community members, with special emphasis on early warning systems in vulnerable communities. Children, pregnant women and the elderly are targeted for special support.

UNDP facilitated the adaptation and implementation of the Cuban model in five Caribbean countries: **British Virgin Islands, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica** and **Trinidad and Tobago.**

This South-South cooperation initiative brought disaster management specialists from municipalities in these five countries to Cuba to learn about the centres through courses, workshops and study tours, with the aim of setting up similar programmes of their own. Training materials, methodological documents and procedural guidelines were developed for pilot implementation. Cuban experts traveled to the pilot countries to support the adaptation of the risk reduction model with technical assistance and exchange.

All five pilot municipalities now have their own risk reduction management centres equipped with risk maps, early warning systems and trained personnel to help the local government take risk-informed decisions. They also serve as models for other communities.

In Saint Catherine Parish in southeastern Jamaica, hazard-prone fishing villages

now host the country's first such centre. Cuban-trained specialists are mapping vulnerable areas and working with community leaders on disaster preparation and risk reduction.

One of them is Ida Northover, 78 years old, has been trained as a community leader in disaster preparedness. "We don't know when the next hurricane will hit but we are prepared," she says, confidently explaining how she calls on community members to evacuate to a nearby shelter when local authorities send her the warning signal. She also stressed that the training gave her a new and important role in the community as a well-respected leader.

Strengthening local capacity and resilience is a sound investment. In addition to saving lives, every dollar spent on risk reduction and disaster preparedness saves an estimated seven dollars in recovery costs after a disaster strikes.

Despite all the progress made, women in Latin America and the Caribbean continue to face discrimination in access to work, economic assets and participation in private and public decision-making, particularly those in poor communities and rural areas.

Despite all the progress made, women in Latin America and the Caribbean continue to face discrimination in access to work, economic assets and participation in private and public decision-making, particularly those in poor communities and rural areas. While poverty has decreased globally and in the region, the ratio of women to men in poor households in the region increased from 108 women for every 100 men in 1997 to 117 women for every 100 men in 2012, according to the United Nations Secretary General's Millennium Development Goal Report 2015.

UNDP's work on gender equality focuses on six key priorities at regional level:

- To measure and improve women's political participation;
- To address gender gaps in the private sector;
- To eradicate violence against women;
- To support sustainable development policies that are pro-poor and pro-women;
- To enhance women's resilience to climate change and disasters
- To develop capacities of all actors to mainstream gender into public policy.

INITIATIVES AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

America Latina Genera is a knowledge and virtual dialogue platform (www.americalatinagenera.org), with more than 500,000 visits a year, that provides analysis, tools, best practices in gender mainstreaming and route maps to members of the development community interested in gender issues. Over 300 people have participated in knowledge exchanges in 2015 alone through this online platform .

Capacity development of regional, national and local institutions

Since 2010, each year we have been tutoring over 500 officials in the region using 12 training programmes that include gender equality in the private sector, gender and citizen security, women's political participation, disaster risk reduction from a gender perspective and gender in communication.

The Gender Seal certification programme recognizes private and public companies for meeting specific standards to promote gender equality and empower women. By successfully completing the certification process, companies are awarded a Gender Equality Seal that officially recognizes their achievement of gender equality in the workplace.

Atenea is an initiative to accelerate women's progress in political participation. In collaboration with UN-Women and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, Atenea was designed to generate dialogue among national actors to achieve political parity through the creation of a national and regional political parity index and national action routes to accelerate progress.

Up Close

SURINAME: BOOSTING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN PARLIAMENT, DISTRICT BY DISTRICT

A nationwide UNDP-backed campaign in Dutch, the official language in Suriname, *Ook Zij* (She Too), pictured all female candidates, irrespective of their political affiliation, on a billboard.

Women's participation in politics in Suriname traditionally has been low. Following UNDP's year-long work with the Parliament to increase the number of women in decision-making positions, the percentage of female MPs has jumped from 9.8 per cent in 2010 to 33 per cent following the May 2015 elections – an historic achievement.

The strategy was two-pronged. On the one hand, the Parliament and UNDP focused on educating the general public on the need to involve more women in high-level decision-making. On the other hand, the partners strengthened the capacities of women leaders, including through training and mentoring, to promote female politicians.

"Now, nearly one year after the start of the programme, with elections held in May 2015 and the Government sworn in in August, the programme is hailed as a success," said Dr. Jennifer Geerlings-Simon, Speaker of Parliament, now in her second consecutive term.

With support from UNDP and the national Parliament, 17 female politicians from different political parties were trained and equipped to mount public campaigns. Each of the women, in turn, served as a mentor to three to five other women, who lobbied for a place on the list of selectees for the various political parties contesting the national elections. Five of the 17 women who took part in the UNDP initiative were placed on the ballots and three were ultimately elected.

The Embassy of the Netherlands and local NGOs also supported a nationwide UNDP-backed campaign in Dutch, the official language in Suriname, titled Ook Zij (She Too), that pictured all female candidates, irrespective of their political affiliation, on a billboard. The campaign called upon the public to vote for women. For the first time in history, in every district, women won seats.

"I can see my own personal growth. I am not nervous to speak in public and am confident enough to take initiatives," said Mynairfa Joekoe, one of the programme participants. "I will certainly make the point within my political party that we need to seriously work on the representation of women on the main political stage."

"Major change will take time. The political playing field in Suriname is currently a game run by men and changing this will mean broadening the Parliament-UNDP partnership to a national initiative with involvement of civil society, public and private sector aimed at stimulating the involvement of women and men equally," said Meriam Hubard, Programme Analyst for UNDP in Suriname. "Our work has only just begun."

Resources

UNDP funding is provided by voluntary contributions from UN Member States, multilateral organizations and other sources, including private sector and global funds. About one-fifth of all donor contributions to the United Nations development system are channeled through UNDP: a total of approximately $5billion received annually. These contributions are provided as either core resources, also known as regular resources, or non-core resources, with different degrees of earmarking such as geographic, thematic or project-specific.

In most countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, we work essentially with government contributions to programmes or projects in these same countries, a non-core modality known as **government cost-sharing**. These domestic resources are used for development projects that are in line with both National Development Plans and UNDP's Strategic Plan. This modality covers around 60 per cent of all funding for our work in the region, demonstrating the status of UNDP as a trusted partner. In 2015, 23 governments contributed over $811 million for our work in these same countries.

Six countries in the region also contribute to **global core resources,** which are non-earmarked and can be allocated to key priorities of UNDP's Strategic Plan. Core funding is essential to enable UNDP to perform at a high level, supporting the bulk of costs of UN Coordination in the field and funding the high standards of quality assurance and transparency we have attained, including our ranking as the world's most transparent aid organization in the 2014 Aid Transparency Index.
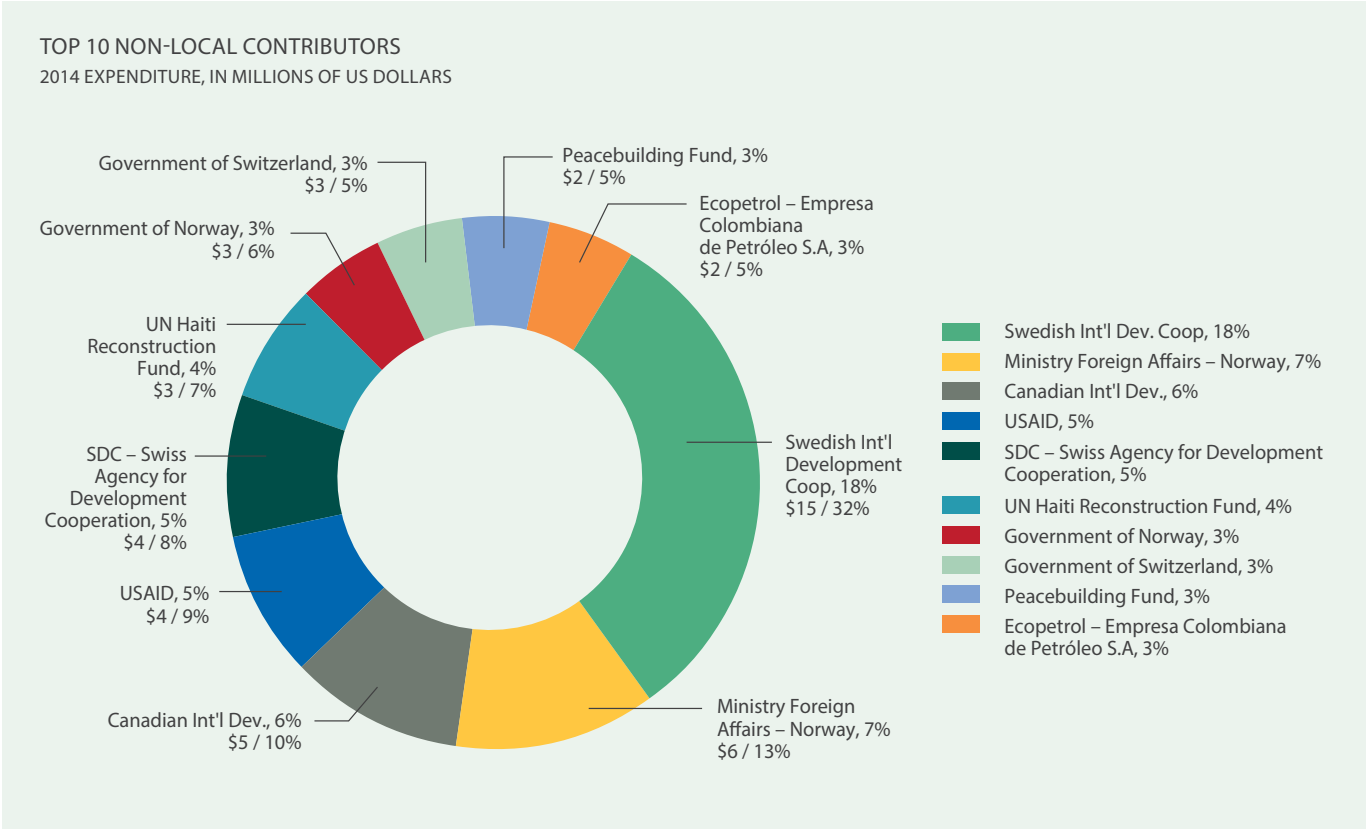
COUNTRY OFFICE PROGRAMME
2014 EXPENDITURE, IN US DOLLARS

COUNTRIES (ranked by total)	CORE	GOVT. COST SHARING	OTHER UNDP RESOURCES	TOTAL
Argentina	258,070	140,648,035	69,042,109	209,948,215
Peru	541,515	98,943,264	19,393,744	118,878,523
Brazil	444,285	65,629,971	15,086,845	81,161,101
Colombia	512,280	53,167,404	25,135,138	78,814,823
El Salvador	518,383	44,894,472	13,308,521	58,721,376
Venezuela	371,662	36,222,964	6,561,195	43,155,821
Dominican Republic	362,243	22,826,601	9,656,475	32,845,319
Mexico	16,118	19,364,743	10,136,343	29,517,204
Paraguay	817,228	17,504,218	2,266,927	20,588,372
Panama	378,535	11,051,950	2,906,401	14,336,886
Guatemala	478,000	10,611,021	30,184,060	41,273,081
Chile	838,834	8,341,881	4,526,642	13,707,358
Uruguay	356,382	7,278,707	4,795,136	12,430,225
Honduras	504,230	2,837,415	10,227,500	13,569,145
Nicaragua	1,747,687	2,067,106	15,476,558	19,291,351
Trinidad and Tobago	0	1,352,901	804,142	2,157,043
Costa Rica	471,484	854,303	4,609,495	5,935,281
Ecuador	578,734	481,050	7,062,270	8,122,054
Haiti	4,788,097	276,810	42,351,992	47,416,900
Bolivia	2,140,390	209,109	6,004,891	8,354,390
Suriname	202,956	148,320	755,595	1,106,870
Barbados	358,103	20	2,978,765	3,336,888
Belize	82,870	0	3,600,331	3,683,201
Cuba	457,995	0	14,780,738	15,238,733
Guyana	602,429	0	2,257,040	2,859,469
Jamaica	369,683	0	1,751,181	2,120,864
	18,198,194	**544,712,264**	**325,660,034**	**888,570,492**

Ninety percent of core programme resources are currently allocated to Low Income Countries. Core also plays a key role in ensuring adequate support to Middle Income Countries (MICs). In Latin America and the Caribbean, for each $1 in core funds, UNDP helps leverage on average an additional $50 in other resources, of which more than $30 come from governments' domestic resources. Core also enables
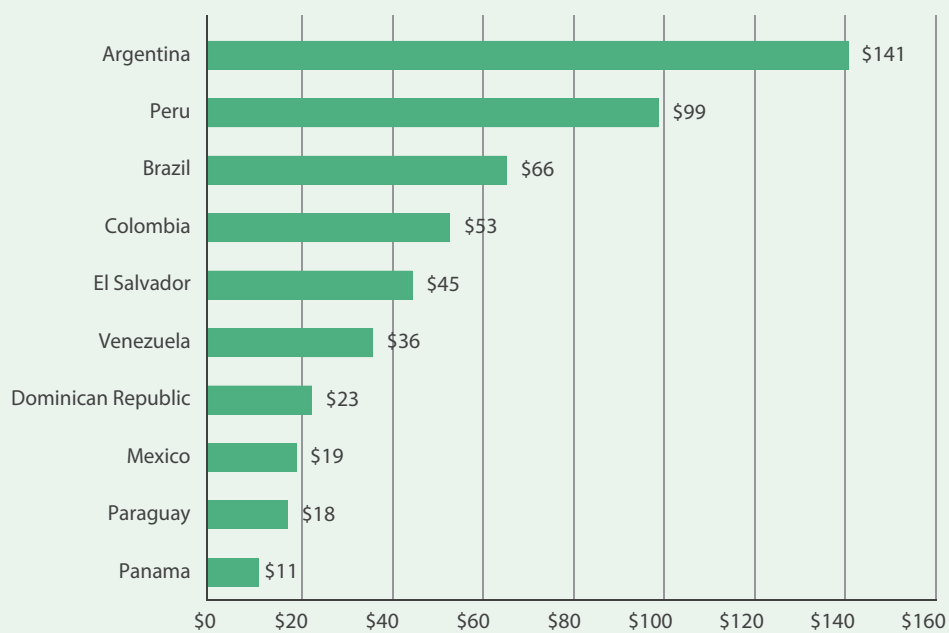
us to respond flexibly to demands at country level and to engage in innovative programmes. Core resources have been instrumental in strengthening UNDP's support to South-South and Triangular cooperation, funding the UN Office for South-South Cooperation, and also by providing seed resources for specific UNDP programmes.

Development is a long-term process that requires a clear strategic focus and the ability to respond to immediate crises, emerging challenges and opportunities. In today's fast-changing development environment UNDP continues to work towards expanding and diversifying its resource base in order to implement its 2014-2017 Strategic Plan, strengthening development services and partnerships.
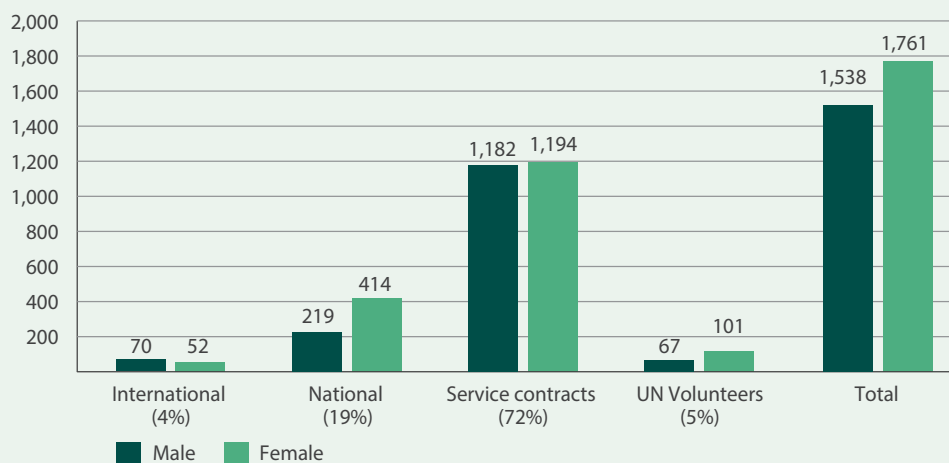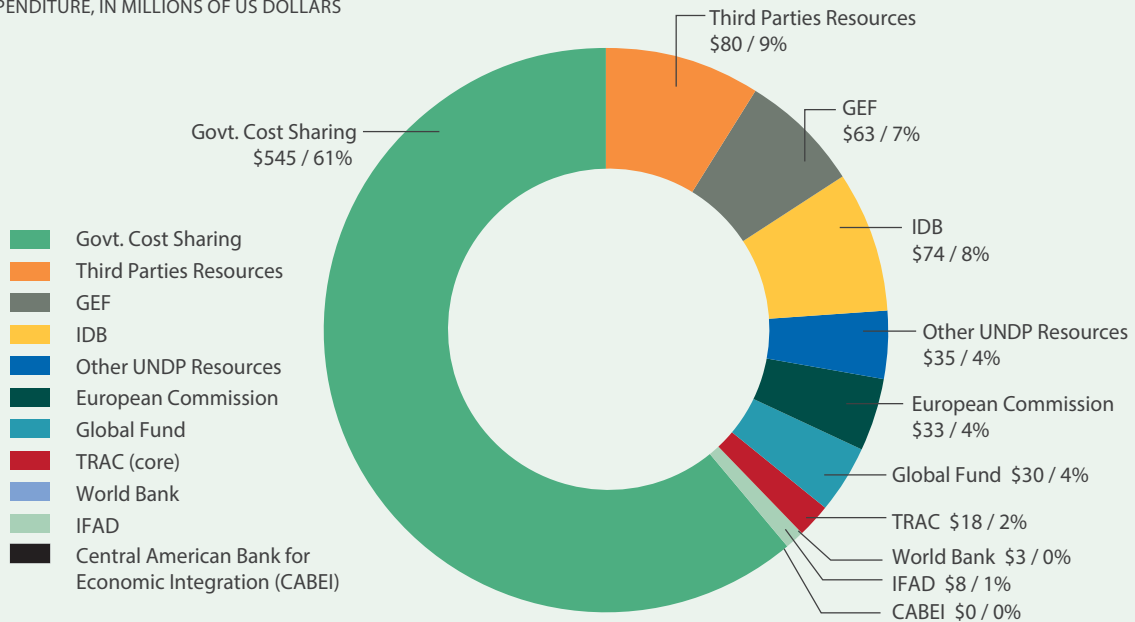
TOP 10 NON-LOCAL CONTRIBUTORS
2014 EXPENDITURE, IN MILLIONS OF US DOLLARS

Government of Switzerland, 3%
$3 / 5%

Government of Norway, 3%
$3 / 6%

UN Haiti Reconstruction Fund, 4%
$3 / 7%

SDC – Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, 5%
$4 / 8%

USAID, 5%
$4 / 9%

Canadian Int'l Dev., 6%
$5 / 10%

Peacebuilding Fund, 3%
$2 / 5%

Ecopetrol – Empresa Colombiana de Petróleo S.A, 3%
$2 / 5%

Swedish Int'l Development Coop, 18%
$15 / 32%

Ministry Foreign Affairs – Norway, 7%
$6 / 13%

Swedish Int'l Dev. Coop, 18%
Ministry Foreign Affairs – Norway, 7%
Canadian Int'l Dev., 6%
USAID, 5%
SDC – Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, 5%
UN Haiti Reconstruction Fund, 4%
Government of Norway, 3%
Government of Switzerland, 3%
Peacebuilding Fund, 3%
Ecopetrol – Empresa Colombiana de Petróleo S.A, 3%

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: GOVERNMENT COST-SHARING
TOP 10 CONTRIBUTORS – 2014 EXPENDITURE, IN MILLIONS OF US DOLLARS

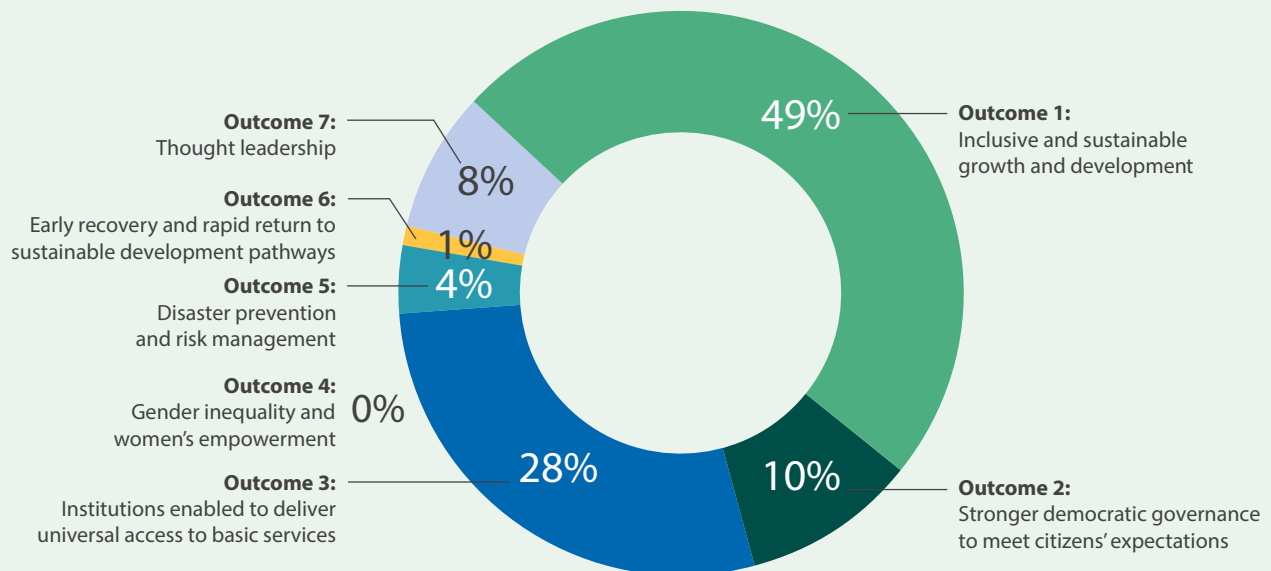| Country	Expenditure
Argentina	$141
Peru	$99
Brazil	$66
Colombia	$53
El Salvador	$45
Venezuela	$36
Dominican Republic	$23
Mexico	$19
Paraguay	$18
Panama	$11

2015 REGIONAL HUMAN RESOURCES OVERVIEW

	Male	Female
International (4%)	70	52
National (19%)	219	414
Service contracts (72%)	1,182	1,194
UN Volunteers (5%)	67	101
Total	1,538	1,761

■ Male ■ Female

REGIONAL PORTFOLIO BY SOURCE
2014 EXPENDITURE, IN MILLIONS OF US DOLLARS

Third Parties Resources
$80 / 9%

GEF
$63 / 7%

IDB
$74 / 8%

Govt. Cost Sharing
$545 / 61%

Other UNDP Resources
$35 / 4%

European Commission
$33 / 4%

Global Fund $30 / 4%

TRAC $18 / 2%

World Bank $3 / 0%

IFAD $8 / 1%

CABEI $0 / 0%

Legend:
- Govt. Cost Sharing
- Third Parties Resources
- GEF
- IDB
- Other UNDP Resources
- European Commission
- Global Fund
- TRAC (core)
- World Bank
- IFAD
- Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI)

DISTRIBUTION OF OUR WORK IN 2014 BY UNDP STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOMES

Outcome 7:
Thought leadership
8%

Outcome 6:
Early recovery and rapid return to sustainable development pathways
1%

Outcome 5:
Disaster prevention and risk management
4%

Outcome 4:
Gender inequality and women's empowerment
0%

Outcome 3:
Institutions enabled to deliver universal access to basic services
28%

Outcome 1:
Inclusive and sustainable growth and development
49%

Outcome 2:
Stronger democratic governance to meet citizens' expectations
10%

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
BRIDGE	Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections
CABEI	Central American Bank for Economic Integration
CARICOM	Caribbean Community and Common Market
CEP	Provisional Electoral Council
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EU	European Union
FNC	National Coffee Federation
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GFATM	Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
IATI	International Aid Transparency Initiative
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPEA	Institute of Applied Economic Research
HDI	Human Development Index
HDR	Human Development Report
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
LGBTI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
Mercosur	Southern Common Market
MICs	Middle Income Countries
MP	Member of Parliament

NGO	Non-governmental Organization
REDLACTRANS	Regional Network of Transgender People
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SE4All	UN SG's initiative on Sustainable Energy for All
SEGIB	Ibero-American General Secretariat
SGP	Small Grants Programme
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SIGOB	Management System for Governance
STD	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNiTe	United Nations Secretary General's Campaign to End Violence against Women
UN-REDD	United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the empowerment of women
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VMI	Vice-Ministry of Interculturality
CEDLAS	Centre for Distributive, Labour and Social Studies, National University of La Plata

In September 2015, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and take care of the environment, among other issues, by 2030.

The SDGs build on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), eight anti-poverty targets that the world committed to achieving by 2015. Having an integrated approach to supporting progress across the multiple goals is crucial to achieving the SDGs, and UNDP is uniquely placed to support that process.

"We are the first generation that can end poverty and the last that can end climate change."

– Ban Ki-moon
UN SECRETARY GENERAL

"Our world has more wealth, more knowledge, and more technologies at its disposal than ever before. The challenges we face are mostly human induced. We can tackle them, but not if we keep doing business as usual and expecting different results."

– Helen Clark
UNDP ADMINISTRATOR

CONTACT UNDP'S OFFICE IN THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES:

Argentina
Esmeralda 130 Pisos 12 y 13,
1035 Buenos Aires, Argentina
Tel: (54-114) 320-8700
www.ar.undp.org

Barbados
UN House Marine Gardens Hastings,
Christ Church,
Bridgetown, Barbados
Tel: 1 (246) 467-6000
www.bb.undp.org

Belize
UN House 7 Constitution Drive
Belmopan, Cayo District, Belize
Tel: (501) 822-2688/2462
www.bz.undp.org

Bolivia
Calle 14 Esq. Av. Sanchez
Bustamante – Calacoto Edificio
METROBOL
La Paz, Bolivia
Tel: 011 (591-2) 2795544
www.bo.undp.org

Brazil
Casa da ONU-Complexo Sérgio
Vieira de Mello, Setor de
Embaixadas Norte (SEN),
Quadra 802, Conjunto C,
Lote 17 CEP: 70800-400
Brasília, DF – Brazil
Tel: (55-61) 3038-9300
www.pnud.org.br

Chile
Ave. Dag Hammarskjöld 3241,
Vicatura
Santiago, Chile
Tel: (56-2) 654-1000
www.cl.undp.org

Colombia
Ave. 82 No. 10-62, 3rd & 4th Fl.
Bogotá DC, Colombia
Tel: (57-1) 488-9000
www.co.undp.org

Costa Rica
Oficentro La Virgen 2, 300m al Sur,
200m al sureste Emb. Americana
San José, Costa Rica
Tel: (506) 2296-1544
www.cr.undp.org

Cuba
Calle 18 N° 110 entre 1a y 3a,
Miramar, Playa,
Ciudad de la Habana, Cuba
Tel: (53-7) 204-1512
www.cu.undp.org

Dominican Republic
Ave. Anacaona N° 9, Mirador Sur,
Santo Domingo, D.N.,
Dominican Republic
Tel: 1 (809) 537-0909
www.do.undp.org

Ecuador
UN House Building 2889
Amazons Avenue
Quito, Ecuador
Tel: (593-22) 460-330/332
www.ec.undp.org

El Salvador
Edificio Naciones Unidas, Boulevard
Orden de Malta Sur No. 2-B,
Antiguo Cuscatlan,
El Salvador. Apartado Postal 1114
Tel: (503) 2263-0066
www.sv.undp.org

Guatemala
5a. Avenida 5-55, Zona 14 Edificio
Europlaza, Torre IV Nivel 10,
Guatemala City, GUA
Tel: (502) 2384-3100
www.gt.undp.org

Guyana
42 Brickdam & UN Place,
Georgetown, Guyana
Tel: (592-22) 64040/48/49
www.gy.undp.org

Haiti
Minustah Log Base Zone 5 Boul.
Toussaint Louverture & Clercine
18 Port-au-Prince, Haiti
Tel: (509) 4893-8090
www.ht.undp.org

Honduras
Casa de las Naciones Unidas
Colonia Palmira, Ave. Rep. de Panama,
Tegucigalpa, D.C, Honduras, CA
Tel: (504) 2220-1100/2231-0102
www.ht.undp.org

Jamaica
1-3 Lady Musgrave Road,
Kingston 5, Jamaica
Tel: 1 (876) 978-2390
www.jm.undp.org

Mexico
Montes Urales No. 440 Col. Lomas de
Chapultepec C.P. 11000 México, D.F.
Tel: (5255) 4000-9700/9600
www.mx.undp.org

Nicaragua
Edif. Naciones Unidas de Plaza de
Espana 400m. al Sur,
Managua, Nicaragua
Tel: (505) 2266-1701
www.ni.undp.org

Panama
UN House; "Ciudad del Saber" –
Building 129;
Panama 5, Panama
Tel: (507) 302-4500
www.pa.undp.org

Paraguay
Avda. Mcal. Lopez esq. Saravi
Asuncion – Paraguay
Tel: (595 21) 611980
www.py.undp.org

Peru
Complejo Javier Perez de Cuellar Av.
Pérez Araníbar 750
Magdalena del Mar Lima, Peru
Tel: (511) 625-9000
www.pe.undp.org

Suriname
Heerenstraat17
Paramaribo, Suriname
Tel: (597)425148
http://www.undp.org/content/
suriname/en/

Trinidad and Tobago
3A Chancery Lane, Port of Spain
Trinidad and Tobago
Tel: 1 (868) 623 7056
www.tt.undp.org

Uruguay
Javier Barrios Amorin 870
piso 3, 11200
Montevideo, Uruguay
Tel: (598-2) 412-3356 -59
www.uy.undp.org

Venezuela
Avenida Francisco Miranda, Torre HP,
Piso 6, Ofc. 6-A Los Palos Grandes,
Caracas, Venezuela
Tel: (58212) 208-4444/4303
www.ve.undp.org

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