

FAST FACTS

United Nations
Development Programme



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

About UNDP

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the development arm of the United Nations. UNDP partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in 177 countries and territories, UNDP's focus is on helping countries build and share solutions to the challenges of poverty reduction and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), democratic governance, crisis prevention and recovery, and environment, energy and sustainable development.



Empowering communities by strengthening access to justice and services

UNDP in Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka, UNDP works with national partners to help achieve inclusive and sustainable human development and lasting peace. We address regional disparities by strengthening local economies and governance systems able to deliver social services in an equitable manner. UNDP supports disadvantaged communities to access justice systems and legal aid, while also strengthening social integration. We also work to protect the environment and develop national capacities to respond to disasters and mitigate the risks they pose. UNDP has been working with and for the people of Sri Lanka for more than six decades.

UNDP and the UN

UNDP works alongside and often in partnership with other UN agencies, and aims to contribute to achieving the overall objectives of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). The 2013-2017 UNDAF has four pillars: (1) equitable economic growth and sustainable livelihoods; (2) disparity reduction, equitable and quality social services; (3) governance, human rights, gender equality, social inclusion and protection; (4) environment and climate change.

Our Work

Now that Sri Lanka has moved into a new era, UNDP has transitioned into a different kind of programme. Until recently, most of the support was for early recovery of conflict-affected areas, often delivered directly to communities in need. As we move forward, UNDP will increasingly assist the Government's efforts at the national and local levels to operate effectively and deliver services more efficiently.

UNDP's Country Programme for 2013-2017 in Sri Lanka focuses on two broad areas:

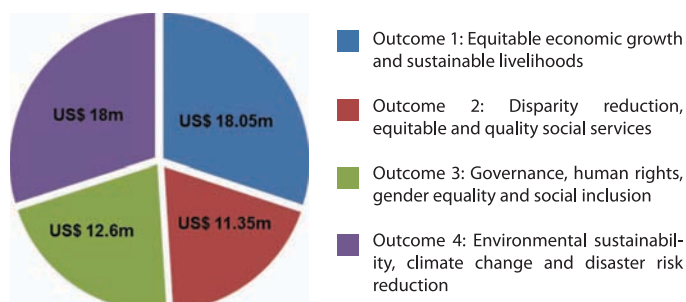
Governance for Empowerment and Social Inclusion:

UNDP supports socio-economic recovery and development, social inclusion, rule of law and access to justice, local governance, human rights and parliamentary support. UNDP works with National and Local Government and the private sector, while increasing the capacities of civil society and communities enabling them to jointly plan, implement, monitor and sustain socio-economic development. UNDP also works to create sustainable livelihoods and protect human rights with special attention to the needs of the marginalized, including women-headed households, youth, plantation sector workers and conflict-affected communities. In addition, in promoting social cohesion and reconciliation, UNDP supports platforms that bring together different groups, especially women and youth.

Environmental Sustainability and Disaster Resilience:

Under this focus area, UNDP supports projects promoting environmental sustainability, renewable energy, and climate resilience, and managing risks posed by disasters. UNDP continues to support the sustainable development agenda, building on the close relationship with Government agencies and others. UNDP works at the national level on policy issues and at the local level on strengthening Local Government capacities to integrate environmental sustainability and disaster risk reduction into development planning.

UNDP Country Programme 2013-2017 Targeted Allocation of Resources (US\$ 60m)



Our Accomplishments

• Directly supporting communities:

In the aftermath of the conflict, UNDP helped communities establish productive livelihoods, rebuild small-scale infrastructure and enabled them to become more resilient by engaging in village-level planning and improving their capacity to respond to disasters.

• Policy support:

Under the Joint Programme on Human Rights developed in 2008, UNDP helped the Government to meet its commitment under the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review by providing support for the formulation of the National Action Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (2011-2016) which was approved by the Cabinet in 2011. UNDP also commissioned the formulation of two National Human Development Reports (NHDR), in 1998 and 2012. NHDR 2012, focusing on regional disparities, was recognized as a useful input for the National Budget for 2013. The third NHDR, currently under preparation, focusing on youth and development, will serve as a major advocacy tool for future work on addressing challenges of youth.

• Making public administration more accountable:

In 2009, UNDP supported the Ministry of Public Administration and Home Affairs to re-engineer the Citizen's Charter, which was initiated to make public administration more accountable, by incorporating tools such as feedback forms and suggestion boxes. Today, the Citizen's Charter is displayed in 14,022 Grama Niladhari offices island wide and in 108 Divisional Secretariats with plans underway to introduce the Citizen's Charter in eight more districts across North Central, North Western and Sabaragamuwa provinces.

• Strengthening access to justice and the rule of law:

Since 2004, UNDP has helped disadvantaged groups address their most pressing justice and human rights concerns. This has included supporting over 100,000 people to apply for basic documentation such as National Identity Cards or birth certificates through mobile documentation clinics, especially in the formerly conflict-affected areas and in the plantation region. UNDP has also provided extensive legal aid to prisoners on remand, helping them make bail applications whilst also promoting a greater use of alternative 'community sentencing' methods so as to relieve overcrowding.

• Promoting social cohesion:

With the conflict having restricted opportunities for interaction between people from Sri Lanka's North, East and South, in promoting reconciliation and social cohesion, UNDP brought together over 1,000 children from 54 schools across 12 districts in Sri Lanka through the twinning schools programme. The Ministry of Education later became a formal partner to the twinning schools programme. Following the programme, schools and larger communities have initiated and funded their own exchange activities between different schools and communities.

• Environmental assessment:

In partnership with the UN Environment Programme, UNDP supported over 30 government agencies involved with development, conservation and planning to conduct an Integrated Strategic Environmental Assessment (ISEA) for the conflict-affected Northern Province. The ISEA established environmental baselines, mapped important archaeological areas and wildlife corridors and environmentally less-sensitive lands suitable for development. The Government used the ISEA to improve its physical investment plan for 2030, and to revise the urban and other development plans for the North. ISEAs were also carried out in the Uva and Gampaha Districts.



Increasing the resilience of communities against natural disasters by supporting them to build disaster-resilient infrastructure

• Developing hazard profiles:

UNDP worked with a number of government agencies and universities to prepare 'multi-hazard profiles', which cover sea surges, coastal erosion, sea-level rise, tsunamis, droughts, floods, cyclones, winds and landslides.

• Managing disaster risk:

UNDP supported the establishment of the 65-member National Disaster Management Coordinating Committee. In 2010-2011 members responded collectively to flood emergencies and prepared communities for impending cyclones. Building on these partnerships, UNDP is helping to develop the National Emergency Operation Plans (NEOP), which will enable over 35 government agencies to coordinate their activities before, during and after a disaster.

• Enhancing women's leadership:

The Women's Leadership Development Project (WLDP) brought together 30 women from different backgrounds in the conflict-affected district of Ampara. In addition to receiving training to build their confidence and leadership skills, the women designed community projects with seed funds from UNDP and were also supported to network with Local Government officials and participate in district decision-making mechanisms. Several of them ran for local elections and one became the first woman ever to be elected to her local authority.

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