

UNDP Fast Facts

Montenegro

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- ✓ Democratic Governance
- ✓ Social Inclusion
- ✓ Economy and Environment



U N

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In promoting **sustainable human development**, **UNDP Montenegro** supports the country's European Union accession priorities, building on its global development network, access to innovative solutions, knowledge, experience and resources. We do so by (i) advancing **democratic society and accountable institutions** with greater citizens' participation, (ii) building an inclusive society with **equal opportunity to all** citizens to reach their full potential and (iii) promoting **green future** through market transformation toward a low emission, resource efficient and resilient economy.

Social Inclusion

Equal opportunities for all

Social exclusion in Montenegro predominantly affect some vulnerable groups such as: poor and deprived, the long term unemployed, elderly, low-income pensioners, persons with disabilities, refugees and internally displaced persons, HIV/AIDS affected, Roma and Egyptian minorities, etc. Combating poverty and social exclusion takes more effective and adequate targeting of health, employment and social services.



The MONSTAT 2011 Poverty Analysis reveals that the average poverty rate is 9.3%, while for the northern region it is nearly three times higher than the poverty rate in the central and southern regions.

While the population in the north of the country has limited access to public services, women and the elderly have a considerably lower income. Unemployment rates in the North are two times greater than the national average, reflecting thus growing regional development disparities.

Due to persisting gender-based disadvantages, women are vulnerable and lack political and economic empowerment,

including protection against family violence.

There is only 17.2% of women in the National Parliament and 14% in local parliaments; only 3 out of 17 ministers are women, there is only 1 woman among 21 mayors, while female participation in entrepreneurship is below 10%.

The Government has adopted various social policies to tackle national development challenges. However, according to the European Commission's 2012 Progress Report, there is a need for further work on national social inclusion, better coordination of the reform policies, and a need to monitor their development and implementation.

What we do

Advancing social inclusion through improved institutional responsiveness and servicing for the most vulnerable, for all men and women to enjoy the quality life and reach their full potential.

Our goal is to help Montenegro overcome poverty, social exclusion and gender inequality, thus accelerating the country's EU integration agenda. The UNDP's main social inclusion interventions consist of:

- Strengthening **social policy**, legislative and institutional framework;
- Making **social services** better suited to the needs of the most vulnerable, more accessible at the local level, and in the course of time available in all the municipalities;
- **Social Card** – Social Welfare Information System for improving capacities and performance of the social protection system and providing more effective and efficient social protection services;
- Promoting cooperation between the national government and NGOs, especially on **enabling access to services** to vulnerable individuals;

- Support to building of the **institutional framework for disability determination**, ensuring equal access to entitlements (social, health, pension, employment, war veterans) for persons with disabilities;

- Advancing personal integrity, economic status and political representation of **women**;

- Contributing towards keeping the **HIV/AIDS prevalence below 1%** through continued support to the National HIV/AIDS Strategy;

- Supporting the displaced population and domicile **Roma** in obtaining personal identification documents;

- Supporting the national **evidence-based policy making** through National Human Development Reports, researches, studies and needs assessments.

- Facilitating **transfer of knowledge and expertise** about social care services among Western Balkan countries.

Value added

UNDP's operations in Montenegro focus on the country's key priorities linked to EU accession, bringing in best international practices and facilitating the engagement of civil society. UNDP promotes evidence based policy making, provides advocacy support, technical assistance, access to knowledge, innovation and expertise, as well as coordination support to the Government. Our comparative advantages in accelerating Montenegro's sustainable human development stem from our impartiality and global presence, as well as from our successful track record in helping the country attract and use development assistance effectively. UNDP operating within the framework of UN Delivering as One strives to further contribute to UN coherence in the country according to the Joint UN Integrated Framework for the period 2012-2016.

Key results

UNDP has supported setting-up of **17 local level social services**: home visits services and day homes for the elderly, day homes for persons with disabilities, SOS telephones for victims of domestic violence and family/youth counseling services.

We developed **flagship reports** to promote evidence-based policy making: the 2005 and 2009 **National Human Development Reports** on diversities potential for development and on social exclusion in Montenegro, as well as the 2013 National Human Development Report on human capital of Montenegro.

The **UNDP Gender Programme's advocacy** resulted in introduction of 30% of quota for women in the Election Law, and development of Action plan for political empowerment of women. Through capacity building initiatives, 270 police officers and social workers are now better skilled to implement the Law and the Protocol on family violence. 167 politicians improved their presentation skills through trainings, and 130

women are benefitting from the economic empowerment programs.

HIV program included service provision through drop-in centers and outreach work for injecting drug users, sex workers, men who have sex with men, Roma and Egyptian youth, merchant marines and prisoners. More than 500 professionals were trained in different aspects of HIV response. Voluntary counseling and testing network resulted in 1132 tested in 2012 with 9.3% clients belonging to most-at-risk populations. More than 200 clients were provided with methadone maintenance treatment. The concept of healthy life styles was introduced as an optional subject in high schools. Bio-behavioral surveys among 200 female sex workers and 312 prisoners and knowledge, attitude and practice surveys among 1171 young people aged 15-24 and 813 health professionals were successfully conducted.

We have supported over **40% of domicile Roma in acquiring the necessary documentation** to access social, employment and other services.



Our partners

Montenegrin local self-governments and key line ministries of: Labour and Social Welfare, Education, Health, Human and Minority Rights (and its Department for Gender Equality), and Justice; also specialized institutions: Social Welfare Centers, Employment Agency, Parliamentary Committee for Gender Equality, Institute for Public Health; Red Cross and a number of non-governmental and civil society organizations.

We contributed to successful results through excellent cooperation and financial support from the governments of Montenegro and Norway, as well as from the EU Delegation to Montenegro, Multi Donor Trust Fund and the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM).