



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

# BUILDING RESILIENT DRYLANDS

UNDP's Integrated Approach to Drylands:  
The Integrated Drylands Development Programme

## WHY DRYLANDS MATTER

### A significant proportion of our land

Drylands take up over 40% of the land surface. They refer to arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, and, in general, exclude deserts when referred to in the context of sustainable development.



### Homelands to a sizeable global population

The total drylands population is 2.1 billion, meaning they are the home to one in three people in the world today.



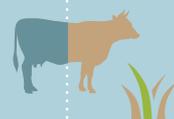
### Vital carbon absorbers

Drylands play a vital role in local, but also global climate regulation. They store approximately 46% of the global carbon share.



### A world breadbasket at risk

Up to 44% of all the world's cultivated systems are in the drylands. Rangelands support 50% of the world's livestock and are habitats for wildlife.



### Home to many of the world poor

The livelihoods of more than 1 billion people in some 100 countries are threatened by desertification.



### Affected by desertification and land degradation

Desertification refers to the land degradation in arid, semi-arid and sub-humid areas resulting from natural and human activities. Globally, 24% of the land is degrading. Land degradation is a barrier to sustainable development.



## UNDP'S RESPONSE – THE INTEGRATED DRYLANDS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

UNDP recognizes that rural development and poverty alleviation in drylands require action on several fronts: legislation, capacity strengthening, water management, gender equity, health and education, among others. There is a real challenge to ensure that policy and legislation favour people in the drylands and help to end their social and economic marginalization. At the same time, action is needed on the ground to help

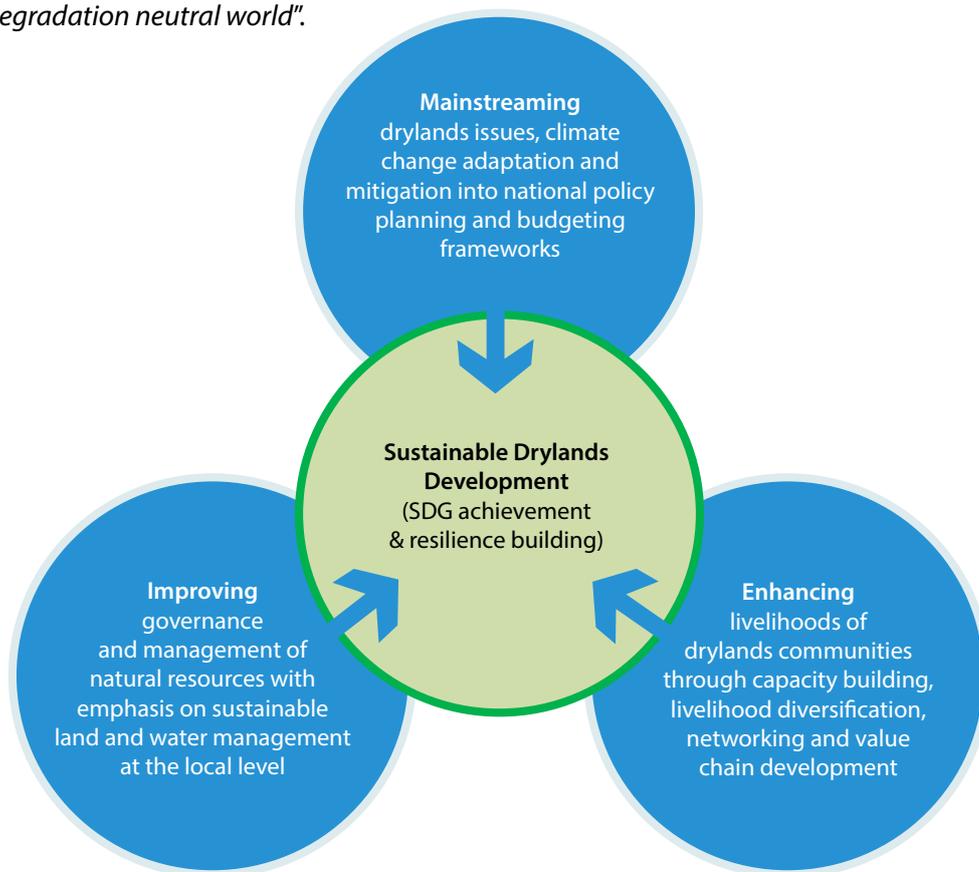
farmers and pastoralists enhance, diversify and add value to their produce to climb out of poverty.

To help meet these challenges, UNDP launched the Integrated Drylands Development Programme (IDDP) as an integrated approach to drylands development with an overall goal to alleviate poverty and promote sustainable land management in the drylands.

## Promoting sustainable drylands development – IDDP’s integrated approach:

By addressing three interlinked areas of importance to drylands development, IDDP helps partner countries meet Sustainable Development Goals, particularly **SDG Target 15.3**: *“By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation neutral world”*.

SDG Target 15.3 sets out a new global ambition: to achieve a Land Degradation Neutral World by the year 2030. In so doing, it responds to a serious and immediate challenge: How to sustainably produce food, fuel and fiber to meet future demand without further depleting our finite and resources?



## The IDDP supports countries in:



Implementing the UNCCD as a means to achieve the **Sustainable Development Goals** in drylands, particularly **SDG Target 15.3**”



Promoting learning, knowledge management and exchange of experiences and bringing these to bear upon and inform policy and programme formulation and implementation.



Integrating drylands development needs and priorities into national policy, planning and budgeting frameworks.



Establishing effective networks and partnerships for drylands development at global, regional, national and local levels.



Developing and strengthening national and local capacities for the planning, developing, implementing and monitoring of drylands programmes.



Assisting countries to mobilize partners and resources for drylands development.

**IDDP'S WORK IN THE DRYLANDS: SUSTAINING LIVELIHOODS AND BUILDING RESILIENCE**

**Uganda**



**Mainstreaming sustainable land management into national development frameworks**

Through the Integrated Drylands Development Programme (IDDP), UNDP supports countries to mainstream SLM into policies, planning and development frameworks. A recent example is the support provided for "Mainstreaming Sustainable Land Management in Six Corridor Districts in Uganda". This intervention intended to address the problem of severe land degradation in the cattle corridor districts of Uganda which significantly reduced land productivity, exacerbated poverty, conflict and other socio-economic hardships in the area.

**Morocco**



**Towards resilient inclusive development in the Southern Oases**

The oases of Southern Morocco are agro-ecosystems of vital ecological, economic and social importance and act as natural barriers against the advancing desert. Climate change and recurrent droughts aggravated by deep socio-economic and institutional changes led to their degradation, loss, abandonment and migration of affected communities. In 2006, UNDP supported the Government of Morocco in the elaboration of "Programme Oasis Sud" (or POS) to help address these challenges. POS acts a regional framework for local development, catalyzing an enabling environment for building resilient livelihoods and ecosystems with particular focus on value chain development and women empowerment.

**Horn of Africa**



**Building community resilience to drought**

In the face of growing threats of climate-related shocks and stresses in the past decades in the Horn of Africa region, UNDP developed a Community-Based Resilience Analysis (CoBRA), a participatory qualitative resilience measurement tool with the aim to understand the key contributing and diminishing factors to climate resilience. The CoBRA assessments were piloted in different parts of Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia to date.

**Syria, Lebanon and Jordan**



**Resilience based approach to respond to Syria Crisis**

The IDDP provided support for the implementation of the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) in countries affected by the Syria crisis. The 3RP is a consolidated regional framework aimed at addressing refugee protection needs, the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable, and the longer term socio-economic impacts of the **Syria crisis** on neighboring countries.




In **Syria**, IDDP provided technical and financial support to the programme "Assistance for the Restoration and Stabilization of the Livelihoods of People Affected by the Crisis".




In **Lebanon**, technical assistance was provided within the framework of the Lebanon Host Communities Support Programme to build the capacity of women agro-food cooperatives in communities hosting Syrian refugees.




In **Jordan**, within the framework of the Jordan response plan, the IDDP provided support for the design of a joint UNDP/UNEP project to mitigate the impacts of Syrian refugees on ecosystem services and land degradation and build the resilience of affected communities.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Drawing on over 40 years of experience and expertise, UNDP will continue to engage in global efforts to halt and reverse land degradation and promote sustainable resilient development in the drylands. It will step up its support to countries to promote:

- i) Sustainable livelihoods in the context of **SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere**;
- ii) Sustainable land management policies and practices in the context of **SDG 15 on Terrestrial Ecosystems**.

Promoting sustainable development in the drylands also contributes to other SDGs, including:

**SDG 2: Achieving food security**

**SDG 5: Gender equality and women empowerment**

**SDG 6: Sustainable water management**

**SDG 10: Reducing inequity among countries**

**SDG 13: Combating climate change.**

The relationship between sustainable land management, climate change, and water and food security goals is synergistic and efforts to simultaneously meet these goals will prove cost effective, efficient and ecologically sound.

UNDP believes that with good policies and adequate support, the drylands can be productive and the livelihoods of dryland communities can be greatly improved with gains to the global development agenda in terms of poverty alleviation, moving towards land degradation neutrality and mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change.



Sustainable resilient drylands development also contributes to conflict management. When land degradation reaches a level at which it seriously threatens people's livelihoods, it can fuel conflict and turn into a security issue. Sustainable inclusive drylands development can thus be seen as an important response to conflict, migration and the refugee crisis.

UNDP will continue its **three-pronged approach to drylands development**, through:

- Capacity development, advocacy and policy advice;
- Support to the adoption and demonstration of locally-appropriate technologies and approaches;
- Support to the mobilization of partners and resources for sustainable management.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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