



# United Nations Development Programme

Highlights of UNDP's work in 2017



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# FOREWORD



Fode Ndiaye  
UN Resident Coordinator &  
UNDP Resident Representative



Stephen Rodriques  
UNDP Country Director

Dear Partners and Friends of UNDP Rwanda,

2017 was another year of commitment and hard work alongside our partners to help Rwanda achieve its goals for equitable and sustainable development. This publication outlines some of the key achievements from the year.

For 40 years, UNDP has been on the frontline of development in Rwanda, partnering with Government, CSOs, Private Sector, International Development Partners, Academia, the Media, and others. Our aim has been to help Rwanda build stronger institutions, reduce poverty, safeguard the environment, protect human rights, enhance democracy and good governance, and create decent employment opportunities for its youth, women and men. Our current programme of assistance is guided by the United Nations Development Assistance Plan (UNDAP) 2013-2018, which is aligned with the priorities of the Government of Rwanda as outlined in the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS) 2 and Vision 2020.

Our mission is simple: we aim to help ensure that all Rwandans, especially the poor and vulnerable, enjoy the fruits of their country's development, and are protected from the adverse impacts of natural disasters and climate change.

The work we do each day would not be possible without the invaluable support of our partners in Rwanda, along with the dedicated commitment of our Country Office staff. The results showcased in this publication were achieved in partnership with all of you. This newsletter is a celebration of partnerships!

We thank you for your continued support to UNDP. Together we have done much, and together we can do even more and better.

We would like to express our special gratitude to all our major partners in 2017 including: Government of Rwanda (through various Ministries and Agencies), SIDA, KOICA, Government of Japan, DFID, Swiss Development Cooperation, Non-Governmental and Civil Society Organizations, Private Sector Federation (PSF), Imbuto Foundation, the UN system (e.g. UNCDF, UNWOMEN, UNEP, etc.) and many others.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Ndiaye'.

Fode Ndiaye  
UN Resident Coordinator &  
UNDP Resident Representative

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Rodriques'.

Stephen Rodriques  
UNDP Country Director

# SUSTAINABLE GROWTH & RESILIENCE

Rwanda has experienced impressive rates of economic growth over the past 16 years, with GDP growth averaging more than 7.5% between 2000-2016. Nonetheless, the economy is challenged to generate adequate decent jobs for the country's young and fast-growing population. Each year, the number of new entrants into the labour market far surpasses local job creation capacity. Since 2013, and as part of a One UN Joint Programme on Youth and Women's Empowerment, UNDP has been partnering with the Government of Rwanda and other stakeholders on the Youth Connekt initiative. Youth Connekt is geared at connecting young people to role models, resources, knowledge, skills, positive values and attitudes, internships and employment opportunities, enabling them to participate in shaping a better future for themselves, Rwanda and the world at large.

Among other things, in 2017, YouthConnekt Rwanda provided training in entrepreneurship, business development and access to finance to 90 additional youth under its successful 'entrepreneurship bootcamp' programme. Thirty of these participants received financial awards to support the development of their projects. Project data indicate that over 1,234 jobs (31.2% women) were created in 2017 by past Youth Connekt awardees. This brings the total number of jobs created to date to over 6,168 permanent and temporary jobs since 2013.

Five YouthConnekt hangouts took place, helping to connect over 4,546 young people to different entrepreneurs, and presenting opportunities to discuss and explore new business ideas and innovation. Additionally, 26 episodes of the TV show "Inspire me - Isahay 'Urubyiruko" ("youth hour") were broadcast on national television. The series deals with issues of entrepreneurship and mindset change and reached millions of Rwandans. Tracer studies are planned to assess the wider and longer-term impacts of the various components of the Youth

Connekt programme. Cephas Nshyimyumuremyi is among the first winners of the Youth Connekt bootcamp award and one of Africa's most awarded youth entrepreneurs. His company produces cosmetic products out of traditional plants. Today, he employs 11 full-time staff members in his company.

Like Cephas, Assumpta Uwamariya won the Youth Connekt bootcamp award in its 2016 edition. The award and the coaching she got from the bootcamp, helped her business. Assumpta's company processes







## Youth have greater access to mentorship, entrepreneurship and job opportunities

*A welder in the workforce center ( agakiro) in Nyamasheke district*

tasty and affordable wine from beetroot grown in her community. Her Company W4U (Wine for You) now employs 10 permanent workers and provides temporary jobs to others in the community.

In July 2017, UNDP partnered with the Government of Rwanda and UNCTAD to further scale-up the Youth Connekt initiative by organising the first YouthConnekt Africa Summit, gathering 3,121 participants from 70 countries. The three-day summit brought together participants from

governments, UN agencies, international and bilateral donors private sector organisations, academia and youth organisations and was hosted by the President of Rwanda. The high-level launch resulted in commitments by governments to replicate the initiative and an agreement for the Government of Rwanda, with support from UNDP, to establish a Youth Connekt Africa Hub and Fund in Kigali to support youth empowerment programmes across the continent and help create millions of jobs for youth.

To date, YouthConnekt has been adopted by Uganda, the Republic of the Congo, Guinea, the DR Congo, and Liberia.

As part of a second One UN joint programme, UNDP also partnered with the Imbuto Foundation on their Youth Empowerment and Mentorship Program to provide mentorship to 325 young persons, helping to enhance leadership, communication and other skills among university and secondary school students, especially young females.

## DEPOSITS

BIFSIR helped to increase deposit to **USD 79M** which is 55% of all Micro Finance Institutions (MFI) deposits.

## 416 SACCOS

Under BIFSIR UNDP/UNCDF helped Rwanda establish community SACCOS

## MEMBERSHIP

Community SACCOS serve over **2 million** Rwandans

**Low income families, women and youth have better access to finance**

*Umutanguha finance bringing financial services closer to the population with the financial support of UNDP/UNCDF*

Access to finance plays a key role in stimulating entrepreneurship and job creation. With this in mind, UNDP has been helping to expand access to finance particularly to the poor, women and youth. In 2017 UNDP concluded its Building an Inclusive Financial Sector in Rwanda (BIFSIR) programme with the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and MINECOFIN. An independent corporate evaluation done in 2017 concluded that BIFSIR was highly effective. Among other things, the evaluation noted that BIFSIR (a) supported the National Bank of Rwanda to establish regulatory frameworks, procedural

manuals, and entrepreneurship training modules for microfinance institutions and community savings cooperatives (SACCOS) that improved the governance of Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) and built confidence in the sector, and (b) helped Rwanda establish 416 community SACCOS with a membership of over 2 million Rwandans, and deposits of over USD79 million representing 55% of all MFI deposits. UNDP and UNCDF's work in this area received significant support from the Government of Korea through KOICA.



**A** An improved aid coordination architecture between the GoR and development partners;



The establishment of an effective aid management system;

**B**



The creation of a Development Assistance Database (DAD) linked to the country's Financial Management System.

**C**

## Rwanda has a stronger aid effectiveness and development cooperation system

Rwanda is at the fore-front of the 'new architecture of official development finance' and is among the top countries using public finance management (PFM) systems. For over 10 years, UNDP has been providing financial support and international expertise to the government to strengthen its capacity to mobilize and coordinate external resources. As noted in the 2017 Independent Country Programme Evaluation of UNDP, key results of UNDP's support included (a) an improved aid coordination architecture between The Government of Rwanda and development partners; (b) the establishment of an effective aid management system; and (c) the creation of a Development Assistance Database (DAD) linked to the country's Financial Management System. This has improved efficiency, coordination and alignment of donor activities by allowing MINECOFIN to collect data and produce timely

Donor Performance Assessment Framework (DPAF) and Official Development Assistance (ODA) reports. In 2017, UNDP also provided technical support to the government to review the current Aid Policy and develop new instruments and innovative financing products to position the country to benefit from a dynamic and rapidly evolving global finance landscape. The new Aid Policy is expected to take effect in 2018. The UNDP-GoR Aid for Development Effectiveness project, which is co-financed by DFID and the Government of Switzerland, also supported the annual development partners retreat which led to a number of studies and important recommendations to inform the country's development plans. UNDP remains an active participant in Development Partners meetings and in the bi-annual and annual DP meetings with the Government of Rwanda.

# Green Growth and Sustainable Development practices promoted and adopted

In 2017, UNDP, like other development partners and stakeholders, actively contributed to the countrywide process of developing the National Strategy for Transformation (NST1) 2017-2024. UNDP provided technical support and inputs to various Sector Working Groups and to MINECOFIN to ensure that key issues, particularly relating to the domestication of the SDGs, were incorporated into the NST1 and Sector Strategic Plans (SSPs). At the national level, a UNDP-UNECA SDG Policy Gap analysis was used to inform the GoR's efforts to incorporate the SDG goals and targets into national and local strategies, policies and development plans.

UNDP, as co-chair of the Environment and Natural Resource (ENR) sector, provided technical support to sector planning and formulation of the new ENR SSP and its alignment to national and global development agendas, such as the SDGs. Moreover, with UNDP and SIDA financial support, progress was made on the design of a RBM system to facilitate more effective coordination and monitoring of

progress across the sector and to show the sector's contribution to national development.

As part of a strategy to facilitate scaling up of the Government's Green Village initiative, UNDP partnered with REMA and other stakeholders to complete the piloting of 5 green villages, develop a smart green village toolkit, and conduct a cost benefit analysis of the first pilot Green Village. The cost benefit analysis provided data and evidence which informed the Government's decision to replicate the Integrated Development Programme for model villages in 30 districts using State budget.

UNDP collaborated with the Government to organize the first ever Rwanda Green Growth Week, which brought together a wide range of public, private and NGO partners. During the high-level policy dialogue to mark the opening of the week, progress on the implementation of the Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy was shared and

discussed. Recommendations were adopted to inform the way forward. These are key elements of a UNDP/One UN advocacy and communications effort to deepen awareness, national ownership and commitment to green growth.

UNDP also worked closely with the Government to strengthen national capacity to eliminate harmful polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). As a result, in 2017 work commenced on replacing and burning over 50 tones of PCB contaminated oil in an environmentally friendly manner. This was implemented through a UNDP - Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded programme.



Green village built in Musanze district to relocate families living in disaster prone areas





*Radical terraces constructed with support of UNDP to protect the ecosystem*

## National and local governments and communities adopt effective Disaster Risk Management strategies

In 2017, UNDP technical staff worked closely with sector stakeholders on mainstreaming disaster risk management priorities into the new national, sector and district development strategies and plans for 2018 - 2024.

In collaboration with the Government of Japan, UNDP supported MIDIMAR to complete the National Recovery Strategy. The Strategy comprises the following elements: guiding principles for recovery, institutional set-up, coordination mechanisms, M&E, resource mobilization/financing mechanisms for recovery, sectoral

guidelines, and the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) methodology as a reference tool for post-disaster assessments.

To build climate change resilience of local communities, 102 households were relocated from fragile ecosystems and disaster-prone areas to green villages on safe land.

Additionally, and working with METEO Rwanda and the University of Tokyo, UNDP initiated the Internet of Things (IoT) for Water Management and Climate Change programme in Rwanda. The IoT is a pilot initiative to test technologies

that can provide real time environmental data for analysis and dissemination to farmers and district officials for better planning and early warning.

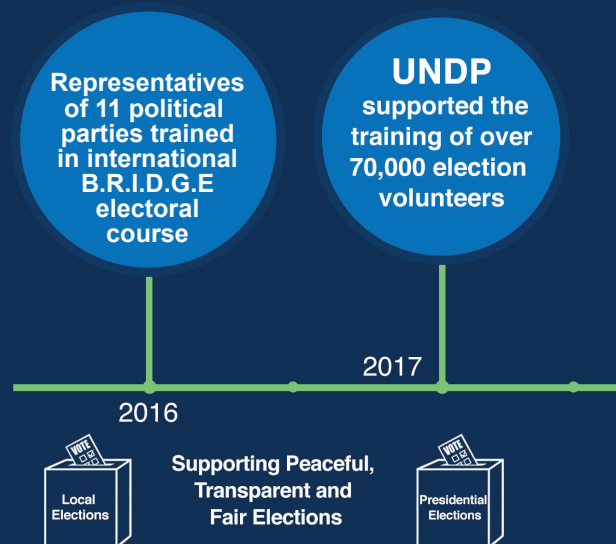


**102 households were relocated from fragile ecosystems and disaster-prone areas to green villages on safe land**





**Presidential  
Election  
volunteers  
demonstrating  
their readiness to  
support peaceful  
and fair elections**



elections. Additionally, the international B.R.I.D.G.E. training was provided to participants from 11 political parties, ensuring that they master election requirements based on the 2015 electoral law and international election standards. These measures, along with extensive efforts to sensitize citizens on their rights and obligations contributed to an increase in positive perception of political and civil liberties from 77.05% in 2014 to 81.8% in 2016 based on the Rwanda Governance Scorecard (RGS) 2016. UNDP also supported the 2016 local government elections.

In 2017, UNDP partnered with the National Elections Commission (NEC) to support national voter and civic education campaigns. In total, 4,714,962 out of 6,882,056 registered voters (73%) benefited from the civic education programme. UNDP also supported the training of over 70,000 election volunteers. These efforts contributed to an impressive voter turnout of 96.15% (54% female and 46% male) in the August 2017 Presidential elections.

In line with the recommendations of the 2015 United Nations Needs Assessment Mission, UNDP plans to also support the 2018 Parliamentary and 2019 Senatorial elections.

# DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

As a key part of its mandate, UNDP works closely with the Government and other partners to strengthen democratic institutions and practices, with a view to promote good governance and democracy. In 2017, UNDP support focused on enhancing citizen participation and advancing accountability of public institutions.

**Stronger Citizen Participation and More Accountable Governance**  
As the 2016 - 2019 electoral cycle progresses, UNDP is helping to strengthen civic engagement, youth and women's participation in political processes, and the role of the media and CSOs as vital actors in the democratization process.

Starting in 2016 and in anticipation of the elections cycle, UNDP, working with the Media High Council and the National Consultative Forum for Political Organizations, strengthened the capacity of local journalists to enhance the quality of reporting on



# Rwanda has a more Robust, Independent and Accountable Media

Rwanda's media sector has made significant progress since the media reforms of 2013. The passage of media reform laws, the establishment of a media self-regulating body, and the rapid growth in the number and quality of media organizations and reporting, are indicators of the continued evolution of the sector. UNDP has been closely involved in supporting the media reform process through its Deepening Democracy and Accountable Governance programme- a five-year partnership between UNDP and the Government of Rwanda. UNDP also provides institutional support to the Rwanda Media Commission (RMC), Media High Council (MHC), and the Association of Rwandan Journalists (ARJ). In 2017, UNDP assisted the Media High Council to strengthen media practitioners' capacities in several areas including gender equality in the media sector and post, during and pre-elections reporting/coverage. One hundred and twenty-four (124) journalists and media managers acquired theoretical and practical knowledge on business management and different reporting techniques. As part of their training, the journalists generated over 340 news stories that were produced and disseminated through various media. UNDP also supported the staging of the 2017 Journalism Development Award which seeks to recognise excellence and professionalism in the media sector and motivate media



**124** journalists and media managers  
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and different reporting techniques  
RMC received 70 complaints from or  
in relation to media practitioners

practitioners. The event was conducted in partnership with the Rwanda Governance Board, Rwanda Association of Journalists, Rwanda Media Commission (self-regulatory body), and Media High Council, and took place on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017 on the Africa Day of Information and the National Media Dialogue. This edition also attracted corporate sponsors and partners resulting in an increase in the number of award categories. The 2017 Journalism Development Award attracted 421 entries (competitive categories) and 92 nominations (public vote categories) and 50 awards were given out, the highest number since the inception of the competition. The awards aim to help improve the standard of the media by promoting writing competitions, boosting support

to reporters, and upgrading journalism standards. With respect to the professionalization of the media, UNDP continued to support the Rwanda Media commission (RMC) to regulate the nascent industry. The primary mandate of RMC as a media self-regulatory body is to ensure that media is responsible, accountable and professional in its service to the public. This implies effective enforcement of ethical standards and respect for the rights and freedoms of journalists. These principles and ideals are well articulated in the current Rwanda Journalists and Media Practitioners Code of Ethics. In 2017, RMC received 70 complaints from or in relation to media practitioners. Fifty five of these complaints were successfully resolved, while 15 are still in adjudication / review.



*Police woman sensitising community members on the bad effect of drug abuse*

## Citizens enjoy greater access to Justice, Peace and Security

The 2015 Universal Periodic Review created momentum for the Human Rights agenda, as multiple State and Non-State actors and stakeholders were engaged in the process. In 2016, UNDP supported the justice sector to develop the implementation roadmap for the 50 UPR recommendations that Rwanda accepted in 2015. The roadmap was prepared by the National Treaty Body Reporting Task force established in 2011 with UNDP support. In 2016 and 2017 UNDP also supported dialogue between Government, civil society and donors on human rights issues, and on strategies and approaches to tackle the challenges identified. Additionally, UNDP supported the National Human Rights Commission to prepare the Rwanda Human Rights Action Plan, and the organization of human rights education and sensitization campaigns which helped Rwanda implement over two thirds of its 2015 UPR

recommendations by the end of 2017. (Partly as a result of these efforts, citizen satisfaction with the respect for human rights rose from 77% to 85.5% between 2010 and 2016 as shown in the Rwanda Governance Scorecard 2016).



The new Integrated Electronic Case Management System (IECMS) for the justice sector, which was developed by the Ministry of Justice with UNDP support, is helping to substantially improve the delivery of justice services across the country. The system, which won the 2017 Top Ten Tech Solutions Award for its important contribution in improving access to justice and generating jobs for young people (at Internet cafes across Rwanda), is web-based and

makes it easier and cheaper for people to file and monitor the status of their cases. For example, data indicates that in 2014 approximately 36% of the time that litigants went to court was to obtain copies of judgements. Today, these judgements are available online, drastically reducing the time and costs, particularly for poorer litigants, to obtain copies of judgements. The IECMS was put in place to ensure modernization of the criminal, commercial and civil justice systems and is currently operational in all courts, prosecution offices, and prisons as well as 29% of police stations. As of 2017, all prosecution and court cases are filed and processed online. A total of 93,590 cases have been filed out of which 54,856 (58.6%) have been pronounced. Of the 3,040 targeted users of the system, UNDP has helped train 1,534, including the owners of the Internet Cafés that provide assistance to citizens when they file their cases. Citizen satisfaction with the use of ICT in the Judiciary scored a high of 82.85% in the 2016 Rwanda Governance Scorecard.





*Prison Fellow helping Genocide survivors reconcile with Genocide perpetrators*

## Trust and social cohesion strengthened

Throughout the year, UNDP continued supporting the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission, faith-based and other organisations to promote community dialogue and training in social cohesion with the aim of enhancing trust among Rwandans. These sessions bring together genocide survivors, perpetrators, and their respective families to confront and resolve difficult truths from the past. In many cases, genocide convicts who had previously denied their crimes during the Gacaca trials confessed and asked for forgiveness from the families of the deceased. “Personally, I confess killing nine people from Ngarambe’s family but I regret it and am asking for forgiveness and I will never do it again,” said Habimana, after participating in one of the trainings on healing which involved 116 participants. He was sentenced to 30 years in prison for the crimes he committed. “It’s the first time in my life to meet and sit down with

someone who killed my family members in genocide against the Tutsi. He asked me for forgiveness, and I stand ready to forgive him. Through this training, we are sitting together, share meals and this is possible due to the project,” said Ms Zaninka, one of the beneficiaries.

The dialogue is helping to heal the wounds and memories of the trauma caused by the tragic events of 1994 when hundreds of thousands of Rwandans were killed. In addition to the dialogue and healing sessions, the project also provides livelihood opportunities to increase the income of poor families. Examples include a bee keeping project and a pineapple cultivation project involving many members of the community.

During 2017, UNDP also continued its ongoing programme of support to crime prevention by promoting

partnership and collaboration between communities and the police. Among other things, UNDP has been working with the Rwanda National Police (RNP) since 2013 to put in place and train a countrywide network of community policing committees at local levels. Partly as a result of these and other measures, citizen satisfaction with the Rwanda National Police (RNP) scored 89.7% in 2016 compared to 86.5% in 2015. (Rwanda Governance Scorecard 2016).

**The Rwanda Reconciliation Barometer Indicates that approximately 92.5% of Rwandans today feel that unity and reconciliation has been achieved and that citizens now live in greater harmony.**

# Gender Inequalities reduced

Rwanda continues to solidify its standing as a global leader on gender equality and women's empowerment. The 2017 World Economic Forum Gender Gap Report ranked Rwanda fourth in the world for its efforts to close the gender gap in various spheres. In 2017 Rwanda maintained its standing as the country with the highest share of female parliamentarians in the world, with 64% of parliament comprised of women.

The promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women is central to the mandate of UNDP and intrinsic to its development approach. UNDP Rwanda received a Gold Gender Equality Seal Certification in recognition of its outstanding work in promoting the rights and welfare of women and girls both within its offices and through its various programmes.

In 2017, UNDP's contribution towards advancing women's empowerment and gender equality in Rwanda included:

- A Gender Audit exercise for the Justice, Reconciliation, Law and Order Sector (JRLOS), facilitated by UNDP. The Audit covered the gender mainstreaming work of the entire JRLOS, and provided a guide to action aimed at accelerating gender mainstreaming across the sector. The audit has also informed the design of the 2018-2023 JRLOS sector strategic plan.
- Extensive trainings and awareness raising with national and sector planners, with the objective of building capacity and providing tools



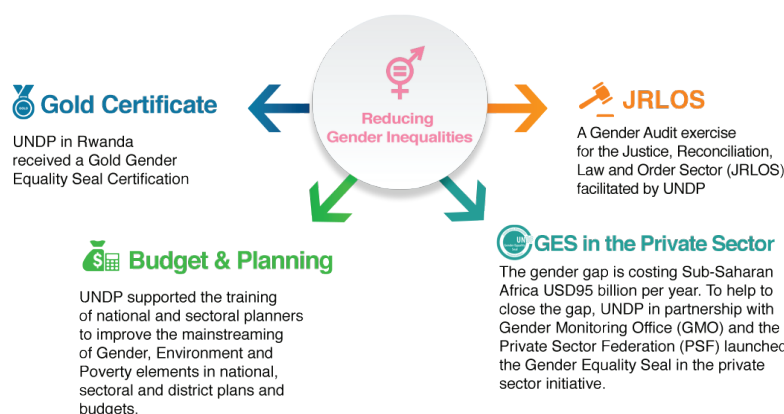
A male and female mechanic in ATC Rwanda

for improved mainstreaming of Gender, Environment, and Poverty elements in national, sectoral and district plans and budgets. This was undertaken under UNDP's Poverty and Environment Initiative, which is a joint programme in partnership with UNEP and REMA;

Work undertaken with the National Consultative Forum of Political Organizations in Rwanda, in strengthening the capacity of 2,231 local political party leaders (884 females), and graduating 85 youth (49% women) from the Youth Political Leadership Academy. This support helps prepare the next generation of leaders, and ensures that youth and women have the skills and knowledge to participate in

various political processes.

- A pioneering new initiative, Gender Seal in the Private Sector, launched in partnership with the Private Sector Federation, Gender Monitoring Office, Ministry of Gender and UNWOMEN. The initiative builds on international commitments to gender equality as well as the United Nations Global Compact Women's Empowerment Principles. The Gender Equality Seal Certification Programme helps companies create equitable conditions for men and women and establish environments where women's work and contributions are valued. Many of Rwanda's largest private sector companies have signed up for the programme, which is also supported by SIDA.





# Policy Support to inform strategic planning

As part of its policy-level work, UNDP has supported the Government in its effort to formulate and implement strategies and plans in different sectors. For example, UNDP worked with the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission (NURC) to engage citizens on the assessment and revision of the current Reconciliation Policy. The assessment of the policy has led to the revision of the policy itself, but also informed the formulation of a 5-year strategic plan for the commission. In addition, it has also served as an input in the formulation of the

justice sector strategic plan and the National Strategy for Transformation (NST1). UNDP also supported consultations around the new justice sector strategy (2018-2024) which led to the development of the new JRLOS SSP3 documents with the involvement of all justice sector stakeholders. Following the recommendations of the 2015 Gender Audit of the Justice Sector, in 2017 UNDP supported the development and validation of a gender strategy for the entire justice sector. The strategy has become a guiding document for mainstreaming

gender in the justice sector and is critical for ensuring increased participation of women in decision making. Up to 2015, UNDP played a leadership role in supporting the implementation and reporting on the MDGs. Following the adoption of the SDGs, UNDP, at the request of the GoR and as part of a One UN effort, initiated a pivotal SDG policy gap analysis which was used to help Rwanda domesticate the SDGs in the new National Strategy for Transformation (NST) and in all sector strategic plans (SSPs)



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# South-South Cooperation



*A delegation from Uganda in Rwanda to share best practices in development .*

Knowledge is a major currency for development. UNDP, drawing on its extensive global knowledge networks, seeks to support Rwanda to share its experiences and to also learn from the good practices of other countries. In 2017, UNDP supported Rwanda's participation in a range of regional and global knowledge-sharing events, and facilitated numerous study tours by other countries to Rwanda. Missions to Rwanda were often devoted to learning more about the country's experiences with the green climate trust fund (FONERWA), Youth Connekt, Unity and

Reconciliation, Home-Grown Solutions, Public Sector Financial Management and Public Performance Management Systems. By way of example, UNDP facilitated a capacity enhancement tour by the Parliamentary Gender Caucus of Mauritius. The tour enabled the visiting delegation to learn about the Gender Responsive Budgeting initiatives that Rwanda has implemented. The mission also studied Rwanda's experiences in setting up a Gender Based Violence observatory. Mauritius intends to initiate a similar programme.



# Leave No One Behind (LNOB)



*Students at Hill Side Hope school for visually impaired practicing with canes  
Provided through UNDP's Programme 'Strengthening Civil Society Organisations'*

In line with corporate policy and the SDG agenda, UNDP Rwanda seeks to ensure that all its programmes and projects promote inclusion of the most vulnerable and that no one is left behind in the journey to end poverty in all its forms. The plight of persons with disabilities often extends beyond the immediate challenges of lack of access to certain goods and services. Various studies and surveys have made the unquestionable link between disability and the increased likelihood of acute poverty, illiteracy and malnutrition among other difficulties that make living a happy and fulfilling life next to impossible. As part of its advocacy for vulnerable groups, UNDP sought to actively engage with persons with disability in 2017. One case in point: UNDP was involved in the International Week of the Deaf, which was organised by the Rwanda National Union of the Deaf (RNUD) to advocate for the rights of people with hearing disabilities. The participants included members of the deaf community together

with representatives from local government, Parliament, the National Commission of People with Disabilities and the national police. The event brought into sharp focus some of the barriers that prevent persons with hearing disabilities from participating in the social, economic and political life of their community and country, and raised awareness on the importance of promoting the use of sign language to enhance access to public services. Similarly, UNDP also assisted Hillside Hope, which is a school for blind children in Musanze, to purchase braille printers and other school equipment such as slate and white canes. Ten teachers from Hillside as well as teachers from other neighbouring schools were trained on how to use the equipment as well as how to teach and empower blind students. The teachers who were trained subsequently created a teachers' network to continue supporting each other to improve the quality of education for blind students. Hillside Hope also organised a confer-

ence with parents, students and teachers to promote the right of blind children to education and to enhance the understanding of parents on the importance of education. Under its new 2018-2023 Country Programme for Rwanda, UNDP, as part of a broader One UN effort, will support data and analysis to better identify, target and include persons with disabilities and other vulnerable population groups, with a view to ensure that they participate actively and benefit equitably from their country's development. As a starting point, persons with disability were deliberately targeted and included in the design of the new UNDP Country Programme. For example, workshops were held with CSOs, including those representing people with disability, and the Country Programme Document was converted into braille to facilitate inclusion of and discussions with representatives of the Rwanda Union of the Blind.



## Looking Forward: 2018 & beyond

For 2018 and beyond, UNDP will focus on supporting Rwanda to achieve its objectives outlined in Vision 2050 and the National Strategy for Transformation 1. UNDP will aim to consolidate progress made over two programme cycles, while intensifying its efforts to partner with stakeholders on programmes that can lead to reducing poverty and inequality and securing a better quality of life for Rwanda's people.

UNDP's current Country Programme Document (CPD) and the UN's Development Assistance Plan (UNDAP) will end in June 2018. Operating under the new 2018-2023 UNDAP and CPD, UNDP will aim to support the country's efforts to structurally transform into a more diversified, competitive, inclusive, resilient and environmentally sustainable economy. This will constitute one main pillar of UNDP's work. The second pillar will aim at supporting more capable, accountable, responsive and just governance institutions. Under both pillars, a central objective for UNDP will be to assist Government and national partners to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and successfully implement the NST1 for the benefit of all Rwandans, leaving no one behind.

Rwanda is a Delivering as One country, and UNDP will continue to provide backbone support to the UN system, offering substantive, administrative and logistic support to UN agencies in Rwanda. UNDP will continue to spearhead various One UN Joint programmes as well as the implementation of the UN Business Operations Strategy (BOS) which, as of 2017, has led to \$8.5 million in monetary and efficiency savings due to joint operational activities and greater economies of scale from delivering as one.





# **Our partners in 2017**



REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



MINISTRY OF DISASTER  
MANAGEMENT AND REFUGEES

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

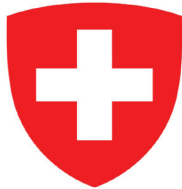


MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



MINISTRY OF YOUTH





[rw.undp.org](http://rw.undp.org)  
f UNDP Rwanda  
t UNDP\_Rwanda  
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