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## CHAPTER 4

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# INCLUSIVE AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

Effective and inclusive governance within the Asia-Pacific region enhances productivity and economic growth and tends to improve human development.<sup>9</sup> Conversely, poor governance, including corruption, undermines human and economic development. Within the Asia-Pacific region, governance has shown little sign of improvement over the last decade.<sup>10</sup>

UNDP's work to enhance citizen voice and accountability ranges from electoral support to women's empowerment to anti-corruption. In 2013, UNDP in Asia-Pacific delivered US\$130 million worth of projects and programmes in this area across 20 Country Offices. Some outcome-level achievements witnessed, attributable in part to UNDP's support, include the greater proportion of eligible voters turning out in national and local elections, as well as election commissions strengthening their capacities to administer fair and transparent elections. In addition, more policies and mechanisms promoted access to justice by the poor, stronger accountability and transparency, and citizen reporting on corruption cases. More communities and civil society organizations also engaged in policy advocacy. Lastly, the proportion of women elected to

► A woman checks her voting registration details on the cell phone by entering her identity card number. With support from UNDP, the Election Commission of Pakistan developed the mobile SMS system in the General Elections 2013 to raise awareness, educate and inform voters on basic electoral processes. People could SMS their identity card number and receive individual registration details such as the polling station where they can vote. Credit: UNDP Pakistan

# CASE STUDY 4

## A Strong Commitment to Reducing Gender Inequality Results in Important Gains

UNDP has been instrumental in 2013 in helping to deepen the knowledge base on gender discrimination in the region, which is a major cause of poverty and inequality. The launching of a regional United Nations report on men and violence against women highlighted the largest cross-country comparable data set ever on men's perception of violence. The study of 10,000 men found that nearly half reported using physical and/or sexual violence against a female partner. Nearly a quarter reported perpetrating rape against a woman or girl. These results are expected to provide important evidence in policy advocacy to increase the number of countries in Asia-Pacific that have laws against domestic violence and marital rape.\* Notably, in the Pacific UNDP efforts already have helped to result in significant commitments by governments on gender equality, through the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration. This committed to addressing violence against women, supporting women in decision making, and strengthening women's economic empowerment, access to reproductive health services and parity in education.

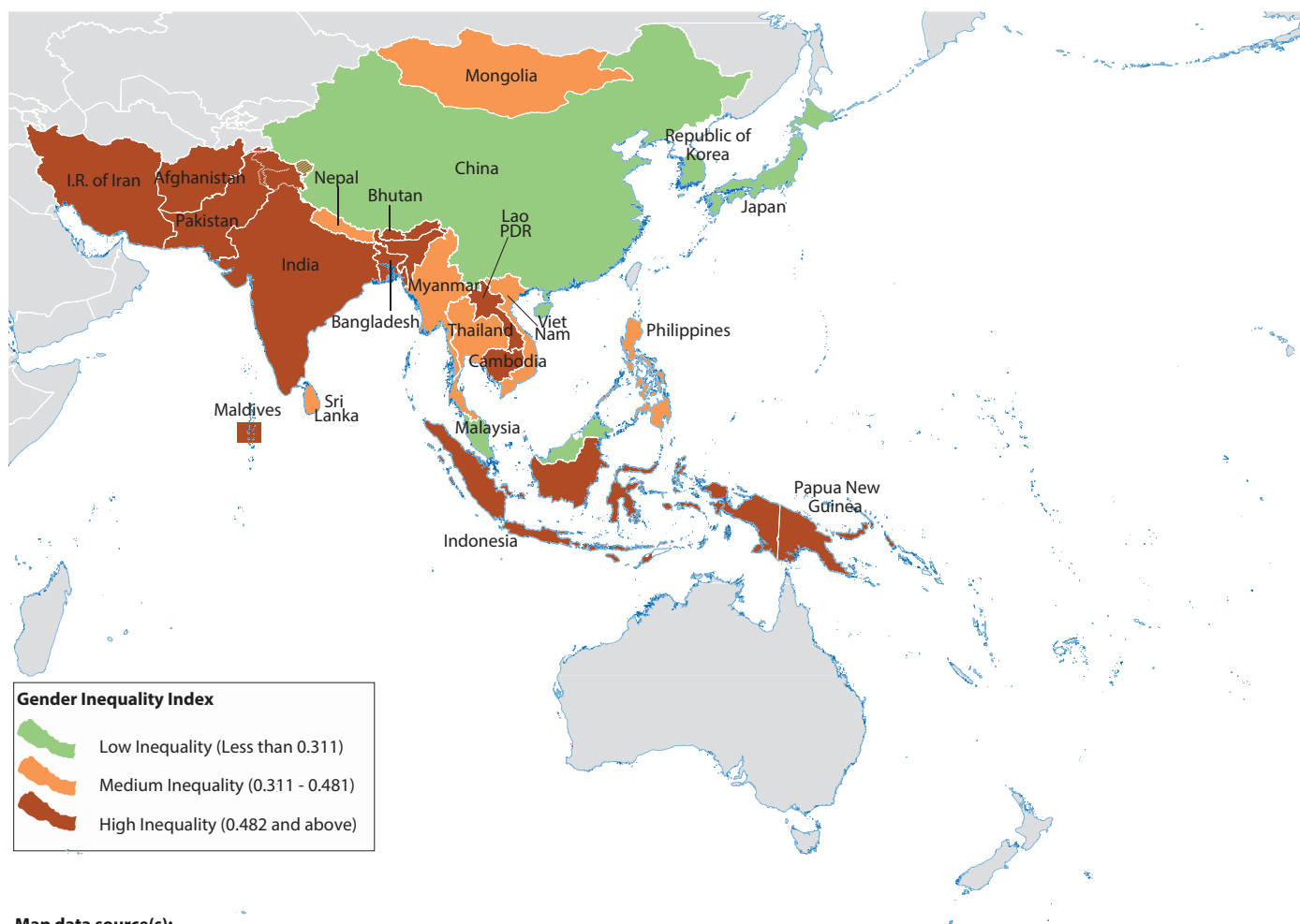
In terms of women's political empowerment, 2013 saw continuing progress in countries such as Papua New Guinea, where the Family Protection Bill was introduced to address gender and family violence, and where political parties proactively supported women candidates in the 2013 local elections. UNDP convened a series of multi-stakeholder consultations that resulted in the development of a National Action Plan to increase women's representation in elected offices. It also helped strengthen the institutional capacity of the Office of Development for Women and the National Council of Women, both bodies that have been crucial in developing, passing and implementing the Family Protection Bill. At the local level, UNDP helped prepare women to run for elections. These and other efforts have resulted in a tenfold increase in the proportion of women elected to local government since 2011, even as much more remains to be done.

*\* Men were interviewed at nine sites in Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Papua New Guinea. The study, Why Do Some Men Use Violence Against Women and How Can We Prevent It? Quantitative Findings from the UN Multi-Country Study on Men and Violence in Asia and the Pacific, was conducted by Partners for Prevention, a regional joint programme of UNDP, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Women, and United Nations Volunteers (UNV).*

Girls in the Jamalpur district, Bangladesh receive ICT training. In 2013, more than 13,000 students, approximately 30% of whom are girls, received basic computer skills training from rural ICT kiosks to help overcome the digital divide. Photo: UNDP Bangladesh/Hasan Benaul Islam

# 2013

Figure 9: Gender Inequality Index 2013



**Map data source(s):**  
UNDP Human Development Report 2014.

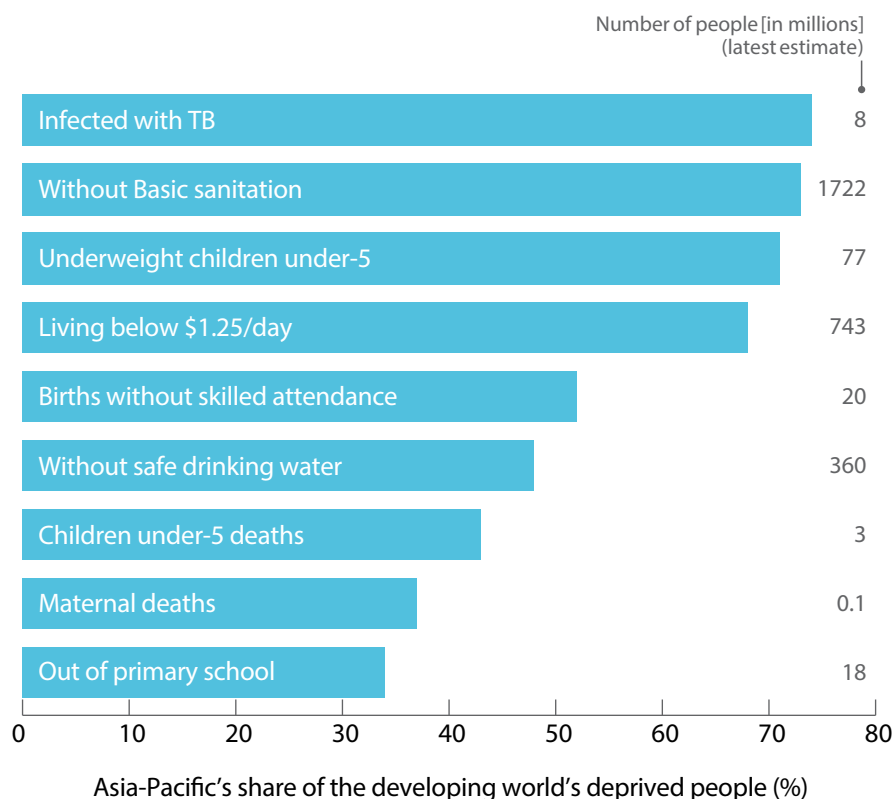
Map Source: United Nations Cartographic Section

**Disclaimers:**

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.  
Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan.  
The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.



**Figure 10: Asia-Pacific Share of the Developing World's Deprived People (millions deprived)**



Source: Asia Pacific Aspirations: Perspectives for a Post- 2015 Development Agenda  
Asia Pacific Regional MDGs Report 2012/13

national parliaments and local-level governments increased in a number of countries.

UNDP's support to elections focuses on strengthening electoral systems and building democratic societies through encouraging participation, promoting the media, and deepening civic education on the roles and responsibilities of a democratic citizen. Within the Asia-Pacific region, UNDP support led to 16.7 million new voters being registered in 2013. UNDP support to capacity building of election commissions further helped ensure that national and sub-national elections were deemed successful in countries including Pakistan, Nepal and Maldives.

A 2012 independent thematic evaluation has stated that UNDP's assistance is instrumental to the holding of credible elections in post-conflict environments and sensitive political transitions. In Pakistan, which historically has South Asia's lowest voter turnout, at around 40 percent, UNDP backed a concerted effort to boost the numbers in the 2013 general

# 16.7 MILLION

new voters were registered in 2013 in the Asia-Pacific region, with UNDP support.

# 16 NATIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS

took place on proposed options for a post-2015 development agenda within the Asia-Pacific region.

elections. UNDP helped the Election Commission devise its first voter education plan and mobilized banks, hotels, Government departments, schools, civil society groups and media to disseminate posters, banners, and radio and TV programmes on why and how to vote. This campaign reached 40 million people and, as a result, voter turnout rose to 55 percent, largely due to high levels of participation by women and youth. Meanwhile, as part of UNDP's partnership with the Election Commission of India, eight electoral commissions from around the world have visited that country to witness the best practices of electoral management in three state elections. As a result of this South-South learning, a number of longer-term partnerships between electoral commissions, supported by UNDP, are being forged.

In Afghanistan, UNDP supported the audit of the nearly 23,000 ballot boxes from the 2014 election for the Presidency. UNDP mobilized a large team from around the world for this process - which was carried out by the Independent Election Commission.

In the area of anti-corruption, one of the fastest-growing service areas for UNDP, 19 Country Offices in Asia and the Pacific reported progress in the implementation of transparency, accountability and anti-corruption activities. Eight Country Offices directly supported measures related to the implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), as well as strengthening the capacity of anti-corruption agencies. A further 11 countries mainstreamed transparency and accountability in areas such as local governance, oversight and integrity in the public and justice sectors, service delivery, environment and climate change. In Indonesia, for example, good forest governance is critical to addressing the main drivers of deforestation – logging, mining and plantation concessions. With UNDP/REDD+ support to the development of a Forest Governance Index, policymakers now are using a tool to assess and monitor the quality of forest governance in Indonesia's 12 most forested provinces. In Philippines, citizen monitoring of public finance processes of water governance resulted in reduced corruption, an increased budget

# CASE STUDY 5

## Asia-Pacific Priorities for Post-2015 Agenda from the MY World Survey

The MDGs have particularly served as a key entry point to lead policy reform and improve planning within the region. With the final push for MDG achievement by the end of 2015, citizens, governments, and others all are actively participating in discussions on the possible framework of a transformative development agenda beyond 2015 – a marked change from the process that led to development of the MDGs. At the regional level, a UNDP partnership with the Asian Development Bank and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) resulted in more than 16 national and sub-regional consultations on proposed options for a post-2015 development agenda, all of which were brought together in a joint report launched in 2013.



The UN Country Team in Thailand (UNCT) partnered in 2013 with Dhurakij Pundit University International College to undertake in-depth statistical analysis of MY World results. These MY World results, shared with both the general population and relevant government agencies, have begun to have an effect as they are inputted into the policy-making process. Animated videos were produced in English and Thai, which were distributed at the launch of the 'Have Your Say at the United Nations' campaign in July 2014, sponsored by the UN and Procter and Gamble, Thailand. As of September 2014, over 70,000 people from Thailand had participated in the global survey.

# Asia-Pacific Findings from MY World Survey

## Global Results



## Asia Results



## Oceania Results



Source: MY World Survey, 2014

# 9 COUNTRIES

developed MDG Acceleration Framework Action Plans in 2013 with UNDP support so as to **accelerate progress on lagging MDGs** within the region.

# 182,600 PEOPLE

benefitted from **access to justice** initiatives supported by UNDP, across 19 countries within the region in 2013.

allocated to water supply, and women's greater participation in water governance.

In all, countries in Asia and the Pacific have made significant improvements in delivering public services, although challenges such as inequitable access, poor quality of services and weak governance remain unresolved.<sup>11</sup> UNDP assisted countries to strengthen their institutions to deliver universal access to basic services, providing US\$132 million in programmes in 2013.<sup>12</sup> National-level outcomes to which UNDP contributed include increased proportions of State budgets allocated to education, health and social protection; increased citizen satisfaction

on sub-national administration services; and improved equity in delivery of services and inclusion of the most vulnerable populations. The percentage of people using professional legal services increased, as did the proportion of people with access to education for children and clean drinking water. Governments and citizens are using publicly available national and sub-national human development indicators to inform public debates and decision making.

Several countries also began to take stock of their MDG performance and published MDG reports, with many now reporting performance results at sub-national level, with more disaggregated statistics for

improved policy and planning. Nine countries developed MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF) Action Plans in 2013 with the intention of accelerating progress on lagging MDGs (Figure 10). For example, in Indonesia a pilot effort in Central Java province to reduce maternal mortality under the MAF Framework resulted in the issuance of a national strategy on the issue, and in scaling up of the framework to 64 additional districts in 11 provinces, covering 30 percent of the population. In Pakistan, a 2013 outcome evaluation concluded that UNDP had "contributed in a focused manner toward poverty reduction" through a combination of capacity development and poverty reduction initiatives, including



assistance in tracking pro-poor expenditures, which remained well above the target of 6% of GDP.<sup>13</sup> Further, UNDP and World Bank partnerships on MAFs in Indonesia, Philippines and Nepal are a practical example of how UNDP is strengthening its relationships with the International Financial Institutions in the region.

UNDP also worked in nine Asia-Pacific countries on service delivery in urban areas. In Bangladesh, in addition to the achievements noted in Chapter 3, UNDP, in partnership with USAID and the Bangladesh Prime Minister's Office, supported innovative e-governance services, which provided 4 million people per month with online access to public services and documents, including land records and birth certificates. A recent census shows that 29.5% of these recipients are women. A national survey found that these services reduced average wait times from seven days to one hour, and reduced average travel distance

from 35km to 3km.

UNDP also engaged in a number of initiatives in 19 countries to further rule of law and access to justice, particularly for the poor, women and vulnerable groups. These include establishment of legal aid centres, promotion of access to alternative dispute resolution and mobile justice, enhancement of capacities of courts and judges, and awareness-raising on human rights. US\$21 million in programmes benefited more than 182,600 people, at least 47,000 of which were women. Again in Bangladesh, UNDP support to village courts was identified in a 2013 mid-term evaluation as an international best practice and a model for national upscaling.

To strengthen the ability of the Government to maintain law and order as well as justice related services, UNDP's Law and Order Trust Fund For Afghanistan (LOTFA) supports timely, transparent

disbursement of salaries and remuneration to approximately 150,000 Afghan police and prison guards. 98% of police are now paid through the Electronic Payroll System and alternative mobile-based payment. LOTFA also contributed to the institutional strengthening of community policing and the recruitment and training of women officers. By October of 2014, 1,877 female police officers held various ranks, an increase of nearly 170% since 2008, yet women still comprised less than 2% of Afghanistan National Police personnel. Efforts to further professionalize the police and transition to a smooth hand-over of the payroll system to the Government are priorities moving forward.



peace  
dividend

Governance



not ripe environment for Conflict