



# United Nations Development Programme Turkey



# UNDP: PUTTING PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE OF DEVELOPMENT

UNDP is the UN's global development network, an organisation advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life.

UNDP calls for enlarging people's choices and building their capabilities to live a long and healthy life, have access to knowledge, enjoy a decent standard of living, and participate in the life of their community and the decisions that affect their lives.

UNDP is on the ground in 166 countries, working with partners on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As the countries develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and its wide range of partners.

UNDP helps developing countries attract and use aid effectively. In all our activities, we encourage the protection of human rights and the empowerment of women. UNDP's focus is helping countries build and share solutions to the challenges of:

**Democratic Governance:** More countries than ever before are working to build democratic governance. UNDP brings people together within nations and around the world, building partnerships and sharing ways to promote participation, accountability and effectiveness at all levels.

**Poverty Reduction:** UNDP helps to make developing countries effective through ensuring a greater voice for poor people, expanding access to productive assets and economic opportunities, and linking poverty programmes with countries' international economic and financial policies.

**Crisis Prevention and Recovery:** UNDP help crisis-affected countries consolidating, preserving the peace and making the transition to a development-oriented agenda by promoting the rule of law and good governance; justice and security; demobilizing soldiers; reducing the flow of small arms; supporting mine action; and providing war-affected populations with alternative livelihoods.

**Energy and Environment:** Energy and environment are essential for sustainable development as the poor are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation and lack of access to clean, affordable energy services. UNDP helps countries strengthen their capacity to address these challenges at global, national and community levels, seeking out and sharing best practices, providing innovative policy advice and linking partners through pilot projects that help poor people build sustainable livelihoods.

**HIV/AIDS:** UNDP advocates for placing HIV/AIDS at the centre of national planning and budgets; helps to build national capacity to manage initiatives that include people and institutions not usually involved with public health; and promotes decentralized responses that support community-level action.

In addition to these core areas, UNDP globally also places particular attention on gender equality. Equality between women and men is a worthy goal that is central to progress in human development. The UNDP is committed to making gender equality a reality to promote prosperity and well-being for all.

# UNDP: PUTTING PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE OF DEVELOPMENT

UNDP also gives special attention to the use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) as an increasingly important element of development policies and projects. UNDP recognises that ICT is an increasingly powerful tool for participating in global markets; promoting political accountability; improving the delivery of basic services; and enhancing local development opportunities.

For further information on UNDP's work globally, please visit [www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org)

## Human Development Reports: Influencing Change

UNDP, through regular global, national and regional Human Development Reports, brings people together to debate and articulate their development priorities. These UNDP commissioned reports are created through a process of broad participation and active engagement within countries and across regions. The reports focus political attention on concrete policies and resources needed to overcome poverty, foster growth and equity, and improve people's lives by extending their choices and capabilities.

For more information on the Human Development Reports, please visit <http://hdr.undp.org/reports>



# MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In the Millennium Summit of September 2000, 191 nations have pledged to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, including the overarching goal of cutting poverty in half by 2015. These goals are:

1. Halving extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieving universal primary education
3. Promoting gender equality
4. Reducing under-five mortality by two-thirds
5. Reducing maternal mortality by three-quarters
6. Reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria, and TB
7. Ensuring environmental sustainability
8. Developing a global partnership for development, with targets for aid, trade and debt relief

Kemal Derviş, as UNDP's Administrator and Chair of the UN Development Group, is committed to make the Millennium Development Goals an integral part of the UN's work worldwide.

UNDP leads efforts to help countries integrate the Millennium Development Goals into their national development frameworks through the UN country teams worldwide. Countries are tailoring the Millennium Development Goals to national circumstances, building them into national development strategies and policies, and incorporating them in budgets and ministries' priorities. The goals are also integrated into assistance frameworks and programmes. UNDP assists developing countries in preparing Millennium Development Goals Reports that chart progress towards the goals, in cooperation with other UN agencies, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, civil society and other partners. Donor countries are also being encouraged to prepare reports that analyse their contribution to the Goals.

At the regional level, UNDP collaborates with other UN agencies, governments and regional commissions on regional and sub-regional Millennium Development Goals reports. At the global level, the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan issues a yearly report on progress toward implementation of the Millennium Declaration, including the Millennium Development Goals.

For more information on the Millennium Development Goals, please visit [www.undp.org/mdg](http://www.undp.org/mdg)



# MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN TURKEY

Turkey's national development priorities are embedded in the country's ongoing reform processes and reflect the commitments made by world leaders at the Millennium Declaration adopted at the UN Millennium Summit in 2000. Turkey recognizes that the Millennium Declaration is a strong framework for development that makes a real and measurable difference in the lives of people by calling for significant reductions in poverty and disparity by 2015. By pursuing this global framework, Turkey will continue on a firm path towards sustainable and equitable development for all while successfully acceding to the European Union.

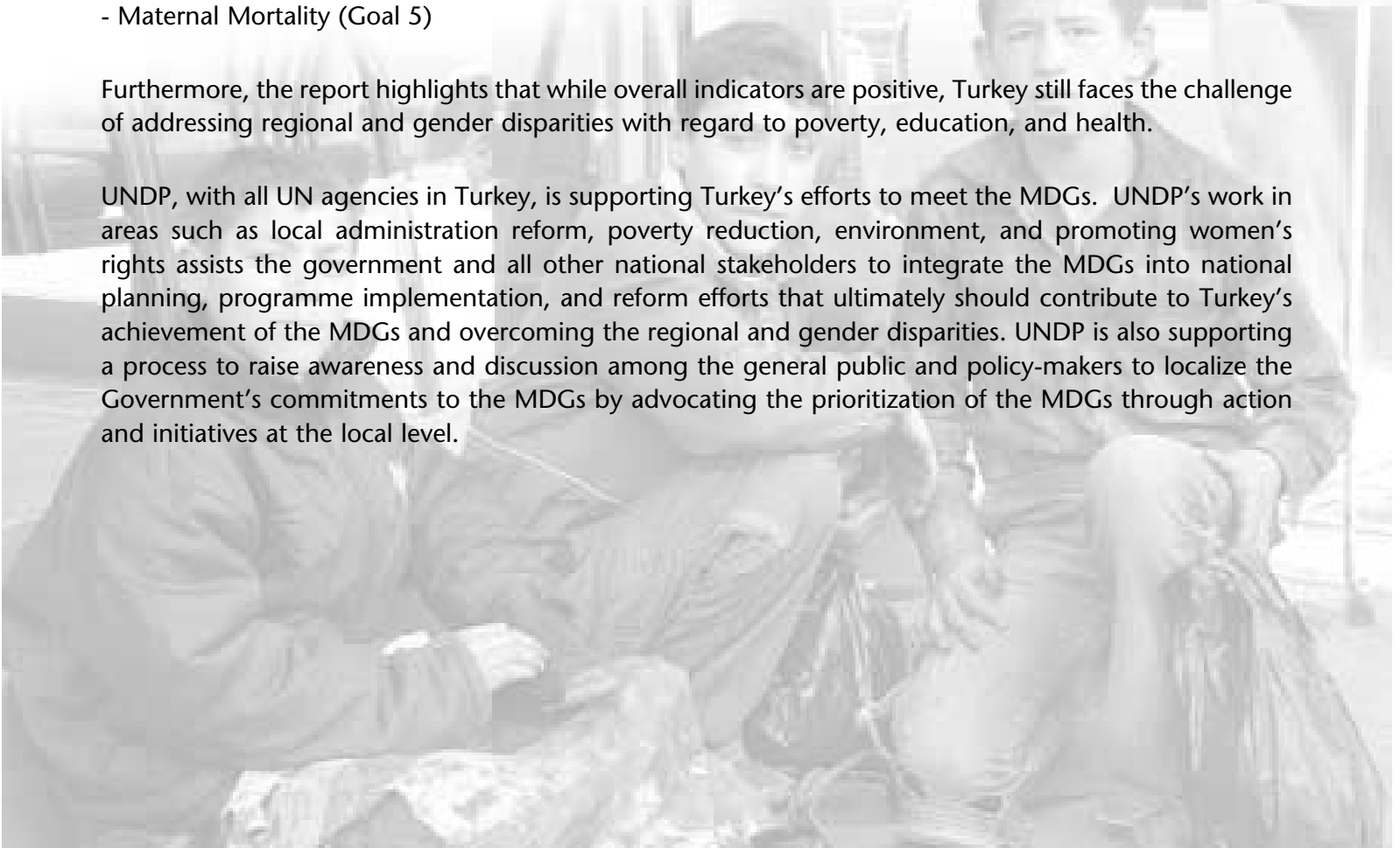
Turkey's first MDG Report, released in June 2005, was prepared under the overall coordination of the Turkish Republic Prime Ministry Undersecretariat of State Planning Organisation with the technical support of the United Nations agencies -including UNDP- in Turkey. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs prepared a further analysis through a participatory process involving representatives of the public-private institutions and civil society that was presented to the UN Summit in New York in September 2005.

These first analyses highlight that Turkey overall is well on the way to meet and even exceed the goals by 2015. At the same time, behind this overall picture, lie particular challenges including:

- Eradication of Poverty and Hunger (Goal 1)
- Gender Equality (Goal 3)
- Child Mortality (Goal 4)
- Maternal Mortality (Goal 5)

Furthermore, the report highlights that while overall indicators are positive, Turkey still faces the challenge of addressing regional and gender disparities with regard to poverty, education, and health.

UNDP, with all UN agencies in Turkey, is supporting Turkey's efforts to meet the MDGs. UNDP's work in areas such as local administration reform, poverty reduction, environment, and promoting women's rights assists the government and all other national stakeholders to integrate the MDGs into national planning, programme implementation, and reform efforts that ultimately should contribute to Turkey's achievement of the MDGs and overcoming the regional and gender disparities. UNDP is also supporting a process to raise awareness and discussion among the general public and policy-makers to localize the Government's commitments to the MDGs by advocating the prioritization of the MDGs through action and initiatives at the local level.



# UNDP TURKEY: A LONGSTANDING PARTNERSHIP

UNDP Turkey works for Democratic Governance and Growth without Poverty. For more than 50 years the UNDP in Turkey has worked in close partnership with the Turkish government and numerous national and international institutions, including NGOs, academics and the business community.

UNDP supports Turkey's ambitious reform agenda where EU accession figures prominently.

UNDP Turkey aims to find practical solutions to Turkey's development challenges and manages projects together with the Turkish government and other partners to address them. Since 1986 it has implemented over 80 programs across the country. In addition, the UNDP has played a major role in response to crises and disasters in Turkey and the surrounding region.

UNDP's strategy for 2006-2010, formulated with and agreed by the Turkish government, highlights three core areas, through which UNDP will support the implementation of Turkey's development agenda through project implementation and policy advice. These are: 1) capacity building for democratic governance; 2) action and advocacy for poverty reduction; and 3) environment and sustainable development. In addition to these core areas, UNDP Turkey is emphasising the role of women, private sector, capacity development, and information and communication technology in its policies and programmes.

To achieve progress in these areas, UNDP seeks to establish partnerships with the central government, local administrations, civil society, academia, and private sector to strengthen its contribution to Turkey's development. UNDP works closely with line ministries to support the efficient implementation of development projects. UNDP also collaborates with other UN agencies present in Turkey to maximise the impact of the UN's activities in the country, including through joint projects on women, youth, internally displaced persons, and the Millennium Development Goals.

UNDP Turkey is based in Ankara, with project offices in Istanbul, Erzurum, Adiyaman, Mardin, Diyarbakir, and Şanlıurfa through which it implements projects with non-governmental organisations, women and youth groups, the business community, universities, and regional and local administrations to directly address the development issues in these regions. Most recently, in 2005 UNDP established a Project Office in Istanbul especially to cooperate with the private sector and to support its contribution to Turkey's development goals such as poverty reduction, democratic governance and improvement of environmental sustainability.

In addition to the programmes and projects, UNDP produces National Human Development Reports on a regular basis. The last National Human Development Report was published in the beginning of 2005 and focused on the Information and Communication Technology. With the National Human Development Report, a National Human Development Index, which has indicators regarding Turkey's development level according to the provinces, is also prepared. UNDP also prepares policy reports on issues such as New Poverty, Women's Entrepreneurship and co-produces reports with other UN agencies on subjects such as honour killings in Turkey.

## **UNDP TURKEY and GENDER:**

Although Turkey's achievements in gender equality date back to the 1930s, when Turkish women were granted full voting rights, it was the country's ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1986 that led to the establishment of a national machinery for the promotion of gender equity. Since then Turkey has increased its commitment to achieving genuine gender equality by passing milestone legal reforms that eliminate fundamental discriminatory provisions against women, including those on violence, poverty and economic exploitation.

However, in spite of these achievements, recent surveys show there is still much to be done in strengthening the advancement of women in both the public and private spheres. According to the Global Human Development Report published by the UNDP in 2005, Turkey ranks 76th out of 80 countries on the Gender Empowerment Measure based on indicators related to participation and decision-making in political and economic life. For example, only 4.4 percent of the parliamentary seats are held by women, and women's labour force participation is at 26 percent. While education is considered a key that expands children's awareness of their rights and opportunities, net enrolment of girls in secondary education is only 42 percent. Other social issues continue to face women, including domestic violence and, in the most extreme form, honour killings.

Recognising the reality that gender equality is an essential consideration in human rights and development, the United Nations system in Turkey has identified women's and children's rights as one of the top three areas of focus

# UNDP TURKEY: A LONGSTANDING PARTNERSHIP

for 2006-2010. UNDP is an active player in this joint United Nations process, identifying initiatives throughout its programming that will strengthen women's participation in social, economic, and political life through participation in elections, City Councils, entrepreneurship and microfinance, and raising awareness on key issues facing women.

To achieve this, UNDP is supporting a number of specific projects including:

- contributing resources and coordinating activities with a Joint UN Gender Project focused on women's social and economic rights in six pilot provinces
- supporting members of Turkey's Grand National Assembly to advocate for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- focusing on training and advocacy related to Women in Politics in advance of the 2007 elections
- supporting Women's Councils through the Local Agenda 21 process, including networking among women's councils in Turkey and abroad
- identifying and addressing issues related to Millennium Development Goal 3 on Gender Equality by localising the MDGs and actions plans throughout the country
- supporting women's economic empowerment through the Small and Medium Scale Enterprise Development project in Southeastern Anatolia, Reduction of Socio-Economic Disparities in the GAP Region, and Linking Eastern Anatolia to Progress
- supporting access to finance for women through advocacy and action related to microfinance
- providing training to disadvantaged youth, including women, on internet communication and technology to increase their access to information
- encouraging the participation of women in projects designed to protect natural resources, including the Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Project as well as the partnership with the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline
- developing a Gender Equality Handbook for UNDP's projects and partners to ensure gender issues are incorporated into existing and future development projects

## UNDP TURKEY AND INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

According to the International Telecommunication Union's survey, Turkey is the 72nd among 180 countries when it comes to digital access rates. Over the last decade there have been significant developments in Turkey in formulating strategies and policies to maximise the benefits of ICT. These have included the establishment of an Internet Council, the Public Internet Services Council (Kamu-net), the e-Commerce Coordination Council (ETKK) and finally a Telecommunications Council. However, according to the findings of the 2004 National Human Development Report, Turkey still needs to develop a comprehensive strategy to develop a knowledge society that uses ICT to reduce the "digital divide" between high and low income groups, high and low education, and gender and regional disparities.

In addition to focusing advocacy and policy-making on ICT through the National Human Development Report, UNDP is also identifying other avenues to support the learning and use of ICT effectively to contribute to the "e-transformation" of Turkey. For example, a pilot project in cooperation with the Yalova Municipality, not only focuses on the increased use of ICT for improved delivery of services of the local government, but also aims to create an "e-citizen" by educating a wider city population so as to enable interaction. Since the 1980s UNDP Turkey has worked with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to strengthen the Ministry's human resources and ICT infrastructure. This has succeeded in achieving an almost "paperless office" through the application of an e-archive and consulate automation system and the best practice from this experience has been -- and will continue to be -- shared with other governmental bodies for wider use across Turkey.

More recently, UNDP is also working in partnership with the private sector in Turkey to facilitate people's equal access to resources. For several years, UNDP Turkey has been working with Cisco to expand Cisco's Networking Academy Programme in less developed regions of Turkey. On the other hand, a new programme with Microsoft, aims to increase computer literacy of youth with a particular emphasis of IT training of young girls. Such programmes aim to enhance employment opportunities for Turkey's young people and to strengthen Turkey's human resources capacities.

# DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

Governance is a concept that involves the interactions among structures, processes and traditions that determine how power is exercised, how decisions are taken, and how citizens or other stakeholders have their say. It comprises the mechanisms, processes and institutions, through which people articulate their interests, mediate their differences and exercise their rights and obligations.

## DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE IN TURKEY

In Turkey, the system of governance has traditionally been highly centralized. In recent years, however, changes have taken place as a result of structural reforms necessitated by past economic crises and through changing priorities relating to Turkey's development and reform agenda that are in-line with its EU aspirations. As part of its ambitious development agenda, Turkey is focusing on implementing reforms related to decentralization, public administration reform, and promotion of human rights. There is increasing attention on the issue of women's empowerment and participation in the political process at local and central levels. The government is also prioritising greater use of information communication and technology (ICT) as a means to increase transparency, efficiency, and participation in decision-making processes especially for traditionally excluded populations such as women and youth. While these reforms and initiatives are moving forward, there remain additional challenges in building capacities of public administration officials at the central and local levels, and in addressing remaining rights-based issues including internal displacement.

## HOW CAN UNDP SUPPORT DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE IN TURKEY?

UNDP brings people together within nations and around the world, building partnerships and sharing ways to promote participation, accountability and effectiveness at all levels of governance. In particular, we help countries strengthen systems for democratic local governance and improve their public administration and expand the promotion and protection of human rights.

In many countries around the world as well as in Turkey, UNDP works with local administrations and civil society to foster a more democratic environment so that citizens can participate in local decision-making processes. UNDP's work through the Local Agenda 21 Program in Turkey since 1997 is one such example where city councils, women's and youth assemblies provide a platform for citizens to influence municipal action. We also build capacities of both central and local administrations through policy advice and trainings in improved budgetary procedures and accountability.

UNDP's work in human rights is integral to its democratic governance support to developing countries. In Turkey, UNDP works with state and civil society to expand the enjoyment of human rights through improving the capacities of Turkey's public administrators in managing the security sector and in preventing violation of rights. For example, we partner with the Danish Institute of Human Rights to provide human rights training to senior inspectors of the Ministry of Interior, who consequently audit and monitor public administration from the perspective of human rights protection and promotion. UNDP works also with state and civil society partners to further the human rights of vulnerable groups, such as the poor or the internally displaced, through advocacy and training activities.

Access to information is a pivotal empowerment tool and underpins effective interventions in the area of democratic governance. The UNDP programs in Turkey support the use of ICT for strengthening participation of youth in decision-making process in partnership with key ICT actors such as Microsoft. Technology has also been at the centre of our work for enhanced public service efficiency and effectiveness through e-government applications with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



# DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE



**Innovative Governance Interventions:** In addition to its regular portfolio of activities, UNDP globally mobilizes seed funding for innovative interventions for democratic governance through an instrument named the Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund (DGTTF). UNDP's work in fiscal decentralization, civilian oversight of the security sector and women in politics in Turkey have been possible through the flexible, short term impact projects supported through the DGTTF. Such focused, one-year projects allow UNDP's partners to innovate and scale up their interventions into broader programs. For examples, UNDP's work in fiscal decentralization in 2004 resulted in a policy guidance note on how to manage intergovernmental revenue sharing for poverty reduction purposes. This policy guidance note is now a key resource for the Government's Local Administration Reform programming, also managed by UNDP under an agreement with the European Commission.

UNDP support to the Ministry of Interior through 2005 in promoting the security sector reform debate has led into this Ministry's further work with several donors and the European Commission in Security Sector Reform programming.

Women in Politics and the participation of women in the political decision-making mechanism is one of the crucial elements of democracy. However, Turkey is still far from claiming gender equality in politics, where there is a major problem of gender representation with only 4.4 percent of the seats in Parliament held by women. With assistance from the DGTTF, UNDP and its national partners are working to address this challenge by assisting women leaders to run for office and to political parties to encourage women candidates in advance of the general elections coming in 2007.

## EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS

**LA21 - Strengthening local government:** The Local Agenda 21 (LA21) promotes community participation, local stakeholder involvement, establishment of local partnerships and decentralization of the local decision-making process by supporting the involvement of women, youth, civil society organisations, academia and private sector in social and political platforms at local levels. The program began in 1997; today there are over 60 LA21 partner cities. Turkey's LA21 Program is managed by the United Cities and Local Governments and supported by the Habitat and Agenda 21 Association. For more info: <http://www.undp.org.tr/LA21.asp>

**Support to the Development of an Internally Displaced People Program in Turkey:** UNDP will assist the Government of Turkey to develop a well-defined Internally Displaced People (IDP) return programme. UNDP provides commentary to the Government's IDP survey and develops a project to facilitate Government's efforts to support the return and reintegration in one of the provinces in eastern Turkey. To implement the project UNDP works with the Ministry of Interior, State Planning Organisation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hacettepe University, the UN Working Group on IDPs, and civil society. For more info: <http://www.undp.org.tr/IDP.asp>

**Support to Local Administration Reform Programme in Turkey:** The project provides policy advice and technical assistance to the Ministry of Interior and the local authorities to support the reform capacities, to improve budgetary procedures and service performance and to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of human resources. Financial support for the project is provided by the European Commission. For more info: <http://www.undp.org.tr/LocalAdministrationReformProgramme.asp>

# POVERTY REDUCTION

Across the world, developing countries are working to create their own national strategies to eradicate poverty, based on local needs and priorities. UNDP advocates for these nationally-owned solutions and helps ensure their effectiveness. We sponsor innovative pilot projects; connect countries to global best practices and resources; promote the role of women in development; and bring governments, civil society, investors and donors together to coordinate their efforts.

## THE CHALLENGE IN TURKEY: REGIONAL AND GENDER DISPARITIES

The incidence of extreme poverty in Turkey (the percentage of the population living on less than 1 USD a day) is very low, at less than 0.02 % according to the latest SIS Poverty Study based on 2003 Household Survey. But as the poverty threshold is raised, poverty rates also increase dramatically, with 24 percent of the population living on less than 4.30 USD a day. According to recent poverty research carried out under the auspices of the UNDP, it appears that there is an increase in "new poverty" in Turkey -- poverty that is long-term and not easily remedied by access to traditional support networks of family and friends.

A striking aspect of inequality in Turkey is regional disparity, with the Eastern and Southeastern regions less prosperous than the West. These disparities are of long historical standing and are partly due to less advantageous levels of natural and human resources -- and to the fact that the coastal areas along the Mediterranean Sea enjoy better access to world and regional markets.

One of the population groups who have traditionally been economically disadvantaged in Turkey has been women, particularly in distant rural areas and in the shanty towns of large cities.

The last 25 years have shown improvements in women's living standards in Turkey. But with the exception of life expectancy, all available indicators tend to be worse for women than for men and generally Turkey does worse on gender indicators than comparable middle-income countries.

## WHAT UNDP TURKEY IS DOING TO HELP REDUCE POVERTY?

UNDP's successive National Human Development Reports and other policy papers have focused on multiple aspects of poverty in the country and have been effective in focusing media and public interest on problems relating to the issue.

In line with the findings of the National Human Development Reports, UNDP also provides policy guidance to the government in its poverty reduction goals. UNDP facilitates policy dialogue including relevant NGOs, community based organisations, academicians and governmental organizations to come up with pro-poor government policies. UNDP brings in international expertise and global experience that is applicable to national priorities in a wide range of issues including social assistance, regional disparities, vulnerable groups and provision of microfinance services as a means of ensuring pro-poor, inclusive financial services for all. With this support, the ultimate goal is to create sound policies for addressing the poor and vulnerable groups through social policy.

UNDP also brings this policy approach to the project level, through actual implementation. UNDP's projects aim at reduction of the disparities between Turkey's regions and different sectors of the society. In particular, UNDP Turkey helps to support implementation of the projects that complement the Government's Southeast Anatolia



# POVERTY REDUCTION

(GAP) and Eastern Anatolia development projects (DAKAP). These projects aim to develop policies at the local level and improve human and institutional capacity at the local level to implement these policies. In addition, UNDP also supports development of good microfinance practices with a view to provide financial services for all.

## EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS

**Reduction of Socio Economic Differences in the GAP Region:** The objective of the project is to contribute to the socio-economic development of women, youth and the children living in streets in 9 cities of the GAP region through providing trainings to develop their social and productive skills in several areas. UNDP Turkey is working together with the GAP Regional Development Agency and relevant local partners in the region as well as private sector representatives. The project is funded by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. For more info: <http://www.undp.org.tr/gap.asp>

**LEAP - Linking Eastern Anatolia to Progress:** The Linking Eastern Anatolia to Progress Project (LEAP) aims to support rural development, business development, organic agriculture and rural tourism. LEAP has sub-projects in various areas of Eastern Anatolia to increase income and reduce socioeconomic disparities while improving gender balance and safeguarding the environment. Atatürk University, relevant local government and non-government institutions are the partners of the project, which is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and Atatürk University. For more info: <http://www.undp.org.tr/LEAP.asp>

**GAP-GIDEM - Small and Medium Enterprise Development in Southeast Anatolia:** Small and Medium Enterprise Development in Southeast Anatolia (GAP-GIDEM) project was developed to improve the competitiveness of Southeastern Anatolia in national and international markets. UNDP has established Business Development Centers in Adiyaman, Diyarbakır, Mardin and Şanlıurfa to provide a wide range of services including training, information services and consultancy. GAP-GIDEM Project is financed by the European Commission and executed by UNDP in coordination with GAP Regional Development Administration. For more info: <http://www.undp.org.tr/gidem.asp>

**Microfinance Sector Development:** UNDP supports development of a microfinance sector in Turkey as a tool to reduce poverty. The main objective is building inclusive pro-poor and sustainable financial systems for all sectors of the society with a view to foster productivity and empowerment. The approach to support the sector is through information building and sharing, awareness raising and improving the legislative environment. To do this UNDP, in cooperation with the Turkish government, has established a National Committee on Microfinance, comprising members of the government, NGOs, the private sector, academia and international development organisations to develop policy advice for the decision-makers and government institutions. UNDP also works with the private sector and development partners to help establish commercial opportunities, support institutional mechanisms and build good models/examples of microfinance services to further support and advance microfinance. A website ([www.mikrofinansurkiye.org](http://www.mikrofinansurkiye.org)) has been launched as a virtual microfinance information centre and information is also shared through an e-mail network.

**Promotion of Cooperation in the Area of Social Assistance:** UNDP supports policy dialogue on poverty to ensure that Turkey's social and economic transformations result in the achievement of the MDGs for all citizens. To do this, UNDP convenes a national community of poverty practitioners through the network of the Social Solidarity and Assistance Foundations and a broad range of experts. This is done through a web portal - an interactive resource house for poverty practitioners in the government, civil society and the academia - and by structured debate among practitioners around poverty assistance and social inclusion, leading to policy advice to government actors. The Social Solidarity and Assistance General Directorate manages the project. For more info: <http://www.undp.org.tr/Promotion%20of%20Cooperation%20in%20the%20Area%20of%20Social%20Assistance.asp>

# ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Energy and environment are essential for sustainable development. Poor people are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation and lack of access to clean affordable energy services. Issues such as climate change, loss of bio-diversity and ozone layer depletion also have a global importance and cannot be addressed by countries acting alone. UNDP helps countries strengthen their capacity to address these challenges at global, national and community levels. We seek out and share best practices; we provide innovative policy advice and link partners through pilot projects that help poor people build sustainable livelihoods. UNDP's Energy and Environment Practice works in six priority areas: Frameworks and Strategies for Sustainable Development; Water Governance; Sustainable Energy; Sustainable Land Management; Biodiversity; and Chemicals Management.

## UNDP: HELPING TURKEY TO PROTECT ITS ENVIRONMENT

UNDP Turkey works closely with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, General Directorate of Electrical Power Resources Survey & Development Administration, Ministry of Transport, State Planning Organization, and several Municipalities to integrate environmental concerns into development policies and programmes. UNDP Turkey is also an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The GEF, established in 1991, helps developing countries fund projects that protect the global environment. Under this funding umbrella, UNDP Turkey supported and continues to support the development of medium- and large-scale projects in the strategic focal areas of GEF such as Climate Change, Biodiversity, and Land Degradation. UNDP Turkey is also working, in collaboration with the EC and the State Planning Organization to promote the integration of sustainable development principles into national and local planning, in follow-up with the principles and commitments as stated in the Implementation Plan of the WSSD and the 6th Environmental Action Plan of the EU. In addition to its work on the national level, UNDP is supporting the Small Grants Programme (SGP) is an integral part of Global Environment Facility (GEF), whose mission is "to make the connection between local and global environmental challenges and between national and international resources". SGP is a worldwide programme administered by UNDP providing grants to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for activities that address global problems related to bio-diversity conservation and sustainable use, protection of international waters, as well as mitigation of land degradation and climate change. It is based on the presumption that global environmental problems can be solved by local communities, who, with small amounts of funding (up to USD 50,000) can take steps to make a significant impact on the condition of the environment and their sustainable livelihood. SGP has been run by the UNDP Turkey office since 1993 on a decentralized basis, has disbursed small grants worth about USD 2 million to over 100 projects throughout Turkey.



# ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## EXAMPLES OF ENVIRONMENTAL & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

**BTC Small Investment Fund - Protecting Bio-diversity:** Together with project partner Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) Pipeline Company, UNDP aims to provide support to non-governmental and grass-root organisations along the Turkish section of the BTC pipeline and to reverse bio-diversity loss in these areas. The project supports local enterprises for conservation and sustainable use and management of bio-diversity in the project region. It also contributes to the building of local capacity to implement approaches to environmental management and energy development that respond to the needs of the poor. Within the framework of Small Investment Fund, small-scale investment projects are being implemented by partners in 2006. For more information: <http://www.undp.org.tr/btc.asp>

**Climate Change Enabling Activity With the Climate Change Programme:** UNDP aims to establish new partnerships and to assist Turkey in implementation of obligations under United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. UNDP supports the project team working in-consultation with the interdisciplinary working groups, formed from several ministries to analyse the potential impacts of climate change, to enhance local expertise, to generate public awareness of the issue and to prepare the First National Communication Report. For more info: <http://www.undp.org.tr/climatechange.asp>

**Integration of Sustainable Development into Sectoral Policies:** The specific objective of this project is to build national capacity - of the government of Turkey and its people- to formulate and gradually implement a holistic strategy for addressing the environmental objectives in coherence with the long term economic and social development objectives of Turkey across sectors, territory and generations through the conduct of technical studies, introduction/reinforcement of technical implementation tools and awareness raising by establishing appropriate advocacy and campaign platforms. For more info: <http://undp.org.tr>

**Programme of Capacity Building for the Removal of Barriers to the Cost-Effective Development and Implementation of Energy Efficiency Standards and Labeling in EU Candidate Countries:** The transposition process is mandatory and yet the EU does not financially support the transposition process (or its implementation phase) in EU candidate countries. Experience in new EU member countries has shown that without support for transposition, these countries may lag ten years behind their counterparts in sustainable development and energy efficient practices with regards to consumer choice. The project is implemented in collaboration with General Directorate of Electrical Power Resources Survey & Development Administration, intends to bridge that gap so that integration of the regulatory framework for energy efficient standards and labeling can occur. For more info: <http://undp.org.tr>

**The Black Sea Ecosystems Recovery Project, Phase II:** The project in its second phase will continue supporting the Black Sea regional aspects of the Black Sea Partnership for Nutrient Control. It will assist and strengthen the role of the Black Sea Commission (of the Bucharest Convention for the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution) and ensure the provision of a suite of harmonized legal and policy instruments for tackling the problem of eutrophication, and release of certain hazardous substances, and to facilitate ecosystem recovery. For more info: <http://undp.org.tr>

# IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

Implementation Support, which aims to ensure effective and timely delivery of projects, is an important service that UNDP provides to line ministries all around the world. In the late 1990s, low-performing loans and slow implementation of projects were a feature of many Latin American development initiatives, creating problems for the governments that contracted the loans as well as for the international banks that extended them. Governments had to pay hefty commitment fees even if they had not spent a penny, and the people of these countries had to suffer the cost of wasted development opportunities. The low-performance was often attributed to low capacity to manage development programmes, and the complex nature of the countries' legal framework that prevented fast and transparent procurement, recruitment, and overall financial management.

## What is happening in Turkey?

Although Turkey has highly qualified professionals with the requisite technical and substantive skills, slow implementation of internationally financed projects is not uncommon especially due to the complicated nature of the legal framework in Turkey. Overall the delivery rate of the internationally financed projects is approximately 50 percent and the projects often are not completed during the projects' timeframe.

## How can UNDP support effective delivery of projects?

To address constraints in quality and timely delivery, line ministries and UNDP have taken their partnership to a new level of "implementation support". Through this partnership, quality results are achieved, together with considerable savings in money and in time. The main services that UNDP provides under the thematic area "Implementation Support" are:

**Institutional Building and Capacity Development thru Support Services:** UNDP works to strengthen the implementation line ministries' technical capacity to implement development projects while endowing these institutions with sustainable human development principles and methodologies. In providing this support UNDP is guided by its global principle of ensuring national ownership, government responsibility for the realization of the projects, and sustainability. Specific support services include:

- financial management and reporting
- recruitment through transparent and competitive standards

# IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

- training related to project execution and
- procurement according to international guidelines

**Financial management and reporting for accountability:** Through its global experience UNDP is specialized in the "Financial Management and Reporting Rules and Procedures" that these organisations require in the implementation of externally funded projects. The implementation support for the financial management covers all kind of financial activities ranging from the preparation of annual work plans, preparation and issuance of loan withdrawal application, annual review of progress against work plans, agreement on necessary budget revisions, preparation of annual financial statements for presentation to auditors, and control of the financial productivity for timely delivery. UNDP also provides ministries with strategic support in the reporting standards required. In addition, UNDP's services facilitate efficiency and transparency by addressing the difficulties that rises due to the discord in the domestic legislation, and bureaucracy.

## EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS

**Implementation Support Project for Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs - Sivas Erzincan Development Project (SEDP):** The objective of the project is to support the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) to pursue the reforms introduced by Government to move from traditional practices towards simpler and more effective management of local development. The UNDP support to the MARA includes establishing a Project Management Unit, monitoring the procurement activities, providing national and international technical assistance, tendering the capacity building activities, managing the payments and financial management. For more information: <http://www.undp.org.tr/ProjectImplementationSupport.asp>

**Implementation Support to Health Transition Project with the Ministry of Health:** The objective of the project is to enable the Ministry of Health to strengthen the institutional environment for the implementation of its program that will improve system stewardship, streamline financing and service delivery, and establish the institutional capacity to extend health insurance coverage to the whole population. UNDP provides the facilitation on effective and timely implementation of the project in line with the substantive, technical, administrative and managerial provisions for the institutional capacity building, financial management, procurement activities and areas of recruitment. For more information: <http://www.undp.org.tr/ProjectImplementationSupport.asp>

## PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIP

The private sector at a global level increasingly recognizes that social and environmental responsibility is no longer an option but an imperative. The United Nations, including UNDP, has committed in to support and engage the private sector in its efforts to contribute to global and national development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. UNDP also recognizes the important value of private sector growth in creating employment and reducing economic vulnerability. In turn, the private sector is increasingly seeking partnerships with UNDP in recognition of our rich development experiences, our network of government and civil society partners, and our neutrality—all of which makes us a trusted partner for business. As such, a UNDP-private sector partnership provides the opportunity to businesses to connect with local development projects with a high level of confidence and transparency—ensuring the best possible results and impact.

### **UNDP Turkey and Private Sector Partnerships**

UNDP Turkey is implementing a four-part strategy to apply recommendations put forth by the UN Commission on Private Sector and Development. Our activities include:

- (i) providing support to, and implementation of, pro-poor policies, notably in the area of investment, trade, and SME promotion, that will stimulate equitable economic growth and achieving the MDGs;
- (ii) strengthening ethical business practices and sustainable business development through the implementation of the Global Compact principles;
- (iii) brokering multi-stakeholder development partnerships, notably between government, business, and civil society ("public private partnerships"); and
- (iv) supporting initiatives between Turkey and neighbouring countries that will strengthen business ties with a view towards equitable economic growth.

Having recognized the importance of working with the business community to achieve development goals on a global level, UNDP Turkey in 2005 opened a private sector project office in Istanbul ([www.undpistanbul.org](http://www.undpistanbul.org)) in cooperation with the Corporate Governance Association of Turkey (COGAT). The Istanbul Office aims to strengthen UNDP's partnership with the business sector in Turkey for development, bringing the Turkish private sector into a



## PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIP

global framework that is based on international values of corporate social responsibility and corporate governance. Additionally, a partnership with UNDP provides a basis for the private sector in Turkey to assist concretely in the country's efforts to achieve the MDGs.

Another initiative for private sector development was the introduction of the Global Compact to a large private sector audience at the Forum-Istanbul Meeting "Marching Towards 2023" in March 2002. As a result, more than 50 Turkish companies have joined the Global Compact. UNDP Turkey is working to further these global values at the corporate level, as well as for medium- and small-scale companies, and thus has developed a more focused approach in relation to private sector development in Turkey through its private sector project office in Istanbul.

To date UNDP Turkey has established several private-public partnerships with multinational and Turkish firms in Turkey, with a goal to collectively contribute to the achievement of Turkey's development agenda, EU Accession and the MDGs. Examples of UNDP's private sector partners included CISCO, Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Pipeline Company, Aydın Doğan Foundation, Microsoft, and Coca-Cola.

### EXAMPLES OF PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS:

**Empowerment of Youth for Improved e-Governance in Turkey:** In order to strengthen the Information and Communication Technology use capacities of disadvantaged local youth groups, UNDP in partnership with Microsoft and the Youth Association for Habitat and Agenda 21, launched a peer education program to educate 100,000 people in 3 years. For more info: <http://www.undp.org.tr/EmpowermentOfYouth.asp>

**Plus to Life Youth Fund:** In partnership with Coca-Cola Turkey and the Youth Association for Habitat and Agenda 21, the "Plus to Life" Youth Fund was established to support innovative and sustainable project ideas of youth in the areas of education, sports, environment, culture and arts. During the first phase of the five-year project, 10 projects from various parts of Turkey were funded. For more info: <http://www.undp.org.tr/QualityOfLife.asp>

**Organic Farming in Kelkit:** UNDP, in partnership with Aydın Doğan Foundation and Atatürk University, is undertaking a project in the villages of eastern town of Kelkit to improve awareness and capability of farmers in organic agriculture and animal husbandry, specifically focused on contractual farming to develop capacity to access markets. <http://www.undp.org.tr/Organic%20Farming%20in%20Kelkit%20Dogan-UNDP%20Partnership.asp>

"UNDP is an organization, which has always stood at the frontlines of the battle against poverty and has been a leader in fighting for the right of all people to live with freedom and dignity."

Kemal Dervis,  
UNDP Administrator



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