



RESILIENT

Zero-Carbon, Risk-Informed, Sustainable

**UNDP's Work in Climate Change, Disaster Risk Reduction,
and Energy, 2015-2017**



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*



About this Report

Throughout this report – which is comprised of 15 country case studies – readers will find examples of climate action, disaster risk reduction and recovery, and sustainable energy. In each case, efforts have been made to emphasize the integrated approach to these work streams and similarly, the linkages and benefits that each extends to the others. Better cook stoves protect forests, thus reducing the risk of soil erosion and landslides while maintaining carbon sinks; early warning systems provide advanced disaster risk reduction while enabling local-level adaptation; and resilient recovery helps to put in place better energy systems and address long-term risks. In each example, the message is clear: zero-carbon and risk-informed sustainable development is key to long-term prosperity.

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304 East 45th Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10017 USA
www.undp.org

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This report was developed and written by Carl Mercer, Jan Kellett, and Monica Trujillo, based on the detailed inputs from UNDP's Regional Team Leaders and Country Office specialists. Project management of the report was by Carl Mercer with editorial oversight by Jan Kellett.

Inputs and Peer Review: Mayrilian Acosta, Azza Aishath, Marcel Alers, Ababu Anage, Armen Chilingaryan, Salah Dahir, Aliou Dia, Gemma Dalena, Danielle Evanson, Jacinda Fairholm, Stephen Gold, Armen Grigoryan, Aida Hadzic-Hurem, Phearnich Hing, Min Htut Yin, Moortaza Jiwanji, Gordon Johnson, Amanullah Khan, Kishan Khoday, Asad Maken, Joan Manda, Usman Manzoor, Wubua Mekonnen, Chisa Mikami, Matilde Mordt, Ramraj Narasimhan, Napoleon Navarro, Sothini Nyirenda, Sujala Pant, Kevin Petrini, Angelika Planitz, Abdul Qadir, Ismael Sayyad, Jihan Seoud, Vijaya Singh, Ahmed Shifaz, Ben Twinomugisha, Krishna Vatsa.

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OVERVIEW

The size of our world economy is expected to triple by 2060. More than two thirds of this growth is expected to come from developing countries. Over the same period the world's population is projected to rise by three billion people, of whom more than two thirds will live in urban areas. Demographic change combined with climate change means that exposure to disaster risk is growing rapidly. This presents the world with unprecedented challenges. For developing countries, both less able to cope with the impact and more likely to be affected, these challenges are particularly severe. They face the threat of decades of development gains being rolled back, poverty becoming entrenched, and a rise in instability.

The need for action is urgent. Risk, vulnerability and the protection of countries and communities from climate change and disaster are central issues indivisible from sustainable development. Action is called for in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and major international agreements on disaster risk, financing development and our changing climate.

UNDP takes an increasingly integrated response to these challenges as well as opportunities inherent in solutions to them, and this approach is supporting countries to deliver development that is zero carbon and risk-informed and therefore sustainable. We enable countries and communities to protect and accelerate development gains and deliver progress against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through efforts to reduce disaster risk, tackle emissions, transition to sustainable energy and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

This report, chronicling efforts since 2015, looks specifically at the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement, and the Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2030. It reflects on the work supported by UNDP at country and regional levels, and emphasizes how these actions support progress. The report highlights how action areas are interconnected and how progress on one is progress on another, showcasing initiatives such as the use of reforestation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and simultaneously provide protection against land degradation and sea-level rise; solar projects that enhance energy access while empowering women and students; disaster recovery processes that strengthen infrastructure and institutions against future threats; and how Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are the crux of each country's commitments to the Paris Agreement.

and support disaster relief when needed.

Climate Action

Adoption of the Paris Agreement in 2015 set the world on an ambitious and critical path towards resilient and zero-carbon development. Action on climate change contributes directly to Sustainable Development Goal 13 and addresses many other SDGs. Protecting our crops from drought contributes to food security; protecting our infrastructure from storms supports sustainable cities and communities; and addressing the increase in vector-borne diseases due to changing temperatures helps ensure children are healthy. Action on climate is a positive opportunity rather than a burden, with improvements in health and the environment, and new commercial opportunities in energy, transportation and agricultural adaptation.

In terms of global policy, UNDP works with countries to develop and deliver on the goals of the Paris Agreement. Critical to this are the Nationally Determined Contributions that each country has put forward. For its part, UNDP has partnered with the UNFCCC, European Union and UNEP on global and regional workshops to support countries throughout each step of the process. Since 2014, UNDP and partners have held a series of 15 regional dialogues and three global workshops, together attracting nearly 2,000 participants from around the world. Focused on identifying nationally-appropriate climate targets, these dialogues have since moved on to formulating and putting in place plans of action to

deliver results.

UNDP is a founding member of the German-led NDC Partnership and is working closely with partners to coordinate and accelerate progress. Looking ahead, NDC dialogues will continue through the end of 2018 and adopt a sub-regional approach thereafter. Increasingly, the dialogues will focus on actions that can be taken in specific sectors to contribute to NDC targets, and will seek to engage the private sector in these efforts.

In supporting climate action, UNDP's network of nearly 170 country offices is currently engaged in hundreds of climate action initiatives that help reduce carbon emissions and strengthen adaptation. With a \$3.2 billion portfolio, and expenditure of nearly \$600 million in 2015/2016, UNDP remains the largest service provider of climate action in the UN system.

Sustainable Energy

UNDP's work on sustainable energy is built around the core elements of Sustainable Development Goal 7 on clean energy, specifically *energy access*, *energy efficiency* and *renewable energy*. During the year 2015/2016, UNDP sustainable energy projects amounted to nearly \$325 million globally.

Access is the immediate goal for countries struggling to meet energy needs. UNDP works with countries and communities to put in place systems that provide energy in schools and hospitals, and which help deliver improved livelihoods for thousands of communities and families.

To improve efficiency, UNDP works with countries, communities and private sector partners to improve energy usage across infrastructure, social services and industry. This includes measures to improve lighting and heating in apartment complexes, hospitals and in transport systems. On a smaller scale, UNDP works with households throughout much of the developing world to improve efficiency in cooking and lighting.

The ultimate goal of UNDP's energy work is to support countries in pursuing a zero-carbon pathway built on a shift to renewables. Governments are putting in place the enabling environment that attracts foreign investment in energy projects. From Tunisia to South Africa to Uruguay, UNDP works with governments to simplify and clarify laws, policies and financial regulations that help de-risk investment.

In increasing numbers of countries, work across the three areas of access, efficiency and renewable solutions is integrated, not only transforming the energy sector but also providing significant change across lives, livelihoods, access to basic services and the delivery of development in the long term.

Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery

Natural hazards such as storms or earthquakes do not necessarily need to result in disaster. UNDP's work on disaster risk reduction (DRR) and recovery recognizes this and, through partnership with governments and communities, helps put in place the systems, capacities and processes for *risk-informed development*, thereby protecting livelihoods and infrastructure.

UNDP supports progress on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction by working with partners across five critical themes: improved access to risk information; enhanced early warning and preparedness; strengthened climate and disaster risk governance; resilient recovery; and local and urban action. UNDP's portfolio in DRR includes \$2.1 billion since 2005, with over \$400 million invested in 2015/2016.

Collaboration and cooperation are essential to this work. As such, UNDP participates in a number of partnerships that aim to coordinate, accelerate and standardize efforts. This includes the *Global Preparedness Partnership (GPP)*, which strengthens and standardizes disaster preparedness at country level; the *tripartite agreement on disaster recovery* between the World Bank, UN and European Union, which aims to support Post-Disaster Needs Assessments (PDNAs) and recovery planning following a disaster; and the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI), which remains the UN's primary partnership focused on strengthening in-country capacities to achieve the goals of the Sendai Framework.

Partnership with the private sector is increasing. As a member of the *Insurance Development Forum (IDF)*, UNDP works with the World Bank and leading global insurance companies to strengthen the role of the insurance sector in developing countries. On the preparedness side, the *Get Airports Ready for Disaster (GARD)* initiative is a partnership of UNDP and Deutsche Post DHL Group, with funding from Germany, to help airports manage

On the adaptation side, UNDP works with countries to respond to the ongoing impacts of climate change and to prepare for future impacts. UNDP's adaptation portfolio supports over 110 countries to integrate current and future climate risks and uncertainties into national and sub-national development efforts. This includes climate-resilient agriculture and food security; promoting sustainable water resource management; ensuring sustainable coastal zone development; addressing climate-related extreme events and risks; providing access to early warning systems and climate information for enhanced planning; and pursuing ecosystem-based adaptation approaches.

Developing low-emission projects that support national climate targets is part of UNDP's work on climate mitigation and also contributes to sustainable energy efforts. This includes support to develop Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) that span a variety of sectors, from crops to steel production to transport. Given that deforestation and forest degradation accounts for more than 10 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, UNDP supports their reduction through conservation and sustainable management of forests.

The aim is to ensure that emissions from forests will

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