



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*



United Nations Development Programme

UNDP THEMATIC TRUST FUNDS

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



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Crisis Prevention and Recovery

Democratic Governance

Environment

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Woman harvests rice in Oecusse, Timor-Leste. (Photo: UN photo/ Martine Perret)

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FOREWORD

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, 2015 marked the transition from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The new development framework is an ambitious call for transformative action on today's complex challenges to people and our common planet. It emphasizes that success depends on addressing these challenges comprehensively since they are highly interconnected. Progress on any one only lasts if progress is made on all others.

The UNDP Thematic Trust Funds for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, Democratic Governance and the Environment were established in 2001. For 14 years, these thematic trust funds have funded UNDP country, regional and global initiatives, flexibly complementing core UNDP funding and investments by partner agencies aimed at similar development objectives. This report presents highlights from 2015, the final year of operation for the funds, which have transitioned in 2016 to a new funding window architecture, aligned with the integrated vision of the 2030 Agenda. In this foreword, the report also offers a retrospective on some of the major achievements of the thematic trust funds.

All three thematic trust funds have fostered significant partnerships between UNDP and programme countries, non-governmental organisations and civil society, UN agencies, multilateral development organisations, academia and think-tanks, the private sector and donor partners. Results achieved would not have been possible without the support and partnership of longstanding contributors to the funds.



A child holds up a map in the Protection of Civilians site in Bor, South Sudan. (Photo: UN photo/JC McIlwaine)

Crisis prevention and recovery: meeting immediate needs and reducing risks

The Crisis Prevention and Recovery Fund (CPR TTF) was designed as a flexible funding mechanism that has allowed UNDP to respond to and prevent crisis and respond effectively and rapidly to evolving crisis and recovery needs, especially in situations of natural disasters or violent conflict. Over the years, UNDP has sought new ways of preventing conflicts—faster, earlier and in high-risk situations—while maintaining steadfast support to the protection and empowerment of women in crisis, and in particular, the prevention of gender-based violence.

The CPR TTF has provided vital support to strengthen disaster management capacities and support early recovery after extreme weather events, including the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami (2004); Cyclone Sidr in Bangladesh; Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines; Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu; the earthquakes in Haiti, Nepal and Pakistan; the Balkan floods; and to respond to multiple hurricanes in the Caribbean.

Recognizing disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of combatants as key to the stabilization of peace processes, the Fund has supported these efforts in countries afflicted by prolonged conflict and crisis, including the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia. The CPR TTF also stimulated long-term engagements in the peace processes in Colombia and the Philippines. In support of democratic transition during the Arab Spring, significant CPR TTF investments were made in Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and Yemen in the areas of civic engagement in electoral processes, constituent assemblies and security sector reform.

Several CPR TTF seed investments, such as in the rule of law in countries affected by crisis, conflict and fragility, blossomed into widely recognized global initiatives. One such example is the Global Programme on Rule of Law, whose origins can be traced to the support provided to legal aid lawyers in Darfur in 2007 and 2008. Having provided support to nearly 40 countries affected by crisis, conflict and fragility, and facilitating the unification of the UN system for delivering legal aid under the Global Focal Point for Policy, Justice and Corrections, the Global Programme has evolved into a flagship UNDP initiative at the disposal of the UN system, to deliver assistance aligned to national priorities through joint implementation.

The Joint UNDP-UN Department of Political Affairs Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention is another success story. The Joint Programme is foremost known for deploying Peace and Development Advisors to support the UN Resident Coordinators and the development and application of conflict diagnostic analysis tools. It is also viewed as a constructive ingredient in inter-agency collaboration on conflict prevention strategies, as well as conflict sensitive initiatives.

Through its years of operations, the CPR TTF mobilized over US\$1.3 billion in partner contributions and reached nearly all countries where UNDP programmes operate. The Fund has been invaluable in responding to the reality that even stable countries on sustainable development pathways can suddenly and unpredictably find themselves in crisis. UNDP has been able to provide rapid seed funding to support conflict prevention, rapid response and recovery.

Democratic governance: catalysing inclusion

The Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund (DG TTF) supported flexible and early responses to emerging issues in democratic governance, with a strong emphasis on innovation and catalytic initiatives that could be scaled up through South-South exchanges and cooperation. The DG TTF was steadfast in its commitment to strengthen responsive and accountable institutions, inclusive political processes, access to justice and the full protection of human rights.

To name a few outstanding results, the Fund provided post-constitutional support to decentralization, in particular the devolution of power to the 18 governorates- and the strengthening of local governance in Iraq, and engaged Rwanda's Ministry of Justice to increase access to justice and legal aid for the poor and most vulnerable.

As the DG TTF focused on innovation, the Fund supported many 'firsts', including the first national agreement on governance assessments in China, the first women's parliamentary caucus in Togo and the first national strategy against gender-based violence in Chad. Investments in 32 youth participation and democratic governance country projects informed the first-ever UNDP strategy for youth and development.

Another highlight is the benchmarking in ethics and integrity within the health sector of Mongolia which became a model for many other countries in the region, and helped define UNDP's sectoral approach to anti-corruption measures which has since been fully integrated into UNDP's flagship Global Programme for Anti-Corruption (GAIN) and its successor global project 'Anti-Corruption for Peaceful and Inclusive Societies (2016-2020).

DG TTF support to inclusive political processes was at the heart of the Global Programme on Electoral Cycle Support (GPECS I and II), which has responded to the demands of UNDP electoral assistance worldwide. In helping countries manage inclusive electoral processes and develop related capacities including of electoral management bodies, the programme maintains a particularly strong focus on promoting the full political participation of women.

Over its lifespan, the DG TTF mobilized US\$268 million from donor partners who shared UNDP's vision of democratic governance and more inclusive societies.

The environment: achieving sustainable development

The Environment Thematic Trust Fund (ETTF) has funded activities to reduce poverty and exclusion in support of sustainable development, where core principles are the careful and fair use of environmental resources, and the equitable sharing of benefits. The ETTF has strategically developed and leveraged investments that complement work funded from UNDP core resources as well as other trust funds, such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol.

From supporting Rio+20 dialogues and the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, to backing UNDP's active engagement in training and technical analysis related to negotiations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, ETTF investments have increased awareness, knowledge and capacities, with a focus on the least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS). Consistent support has gone to national readiness for low-emission, climate-resilient development strategies, and helped countries tap new sources of climate finance. The Fund has produced a number of global knowledge products, including the first guidebook on environmental financing tools.

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