

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

UNDP IN FOCUS 2015/2016



50
YEARS

Empowered lives. Resilient nations.

LOOKING FORWARD

Building partnerships for a better future



FOREWORD

UNDP commemorates its 50th anniversary this year. When UNDP was founded in 1966, around one in every three people was living in poverty. As UNDP begins its second half-century, the number of people in extreme poverty stands at about one in eight. Today, UNDP continues to work actively with governments and other partners to make that number even lower.

In 2015-2016, the development challenges impacting the world were thrown into stark relief. The Syria crisis entered its sixth year, with more than 250,000 people dead and some 12 million displaced. The devastating earthquake in Nepal last year killed more than 8,000 people and left many homeless. Despite great progress, women were still underrepresented in governments

and parliaments and overrepresented in the population of people living in poverty 20 years after the 1995 UN Fourth World Conference on Women.

Yet UNDP remains confident about the prospects for development. 2015 was also a watershed year for all who are concerned about the future of people and our planet, including UNDP and the wider UN system.

In September 2015, world leaders signed an historic agreement to end poverty and protect the planet on which we all depend. For the next 15 years, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will guide UNDP's work to support governments to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities, and achieve sustainable development. UNDP, with its partners within and beyond the UN system, will support countries to achieve the SDGs and fulfil the promise they hold for all people.



Eighty-five Heads of State, Heads of Government, and Ministers, in addition to other senior officials, representing more than 160 countries across the world met on 24 February 2016 in the United Nations General Assembly Hall to commemorate UNDP's 50th anniversary and chart a course for the future of global development.

In December 2015, the international community agreed in Paris on a farsighted new agreement to tackle climate change and adapt to the consequences already being experienced. UNDP played an important role in supporting countries to design strategies that boost inclusive growth in sustainable ways.

UNDP itself is performing well. The Mid-Term Review of our Strategic Plan showed that we are on track to meet the results expected. We met our target of 50 per cent female staff two years ahead of schedule. We were ranked first on the independent Aid Transparency Index for the second year running.

Internal changes contributed to improved external results. We supported the creation of more than 1.3 million new jobs in 94 countries; the registration of more than 68 million new voters in 37 countries; and

the drawing up of more than 1,000 disaster risk reduction and adaptation plans in 51 countries. More jobs, prosperity, resilience, and democratic governance come from UNDP's work.

UNDP is working hard with governments, civil society, the private sector, and other partners to build on its achievements of the past 50 years. We lead the UN development system and are active in nearly 170 countries and territories. We connect people to the knowledge and resources required to build better lives.

We are committed to playing our part in fulfilling the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals. We hope you will join us in this historic effort.

Helen Clark

Helen Clark
UNDP Administrator

RESULTS

UNDP is dedicated to improving the lives of people worldwide—helping countries make sure their people thrive in safe and healthy communities.

The work that UNDP and partners do towards that end is diverse, and the results speak for themselves.

TRANSPARENCY

Twice in a row now, UNDP has topped the Aid Transparency Index compiled by Publish What You Fund, an organization that advocates for and measures transparency among international aid agencies.

Transparency is vital to build and maintain trust with all partners and with the people we serve. Partners who channel funding through UNDP have a right to know how it is used, as do citizens.

UNDP's commitment to transparency is evidenced by the data we publish about every aspect of the organization's work and finances; our efforts to make this data available and comprehensible to the layperson; and by how we use data to plan our programs and improve our work.

We remain dedicated to continually improving the quality and comprehensiveness of our data. For UNDP, this is about building and maintaining trust and confidence with all partners.



18.6 M

PEOPLE BENEFITTING FROM
IMPROVED LIVELIHOODS



1.35 M

NEW JOBS—42% FOR WOMEN



OVER

68 M

NEW VOTERS REGISTERED
IN 37 COUNTRIES



2.1 M

PEOPLE GAINING ACCESS TO LEGAL
AID IN 33 COUNTRIES—51% WOMEN



1,035 PLANS

FOR DISASTER REDUCTION AND ADAPTATION
PUT IN PLACE IN 51 COUNTRIES



OVER

2.5 M

PEOPLE ACHIEVING BETTER ACCESS
TO ENERGY IN 45 COUNTRIES



1.79 M

PEOPLE RECEIVING ANTIRETROVIRAL
TREATMENT IN 21 COUNTRIES



35 COUNTRIES

WITH ENFORCEABLE REGULATIONS ADDRESSING
DISASTER AND CLIMATE RISKS



76 COUNTRIES

IMPLEMENTING MEASURES TOWARDS LOW-
EMISSIONS AND CLIMATE-RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT

HIGHLIGHTS

GLOBAL EVENTS

2015-2016 was a banner year for the world coming together to agree on a vision for a better future and the plans to make it a reality.

UNDP actively participated in several major conferences that brought together world leaders, the UN, civil society, the private sector, and others. These events focused, variously, on climate change, disaster response and preparedness, humanitarianism, and more. Together, they helped steer the world—and UNDP—on its path through the next 15 years and beyond.



THIRD UN WORLD CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION, SENDAI

In March 2015, UNDP took part in the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan. At the conference, a new framework for disaster risk reduction was adopted, which identified new ways of cooperating. UNDP helped shape the framework and is guided by it. Every year, UNDP invests hundreds of millions of dollars in helping countries recover from and reduce the risk of disasters. Pictured, disaster response training in Haiti.



FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT, ADDIS ABABA

In July 2015, UNDP joined high-level political representatives at the Financing for Development conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. They adopted an international agreement on how to finance the ambitious agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which were finalized two months later.



SDG SUMMIT, NEW YORK

In September 2015 in New York, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030. This historic agenda will guide the work of UNDP, a global leader in supporting countries to implement the SDGs. Meanwhile, for the UNDP-cosponsored Social Good Summit, 109 countries held conferences, festivals, and other events to celebrate the Goals. With 50 years of experience in development and a substantive role in coordinating the work of the United Nations at country-level, UNDP is a key partner in supporting countries to reach the Goals. Pictured, schoolchildren in Mexico promoted the Goals while on a field trip to a water resources project.

COP21, PARIS

At the COP21 conference in Paris in December 2015, 196 countries adopted the first universal and legally binding agreement to curb climate change. In the lead-up to the conference, UNDP helped countries finalize their own commitments to climate action—a vital part of the Paris agreement—and now is helping them fulfil those commitments. UNDP has a climate-change portfolio in more than 140 countries, totalling US\$2.3 billion in grant funding, and is working in such areas as reducing greenhouse gases and adapting to the impacts of climate change, as in the project pictured in Madagascar.

WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT, ISTANBUL

Held in Istanbul in May 2016, the World Humanitarian Summit brought together humanitarian and development actors to chart ways to tackle more effectively the growing humanitarian crises around the world. UNDP Administrator Helen Clark emphasized that major efforts must be made to work more effectively across the humanitarian, development, and peace-building spheres. For example, UNDP has a comprehensive response to the Syria crisis, helping communities in Syria and neighbouring countries—such as Jordan, pictured.



A UNDP Mauritania team visits a wind-power plant at Nouadhibou to examine a downed turbine. UNDP supports the Government of Mauritania in promoting clean and renewable energy, having helped prepare an assessment that calls for increasing power generation, developing the power grid, and boosting the role of renewable energy in the national-energy mix.

REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES

AFRICA

Sub-Saharan Africa has made significant progress on social, political, and economic fronts since the turn of the 21st century.

The region's levels of extreme poverty have

adopted in 2013, and countries are already making progress on its goal to “optimize use of Africa’s resources for the benefits of all Africans.”

development gains made in Somalia, Mali, and elsewhere, particularly appealing to young people without adequate jobs or skills. Climate change and natural and man-made disasters risk undoing years of

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