

2014/2015
UNDP IN FOCUS



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

TIME FOR GLOBAL ACTION

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



REGIONAL
PERSPECTIVE



PARTNERS



RESULTS



RESOURCES

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FOREWORD BY THE ADMINISTRATOR

For UNDP and the entire United Nations system, 2015 is a year of historic milestones. It is the 70th anniversary year for the UN—founded in 1945. It is also the year in which the 15-year quest to achieve the Millennium Development Goals concludes, and a new era of global development commitments is expected to be launched with the adoption of Sustainable Development Goals by world leaders in September.

UNDP played a central role in devising, promoting and helping countries to achieve the MDGs, and is now working with its national partners to prepare for the SDGs. We are helping to integrate the SDGs into national development planning, and are providing data-based support for measuring progress toward the new goals, both locally and globally.

The new goals are likely to include completing the unfinished business of the MDGs, with the eradication of poverty being a central objective. Despite impressive progress on poverty reduction in recent years, there are still 1 billion people living on less than \$1.25 a day.

We also have an obligation to protect our planet for the sake of future generations and to safeguard today's hard-won development gains. In December, climate change COP21 in Paris is scheduled to reach a new global climate agreement. UNDP, with its \$1.3 billion portfolio of climate change projects in 140 countries, is a leader of UN efforts to combat global warming.

UNDP's unique capabilities were evident in responses to the many crises which affected our world in 2014.

In Syria, UNDP helped to create emergency livelihoods and provide support for essential services to communities affected by the conflict, and is helping neighbouring countries that are providing sanctuary and services to millions of Syrian refugees. We are supporting the Central African Republic at a time of grave national crisis by providing electoral assistance and support for political dialogue between groups and regions. During the devastating West African Ebola outbreak, UNDP worked to ensure that Ebola response workers were paid, and supported community awareness campaigns and the provision of basic services.

Through its work in developing countries around the world in 2014, UNDP created nearly 1 million jobs in low-income communities, and helped to boost earnings and strengthen livelihoods for millions of others. UNDP's work on HIV ensured that antiviral medication was provided to some 1.4 million people infected with the virus, and helped to combat the further spread of the pandemic through raising awareness of how the virus spreads. In its extensive electoral support programmes, UNDP helped to register 18 million new voters, including nearly 4 million in Afghanistan alone.

UNDP's new strategic plan, now in its second year, is focusing our resources and expertise on three critical priorities: sustainable development pathways, democratic governance and building resilience to shocks. We are improving the way we plan, design, monitor and implement, ensuring that we deliver results effectively and efficiently. Staff positions at UNDP's headquarters in New York are being reduced by around 30 percent, with more staff



Helen Clark's visit to Ebola-affected countries in West Africa

moving out to regional hubs to be closer to the countries we serve.

We have improved our project quality and social and environmental impact standards, and committed to high standards of transparency. In 2014, UNDP was ranked at the top of the annual Aid Transparency Index of development agencies.

We are confident that UNDP's expertise in poverty reduction, MDG implementation, democratic governance and crisis response and recovery will continue to make it a highly effective partner for developing countries as they strive to achieve the SDGs and tackle climate change. Yet, ultimately, our effectiveness depends on close working relationships with our partners in developing and developed countries alike. For UNDP, maintaining and strengthening our partnerships is a very high priority as we work to build an inclusive and sustainable future for all.

Helen Clark
UNDP ADMINISTRATOR



Introduction

2015 – UNDP for People and Planet

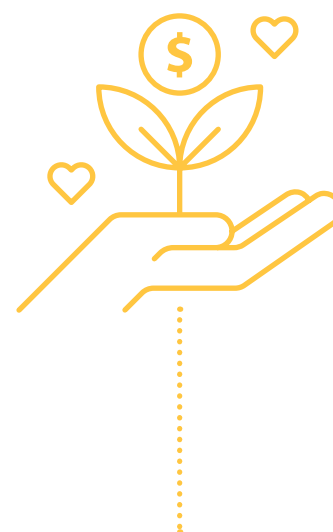
Voices around the world are demanding leadership and action in 2015 on poverty, inequality and climate change.

These universal challenges demand global action, and this year presents unprecedented opportunities for achieving the future we want. This is the year that world leaders gather at the United Nations in New York to adopt a new agenda for sustainable development. The new global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will guide policy and funding for the next 15 years, beginning with a historic pledge to end poverty. Everywhere. Permanently.

Sustainable development and climate change are two sides of the same coin. Impacts of climate change threaten to undermine decades of development gains and risk future development paths. Many of the main drivers of poverty in developing countries are intertwined with climate change, such as increased droughts and more erratic storms. Member States have a key opportunity to act on slowing the destructive pace of climate change this year with the potential for a new meaningful and universal agreement to reduce carbon emissions and adapt. This would be a major step toward building climate-resilient communities and a sustainable future.

The SDGs must finish the job that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), started, and leave no one behind. This is the deadline year for the MDGs, which rallied the world around a common agenda to tackle the indignity of poverty. The MDGs established measurable, universally agreed objectives for eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, preventing deadly but treatable disease, and expanding educational opportunities to all children, among other development imperatives.

The MDGs drove progress in many important areas: on income poverty, access to improved sources of water, primary school enrolment and child mortality. Yet the job is unfinished for millions of people—we need to go the last mile on ending hunger, achieving full gender equality, improving health services and getting every child into school. Now we must shift the world onto a sustainable path. The new development agenda should apply to all countries, promote peaceful and inclusive societies, create better jobs and tackle the environmental challenges of our time—particularly climate change.



UNDP MOBILIZED ALMOST **\$2 BILLION** IN ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCING—IN PARTICULAR GEF GRANT FINANCING—**FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS.**



Mr. Hong Kry, 33 and his wife Son Saly, 24, plant taro trees in their farm in Kraing Serey village, Cambodia. Now that water reaches the end of Serey village, people in the community, including this couple, can now focus on generating income rather than spending much of their time fetching water from wells.

UNPRECEDENTED COLLABORATION

In preparation for this new development agenda, UNDP helped to facilitate the largest global conversation that has ever taken place on long-term development issues and priorities.

UNDP designed a consultation process that was taken forward by scores of UN country teams and the entire United Nations Development Group (UNDG). UNDP was also a founding partner of the UN's unprecedented MY World survey, which has drawn responses from more than 7 million people in every region of the world. Together with hundreds of face-to-face meetings with people living in poverty and marginalized groups, MY World has allowed people everywhere to provide direct input into the design of the new agenda.

UNDP led the preparation of a detailed report on these global consultations.

A Million Voices: The World We Want, A Sustainable Future with Dignity for All was a key point of reference for the Secretary General's December 2014 synthesis report to the General Assembly on the post-2015 agenda. In collaboration with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the rest of the UN system, UNDP has also worked to support the UN Statistics Commission in identifying measurable indicators of progress for the new goals and their targets.



"2015 is a year of global action," the Secretary-General said as the year began. "With the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, with a set of sustainable development goals and a universal and meaningful climate change agreement by December this year in Paris, **I think we can set our lives, our world, on course for a better future.**"



Valentina is a key community leader in UNDP's inclusion and financial literacy programme in Peru.

Looking forward to 2016 and beyond, UNDP and the entire undg team are preparing to work with national governments, civil society, the private sector and other partners to see how the new SDGs can be most effectively integrated into existing national development strategies. UN country teams and national governments will collaborate on efforts to strengthen partnerships, accountability mechanisms and timely data monitoring, with UNDP poised to play a central role, drawing on our long-established local relationships and intergovernmental convening ability.

In most developing countries, the UNDP Resident Representative serves as the UN system's Resident Coordinator, working with all UN agencies, funds, and programmes in a Delivering as One

UN country team. This requires forging close collaboration with governments, development partners and UN country teams on policy advocacy, while supporting national development priorities through United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs).

To carry out these UN leadership responsibilities, UNDP relies on the proven development expertise of a deeply committed international staff, and provides institutional encouragement for innovation. Our reputation for thought leadership is ultimately what gives UNDP our greatest added value as a development partner.

That reputation isn't new—it's part of UNDP's institutional DNA. And it is a continuing tradition.



UNDP'S SDG FUND WORKS IN 21 COUNTRIES, CONVENING UN AGENCIES, GOVERNMENTS, CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND IMPROVING THE LIVES OF MORE THAN 1 MILLION PEOPLE THROUGH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES.

NEW THINKING

For the past 25 years, UNDP's Human Development Report has brought innovative and influential new thinking to many major development issues. Our Human Development Index (HDI) has become the most widely accepted alternative to narrow macroeconomic measures of national progress, such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The official incorporation of HDI data and analysis in policy planning in dozens of developing countries—with support from UNDP—has helped to raise health and education standards for millions of people worldwide.

Groundbreaking regional Human Development Reports continue to prompt important policy dialogues and reforms in Africa, Asia, the Arab States, Eastern Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean, on issues ranging from civic engagement and climate change to food security and criminal justice reform. The 2014 global Human Development Report—"Sustaining Human Progress: Reducing Vulnerabilities and Building Resilience"—shed important light on challenges facing all of us as we prepare for the new post-2015 development agenda and our promise to leave nobody behind. The report showed

In recent years, UNDP has also been at the forefront of efforts to introduce greater accountability and transparency in the use of public resources, beginning with our own projects and programmes. One of the hallmark innovations in this area is the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), which has supported more than 300 multilateral, bilateral and private philanthropic aid donors in publishing regular online reports about their projects, financial contributions and related information of public interest.

Transparency is core to UNDP's mission, and UNDP is committed to working in the open to accelerate the development of a sustainable future for all. In 2014, UNDP was ranked the top performer in the Aid Transparency Index, in an evaluation of 68 agencies worldwide. Information and data about UNDP's activities, funding, results and stories are now more open and more accessible than ever.

Strong leadership and global action are required to deliver an agenda that reflects the hopes and aspirations of the world's peoples. UNDP will continue to unite nations and communities for the benefit

UNDP WAS RANKED #1 IN THE AID TRANSPARENCY INDEX



TARGETING THREE BIG IDEAS

1

SUSTAINABILITY



2

DEMOCRATIC



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