



*Empowered lives.  
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## UNDP SUPPORT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT **GOAL 1**

POVERTY REDUCTION

United Nations Development Programme



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



*This is a living document, which will be updated periodically.  
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## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### *A path towards global prosperity, human well-being and a healthy planet*

The world has achieved remarkable gains in human development over the past two decades. Extreme poverty has significantly reduced, access to primary education and health outcomes has improved, and substantial inroads have been made in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. The pursuit of the eight Millennium Development Goals has contributed to this progress and enabled people across the world to improve their lives and future prospects. Yet, despite these significant gains, extreme poverty remains a key challenge, with more than 700 million people globally living on less than US\$ 1.90 PPP (purchasing power parity) per day. Inequalities are either high or widening, especially within countries. Unemployment and vulnerable employment levels are high in many countries, particularly among youth. Unsustainable consumption and production are pushing ecosystems beyond their limits—undermining their ability to provide services vital to life, development, and their own regeneration. Shocks associated with macroeconomic instability, disasters linked to natural hazards, environmental degradation, and socio-political unrest impact negatively on the lives of millions. In many cases, these shocks hold back, if not reverse, progress already achieved in meeting national and internally agreed development goals. Preserving the gains that have been made and addressing the current development challenges the world faces cannot be solved by tinkering at the margins.

There is an imperative today to foster sustainable development. A vision for what this encapsulates is laid out in the new sustainable development agenda that aims to end poverty, promote prosperity and people's well-being while protecting the environment by 2030. As the UN's Development arm, UNDP has a key role to play in supporting countries to make this vision a reality—putting societies on a sustainable development pathway, managing risk and enhancing resilience, and advancing prosperity and wellbeing.

Building on its core strengths—a large country network in more than 170 countries and territories, a principal coordination role within the UN Development System, and the proven ability in supporting efforts to reduce poverty, inequality and exclusion, and protect vital ecosystems—UNDP has outlined a vision in its Strategic Plan 2014-17 focused on making the next big breakthrough in development: to help countries achieve the simultaneous eradication of poverty and significant reduction of inequalities and exclusion. While ambitious, this vision is within reach and significant inroads can be made in eradicating poverty, reducing inequalities and exclusion, and safeguarding the environment.

In line with this vision, UNDP has worked with the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) in developing a strategy for effective and coherent implementation support of the new sustainable development agenda under the acronym 'MAPS' (Mainstreaming, Acceleration, and Policy Support). The *Mainstreaming* component of MAPS aims to generate awareness amongst all relevant actors and help governments land the agenda at national and local levels; and ultimately to mainstream the agenda into their national plans, strategies and budgets. The *Acceleration* component focuses on helping governments accelerate progress on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets, by providing tools that will help identify critical constraints to faster progress and focus on those development objectives that are more relevant to the country context. The *Policy Support* component aims to provide coordinated and pooled policy support to countries working to meet their SDG targets. In this regard, UNDP offers an integrated package of policy support services that align with its programming priorities. These services, as outlined in the prospectus, cover a wide range of areas: poverty reduction, inclusive growth and productive employment, gender equality and the empowerment of women, HIV and health, access to water and sanitation, climate change adaptation, access to sustainable energy, sustainable management of terrestrial ecosystems, oceans governance, and promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies.

Well-equipped with this integrated package of policy support services, UNDP stands ready to support country partners to effectively implement the new development agenda and make long-term economic prosperity, human and environmental well-being a reality.



## POVERTY REDUCTION

### *Why does this matter?*

**Poverty is multidimensional** and is not simply a lack of adequate income. For instance, earning US\$1.90 PPP (purchasing power parity) per day is unlikely to mean the end of the many overlapping deprivations faced by poor people, including malnutrition, poor sanitation and a lack of electricity or inadequate schools. Time poverty adds another dimension. Rural women in developing countries, for instance, spend most of their time on unpaid household and subsistence activities. Little time is left for market-related and remunerated activities, thereby exacerbating poverty. According to the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 1.6 billion people in 108 countries, home to 78 percent of the world's population, are identified as multidimensionally poor.<sup>1</sup> MPI reflects the combined simultaneous disadvantages poor people experience across different areas of their lives, including education, health and living standards.

**Over 700 million people worldwide still live below the US\$ 1.90 PPP per day extreme poverty line,**<sup>2</sup> and over half the global population live at the bottom of the economic pyramid on less than US\$8 per day.<sup>3</sup> While economic growth is a powerful instrument and is necessary for reducing poverty, it is not sufficient unless it is inclusive and equitable and unless the needs of the poor and marginalized are at the center of development priorities.

Processes of **social exclusion** — driven by multiple economic, social, political and cultural factors — continue to play a major role in perpetuating poverty and entrenching inequalities of outcomes and opportunities. Social exclusion denies many—including the urban and rural poor, indigenous people, ethnic minorities, people living with disabilities, women, and youth—the opportunities and capabilities that they need to improve their lives. **Growing or high inequality** is detrimental to economic growth and undermines social cohesion, increasing political and social tensions and, in some circumstances, driving instability and conflicts.

**Increasing or high vulnerability to shocks** contribute to poverty and declining economic growth. Shocks such as slow and rapid onset disasters, economic recession and conflict are destroying the livelihoods and well-being of millions of people the world over, particularly the poor. Over the past decade, total disaster related economic losses were more than US\$1.3 trillion.<sup>4</sup> Recurring small-scale and slow-onset disasters predominantly affect communities and households and constitute a high percentage of all losses. Poor governance and the substantial growth of population and assets in areas exposed to natural hazards are the major causes of increasing levels of disaster risk. The 'near poor'—those who live just above the extreme poverty threshold—are particularly vulnerable to shocks, less able to cope with the impact of disasters and face the risk of falling back into extreme poverty.<sup>5</sup>

There is a **strong nexus between vulnerability to disasters and poverty** and both have mutually reinforcing effects. Poorer people are generally more exposed and more susceptible to hazards. Their already subsistence-level assets get wiped out during disasters, further lowering their capacity to absorb, cope and recover. This is exemplified by experiences from a number of countries where the disaster events made the poor sink further into poverty. For example, the 2000-2001 drought in Sindh province in Pakistan increased poverty by 15 percent.<sup>6</sup> Poverty reduction can help to reduce climate and disaster risks if risk management concerns are integrated. Likewise, better risk-informed development can help sustain development gains and maintain efforts to overcome poverty.

In a significant number of countries, **rising unemployment** can fuel social unrest. More than 200 million people globally are unemployed, with 74 million young people (aged 15–24) looking for work in 2014.<sup>7</sup> The employment situation is deteriorating in some emerging and developing economies, with vulnerable employment still high. Predominantly comprised of women, nearly half of the world's employed population is still working in vulnerable conditions and thus prevented from accessing basic necessities and decent work.<sup>8</sup>



The **unsustainable management of the environment and natural resources** is further exacerbating poverty, as ecosystem services and other non-market goods make up 50 percent to 90 percent of the total source of livelihoods among rural and forest-dwelling households living in poverty.<sup>9</sup> Over 13 million hectares of forests are being cleared each year—an area around three times the size of Switzerland. This destruction is contributing up to 20 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions and disrupting the livelihoods of millions of forest-dependent people.

The development of extractive industries around oil, gas and minerals holds the promise of raising incomes and living standards in natural resource-rich countries. Yet **many resource-rich countries are unable to fully benefit from their natural wealth, with persistent poverty, a shortage of jobs, a degraded environment and destroyed livelihoods.** On average, resource-dependent economies score lower on the human development index than less-endowed countries.<sup>10</sup> The wealth pouring into resource-dependent countries can

also breed corruption and raise inequalities, creating a fertile ground for violence and conflict.

In a world faced with **escalating development challenges**, countries often struggle to implement transformative sustainable development strategies. Estimates for investment needs to implement the SDGs in developing countries range from US\$3.3 trillion to US\$4.5 trillion per year, mainly for basic infrastructure, food security, climate change mitigation and adaptation, health and education.<sup>11</sup> At the same time, the development and integration of financial markets have increased the number of options to choose from to advance investments in sustainable development. New opportunities have emerged for catalysing, pooling and making more efficient use of resources to address these development challenges and to better manage risks. Ensuring that all countries, and in particular the poorest and most vulnerable, are able to access available financing opportunities is key to promoting inclusive growth and achieving sustainable development.

More concerted efforts are needed to address the root causes and challenges of the multiple dimensions of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at all levels.





## Poverty - Key Facts



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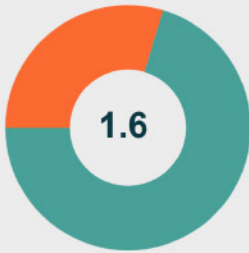
Over **700** million people still live below the US\$ 1.90 PPP a day extreme poverty line



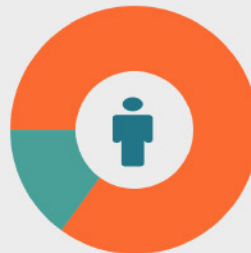
An additional **800** million people are close to the poverty threshold; social, economic and environmental shocks could push them back into poverty

### Poverty is Multidimensional

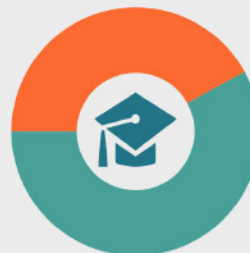
In 108 countries, covering a total population of 5.4 billion people:



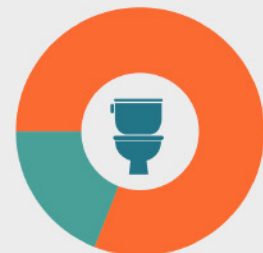
**1.6 billion** are MPI-poor



**85%** of the MPI-poor live in rural areas



**42%** of the MPI-poor live in households where no adult has even 5 years of education



**81%** of the MPI-poor live in households where sanitation is inadequate



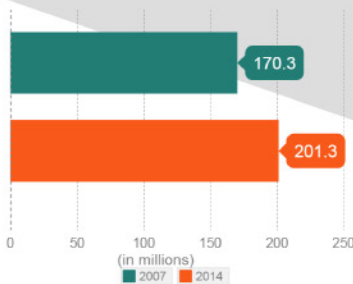
The richest **8%** of the world's population earn half of the world's total income



Processes of social exclusion play a major role in **entrenching inequalities** of outcomes and opportunities



**Access to financing** opportunities, particularly by the poor and most vulnerable, is key to reducing poverty



Global unemployment increased by 31 million from 2007 and stood at over **200 million** in 2014



Of the over 200 million unemployed, **more than a third** are youth (aged 15-24)



Over **1.6 billion** people worldwide directly depend on forests for their livelihoods



Over **13 million** hectares of forests are being cleared each year, destroying the livelihoods and wellbeing of millions of forest-dependent people

\*MPI figures drawn from OPHI; Employment figures drawn from ILO

## What do we offer?

UNDP promotes an integrated approach to sustainable development by supporting countries in their **efforts to reduce poverty in all its dimensions, inequality and exclusion and to protect vital ecosystems**. Our work on poverty reduction is strongly aligned with **Sustainable Development Goal 1 on ending poverty in all of its forms everywhere** as well as with the relevant dimensions of all the other goals. Through application of UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards and related Accountability Mechanism UNDP also ensures appropriate safeguards are in place across all of its programming to avoid, manage and mitigate potential harm to people and the environment.

In partnership with a wide range of actors, we offer the following services to countries:

**We assist in the formulation of development planning strategies** that promote inclusive sustainable development, including special measures to meet the needs of the poor and marginalized, promote gender equality and protect critical ecosystems.

**We strengthen institutional capacity** to design, coordinate, implement and monitor national vision documents and development plans.

**We develop capacities of subnational governments to formulate, plan, monitor and implement participatory local development plans**, working together with civil society, including marginalized groups and communities, and local organizations.

**We offer policy advice and tools to government decision makers to promote pro-poor development** in areas such as social protection, job creation, sustainable urbanization, water and sanitation, biodiversity and ecosystems management, climate change and disaster risk reduction, chemicals and waste management, and extractives and to support fiscal policies that stimulate inclusive growth.

**We advocate for enhanced, risk-informed, public investment and economic governance** to ensure that the poor have access to vital public services.

**We help countries prepare for and strengthen resilience to the impacts of climate change** and pursue low-carbon development pathways that guarantee a cleaner, greener future. UNDP remains the largest service provider in the UN System for disaster risk reduction and for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

**We work with countries to develop financial solutions** in: sustainable management of ecosystem goods and services; improving water and oceans governance; scaling up climate change adaptation and mitigation; sustainable, affordable and clean energy; and sustainable management of chemicals and waste. To achieve this, UNDP supports national partners to plan, access, deliver, diversify scale-up and sequence a variety of environmental vertical funds. This financing is used to develop capacity, remove policy and regulatory barriers and expand/transform green markets in order to increase resilience and to reduce poverty and inequalities.



**We help governments to set up comprehensive poverty monitoring and assessment systems** to inform the design and targeting of effective poverty reduction and sustainable development policies.

In the run-up to the MDG deadline of 2015, MDG progress acceleration remains an important part of our work. Through the **MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF)**, a UN-wide initiative, we support countries to systematically identify and analyse the bottlenecks that are slowing progress towards the MDGs; this involves rolling out proven interventions and developing MDG action plans.

## UNDP IN ACTION

### *Integrated Development Planning*

With UNDP support, 85 countries have **incorporated poverty and environment issues in an integrated manner into national, subnational and sectoral policies and plans**. This has enabled a range of outcomes, including improved capacities of planning and finance agencies and sector ministries to make informed budget allocations and investment decisions in managing natural resources sustainably for pro-poor development, increased government expenditure on the environment, the monitoring of mining and agriculture projects to evaluate environmental and social compliances, and the reframing of environment laws that take into account social inclusion.

In **Cambodia**, to address the problem of escalating biodiversity loss and the high incidence of rural poverty, the UNDP-GEF supported the government to integrate

rural poverty, nature-based tourism initiatives were promoted, creating sustainable alternative livelihoods for local communities. In Tmatboey, for instance, ecotourism guides earn US\$5 for each tour, providing them with a stable income.

In **Rwanda**, an economic analysis of natural resources management and capacity-building activities, supported by the UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI), was instrumental in enabling decision makers in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning and the Rwanda Environmental Management Authority to integrate environment issues into the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy as well as to make environment a sector in its own right. Rwanda's expenditures on the environment and climate change have increased—from 0.4 percent of the national budget (2005-2008) to 2.5 percent (2008-2012).

In **Uruguay**, PEI brought together the Planning and Budget Office, the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Housing, Land Planning and Environment to reframe Uruguay's Packaging Law created in 2004 to promote the reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery of disposable packaging. The revised law has a focus on social inclusion; as a result, the national law now recognizes waste recyclers, guaranteeing them rights to decent working conditions, stable salaries and social protection.

UNDP has supported subnational governments in local development planning by building their capacities to formulate, plan, monitor and implement participatory local development plans, working together with civil society, including marginalized groups and the private

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