



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Towards
a Life
of Dignity
for All





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Foreword by Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator



The 10th anniversary of the Strategic Partnership Agreement between UNDP and the European Union (EU) indicates that partnerships based on shared values, goals, and complementarity are enduring. It is also a time to remind ourselves that the eradication of poverty and striving for equity and sustainability are long-term and necessary investments to realise human rights for all and be able to manage planetary resources better.

UNDP's engagement with the EU often takes place under a broad UN umbrella, and the UN team in Brussels reports annually on the results of joint EU/UN work. With this special report, however, we look more closely at the UNDP angle of the partnership with the EU, and at how we can build on past efforts and add further value to our co-operation.

In the past decade, the EU has been a major supporter of UNDP's work. We have partnered in 115 countries to deepen democratic governance, prevent and/or recover from conflict and natural disasters, build resilience, and adapt to climate change. In these years, we have supported 98 countries with democratic governance. In 53, we have provided electoral assistance, aimed at ensuring that elections are free and fair, and that they include the participation of women, both as voters and as candidates. We have also helped 28 countries to be better prepared for natural disasters, and to prevent loss of life and material damage when they occur.

While we accelerate our efforts to help countries achieve the MDGs by 2015, intensive and inclusive consultations on the post-2015 development agenda have helped us to fine-tune our approaches to tackle new development challenges, and be relevant and responsive in a fast-changing development landscape. The UNDP Strategic Plan (2014-2017) reflects our organization's determination to become ever more focused and results-driven. Our vision is to contribute to eradicating poverty, while simultaneously tackling inequality and exclusion and advancing sustainability. We look forward to deeper co-operation with the EU as we realise our vision.

The partnership between UNDP and the EU is very important in supporting the achievement of key development objectives in the countries in which we work. I take this opportunity to thank the EU colleagues around the world and the European citizens who make this partnership both possible and very productive.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Foreword by Andris Piebalgs, EU Commissioner for Development



Ten years ago, the European Commission and the United Nations Development Programme signed a Strategic Partnership Agreement. In the relatively brief period that has followed we have seen our partnership go from strength to strength, producing some truly great achievements – many of which are celebrated in this report.

Since 2004 our organisations have been working side by side to make a useful contribution within the development community. We share a key aim: fighting poverty and delivering better, more efficient aid to the people who need it most. This collaborative effort has underpinned our partnership, with governance, conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction as its main pillars, and with human rights and gender as important cross-cutting issues.

It is no accident that all of these areas feature prominently in our efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. They also provide a solid basis for our ongoing thorough analysis of the best ways in which we can move beyond the MDGs after 2015 and provide more targeted development assistance.

As we look to the future, this report serves as a timely reminder that the EU-UNDP partnership is a force for promoting peace, development and human rights. This is especially important in countries such as Myanmar. I was fortunate enough to observe at first hand the great development strides this country is taking during a visit there last November. Myanmar and its people look to us for continued support to enable them to undertake much-needed reforms in coordination with other donors such as the UNDP. That is why it is so vital that we pursue our cooperation in areas of common interest, in Myanmar and elsewhere. I wish to thank the UNDP for this report, which provides a valuable overview of our work in the field over the past ten years and shows our cooperation at its very best.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andris Piebalgs', written in a cursive style.

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Part I

Context

of the UNDP-EU Partnership





Listening / Reading Activity

The Farmer

...s a farmer. He lives in a small village
... in the morning
... with
... at all
...ing, growing
... Armed work
...e work a simple life of
... wheat, cotton, rice and
... the crop in the market he
... nance of our society

About this report

'TOWARDS A LIFE OF DIGNITY FOR ALL - 10 YEARS OF UNDP-EU STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP' is the first ever report on the partnership between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Union (EU). It is presented at the occasion of the 10th year anniversary of the *Strategic Partnership Agreement* between UNDP and EU, which was jointly signed in 2004.

The report presents the context, rationale and added value of the partnership; takes stock of what the partnership has been

able to achieve in the last decade (2004-2013); and discusses the opportunities and challenges for the partnership in the future, framed in the context of a changing world.

This report complements the annual United Nations-European Union reports (the 'Improving Lives' series), which focus on the global partnership between the wider UN-family and the EU in a given year.

Background of the Partnership

UNDP and the EU are natural partners, sharing the same values and objectives for advancing peace and security, human rights and development. A guiding principle of the partnership is the joint effort to help countries eradicate poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The increased collaboration between UNDP and the EU over the last 15 years should be seen against the backdrop of the EU's evolving policy towards the United Nations. In 2001, the European Commission issued a Communication entitled *"Building an effective partnership with the UN"*. In 2003, this message was reinforced by a Communication entitled *"EU-UN relations: The choice of multilateralism"*. This paved the way for a *Strategic Partnership Agreement* with UNDP one year later.

The EU's policy objective of supporting effective multilateralism with a strong United Nations at its core is vital in today's world. The interwoven global threats and challenges in the twenty-first century demand a renewed multilateralism that provides effective collective responses to issues that no one nation or regional grouping can tackle in isolation. The UNDP-EU cooperation, both in policy and programming, provides an important contribution to this response.



Strategic Partnership Agreement

In 2004, UNDP and the European Commission signed a *Strategic Partnership Agreement*, which outlined the "shared goal of establishing the solid foundations for peace and recovery from crisis and to promote the Millennium Development Goals, particularly, the fight against poverty".

Linking governance, peace, security and development in a holistic way was an overarching ambition, and the focus was on governance, conflict prevention, and post-conflict reconstruction, including broader post-conflict transition. In addition, human rights and gender play an important role as cross-cutting issues.

The objectives of the *Strategic Partnership Agreement* are to foster common policy approaches, joint identification of programmes, and sharing of knowledge to promote synergies

both in programming in the field – and in best practice. It aims to build on each institution's comparative advantages in order to advance the effectiveness of both, and to strengthen respective coordination roles.

Guiding principles of the UNDP-EU partnership are national ownership of the development process – and the conviction that international partnerships can play a valuable role. Fundamentally, successful and sustainable human development hinges on the capacities of the countries and their institutions and people. Supporting these national processes and capacities are at the core of the UNDP-EU partnership.

Improved Policy Dialogue and Coordination

The cooperation between UNDP and the EU takes place at the policy, advocacy, knowledge sharing and programmatic levels, each feeding and complementing one another. This virtuous cycle of the cooperation contributes to aid effectiveness – not only of the two institutions, but also more broadly, by harmonizing approaches and stimulating best practice.

UNDP's engagement with the EU often takes place under a broader UN umbrella, both at the country level and in EU headquarters. In Brussels, the UN-family has adopted the *One UN* approach in its relationship with the EU. In joint policy and programmatic dialogue with the EU at Brussels level, UNDP coordinates the dialogue between 26 UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes.

Globally, the EU coordination role, following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty in 2009, is complementary to that of UNDP as chair of the UN Development Group (UNDG). At country level, it complements the role of the Resident Coordinator of UN operational activities in-country. This coordinating role allows UNDP to draw on the support and guidance of the entire UN system.

Policy and programme dialogue between UNDP and EU is vibrant also at the country level. Up to 90 percent of UN/UNDP Country Offices in most regions report an on-going policy dialogue with the EU Delegations in the country, especially on issues around democratic governance.



Women in Uzbekistan who participated in UNDP-EU supported community building project. © UNDP / Kyoko Postill

Mutual Benefits

The partnership adds value at the level of international policy and norms, and translates these into practical realities on the ground to improve lives. This holistic approach of the partnership, turning norms and values into practical responses that improve people's living conditions makes the UNDP-EU relationship particularly relevant.

In 2008, an independent evaluation of the UN-EU partnership gave an external perspective on EU's wider cooperation with the UN-family. The evaluation concluded that funding of the European Commission through the UN had a positive impact. It also stated that the partnership made delivery of European Commission's development cooperation aid possible in cases where this would have otherwise been difficult or impossible. The evaluation team concluded that by working together, both partners were able to achieve more on the ground than if they had acted alone.

In addition, the EU benefits from the recognized legitimacy and neutrality of UNDP, which allows it to act as an impartial facilitator of dialogue and cooperation on important development issues, especially important when working in politically complex areas, such as supporting elections, or in fragile settings.

With a country level presence in over 170 countries, and a broad regional presence, UNDP can engage at many levels of policy discussions. This includes informing regional and global policy with country-level knowledge – and promoting the implementation of global and regional agreements at national levels.

UNDP often has in-depth knowledge of national and local circumstances, and well-built and maintained relationships with government and non-government partners at national, regional and local levels. The organization is acknowledged as a partner who can advise on the strategic issues of economic and social transformation, democratic governance, environmental sustainability and climate change, as well as address development issues as they exist in reality – complex, multi-dimensional and often unique to each society.

The EU, on the other hand, makes an essential contribution to UNDP's global development agenda. The EU's support to multilateralism, both in policy and funding, is particularly vital,

especially as the support globally has not kept pace with the needs in the last decade. By channelling funds through UNDP-administered multi-donor trust funds, the EU contributes to aid coordination, dramatically reducing transaction costs and supporting greater effectiveness and efficiency of aid for partner countries.

Increasingly, the European Commission works with the UN to develop policies and practical tools, thereby leveraging European expertise. Notable examples are the post-conflict and post-disaster needs assessments where a tripartite effort between UNDP, the EU and the World Bank has provided a platform for the international community to intervene after a crisis (see page 55).

Further, the EU helps UNDP continue its support to disaster and conflict countries where recovery may be slow and critical – this support is sustained also long after international media attention has subsided. EU's innovative financial instruments, such as the *Instrument for Stability*, provide valuable and much-needed flexibility to fund a range of transition activities that support peace-making, peace-building and recovery.

The EU has also provided strong leadership on tackling climate change, both through its efforts to lower its own carbon footprint and through advocacy for a new global climate agreement. This too is critical for developing countries.

The Partnership on the Ground

The following part of this report presents some of the results that the UNDP-EU partnership has contributed to in the last decade. This should not be seen as an exhaustive catalogue, nor an exclusive presentation of all the results that have been achieved. As the partnership now spans a decade and has been active and present in 115 countries, in a wide range of themes, such an exposé would be rather lengthy. Instead, the stories and results are illustrative of the types of activities that the UNDP-EU partnership has engaged in. As such, they can provide an energizing motivation and an incentive to keep nurturing and developing our cooperation.



Part II

Results of the UNDP-EU Partnership





জনগোষ্ঠী কর্মতায়ন প্রকল্প
কমলাঙ্গী বঙ্গ শাখা উন্নয়ন কমিটি
১৩শ, মুন্সিংগ, হাটহাট, কক্সবাজার।
পরিচালক: সার্বজনীন ১১০০ / ১৩০ / ১৩০০০০
স্বয়ংসহায়ী পরিচালক: সার্বজনীন ১১০০
সহকারী পরিচালক: সার্বজনীন ১১০০
সহকারী পরিচালক: সার্বজনীন ১১০০
সহকারী পরিচালক: সার্বজনীন ১১০০

Burst Beats

Introduction

Much has changed since the Millennium Development Goals were launched over a decade ago. Across the developing world, there has been remarkable progress. The clarity, conciseness, and measurability of the MDGs have rallied policy makers, development experts, and civil society together around a common cause.

UNDP's 2013 *Human Development Index* found that countries in all regions have been converging towards higher levels of human development. Where data are complete, no country is behind where it was in 2000. The more that can be achieved under the MDGs, the more it will be possible to build confidence in and support for a bold and ambitious post-2015 development agenda, which could realistically aim at eradicating extreme poverty.

Through its leadership and coordination role in the UN development system, UNDP is currently working with national and international partners in 46 countries to apply the MDG Acceleration Framework endorsed by the UN development group, which seeks to accelerate achievement of the goals by identifying and overcoming bottlenecks to progress. Governments in these countries are using the approach to reshape national plans, budgets, and actions. The EU has aligned its support with some of the acceleration action plans.

In the last decade, UNDP and EU have worked together in 115 countries across the globe, toward the shared goals of helping countries to achieve the MDGs, particularly the fight against poverty, building sustainable human development and establishing solid foundations for peace and recovery from crisis.

Development is neither simple nor straightforward. It is a complex and long-term undertaking, which embodies a range of challenges for all concerned. Achieving transformational impact and sustainable results requires a long-term perspective and sustained engagement from all partners.

The UNDP-EU partnership does not operate in a vacuum, but together with national and international partners. Therefore it is not always easy to pinpoint the exclusive contribution of the partnership on development in a given country. Nevertheless, in cases where independent country-level evaluations of UNDP's impact in that country exist, some important conclusions can be drawn. For example, in **BANGLADESH** (see page 102), where the EU is the largest funder of UNDP's programmes, an independent evaluation published in 2011 identified the support to democratic governance and disaster risk management as particularly successful, but also noted that support in many other areas also produced a significant contribution to making a difference to the lives of the people of Bangladesh.

A common thread running through the stories in this report is that international cooperation plays a crucial role in supporting national processes of transformational change. In this context, distributing the credit between international agencies is beside the point – where real progress has been accomplished, it is ultimately attributable to national actors. The results presented in this report show, however, how international partnerships can successfully facilitate nationally driven and owned economic, social and political change.

Some highlights from the UNDP-EU partnership in 2004-2013

The partnership between UNDP and the EU is strong and dynamic in all of the core areas of the Strategic Partnership Agreement – Governance; Conflict Prevention; and Post-Crisis Reconstruction, and is showing promising potential in other areas such as Energy and Environment. In financial terms, in the last decade, the EU has provided **EUR 3.3 billion** to UNDP's activities in **115 countries** through the signature of around **800 contracts**.

We worked in **98 countries advancing good governance**, contributing to deepening democracy and making societies more inclusive.

We supported **53 countries with their electoral cycle**, contributing to strengthened national capacities and national ownership of the process, free and fair elections, and the increased participation of women, both as voters and as candidates in the elections.

Over 70 countries, including over 30 fragile countries, received support to **prevent and recover from crisis**.

We helped **28 countries be better prepared for natural disasters**, preventing loss of lives and material damage. In addition, we helped countries '**build back better**' to ensure better resilience against future disasters.

UNDP has supported the EU to advance the practice of Integrated Border Management to **12 countries** in several regions, contributing to **facilitating trade and transit**, improving human security and promoting good governance.

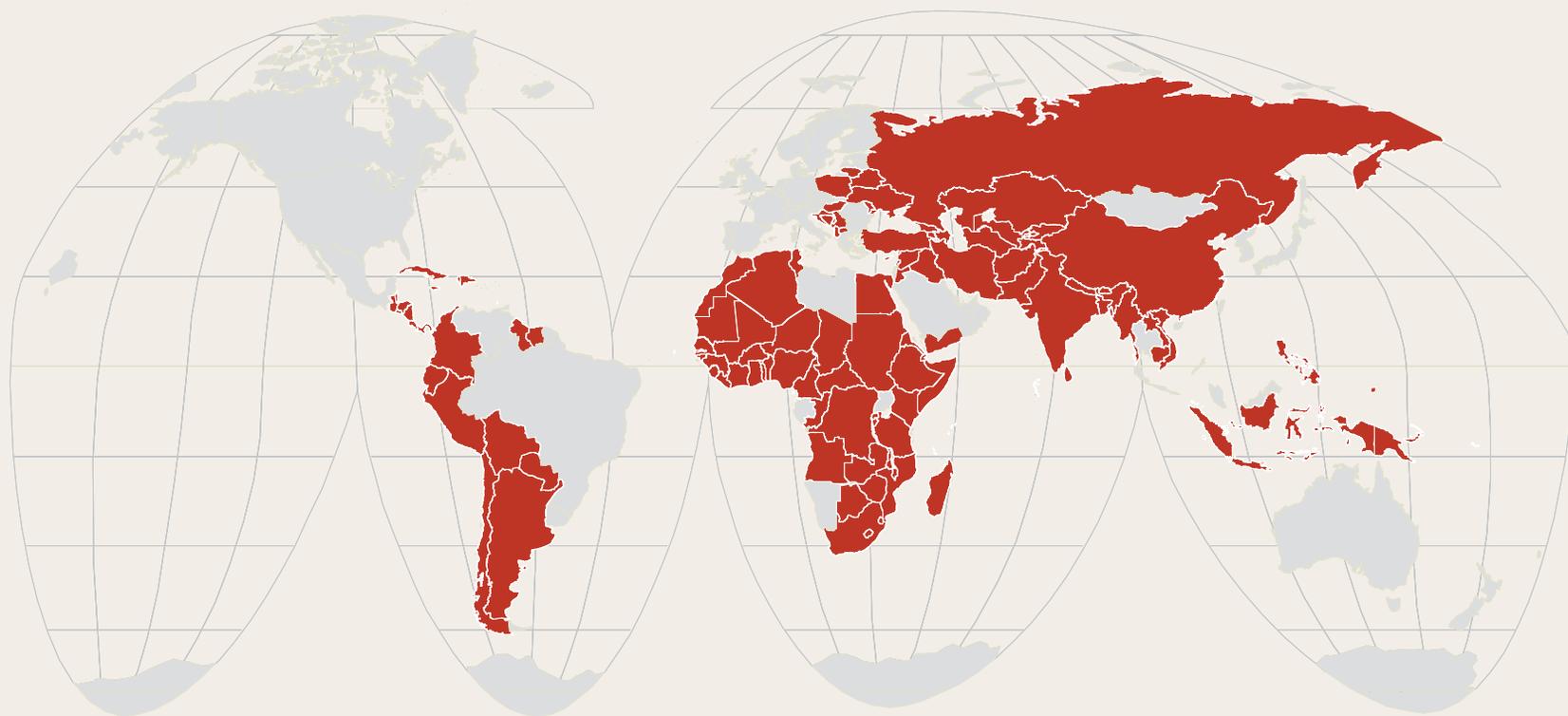
We helped **13 countries to remove landmines** and other unexploded ordnances, freeing up land for farming and building, and contributing to economic development. With the support of the partnership, Albania was declared mine-free in 2009 and Jordan in 2012. We also supported mine victims, and advocated for a mine-free world.

We supported several regional programmes to **decrease the circulation of small arms and weapons**. Only in Croatia and Serbia, the partnership contributed to the destruction of over 75,000 weapons.

Within the framework of the Poverty Environment Initiative, that supports **24 countries** across several regions, the partnership has helped countries in their efforts to **mainstream poverty-environment linkages** into national development planning.

In the area of **climate change**, the partnership supports **25 countries** to carry out nationally driven climate change mitigation actions.

In the last decade, the EU has supported UNDP's activities in 115 countries in all regions of the world, as shown in this map (this excludes countries where only regional programmes were implemented).



The boundaries shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by UNDP.

A close-up photograph of a woman wearing a red and white patterned headscarf. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. In the background, a goat is visible, and the setting appears to be a rustic, outdoor environment. An orange banner is overlaid on the top right of the image.

GOVERNANCE

Supporting Democratic and Inclusive Development

Democratic governance entails building stable systems in which citizens participate in government planning and decision-making, while those in office respond to citizen needs with accountability and transparency. A state that identifies with the culture of democratic governance embraces a pluralistic system of political parties and a vibrant civil society and media. It has strong democratic institutions that promote and integrate women and minorities in all levels of the Government and society as a whole, and protects the rights of all its citizens. Institutions of democratic governance, and their systems and services, are crucial to achieving sustainable human development and the Millennium Development Goals.

Democratic governance is a core area of UNDP's mandate, and with the support to 130 countries, as well as regional and global programmes, it adds up to the single largest area of investment for UNDP. It is also a core area in the UNDP-EU partnership. In the last decade, our partnership has worked in 98 countries to strengthen the ability of governments to effectively respond to citizen needs, through transparent and accountable governance practices. The partnership has also promoted and strengthened civil society to take an active role in the demand for democratic governance and better policies, while also conducting effective oversight of government supply.

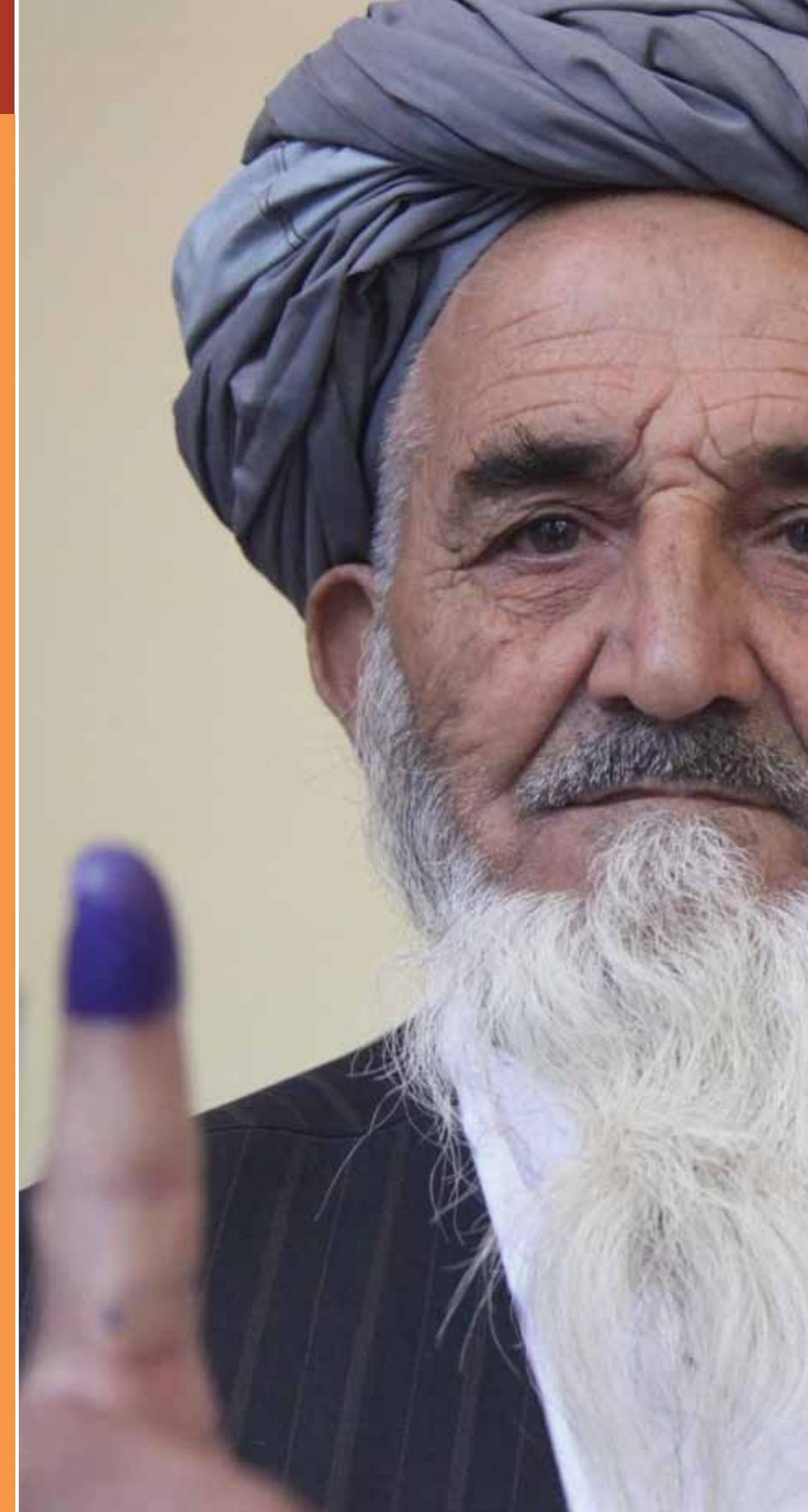
Together, UNDP and EU have helped to strengthen electoral and legislative systems and improve both access to and quality of services and public administration. The partnership has supported countries to develop greater capacity to strengthen social dialogue and it has promoted human rights and the participation of women.

Decentralization, local development and local governance have emerged as important areas, including the reform of legislation and policies; capacity development (especially for local government planning and management); and inclusive consultation with

communities that involves women and minorities. The partnership has also engaged in cross-border and regional efforts to help countries facilitate trade and transit while combating human trafficking and smuggling of drugs and other forms of contraband.

The results of the UNDP-EU partnership in Governance include better public services, progressive laws, peaceful elections, respect for human rights, and new options for women, the poor, and others struggling on the margins.

In the last decade (2004-2013), the UNDP-EU partnership has supported 98 countries in the area of democratic governance. Total funding provided by the EU to this area has been over EUR 1.47 billion.



The Electoral Process

Elections provide opportunities for citizens to take part in decisions affecting their lives – and as such, they are a cornerstone of democratic governance. Around the world, UNDP is involved in almost every electoral process that takes place in the countries where it is present. The strength of UNDP lies in its long-standing expertise in providing electoral assistance, its deep knowledge of development issues and the country context, and its capability to coordinate the support provided by different partners and to be an active partner on the ground. Moreover, UNDP's neutrality and credibility when it comes to elections is widely recognized.

The partnership between the EU and UNDP is particularly strong in the area of electoral support to countries. As elections do not begin or end on Election Day, one of the key aspects in which

the partnership has evolved since 1995 is in adopting the *electoral cycle approach*. This means assisting countries throughout the whole electoral cycle – from the pre-electoral planning and voter education, through the polling period to the post-election period.

In our work together, we want to ensure that elections are fully owned nationally and that elections provide a vital means to safeguard human rights, exercise choice and express opinions. The partnership supports legal reform, independent and permanent electoral management bodies, voter registration, voter and civic education for democratic rights and responsibilities, and training of journalists to have a balanced and ethical reporting on elections. A special focus is on encouraging the participation of women in elections – both as voters and candidates.

As electoral periods are characterized by political tensions, which can sometimes deteriorate into generalized violent conflict, the UNDP-EU partnership works together to ensure security during the electoral process; to reduce election-related violence; and to put in place national processes and institutions to resolve electoral disputes.

In addition to the work done on the ground helping any specific country with their election cycle, the partnership also works on a global level providing expertise and knowledge sharing through trainings, conferences, workshops and e-learning opportunities, election materials, services and publications. The EU also helps UNDP coordinate electoral assistance among donors and international and national partners.

Building on the vast experience of UNDP-EU cooperation on electoral processes, there is potential to expand the field of activities. The partnership could increasingly support reforms in partner countries related to constitutional dialogue and reform, developing legislative capacities of elected institutions and further strengthening accountability and transparency.

Joint Task Force on Electoral Assistance

In 2006, the European Commission (EC) and UNDP strengthened and formalized the partnership in the field of international electoral assistance – that had long been in place on the ground – with the signature of the *Operational Guidelines on the Implementation of Electoral Assistance Projects and Programmes*.

In 2008, the revised Operational Guidelines formalized the EC-UNDP Joint Task Force on Electoral Assistance (JTF), an informal Brussels-based coordination mechanism that has the aim of increasing the overall efficiency and adherence of the projects to the common EC-UNDP strategic approach.

The JTF is coordinated by the UN/UNDP Brussels Office and is composed of the relevant EC and UNDP staff and advisors dealing with electoral assistance at headquarters level. The focus of the JTF is on identification, formulation, implementation support and monitoring of all the EC-UNDP projects of electoral assistance. The lessons learned are consolidated and codified so that they can effectively feed into the implementation of the new electoral assistance projects and into the joint EC-UNDP trainings.

Throughout the partnership, UNDP and the EU have been involved in supporting the electoral cycle in **53 countries** and several regions. The financial support from the EU to UNDP's activities in electoral cycle assistance in the last decade (2004-2013) amounts to **over EUR 800 million**.

Some examples from the UNDP-EU partnership in electoral assistance

In **COTE D'IVOIRE**, following the 2010 Presidential election and the ensuing political crisis, we supported the country to ensure transparent, fair and peaceful parliamentary elections. Given the very tight timetable and the fragile political context, the UNDP-EU support to strengthen the capacity of the *Independent Electoral Commission* and other actors in the electoral process contributed to the stabilization of the democratic process and put an end to the Ivorian crisis. This allowed the country to turn a new page after more than a decade of crises. Eighty percent voted at the 2011 Presidential election showing that the Ivoirians trusted the legitimacy of the elections as a means to designate political power and settle the political crisis.

In **ZAMBIA**, we have supported electoral assistance since 2006. In the run up to the 2011 elections, where almost three million people voted in the presidential elections, we supported the *Electoral Commission* to conduct voter education initiatives, train journalists on ethical reporting and train about 15,000 police on human rights and election monitoring. We supported the use of voter biometric technology, which allowed people to register based on their fingerprints for the first time in Zambia. As a result of this work, Zambia witnessed a solid voter turnout, and a peaceful transition to power.

In **INDONESIA**, the 2004 election, supported by the UNDP-EU partnership, was viewed by many international observers as one of the most successful elections ever run in a transitional democracy. A year later, Indonesia began a new initiative that would change the landscape of its electoral politics, with the introduction of a local election for governors, mayors and district heads.

In the **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**, UNDP worked closely with the UN Mission in 2006 to support the newly created *Independent Electoral Commission*. Together we steered the largest and most complex UN electoral assistance mission ever undertaken, a USD 432 million joint effort, funded by the Government, the EU and other partners. The election, with an 80 percent participation rate, was a major accomplishment in a country where up to four million people had died from the consequences of civil war, and democratic elections had not been held in more than 40 years. For the 2011 elections, we supported over 30 million Congolese to register to vote. Voter cards are now having a second life, serving as important ID-documents for many Congolese.

In **LIBERIA**, we supported the elections in 2005 that saw the election of Africa's first woman president, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. For a country that had only recently emerged from a 14-year violent civil war, organizing elections presented major challenges. EU support allowed UNDP to develop the *National Election Commission's* capacity to enforce electoral rules and put in place the systems and procedures needed for transparent and democratic elections.

In **HAITI**, we have supported the electoral cycle since 2005, strengthening the capacities of the *Electoral Council's* office. An EU verification mission has rated the electoral support provided by UNDP and EU as excellent, and it has allowed the Haitian government to increasingly take a larger role in the organization of the country's elections. The government is now the largest contributor to the Electoral Basket Fund managed by UNDP.



Electoral workers count ballots in Haiti.
© UN/MINUSTAH / Logan Abassi



Voting in Timor-Leste
© UNMIT / Martine Perret



Voter registration in Benin.
© UNDP Benin



Ballot boxes flown to remote areas in Timor-Leste © UN Photo /
Martine Perret



UNDP-EU partnership encouraged voter registration in Nigeria.
© UNDP Nigeria

In **BENIN**, EU support to UNDP's work on electoral assistance contributed to peaceful and transparent Presidential and legislative elections in 2011. Our partnership supported the registration of more than 4 million voters; provided 3,215 biometric kits and other materials for the voter registration; and trained around 20,000 election officials that were deployed throughout the country.

In **PAKISTAN**, in the run up to the 2013 elections, an estimated 40 million people were reached through a voter education campaign utilizing media, social media and civil society organizations with an emphasis on encouraging women, youth and minorities to participate in the elections. Over 330,000 polling staff and 17,000 security personnel were trained. A new election results management system was developed and implemented – enabling greater accuracy and transparency in the compilation of elections results, including the collection of voter turnout data categorized by gender for the first time in Pakistan's history.

In **MALAWI**, following the UNDP-EU supported 2004 elections, strengthening the planning and management capacity of the *Malawi Electoral Commission* itself was identified as crucial for the country's democratic growth. As a result of the support provided, 94 percent of eligible voters were registered and their details were verified on time, and the 2009 elections were conducted on the planned date. Both international observers and national monitors applauded the elections as having been free and credible. EU is also supporting UNDP's work in preparation for the country's 2014 Presidential, Parliamentary, and Local Government Elections.

In **SUDAN**, in 2009 and 2010, the EU contributed to the UNDP-managed elections and referenda basket funds to support the *Comprehensive Peace Agreement* implementation. The credibility of both events laid the foundation for the acceptance of elections and referendum results by the parties, leading to peaceful settlement of a long-standing conflict between North and South Sudan, and to the independence of **SOUTH SUDAN**. The events have paved the way for the formation of a credible government in South Sudan that led the development of the first ever South Sudan Development Plan 2011-2016.

In **NIGERIA**, support to the 2011 general elections was crucial in the realization of Nigeria's most free and credible elections since its return to democracy in 1999. UNDP-EU partnership provided important training to some 3,500 electoral observers who were deployed to monitor the voter registration exercise; over 10,000 domestic observers to observe elections in 12 conflict-prone states; and over 2,000 women on engaging more effectively in electoral process. Also 6 regional media centres were established and 250 journalists were trained on ethical coverage of elections. The partnership is currently providing important support to major democratic institutions and stakeholders in the build-up to the 2015 general elections.

In the **SOLOMON ISLANDS**, UNDP and EU will build the capacity of the *Solomon Islands Electoral Commission*, and support the country in the development of a sustainable, cost effective and inclusive voter registration system. The partnership also helps national authorities and civil society organizations to conduct voter and civic education activities for the population.

Leading up to **TANZANIA** and Zanzibar's presidential elections in 2010 (Zanzibar has its own parliament and president), UNDP and EU supported the registration of close to 20 million Tanzanians. To involve more women in the process, our partnership collaborated

with UN agencies and national women's organizations to train 800 women candidates for the parliamentary and council seats; sensitize journalists, political parties, community and religious leaders and the *Electoral Management Bodies* on the special needs of women in elections; and to engage women's radio listening groups in remote areas. We trained 700 journalists on unbiased

election reporting, and 4,451 police officers (794 of them women) were trained on human rights and the role of the police in the elections. We also assisted the Zanzibar Election Commission to hold a referendum on a *Government of National Unity* in July 2010. The referendum was highly successful and set the foundation for a peaceful general election in Zanzibar the following October.

Supporting governance and citizen participation in Kenya



© UNDP Kenya

In **KENYA**, as a response to the disputed elections in 2007 which led to 1,500 being killed and an additional 300,000 displaced, UNDP and EU supported electoral reforms in Kenya as part of the long term governance reforms. Following the creation of the *Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission* (IEBC) in 2011, UNDP and the EU supported the IEBC, and this contributed to the delivery of the peaceful general elections witnessed in March 2013, with a historic voter turnout of 86 percent.

Parallel to the work on elections, to support the engagement of citizens in the democratic process, UNDP and EU engaged with civil society organizations in the areas of human rights awareness, access to justice and governance reforms in Kenya. This has contributed to a higher awareness among citizens, and realization of the values of participation, inclusiveness, non-discrimination and good governance as foreseen in the Constitution.

The UNDP-EU partnership also supported a programme that has made a tremendous contribution to promoting citizens' participation in judicial reforms (including vetting of judges, magistrates and institutions of local justice mechanisms at the community level) as well as in the establishment of decentralized government structures. The programme made use of theatre, art, drama and poetry to get the key messages about governance reform to society at large, which has stimulated the engagement of grassroots groups.



Parliaments and Legislation

Parliaments (or congresses, assemblies, legislatures) play a critical role in supporting national action towards sustainable human development. They are fundamental to representing the people's will, establishing the rule of law, protecting human rights, overseeing transparent governance processes, and ensuring compliance with international obligations. They can be powerful agents of change, particularly during and after times of crisis.

UNDP engages in Parliamentary development with the aim to benefit the poor and other disadvantaged groups by increasing their political representation and increasing government accountability to the public. UNDP supports one in three national parliaments globally, which is testimony to the high level of trust that it enjoys among UN Member States.

Together with the EU, UNDP works on both global and national levels to support parliaments. At the country level, the UNDP-EU partnership gives assistance to constitutional, administrative and institutional reforms. We support the development of capacities in the areas of legislation and accountability, including strengthening the capacities of public oversight. The partnership also works to promote the participation of the public in parliamentary processes.

On the global level, the partnership strengthens the capacity of parliaments in Africa, the Arab States and in South Asia to draft policy frameworks in support of renewable energy and climate change mitigation (see page 89). Also globally, web-based social networks, such as AGORA, invite the exchange of information and ideas (see below).

At EU headquarters level, UNDP maintains an ongoing partnership with the **European Parliament** and the **Office for the Promotion of Parliamentary Development**, which includes contributing to study tours, providing technical expertise and organizing joint parliamentary development round tables. Since 2007, the European Parliament and UNDP have expanded the partnership to promote enhanced knowledge of each other through a jointly created staff exchange programme. The exchange programme complements a wide-ranging collaboration between UNDP and the European Parliament, which involves sharing of policy expertise and a constant information flow between the two institutions.

AGORA, the Global Portal for Parliamentary Development

Since its launch in 2010, AGORA has become a leading on-line portal for knowledge sharing in the parliamentary development community. It unites international organizations, parliamentary development experts and professionals, but also Members of Parliament, parliamentary staff, NGOs and civil society organizations. The Office for the Promotion of Parliamentary Democracy is an official partner of the AGORA network, based at UNDP Brussels.

AGORA has collected a unique set of resources and knowledge materials on parliamentary development. The virtual library offers more than 1,300 handbooks, guidelines, reports and documents in English, French and Arabic. The 'Areas of Expertise' offer over 120 pages on parliamentary development topics, each with a concise overview as well as further reading materials and a list to relevant news and updates. AGORA also offers a virtual 'Interact' platform where visitors can connect with others, share information and join groups dedicated to parliamentary development issue areas such as gender, climate change and anti-corruption.

In August 2013, AGORA launched its e-learning platform to promote interactive learning in parliamentary development. The pilot course, 'Induction for first-time Parliamentarians', is available free of charge and will shortly be published in Arabic and French to cater for demands from the Arab States region.

Some examples from the UNDP-EU partnership in Parliaments and Legislation

In **LAO PDR**, UNDP has since 2001 been working with the government on the *International Law Project*, strengthening the National Assembly and the legal sector. The EU began to support this initiative by partnering with UNDP a few years later. The project aims to strengthen Lao PDR's engagement with and participation in the international legal system, particularly the international human rights system, through assisting treaty ratification and implementation. Some of the results include the establishment of the National Assembly hotline (where the public can make inquiries during the sessions), increased pace of signing and ratifying international treaties – especially in the area of human rights (Lao PDR is now party to 7 out of 9 core human rights treaties), and the introduction of human rights as a subject in law schools.

In **NICARAGUA**, the partnership contributed to the modernization of the National Assembly, supporting the advancement of legislation in areas such as gender, sustainable development, indigenous and afro-descendant populations and achievement of the MDGs. The partnership also supported the development of specific legislation in areas of gender violence, traditional medicine, equal opportunities, and indigenous populations. Also, the support of the EU made it possible to continue the *Youth Leadership Programme* that was started by UNDP in 2005 with the cooperation of several bilateral donors, which the EU joined in 2009. Together with the *Thomas More University*, the project aims to contribute to the democratic governance of the country, educating young Nicaraguans in a new type of leadership framed in a human development paradigm and based on deep democratic values and respect of human rights. By the end of 2012 the programme graduated more than 300 young people, both men and women, representing all political parties and regions of the country.

Following the successful elections held in **IRAQ** in January 2004, a *Transitional National Assembly* was formed and tasked with, among other things, the drafting of a permanent Constitution. With financial support from the EU and other partners, UNDP contributed to the inclusiveness of the drafting process by wide engagement with the Iraqi society. Special efforts were made to engage Sunni communities to compensate for their marginalization in the drafting process. Civil society organizations, including national and regional media, were supported to carry out a public information and awareness campaign. As a result, the Constitution Drafting Committee received close to 500,000 public submissions, and 66 percent of Iraqi citizens voted in the referendum – a high percentage of participation for a referendum of this nature.

In **TANZANIA**, UNDP and EU supported a media forum, through which journalists were provided an opportunity to learn about parliamentary processes, ethics and standards. The forum dealt with issues such as ethical standards in reporting; relationships between media and parliament; media law; and freedom of the press. The forum agreed a way forward to improve the relationship between the parliament and media. It also provided the media with an opportunity to discuss strategies for fighting corruption and improving service delivery.

In **KYRGYZSTAN**, UNDP and EU contributed to strengthening the Parliament's capacity to perform constitutional functions: representation, legislation and oversight. The partnership also improved the skills of the Parliament to check government actions and strategies; scrutinize national budget; and review budgetary allocations. The support to improving outreach capacities of parliament staff has helped to establish a platform for public debates in the legislature, addressing political concerns of society. This ensures transparency and greater public participation.

In **VIET NAM**, UNDP and EU are helping government institutions to align the fight against corruption with international standards. In 2009 Viet Nam became a member to the *UN Convention against Corruption*. Since then it has embarked on a major drive to review its legal and institutional framework for preventing and combating corruption and has established a monitoring and reporting mechanism in line with the requirements of the UN Convention. UNDP and the EU have provided technical and financial support to the Government Inspectorate to conduct a

self-assessment on the situation of corruption in Viet Nam. The self-assessment found a great deal of compliance, but also main areas of concern related to implementation of the Convention, such as illicit enrichment, bribery in the private sector and liability of legal entities. The National Assembly was tasked with several legal amendments, including the Law on Anti-Corruption in late 2012 and the upcoming revision of the Penal Code in 2014. Thanks to this process, the capacity of government officials has significantly improved.

Strengthened Parliament in Timor-Leste



© UNDP Timor-Leste / Sandra Magno

When the first government of the Democratic Republic of **TIMOR-LESTE** was established after the restoration of independence in 2002, the development challenges before it were enormous. Four centuries of Portuguese colonialism, two and a half decades of Indonesian occupation, and a violent transition from Indonesian rule in September 1999 left the country devastated and impoverished. In the ensuing period, Timor-Leste has achieved peace, stability and considerable improvements in government capacities.

The UNDP-EU partnership in Timor-Leste dates back to 2001 with the EU's support of the Constituent Assembly elections. During the last decade, the partnership has engaged on issues ranging from support to elections, poverty reduction, improving access to markets, disaster risk management and supporting women's participation in peace and security.

Perhaps the area where the UNDP-EU partnership has exerted its greatest influence is in supporting the capacity of the Parliament to directly address national priorities, and to perform key functions such as law making, budget and oversight. This has not only led to better parliamentary functioning, but also to increased gender mainstreaming in representation, as evidenced by the active involvement of women parliamentarians in legislation processes and mechanisms.

Local Governance and Development

Local authorities form a vital bridge between national governments, communities and citizens. They are increasingly recognized to play an essential role in poverty eradication, democratic life and sustainable development. At the local level, the poor, women and minorities can more easily influence decisions affecting their lives, and hold institutions accountable. At the same time, local actors – municipalities, community leaders, local government officials, civil society activists, farmers and entrepreneurs – know best what does and does not work for the development of their community.

However, local governments in many countries remain weak, and developing their capacity is therefore essential in the process of making development more inclusive, accountable and effective. Likewise, it is essential for post-crisis state building, the restoration of the rule of law and basic security, the provision of basic services and the transition from humanitarian relief to development. Increasing the knowledge and skills of local actors is also crucial for effective and sustainable responses to the challenges presented by climate change, natural disasters and rapid urbanization.

UNDP has long-standing experience and expertise in working with local level governments (states, provinces, cities and municipalities) as well as civil society organizations, helping them both to define development priorities and to implement actions addressing these priorities. Currently, UNDP is engaged in 123 local governance/local development programmes in 77 countries. Because UNDP is perceived as a neutral and trusted partner, it has a comparative edge over bilateral institutions in the sensitive areas of governance and decentralization. These areas are by their very nature political: they respond to and raise fundamental questions about the role of government (and other sectors of society) and strike at basic issues of power distribution. This could be especially sensitive at the local levels in terms of political power groups emerging as a result of a conflict between democratic decentralization and traditional power structures and institutions.

In the last ten years UNDP and EU partnership has worked at the grass roots level with local authorities, civil society organizations and citizens. On the national level, it has supported governments to include local authorities in development planning. On a global level, the partnership is influencing development policies to ensure the concerns of local actors are acted upon.

The partnership has been able to capitalize on government trust of UNDP to encourage interaction and cooperation with civil society

and the private sector, even (or particularly) when sensitive issues are involved, as for example in frozen conflicts, building trust between citizens and authorities. The partnership has supported local leaders to better engage with marginalized and vulnerable groups, such as women, ethnic and religious minorities, ex-combatants, migrants, refugees and internally displaced people. In fragile settings, our partnership has helped local communities to find ways to resolve conflicts and build social cohesion.

Together, UNDP and EU have also built the knowledge and ability of civil society organizations in local communities to provide basic services like health and education, along with access to water, micro-credit and agricultural services.

Local authorities can also be at the forefront in confronting the transformations and opportunities that migration brings about. While the current migration and development agenda is mostly conducted and framed at the national and international levels, it can be argued that local authorities are the missing piece in the global migration and development puzzle. UNDP and EU, together with the wider UN-family, have since 2008 been working on an initiative that links migration and development, and more specifically, is analyzing the role that local authorities can play in this field (see page 35).

Policies guiding the partnership in local governance and development

On the policy level, there is an increasing evolution of international and European development agendas towards a wider participation of local actors in development. The two global forums for shaping the current and future development agendas – *Aid Effectiveness in Busan* (2011) and the *Rio+20 conference on sustainable development* (2012) – both acknowledge the importance of local governance and the role of local authorities in the future development agenda. Also, the *MDG acceleration framework* has identified local actors as the main drivers towards achievement of the MDGs, and the *post-2015 discussions* clearly recognize the role of local authorities.

UNDP's new *Strategic Plan* (2014-2017) puts special emphasis on the role of local governance and local development in eradicating extreme poverty and reducing inequalities and exclusion. At the level of the EU, the role of local governments is recognized in the *Agenda for Change* (2011), which states that the EU will aim to work more closely with the private sector, foundations, civil society and local and regional authorities as their role in development is growing. The EU Communication *Empowering Local Authorities in partner countries for enhanced governance and more effective development outcomes* from 2013 provides further orientation. The UNDP and EU policies show great complementarities, and guidance for intensified cooperation in the future in the area of local governance and local development.

Some examples from the UNDP-EU partnership in local governance and development

In **ARMENIA**, UNDP and EU teamed-up to support women's leadership in local communities. Prior to the project, women comprised barely nine percent of representatives in local government. To change this, the partnership offered support to women interested in running for local public office, to those elected, as well as those working in local government administration. Through the project, 128 women participated as candidates for positions in local government in the 2012 elections, and 84 were elected by their communities.

The Government of **UZBEKISTAN** has been increasing the role of local authorities and communities in providing essential services and encouraging more funding to come from local resources. Since 2005, the UNDP-EU *Enhancing Living Standards* Programme has helped communities to identify common challenges and take practical measures to improve living conditions. The projects have benefited 800,000 people with better access to water for drinking and irrigation, sanitation, electricity and natural gas. By 2011, access to water in the areas where we work with local governments and *mahallas* had increased by 55 percent, health services by 6 percent, and access to gas by 21 percent.

In **CUBA**, the government has made self-sufficiency on food a national priority. At the core of the new approach is the transfer of decision-making to the municipal level, and shifting key roles in food production to cooperatives and individual producers. UNDP and EU have supported the country's modernization of local agriculture in 37 pilot municipalities and provided seeds, fertilizers, farming tools and machines to farmers and cooperatives. The partnership also provided training on modern and sustainable farming, and finance and accounting. The programme has supported over 13,000 small farmers and 366 cooperatives. The average increase in the production of main crops is 15 percent – this has generated savings for import substitution of USD 15 million. Practices and methodologies used by the UNDP-EU programme are now being adopted by the Ministry of Agriculture and institutionalized as national programmes.

In **ALBANIA**, the UNDP-EU partnership helped to improve the lives of citizens in the region of Kukës through a project that started in 2005 and lasted three years. As a result, over 80,000 people in the region have access to better roads, irrigation channels, water supply systems, health care centres, schools and kindergartens, as well as improved environmental conditions. The beneficiaries themselves highlighted many of the activities as best practices, such as the active community involvement at all stages through voluntary labour and in-kind contributions; the democratic processes used in selection of projects; and the building of knowledge of community based organizations. 185 community-based organizations were formed.

In **BELARUS**, we helped the country to combat the negative effects of the Chernobyl disaster. Support included encouraging initiatives by local communities focusing on health services, energy efficiency, sport and safe livelihoods in the contaminated areas. 61 initiatives were supported, and over 9,500 people benefited from improved living standards in their districts. The partnership also contributed to the establishment of an international research treatment centre for thyroid diseases.

In the **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**, the EU and UNDP supported cross-border local development between the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Through the use of the UNDP *ART Initiative* approach, the partnership has strengthened the capacity of local governments, business associations, civil society, and national institutions for management of transboundary markets. The partnership has also promoted local development as well as dialogue and cross-border cooperation.

*For more results from the UNDP-EU partnership in support of local governance and local development see **AFGHANISTAN** (page 100), **BANGLADESH** (page 102), **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA** (page 108), **MOLDOVA** (page 104) and **SOMALIA** (page 106).*

Linking Migration and Development

In the last two decades, migration – and its potential and effect on development – has become an increasingly important field in both domestic action and international cooperation. This is true for all the regions in the world. The view that migration itself can be an important tool for development is gaining more ground. This is, for instance, demonstrated by the increasing inclusion of migration aspects in country development plans, such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers. The links between migration and development are also being recognized and considered within the ongoing discussions on the post-2015 development agenda.

Since 2008, the *Joint Migration and Development Initiative* (JMDI) has been working on strengthening the positive linkages between migration and development on a global scale. This initiative is funded by the EU and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and implemented by UNDP, in partnership with the International Organization for Migration, the International Labour Organization, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Population Fund, and UN Women.

From 2008 to 2012, the JMDI provided policy-makers and practitioners with evidence-based recommendations in the field of migration and development. These recommendations were based on the practical experiences drawn from 51 projects implemented in 16 countries by small-scale actors that received financial and technical support through the JMDI.

The most successful and sustainable interventions identified by the JMDI were those with strong anchorage with the local governments in both countries of origin and destination. This is in line with the essential local-to-local dimension of the migration and development nexus. The impact of migration is often most strongly felt at the local level, be it in the country that people migrate from, or in the country they migrate to. Migration has effects on for example the local labour market, the size and demographic of the local population, and the need for public



service provision. The role of local authorities is therefore crucial for harnessing the positive impact of migration for development.

Based on these experiences UNDP will advocate, through the new phase of the JMDI programme (2013-2015), for a territorial approach in the field of migration and development. This means a focus on local authorities, as well as civil society organizations involved in local development and migration issues.

The JMDI will analyze the partnerships and synergies established by some dynamic local governments (in both sending and destination countries) that are reaching out to their migrant populations. The activities are targeted towards scaling up existing migration and development initiatives of local authorities and developing capacities and networks so that the contributions of migrants can have development impact, sustain local economic activity and the dynamism of regions at the territorial level.

Community based development in Ukraine

During the final years of the former Soviet Union, several hundred thousand Crimean Tatars returned to the Crimean peninsula of **UKRAINE** from which they had been forcibly deported in 1944 on Stalin's instructions. In 1995, the Government of Ukraine and UNDP launched an integrated development programme in Crimea to improve living conditions and provide livelihood opportunities in areas where Crimean Tatars had settled.

From 2002 onwards, the programme rapidly expanded its activities across the peninsula, focusing on mobilizing ethnically diverse communities to plan and undertake jointly identified priority initiatives to improve basic community services, enhance income and employment generation and promote tolerance education in schools. Interaction between community organizations and local authorities helped to integrate community initiatives into district development plans and enabled local authorities to support such initiatives despite limited resources.

This resulted not only in tangible improvements in living conditions in hundreds of settlements – the true transformation resulted from increasing communication and collaboration between citizens of different ethnic background on issues of common concern to them, thereby decreasing negative perceptions of each other and increasing tolerance. Through practical working relations and increased dialogue, confidence and trust between communities and local authorities were restored. This set the stage for many community leaders, including Crimean Tatars, being voted into local councils during local elections following the Orange Revolution of 2004, which increased their political representation.



UNDP and EU support delivery of services, such as health care, at the local level in Ukraine. © EU /Neighbourhood Info Centre

From 2007 onwards, the EU has been supporting UNDP's work in this area, which has led to an unprecedented leap in nationwide up-scaling of the community based approach. It has created partnerships and cooperation between citizens and authorities for sustainable local development. Almost 3,000 community projects in the area of health, water supply, environment, school transportation, energy efficiency and income generation had been supported by 2013, improving living conditions of almost 1 million Ukrainians from more than 1,000 villages.

Over two-thirds of community organizations continue to operate after the first project is completed, which is testimony to the sustainability of the programme. The success of this community-based approach in Ukraine was recognized by the President of Ukraine in his State of the Nation address in 2013.

Cooperation between rural communes bring benefits to Cambodians

In CAMBODIA, UNDP and EU have supported the decentralization process for many years, focusing specifically at strengthening good governance at the lowest sub-national level (rural communes and urban *sangkats*). The support has contributed to poverty reduction in Cambodia, and strengthened local democratization and development processes and institutions.

At the national level, UNDP-EU support has substantially contributed to the country to finalize its first ten-year national programme (2010-2019) for sub-national democratic development and establish and promote Cambodia's *National League of Communes/Sangkats*, founded as an umbrella organization to represent the interests and advocate for 1,633 commune/sangkat councils and citizens across the country.

At the local level, UNDP and EU have supported innovative concepts such as cooperation between communes to enhance their capacity and economics of scale on pro-poor projects, encouraging commune councils, which normally have a limited budget, to pool resources and knowledge. This has enabled them to respond to needs locally in a way that they wouldn't have been able to do alone.

For example, two neighbouring communes pooled resources and built a school serving both communes. Before, many boys and girls, who didn't have a school in their village, dropped out to herd cattle or work in the rice field instead. With the support of the project, they now attend a school that is close to home.

Another example is when leaders of four neighbouring communes agreed to make skills training in tailoring a priority. Women who attended trainings became confident and could earn an income to support their families, rather than migrating from their home communities in search for work.



By cooperating and pooling resources, communities in Cambodia, supported by UNDP and EU, have better services and infrastructure, such as schools. © EU

By pooling resources, the residents of *Chroy Svay and Boeung Preav*, which are separated by a river, now have a new and safe bridge that serves the 10,000 residents of the communes, increasing interaction, economic opportunities and access to health care etc.

These are only a few examples of successful cooperation at local level that have been supported by UNDP and the EU. This approach has helped to build citizen's trust of local governments, and has been able to improve local accountability and livelihoods at commune level – over 370 projects (both infrastructure and social services) were implemented between 2006 and 2010. Prompted by the success of this approach, the government of Cambodia requested that this method of cooperation be mainstreamed in the local planning and budgeting policies of the country.

Equal Opportunities, Justice and Human Rights

For development to be inclusive and sustainable, it needs to be fair, equal and just and integrate the standards and principles of human rights. Yet, many people are excluded from making decisions affecting their lives because of their gender, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, disability or poverty. The effects of such exclusion deepen inequalities across the world.

While different local and national institutions have central roles in furthering social inclusion and participation, the achievement of these development targets hinges on the knowledge and skills of individuals, organizations and societies. Developing their capacities is therefore one of the most critical issues for countries and development partners alike to address – it is the 'how' of making development work better.

Capacity development is at the heart of UNDP's mandate and programmes. It is naturally also an overarching theme of the UNDP-EU partnership. Over the years, the partnership has assisted countries to develop national capacities in the areas of legislation and accountability, including strengthening public oversight and arbitration bodies, such as parliaments (see page 28) and anti-corruption agencies to carry out regulation and oversight within public institutions. It has supported economic development by helping countries to better manage aid, develop public-private partnerships, and learn how to access European and global markets.

In the area of human rights, the partnership helps to develop and strengthen national human rights institutions and justice systems. It also supports the translation of international human rights standards into national laws and practices, and encourages countries in their efforts to ground their national development programmes and policies in human rights so that they further the realization of rights of all people. The partnership has enabled national rule of law institutions to protect people's rights. This is achieved both through the establishment of just legal frameworks and through the provision of accessible justice services. The

partnership has also supported rights-holders to claim their rights and to participate in the development process through legal empowerment of people and through awareness-raising.

For the EU-accession countries the support that UNDP and EU provide in advancing human rights and protection of minorities – both part of the EU-accession criteria – also means that countries move forward in the accession process.

Much of the support that UNDP and EU provide in different areas of development also contributes to the goal of advancing human rights. For example, strengthening the statistical literacy of governments as data producers and civil society as data users is critical to assess and monitor the situation of marginalized and vulnerable groups. Strengthening civil society organizations to take on a 'watch-dog' role helps to monitor the human rights situation in the country. Providing access to justice to the most vulnerable people ensures that they have formal and informal mechanisms to raise complaints and seek redress. Supporting local governance and local development means working with people and organizations that are closer to the marginalized people and understand their needs (see page 32).

Some examples from the UNDP-EU partnership in the area of equal opportunities, access to justice, and human rights

In **ALBANIA**, Roma and Egyptian communities are marginalised and socially excluded. Both communities live at the margin of poverty, and over 40 percent of the Roma population and almost 13 percent of the Egyptians are illiterate. In 2012, UNDP and EU teamed up to support the social inclusion of the Roma and Egyptian communities by supporting the Government of Albania in its efforts to achieve the objectives set forth in the '*Decade of Roma Inclusion*', while promoting respect for human rights and appreciation for cultural diversity, as prerequisites for the country's EU accession.

Recently, UNDP and EU engaged on a project in **ZIMBABWE** to strengthen the *Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission*, with the aim to contribute to the protection and promotion of human rights, and to the strengthening of the rule of law in Zimbabwe.

In **BELARUS**, the UNDP-EU partnership has contributed to the public understanding of the importance of human rights, and educated government authorities about their obligation to promote and protect the rights and fundamental freedoms of citizens. The partnership made recommendations on improving the national legislation so it fulfils international human rights commitments, and presented these recommendations to the Ministry of Justice, the Prosecutor General's Office, the Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court of Belarus. The partnership has also supported the fight against trafficking of human beings, and supported victims of trafficking.

Building on the successful programme '*Female Genital Mutilation-free Village Model*' which started in 2003 in **EGYPT**, the EU has since 2011 supported UNDP and other international, national and local actors in Egypt to create sustainable political, legal and social change that will empower families and communities to abandon Female Genital Mutilation practices – along with other forms of family and domestic violence. An important achievement of the first phase of the project was the passing of the law criminalizing

Female Genital Mutilation in June 2008. Since the start of the programme in 2003, 70 villages have been declared free of this harmful practice.

In **KYRGYZSTAN**, the continued and increasing vulnerability of children, women and youth is a key challenge for the country. Since 2011, UNDP and EU have worked to empower women, children, and youth to have the confidence and opportunity to demand better public services and provide feedback to the concerned municipality or agency. At the same time, the partnership has helped the local municipalities and agencies to provide better services and feedback to the citizens. At the national level, the partnership supports the country to improve relevant policies, regulations, structures and legal instruments. A draft law on state and municipal services is now being considered by the Parliament. The partnership also provided support to elaborate Youth Municipal Action plans, which outline specific measures aimed to resolve needs and concerns of youth.

In **LAO PDR**, UNDP and EU support the implementation of the Legal Sector Master Plan, a comprehensive sectoral reform agenda to support the country on its way of becoming a state fully governed by the rule of law. The EU support has allowed improved capacity, procedures and standards for legislative development. It has also strengthened key rule of law institutions so that they can deliver their services better. Initiatives have been taken to support the legal empowerment of the public, and local justice systems have been improved in selected pilot villages and districts under the Prime Minister's order.

In **CHINA**, UNDP and EU helped civil society organizations develop skills to be effective bridges between small grassroots organizations and government systems. For example, the partnership supported the Jiaying Centre, a non-profit organization that is helping children living on the streets by providing not just a roof over their head, but even more importantly education, training and

counselling. The Jiaxing Centre is now in a better position to be able to demonstrate its worth and the value of civil society organizations to society, by providing a complimentary service to government efforts to address complex social issues.

Since 2003, UNDP and EU have worked in **SERBIA** on strengthening the role of civil society organizations both as monitors of government policies and as service providers. 298 projects were implemented in over 100 communities across Serbia, including home health care for the elderly, independent living for people with disabilities, day-care centres for children etc. UNDP and EU also helped to pioneer innovative services, such as the establishment of shelters for children living on the streets, training programmes for women in organic farming, job-search support for people with cognitive disabilities, and new treatment programs in juvenile detention centres. The Serbian Government adopted a new *Law on Social Welfare Services* in April 2011, which recognized this approach as a model and best practice.

In **LIBERIA**, UNDP and EU supported the capacity development of the *Liberia Institute for Statistics* in data collection. This has improved the quality and quantity of data that is needed to formulate policies and evaluate development strategies.

In **MALAWI**, UNDP and EU have since 2005 helped the country in improving data collection, which in turn has improved the monitoring of resources as well as the accountability and transparency in development planning. Since 2012, UNDP and EU are also assisting Malawi's integration into the global market by support to the development of standardization, quality assurance, accreditation and metrology infrastructure. The objective is that by 2016, Malawi will be equipped with an internationally accredited Bureau of Standards for delivering certification services – making sure that Malawi's export will increase in terms of quality, quantity and competitiveness.

Since 2008, the UNDP-EU partnership has supported the gradual integration of **TURKEY** into EU standards. Focused on the promotion of human rights, transparency and on the participation of civil society, the programme has been strengthening audit and oversight powers of the Ministry of the Interior, governors and district-governors on law enforcement bodies. With the support of the partnership, 180 top administrators and police officers have been trained while the institutional structures of the Ministry have been strengthened in order to meet EU regulation.



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In **NIGERIA**, UNDP and EU supported a nationwide population and housing census in 2006. The census is the only source giving a comprehensive picture of the population at all levels. From an economic point of view it helps to determine the employment rates by sector – serving as a basis for economic planning. From the social perspective it assists the Nigerian government to fulfil its responsibility of providing maximum welfare to its citizens through essential information about the education and health sectors, while, on the political side, census data is critical in determining the number of eligible voters.

Since 2003, UNDP and EU have supported the **CENTRAL AMERICAN INTEGRATION SYSTEM (SICA)**, building institutional capacities to improve food and nutritional security in the region, notably in **GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, EL SALVADOR** and **NICARAGUA**. Interventions and activities during the first phase of the *Regional Food and Security Programme* reached 25 municipalities and over 23,000 families in Central America.

In **UKRAINE**, only 5 percent of consumers are ready to actively seek protection of their rights by challenging manufacturers, sellers, or state bodies for providing them with products or services of insufficient quality. As a result, the Ukrainian market is full of unsafe and low quality goods and services. In 2006, the UNDP-EU partnership launched a programme which made consumer rights part of the human rights agenda in the country. It introduced consumer-protection oriented TV shows, and was able to incorporate consumer education into the middle-school curriculum, as well as expose university students to standards of responsible consumerism. It also maintains the *Consumer Portal* on the internet, which provides Ukrainian consumers with up-to-date information on quality and safety of goods and services, give practical consumer advice, and share information about organizations, both state and non-governmental, where consumers can go for help.

In **LEBANON**, since 2007, UNDP and EU have supported the Ministry of Justice to become more transparent and efficient, and helped mainstream human rights into the Lebanese judicial processes and administration. In 2012, with the support of the UNDP-EU partnership, Lebanon was able to launch the legal electronic databases for the Ministry of Justice and the Institute

of Judicial Studies, which gives access to all judges to valuable legal knowledge. The partnership also worked to raise citizens' awareness about justice and legal-related matters.

In **NIGER**, the UNDP-EU partnership has supported the national priorities in the area of access to justice and promotion of human rights. As a result, inmates in prisons and detention centres in eight regions of Niger now have access to free legal aid. Also, vulnerable people in these regions receive free legal advice, provided by lawyers working as United Nations Volunteers with funding from the EU.

In **MOZAMBIQUE**, between 2005 and 2011, the UNDP-EU partnership supported citizens' access to justice, with special attention to the most vulnerable population. Over 1,000 professionals were trained, including judges, prosecutors, criminal investigation staff, prison staff, police officers and free legal aid lawyers. The partnership contributed to the construction of four Palaces of Justice nationwide. At the district level, the Palaces of Justice introduced the new concept of a 'one stop shop' where the Court, Prosecution office, Criminal Investigative Police and the Free Legal Aid service work under the same roof. Under this new concept, the Free Legal Aid service becomes the central figure of the 'one stop shop', where citizens submit their complaints and have these channelled to the dedicated institution to further receive legal assistance. Further, four prisons and three district Police Commands have been rehabilitated, while two criminal investigative laboratories have been rehabilitated and equipped. To improve policies in the justice institutions, four thematic studies were conducted in the following areas: human rights; women in the justice sector; HIV/AIDS legal issues in prisons; and Free Legal Aid for citizens in need, which lead to the approval of the strategic documents like the Strategic Plan of the Free Legal Aid service.

*For more results, see also **RULE OF LAW CHAPTER** (page 62) and **AFGHANISTAN** (page 100), **BANGLADESH** (page 102), **MOLDOVA** (page 104), and **SOMALIA** (page 106).*

Strengthening rule of law and civil society participation in China

Economic transition and development has stimulated rapid growth in CHINA, which has helped to bring about dramatic reductions in poverty levels and greatly improved people's living standards. However, rapid growth has also led to greater disparities and inequalities, which brings the need for rule of law, social justice, equitable public services and a robust civil society to the forefront.

To ensure that China's long-term development is sustainable and that the society remains stable, UNDP and EU, together with the government, jointly implemented the *Governance for Equitable Development* project during a period of five years (2007-2012).

The project led to improved access to justice and law-making processes, and enhanced the capacities of the highest court in China (the Supreme People's Court) and local courts in selected regions to deliver fair and transparent justice, and increase the transparency in court decision-making. These results, which are confirmed by an independent evaluation, include noticeable improvements in law and policymaking systems, institutionalizing participatory processes for law-making, enhancing capacities for public engagement in law-making processes, and improved law harmonization at national and sub-national levels. The project broadened the involvement of civil society by contributing to improve the policy and legal environment for civil society organizations, building the capacity of Government to involve civil society in policy-making and public service delivery, and developed the knowledge of civil society organizations themselves.



UNDP and EU strengthened Civil Society Organizations' (CSOs) participation in the society in China. Here, a CSO on environmental protection in Qinghai. © UNDP China

“Increased public participation in legal decision-making has been accompanied by greater transparency and trust, as well as the building of a foundation upon which civil society can flourish in China.” Mr. Markus Ederer, EU-Ambassador to China.



Roma housing in Vranje, Serbia. © UNDP Serbia / Mustafa Skenderi

Integration of Roma people

Today, with an estimated population of 10 to 12 million, Roma are the biggest ethnic minority in Europe. Spread throughout the continent but highly concentrated in Central and Eastern Europe, they have been part of the European culture for centuries and are integral to its society and economy. Still, they face prejudices, discrimination and social exclusion, and are living at the margins of poverty.

In the last decade, UNDP and EU have engaged for the full Roma inclusion in European societies. In 2003, the UNDP report *Avoiding the dependency trap* provided for the first time robust statistical evidence showing that a significant number of Roma in the EU face severe challenges in terms of illiteracy, infant mortality and malnutrition. The report argued for an integrated human development approach, linking development opportunities to the realisation of human rights. This report was important in paving the way for coming policies on Roma inclusion, including internal EU policies.

Building on the momentum of the 2003 conference '*Roma in an Expanding Europe: Challenges for the Future*', the years 2005-2015 have been declared the '*Decade for Roma Inclusion*', a unique initiative focusing on Roma integration and promoting dialogue among Roma, governments and international actors. The *Decade* engages Roma in the public policy debates motivating national and EU commitments while raising the overall awareness of Roma exclusion.

In 2011, the EU through the European Commission (DG Regional Policy) supported survey work conducted by UNDP, the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), and the World Bank in 11 EU Member States and in neighbouring European countries. The surveys, which share core components, yield robust and comparative data on the socio-economic status of Roma alongside data on the enjoyment of their rights in practice.

In 2011 the *EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies* was adopted by EU Member States in order to develop both a new comprehensive European approach as well as nationwide strategies to address the problem of social and economic exclusion experienced by Roma.

In **SERBIA** just before the dissolution of former Yugoslavia in the 1990s, the distance between different ethnic groups was increasing. The following war exacerbated the situation, not only in terms of open conflicts, but also among different ethnic groups. In 2004, a third of the population in Serbia was adverse to ethnic Albanians as neighbours, while 65.5 percent reported not to accept an ethnic Albanian as family member. Ethnic distance towards Roma was almost as grave, with 16.7 percent adverse to Roma representatives as neighbours, and 61 percent not willing to accept a Roma as family member. Figures for other national and ethnic minorities were equally unfavourable.

In 2006, UNDP initiated antidiscrimination programs, aimed at increasing tolerance in the Serbian society. At the time, even though protection from discrimination was enshrined in the Constitution, no comprehensive anti-discrimination laws existed. The UN Human Rights Committee identified this gap and recommended the adoption of specific anti-discrimination laws, which was later on adopted by the EU as prerequisite for Serbia's EU accession, and has become one of the most important issues for the EU integration of Serbia.

In partnership with the EU, UNDP supported the Government in adopting the *Law on Prohibition of Discrimination* in 2009, which had been pending since 2002. The Law introduced positive measures for countering discrimination, such as reversed burden of proof in processing cases and the formation of a specialized, independent equality body – the *Commissioner for Protection of Equality*, which has since grown in significance and has been tackling over a thousand cases, most of them coming from citizens' complaints. Beside policy and institutional support the UNDP-EU partnership focused on awareness raising, using innovative mechanisms such as entertainment-education and developing an entire TV-series with subliminal anti-discrimination messages, which achieved high viewership.

Today, the impact of UNDP's intervention in the sector is indisputable, and has been confirmed by a positive evaluation of the joint UNDP-EU programme. Discrimination is measurably decreasing in Serbia. The 2011 census recorded an unprecedented 40 percent increase of Roma registering, as compared to the last census in 2002, which suggests that Roma feel less fear and are more secure to express their ethnicity. A public opinion poll, conducted by UNDP in November 2012, showed a significant decrease in personal experience with discrimination. While 22 percent of respondents were directly exposed to discrimination in 2009, the figure decreased to 16 percent in 2012. Ethnic distance towards ethnic Albanians and Roma decreased by about 8 percentage points in comparison to the period before UNDP interventions started, giving evidence to the transformation of Serbia towards a less ethno-centric and more tolerant society.



UNDP and EU support many countries with border management. © EEAS

Integrated Border Management

The EU has defined *Integrated Border Management* (IBM) as the modern template for coherent and coordinated border management systems. UNDP and EU have worked together on integrated border management since 2002. EU support to IBM activities implemented by UNDP has covered 12 countries through national and regional programmes, for an amount of over USD 300 million since the start in 2002. Geographically, the partnership in this domain has specifically focused on Afghanistan, Central Asia, the Caucuses and in some other parts of the former Soviet Union (Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova).

The introduction of IBM in a country has twin objectives: enhanced border security, and facilitation of legitimate trade and transit. These objectives are mutually reinforcing – stability and security attracts trade and direct foreign investment, while freer movement of goods and people enhances stability and security.

Over the years, the practice of IBM has increasingly become recognised as a development tool that facilitates **trade and transit**, and supports **good governance** and **human security**.

On behalf of the Government of **ARMENIA**, UNDP is implementing an EU-funded* project to **facilitate trade** with **GEORGIA** and the countries of the European Union. In addition to constructing and equipping three major border crossing points on Armenia's northern border with Georgia, the project builds on the work of the previous EU-funded *South Caucasus Integrated Border Management Programme* (which covered Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) in supporting government's strategic planning, revision of legislation, regulations and procedures, and capacity development of border agencies.

Good governance is both the objective of IBM, and the means to achieve it. Ensuring a public service approach to border management requires taking a rights-based approach – for traders, for labour migrants, for refugees and asylum seekers, for local communities and for the general public, who deserve effective border agencies operating within defined democratic governance frameworks. UNDP is uniquely well-placed to support the EU in improving transparency, integrity and accountability. UNDP is also committed to achieving enhanced levels of international coordination on all aspects of border management.

For example, the 'BOMCA Programme', one of the largest EU-UNDP assistance programmes in Central Asia, assisting **KAZAKHSTAN**, **KYRGYZSTAN**, **TAJIKISTAN**, **TURKMENISTAN** and **UZBEKISTAN**, has established and facilitates the *Issyk Kul* process, a regular meeting of the Commanders of Central Asia border guard services (recently expanded to include the Commander from **AFGHANISTAN**).

The 'EUBAM Programme' (EU Border Assistance Mission to **MOLDOVA** and **UKRAINE**) has contributed toward implementation of the Joint Declaration between the two countries, introducing a new Customs regime that has seen hundreds of Transnistrian

companies register with customs authorities in Chisinau. It has also extended access to preferential trade certificates of origin to Transnistrian companies, and resumed the Chisinau-Odessa railway service for passengers in 2010. Such measures help to create an environment more conducive to settlement of the overall conflict. (For EUBAM, see also page 104).

Wherever possible, UNDP complements EU IBM programming with area based development initiatives designed to promote **human security** and **social inclusion** of border communities. In **ARMENIA**, improvement of border infrastructure is contributing to connecting previously peripheral regions, and the construction and provision of services to border crossing points will provide both short and long-term employment opportunities. A new gas supply will be available to a number of surrounding villages, spurring economic development and reducing the use of firewood from local forests. In **KYRGYZSTAN**, investment in border infrastructure has included provision of wells for clean water, supplying both border agency personnel and local populations, and in **TAJIKISTAN**, market places to facilitate cross-border shuttle trade have been built within border crossing compounds.

UNDP believes there is a strategic convergence of objectives with the EU on border management. The shared commitment of the EU and UNDP to '**borders with a human face**' can establish the tone and direction of international assistance on border management around the world. Good governance; the need for security sector reform and anti-corruption work; institutional capacity building; facilitation of trade and transit as the smartest and quickest way to alleviate poverty; promotion of human mobility and human rights; the need to achieve donor coordination amongst a range of stakeholders – these objectives are core to the development agendas of both the EU and UNDP, as expressed in the 2004 Strategic Partnership Agreement between the two institutions.

* The project is funded by the European Investment Bank, European Commission Neighbourhood Investment Facility, and European Commission Flagship IBM Initiative.



**PREVENTING CRISIS, ENABLING
RECOVERY**

Towards Peaceful and Resilient Societies

Conflicts and disasters pose a serious threat to human development in many countries and are among the greatest threats to progress in the 21st century. Over 1.5 billion people live in a place affected by war, violence, or disasters caused by natural hazards. Preventing crises and helping countries to recover from them is essential for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

UNDP's work in crisis prevention and recovery helps countries prevent armed conflict, reduce the risk and alleviate the effects of disasters from natural hazards and build back better and stronger when crises happen. In the last decade, the EU has been an important partner to UNDP in addressing many different aspects of crisis prevention and recovery in over 70 crisis-affected countries.

Our partnership helps governments and communities to understand the risks they face from natural disasters, and how to reduce them through better development planning and preparedness efforts. Immediately after a natural disaster, the partnership helps countries to assess the scale of the crisis, determine its economic and human impact, and the type and level of support required to recover from it.

In fragile and conflict-affected countries, the partnership works to restore State functions and promote inclusive political processes. This helps rebuild trust between the State and its citizens. It also equips State institutions so that they can deliver their core functions, including security, economic management and service delivery. To build peace – and prevent new conflicts – UNDP and EU support countries to engage in democratic dialogue and reconciliation. We help them establish domestic capacities to engage peacefully in political transitions and manage conflicts constructively.

To help countries and communities recover after a conflict or natural disaster, UNDP and the EU work in both immediate crisis recovery and more long-term development, trying to ease the transition between the two. The partnership helps communities sustain livelihoods and revitalize economies, access basic services

and strengthen their capacity to build a better future. While in the short term the UNDP-EU partnership aims to stabilize crisis-affected people's livelihoods, in the long term it enables inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction in crisis and post crisis countries.

Our partnership also helps institutions such as courts, justice ministries and the police to become more transparent, accountable and respectful of human rights, giving also vulnerable people – especially women – access to justice and improved security. By reducing the flow of weapons, supporting countries become mine-free or promoting citizen security in societies with high levels of violence and crime, our partnership makes communities safer.

Over time the EU-UNDP collaboration in crisis prevention and recovery has expanded to include a solid institutional and policy dialogue and a lively exchange of best practices – including the development of joint methodological guidance and training programmes for our institutions and partners. This is supported through a number of thematic global collaborations that complement the work that the partnership does at national level.

The EU has also been an important contributor to post-conflict activities funded through multi-donor trust funds administered by UNDP on behalf of the UN system, such as the Iraq Reconstruction Trust Fund; the Afghanistan Law and Order Trust Fund; or the Sudan Reconstruction Trust Fund.

In the last decade (2004-2013), the UNDP-EU partnership has supported over 70 crisis-affected countries. Total funding provided by the EU to this area has been over EUR 1.4 billion (including funding to trust funds).

Preventing Risks from Natural Disasters

Disasters put hard won development achievements at risk, reversing economic growth and progress towards the elimination of poverty; cause environmental damage; and result in human suffering. Some natural disasters, such as earthquakes, are events beyond human control. On the other hand, droughts, floods and storms, while being difficult to avoid, are made worse by climate change (see page 82). Nevertheless, in both cases, deaths and damage from natural disasters can be prevented.

UNDP has been building national capacity for disaster risk reduction around the world since the 1970s. As a development agency, UNDP has always argued that while immediate humanitarian response is of vital importance, it is also essential to build disaster preparedness and mitigation into normal development programmes, in order to reduce vulnerabilities; to lessen the need for emergency response; and to enhance national capacity to recover quickly. Disaster risk reduction programmes can contribute to having fewer deaths and less destruction from natural hazards. Ultimately, prevention costs a fraction of what recovery costs – not just in financial, but most importantly, in human terms.

The UNDP-EU partnership helps build disaster resilient schools and improve access to education.
© UNDP Sri Lanka



The UNDP-EU partnership has in the last decade worked in 28 countries, in addition to several regional programmes, supporting countries to be better prepared for disasters such as earthquakes, landslides, avalanches, floods, storms, hurricanes, tsunamis or drought. An example of this is the work we do with countries and communities to help them integrate disaster risk reduction into national planning processes. This makes them less vulnerable and better prepared should a disaster hit, and it also gives them an early start on the immediate response to the disaster.

At the community level our partnership works to create awareness and help communities prepare for possible disasters by developing local disaster plans and capacities. We have facilitated the sharing of experiences within and among countries and have developed stronger links between the national and local levels – as well as among cities. Another important area of support is that of risk identification and early warning, something that the partnership has also supported with regional, national and local level programmes.

Following a natural disaster, recovery activities offer an opportunity to integrate improved disaster resilience into communities and to *build back better* (see page 71).

Throughout the last decade, some of the world's most disaster-prone countries have demonstrated that it is possible to achieve substantial reductions in disaster losses. Lessons learned include that to be successful, disaster risk reduction programmes must be comprehensive, long term, locally driven and nationally-led.

Looking at the future, there is a growing awareness of the strong inter-relationship between climate change and disaster risk reduction. It is estimated that climate variability and change will lead to increased risks of natural disasters. Another area receiving increasing attention is the link between disasters and conflicts, which frequently occur together. In the global debates on the post-2015 agenda advocating for increased focus on disasters and acknowledging these links will be important.

Policies guiding the partnership in Disaster Risk Reduction

In 2005, as an outcome of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, the international community working on disaster risk reduction adopted the *Hyogo Framework for Action*. This 10-year plan has become the key global instrument for guiding implementation of disaster risk reduction within all levels of society. The overarching goal is achieving a substantial reduction of disaster losses, in lives and in the social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries. Naturally, the UNDP-EU partnership in disaster risk reduction supports the implementation of the *Hyogo Framework for Action*. Another guiding policy for the partnership is the EU-wide strategy for disaster risk reduction in developing countries (2008), which recognizes the necessity for the EU to work closely with other donors and stakeholders – particularly the United Nations.

In October 2012, the Commission presented its Communication '*The EU Approach to Resilience – Learning from Food Crises*', which showed a strong commitment to building resilience in crisis prone countries and established that, in countries that face recurrent crises, increasing resilience will be a central aim of EU external assistance. The Communication, and the ensuing Council Conclusions, were followed by the *Action Plan for Resilience in Crisis Prone Countries*, which sets the foundations for a more effective EU collaborative action on building resilience, bringing together humanitarian action, long-term development cooperation and on-going political engagement.

This EU approach adds value and coherence to a multitude of different but already existing EU commitments to risk management and resilience, including Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Adaptation, Social Protection, Nutrition and Food Security.

UNDP, in turn, draws its mandate on disaster risk reduction from a 1998 UN General Assembly resolution. 15 years later, disaster risk reduction continues to be firmly embedded in the new UNDP Strategic Plan (2014-2017) and UNDP's role remains critical to the implementation at the country level of the *UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience* adopted in 2013.

Some results from the UNDP-EU partnership in the area of reducing the risks from disasters

In **CUBA**, the partnership has strengthened systems such as *early warning points* in the most vulnerable communities and has supported the successful initiative of *Risk Reduction Management Centres* set up by the government, which have helped to manage the impact of hurricanes. The centres analyze areas of the country that are most at risk from storms and use this information to develop risk reduction measures, such as safer housing policies and urban planning. Cuba is now much more resilient to disasters, and over the last 10 years, fewer Cubans die in the hurricane season than in any neighbouring countries. In 1963 Hurricane *Flora* led to 1,750 deaths in Cuba. The death toll following a similar category four hurricane, *Ike*, in 2008, was seven. When *Sandy*, one of the largest Atlantic hurricanes on record, struck in 2012, early warning systems ushered people away from exposed areas and into shelters. While the impact was significant – it was the biggest hurricane to hit a major city in Cuba in over 50 years – the effect was a much lower death toll than could have otherwise been the case. This stark difference was brought about by improvements in early warning systems, risk assessments and local level risk management planning.

Since 2006, we have worked together in **NEPAL** to prepare for disasters and to reduce the risks posed by them. One key result is the development and approval of the *National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management* in 2008. Following this, the Government of Nepal embarked on the establishment of new institutional, legislative and policy frameworks for disaster risk reduction. Currently, UNDP and EU are supporting the country within the framework of the *Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Programme*, which is strengthening the capacity of government ministries and local bodies for disaster risk management in line with recommendations of the national strategy.

In the **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**, UNDP and EU worked with the *Organización Panamericana de la Salud* and authorities in the Northeast region to strengthen preparedness and response capacity in 60 of the most vulnerable communities. The partnership

assisted in the development of emergency and contingency plans, which included gathering risk assessment data, action plans for mitigation and prevention, and standard operating procedures for disaster response. In order to facilitate emergency relief and save lives, the programme identified evacuation routes and carried out simulations in partnership with the Dominican Red Cross.

In 2009, UNDP and EU teamed up with the **BRITISH AND DUTCH OVERSEAS TERRITORIES OF THE CARIBBEAN** to reduce risk where it pertains to natural and man made disasters. The partnership aims to empower communities and individuals to reduce the impact of possible hazards. The approach includes building awareness and knowledge about how disasters will affect communities, livelihoods and development; improving data, information and communication systems; and setting up early warning systems. This means that the average citizen can be warned on time about approaching hazards. Ultimately, these countries will be able to issue timely alerts within a few seconds, even in the case of a tsunami. So far, alerting systems have been put in place in four countries: **SINT MAARTEN, MONTSERRAT, ARUBA** and **ANGUILLA**, where the alerting system was already in place, but was upgraded.

INDIA is highly vulnerable to earthquakes, cyclones, floods and drought. The majority of urban construction and urban development in the populous cities of India are not earthquake resistant and, more generally, disaster prone areas and cities are not adequately prepared to face natural disasters of high magnitude. Between 2004 and 2008, the UNDP-EU partnership supported India with earthquake preparedness in 295 cities and urban locations in the 17 most earthquake prone states. Over 12,300 volunteers were trained on disaster management, 11,458 village members were trained in first aid and 6,912 village members were trained in search and rescue activities. At state government level, 1,274 senior officers received training. The process was fully owned by the communities and driven by the local government at State, district, block and village level.

In **HAITI**, our partnership has had a significant impact on national priority setting in the area of disaster risk reduction, recognised by both the national authorities and other stakeholders. In the past, very few actors had focused on disaster risk reduction. Through its support to UNDP, the EU is now an important stakeholder in the field and has helped in establishing disaster resilience as one of the national priorities. The UNDP-EU partnership has also had a major impact on the strengthening of the capacities of the Civil Protection Directorate, particularly in the areas of preparation and management, which put the agency in a better position to deal with the cholera outbreak of 2010 as well as Tropical Storm Isaac and Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

As a result of its geography and varied climate conditions, **PERU** is vulnerable to a wide range of natural hazards, such as the 'El Niño' phenomenon, torrential rains, landslides, earthquakes, frosts and volcanic eruptions. Livelihoods are increasingly being threatened by climate change and local environmental degradation. The UNDP-EU partnership has contributed to build national, regional and local capacities, and to strengthen coordination mechanisms for disaster preparedness and risk reduction. The partnership helped develop tools such as emergency operations plans, early warning systems and information sharing tools.

In **KAZAKHSTAN**, which is exposed to natural disasters such as landslides, avalanches, mudflows and floods, UNDP and EU support communities to have better skills and knowledge on how to reduce the risks posed by disasters. This has increased awareness about disaster preparedness and response in the Almaty region. The partnership also supports the national response system and helps in developing national disaster risk reduction mechanisms. There is now improved collaboration between communities, Ministry of Emergency Situation, and other stakeholders dealing with disasters.

With fast-rising world population levels, and with the world's urban population now exceeding its rural population, **reducing urban risk** is another growing key priority for disaster risk reduction. Reducing risks in urban settings is closely linked to urban planning and governance. Together with the EU, UNDP promoted South-South regional alliances and exchange of knowledge among municipalities. The partnership supported the local and metropolitan governments of five capitals in the **ANDEAN REGION** – Bogotá, Caracas, La Paz, Lima and Quito – to collectively promote disaster risk reduction and preparedness through sharing of best practices.



In Bangladesh, UNDP and EU helped build disaster resilient villages.
© UNDP Bangladesh / Akash



Haiti, after flooding from a Hurricane.
© UN Photo / Marco Dormino

From crisis-recovery to development in Sri Lanka

The UNDP-EU partnership in **SRI LANKA** is a good example of how sustained support in one country can have a long-lasting and transformative impact. Over the last 10 years, our joint programmes have grown to accommodate changes in the development context in the country. The earlier programmes on Tsunami- and conflict-recovery focused on vulnerable groups with high levels of economic insecurity, such as families of daily labourers and small-scale producers.

Later, focus shifted towards supporting communities in conflict-affected areas in Eastern and Northern Sri Lanka, rehabilitating critical livelihood and community infrastructure. Support evolved from providing inputs to restart subsistence livelihoods, to supporting more productive and profitable ventures for the communities such as small-scale businesses, including livelihood opportunities for women and youth.

The initial focus of programming was on supporting individuals or strengthening community-based organizations to deliver services. With the new Support to District Development Programme, a joint initiative between the EU and the wider UN-family, UNDP adopts a fully integrated approach to local economic development and will link and work with local government, producer organizations and the private sector. With the inclusion of local government comes a strong focus on capacity building. This shift is in line with the changing context in which humanitarian partners are scaling back their support, while the Government takes on an increasing role in service-delivery in the previously conflict affected areas. The government is also now able to manage the impact from most disasters without external support – something that could not have happened in 2004.



Vallam (traditional boats) provided to conflict-affected fishermen have helped them restart livelihood activities following their return and improved their access to the seas. © UNDP Sri Lanka

Since 2004, the EU has
contributed approximately
EUR 36 million to the UNDP
Sri Lanka Programme

Reducing risks in the Himalayas

UNDP has partnered with the EU to undertake the *Regional Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) Risk Reduction in the Himalayas Initiative* since 2007 in an effort to help countries address this emerging and increasingly recurrent type of hazard.

For instance, in **BHUTAN** where only 7.8 percent of land area is suitable for farming, the risk of decreased agricultural output due to glacial lake flooding is high. With support of the UNDP-EU partnership (2008-2010), people living in the most at-risk valleys are now covered by an early warning system. Also, hazard-prone and vulnerable areas have been identified. For example, a particularly hazardous glacial lake was lowered by more than 3.6 metres by 2010, averting a predicted glacial lake outburst flood. A previous lake outburst in 1994 released 20 million cubic metres of water, damaged more than 1,700 acres of land and killed 22 people.

Similarly, in **NEPAL**, the programme strengthened Government capacity to prepare and respond in the event of a glacial lake



Glacial Lake Thorthormi in Bhutan, where UNDP-EU work together on GLOF. Here Early Warning System. © UNDP (BCPR)

outburst in at least seven communities downstream from one of the most vulnerable glacial lakes. UNDP Nepal is now helping to establish a community-based early warning system, which will be linked to the district and central levels through emergency operation centres at both levels.

Post Disaster Needs Assessments

In recent years, the UNDP-EU partnership has deepened in the area of post crisis needs assessments and recovery planning. One of the components of this collaboration are 'Post Disaster Needs Assessments' (PDNA). A PDNA is a government-led exercise with the support of the EU, the UN system and the World Bank that brings together national and international stakeholders to align recovery efforts in a coordinated way. It brings together information on economic damages and losses, the human impact of the disaster, and the recovery priorities – including the human development needs of the affected population – into a single consolidated assessment report. This information is used as a basis for developing a comprehensive recovery framework, to guide the design and implementation of early and long-term recovery programmes and to help determine international development assistance needs.

In **HAITI**, following the devastating earthquake in 2010, this assessment provided the evidence needed for the Government of Haiti to develop a recovery framework and mobilized USD 10 billion in recovery financing. Following cyclone Evans in 2012, the PDNAs carried out in 2013 in **Fiji** and **Samoa** were very appreciated by the governments. Similar assessments have been carried out in countries as diverse as **Burkina Faso, El Salvador, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Myanmar, Namibia, Philippines, and Senegal.**

Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding

Fragility, in its many dimensions, has emerged as a central issue on the 21st century development agenda. Constant political, social and economic turmoil destroys communities and imposes economic burdens on countries that can't afford them. It also extinguishes any hope of getting out of poverty for millions of people. Efforts to prevent conflicts and to build peaceful societies go hand in hand. Preventing conflict and violence allows communities to develop, prosper and achieve sustainable peace.

Together with the EU, we have a long history of close cooperation in the field of conflict prevention. UNDP and the EU share the belief that improving governance in fragile environments requires a renewed focus on capacity development, guided by the principle of national leadership and ownership. Capacity development in countries emerging from conflict presents complex challenges. The environments tend to be hyper-politicized and chaotic; stakeholders have ambitious and sometimes varying agendas; and physical security is often lacking.



In supporting fragile countries, the UNDP-EU partnership supports national and local institutions – such as local peace committees – in their efforts to prevent violence, manage conflicts constructively, and engage peacefully during contested political transitions, including electoral processes. A large part of this work involves setting up ways of promoting dialogue and managing disputes through inclusive participation. It entails helping people find ways to disagree on issues without resorting to violence. It also contributes to reaching consensus on sensitive issues, mitigating ongoing tensions and fostering breakthroughs in political deadlocks at the national and local levels.

Another important aspect of this work is building trust between the State and its citizens. To help increasing this trust, UNDP and the EU work together in supporting countries not only to restore

State functions and political processes, but doing so in a manner that promotes inclusiveness and political dialogue. The partnership supports government institutions to become more transparent, accountable, responsive to their citizens, and respectful of human rights. The work we do on supporting the institutions of justice, rule of law and security are all part of this effort (see page 62).

At the global level, the partnership works on issues such as strengthening capacities for the sustainable management of land and natural resources; working towards an integrated approach to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; and developing national capacities and institutions for mediation and dialogue. Many of these global programmes are funded by the EU through its *Instrument for Stability*, which shows great synergies with UNDP's work in the area of crisis prevention and recovery.

Mitigating conflicts over natural resources

The management of land and natural resources is one of the most critical challenges facing developing countries today. The exploitation of high-value natural resources, including oil, gas, minerals and timber has often been cited as a key factor in triggering, escalating or sustaining violent conflicts around the globe. Furthermore, increasing competition over diminishing renewable resources, such as land and water, are on the rise. This is being further aggravated by environmental degradation, population growth and climate change. The mismanagement of land and natural resources is contributing to new conflicts and obstructing the peaceful resolution of existing ones.

Against this backdrop, the EU and the UN came together in 2008 to form the multi-agency *EU-UN partnership to strengthen capacities for sustainable management of natural resources*. This partnership, funded by the EU's *Instrument for Stability*, aims to support war-torn and vulnerable countries to prevent conflict and build peace through improved management of natural resources like timber, minerals, fertile land and water.

Within this partnership UNDP, five sister UN agencies and IOM, the EU have worked together to produce practical guidance notes, an inventory of source material, and on-line training modules to help countries identify the right policies to prevent and manage conflict over land and natural resources. In its second phase the partnership delivered a series of trainings for UN and EU staff, as well as local partners, to enhance the knowledge and skills needed to understand, anticipate, prevent, and mitigate potential conflicts over land and natural resources. Direct technical support was provided to country teams engaging with governments on this issue and global advocacy continued at the highest levels of UN and EU policy-making. In its third phase the partnership is engaging with civil society organizations from the Great Lakes region to promote their role in the management of natural resources in the region.

Some results from the UNDP-EU partnership in the area of conflict prevention and peacebuilding

The **LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES (LAS)** is in the process of developing its capacities to coordinate regional approaches to crisis prevention and response. More specifically, the Secretariat of the League of Arab States has resolved to strengthen its institutional and coordination capacities to anticipate, analyze, prevent and respond to threats to sustainable human development and stability in the region. With funding from the *Instrument for Stability*, the EU, the Secretariat of the LAS and UNDP have worked together to establish a Crisis Response Centre in the LAS Secretariat. The Crisis Response Centre was inaugurated in 2012 and the capacity building support continues for the staff of the LAS Secretariat and its Member States to ensure that the Centre can serve as a Pan-Arab Early Warning System that facilitates timely and efficient response to crises.

Since 2010, the UNDP-EU partnership supports **GEORGIA** to foster a peaceful transformation of conflicts, within and across communities divided by conflict, by supporting civil society initiatives that have a demonstrable impact on confidence building. The partnership has helped to create new links between the divided parties and restore old links that were broken during the 2008 war. Some of the successful initiatives up to date include youth summer camps, peace journalism, publishing of a Georgian-Ossetian and Ossetian-Georgian dictionary, a collection of stories and discussion papers by the South Caucasus writers and scholars, and digitalization of archive documents related to Abkhazia. These initiatives are partly funded by the EU's *Instrument for Stability*.

In **PERU**, the EU-UNDP partnership has been working to promote a culture of peace and strengthen capacities for the prevention and management of social conflicts at national, regional and local levels, and within civil society. The partnership also supported the design of tools for a timely and democratic management of social conflicts, and produced a series of publications on a number of issues relating to conflicts.

In **LEBANON** the partnership helped to increase awareness on the importance of tolerance and peaceful co-existence by supporting *'The Team'*, a 13-episodes drama series that aired on Lebanese television. *'The Team'* evolved around a football team representing the various communities of Lebanon. It extended the themes of acceptance of the "other" by exposing youth to positive messages and behaviour models that foster acceptance, mutual understanding, civic participation and violence reduction. *'The Team'* aimed at bringing communities together to work on their commonalities instead of differences.

In **NIGER**, UNDP and the EU, through the *Instrument of Stability*, are supporting a peace consolidation project in the northern regions of the country. The project has a special focus on vulnerable populations such as youth – over 11,000 young people have been given job opportunities through the project. Both local and regional authorities, as well as line ministries, have particularly noted the impact of job creation for young people. Without jobs, they fear the youth could be involved in illicit and terrorist activities, such as the North of Mali war. The project has also contributed to the deployment of 235 municipal police officers to 15 communes and the training of 120 local leaders on various governance and peacebuilding related topics.

In **HONDURAS**, UNDP and EU provided support to the national reconciliation process following the creation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission after the coup in 2009. The Commission, which was created to shed light on the events that took place between June 2010-January 2011 produced more than 80 recommendations covering almost all governance issues that had made Honduras a country highly prone to political instability and human insecurity. UNDP-EU partnership supported the creation, by the President, of a special unit to follow-up the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. By 2013, 12 recommendations had been implemented.

In **SOUTH SUDAN**, UNDP and EU have been supporting the National Bureau of Statistics to develop its capacity to map community socio-economic risks and security threats. This type of conflict risk mapping has been completed in all ten states of South Sudan with the data obtained being now utilized as an evidence base to set priorities for state transitional strategic plans and county plans.

As a result of the division of **CYPRUS** in 1974, inter-communal relationships between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities have been missing for almost an entire generation. The lack of contact is making both communities susceptible to misinformation and mistrust. Since 2001, UNDP has implemented the "*Partnership for the Future*" programme, financially supported by the EU. The programme contributes to the peace-building process in Cyprus through urban infrastructure rehabilitation and community development, cultural heritage preservation, private sector development, operational support to the Committee of Missing Persons in Cyprus, as well as implementing bi-communal projects. One example is the new waste-water treatment plant that cleans waste-water from Nicosia, which is then used for agriculture in north Cyprus. The programme also supports the de-mining of the Buffer Zone (see page 78).



Preserving traditional handicrafts techniques in Cyprus.
© UNDP Cyprus



Local community discussing their development needs in Keilak, South Kordofan. © UNDP Sudan

Equipping national and local actors in internal conflict management

Most countries that undergo turbulent transitions, or face recurrent tensions and instability, do not request external mediation support. Therefore, key actors in these countries will themselves have to be equipped with the appropriate skills for constructive negotiation and dialogue. Since 2011, the EU, through its *Instrument for Stability*, has been supporting a global initiative to equip national and local actors in internal conflict management processes. For this programme, nine countries were selected: **BOLIVIA, CHAD, GHANA, GUYANA, MALDIVES, MAURITANIA, NEPAL, TOGO** and **YEMEN**.

In these countries, stakeholders from government, political parties and civil society have been trained to engage in facilitation and mediation activities, and to further train their national counterparts in these areas. Through capacity building and the application of the new skills in actual dialogue processes, this project has helped to provide the basis for creating sustainable national mechanisms, forums and capacities for internal mediation and conflict management – also called ‘infrastructures for peace’.

In **CHAD**, an independent *Group of Chadian Mediators* has been established, which works closely with the Office of the National Mediator. Mediators carefully managed the fine line between working with government and not for them, by offering their skills and resources while maintaining their independence, which is fundamental to their legitimacy. As a result, authorities have already called on mediators to intervene in conflicts and commented on their success. The project is thus starting to make an important contribution to conflict prevention. The project coordination team has strongly encouraged local authorities, including traditional chiefs, to promote the role of women



Women in Chad. © UN Photo / Olivia Grey Pritchard

mediators in their communities. They also called on the women among the mediators to form a women’s network to strengthen their leadership in peacemaking and conflict prevention. Community members have highlighted the positive examples set by the project where women and men mediators are already working together as peers.

In **GHANA** arrangements to continue the training of police and electoral officers in conflict resolution and mediation are being institutionalized. In the **MALDIVES** during the 2011 elections, the Network for Human Rights Defenders, which helped prevent 57 potential incidents of local violence, consolidated its capacities as a strong standing resource for assisting with the resolution of conflicts at the local level. 23 of the 37 human rights defenders trained in Maldives were women and by the end of the project, over half of all the trained participants were women. Similarly, in **GUYANA**, a third of the trainees from the Civil Defence Commission Volunteer Corps were women.

A strong and flexible relationship and interaction between UNDP and EU colleagues at headquarters, and the facilitation of substantive dialogue between EU delegations and UNDP Country Offices, greatly assisted in this effort, and provide an example for the conduct of future EU-UN joint initiatives and overall relations.

Reducing the circulation of weapons



Weapons collection and destruction. © SEESAC

Restricting the flow of weapons is an important part of ensuring security for people and communities – when people feel unsafe or insecure because of high levels of violence or crime, they may be more likely to hold onto weapons and re-start conflict. Our partnership has supported several countries with the collection and destruction of small arms and light weapons.

In the **WESTERN BALKANS**, EU and UNDP have jointly supported the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC) since 2003. Between 2010 and 2012, EU-funding to UNDP/SEESAC activities resulted in the destruction of 45,285 weapons in Serbia and 30,000 weapons in Croatia, and in the reconstruction of six storage sites for small arms and ammunition. In parallel, weapons collection campaigns in Serbia and Croatia have been successfully raising awareness of the threat of illegal weapons and the need to reduce their number.

Also in **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**, UNDP and EU have supported the country to advance on the destruction of small arms and weapons (see page 108).

Since 2012, the EU has joined an ongoing UNDP-Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) project that provides assistance to **BELARUS** in ensuring safe storage of small arms and light weapons, in order to mitigate the risks of their illicit circulation. The project will help to align the practices of storage of small arms and light weapons with the recommendations contained in the UN comprehensive regulations on disarmament.

Fighting Impunity in Guatemala



Guatemala © UN Photo /John Olsson

In **GUATEMALA**, over 200,000 people died in the country's 36-year civil war and over 45,000 disappeared, including an estimated 5,000 children. Despite the end of the civil war in 1996, the Guatemalan State has not been able to guarantee the respect of human rights, a strong execution of the law and serious combat against impunity. This is due to the presence of criminal organizations that have infiltrated and undermine national institutions of security and justice, generating high levels of impunity and corruption.

At the request of the Government of Guatemala, the United Nations created the *International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala* in 2007 – since then, UNDP has been supporting its work, and was joined in 2011 by the EU. The *International Commission* has supported Guatemala by advising state institutions on criminal investigations; carrying out a comprehensive mapping of illegal clandestine groups and their networks; acting as a complimentary prosecutor in criminal trials; initiating proceedings against civil servants; and assisting the Attorney General's office in the criminal investigations of high profile cases. This has improved the ability of relevant institutions to exercise their functions, and ultimately, it has improved citizen security in the country. In 2012, impunity rates were lowered and so were homicide rates (for the third year in row) after ten years of dramatically rising.

ای داشتن وکیل مدافع

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دولت جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان



Rule of Law, Justice and Security

Rule of law ensures that all citizens are treated equally and are subject to law, rather than to the whims of the powerful. The advancement of rule of law at the national and international levels is essential for sustained and inclusive economic growth, sustainable development, the eradication of poverty and hunger, and the full realization of human rights.

In crisis-affected and fragile countries, legitimate rule of law institutions – and access to them – is a decisive factor in efforts to rebuild societies, and prevent a downward spiral into violence or conflict. A breakdown in the rule of law and justice systems on the other hand often fuels criminality, impunity and insecurity. Strengthening the rule of law can be a protracted process, particularly in crisis-affected and fragile contexts. While some quick wins can be achieved in these environments, the lingering effects of crisis or conflict can lead to political setbacks that directly affect support for overall rule of law efforts. Therefore, for successful programming in the area of rule of law, sustained support – ensuring national ownership – is key. This is why the UNDP-EU partnership works with partners at both national and local levels and provides support at all stages, through crisis to recovery and development.

The UNDP-EU partnership helps crisis-affected countries rapidly restore the rule of law and to respond to immediate justice and security needs. The partnership helps institutions such as courts, justice ministries and the police to become more transparent, accountable and respectful of human rights, and work to increase the number of female police officers, judges, prosecutors and lawyers. We support countries to tackle corruption, address civil legal concerns and provide legal aid to conflict-affected and vulnerable people, including survivors of sexual and gender based violence.

In the initial stages after a crisis, ensuring the personal security and safety of individuals and communities is essential. When people and communities feel safe, this sense of security helps to advance peace, as people are more likely to invest in their own future and that of their country. To improve community security and social cohesion, UNDP and EU support the peaceful reintegration of war-affected populations, including ex-combatants (see page 79). The partnership also supports victims of sexual- and gender-based violence, and supports the collection and destruction of illegal weapons. Both in fragile and more stable regions, we help countries manage their borders to limit the illegal trafficking of humans, drugs and weapons (see page 46).

In the aftermath of crisis, and in fragile situations, the partnership helps deal with the legacy of conflict by tackling lingering resentment and human rights abuses. These can include transitional justice methods such as truth and reconciliation commissions, support to victims, and the prosecution of conflict-related crimes.

To increase access to justice, the UNDP-EU partnership supports countries to bring formal justice systems to the local level (see also pages 38 to 42 on equal opportunities, access to justice and human rights). Examples include the work we do on village and mobile courts. Given that many disputes are mediated at the local level through informal mechanisms, the partnership also supports these informal justice systems by providing training to village leaders, community elders and religious leaders. Informal justice systems, when in accordance with international human rights law, play a positive role in dispute resolution. They help to ensure that poor and marginalised people have better access to justice.

Providing fair and equitable justice services is only effective if the public understand their rights and how to access the justice services provided to them. In rural areas, where people might have less education, or even be illiterate, and have limited access to information, outreach needs to be direct and simple to have an effect. The UNDP-EU partnership raises awareness of justice services by supporting the work done by national actors, such as civil society organizations. Within the field of rule of law and as part of the human rights-based approach, UNDP implements legal empowerment initiatives to support poor and marginalized groups to become protected and enabled to use the law to advance their rights and their interests. Activities range from community theatres followed by discussions, to public outreach campaigns, using radio talk-shows, radio dramas and public service announcements through radio stations to reach more remote areas.

Some results from the UNDP-EU partnership in the area of strengthening rule of law, justice and security

In **COTE D'IVOIRE**, violence following the 2010-2011 election left an estimated 3,000 people dead and 500,000 displaced. In 2012, UNDP and EU embarked on a joint initiative to strengthen the security institutions, so that they can maintain peace and security, and to support the reconciliation process, which seeks to improve the social cohesion at local levels. One important component is improving the relationship between law enforcement officials and the population. Some early promising results include the improved efficiency of the police – the time to respond to incidents has gone down from 1-2 hours to 5-10 minutes, the time to process a file has gone from 1-2 months down to about a week. Also, the increased patrolling of police has had a discouraging effect on crime and has reduced the number of armed robberies and thefts. Further, a joint project between EU, UNDP, UNOCI, and UNICEF offers legal aid services to the most vulnerable groups of the population, including women. Since the start in 2012, four legal aid centres were built.

In **SUDAN**, the partnership helped improving the access to justice for vulnerable groups such as women and internally displaced people; developing and building police and prison infrastructure; and supporting civil society and community-based organizations to create an environment that is conducive to sustainable peace and development and based on the premise of rule of law. The partnership provided specialized training for the police to effectively handle investigations, reporting and allegations of domestic violence. The programme success has enabled a fully-fledged partnership with the Government of Sudan Police, and facilitated the roll-out of the Community Policing project with Kassala as one of the pilot states, as well as increased collaboration with the police section of the UN Mission in Sudan in providing training focused on community participation and in strengthening personal safety and security.

During the 1980s and 1990s, **PERU** was plagued by the worst political violence in the history of the republic. It is estimated that the total number of deaths during 1980-1992 was over 69,000. 75 percent of the victims were *quechua*-speaking farmers. To support transitional justice in Peru, UNDP and the EU are supporting the construction of a *Museum for the Remembrance, Tolerance and Social Inclusiveness*, which will be a venue to promote reconciliation, remember the victims of the conflict, and raise awareness about past human rights violations in order to avoid future violence. A committee set up for the development of the project has consulted with national government representatives, victims' associations, specialized journalists and film-makers during the design phase of the construction.

For more results, see also **AFGHANISTAN** (page 100) and **SOMALIA** (page 106).



54-years old Rana Hamidzada, Director of Gender Affairs in the Afghan National Police's zonal headquarters in Kabul, has been working in the Afghan National Police for 31 years.
© UNDP Afghanistan



Boy in Cote d'Ivoire © UN Photo/Basile Zoma



UNDP and EU are supporting the Afghan National Police.
© UNDP Afghanistan



A majority of victims of political violence in Peru were quechua-speaking farmers. © UNDP Peru



Police training in Somalia, where UNDP and EU contributed to the training of 14,000 civilian police officers, and the recruitment of female police officers. © UNDP Somalia



Recruits for the Southern Sudan Police Service in Rajaf © UN Photo /Paul Banks.

Strengthening military justice in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Across the DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC) years of conflict have resulted in an enormous catalogue of violent crimes, including sexual violence against civilians. While the civilian courts are struggling to tackle this backlog of cases, many soldiers, subject to a separate military justice system – have benefited from impunity. With support from the EU and the US government, and with partners such as the *American Bar Association* and *Avocats sans Frontières*, UNDP is working to change this situation by helping the armed forces to strengthen their justice system. Prosecuting cases where militaries are involved have contributed to show that no one is above the law, not even the military. So far, 31 convictions have resulted from our support to the military justice system.

As well as providing support to the prosecutors, the partnership is helping the DRC Bar Association and the Military Courts to recruit and train legal defenders for those accused, as well as provide legal aid to soldiers accused of crimes. This helps ensure that the justice system conforms to international standards of fairness.

Prosecuting past crimes is no substitute for preventing them from happening in the first place. With this in mind, UNDP is also helping the military to train soldiers in the DRC so that they understand the law, human rights – and the consequences of harming civilians. So far, 2,432 soldiers and officers have been trained in human rights and the law.

UNDP's programmes supporting the military justice system in the DRC are implemented jointly with the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC.



Citizens follow the trial of soldiers accused of committing violent crimes against the villagers. © UNDP DRC / Benoit Almeras

“Soldiers have to realize that no one is above the law, not even the military,” says Colonel Muhima, one of the facilitators hired through the UNDP scheme to train the troops and raise their awareness of human rights.

Access to justice in Iraq

“Our aim is to let the Iraqi people know that the Iraqi judicial system exists and is able to deliver transparent justice to help them solve their disputes” said Judge Abdel Sattar Ghafour Berkdar, spokesperson of the Iraqi Higher Judicial Council.



© UN Photo/Rick Bajornas.

In **IRAQ**, the UNDP-EU partnership is providing access to justice for vulnerable people. In the Kurdistan region, the partnership has supported the regional government with legal help desks in Erbil, Sulaimaniyah and Dohuk, which receive daily visits from Iraqis who have no other access to legal resources or means to achieve justice. Only in 2012, 1,874 people accessed free one-on-one legal consultations, and 209 people were provided with free court representation. The establishment of legal help desks that promote and facilitate access to justice for Iraqis, particularly to victims of domestic and gender-based violence, was successfully supported in also other parts of the country.

Together with the *Iraqi Higher Judicial Council* the programme launched a comprehensive legal training programme for Iraqi judges and legal officials in Erbil. The partnership has also supported a media campaign in Baghdad, together with the *Iraqi Higher Judicial Council*, to raise awareness on the justice system in Iraq. The campaign primarily targets the poor, the vulnerable, the illiterate and victims of violence.

Improving community security in South Sudan

Since 2011, the EU and UNDP have supported **SOUTH SUDAN** through a programme on community security and arms control. Testimonials from beneficiaries demonstrate the impact of this programme, and external assessments that reviewed the performance have documented that the interventions are contributing to extending state authority to the most insecure areas of South Sudan.

Actions that have improved security include the government of Unity officially taking charge of three police posts, 19 hand-pump boreholes and the seven kilometre long Guit Canal which will transport much needed water to the Naam River, saving cattle keepers in Guit County from a routine seven mile trek. These actions taken up to August 2013 help hold the promise of calm in the area known for competition over access to water and pasture.

The police posts will boost security and extend the state writ at the local level, while the boreholes are estimated to benefit 10,000 people in the area. Each of the police posts have solar power, separate custody cells for women and for men, and are equipped with modern communication equipment that enables the Police to be more responsive to emergencies.

In 2013, an EU review of the project concluded that the community security and arms control project has contributed significantly to the objective of reducing violence and improving community security through *"reducing levels of fear and perceptions of insecurity, increasing police presence, access*



Promoting water sufficiency is a part of UNDP-EU Community Security and Arms Control initiative. © UNDP/ Omer Abdelrahem

to water and agricultural development mechanisms, increasing community cohesion and empowering communities to take responsibility for and guide their own development pathways."

Examples listed by the review include that communities are seen to settle around bore holes provided by the project and around police posts; the submission of weapons following sensitization radio broadcasts; and that women report reduced rates of domestic violence due to proximity of police posts. There is also an increased detainment of cattle rustlers in new police posts. The EU review team could also see evidence of beneficiaries adjusting their priorities as their security concerns were increasingly addressed, and their focus shifted to other basic needs such as healthcare and education.

Early Recovery and Rehabilitation

In developing countries, disasters and conflicts can shatter people's already precarious livelihoods, increase poverty and stall or reverse long-term development gains. Businesses, especially small business, crops and critical infrastructure, such as markets, roads and bridges may be destroyed or damaged. When this is combined with displacement, violence or the loss of homes, it can be devastating for the affected population.

To facilitate early recovery from disaster or conflict, UNDP, as the lead UN agency on early recovery, works with national and international partners to help affected communities to take the first steps back towards development. This early recovery addresses a critical gap in the coverage between humanitarian relief and long-term recovery. While working within a humanitarian setting, the eyes are on the future. The goal is to enable a smoother transition to long-term recovery – to restore livelihoods, government capacities, and shelter – and to offer hope to

In Burundi, UNDP and EU have supported returning people in creating livelihoods, thereby facilitating their reintegration into communities. © UNDP Burundi/ Aude Rossignol



those who have survived the crisis. While in the short term this aims to stabilize crisis-affected people's livelihoods, in the long term it enables inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction in crisis and post-crisis countries.

The UNDP-EU partnership is strong in linking relief and recovery with rehabilitation and long-term development. An overarching theme is using the recovery and rehabilitation work as an opportunity to develop national capacities for sustainable human development and to prevent future disasters and the recurrence of violent conflict (see also chapter on pages 51 to 56).

In the early phases after the crisis, the partnership engages with communities to create quick employment opportunities, through cash for work and micro credit schemes. This increases people's opportunities to buy and replace essential commodities such as food, water and clothes, and cover their shelter needs. The income generated provides an immediate safety net for the affected families and helps to introduce cash rapidly back into the communities, reviving the local economy. The work done through

these programmes also helps to rebuild infrastructures – such as water wells, roads, bridges, and schools – that have been damaged in the conflict or natural disaster. The UNDP-EU partnership supports the communities to “build back better” – critical to long-term development is ensuring that the infrastructure that is rebuilt also helps to prevent future disasters, for instance by using rubble to reinforce river embankments, or ensuring that bridges are rebuilt to a standard that will resist future earthquakes.

After the immediate recovery phase, the partnership helps to provide people with job skills for future employment. To support crisis-affected small businesses to get back on their feet, UNDP-EU programmes provide grants and loans. A special focus is given to women, youth, internally displaced people, as well as returnees and former combatants (see page 79). In the initial stages after a crisis, ensuring the personal security and safety of individuals and communities is essential. UNDP and EU therefore support countries with de-mining (see page 78) and restricting the circulation of weapons (see page 61).

Some results from the UNDP-EU partnership in early recovery and rehabilitation

In **MYANMAR**, UNDP and the EU supported over 5,000 families (24,000 people) that were affected by cyclone *Giri* in 2010. They were trained and received cash and technical support so that they could improve their situation by buying seeds, fertilizers, tools and small livestock such as pigs, poultry, goats and ducks. The partnership also trained 500 carpenters to build houses for cyclone-affected families and provided construction materials. In total, almost 2,800 families (16,800 people) were helped with improved housing.

In 2002, civil war broke out in **CÔTE D'IVOIRE**, dividing the local communities and devastating the already fragile public institutions, including the education system. Starting in 2004, UNDP and EU embarked on a project to revive the education system in the rebel-controlled regions of the country, successfully enrolling 479,500 children in primary school and 82,400 in secondary education through the distribution of free school kits and learning materials. To guarantee the long-term sustainability of this effort, additional educational staff was trained. A UNDP-EU supported programme on school-canteens also contributed to bringing children back to school. Through the maintenance of 270 school canteens run by local communities, the programme ensured that school children received regular meals, which boosted enrolment and ensured the retention of 40,500 children in primary education.

In **GEORGIA**, UNDP and EU immediately responded to the crisis caused by the armed conflict between Georgia and Russia in August 2008, which displaced 30,000 people, by helping repair damaged infrastructure, providing re-training and short term employment to those left jobless by the conflict, and assisting the displaced in starting up small businesses. 3,000 micro loans were given to displaced persons, half of whom were women. Currently, the partnership works in Abkhazia, where armed conflict, social unrest and economic disruption in the past 20 years has left the region with crumbling infrastructure and growing poverty. The partnership provides assistance with basic needs, such as critical infrastructure, medical service, water access and sanitation. It

also helps people become self-reliant, receive better education, start new businesses and improve job prospects.

In **SRI LANKA**, the partnership between UNDP and the EU was highly effective because of the significant contribution towards the socio-economic recovery and restoration of livelihoods for people affected by the tsunami in 2004 and communities in the North and East affected by the conflict for three decades (see also page 54).

As a result of fighting between the Lebanese army and the terrorist '*Fatah al Islam*' group in 2007, the *Nahr el Bared* Palestinian refugee camp in Northern **LEBANON** was devastated. Responding to people's urgent needs, the UNDP and other UN agencies, with EU-support, worked to reconstruct the camp removing rubble and supporting livelihoods. The reconstruction of the *Nahr El Bared Camp* is a good example of "building back better", and it was based entirely on a community-driven participatory approach, representing an impressive model of civic participation.

In **IRAQ** the EU supported a UNDP reconstruction and employment programme that started in 2003 and provided temporary employment in basic infrastructure rehabilitation – e.g. water supply, sewage, waste disposal, irrigation, land clearing and rehabilitation of public facilities – while improving the capacity of local government institutions to manage their own development. The programme implemented 853 employment generation projects throughout Iraq, rehabilitating social and basic infrastructure and building the capacity of local counterparts. Around 108,000 vulnerable workers directly benefited from the programme's interventions with millions of Iraqis benefitting indirectly. As materials and tools were purchased locally, local markets were stimulated in the process. Local authorities participated actively in the planning and implementation of the projects. This helped local government institutions to manage their recovery and development processes more effectively.



In Abkhazia, UNDP and EU support people with vocational training. © UNDP Georgia



Construction of Sheikhan park in Said Sadiq, Iraq. © UNDP Iraq



UNDP and EU supported the education system in Cote d'Ivoire © UNDP Cote d'Ivoire



In Pakistan, UNDP and EU support Afghan refugees and host communities; for example by rebuilding irrigation canals which improve agriculture. © UNDP Pakistan

In **HAITI**, following the devastating earthquake in 2010, one of the national priorities was the creation of short-term cash-for-work programmes as a recovery mechanism. The UNDP-EU partnership contributed to 210 local level employment-generating projects, which in turn created 162,000 jobs. Each temporary job provided the beneficiary with at least 12 days of work and a minimum wage of USD 60. The work in the early phases of recovery entailed clearing rubble and other earthquake debris, and in later phases, the focus was on repairing and constructing infrastructure. Many families used their cash-for-work wage to replace destroyed crops and assets in order to restart their micro-enterprises and small trade.

More than three million Afghan refugees have relocated to **PAKISTAN** since 1979 – resulting in severe social, economic and environmental consequences for the host areas and communities. Following the large-scale repatriation efforts that began in 2002, an estimated 1.7 million registered, and one million unregistered Afghans still remain in Pakistan. In 2009, the UN in Pakistan launched the *Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas* programme. The programme wants to ensure peaceful coexistence between documented Afghan refugees and their host communities in Pakistan, through promoting socio-economic development and environmental rehabilitation of the areas adversely impacted by their presence. With the support of EU and other partners, activities have so far benefitted about 1.45 million people.

In **NICARAGUA**, following Hurricane *Felix* in the Caribbean coast in 2009, the UNDP-EU partnership supported 34,267 people to gain access to drinking water and sanitation. A total of 10,694 families were supported with livelihoods and 14,795 hectares of agricultural plantations, which helped ensure food security. The partnership helped 19 seed banks to function with revolving funds to guarantee seeds for coming agricultural cycles. 12,097 people were supported to establish home gardens and 11,000 cubic metres of trees that fell during the Hurricane were transformed into wood.

In **CUBA**, the UNDP-EU partnership is supporting families affected by Hurricane *Sandy*. More than 300,000 homes were damaged and 3 million people affected when the Hurricane hit Cuba in October 2012. One year after the storm, approximately 50 percent of the damaged homes in Santiago de Cuba have been rebuilt. The partnership is supporting the rehabilitation of houses in Santiago de Cuba and Holguin; strengthening local government capacity for risk prevention and response; evaluating the damages and rebuilding urban centres; and supporting agricultural recovery.

In the **PHILIPPINES**, fighting between government troops and renegade forces of a separatist group displaced a large number of families. From 2008 to 2010, UNDP and EU worked with government authorities in 13 provinces to assist over 19,500 affected families. Together with government partners, we provided relief assistance and livelihood support that included the construction of 807 shelters, 16 community health stations, 132 water systems and 39 local pharmacies in 30 villages. This effort improved personal and community security, rebuilt infrastructure that supports livelihoods and human development, and provided facilities that raise the welfare of women and children.

In 2005, the Government of **SUDAN** and the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement signed a *Comprehensive Peace Agreement* (CPA) formally ending more than 20 years of civil war between the North and the South. In the wake of the signing of the CPA, UNDP and EU joined hands to support the '*Post-Conflict Community Based Recovery and Rehabilitation Programme*', which run between 2005 and 2012. The programme was active in 10 states across Sudan, including five states in Southern Sudan. Overall, the programme served around 800,000 people and improved the access to basic social services such as education, water and sanitation, and health services.



The UNDP-EU partnership contributed to creating 162,000 cash-for-work jobs in Haiti following the earthquake in 2010. © UNDP Haiti /D. Klein

Youth employment in Guinea improves access to water and sanitation – and social cohesion

Forested Guinea is a region in south-eastern GUINEA, extending into north-eastern Sierra Leone. It is known for its diverse ethnic population, and also shelters a large number of refugees from different wars in the region. To support the stabilization of the socio-political situation in N'Zérékoré, the largest city in the region, and to improve the living conditions of the population, UNDP and EU engaged on a project to promote youth employment, while at the same time cleaning up important waterways and improving the sanitation conditions of the population. Between 2010 and 2011, the project created 2,017 temporary jobs. Over 80,000 metres of streams were cleaned and dredged to avoid seasonal flooding that otherwise affects the population every year, and over 10,000 plants and trees were planted along the rivers. In addition to creating employment and ensuring that important community work was done, the project contributed to keeping the young people from joining armed groups to make a living.

The project also had an important impact in the agricultural domain. It allowed a better use of lowlands that used to be submerged during the seasonal rains, as littering hindered the normal course of the water. The total area of the lower lands that can be used for agriculture has increased by 30 percent. In turn, the yield from rice cultivation increased from 1.5 ton per hectare in 2009 to 3.6 ton after the project. The project also contributed to reducing the occurrence of water-borne diseases such as cholera by helping to abolish the ad-hoc garbage dumps and organizing proper garbage collection, building 70 communal latrines, as well as raising the awareness among the population. N'Zérékoré was the only region that was spared the 2012 cholera epidemic that affected over 6,300 people and caused 116 deaths in the country.



Employment of youth in south-eastern Guinea brought many benefits to the communities. © UNDP Guinea

“Many young people who were disillusioned, like me, have found hope and dignity,” said Mr. Ouo-Ouo Mahomou, who lost his job when he became handicapped, but found a new one thanks to the project.

Supporting recovery from natural disasters in Pakistan

In **PAKISTAN**, the UNDP-EU partnership has supported the recovery from two major natural disasters in the last decade. In 2005, an earthquake left 2.8 million people homeless, more than 80,000 dead and an equal number injured. In 2010, heavy monsoon rains in the northern part of Pakistan, gradually spreading south, caused almost one fifth of the country to become flooded. The floods affected close to 20 million people and caused widespread displacement and destruction of resources including crops, housing, buildings, roads and irrigation infrastructure. The situation was made worse by new flooding in 2011 and 2012.

In responding to both these disasters, the UNDP-EU partnership, together with Pakistani civil society organizations, worked very closely with the Government on community based early recovery activities with a focus on addressing the needs of vulnerable populations. Support included restoration of basic community infrastructure and livelihoods in the disaster-affected areas and re-establishing government capacity to provide basic services. These interventions were linked with the immediate humanitarian relief activities, with the aim to bridge the gap to sustainable development efforts.

In response to the floods in 2010, the EU adopted a comprehensive approach in its support to Pakistan. First, between August and December, the EU funded humanitarian partners to the tune of €150 million and in parallel coordinated civil protection assistance from Europe, which represented a valuable contribution to the overall relief effort. During the humanitarian phase, EU's support to the geographical information systems of the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination team in Pakistan were key. In its effort to ensure a smooth transition from the humanitarian to the early recovery phase, the EU joined the UN, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the Pakistani Government to conduct of a *Post Disaster Needs Assessment* involving different EU services (including the EU Delegation and the European Commission Joint Research Centre). Furthermore, in November 2010 the *Instrument for Stability* granted €18 million for early recovery activities, out of which €15 million were provided to UNDP's flood recovery programme.



The UNDP-EU partnership was able to support about 5.5 million people through the restoration of livelihoods, community rehabilitation and resilience building in around 4,000 villages across the 29 affected districts. Temporary employment benefitted 1.3 million people, 40 percent of them women, through cash-for-work schemes to rehabilitate community-based infrastructure (roads, bridges, culverts, irrigation canals). 8,000 individuals were provided small business cash grants (carpenters, tailors, electricians, plumbers and construction workers). 60 micro-hydro power units were restored, benefitting 54,000 people, and 2,200 bio-gas plants were established to provide communities with access to alternate energy, and the programme also provided solar water pumps, street-lights and heaters to the affected communities. 25,500 community members were trained in disaster risk management and more than 720 disaster resilient and energy efficient houses were constructed.

Lessons learned indicate that in Pakistan, early recovery worked. The UNDP-EU partnership, together with other international and national actors, not only helped build back, but we helped *build back better*. The partnership also helped to bridge the gap between relief and development by laying the foundations for long-term and sustainable development.



Albania is declared mine free and land is released back for farming. © UNDP Albania

"Now our children can play freely, we can make use of our land, and graze our sheep without fear that they will be injured," said Rujmene Begiraj, village of Borja, Albania

Mine Action

In many countries, mines and unexploded ordnances – bombs, mortars, grenades, missiles or other devices that failed to detonate on impact – remain active and can kill if touched or moved. They endanger the lives of generations of civilians, especially children who may come across them on their way to school, when playing or fetching water. Mines and explosive remnants of war not only pose a health and safety risk – in many post-conflict countries, they impede economic growth by preventing people from using land for food, housing, roads etc. In fragile societies, unexploded ordnance can also stop refugees and displaced people from returning home, adversely affecting stability, security and the realization of long-term peace.

Mine Action represents an essential part of the UNDP-EU cooperation. This includes supporting countries on several levels: minimizing the impact of landmines in their development efforts, removing landmines or clearly marking contaminated areas,

teaching people how to protect themselves from danger in mine-affected environments, providing support to mine victims, and advocating for a mine-free world.

In the last decade the UNDP-EU partnership has supported mine action programmes in 13 countries: **AFGHANISTAN**, **ALBANIA**, **ANGOLA**, **BURUNDI**, **CHILE**, **CYPRUS**, **ETHIOPIA**, **JORDAN**, **LEBANON**, **SENEGAL**, **SRI LANKA**, **SOMALIA** and **YEMEN**.

After many years of technical support from UNDP and EU, **ALBANIA** was declared mine-free in 2009. In northeast Albania – considered the country's poorest and least accessible region – 16 million m² of land has been cleared of mines, allowing some 25,000 residents to return to the agricultural activities they rely on for their livelihoods. The partnership also supplied the training and equipment necessary to open the first ever physiotherapy and orthopedics units in Kukës regional hospital.

In **CYPRUS**, for decades, mines have prevented the rehabilitation of many areas in and around the buffer zone, on both sides of the island. They have also delayed the opening of new crossing points and served as a constant reminder of past conflict, hindering reconciliation between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities. Since 2004, with the support of UNDP and EU, over 27,000 landmines have been removed from the buffer zone. Gradually, 1.5 million m² of land is being returned to the people.

In **ANGOLA**, the partnership helped clear 500,000 m² of land, mark 92 km of road in support of safe access to hospitals, educational facilities, economic development and other reconstruction, and supported the country to meet its deadline under Article 4 of the Ottawa Convention (to destroy all stockpiled anti-personnel landmines under its jurisdiction) by January 2007.

In **LEBANON**, almost 199 million m² of land contaminated by landmines (representing 71 per cent of land contaminated by landmines) and 38 million m² of land contaminated by cluster munitions (representing 68 per cent) has been cleared. In 2012, around 2,650 people were able to increase farm capacity after their land was cleared and released. Thousands of explosive remnants of war have been secured or cleared from around schools and roads, tens of thousands of people have received mine risk education, and many have benefited from mine victim assistance. The partnership also supported the Lebanese government in its ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.



Jean-Marie, beneficiary of EU supported UNDP-programme, has opened a hair-salon. © UNDP Burundi

Reintegration of former combatants into communities

The reintegration of former combatants is of particular importance to long-term peace in many post-conflict countries. The UNDP-EU partnership has supported disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of former combatants in **Afghanistan, Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea Bissau, Indonesia, Liberia, and Sudan**. Support includes better economic and livelihoods opportunities for former fighters through training and support for small businesses and job opportunities, with a strong emphasis on both the community and the needs of the ex-combatants. Reintegration measures also often emphasize community empowerment and gender-responsive initiatives. We also help communities with conflict management, so as to guarantee the sustainable assimilation of ex-combatants into society.

The EU has also been instrumental in supporting the work of the *UN inter-agency working group on DDR*, which brings together the different parts of the UN system working on DDR to ensure an integrated and coherent approach on the ground. The EU support has made it possible to update integrated guidance on DDR to

UN staff and partners, provide support to DDR operations in complex peacekeeping and post-conflict environments, enhance the knowledge of DDR and gender or HIV issues, for example, and continue to train partner governments and UN teams where DDR processes were about to start.

In **BURUNDI**, an innovative UNDP programme supported by the EU is helping former refugees and combatants start small businesses and farms, allowing them to meet their immediate needs and helping to guarantee long-term peace. The programme has given 17,000 ex-combatants and returnees three months of employment to fix infrastructure destroyed by fighting, make bricks for schools, or build houses for vulnerable people. Besides quickly restoring local economies, one third of the salary is paid into a financial institution. When the three months of work is up, the workers can use their savings (which the programme matches three-to-one, along with training and start-up advice) to form producer associations and businesses.

Beneficiaries have set up hair salons, clothes shops, farms, welding businesses, catering kitchens and carpentry workshops. Only in 2012, more than 4,300 conflict-affected people, including former combatants, received temporary employment through these schemes. Over 7,000 people are now part of UNDP-supported producer organizations and self-employed.

The work has contributed to improved environmental resilience, through, for example, the removal of sediment from Lake Tanganyika, reforestation, and the rehabilitation of irrigation channels. The scheme is also reducing stigma and helping former soldiers reintegrate.

“We managed to open our business with support from UNDP. The place is always full.

We have plenty of customers. Thanks to this initiative, our lives are better, and my children can go to school”, says Jean-Marie, beneficiary of the programme, who opened a double-business – a solar-panel powered hair-salon and shop for recharging mobile phones.



ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

Sustainable use of Natural Resources

Sustainable development is a global challenge that requires global partnerships. The Rio+20 Conference in 2012 brought a new impetus to the twin challenge of poverty alleviation and human wellbeing on the one hand, and environmental sustainability on the other. Sustainability is fundamentally about creating the right conditions for people to live empowered, productive lives within planetary boundaries, and therefore it is much broader than protecting the environment. Poverty eradication, economic development and environmental sustainability need to go hand in hand, in order to ensure that the resource base for future prosperity is not undermined. If natural capital undergoes significant degradation, so too does the potential to improve people's lives.

Moreover, it has become increasingly clear that continued progress on reaching the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 agenda requires a significant transition to more resource-efficient, resilient forms of growth that help bring multiple and inter-linked social, economic, and environmental benefits. This integral connection between poverty reduction and environmental sustainability has grown even more apparent as the impacts of climate change, erosion of ecosystems and depletion of biodiversity have become a part of the daily challenges for survival for many poor people around the world, aggravating already dire living conditions.

It is clear that developing countries will need continued support for their efforts to create the enabling conditions to ensure sustainable development through policy advice and programmes on greening their economies; increasing their resilience; developing capacities and accessing finance and technology.

For decades, UNDP has been a global leader in connecting the social, economic and environmental dimension – the three pillars of sustainable development. As UNDP and the EU share the same

values on sustainable development, the priority of the partnership is ensuring that the poor have fair access to the resources they need for their livelihood and development, now and in the future. We help extend access to energy and water services, boost energy efficiency, and sustainable management of land, forests, biodiversity and other resources. The partnership also helps countries to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.

In the area of environment and energy, the partnership between UNDP and EU is relatively new. But it is showing positive results in many countries, as demonstrated in this chapter, including several innovative global programmes that in turn provide best practices that we – and our other partners – can build upon.

On the policy level, the EU has been an outspoken advocate for promoting and advancing sustainable development, both in its internal cooperation, and globally. It promotes an effective follow-up of the outcomes at Rio+20, and leads by example by promoting transformation towards green economy that can drive inclusive and equitable growth, create jobs, and innovation while investing in and protecting natural capital. As a very significant provider of development funding, and with its edge in green technologies, the EU plays a very critical role in advancing sustainable development.

UNDP, with its extensive field presence, and being by far the largest implementer of programmes relating to environment and energy in the UN, has a unique entry point to support countries in advancing on sustainable development. By intensifying and expanding the partnership in this area, involving also the wider UN-family, the UNDP-EU partnership can play a crucial role in helping countries create the enabling conditions to advance on sustainable development.

A photograph of a dry, cracked landscape. In the foreground, the ground is parched and cracked into a mosaic of irregular, polygonal shapes. A dirt road or path leads from the bottom center towards the middle ground. In the background, there are some green bushes and a small town or village nestled at the base of a range of brown, rocky mountains under a clear blue sky.

Climate Change

Climate change is one of the defining challenges of our time. Changing rainfall patterns, extreme weather events and rising sea levels will influence economic, political and humanitarian stresses and affect human development in all parts of the world. To tackle climate change, working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation) and to address climate vulnerabilities (adaptation) are important steps.

However, long-term climate change management requires a shift from an environmental sectoral perspective to a holistic approach where climate change mitigation and adaptation thinking is incorporated into development goals and national, sub-national and productive sector planning processes. Such an approach recognizes that climate change responses are closely intertwined with development policy and actions involving multiple sectors, stakeholders, and ecosystems. An integrated approach also enables countries to mobilize and employ diverse financing and policy options required for low-emission and climate-resilient development.

Demand for UNDP's support in tackling climate change issues has increased steadily over the last five years. The organization has helped over 140 countries to address the impact of climate change, and provided valuable input and expertise to climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies in 91 countries since 2008. From that work, 78 countries had incorporated adaptation and/or mitigation policies in their national agendas, and 62 had incorporated them in their national budgets by 2012.

UNDP promotes equitable and pro-poor adaptation that encourages sustainable economic development and resilient livelihoods in the face of climate change. UNDP supports countries to create robust and responsive state institutions, capable public and private sector management, and skilled human resources with the ability to innovate, adapt and deliver results, even in the face of the changing conditions. Examples of this work are the Africa Adaptation Programme, a comprehensive adaptation initiative in support of countries. It aims to lay the foundation for long-term investment to increase resilience to climate change and protect valuable development progress across the African continent. UNDP has also supported the development of National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs), implemented with the support of the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF). UNDP is the largest implementing agency of the LDCF, delivering a large scale of financial support on the design and implementation of priority NAPA interventions in 24 LDCs.

With EU support, UNDP works with national, regional, and local planning bodies to help them respond effectively to climate change and promote low-emission, climate-resilient development. For example, the Low Emission Capacity Building Programme, aims to strengthen technical and institutional capacities at the country level, while at the same time facilitating inclusion and

coordination of the public and private sector in national initiatives addressing climate change (see page 85).

In **CHINA**, the UNDP-EU partnership supported the government to translate its national climate change programme into action by developing local policies, institutional frameworks, partnerships and capacities for implementation. The programme also shared China's experience with other key Asian countries to support the global fight against climate change. In addition, the programme also helped to raise public awareness at the provincial level about climate change.

With EU support, the Alliance of Small Island States and UNDP launched a three year action (2013-2015) to support Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the UNFCCC negotiations by building technical capacity, increasing SIDS participation in the negotiations, and launching a fellowship program for SIDS negotiators.

Also, the partnership has recently embarked on a new innovative programme to support climate change mitigation and adaptation in Russia and Eastern Neighbourhood countries. The programme, Clima East, works on eco-system based mitigation and adaptation (see page 87).

Poverty Environment Initiative

The joint UNDP and UNEP Poverty and Environment Initiative is a global programme that supports country-led efforts to mainstream poverty-environment linkages into national development planning, from policymaking to budgeting, implementation and monitoring. With both financial and technical support, PEI assists government decision-makers and a wide range of other stakeholders to manage the environment in a way that improves livelihoods and leads to sustainable growth. The overall aim is to bring about lasting institutional change and to catalyze key actors to increase investment in pro-poor environmental and natural resource management.

The initiative, which is supported by the EU and other partners, currently supports programmes in 18 countries in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe & Central Asia, and Latin America & the Caribbean, and provides technical advisory services to an additional six countries.

The PEI has embarked on a new five-year programme (2014-2017) in which previous experiences are used as building blocks for green economy policies and approaches. The evidence of PEI results will be used to inform global development policy discussions to shift to more integrated development approaches.

Cooperation within the Global Climate Change Alliance

The Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) was launched in 2007 by the EU to strengthen dialogue and cooperation on climate change between the EU and developing countries, focusing on countries most vulnerable to climate change (in particular Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States). The GCCA provides technical and financial support to projects that address climate change on the ground, promoting climate-resilient, low-emission development. With the support of the GCCA, UNDP has been implementing programmes in **BELIZE**, **BENIN** and **CAMBODIA**.

BELIZE has suffered from several serious hurricanes, tidal waves and floods, which have devastated the economy and aggravated property. During the last 75 years, 21 tropical storms have been recorded in Belize, and the incidence has increased in recent years. In addition, a rising sea level would cause as coastal erosion and land loss, flooding, soil salinization and intrusion of saltwater into groundwater aquifers. Changes in sea surface temperature and ocean circulation could also affect marine organisms including corals, sea grasses, and fish stocks. Within the framework of GCCA, the UNDP-EU partnership is helping the government to effectively plan for and manage the effects of climate change on Belize's development.

In **BENIN**, stretches of forest along the Ouémé River basin are degraded by overexploitation and agricultural encroachment, made worse by climate change. This poses a major problem both for forest-dependent communities and for downstream areas, due to more devastating floods during the rainy season. Structural factors of forest degradation include the production of charcoal, the unsustainable logging and extensive agricultural practices of uncultivated forest soils. Moreover, existing topographic maps of Benin are outdated and inadequate in relation to climate risk management and monitoring the evolution of the land. Since 2012, UNDP and EU are supporting Benin with the conservation and sustainable use of the Ouémé river gallery forests to reduce the effects of flooding.

In **CAMBODIA**, climate change is a direct threat to life, livelihoods and life-supporting systems, by amplifying already existing development challenges, for example severe water scarcity and floods, food shortages, loss of biodiversity and decline in ecosystem services. In addition, climate change may exacerbate malaria and dengue fever. Through the GCCA, UNDP and EU are strengthening the capacity of the *National Climate Change Committee* to address climate change, and to enable line ministries, local government and civil society organizations to implement priority climate change actions. Climate change policy is now recognised as a national priority and reflected in national development strategies such as the new *National Strategic Development Plan (2014-2018)* and the development of the *Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan (2014-2023)*. The project has also strengthened the country's capacity to respond to climate change threats at national and local levels.



Support to respond to threats from climate change in rural Cambodia
© EU / Mak Remissa

Low Emission Capacity Building Programme (LECB)

Global climate change negotiations have called for developed nations and international organizations to support developing countries' efforts to address greenhouse gas emissions in alignment with national development priorities.

To this end, the UNDP and the EU launched the Low Emission Capacity Building Programme (LECB) in January 2011. Other partners, such as Germany and Australia, have since joined the initiative. The programme, which has 25 participating countries, aims to help countries identify and implement climate change mitigation actions, by strengthening technical and institutional capacities at the country level, and facilitating inclusion and coordination of the public and private sector in national initiatives. It does so by utilizing the global networks and substantial experience that UNDP has established through its wide portfolio of projects and programmes around the world.

In practice, the LECB Programme supports the development of national greenhouse gas inventory systems and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), as well as measuring, reporting and verification (MRV) systems. The programme also helps to prepare low-emission development strategies, and facilitates the design and adoption of mitigation action plans by select industries. Managed by the LECB Global Support Unit, the LECB Programme combines practical work at the national level with technical support in the form of the publication of guidance documents, such as the newly launched Guidance for NAMA Design, as well as targeted workshops and trainings, which help to build national capacities.

One of the countries supported by the LECB is **KENYA**. Kenya's contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions is very limited, but the country has developed a National Climate Change Response Strategy (2010) and a National Climate Change Action Plan (2013-2017). The support from the LECB will help to carry out the actions within these instruments, and to promote low carbon economic development and climate resilience. This is all within the context of Kenya's overall "Vision 2030" – a long-term



Grace, in Kenya, works on a voluntary basis to support efforts to protect the forest. © UN Photo /Riccardo Gangale

development blueprint that aims to transform Kenya into a newly industrialising, middle-income country by 2030. Key outcomes from the LECB project in Kenya include the development of a robust national system for emission inventories and three concrete NAMA proposals.

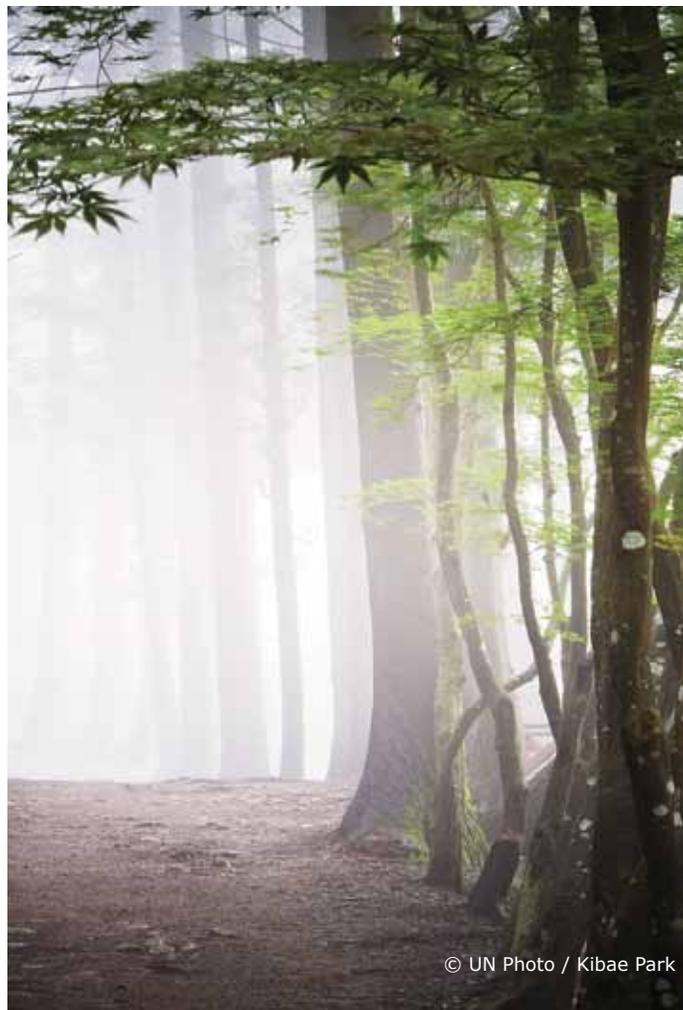
The LECB Programme works in close collaboration with national teams in each of the 25 participating countries to add rigor to the process, designing mature NAMA proposals that will satisfy funding and implementation requirements of the investor community. Through additional funding from the EU, the UNDP LECB Programme has launched 'NAMA Net' – a highly specialized network of NAMA experts who will work with LECB countries to strengthen the design of the 60 NAMA proposals expected to be elaborated under the LECB Programme.

Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation

The UN Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD) was launched in September 2008 to assist developing countries to build capacity to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. It is a joint programme between FAO, UNDP and UNEP. Major donors include the EU, Norway, Denmark, Japan, Luxemburg, and Spain.

The UN-REDD Programme supports nationally-led REDD+ processes and promotes the informed and meaningful involvement of all stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities, in national and international REDD+ implementation. This programme supports national REDD+ readiness efforts in 48 partner countries in Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, representing 56 percent of the world's tropical forests.

In **ZAMBIA**, the escalating loss of forest cover has had a serious effect on poverty and increased food insecurity. Given the extensive forest cover (60 percent) and the high rate of deforestation in the country, gaining information on the extent, quality and quantity of forests is vital. National REDD+ implementation depends on reliable and credible systems for monitoring and measuring, reporting and verifying changes in carbon stock and greenhouse gas emissions in the forest sector. With support from the UN-REDD Programme, ten provincial forest monitoring laboratories have been established and equipped with tools for forest monitoring, and staffed by a group of trained cross-sectoral technicians from the forestry, agriculture and planning sectors. The laboratories will provide near real-time spatial data on deforestation and forest degradation that can be relayed to the central national forest monitoring laboratory in Lusaka to inform national reporting.



© UN Photo / Kibae Park

Addressing the role of ecosystems on climate change

In 2012, UNDP and EU embarked on a new innovative programme to support climate change mitigation and adaptation in Russia and Eastern Neighbourhood countries, through the *Clima East* programme. The aim is to demonstrate that ecosystems such as peatlands, permafrost landscapes, boreal forests and pastureland can have a strong, positive and cost-efficient effect on climate change mitigation and adaptation. Peatlands, for example, are the world's richest carbon soils, but also very prone to release of carbon when exposed to degradation. Peatlands in **RUSSIA**, **BELARUS** and **UKRAINE** comprise the world's largest store of peatland carbon, but large areas have already been drained for forestry and agriculture, or are being mined for peat.

The *Clima East* pilot projects will restore, and improve over 26,000 hectares of peatlands in this area, to prevent the loss of carbon through erosion and fires. It will also turn degraded areas into productive land suitable for biodiversity-friendly pasture management and harvesting of biomass.

Clima East will also strengthen the management of a 1.9 million hectare protected area of boreal forest and create 20,000 hectare of new protected areas, and restore 180 hectares of abandoned permafrost ecosystems. In total, the *Clima East* programme is estimated to reduce the emission of approximately 170,000 ton CO₂-equivalent per year.

In **AZERBAIJAN**, pasture management practices have deteriorated over the years, and due to heavy pressure to pasture areas signs of erosion and degradation are quite visible in certain areas, contributing to the release of carbon. *Clima East* will support pasture monitoring of restored areas. It will also support the country with carbon stock measurements.



Cranes at Morochno peatland in Belarus.
© UNDP Belarus / Alexander Kozulin

In **MOLDOVA** a natural resource management model for pastures and forests will be demonstrated which will help increase ecosystems' capacity to seize carbon under pending climate risks, while at the same time retaining biodiversity and economic values. These measures will help avert further deterioration of natural resources, sequester carbon and reduce emission of greenhouse gases, improve local pasture and forestry resources, promote better understanding of problems related to climate change impact and contribute to local and regional sustainable development.

Access to Sustainable Energy

The world faces two urgent and interconnected challenges related to energy. One is related to access to reliable, efficient and sustainable energy. Nearly one person in five on the planet still lacks access to electricity. More than twice that number, almost three billion people, rely on wood, coal, charcoal or animal waste for cooking and heating. This is a major barrier to eradicating poverty and building shared prosperity. The second challenge is related to waste and pollution, contributing to climate change (see page 83). A key to both challenges is to provide sustainable energy for all – energy that is accessible, cleaner and more efficient.

Energy is central to sustainable development and poverty reduction efforts. It affects all aspects of development – social, economic, and environmental – including livelihoods, access to water, agricultural productivity, health, education, and gender-related issues.

In September 2011, UN Secretary-General launched the *Sustainable Energy for All* initiative and shared his vision for how governments, business and civil society, working in partnership, can make sustainable energy for all a reality by 2030. With the support of this initiative, there is potential to bring off-grid, decentralized solutions to scale – solutions that often have the greatest positive impact for the poor and those in rural areas. The programming includes measures to expand access to reliable and modern sources of energy, promoting energy efficiency, and investment in renewable energy.

Over the last two decades, UNDP has built up an extensive portfolio of projects and programmes in the energy sector. In the process, it has acquired a wealth of experience and expertise in supporting countries to use, expand and shift towards sustainable energy for development. UNDP has supported strengthening the energy sector in 83 countries and brought access to clean and renewable energy for 3.5 million poor and vulnerable people. In 2013 UNDP

issued *'Derisking Renewable Energy Investment'*, a report to assist policymakers to promote renewable energy investment in developing countries. The report introduces an innovative framework, with an accompanying financial tool, to quantitatively compare different public instruments and their cost-effectiveness.

The EU is committed in both policy and action to increase access to modern energy services for the world's poorest. It is an active supporter of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, and in the EU *'Agenda for Change'* (a proposal for new directions in the EU development policy) access to energy is one of the top priorities. The EU has allocated around €2 billion to the energy sector worldwide.

The partnership between UNDP and EU in the field of energy has focused on the provision and management of renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and on developing institutional capacity, including at the executive and legislative level of Government.

Working with Parliamentarians on Sustainable Energy

UNDP and the Climate Parliament (an international cross-party network of legislators, dedicated to preventing climate change and promoting renewable energy) are implementing a project to support parliamentarians to promote renewable energy. The EU provides funding to this initiative, which falls under the umbrella of the joint *'Parliamentary Action on Renewable Energy'* project. This three-year initiative, which started in January 2012, helps countries to generate renewable energy in a wide range of contexts, from large-scale solar power stations or wind farms, to small-scale biogas digesters. It encourages the development of both long-distance, cross-border grid connections, and village mini-grids enabling communities that are far from the national grid to harness local solar, wind, small hydro, biomass or other renewable resources.

The project also seeks to address closely related themes such as energy efficiency and climate change adaptation. Through this collaboration, UNDP and its implementing partner, Climate Parliament, build regional networks of Members of Parliament and national cross-party parliamentary groups in ten priority countries (Bangladesh, Congo-Brazzaville, India, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania and Tunisia) and supports Members of Parliament in national parliaments to take initiatives such as introducing legislative and budgetary proposals.

Some examples of the UNDP-EU partnership in the area of access to sustainable energy

The Government of **AZERBAIJAN** has prioritized development of renewable energy as a strategic sector, and established a State Agency on Alternative and Renewable Energy Sources (SAARES). SAARES collaborates with UNDP, the EU and Norway to promote sustainable energy, moving away from fossil fuels. The goal is the greening of Azerbaijan's economy, and creating capacity for a gradual shift to low-carbon development model. The project takes stock of the national potential for renewable power. It identifies the most appropriate types of renewable energy production (such as solar, wind and biomass), and most appropriate sites for sustainable power generation. The project also supports the construction a hydro-power plant, promotes awareness-raising and has provided advice on how to draft a national law on renewable energy.

In **BELARUS**, the EU is supporting the country to align with international and EU regulatory and administrative norms and standards by promoting energy efficiency of consumer goods. Within this larger EU programme, UNDP is implementing an integrated energy-saving project. The UNDP component is focusing on the active involvement of stakeholders in education and awareness campaigns, improved monitoring of energy consumption, and energy efficiency project funding.

In the **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**, the partnership supported 1,510 rural families with access to energy from micro-hydro systems.

Since 2011, UNDP and EU have worked together in **MOLDOVA** on the *Moldova Energy and Biomass Project*. This innovative programme aims to increase Moldova's energy security, set up functional markets for biomass technologies and fuel, and create new jobs and income at the local and regional level (see page 104).

In **AFGHANISTAN** 33 percent of rural households only have occasional and unreliable access to power. In remote rural areas, where access to clean and reliable energy is a challenge, many residents instead resort to burning expensive kerosene, scarce firewood, often sourced from local forests, or animal dung to produce heat and light. To respond to these needs, the EU has supported UNDP and the Afghan government in the construction of micro-hydro power plants in these remote areas since 2010. These small, environmentally sustainable power plants typically produce enough to provide villages with household lighting and energy to run a few small businesses, such as grain mills. The programme has also provided unskilled labourers with employment and valuable training and experience in building these micro-hydro power plants. With these and other projects, UNDP and EU have supported the creation of more than 5 million workdays for people in rural communities, helping to develop the local economy. By October 2013, 127 micro hydro power plants had been built, benefiting close to 150,000 people. 52 new micro hydro projects are planned for 2014.

Pankai in **PAKISTAN**, located 105 km away from the main Loralai area, had no electricity at all. Instead, residents used kerosene oil and candles. In 2012, UNDP-EU supported Refugee Affected & Hosting Area programme provided them with solar panels, which is a long-lasting and durable solution.

In 2005, with support from the European Union Energy Initiative, UNDP assisted **ECOWAS** and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (**UEMOA**) to develop a White Paper for a regional policy geared towards increasing access for energy services for rural and peri-urban populations. The 15 West African Members States committed to co-ordinate efforts in order to increase (by four in a 10-year period) access to modern energy services to more than half the population of the region.



Biomass heating in a kindergarten provides a warm environment for learning and jobs for furnace operators in Moldova. © UNDP / Valeriu Corcimari



Community members in the Espaillat province in the Dominican Republic carry out a river profile study. © UNDP Dominican Republic



Pankai in Pakistan had no electricity, and residents used kerosene oil and candles. In 2012, a UNDP-EU supported programme provided them with solar panels. © UNDP Pakistan



Micro-hydro power plants provide electricity in rural areas of Afghanistan, allowing children to attend computer classes. © UNDP / Joel van Houdt

Natural Resources and Biodiversity

The management of land, biodiversity and natural resources is one of the most critical challenges facing developing countries today. Natural resources necessarily play a central role in promoting sustainable development. Increasing competition for diminishing renewable resources, such as land and water, is on the rise, compounded by environmental degradation, population growth and climate change. An increasing number of countries are also looking to tap newly discovered natural resources and harness ecosystem services vital to development.

As natural resources play an essential role in supporting the livelihoods of the majority of the world's poor, improvements in managing and extracting natural resources can have huge benefits on ecosystems and biodiversity, the environment they rely on, as well as a country's potential to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

Biodiversity is our natural capital, but we often take it for granted, as its market values are not immediate and direct. The value of biodiversity and ecosystems to society is immense – in relation to secure livelihoods, food, water and health, enhanced resilience, and conservation of threatened species and their habitats. There is also a clear recognition that better biodiversity management can provide a cost effective vehicle

Lionesses resting in the shadow (one is wearing a radio-tracking collar) in Pendjari National Park in Benin, where UNDP and EU are supporting a programme to protect natural resources. © UNDP



for addressing the risks from climate change, contributing to the reduction in emissions from deforestation and other land use change, providing the sequestration of greenhouse gases, and supplying ecosystem services that will be vital to reducing the vulnerability of societies to climate induced disaster risks.

UNDP is committed to building the capacities of developing countries and economies in transition to manage their biodiversity in line with their own priorities and needs. UNDP has a unique ability to link work on biodiversity and ecosystems with that on poverty reduction, governance, and crisis prevention through integrated programming.

This expertise comes from forty years of experience in the biodiversity and ecosystems field, working at the national level. Currently, UNDP's biodiversity and ecosystems portfolio is the largest in the UN system. We work in 146 countries, managing 512 projects on ecosystems and biodiversity. This has helped to establish over 2,000 protected areas in 85 countries, covering 272 million hectares, and promoted ecosystem-based adaptation to or mitigation of climate change in 71 countries. Many of these projects also include integrated support for local communities, to help them rise from poverty without undermining their ecosystems and resource base.

Together with the EU, UNDP has embarked on many innovative programmes to support countries in managing their natural resources and protecting and harnessing the positive opportunities of ecosystems and biodiversity in order to secure livelihoods, food, water and health security, and reduce vulnerability to climate change.

In 2012, the partnership engaged on a joint strategic initiative, aimed at developing methodologies for assessing the financing needs of countries in the context of meeting the new targets set by the *Convention on Biological Diversity* for the period 2014-2020. Along the methodology, the initiative will develop a roadmap for addressing the financing gap, by combining and sequencing different sources of finance – including public expenditures, official development assistance, and innovative financing sources. The first eight pilot countries are Chile, Ecuador, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Philippines, Seychelles, South Africa, and Uganda. Since 2012, the project has grown into a multi-partner global endeavour – the UNDP-managed *Biodiversity Finance Initiative* (BIOFIN), supported by the EU and the Governments of Germany and Switzerland.

Supporting vulnerable populations in drylands

Over 40 percent of the world's land surface is drylands, which are home to about 2.3 billion people in 100 countries. Many people living in drylands depend directly upon a highly variable natural resource base for their livelihoods, and about half of all dryland inhabitants – one billion people – are poor and marginalized. UNDP's Integrated Drylands Development Programme (IDDP) is designed to address the challenges faced by these populations by providing financial, policy and technical advice for national and sub-national development and planning frameworks, improving conditions for the poor, strengthening drought risk management, enhancing land governance, and improving decentralized governance of natural resources. IDDP Phase 2 (2010-2014) is supported by the EU and is currently operational in 17 countries in SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA and the ARAB STATES.

In KENYA, the EU has supported UNDP to pilot and strengthen pro-poor financing among established product groups for handicrafts, ecotourism, honey, aloe products, and livestock. The partnership also supported the linking of groups producing ready-to-market products to formal financial institutions.

In MOZAMBIQUE, the project trained personnel from the various district administrations in arid and semi-arid zones, so that they in turn can build the knowledge and capacity of communities in efficient use of natural resources. Through this process, communities have now been empowered to improve productivity of drought resistant products and goods. Farmers have also been trained in sustainable beekeeping practices and are provided with needed equipment (modern beehives) to continue developing this alternative livelihoods option.

Some examples from the UNDP-EU partnership in the area of protecting natural resources and biodiversity

In **NIGER**, one of the most pressing problems is the lack of water. The Sahara desert covers three-quarters of the country, and strife and conflict have in the past stemmed from short supplies of water. The UNDP-EU partnership supported the formation of local water committees in over 1,000 villages. Members learned to manage community reserves in ways that benefit both people and the environment. In the village of Allimboulé, for example, the local pond used to be full of silt and sewage. With the support of the UNDP-EU project, villagers cleaned the pond and a team from the water management committee makes daily rounds to remove new filth, while women have planted windbreaks to protect the pond against silting. With the pond now teeming with fish, a cooperative has formed. Some of its earnings have gone into the development of land and irrigated crops, a testament to how creative and targeted capacity investments can multiply people's options – and their abilities to act on them.

Since 2012, UNDP and EU are supporting the protection of the national parks as well as a bordering network of protected areas in the so-called WAP-complex (W-Arly-Pendjari) in **BENIN**, **BURKINA FASO** and **NIGER**. The UNDP-EU programme has a regional approach, and aims to strengthen sustainable and efficient conservation of the ecosystems in the WAP-complex while optimising the benefits for the local inhabitants. While the effects of climate change and population growth have increased the pressure on already vulnerable natural resources, the WAP-complex still has an ecosystem in good state. Many species that are at great risk in other parts of the continent can still be found thriving there. Currently, almost 3 million hectares are protected, out of which half has the status of national parks. This is testimony to the commitment of the three countries to live up to subregional and international commitments, including the Convention on

Biological Diversity. Since 2012, the programme has been able to do an inventory of the grand mammals and key species in the WAP-complex, create an emergency action plan against poaching, and draft a strategy for protecting lions and giraffes, which is already being implemented.

Many countries in the Aral Sea Basin in Central Asia share the same water courses. To avoid overuse, poor management and conflicts over water and natural resources, UNDP and EU supported an integrated approach to water management at local, national and trans-boundary levels through EU-UNDP project 'Promoting Integrated Water Resource Management and Fostering Transboundary Dialogue in Central Asia' (2009-2012). In **KYRGYZSTAN** and **TAJIKISTAN** the objectives were to develop and implement national integrated water resources management and water efficiency strategies at national and basin level. Focus was on concrete interventions and pilot projects to improve irrigated agriculture; rural water supply and sanitation; small-scale hydropower service delivery; and the governance and institutional reform of integrated water resources management. In the Ili-Balkhash River Basin, the project fostered transboundary dialogue and enhanced cooperation between **KAZAKHSTAN** and the People's Republic of **CHINA** for improved management of the shared River Basin system and its resources. At a pan-regional level the project provided coordinated capacity building and policy and technical advice.

In **BELARUS**, the partnership supported the implementation of a large-scale sustainable development project at the local level in the regions of the country. Between 2008 and 2010, we supported the drafting of 10 local sustainable development strategies; the implementation of almost 70 initiatives; the arrangement of “green routes” and tourist routes for sightseeing of natural and cultural heritage; and the opening of five information centres on sustainable development. The partnership also supported Belarus to improve ecological education in schools. Currently, the *Ecopartnership* project, which started in 2012, aims to strengthen Belarus’ capacity for strategic environmental planning and management through aligning national legislation on waste management and biodiversity with EU standards. As a result, Belarus has also joined the Bern Convention on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats.

In **CHINA** the EU-China Biodiversity Programme (2005-2011) was a joint initiative by the EU, UNDP, the Chinese Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Environmental Protection. It helped embed biodiversity conservation as a major mitigation tool in China’s response to climate change. It has demonstrated the importance of local communities in conservation work and raised the awareness in the government and among the public. The programme has transformed the way biodiversity is regarded in China – it has seen a dramatic shift in the way people balance their short and long-term needs with those of future generations. Over-exploitation and unsustainable harvesting by local residents has been tackled through community-based projects aimed at conserving biodiversity and improving local people’s livelihoods.

With over 3,700 km of coastline, the **WEST AFRICAN MARINE ECO-REGION** (WAMER) is one of the richest fishing areas in the world. The coastal and marine resources contribute significantly to food security, as fish is the primary source of animal protein in the daily diet. However, decades of commercial fishing and inadequate management are depleting valuable local stock and negatively affecting the lives of millions of people who depend on the sea. Illegal fishing is also having a major negative impact on national economies. In order to address this situation, UNDP and the World Wide Fund for Nature, supported by the EU, have since 2011 been working together to improve governance and adopt best practices for sustainable use of marine and coastal resources in order to guarantee food security in the WAMER region.



Managing the Black Sea and the Danube River Basin

The Danube River flows through many Eastern European countries before reaching the Black Sea. For decades, the discharge of polluted water into the Danube resulted in nutrient over-enrichment in the Black Sea, affecting fish stocks, beaches and the incidence of waterborne disease.

The dissolution of the Soviet Union provided an opportunity for countries in the region to launch a collaborative endeavour to address this issue. The first step was taken in 1991 by the EU to form the basis for an integrated river basin management. Next, with support from the *Global Environment Facility* (GEF) and UNDP, countries collectively identified their transboundary problem and agreed to environmental programmes that led to measurable improvements in the Danube and Black Sea.

Since 1992, 17 countries in the region have been cooperating closely, supported by the GEF and UNDP with financial backing from the EU, the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction.

The joint environmental governance has led to measurable improvements in the Danube and Black Sea. In 2001, a strategic partnership was established to bring together the key stakeholders in a 'basin-wide approach' comprising of the GEF *Danube Regional Project* (implemented by UNDP), the GEF *Black Sea Ecosystem Recovery Project* (implemented by UNDP with several partner organizations), and the World Bank/GEF *Investment Fund for Nutrient Reduction*.

The cooperation has benefited from capacity-building support to 17 countries, and in total over \$3.5 billion in investments in pollution reduction and habitat restoration, including municipal wastewater treatment, agricultural nutrient management, industrial pollution reduction and wetlands restoration. This has led to demonstrable reductions in pollution loads, improvement in the ecological status of the Danube River and the Black Sea



Danube River, Budapest, Hungary. © UNDP

(including the return of a number of key species), development of pilot monitoring exercises and quality assurance guidelines.

In 2013, UNDP and EU launched a new programme to improve the protection of the Black Sea environment. This will enhance regional cooperation for the environmental protection of the Black Sea among riparian states, with focus on Georgia, Russia and Ukraine. It will improve the availability and quality of Black Sea environmental data in line with the EU *Marine Strategy Framework Directive* (MSFD) and the *Black Sea Strategic Action Plan* (2009). The programme will also improve the ability of partner countries to perform marine environmental monitoring along MSFD principles.

The Guiana Shield Facility (GSF)

The Guiana Shield eco-region is the largest uninterrupted and intact primary tropical rainforest in the world (with more than 2.7 million hectares), and extends from COLOMBIA in the west to the BRAZILIAN state of Amapá in the east, including parts of VENEZUELA and all of GUYANA, SURINAME, and FRENCH GUIANA. The region provides a huge storage of carbon dioxide, contains 10-15 percent of the world's fresh water reserves, and has an extraordinary rich diversity of plants and animals. It is still largely inhabited by indigenous communities whose livelihood depends on the environmental goods and services provided by the region's ecosystems, including water, food, and medicines. Some eight million people inhabit the Guiana Shield eco-region.

However, despite the abundance of natural resources, the poverty level remains high. High levels of external debt and weak institutional capacity exert an increasing pressure on governments and local populations to choose economic activities that may be beneficial on the short term – but that damage the unique character of the eco-region. This has led to inadequate land use planning, production of illicit drugs, illegal mining and logging, ill-planned infrastructure projects, and expansion of the agricultural frontier.

To improve the situation for the local communities and at the same time foster better conservation of ecosystem resources in this unique eco-region, the *Guiana Shield Facility* (2010-2014) has been set up. It is managed by UNDP in Guyana and supported by the EU and the Netherlands. The objective is to develop an integrated eco-regional policy and a sustainable financial mechanism that can provide compensation to local ecosystem



The Guiana Shield Facility participated in the 5th Continental Summit of Indigenous People. © UNDP Colombia.

managers and environmentally responsible businesses, thereby providing alternative subsistence to the inhabitants of the region.

The GSF is directly supporting national level priorities in Brazil (Amapá and Amazonas States), Colombia (Matavén resguardos), Guyana, and Suriname. More than USD 1 million has been delivered in support of REDD+ development in these countries (see more page 86), targeting monitoring, reporting and verification systems for REDD+ at community and national levels. In addition, the GSF is partnering with French Guiana to promote transboundary cooperation on integrated freshwater management.

The GSF provides incentives for the conservation of the unique ecosystems of the Guiana Shield, which in turn will help ensure the long-term delivery of these globally important environmental services. In parallel, the GSF will contribute to poverty reduction.



COUNTRY AND REGIONAL CASE STUDIES

UNDP-EU partnership in ETHIOPIA

Over the last ten years, the EU and UNDP have successfully contributed to the sustainable social, economic and institutional development in Ethiopia, a country that has faced major challenges originating from heritages of past conflicts; the lack of effective democratic institutions; and an increasingly growing population still emerging from poverty.

With particular emphasis on developing capacities, the partnership has supported programmes in a range of different development areas including: recovery from conflict (mine action), democratic governance, human rights and poverty reduction.

The UNDP-EU **Capacity Building for National Parliament** project, which started in 2003, served to build capacity and awareness of roles and responsibilities within Parliament to support good governance. Building on these initial successes, the **Democratic Institutions Programme** (which the EU supported from 2010 onwards) focused on developing increasing levels of institutional capacities to ensure that parliamentarians, Ombudsman Commission, Human Rights Commission, Auditor General's Office and other institutions were able to more effectively fulfil their mandates and responsibilities – including more formalized checks and balances – resulting in greater accountability, transparency and improved service delivery across the country. The programme has also successfully supported the promotion of human rights and access to justice in the country.

The democratic boost offered by the support of UNDP and EU has also been crucial in advancing on the MDGs, notably the reduction of extreme poverty. Focused on monitoring and evaluation, the **Sustainable Development Poverty Reduction Programme** has developed a grassroots approach, with the help of civil society organizations and non-state actors, in order to give more voice to the citizens and strengthen the governmental institutions dealing with extreme poverty issues in the country. The population below national poverty line in Ethiopia has decreased from 38.9 percent in 2004, to 29.6 percent in 2011 making Ethiopia one of the fastest movers in terms of human development.

The partnership also had an important impact on national policy formulation and development of capacities in the area of

international trade. Within the framework of the **Trade Capacity Building Programme** the UNDP-EU partnership has advised and supported the Ethiopian Government's process towards accession to the WTO.

As a legacy from the 1998-2000 war with Eritrea and after the 1977 Somali invasion, landmines heavily affected the regions of Tigray, Afar and Somali in Ethiopia. Two successive phases of UNDP-EU supported **mine-action programmes** have since benefited over one million people living in these regions. 17.93 million square metres of land was cleared, releasing arable land and thus contributing to increased food security. The programmes detected and destroyed 3,421 anti-personnel mines, 682 anti-tank mines and 25,309 pieces of un-exploded ordinance. 131,021 residents were educated on the risks of mines reducing their risk to be affected. According to the 2012 Landmine Monitor there has been a total number of 16,849 landmine/UXO victims (9,431 killed) in Ethiopia since record keeping started. The majority of the casualties occurred before the start of this project. By the end of 2011, this number had been reduced to zero.

Currently, the work of UNDP and EU in Ethiopia is anchored in supporting Ethiopia in achieving its ambitious **Growth and Transformation Plan**, which was approved in 2011. The support is given through the *Development Assistance Group* (DAG) Pooled Fund, which is administered by UNDP. This alignment of UNDP, EU and other DAG members' resources to national development goals has the potential to significantly support Ethiopia in achieving the goals set forth in the Growth and Transformation Plan, and to efficiently address the most pressing issues affecting Ethiopian society.

Future projects and investments will continue to focus on poverty reduction, aid effectiveness and on the strengthening democratic governance – both at local and national level.

The EU has provided EUR 17.75 million to UNDP's programmes in Ethiopia in the last decade (2004-2013).

UNDP-EU partnership in AFGHANISTAN

In Afghanistan, the UNDP-EU partnership has been active since 2003, helping to further the democratic transition of the country, promoting gender equality, human rights and access to justice, improving the security for communities and citizens, supporting the decentralization process, reaching out to remote areas, and providing access to clean, affordable energy.

Over the last ten years, the EU has been one of the key partners and donors to UNDP Afghanistan, engaging and interacting at all strategic levels, aiming at strengthening both policy and programme development and implementation. At the overall level, as the partnership between the EU and UNDP has promoted national ownership of interventions, it has contributed to an **increased Afghan leadership, responsibility and accountability**. In particular, the UNDP-EU partnership has been crucial for supporting the law enforcement efforts and the running of the new Afghan National Police, as well as for supporting the democratic electoral system.

In the area of **supporting the democratic process**, one of the key aspects in which the UNDP-EU partnership has evolved is in adopting the electoral cycle approach (see page 22). A significant impact of this has been the improved and visible capacity of the *Independent Electoral Commission* in administering Afghan-led elections. For example, in the 2005-2006 elections, it was supported by 500 international staff. In the 2009-2010 elections, this number had come down to about 150 international staff. The status of the *Independent Electoral Commission* is also strengthened – following the political tension that arose after the 2010 election, the President acknowledged the sovereignty of the *Independent Electoral Commission* and it is clear that the *Independent Electoral Commission* together with the *Independent Electoral Complaints Commission* are responsible for election results.

Democratic participation is also increasing in Afghanistan, partly through the support of UNDP and EU. This is especially important when it comes to the **participation of women**, where important efforts are still needed, especially in terms of women's empowerment. In spite of the disproportionate threats, violence, stigmatization and intimidation, women accounted for 39 percent

of all voters, for 16 percent of the candidates nominating themselves, and for 31 percent of observers in 2010. Aside from enabling women to enter polling stations without fear, this meant that women were empowered to be employed and to play active roles in the administration of elections. When Parliamentarians were sworn into the Afghan Parliament in January 2010, women accounted for 69 of the 249 candidates elected, representing approximately 28 percent of the Parliament and assuming more than the number of seats reserved for women.

In the last decade, UNDP and EU have also worked together within the framework of the *Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan* to **strengthen the country's law enforcement**. Over the years, this has built knowledge and skills in the Ministry of Interior, and promoted gender equality among the Afghan National Police and Ministry of Interior staff. Important efforts are still needed, especially in terms of women's empowerment. The *Law and Order Trust Fund* also promotes engagement between the police and community leaders, communities, and local councils. In 2011, 81 percent of Afghans expressed personal respect for the police, an increase of 8-points since the year before.

The UNDP-EU partnership has also helped to ensure that salaries are paid to the Afghan National Police in a timely manner, through an electronic payroll system currently covering over 99 percent of the total police force. As an example, in 2011-2012, the support from the EU contributed to pay salaries for 137,716 Afghan National Police officers and 5,056 Central Prison Department uniformed personnel.

To support the area of **justice and human rights**, the UNDP-EU partnership has engaged on initiatives to strengthen the capacity of justice providers at both the national and district level, as well as improving the State's ability to promote and protect human rights. For example, 4,525 justice, community and religious leaders were trained in Afghan laws, the legal system and human rights. Over 5 million people were reached through awareness campaigns – for instance through community theatre on women's rights, followed by discussions with community and religious leaders on issues such as forced marriage. To promote a true "bottom-up" approach,



In Afghanistan, regular meetings between communities and Afghan National Police help build relations. © UNDP

teachers were trained to educate primary and secondary school children about human rights and the right to education. This approach reached 46,000 students across six target provinces.

The partnership also supported the creation of the *Human Rights Support Unit* in the Ministry of Justice in 2010. The unit has reviewed existing national laws and policies for compliance with international conventions on human rights. At the request of the Ministry of Justice, the unit is currently working with UNICEF to develop the National Child Act, which will become the main piece of legislation protecting child rights in Afghanistan.

Support to de-concentration has significantly contributed to the on-going process of creating a coherent and comprehensive policy and legal framework for **sub-national governance**. The offices of the Provincial and District Governors now have far greater capacity to lead and coordinate development and services from line departments such as health and education. Provinces,

municipalities and districts are becoming more representative and inclusive, and women hold a number of leadership positions at all sub-national levels. Basic financial management training for provincial and district governors' staff has provided a good first step towards improved transparency and accountability. Assistance has also been crucial in ensuring that every sub-national civil servant has a minimum level of understanding and skills in democratic governance and public administration.

In parallel, the UNDP-EU partnership has been supporting local development in Afghanistan through over 3,300 projects aimed at advancing human development in remote areas of the country. This has, among other things, **helped rural people to access electricity** (see page 90).

To facilitate trade and transit and to combat illegal trafficking, the UNDP-EU partnership has since 2007, through the Tajikistan's Border Management Northern Afghanistan (BOMNAF) project, built four important international border crossing points on Afghanistan's border with Tajikistan, supported by seven border outposts. The partnership has also trained more than 500 border police officers and provided equipment to support border management and security across the entire length of this critical border.

2014 will mark the beginning of a complex political process in Afghanistan characterized by different levels of transition, namely the 2014 presidential elections, the security transition, and the 'Transformation Decade' (2015-2024). As the international forces prepare for their announced military draw-down date of 2014 in Afghanistan, the UN system can expect to play a stepped up role in helping the country manage the transition and beyond. After more than 50 years of development work in Afghanistan, UNDP has a special and critical task and is committed to stay in the country for the long haul. **The partnership with the EU will be essential for UNDP in order to continue to work even more closely with the country and its people to build a stronger nation.**

The EU has provided around EUR 403 million to UNDP's programmes in Afghanistan in the last decade (2004-2013).

UNDP-EU partnership in BANGLADESH

The EU has been UNDP's most important partner in addressing key development challenges in Bangladesh in the last decade, accounting for no less than 40 percent of UNDP's total resource mobilisation in the country. The UNDP-EU partnership in Bangladesh has significantly contributed in graduating people out of extreme poverty through social safety nets, building resilience in the face of natural disasters, deepening democracy through meaningful citizen engagement, and improving access to justice for the marginalised. The cooperation with the EU was also vital in bringing the country back to democratic rule in 2009, after a two-year interregnum under an unelected caretaker government.

This is especially true for the positive impact that the partnership has had over the years on Bangladesh's Chittagong Hill Tracts region, which had experienced a devastating armed conflict for over 20 years. Since 2004, the **UNDP-EU Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility** has established widespread confidence and helped reducing poverty by assisting the local population through services in health, education, agricultural development, capacity development and income generation. The Facility has played a major role in ensuring that the region, unlike most post-conflict areas across the world, has not descended into violence and the UN presence, supported by the EU, has encouraged social and policy change in governance and protection.

Another breakthrough in the area of democratic governance was achieved through a UNDP-EU joint effort, in partnership with other donors, designed to improve Bangladesh's capacity in **electoral administration** and to reinstate public confidence in the democratic process, following the country's 2006-2008 political crisis. The controversial pre-2007 voter list was believed to contain over 12 million duplicate or erroneous names, known as 'ghost voters,' spurring allegations that vote rigging and other election irregularities would be commonplace. With the contribution of UNDP, EU and other partners, the Bangladesh Election Commission was supported in the preparation of an electoral roll which created a fresh, credible, biometric voter list and registered a record-breaking 81 million voters in 11 months, helping to make the election in 2008 a resounding success.

Bangladesh has a history of local government stretching back 150 years, but local institutions have lacked the ability to control resources and the capacity to engage constituencies, until a landmark programme sought to build capacity and knowledge among grassroots institutions through the first **Local Government Development Project** in 2000. The initiative, which is still ongoing through different projects, not only enhanced the efficiency of Bangladesh's local administrations, but it also enabled millions of citizens to participate in planning and budgeting sessions, contributing significantly to an increasing engagement of citizens in more effective local government decision making processes. This has both changed the way communities engage with local authorities, and the way these authorities deliver services.

With an estimated backlog of 2.2 million cases, Bangladesh's justice system is burdened with huge delays in dispensing justice, discouraging citizens who wish to bring a case to justice. The EU-UNDP partnership set up '**village courts**' in 350 communities as a pilot to see if informal dispute resolution processes could narrow the gap in access to justice. The shift was immediate; village courts were populated with citizens who would not normally have turned to the justice system, and the popularity of these courts grew exponentially in 2012, with a 133 percent increase of cases compared to 2011. 20,000 rural households have sought legal recourse, and a cumulative total of 26,949 cases have been reported to village courts since 2010, of which 20,103 have been resolved. The success of village courts also led to new legislation - the *Village Courts Act*.

Together, UNDP and the EU also undertook the ambitious **Rural Employment Opportunities for Public Assets (REOPA)** programme, an innovative project targeting vulnerable rural women, especially the widowed, abandoned or divorced. The initiative provided impoverished women not only with cash-for-work opportunities in the short term, but also with the savings, knowledge and skills in order to build a prosperous future in the long run. Indeed, the project achieved outstanding accomplishments: 96 percent of the women who participated in the programme now successfully run microenterprises or invested in small businesses, with two thirds making capital gains. Moreover, if the targeted

women suffered on average 119 days per year from food shortage before joining REOPA, they became only affected for four days after graduating from the project.

The impacts of global warming are an abiding reality for Bangladesh, with the country seeing an increased frequency and intensity of floods and tropical cyclones, as well as rising sea levels that could see more than 16 percent of the country inundated in the next two decades. Despite the worsening situation, there is an impressive reduction of annual average fatalities due to natural disasters – from 3,686 deaths per year (1971-1980) to 790 deaths per year (2003-2012).

This positive trend has been achieved by shifting from policies that previously only focused on disaster response, towards policies of long-term disaster risk reduction on a national scale, envisioned and strongly supported by UNDP and the EU. Since 2006, there has been a redoubled push through the **Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP)**, a flagship EU-UNDP and multi-donor initiative. It has led to the creation of effective disaster response plans and national level critical institutions. These have helped to synchronize the national response, delivering emergency aid quickly in times of crisis, and helping to coordinate risk reduction and recovery. In 2011 alone, the CDMP contributed to the timely evacuation of 3.5 million

people due to a more effective flood early warning system and a network of 48,500 emergency response volunteers. In highly vulnerable communities 15,746 disaster-resilient homes and shelters were built in the spirit of 'building back better'.

Bangladesh's vision now extends beyond disasters to formulate how the country will prepare for long-term challenges – such as climate change. The second generation of programming has been designed in the light of the interconnectedness of issues of poverty, environment and climate, as well as the importance of community participation.

This shows that the UNDP-EU partnership in Bangladesh has been critical in facing the country's development challenges, ranging from much needed reforms in democratic governance to peace-building efforts and climate change initiatives. Many pressing challenges remain in Bangladesh. However, the EU and UNDP can jointly build on the gains made and lessons learnt in order to assist Bangladesh's mission to reach middle-income status and to attain inclusive and sustainable human development.

The EU has provided around EUR 162 million to UNDP's programmes in Bangladesh in the last decade (2004-2013).



UNDP's EU-supported REOPA project acts as a ladder on which marginalized women become more empowered and integrated in their communities, stepping into gainful employment and out of poverty. © Gazi Nafis Ahmed/UNDP Bangladesh

UNDP-EU partnership in MOLDOVA

Since its independence of 1991, the Republic of Moldova has passed through a complex stage of transition to democracy and market economy, witnessing political instability and de facto territorial disintegration. Many development challenges have yet to be addressed, but there have also been numerous positive changes in recent years, in particular in relation to poverty reduction and democratic governance.

UNDP's cooperation with the EU in the Republic of Moldova started in 2003 with a regional initiative to prevent drug abuse and trafficking in Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova (BUMAD). The partnership on the ground was further enhanced with the opening of the EU Delegation Office in Chisinau in 2005. Since then, numerous joint projects and initiatives have followed, contributing significantly to the achievement of the country's development priorities, which are today primarily linked to Moldova's European integration aspirations. The focus of the UNDP-EU partnership in Moldova lies particularly on the strategic areas of governance and participation, quality services and local and regional development, as well as increasing energy security and diversification of sources and energy independence.

One of the key objectives of Moldova's European integration efforts is the achievement of an **enhanced border management and customs control capacity**, in line with European practices. Thus, in 2005, EU and UNDP launched the *European Union Borders Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine* (EUBAM) in order to provide national authorities with training, technical advice and assistance in border control matters. The mission has achieved a significantly better knowledge and improved professional skills of the partner services, thereby contributing for instance to increased detections of smugglings and other cross-border crimes such as irregular migration and customs fraud.

Since 2010, UNDP and EU support Moldova's efforts to **reform its public institutions** by improving the quality of governance and public services through the establishment of the '*EU team of High Level Policy Advisers*' (EUHLPAM). The mission consists of fifteen international experts who are deployed at Moldova's highest public offices, including the Office of the Prime Minister,

to support the government by providing strategic policy advice on the EU integration process, economic recovery and democratic reforms. This engagement was instrumental in the successful implementation by Moldova of the *Visa Liberalization Action Plan* and in initialling the *Moldova-EU Association Agreement* and the *Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area* at the Vilnius Eastern Partnership Summit in November 2013.

Through the project '*Electoral Support for Moldova*' the partnership **supported the Central Electoral Commission**, contributing to the success of the 2010 parliamentary elections that saw two out of three voters – including Moldovans living abroad – participating in the elections, achieving the highest rate the country had ever experienced. The support given helped the country to have an electronic voter registration and an improved system to display turnout and voting results, providing faster and more secure access to information. It was also the first time visually impaired people could cast their vote directly and discretely, using the new system.

The still **unresolved status of the break-away region of Transnistria** has posed significant development challenges to the Republic of Moldova and can be seen as a major obstacle for improved well-being of the populations on both banks of the Nistru River. EU engagement with Moldova and the conflict in Transnistria has grown over the past years, including through the implementation of the EU-Moldova Action Plan, which calls for "*shared responsibility in conflict prevention and conflict resolution*".

Through the EU-funded project '*Confidence Building Measures*', UNDP promotes action at the local level, bringing together organisations from the Transnistrian region and the rest of Moldova to implement projects in areas such as business development, social community infrastructure, health, environment and civil society development. **Local community leaders** from both sides are now involved in a multitude of locally owned initiatives that benefit from cross-river mutual support networks, teaching each other how to use renewable energy technologies, raise funds, protect the ecology of the Nistru River, use social media, support

victims of domestic violence, etc. More robust **social and legal services** are offered to people with disabilities, children from vulnerable families and single parents. Medical assistance for over 8,500 pregnant women and their children was significantly improved as a result of the UNDP-EU partnership.

In the current phase of the programme, which started in 2012, 89 projects have been supported, benefiting more than 205,000 people. Maybe even more importantly, this programme is helping people to interact through the joint activities and to reduce the negative effects of over twenty years isolation of the Transnistrian region.

In 2011, the **'Moldova Energy and Biomass Project'** was launched by the EU and UNDP. This innovative programme aims to increase Moldova's energy security, set up functional markets for biomass technologies and fuel, and create new jobs and income at the local and regional level. Thanks to this ambitious project, already more than 130 kindergartens, schools, medical centres and other public institutions in rural areas, are being heated with locally-produced energy from biomass, especially briquettes and pellets from straw and other agricultural wastes. Not only does the programme lay the basis for the establishment of functional markets for biomass fuel and technologies, which will ensure sustainability of the intervention beyond its lifetime, but it will also contribute to a long-term reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and of the country's environmental pollution.

In the area of **human rights** and in line with the requirements of the *UN Convention against Torture and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture*, the UNDP-EU partnership has supported the national efforts on preventing torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. For example, the partnership supported the launch of a toll-free "green line" at the Centre for Human Rights, where callers can report human rights violations. Since its launch in July 2009, the green line has received more than 500 complaints of human rights violations and 1,445 requests for advice on human right issues. A related project implemented in 2011-2012 supported forensic examination along with training to try cases of torture. Some 200 forensic experts, medical personnel from places of detention and penitentiary institutions, hospital staff and independent medical practitioners have been offered training on examination techniques and



In Moldova, a new generation is learning to advocate the benefits of sustainable, efficient energy. © UNDP Moldova / Mihai Maciucă

relevant standards when dealing with torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. Another 200 representatives of the police, prosecution and judiciary were trained to investigate and adjudicate cases of torture, compliant to the Istanbul Protocol.

In Moldova, UNDP has proved to bring a strong comparative advantage through its in-depth knowledge of national and local circumstances, well-built and maintained relationships with government and non-government partners at all levels, and, most importantly, offering a comprehensive development approach, which is essential in building lasting support for the European integration path the country has chosen. Examples of the joint work demonstrate that the UNDP-EU partnership cuts across all sectors of development and is even likely to expand in future, responding to the country's arising needs that a potential change of the EU accession status might entail.

The EU has provided around EUR 45 million to UNDP's programmes in Moldova in the last decade (2004-2013).

UNDP-EU partnership in SOMALIA

After more than two decades of devastating conflict and a fragile political environment, Somalia turned a new chapter in 2012. **The partnership between UNDP and the EU in support of the country has been an important element that has allowed Somalia and its people feel new hope for the future of the country.**

To UNDP Somalia, the EU is one of the most important international partners in the last decade. The partnership dates back to the adoption of the *Transitional Federal Charter* in 2004. After more than two decades of conflict, the country's institutions had suffered immensely, as state structures were fragmented, government buildings were destroyed and the civil service was weakened or non-existent in many areas of the country. In these circumstances support to Somalia needed to be comprehensive and UNDP responded with programmes to address several issues.

The EU was an important partner for UNDP from the start, involved in all stages of programme design, implementation as well as monitoring and evaluation, and participating in crucial decision making forums. Currently, the EU funds 70 percent of UNDP's **governance and rule of law** programmes in Somalia. This funding has provided the programmes with the freedom to work in a holistic approach, reducing silos and allowing all components of governance and justice programmes to grow at a complementary pace.

EU support to UNDP in Somalia has contributed to the **building of credible state institutions** that can administer and manage core government functions more effectively. For example, key Federal, Somaliland and Puntland government institutions are now more efficient in providing public services to the population, especially to the poor and other vulnerable groups. The Somaliland government was supported to establish its own *Civil Service Institute*, and to gradually improve the variety and quality of training it offers – it now offers public administration and accounting programmes, and diplomas in English, as well as short courses on a variety of topics. The institute also provides targeted support for women to enable their candidacy to senior positions. By 2013, the institute had trained more than 2,800 civil servants.

In Puntland, the UNDP-EU partnership contributed to the development of a public financial management reform strategy, improving existing accounting processes and supporting best practice for government accounting. For the first time in 2011, central government and local government audits were carried out in Somaliland and Puntland, increasing transparency and citizens' insight into government business.

Service delivery and citizen participation at the local level has been supported by the *UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery*, under the auspices of the EU- UNDP partnership arrangement.

Over the years, UNDP-EU partnership also contributed to the **training of 14,000 civilian police officers**, and the recruitment of female police officers who have been trained on sexual and gender-based violence. Providing scholarships to female law students has helped **increase the number of women working in the justice sector** as prosecutors, registrars, civil servants and lawyers. To increase access to justice for populations outside regional capitals, the partnership has supported mobile courts that travel to districts and rural areas, taking on legal cases and providing technical advice to judicial staff and law enforcement officials. Since their establishment in 2009, 13 mobile courts have serviced over 18,000 people.

In parallel, for many years, UNDP and EU supported the process of **developing a constitution in Somalia**. An early focus was on providing models of federalism and training of legal professionals, including the drafting of a new charter. With the adoption of the new provisional constitution in August 2012, Somalia will be able to introduce governance that is more responsive, representative and accountable to its people. Fundamental issues such as human rights and women's participation in the political arena are included in the provisional constitution. Following the approval of the provisional constitution, a new National Federal Parliament was created, and soon after that, in September 2012, the country could welcome its first "elected" President in 42 years. The election was the culmination of years of commitment by the Somali people and the international community to usher in a new era of peace.

One year later, on 16 September 2013, the *Somalia New Deal Conference*, co-hosted by the EU and Somalia, was held in Brussels where the international community and Somalia endorsed the *Somali Compact*, pledged support to enable its implementation and re-committed to the Somali political process. At the centre of the *Compact* are peacebuilding and state building goals designed to deliver inclusive politics, improved security, greater justice, strong foundations for economic recovery and long-term systems to generate Somali revenue.

UNDP, supported by the EU and other partners, has continued to work with the new government in its process of reviewing and improving policies across all sectors. UNDP and the *United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia* (UNSOM) are closely coordinating the development of new projects for the next three years in line with the Somali Compact and the EU Delegation has been very involved from the early stage. UNDP looks forward to continuing the strong relationship with the EU in support of the people of Somalia.

The EU has provided around EUR 94 million to UNDP's programmes in Somalia in the last decade (2004-2013).



Registry at the women and children desk at the central police station, Hargeisa, Somalia. © UNDP Somalia



© African Union-UN Information Support Team

UNDP-EU partnership in BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

UNDP has been helping Bosnia and Herzegovina to attract and use international assistance since 1996. **Today, the country's transformation into a united, peaceful and prosperous future EU member state** is a common aim for both UNDP and the EU. Being a potential candidate for EU membership, Bosnia and Herzegovina is addressing development priorities linked to the EU agenda. UNDP, with its long lasting experience and know how, is recognized as a valuable partner in these endeavours. Over the years, the UNDP-EU partnership has gradually turned its support from post-conflict assistance into a more comprehensive agenda oriented towards long-term development, focusing in particular on the promotion of social inclusion, regional and rural development, rule of law as well as the areas of environment and climate change.

The return of refugees and displaced persons to their pre-war homes is crucial for the creation of a sustainable, long-lasting peace in the country. In 2003, the UNDP-EU partnership engaged on the 'SUTRA' programme (Support to Results-based Approach), which was designed to tackle the limited capacity of Bosnia and Herzegovina's national authorities to manage these return processes. By the end of the programme in 2009, over 5,000 people from mainly rural households had been assisted through the provision of housing and sustainability measures and more than 1,500 individual housing units were reconstructed. Local communities were also supported to work with the returnees and facilitate their integration into the places of return.

Since 2009, the partnership has supported the **largest civil society intervention** in the country through the '*Reinforcement of Local Democracy*' project, focusing on improving the relationship between local governance structures and civil society organizations. The project has assisted over 200 civil society organizations to develop and implement projects. They are now able to help communities with projects related to social inclusion, tackling issues such as unemployment, poverty reduction, people with disabilities, gender equality, youth, environmental protection, minority groups – reaching also distant and less developed communities as well as grassroots civil society organizations that were often forgotten by the central authorities. In the three phases of the project since 2009, over 50,000 people in 40 municipalities have benefitted from this intervention. The Reinforcement of Local Democracy project has been recognized by the EU as good practice and model for other countries in the region to follow.

Moreover, an effective **use of ICT by the public sector** has been recognised as a critical element of the long-term development and modernisation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. With the support of the EU, UNDP has launched an e-Government project, revolutionising the internal government operations and processes through the enhancement of the communication and IT infrastructure, achieving a computerisation of basic registers and an overall digitalisation of the public administration services. The next step for the country will be to introduce more citizen-centred e-governance services and to improve the transparency and efficiency of its public administration, as well as to lessen the burden of bureaucracy, aligning itself to EU standards.

Another challenge is the area of **community security**, where the UNDP-EU project 'EXPLODE' (Explosive Ordnance Destruction), currently in its third phase, has since 2005 supported the Ministry of Defence with the disposal of over 9 tons of ammunition, representing over 26 percent of the total military stockpile in 2005, and 125,000 pieces of small arms and light weapons. The partnership has supported the country to fulfil its obligations under the UN Convention to Ban Cluster Munitions. EXPLODE now constitutes an essential part of the national Strategy on Small Arms and Light Weapons Control for the period 2013-2016. The EXPLODE and the EU military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR/Althea), which is providing capacity building in the defence establishment, are complementary, and the engagement by UNDP and EU in this domain is well coordinated.

Beyond the traditional implementation of EU-funded projects, UNDP is also engaging with the EU by providing important inputs to the annual EU Country Progress Reports outlining Bosnia and Herzegovina's progress as well as the reforms that are still needed in order for it to conform to the EU accession criteria.

The results of the above and other joint projects demonstrate that UNDP is well positioned to complement and advance the EU agenda in Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly thanks to its well established cooperation mechanisms with government at all levels, and its grass-root approach to the implementation of projects, furthering the local ownership and sustainability of the programmes.



The EU has provided around EUR 32 million to UNDP's programmes in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the last decade (2004-2013).

UNDP-EU partnership in the EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD

The EU '*European Neighbourhood Policy*' (ENP) was developed in 2004, with the objective of avoiding the emergence of new dividing lines between the enlarged EU and its neighbours – and instead strengthening the prosperity, stability and security of all. It is based on the values of democracy, rule of law and respect of human rights.

The ENP framework is proposed to 16 of EU's closest neighbours. In the last decade, the UNDP-EU partnership has been active in 12 of these countries and territories – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Lebanon, Moldova, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine. The partnership has spanned thematic areas such as elections and parliamentary support, local governance and local development, gender equality, human rights, early recovery from crisis, prevention and preparedness for disasters, climate change and energy, mine action (see page 78) and integrated border management (see page 46).

The UNDP-EU partnership in the region adds value, building on the strengths and experiences of the two partners. UNDP has been present in these countries since independence, working closely with partners at many levels of society in both design and delivery of programmes. This has helped to build the reputation of UNDP as a trusted and neutral partner. In these countries, UNDP is seeking to build trust between citizens and authorities and to build bridges between people in frozen conflicts. Examples of this include work done in Moldova (see page 104) and Georgia (see page 58).

While partnering with UNDP in the European neighbourhood clearly adds value to the EU, the reverse is equally true. The EU has important political and economic weight in the region, and many of the countries aspire to a deeper relationship with the EU, which is offered through the ENP. Partner countries, when deepening their relations with the European Union, demonstrate



Children paint a European map in a kindergarten at the Velykiy Shchymel village of Chernigiv's area, Ukraine. © EU/Neighbourhood Info Centre

their commitment to democracy, human rights, rule of law, good governance, market economy principles and sustainable development. The EU is thus an important partner to UNDP as a driver of reform in the region, encouraging adherence to these international norms and standards. Both the EU and UNDP help the countries achieve these objectives.

Since 2010, the UNDP-EU partnership supports civil society organizations in **GEORGIA** to monitor media performance, with the objective of raising professional standards of the media and promoting independent and impartial reporting. During the 2012 parliamentary and 2013 presidential elections, around 40 Georgian print, TV, radio and online media outlets were monitored by the Georgian civil society organizations, to assess impartiality and professionalism of election reporting. The OSCE (Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights) assessed the coverage of the 2013 presidential polls in Georgia as more open than before, with the journalists covering major political events in a more inclusive manner. (For more examples from Georgia, see pages 47, 58, 72, 96).

In **UKRAINE**, UNDP and EU have supported a community based approach to development, creating partnerships and cooperation between citizens and authorities for sustainable local development, benefiting close to 1 million Ukrainians (see more on page 36).

In **LEBANON**, UNDP and EU support the country to find peaceful and inclusive ways to engage in dialogue, in order to build trust both at the local and national level. The partnership has supported a number of initiatives, targeting journalists, high school teachers, young people, municipal officials and NGOs with a view to strengthening their contribution towards maintaining a civil peace in their country through community-driven mechanisms that can mitigate conflict at the local level. Since 2011, the partnership supported the establishment of a national civil society platform on civil peace, consisting of 10 national organizations. As a result, the participating NGOs decided to identify their gatherings as the "National Campaign for Truth and Reconciliation" and agreed on several concrete steps and activities that they would achieve by 2015. (For more examples from Lebanon, see pages 42, 72, 78)

In **EGYPT**, the partnership recently engaged on a programme to support human rights, by making students more aware of their rights as citizens and promoting the understanding and awareness of democracy, the rule of law and freedom of expression. The project focuses on the faculties of education and is thus promoting awareness on human rights among future teachers, who in turn will be able to teach their students about human rights. (For more examples from Egypt, see page 40)

UNDP and EU have also supported countries in the region, such as **AZERBAIJAN**, **BELARUS** and **MOLDOVA** with access to sustainable access to energy (see chapter 90), and in 2012, UNDP and EU embarked on a new innovative programme to support climate change mitigation and adaptation in **RUSSIA** and **EASTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD** countries, through the *Clima East* programme (see page 87).

In **JORDAN**, in the Northern part, bordering Syria, over 10 million m² of land has been cleared from mines, and 7 million m² highly fertile land, presently in the buffer zone between the minefields and the local farms, has been returned for agricultural use and livestock herding. Jordan was declared mine free in 2012.

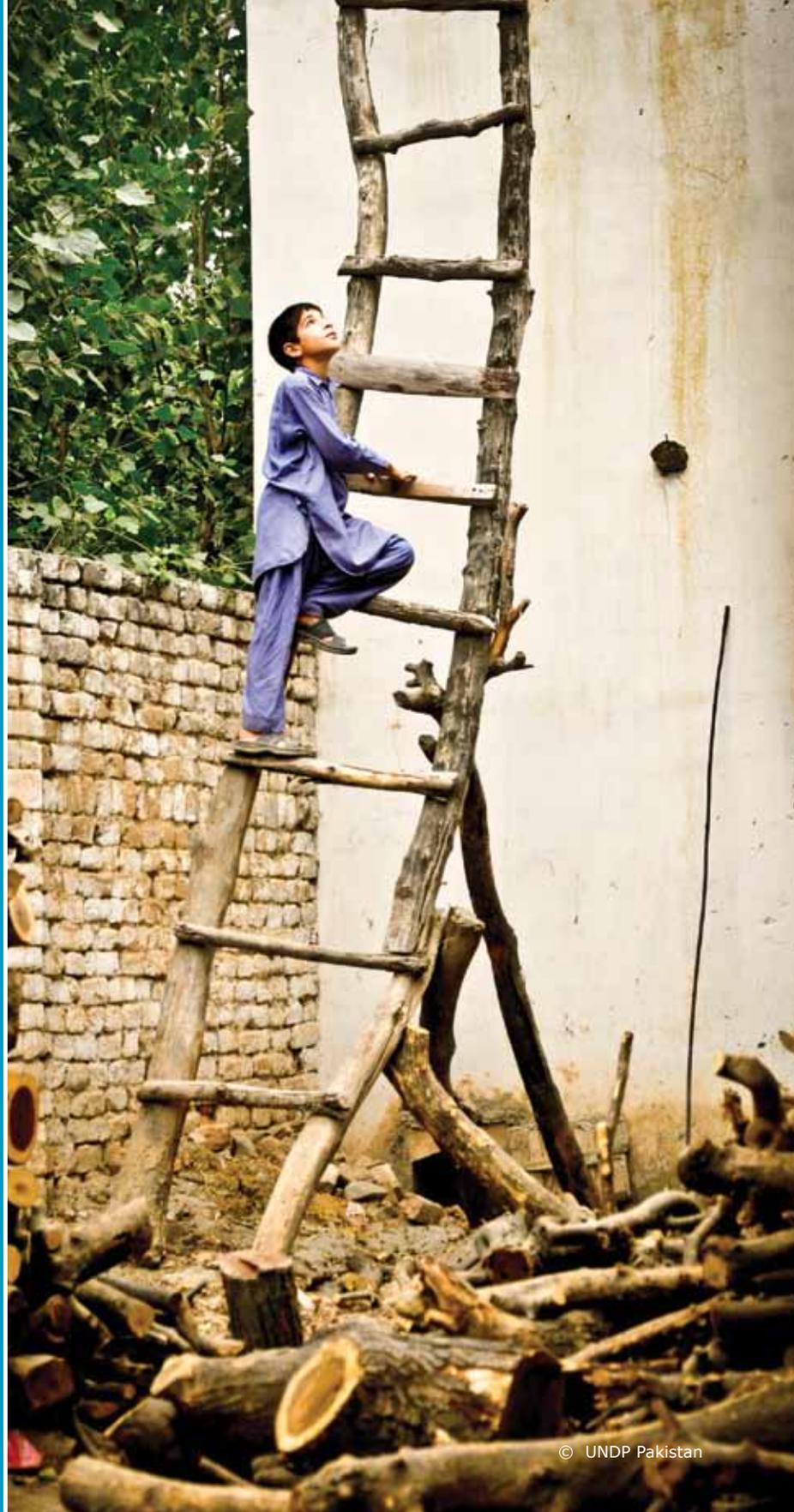
The total funding from the EU to UNDP's programmes in the 12 above-mentioned countries amounts to close to EUR 270 million for the period 2004-2013. Many of the programmes have been funded by the 'European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument' (ENPI), which provides funding for programmes in the ENP plus Russia, while others have received funding from other EU sources such as the 'Instrument for Stability', TACIS, EIDHR and European Commission development and humanitarian funding.

A photograph of a forest with several tree trunks in the foreground and a person sitting on a bench in the background. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day. The trees are tall and thin, with light-colored bark. The ground is covered in grass and some small plants. The person is sitting on a bench, and their back is to the camera. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

Part III

The future of the UNDP-EU Partnership





Introduction

The UNDP-EU partnership has come a long way in the last decade, since the signature of the Strategic Partnership Agreement in 2004. The results presented in this report speak for themselves, and yet they represent but a fraction of what our partnership has been able to achieve in support of 115 countries around the world. By working together, we achieve more than we would on our own.

While we take a moment to reflect on this, and celebrate our 10-years as strategic partners, it is important to acknowledge the huge task ahead of us. The world is changing, and our partnership must keep pace with it, if it is to remain as relevant as it has been for our partner countries in the coming decade.

In the last decade, the Millennium Development Goals have forged renewed consensus on the fact that the pace of poverty eradication around the world needs further acceleration. While efforts are on-going to advance on the MDGs, the world is simultaneously planning for how to address developmental challenges in the post-2015 era. Both UNDP and EU are active partners in this dialogue. This is a vision within reach, with the eradication of extreme poverty and major reductions in overall poverty feasible within a generation.

A Changing World, New Challenges and Opportunities

The world is going through an unprecedented transition.

The global balance of power is shifting, extreme poverty has dropped to historic lows, more people than ever before now live in cities, and new technologies are revolutionising social behaviours and entire industries.

Risks are rising as well. Inequalities are widening within countries, violent tensions are making some societies vulnerable to crisis and even collapse, and competition is intensifying around scarce natural resources. Many societies are also struggling to bring women and youth into the circle of prosperity. The gaps are glaring despite progress on the MDGs. Women and girls still make up a high proportion of people living in income poverty and deprived of education, health, voice and other non-income dimensions of well-being. Progress in closing gender gaps in education has not led to the removal of inequalities in labour markets. Norms that exclude women from the public sphere remain strong in many places and gender-based violence is a significant issue. Planetary boundaries are being breached, risking irreversible and abrupt environmental change. Climate change in particular is already having significant consequences, most of all for the poor.

Nevertheless, there are grounds for optimism. It is now possible to eradicate extreme poverty, halt and reverse growing inequalities and achieve universal access to basic services, bringing everyone above a minimum threshold of well-being. With more countries moving towards democratic political systems and responding to growing public demand, the room for voice and participation can expand now to an extent unthinkable before. At the same time, new knowledge and experiences are making it possible to pursue economic growth, environmental sustainability and social equity simultaneously. Making the most of this momentum, while putting in place measures to mitigate risk and prevent loss of gains made when a crisis strikes, will be a major task of development in coming decades. Success will depend on finding ways of fighting poverty and inequality, deepening inclusion and reducing conflict, without inflicting irreversible damage on environmental systems, including the climate.

This challenges us to rethink development. Sustainable development offers a way forward.

As described in the Outcome Document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development ('Rio+20'), the overarching objectives and essential requirements for sustainable development are poverty eradication; changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production; and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development.

Sustainable development is complemented and reinforced by the concept of human development, which focuses on the process of enlarging people's choices, looking both at the formation of human capabilities and the use people make of their acquired capabilities.

Another part of the response lies in a United Nations development system that is equipped to help programme countries address new realities. There are valuable UN system-wide assets to build on such as universality, legitimacy, a strong normative foundation, and an unparalleled worldwide presence. UNDP itself has particular strengths. These include an up-to-date conceptual outlook, a proven ability to influence development policies and build capacity, and a long-standing role as a trusted partner working across sectors and with multiple stakeholders, often on sensitive issues. A large country network and a core coordination function within the UN development system reinforce UNDP's strengths.

The UN General Assembly offers a clear direction to the UN development system.

Through resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of UN operational activities for development, adopted in December 2012, it identifies five key development issues: poverty eradication as the greatest global challenge, sustainable development, gender equality and women's empowerment, transitions from relief to development, and resilience, the latter two being particularly relevant in disaster and post-conflict settings.

Realigning and Strengthening the UNDP-EU Partnership

The UNDP-EU partnership is strong and vibrant in all of the initial core areas of the *Strategic Partnership Agreement* – **Governance; Conflict Prevention; and Post-Crisis Reconstruction**. As can be seen from the analysis above, all of these areas will become even more important in the future in the context of the changing world. There is therefore scope to deepen the partnership in areas where it clearly demonstrates an added value, and venturing into new, emerging areas where the partnership has potential to make an important impact. This is especially relevant now, as both UNDP and the EU are realigning policies and programming to better address global challenges in the future.

The new UNDP Strategic Plan (2014-2017) proposes to address poverty and inequality by working on development issues in an integrated manner, focusing on the issues of sustainability, inclusion and resilience. This approach will provide greater flexibility to address development challenges. The EU has defined the financial instruments for the next programming cycle (2014-2020), further aligning internal and external policies. Both UNDP and EU use 'sustainable development' as the frame of reference, integrating the social, economic and environmental dimensions of development.

Some of the areas that we can already identify where our partnership could deepen include – in the area of **GOVERNANCE** – increasingly building on policy coherence between key sectors (both upstream and through decentralised cooperation); strengthening legislative mechanisms; and supporting political parties to encourage better representation of community interests, women and youth. Governance interventions in the 21st century will need to embrace not only the 'whole-of-government' but also the 'whole-of-society' approach, having a greater emphasis on both the supply and demand sides of governance.

As conflicts and disasters continue to pose a serious threat to sustainable human development in many countries, there is a need to continue and intensify the cooperation in the area of **CONFLICT PREVENTION**, improving governance in fragile environments through a renewed focus on capacity development.

In the area of **DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**, there is further scope to support countries to see disaster risk reduction as an integral part of development planning. This includes support to

long-term policies and investments, and risk assessments, as well as to preparedness and recovery efforts at both national and local levels. Also, recognizing and increasingly taking into consideration the nexus of disasters-climate change on one hand, and disasters-conflicts on the other hand when planning will help to make countries more resilient.

In supporting countries with **POST-CRISIS RECONSTRUCTION** following natural disasters or conflict, the UNDP-EU partnership is unique in its provision of sustained support. Being present both in the immediate crisis recovery period and in the more long-term reconstruction and development phase, the partnership tries to ease the transition between the two. This approach is becoming increasingly important, as many countries struggle with dwindling aid after the immediate crisis period is over, hampering the long-term reconstruction and development, and risking the gains already made. There are clearly many opportunities to deepen the partnership in this area in the future, especially in linking relief and rehabilitation with development.

LOCAL GOVERNANCE/LOCAL DEVELOPMENT is another area where the partnership is strong, as demonstrated in the chapter starting on page 32 of this report. It is also an area where both the EU and UNDP are currently reviewing their respective approaches, and where many synergies between the two can be found; in the latest European Commission Communication on *Local Authorities in Development*, the EU emphasizes a number of key principles that are mirrored in UNDP's proposed strategy in this area. There is clearly scope for a more intensified collaboration, and for expanding the partnership into new areas where the local entry-point could be effective. These include linking local governance to post-crisis recovery contexts and peace efforts, and responding to fragility and conflict through better natural resources management at the local level.

With the support of the EU in this area, UNDP could significantly improve the impact of its new strategy, whereas the EU could benefit from the implementing capacity of UNDP at the local level in 123 on-going local governance/local development programmes in 77 countries. UNDP also brings its experience with the territorial approach, and its positioned multi-dimensional leveraging as it works with Governments at all levels and in all sectors, the private sector, and civil society and minority groups.

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT are identified as crosscutting issues in the UNDP-EU *Strategic Partnership Agreement*, together with human rights. The partnership has successfully managed to include this dimension in many of its programmes in the last decade, and has contributed to the increased political, economic and social participation of women, supported victims of gender-based violence, improved access to justice for women and other vulnerable groups and increased the number of female judges, police officers and prosecutors. However, given the significance of women's empowerment to achieve sustainable human development, and given the importance both the EU and UNDP place on this, the time is perhaps ripe for more intensified cooperation in this area, in collaboration with the wider UN-family, both in Brussels and at the country level.

While not part of the initial Strategic Partnership Agreement between UNDP and EU, the partnership in the areas of **ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY** has in the last years been able to demonstrate many promising results. These include innovative global and regional programmes to address the issues of climate change, including linking it to the wider picture of sustainable management of natural resources, protection of ecosystems and biodiversity, and the extension of sustainable and modern sources of energy to the poor.

In the last decade, the concept of '**SUSTAINABLE GROWTH**' has gained importance as a driver for inclusive and equitable growth, job creation, innovation and use of natural resources in a sustainable manner. Developing countries will need support for their efforts to strategically green their economies, through policy advice, finance, capacity building, and technology transfer. Inclusive and sustainable green growth, when broken down, includes and links climate change, sustainable energy, sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity, sustainable economic and social development, including universal social protection schemes – areas where the UNDP-EU partnership is already active, both at global and country levels. As a very significant provider of development assistance, and with its edge in green technologies, the EU has a critical role to play in advancing green growth. UNDP, with its experience in these areas, coupled with an extensive country presence, its convener role and its coordinating function within the UN system, represents an important entry-point for supporting developing countries to green their economies.

In the area of **CLIMATE CHANGE**, UNDP has valuable experience gained from having supported over 140 countries to address the impact of climate change, by providing input and expertise to low emission, climate resilient development strategies and on the ground actions. This experience shows that long-term climate change management requires a shift to a holistic approach, where climate change mitigation and adaptation thinking is incorporated into national and sub-national development goals and planning processes. The partnership between UNDP and EU could play an important role in this.

In the field of **SUSTAINABLE ENERGY**, the UNDP-EU partnership has focused on the provision and management of renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, energy saving and de-risking renewable energy investments. Given the importance the EU plays in this area, both in policy and financing, and UNDP's experience, having supported over 80 countries with strengthening the energy sector, there is scope to expand the partnership. UNDP and EU could bring further benefits to the partner countries, especially through joint programming with the wider UN-family under the umbrella of the UN Secretary General's Sustainable Energy for All initiative.

AS DEMONSTRATED IN THIS REPORT, THE UNDP-EU PARTNERSHIP ADDS VALUE. It makes a difference where it matters most – in improving the lives of people, around the world. As both UNDP and the EU are currently reviewing and tuning their policies to better align to the challenges, this is a good opportunity to capitalize on lessons learned, find new synergies, and deepen our partnership so that it increasingly addresses the challenges identified. This will ensure that the partnership is dynamic and relevant for the countries – and the people – that we are supporting.



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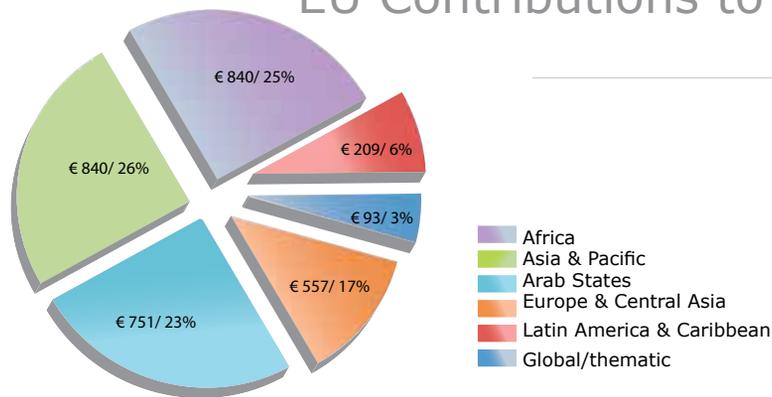


Annex:

Key figures of the UNDP-EU Partnership

EU Contributions to UNDP by Region (2004-2013)

in millions EUR

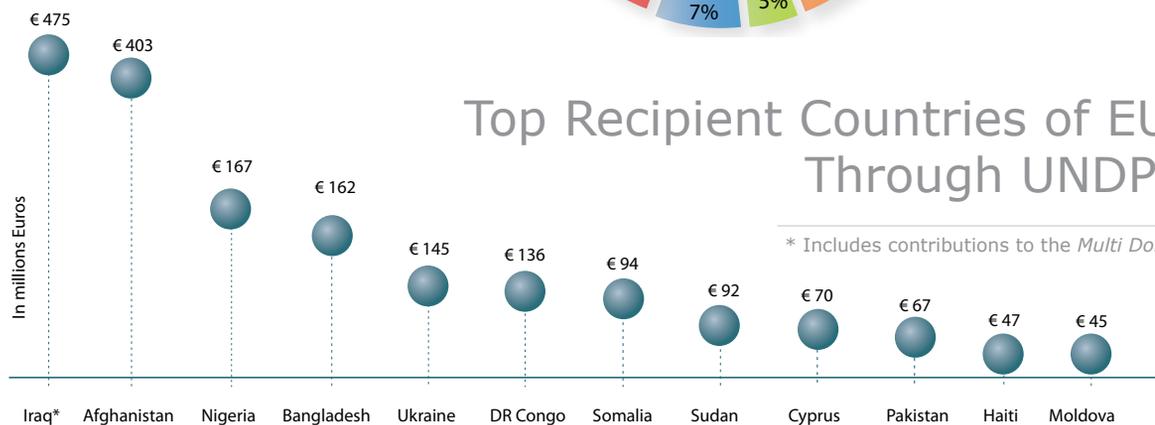
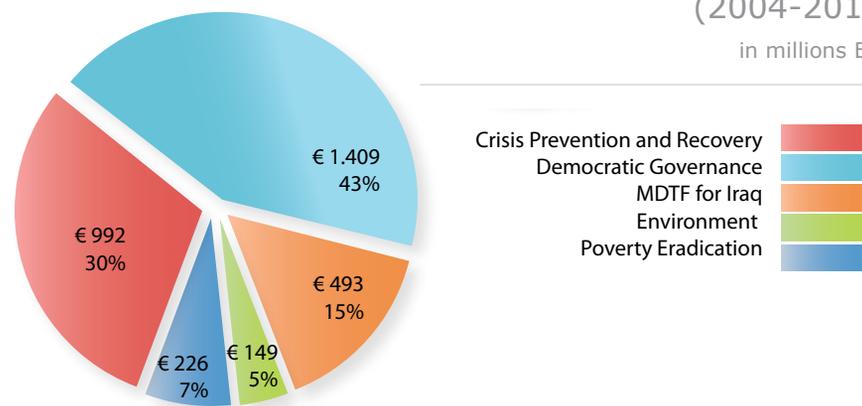


(Total: € 3,290 millions)

Thematic Breakdown of EU Contributions to UNDP's Activities (2004-2013)

(2004-2013)

in millions EUR



* Includes contributions to the *Multi Donor Trust Fund for Iraq*

