

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



FUNDING WINDOWS

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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I. Introduction

Since 2016, UNDP's Funding Windows have served as the corporate mechanism to channel resources to critical issues at the core of the UNDP Strategic Plan in the areas of Poverty and Inequality; Nature, Climate and Energy; Governance, Peacebuilding, Crisis and Resilience; and Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. The four windows allow funding partners to contribute to global priorities while giving UNDP the flexibility to invest in critical areas based on needs, catalytic value and potential to bolster an integrated approach within the UN development system.

This annual report highlights the achievements of the Funding Windows in 2020, through national, regional and global interventions. All results stem from the essential support, engagement and investments of our contributing partners, to whom we are extremely grateful.

Despite harrowing global challenges in 2020, the Funding Windows performed remarkably well in the volume of resources mobilized and allocated, the breadth of countries and projects supported, and the rate of expenditures. Over the year, the Funding Windows mobilized US \$125 million, reflecting over 20 percent growth from \$103 million in 2019. Meanwhile, expenditures reached \$48 million (in addition to the \$30 million towards UNDP's COVID-19 response), with interventions supported in 103 UNDP country offices.¹

The Funding Windows responded swiftly to the global health crisis and targeted its socio-economic impacts. UNDP allocated \$8 million of flexible resources from the Governance, Peacebuilding, Crisis and Resilience, and the Poverty and Inequality windows to 12 countries for interventions that ranged from developing integrated, multisectoral solutions to social exclusion and inequality, to empowering conflict-affected women. At the same time, some ongoing programming was redirected to address urgent priorities, such as creating cash-for-work opportunities for women and disseminating information on COVID-19 risks and preventive measures.

The Funding Windows relied heavily on the capacities of the UNDP Global Policy Network. By harnessing UNDP's global and regional pool of expertise, Funding Windows interventions were better defined and performance enhanced, providing cohesive multidisciplinary support across human rights, gender, youth and conflict prevention to accelerate impact. This proved especially valuable in 2020, as the pandemic acted as a reminder that development challenges are dynamic and interconnected.

The Funding Windows also made a concerted effort to exchange more systematically with contributing partners on critical topics. In late 2020, in addition to our regular conversations, UNDP convened the first set of technical dialogues with funding partners on the themes of the Funding Windows to foster candid exchange and cross-fertilization on critical policy matters. The objective at the centre of these technical engagement groups is to maintain fruitful partnerships and deepen our rapport, geared towards expanding flexible contributions.

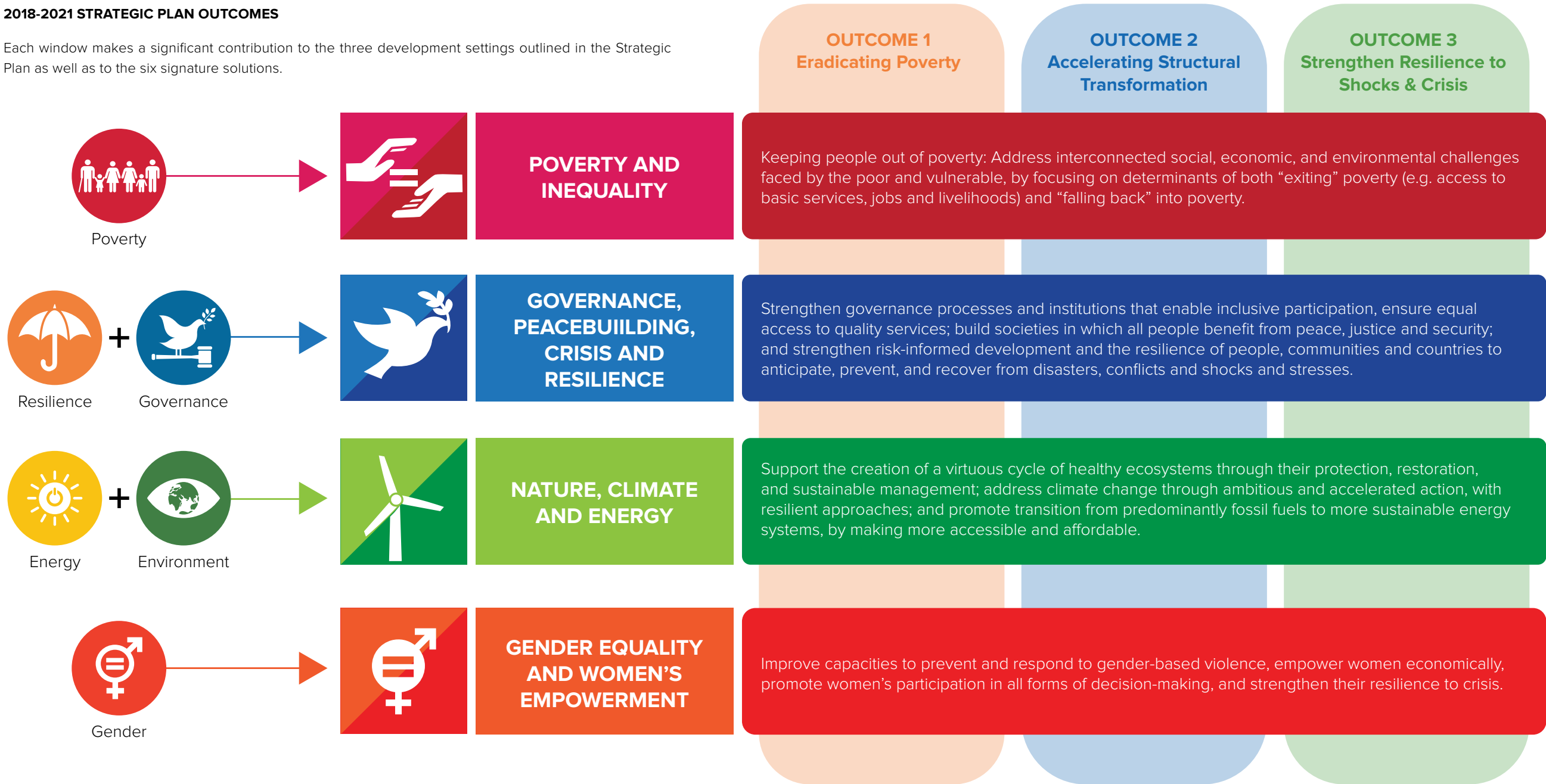
As we turn to the future, UNDP's new 2022-2025 Strategic Plan will focus on scaling up and accelerating results to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) even as COVID-19 continues to exacerbate development challenges. The plan retains the six signature solutions of the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan: poverty and inequality, governance, resilience, environment, energy and gender equality. They will remain the guideposts of the Funding Windows as we endeavour continuously to tailor our solutions to partner priorities and the most urgent development needs.

¹ Although it was not part of the Funding Windows mandate, UNDP management decided in March 2020 to leverage the Funding Windows to respond to the COVID-19 crisis because they offered a nimble, responsive and efficient mechanism to deliver targeted support to those most in need. The support provided under the Rapid Response Facility is briefly presented on page 12-13.

This report presents 2020 results by thematic areas, straddling the previous and new Funding Windows architecture introduced in late 2019. While the first round of allocations under the new structure will be implemented through 2021, legacy allocations continued to be recorded under the previous structure. For information by Funding Window, please refer to the financial section. For results achieved by country in each thematic area, please consult Annex 1.

FIGURE 1. ALIGNMENT OF THE FUNDING WINDOWS WITH UNDP'S SIGNATURE SOLUTIONS AND 2018-2021 STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOMES

Each window makes a significant contribution to the three development settings outlined in the Strategic Plan as well as to the six signature solutions.



II. Funding Windows 2020 Summary Results

Highlights in 2020

\$124,688,454 Total revenue for delivery until 2028

\$47,980,545 Total expenditures

\$17,078,401 (36% of total) Expenditures from flexible allocations

103 Country offices

Mobilizing greater resources

The Funding Windows in 2020 mobilized \$125 million from eight partners.

Germany was the top contributing partner, with entirely earmarked resources to global projects, followed by Denmark and Sweden. Four contributing partners increased their Funding Windows contribution in 2020 compared to 2019: Germany (+\$17 million), Denmark (+\$8 million), Sweden (+\$3 million), and Luxembourg (+\$20,000). The United Kingdom returned as a contributing partner to the Funding Windows since their last contribution in 2016. Six contributing partners have been steady, critical contributors to the Funding Windows since 2017: Denmark, Germany, Luxembourg, the Republic of Korea, Sweden and Switzerland.

FIGURE 2: 2020 CONTRIBUTORS TO THE FUNDING WINDOWS



Germany
\$70.86m



Denmark
\$22.18m



Sweden
\$11.74m



Netherlands
\$710m



Switzerland
\$4.97m



Luxembourg
\$3.28 m



United Kingdom
\$2.57m



Republic of Korea
\$2m

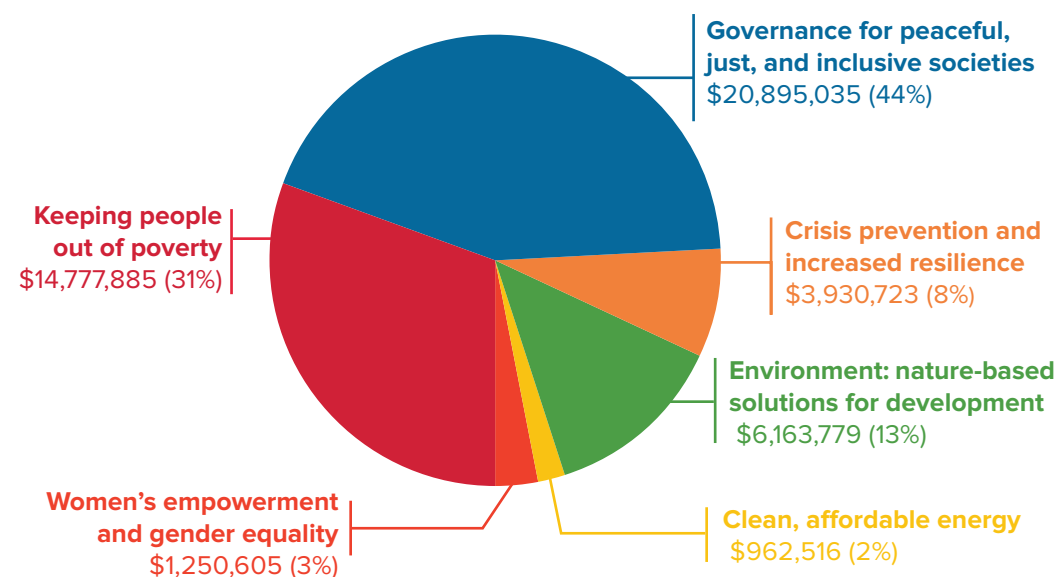
Delivering in countries

The Funding Windows supported interventions in 103 UNDP country offices in 2020 through both flexible allocations and earmarked projects. Global expenditures reached \$48 million. Detailed financial information is provided at the end of this report.

Contributing directly to UNDP's Strategic Plan

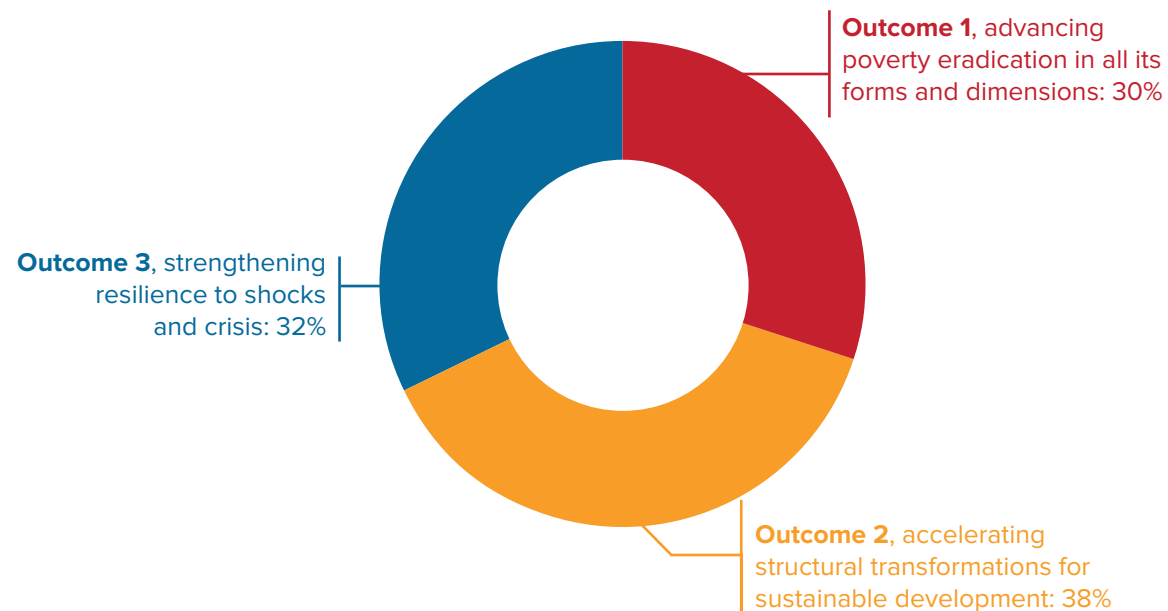
Seventy-five percent of Funding Windows expenditures is linked to two Signature Solutions: keeping people out of poverty (31 percent) and governance for peaceful, just and inclusive societies (44 percent). This focus reflects the centrality of poverty alleviation to UNDP's mission, and contributing partners' emphasis on the Governance, Peacebuilding, Crisis and Resilience window.

FIGURE 3. 2020 EXPENDITURES BY UNDP'S SIGNATURE SOLUTIONS



The Funding Windows contribute almost equally to the three outcomes of the UNDP Strategic Plan 2018-2021.

FIGURE 4: 2020 EXPENDITURES BY UNDP'S STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOMES



The largest concentration of interventions (\$12 million or 24 percent of 2020 Funding Windows expenditures) was linked to Strategic Plan output 3.2.1 on reintegration, reconciliation, peaceful management of conflict and prevention of violent extremism. This investment from the Funding Windows represents 6 percent of UNDP's overall 2020 expenditures for this output (\$196 million). The Funding Windows also contributed significantly to two other Strategic Plan outputs. Expenditures under output 1.6.2 on preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence accounted for 13 percent (\$1 million) of UNDP's portfolio. Eight percent (\$6 million) went to output 2.1.1 on low emission and climate resilient development plans and policies to promote economic diversification and green growth. Detailed overall Funding Windows expenditures by 2018-2021 UNDP Strategic Plan outcomes and outputs are provided in table 3 of the financial section.

Investing in the least developed countries

Thirty-five percent of resources was disbursed to 49 least developed and low-income countries, for a total of \$17 million. This was slightly less than in 2019, when the proportion was 40 percent (\$19 million). This lower delivery in LDCs may be explained by the greater impact of COVID-19 restrictions on UNDP's ability to engage in programming.

Prioritizing the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment

The Funding Windows require that all flexible non-crisis allocations go to GEN2 or GEN3 projects, which promote gender equality in a significant and consistent way.² This ensures substantial investment in projects that enhance women's leadership and political participation, address gender-based violence, and sustain services and economic opportunities. The result has also been a deeper mainstreaming of gender equality and women's empowerment throughout interventions supported by the Funding Windows.

For the second year in a row, the Funding Windows exceeded the corporate target of delivering 15 percent of resources to GEN3 activities, which specifically empower women and promote gender equality. In 2020, such projects accounted for 19 percent of Funding Window expenditures from flexible resources. This is a new standard that UNDP will aim to top in the future. A record 87 percent share of flexible expenditures went to GEN2 and GEN3 projects combined.

² UNDP measures gender mainstreaming through the Gender Marker, which tracks and monitors the gender-responsiveness of each financial allocation. Project outputs are rated against a four-point scale: GEN3 indicates that realizing gender equality and/or the empowerment of women are explicit objectives and the main reason a given output was planned; GEN2 projects promote gender equality in a significant and consistent way, building on a gender analysis with set indicators to measure/track change; GEN1 projects make a limited impact on gender equality; and GEN0 projects have no activities or components contributing to gender equality.

COVID-19 Rapid Response Facility

In the first phase of the pandemic in March 2020, UNDP launched the Rapid Response Facility (RRF) with \$30 million of re-purposed corporate resources for country offices to provide immediate context-tailored support to governments in early response and recovery efforts.

The Funding Windows made the allocation and oversight of these funds a top priority and enabled the quick disbursement of funds by leveraging existing systems and capacities. A fast-track project development and allocation process ensured approval decisions were communicated to country offices within three days of proposal submissions, an unprecedented speed. The process relied on the mobilization and coordination of all country offices with the support of UNDP Global Policy Network experts across all regions.

In under six weeks, \$30 million was transferred via the Funding Windows to 110 country offices to support interventions in line with UNDP's global COVID-19 Programme Offer 1.0. Allocations ranged between \$46,510 and \$856,000, averaging \$270,270. By December 2020, country offices had achieved a record expenditure rate of 98 percent with the active support of the Funding Windows team on financial management and monitoring.

RRF funding enabled country offices to immediately assist partner governments, affected populations, and national and international partners, strengthening collaboration at a time when few resources were available. Country offices were also able to repurpose existing resources and leverage additional ones as UNDP's recovery-oriented COVID-19 Programme Offer 2.0 came online.

Below are a few examples of results achieved through the RRF. For more information, please see the 2020 Annual Report of the Administrator.

To help the **Maldives** secure essential medical supplies, UNDP collaborated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the WHO to procure GeneXpert cartridges that expanded the testing capacity of five regional hospitals. UNDP also led the UN country team in a socio-economic impact assessment pivotal to transitioning UN support to national recovery. A rapid livelihoods assessment, coordinated by UNDP with the Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Tourism, National Bureau of Statistics, Maldives National University and other stakeholders became the basis for a comprehensive financing strategy for the economy, employment and smaller businesses.

In **Haiti**, the RRF enabled procurement of medical and non-medical supplies and payments to health professionals under the Ministry of Public Health and Population. By working jointly with the UN Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) and UN agencies, UNDP mobilized \$2 million to support the Directorate of Prisons Administration in the implementation of its contingency plan. The country office also provided sanitary equipment, awareness-raising on preventive measures, and containment and patient treatment systems.

In **Libya**, by co-mingling RRF funds with resources from the Japan Supplementary Budget and repurposing ongoing projects, the country office enhanced national and local health sector capacities. Through health experts placed in the Ministry of Health and the Presidential Council, UNDP supported the coordination of the

COVID-19 response and the drafting of the National Strategy for COVID-19 Preparedness and Response for the Presidential Council.

In **Mongolia**, UNDP provided strategic support to the Deputy Prime Minister's Office. Evidence-based policy recommendations on COVID-19 response and recovery informed the government action plan.

The pandemic led to the closure of markets in **The Gambia**, adversely affecting the livelihoods of approximately 50,000 rural women and their families. UNDP supported the government in safely reopening 38 weekly markets by providing personal protective equipment, handwashing stations, face masks and thermometers. This and complementary awareness-raising in every market resulted in not a single report of market-related COVID-19 cases.



UNDP creating cash-for-work opportunities for women and disseminating information on COVID-19 risks, UNDP Bangladesh/Fahad Kaizer.

III. Country Offices Affirm the Value of the Funding Windows

In 2020, the Funding Windows improved its approach to reporting. More specific questions were designed to elicit how country offices support broader corporate objectives and successfully respond to the nuances of individual country contexts. The exercise yielded an array of testimonials detailing the value and unique roles of the Funding Windows and the importance of flexible resources.

Investing in critical but underfunded areas

Country offices reported that Funding Windows resources enabled them to respond strategically to requests from governments that were otherwise underfunded, particularly on critical issues such as justice, human rights, institutional strengthening and involving local actors in governance processes. In **Chad**, UNDP helped the Ministry of Justice surmount chronic underfunding, build institutional capacities and digitize services. Support for the pro bono defence of survivors of rape set a new standard in a context where this crime is rarely prosecuted. In Armenia, UNDP supported free legal aid, an issue mostly underaddressed by other donors. Given Venezuela's fiscal deficit and absence of external financing, the rehabilitation of the maternity and children's hospital would not have been possible without Funding Window resources. The intervention made an important contribution to the national policy on reducing maternal mortality.

Seizing political openings

With flexible resources, UNDP was able to seize opportunities from time-sensitive political openings. This was the case when the Funding Windows provided \$1 million to help advance **South Sudan's** peace agreement through functional assessments of 14 strategic governance institutions. The process gauged the readiness to implement the agreement and better respond to communities affected by years of conflict and deprivation through improved public financial management, service delivery and more equitable wealth sharing.

A quick allocation also allowed UNDP to support **Paraguay** in implementing an electoral needs assessment through a strong partnership with the electoral body and International IDEA, and to build connections with citizens' networks, and youth and women's organizations to promote democratic participation.

Enhancing the humanitarian, development and peace nexus

A number of UNDP country offices have used Funding Window resources to bridge conventional funding portfolios and pursue greater coordination and complementarity between development programming, humanitarian action and sustainable peace interventions. For example, in central **Mali**, UNDP engaged with partners in creating the 'sustainable solutions' working group promoting linkages between humanitarian, development and peace activities. In **Burkina Faso**, while humanitarian actors provide life-saving assistance, Funding Windows-supported interventions helped create early recovery initiatives and programming to reinforce social cohesion and prevent intracommunity conflicts.

In **Iraq**, UNDP leads on the Durable Solutions Task Force, which takes a humanitarian, development and peace nexus approach to finding solutions to displacement. As part of this, UNDP implements an integrated package of support for returnees and former fighters, providing assistance related to psychosocial services, prevention of violent extremism and deradicalization, livelihoods and the rehabilitation of shelter. In tandem, local peace committees are resolving conflicts and fostering social cohesion, including through dialogues with youth and women. In **Myanmar**, UNDP, together with other UN agencies, worked on issues of displacement and inequality. UNDP helped strengthen local governance institutions in equitable public service delivery; enhance capacity to uphold human rights and housing, land and property rights; improve access to justice and empower vulnerable groups for better livelihood opportunities.

Developing new tools and approaches

The Funding Windows provided country offices with the freedom to invest in piloting cutting-edge tools and approaches. In **Bolivia**, a multidimensional poverty index helped identify poverty hotspots; it is expected to serve as the basis for designing a national social protection system. Through a multidimensional approach, ancestral knowledge came to the fore in responding to climate change and the preservation of indigenous culture was promoted. Comprehensive risk management will be used to reduce the impact of disasters on productive activities.

As **South Africa** seeks to renew its social welfare system, UNDP conducted formative research on links between social grants, an inclusive society and poverty reduction. It filled longstanding data gaps with information from a nationally representative consumer survey on financial services.

Against a general lack of opportunities for women's engagement in conflict prevention and peacebuilding in **Ethiopia**, Funding Windows resources supported the development of a convincing case for change. The process both chronicled how women-led State and non-state organizations and communities play roles in resolving conflicts, and demonstrated their potential by mobilizing women leaders to actively contribute to local conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

Leveraging catalytic resources and scaling up what works

Some country offices used Funding Windows investment strategically to leverage additional resources and scale up initiatives. A capacity assessment of the disaster risk management system in **Albania** led to a comprehensive strategy for disaster risk management that became part of Resilience Strengthening in Albania, a multi-partner initiative attracting funds from Portugal and Sweden. In **Honduras**, UNDP unlocked additional funds from the European Union to support transparent and peaceful elections and from the Peacebuilding Fund to promote transparency, institutional effectiveness and inclusion.

In **Somalia**, Funding Windows resources played a significant part in the roll-out of the Resilient and Recovery Framework supported by UNDP, the European Union and the World Bank, thus positioning disaster risk reduction in the country's development discourse as vital to protecting development gains.

Forging new partnerships

Funding Window resources have enabled country offices to steer new partnerships linking diverse constituencies, given the time and flexibility such collaboration may require. UNDP helped reinforce **Lebanon's** ability to implement the UN Convention against Corruption through partnerships with the Government and Parliament and collaboration with civil society, which created space for coordination with the European Union and World Bank. In **Nepal**, UNDP developed a much-needed partnership with provincial and local governments, the Red Cross, NGOs and private sector entities on disaster risk reduction policy reform and institutional development.



UNDP supporting livelihoods in Lebanon, UNDP Lebanon/Rana Sweidan.

IV. Inclusive Governance, Conflict Prevention and Peaceful Societies

Facts and trends

Inclusive governance, conflict prevention and peaceful societies

70	Country offices delivering Funding Windows resources in 2020
\$77,949,107	Total revenue, to be delivered over multiple years
\$25,622,731	Total expenditures
\$10,142,142 (40%)	Flexible portion of expenditures

- ▶ Fifty percent of expenditures (\$12.8 million) respond to outcome 3 of the Strategic Plan on building resilience to crisis and shocks. Country offices linked \$11 million to Strategic Plan output 3.2.1 on national capacities for reintegration, reconciliation, peaceful management of conflict and prevention of violent extremism, continuing a trend from 2019. The second largest expenditures, \$5.5 million, was for output 2.2.3 covering a large breath of work under the rule of law, human rights and access to justice.
- ▶ Of flexible expenditures, GEN3 projects accounted for 30 percent (\$3 million) and GEN2 and GEN3 projects for 100 percent. When considering global projects, GEN3 projects were responsible for 16 percent of expenditures (\$4 million) and both GEN2 and GEN3 for 94 percent. These achievements are directly linked to UNDP's push for greater gender empowerment, marked by prioritizing GEN2 and GEN3 projects and providing dedicated gender expertise in the proposal development stage.
- ▶ The majority of funds are linked to projects supporting multiple groups of beneficiaries, such as IDPs, refugees, migrants, the unemployed, and marginalized women, people affected by disasters, people living under the national poverty line and minorities.

UNDP emphasizes the integration of governance with conflict prevention and sustaining peace as part of forging an inclusive and lasting social contract. It approaches effective governance in a holistic way, across rights, accountability, rule of law, voice and participation and multi-level governance. By building resilience, UNDP helps to prevent reversals of development gains and relapses into conflict or crisis.

In 2020, 36 percent of UNDP's development investment, the largest share, went towards more inclusive, effective and accountable governance. The pandemic cast the fundamental role of governance in sharp relief, underscoring the imperative of sustaining essential public services, extending social protection and ensuring access to reliable information, all while maintaining the routine workings of government such as through electoral processes and the judiciary.

UNDP applies the lens of prevention, acting early and at scale to protect development gains and mitigate risks, and build resilience and strong foundations for sustainable development and human security. Risk-informed development is key to prevention, recovery and stabilization.

Funding Windows investments have proved critical to results on the ground in governance, conflict prevention and peaceful societies, as illustrated below. This section highlights 2020 results from the Governance, Peacebuilding, Crisis and Resilience's sub-windows on democratic governance, and conflict prevention and sustaining peace, as well as from the Governance for Inclusive and Peaceful Societies window under the previous architecture.

Maintaining attention to elections and electoral processes

With the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic felt everywhere in the world, UNDP injected Funding Window resources to maintain support for elections as central to democracy, social cohesion and trust. Typically, this involved improving electoral management skills and processes, alongside the application of new technology.

UNDP quickly and strategically responded to **Paraguay's** national electoral commission's request for support on electoral reforms, including in using electronic voting machines. The leasing of voting machines met national standards and heightened the credibility of the commission, which was able to coordinate operations in all districts in real time. In **Ecuador**, UNDP strengthened the management of election results to correct previous concerns around electoral fraud. As a result, the national elections commission transparently and efficiently processed and publicized 88 per cent of presidential election results within eight hours of poll closure.

Drawing on e-governance to maintain essential services

In 2020, UNDP responded rapidly to the sudden need for national and local e-governance systems upholding the continuity of essential public services during the pandemic. Funding Windows allocations were instrumental in supporting country offices such as in the **Maldives**, where virtual platforms facilitated 11,900 online judicial hearings, including on urgent cases of domestic and gender-based violence.

Initiating governance reforms to ease social tensions

Since unresponsive governance structures can exacerbate social tensions, UNDP helps develop new systems and capacities aimed at fostering trust with a concerted emphasis on development gains that make an immediate impact in people's lives.

In the wake of the revolution in **Sudan**, UNDP assisted with the government strategy to support the devolution of power to states and convened over 800 Sudanese local authorities and newly established neighbourhood committees in all states to develop planning, peacebuilding and mechanisms for SDG localization. In the **Central African Republic**, policy advisers helped set up an organizational system for the Office of the Prime Minister. A team of experts was deployed to the ministry in charge of security, decentralization and local development to develop the National Political document on decentralisation and local development.

UNDP continues to play a leading role in working with countries on anti-corruption and transparency. Funding Window support accelerated the fight against corruption in **Lebanon** in 2020, culminating in the adoption by the Council of Ministers of a revised and updated national anti-corruption strategy.

Sustaining peace through context-sensitive development

UNDP and other development assistance partners are engaged globally in efforts to prevent conflict and sustain peace through integrated, conflict-sensitive development programming. With Funding Windows support, country offices across the globe delivered initiatives that seek to achieve social cohesion, restore trust and bring people together to surmount difference and diversity. These range from launching integrated processes of dialogues, to developing local government capacities for inclusivity, to building bridges across communities by focusing on common values and common goals, such as access to resources. These initiatives are framed by a nexus approach that strengthens coherence and complementarity between humanitarian, development and peace actions.

In **Mauritania**, UNDP reached isolated populations, helping to prevent radicalization from proximity to conflict zones. Radio stations disseminated messages on peaceful coexistence, democratic culture and citizen participation. Committees in the most vulnerable and landlocked municipalities organized intercommunity meetings to support social cohesion and provide mediation. Local infrastructure projects such as water systems and vaccination clinics helped surmount some of the challenges of arid climate and geographic isolation. Income-generating activities have been anchored in women's cooperatives, benefitting 15,300 people.

UNDP strengthened social cohesion and the reintegration of ex-combatants in **Niger**, leading to new resources from the Peacebuilding Fund to scale up these efforts. Activities included community safety sessions and training on prevention and peaceful coexistence with the internal security forces. In two communes, economic empowerment interventions modernized markets, renovated municipal buildings and improved water systems. The deliberate involvement of women in constructing communal infrastructure has raised their standing in their communities.

Ninety-four percent of UNDP-funded peace and development advisers (PDAs) support UN initiatives for conflict prevention and sensitivity. For example, the PDA in **Armenia** led a UNDP-funded assessment of the needs of internally displaced people (IDPs) in terms of livelihoods, education, public participation and peacebuilding, and provided analysis that formed the basis for a joint UN appeal to the Central Emergency Response Fund.

Legislative reform and effective justice systems

UNDP assists national authorities to put measures in place to ensure inclusive and equitable justice. The Funding Windows enabled UNDP to engage with the justice system in **Burkina Faso** on training the security forces on human rights and responding to gender-based violence. In 2020, UNDP bolstered the capacities of magistrates and clerks assigned to economic and financial crimes and terrorism cases.

In **Armenia**, UNDP supported the Ministry of Justice and the Supreme Judicial Council to introduce new psychological evaluation procedures for candidate judges, where general knowledge and skills, ethics and integrity, and social skills were tested. An electronic assessment supported the final decision on members of the Supreme Judicial Council.

Upholding human rights and fighting corruption

Through its support to human rights institutions, UNDP helped government systems become more transparent, accountable and responsive. Maintaining this focus during the pandemic proved critical given the enhanced potential for human rights violations amid lockdowns. With a longstanding and trusted presence in countries, UNDP helped steer attention to risks and take preventive measures. In **Nepal**, through the Global Programme on the Rule of Law, UNDP worked with the National Human Rights Commission to devise a checklist to monitor human rights violations during the health emergency while public information messages on human rights were broadcast on radio stations in 77 districts. UNDP supported **Ukraine's** Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights in monitoring access to information on protective measures, helping to fill gaps across the country.

In taking a human rights-based approach, UNDP emphasizes reaching those who are furthest behind first. In **Honduras**, work with the national human rights commission and 36 municipalities developed action plans to consolidate peace through a strong emphasis on human rights, gender equality and protection. A network of national and local actors is dedicated to these issues with a particular focus to vulnerabilities among women, children, Afro-descendant communities and indigenous peoples.

Seeking human security for all

Human security aims to untangle and address multiple sources of vulnerability and crisis to achieve both protection and empowerment. In **Mali**, UNDP helped establish local security advisory committees providing space for exchanges between populations and security forces to restore confidence and trust eroded by longstanding crisis. It also began revitalizing 138 municipal land commissions to prevent and manage land disputes between herders and farmers, a source of most intercommunity conflicts. Equipment for 51 women's cooperatives with nearly 3,000 members helped reduce the impact of COVID-19 on entrepreneurial activities. In Kazakhstan, UNDP contributed to strengthened social cohesion and rule of law by introducing a community policing model to increase the effectiveness of local police and the level of citizens' confidence in law enforcement.

Upping the ante on gender equality

Gender equality is one of the most potent development accelerators. UNDP is at the forefront of promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, including by tackling gender-based violence. A global project has been testing the effectiveness of interventions to end gender-based violence, including through stronger legal frameworks coupled with measures for implementation and accountability.

In **Peru**, UNDP helped put in place a response protocol to gender-based violence at the district level, the first of its kind since a related national law was passed. UNDP also supported the #NoEstásSola campaign, which reached over 2,000 supermarkets and pharmacies and disseminated critical information on gender-based violence prevention and support services amid the COVID-19 crisis.

In **Tajikistan**, UNDP stood behind 13 draft amendments to laws related to gender-based violence and provided immediate support to a resource centre and hotline at risk of closure.

The Funding Windows have continued to invest in a variety of projects with a concerted gender focus. In **Armenia**, UNDP positioned gender responsiveness at the core of the national reform programme by setting a gender-related baseline for public administration, including through gender-sensitive competencies for civil servants. Ensuring ongoing support and commitment to gender mainstreaming in **Montenegro** resulted in training 350 civil servants and activists on gender equality and the appointment of 24 certified trainers for gender mainstreaming, instigating a cultural change as part of ongoing public administration reforms.

While the involvement of women in conflict prevention and peacebuilding has been overlooked in the past in **Ethiopia**, UNDP mapped the important role of women-led state and non-state organizations and communities in national and subnational efforts to resolve conflicts. This analysis then informed peacebuilding programming and engagement with parliamentarians. In **Algeria**, UNDP worked with 16 ministers across the Government to develop an ambitious programme to improve prospects for women rural entrepreneurs to thrive while strengthening links to essential services and social protection.

In **Niger**, UNDP jumpstarted advances under the government women's leadership programme, training 1,000 women, and sensitizing 28,000 women on their roles and rights in elections. In local elections in the region of Maradi, newly empowered women won 26.5 percent of 895 communal, district and city councillor seats, up from 16 percent in the 2016.

V. Crisis Response and Recovery

Facts and trends

Crisis response and recovery

22	Country offices delivering Funding Windows resources in 2020
\$3,099,583	Total revenue
\$6,189,085	Total expenditures
100%	Flexible portion of expenditures

- ▶ Activities in this section respond to crisis across all three Strategic Plan outcomes. The focus was output 1.1.2 on empowering marginalized groups to gain universal access to basic services and benefit from sustainable livelihood (26 percent), output 2.3.1 on reducing disaster risks, enabling climate change adaptation and mitigation, and preventing the risk of conflict (19 percent); and output 3.3.1 on prevention and preparedness to limit the impact of natural hazards and pandemics and promote peaceful, just and inclusive societies (20 percent).
- ▶ Around 63 percent of expenditures were linked to GEN2 and 34 percent to GEN1 projects.
- ▶ Support targeted women, people living in vulnerable areas, IDPs, refugees and other migrants, persons affected by armed conflicts and violence, those affected by disasters, people living in multidimensional poverty and unemployed persons.

The world faces unprecedented levels of humanitarian need. In 2020, more people were affected by conflict and crisis than at any other time in recorded history. Conflicts have become more complex and protracted, increasingly driven by non-traditional security threats like economic stagnation, irregular migration and displacement, environmental degradation, competition for natural resources and rapid growth in cities. Natural disasters occur more frequently and are more intense. Interconnected risks and shocks have been further exacerbated by the immediate and longer-term socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With 9 of UNDP's 10 largest country programmes in crisis settings, UNDP is increasingly recognized as the key development actor in crisis settings, building on considerable experience in crisis response and recovery as well as conflict prevention and stabilization. Straddling these different elements allows UNDP to provide leadership in supporting humanitarian, development and peace actors to work together to tackle immediate crises, prevent the occurrence or escalation of crises, and develop resilience to complex and interconnected risks. Since one in four people is expected to live in crisis situations by 2030, responses need to be systemic, tackling the drivers and impacts of crises, and conclusively reducing prevalence and recurrence.

Funding Windows allocations to different levels of crisis

The Funding Windows provide catalytic resources to crises in line with standard corporate operating procedures for crisis response. For the gravest crises (Level 3), up to \$1 million can be allocated; for Level 2 crises, allocations can be up to \$500,000; for Level 1 crises, allocations are up to \$200,000. These resources can be complemented with funds for coordination and assessment and with deployment of dedicated capacities through the SURGE programme.³ Annex 3 lists countries by crisis level and date of crisis declaration with resources allocated from the Funding Windows. As demonstrated in the reported results, the rapid and targeted release of funds can unlock much larger resources from and in collaboration with other partners.

This section features key results achieved in the Emergency Development Response to Crisis and Recovery window, as well as in the sub-window on crisis response under the Governance, Peacebuilding, Crisis and Resilience window.

Keeping up with crises throughout COVID-19

Over the past year, COVID-19 has exposed humanity's vulnerability. For people already in crisis contexts, the pandemic has compounded existing challenges, pushing safety and well-being even further out of reach. As COVID-19 became one among many sources of acute pressure, it added to risks such as heightened social tension, even as attention and funds shifted to health and away from other priorities.

In **South Sudan**, government capacity to provide essential services was limited even before the COVID-19 crisis. UNDP became one of the first responders to the pandemic there, supporting the national COVID-19 taskforce to coordinate the overall response. Assistance to the Ministry of Finance and Planning helped inform policies prioritizing the most vulnerable people in health expenditure. Technical inputs bolstered the government application for emergency funding from the IMF, which secured \$52.3 million to pay teachers and health workers.

UNDP used Funding Window resources to ensure that existing work on crisis could continue without major interruptions, such as in **Iraq**, where it sustained programmes to strengthen local peacebuilding mechanisms. In 2020, the Youth and Women for Peace Groups supported by UNDP Iraq implemented 27 initiatives, reaching over 11,000 beneficiaries. This included the distribution of personal protection equipment related to COVID-19 and support for an extensive online campaign to combat domestic violence.

3. [2020 UNDP Crisis Bureau Crisis Response Deployments Annual Report](#).

Strengthening the coherence and complementarity of humanitarian, development and peace actions

UNDP emphasizes integrated approaches to crises and development to ensure that the complex and systemic root causes of such crises are addressed and thus end humanitarian needs over time. This demands action on multiple fronts to ensure that longer-term development and structural issues are addressed, alongside meeting the immediate needs of vulnerable people and communities. Funding Window resources enable UNDP to deliver tools and expertise in such contexts in a flexible and adaptable manner to support joined up or shared analysis and planning and more coherent and complementary humanitarian, development and peace actions in collaboration with a wide range of agencies. Funding Window resources also play a vital role in ensuring that flexible and adaptable financing is available to incentivize more coherent and complementary humanitarian, development and peace actions.

In **Ethiopia**, Funding Window resources enabled continued recovery assistance to people in Gedeo and West Guji displaced by earlier conflicts, complementing emergency assistance provided for more recent rounds of unrest. Development and peacebuilding initiatives strengthened resilience and peaceful co-existence, while seeds, tools and other agricultural supports helped 4,500 farmers struggling to recover from conflict as well as the impacts of COVID-19 and flooding.

While an influx of refugees from Nigeria had initially been welcomed in two communes in the Guidan Roundji department of **Niger**, mounting pressures on poor communities included floods and pest attacks on crops. Humanitarian action aided the refugees, yet host populations went hungry, a situation that stirred local tension. UNDP conducted a socio-economic needs assessment to develop a recovery plan centred on improving livelihoods as well as fostering social cohesion and peaceful coexistence. The plan became the basis for steps to revitalize the local economy through the creation of temporary jobs and economic opportunities for over 20,000 people. A consistent emphasis on strengthening social cohesion between host communities and displaced persons included awareness activities reaching 35,700 people.

Making livelihoods a critical entry point

UNDP emphasizes livelihoods in the recovery from crisis because these provide income to meet essential needs, and confer a sense of dignity and hope for a return to normal life. Through UNDP crisis interventions, 3 million people gained a job or improved their livelihoods in 2020; nearly half were women. In **Mauritania**, market gardens, water networks and production equipment have driven the creation of 2,500 jobs and enhanced living conditions for around 40,000 people. UNDP installed two multifunctional platforms in areas of **Mali** with high rates of youth unemployment, creating nearly 1,800 jobs, mainly for young people and women. Solar production equipment backed the formation of six production cooperatives while a market gardening development delivered livelihood benefits for 966 agricultural producers.

Incorporating efforts to prevent and address gender-based violence in broader response and recovery

UNDP's growing investment in achieving gender equality was evident through the greater inclusion of programmes to end gender-based violence in response and recovery efforts. These have helped strengthen skills and expand knowledge of both human rights duty-bearers and rights-holders, and improve the quality of services and legislation. In **Iraq**, training for 75 social workers enhanced their skills to provide psychosocial support for survivors of gender-based violence and better respond to women and girls through telephone support, reaching 7,500 women within 10 days. In **Myanmar's** Rakhine State, a drive to raise awareness of gender-based violence reached almost 3,000 women, while 819 received legal advice through hotlines, mobile legal clinics or in-person consultations. UNDP helped **South Sudan** restart efforts to establish a family law, with a process now underway of developing a statute in line with international standards. It should protect women and girls from violence, discriminatory social norms and unequal gender relationships.

Taking a lead in recovery

UNDP has a leading role in recovery from crises, ensuring that people can fulfil their essential needs but are also empowered and equipped to begin restoring their livelihoods and communities. Work with national and local governments assesses priorities and defines initial projects to accelerate recovery, including those aimed at infrastructure and livelihoods. In **Albania**, after a devastating earthquake in late 2019, UNDP joined the Government and European Union for a post-disaster needs assessment that guided donor pledges of 1.15 billion euros for reconstruction and recovery. A quick injection of Funding Window resources propelled early recovery projects assisting the most affected local municipalities, helping to restart small and medium enterprises, and restoring schools.

After floods and landslides struck **Iran** in 2019, UNDP helped orchestrate a process to estimate damage, loss and recovery needs that became the basis for recovery plans for two heavily affected provinces. UNDP also aided in reviving nearly 1,000 micro-, small and medium enterprises, and provided technical trainings and equipment to rehabilitate damaged irrigation and drainage systems that led to a 40 per cent increase in access to irrigation water and a twelvefold increase in agricultural production.

South Sudan: Focus on complementary humanitarian, development and peace actions

The complex interplay of protracted insecurity, on-going conflict and recurrent disasters in South Sudan, compounded by the immediate and longer-term socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, are driving increasing need, contributing to chronic underdevelopment and hampering the achievement of sustainable peace. Despite these significant challenges, South Sudan also has potential to advance significant political and socio-economic reform through renewed efforts around reconciliation and based on the 2018 revitalized peace agreement.

UNDP is playing a key role in supporting longer-term development solutions to address the underlying drivers of crises in South Sudan. This includes efforts to assist the implementation of South Sudan's peace agreement through UNDP-led functional assessments of 14 strategic institutions of governance. The assessments gauge readiness for implementation of the agreement and for better responding to communities affected by years of conflict and deprivation through improved public financial management and more equitable wealth sharing.

UNDP helped reinforce accountability mechanisms and mainstream the Revitalized Peace Agreement into the National Development Strategy. It is also working to strengthen South Sudan's Aid Coordination Unit to reactivate aid and development coordination through a high-level government and partner policy dialogue forum. In November 2020, after four years of grassroots, regional and national consultations, the first South Sudan National Dialogue was completed. UNDP provided technical and financial support in line with the United Nations National Dialogue Engagement Strategy, towards making the process credible and inclusive. Recommendations from the dialogue included the immediate commencement of discussions for a permanent Constitution, actions to expedite security arrangements under the peace agreement, protection of human rights and professionalization of the armed forces.

Building social cohesion and reaching the furthest behind remains a priority in South Sudan to reduce conflict and need over time. Yet the Government's capacity to provide social protection and social safety nets – a key element of strengthening citizen-State trust – was limited even before the COVID-19 crisis, especially for vulnerable populations. With the flexibility of Funding Window resources, UNDP became one of the first responders to the pandemic, supporting the national COVID-19 taskforce to coordinate the overall response. Assistance to the Ministry of Finance and Planning helped inform policy decisions affecting the most vulnerable people, including around the prioritization of health expenditure in the national budget. UNDP technical inputs bolstered the government application for emergency funding through the Rapid Credit Facility of the IMF. The Government subsequently allocated \$8 million to the national COVID-19 response and secured \$52.3 million from the IMF to pay teachers and health workers, sustaining services and providing income at a critical time.

The spread of hate speech and xenophobia emerged as another concern during the pandemic. UNDP mounted a swift response, providing accurate information on COVID-19 to over 4 million people, mostly through community radio stations. Twenty-nine stations aired jingles in 12 languages that countered hate speech. Bicycle relays disseminated messages on community peace, sensitizing nearly 73,000 people. Further, by working with local women and youth to produce 5,000 litres of liquid soap and 1,000 bars of soap, and set up 161 handwashing stations, UNDP extended prevention supplies to over 225,000 vulnerable people in remote areas, markets, courts and government offices across 30 counties and 62 payams.

A vital contribution to breaking the cycle of violence and fragility in South Sudan will come from strengthening penal, civil and procedural laws to achieve peace and justice. With donors mostly opting to provide humanitarian and community-based assistance, and prioritizing the reform of security and economic laws, the Funding Windows bridged a critical resource gap, allowing UNDP to support revisions of seven penal, civil and related procedural laws. The review centred on enhancing justice for disadvantaged groups, making processes more efficient and supporting judicial reforms under the Revitalized Peace Agreement. The review also brought together the combined expertise and capacity of the UN and civil society entities that work across humanitarian, development and peace initiatives.

Following the review, a new strategic roadmap for the Law Review Commission will help it implement reforms in line with international human rights norms and standards. This includes a focus on ensuring that national legal frameworks are gender sensitive and in line with international norms, standards and good practices to protect women and girls from violence, discriminatory social norms and unequal gender relationships. UNDP is now working with the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare to ensure the strong representation of the voices of ordinary women and girls in the legal reform process and supporting local women's networks to ensure that they can contribute to the development of a model family law.

VI. Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management

Facts and trends

Disaster risk management

3 Country offices delivering Funding Windows resources in 2020

\$436,681 Total revenue

\$208,052 Total expenditures

100% Flexible portion of expenditures

- ▶ All disaster risk management results are linked to Strategic Plan output 2.3.1 on data and risk-informed development to reduce disaster risks, enable climate change adaptation and mitigation, and prevent risk of conflict.
- ▶ Expenditures went to GEN1 and GEN2 projects.
- ▶ Beneficiaries primarily encompassed people living in vulnerable areas, those affected by disasters and women and youth.

In 2020, more people were uprooted by conflict, disasters, climate change and extreme weather than at any other time in history. In itself, COVID-19 offered a case study in how development decisions can heighten or reduce vulnerability to risk, and why risk should be factored into these choices from the start. UNDP works with countries to take a systematic approach to defining and responding to the array of risks that can derail development and human well-being.

This section presents 2020 results achieved under the Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction window, and the sub-window on disaster risk reduction under the Governance, Peacebuilding, Crisis and Resilience window.

Developing plans to detect and manage risk

UNDP helps countries formulate policies and plans to manage risk, with an emphasis on issues specific to the most vulnerable groups. In **Nepal**, the national roll-out of the disaster risk reduction policy and action plan signified a forward-looking move beyond a past emphasis on humanitarian response and preparedness. UNDP helped the **Philippines** link different disaster risk reduction initiatives and invest in integrated management tools, building a strong foundation for the \$12 million SHIELD Project. At the national level, UNDP has supported the Government in the enhancement of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan.

Managing information by leveraging digital technology

Digital technology, with its vast scope to compile data, plays an essential part in comprehensively tracking and managing disaster risks. UNDP helped **Nepal** set up a disaster information management system, incorporating loss and damage datasets. It is now accessible by all 753 local governments to generate disaster profiles based on historical data and disaggregate information according to sex and age. An interlinked system generates disaster profiles of administrative regions based on historical disaster data and generates disaster information disaggregated by sex and age.

In the **Philippines**, UNDP helped establish a critical database with data on households, building structures and production areas, broken down by gender and age, and with information on people with disabilities. UNDP is also assisting with mapping diverse vulnerabilities, information that will be superimposed with conflict data. This will deepen prospects for resilience in an area where a long history of conflict exacerbates vulnerability to natural disasters.

VII. Poverty Eradication

Facts and trends

Poverty eradication

7 Country offices delivering Funding Windows resources in 2020

\$1,637,554 Total revenue

\$539,121 Total expenditures

100% Flexible portion of expenditures

- ▶ Around 75 percent of expenditures in this section contributed to Strategic Plan outcome 1 on eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions. Specifically, 40 percent went to output 1.4.1 on solutions for the sustainable management of natural resources, followed by 25 percent to output 2.1.2 on inclusive social protection systems.
- ▶ All expenditures were marked as GEN2.
- ▶ Projects targeted women, youth, persons affected by disasters, people living in multi-dimensional poverty and under the poverty line, and persons with disabilities.

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the number of people living in poverty for the first time since 1998, requiring a decisive push to return to paths that will take the world to the SDGs by 2030. Ambitious but feasible SDG investments across governance, social protection, the green recovery and digitalization could lift an additional 146 million people out of extreme poverty by 2030. UNDP backs integrated solutions encapsulating actions on the multiple dimensions of poverty. This gives people better chances of escaping poverty and realizing increasing levels of well-being.

In 2020, the Funding Windows supported results around two main themes under the Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication window and the Poverty and Inequality window.

Using new tools to link multiple vulnerabilities

Managing the interconnectedness of the SDGs and propelling simultaneous action on multiple goals depends on a variety of analytical and other tools, particularly those harnessing digital power. When **Bolivia** decided to develop comprehensive analysis of poverty, UNDP helped it set up a dashboard with more than 100 environmental, social and economic indicators. It will allow better planning and public investment in reaching people facing the most acute combinations of vulnerabilities and is expected to serve as the basis for a national social protection system. As **South Africa** seeks to update its social grants programme, one of the largest of its kind in the world, UNDP has supported a data analytics project to shed new light on the diverse types of marginalization that many grant recipients face.

Financing to achieve global goals

Carefully calibrated and coordinated financing will make the difference in whether countries achieve the SDGs or fall short. UNDP encourages innovations and new ways of thinking in this process, such as by supporting **Egypt** apply International Futures whole-of-society modelling to enable decision-makers to make informed choices on potential SDG accelerators. In **Kazakhstan**, preparation of an integrated national financing framework for the SDGs involved training 100 employees of the Ministry of National Economy, Ministry of Finance and SDG Coordination Council Secretariat on SDG financing tools and methodologies. Successful cooperation with officials from Mexico resulted in a feasibility study of SDG budgeting in Kazakhstan that accounts for gender dimensions and the principle of leaving no one behind.

VIII. Nature and Climate

Facts and trends

Nature and climate

46	Country offices delivering Funding Windows resources in 2020
\$41,110,084	Total revenue, for delivery over multiple years
\$15,421,556	Total expenditures
0%	Flexible portion of expenditures

- ▶ Of the \$15.5 million recorded as expenditures on nature and climate projects, 38 percent (\$5.9 million) was linked to output 2.1.1 on low emission and climate resilient development plans and policies to promote economic diversification and green growth. This includes the portfolio on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which, which accounts for 8 percent of UNDP's total expenditures under output 2.1.1 for 2020. Another 36 percent (\$5.6 million) of expenditures went to output 1.4.1 on sustainable management of natural resources, corresponding to the BIOFIN project.
- ▶ About 58 percent of expenditures was marked for GEN2 projects.
- ▶ Activities mainly targeted women, youth and people living in vulnerable areas.

2020 saw the world redefine the climate crisis as a climate emergency and the defining challenge of our time, while the UN Secretary-General's call to make peace with nature echoed around the world. UNDP helps keep the planet within safe operating limits by working with countries to tackle the drivers of climate change and biodiversity loss, and pursue an inclusive green recovery.

At the heart of these efforts is the Climate Promise, delivered with 35 partners. It works with 118 countries to develop ambitious new climate action plans known as (NDCs), in line with the Paris Agreement. New plans include beefed-up climate goals, refined institutional arrangements, more precise monitoring systems and greater attention to gender equality and social inclusion. Collectively, the plans will make a lasting contribution to the international climate talks in Glasgow at the end of 2021.

In a year of transition for its work on nature and climate, UNDP laid the groundwork for a number of new tools to assess biodiversity and ecosystem services, including biodiversity-zoonoses-human health interfaces behind the COVID-19 pandemic. One new global project will support 12 countries to enhance agricultural and ecosystem-based livelihoods by accounting for climate and disaster risks. Another will improve global learning on biodiversity conservation and climate change.

Grouped in this section are the global projects funded through the Nature, Climate and Energy window, on climate change through the Climate Change/Disaster Risk Reduction window, and on environment and natural capital in the Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication window. With \$41 million received in 2020, added to the \$45 million received in 2019, this was a year dedicated to operationalizing global projects that are expected to deliver results between 2021 and 2028.

IX. Challenges and Reflections from 2020

The Funding Windows mechanism

2020 saw the first round of allocations under the revamped architecture of the Funding Windows, even as UNDP continued to financially operate under the previous structure and with legacy allocations. The transition to the new structure has been positive, injecting a sense of excitement and opportunity to improve on previous ways of working. Organization-wide support provided through the Global Policy Network improved the technical strength of individual proposals as well as window-wide portfolios, and heightened ownership across bureaux, locations and teams.

A total of \$230 million has already been mobilized through the new structure (2019 to date), compared with \$187 million in the original set up (2016-2019). The portion of flexible resources, however, has declined since 2016.

The current structure is now well established in UNDP's financial systems and fund performance has greatly improved. The Funding Windows team will continue to oversee, monitor and report on results under the original structure until all activities are completed and funds are disbursed.

Several lessons from 2020 will inform 2021 allocations under the Funding Windows.

- ▶ There is room for **more strategic decision-making** on where and how flexible resources are invested, in line with pre-agreed directions on interventions to support. Resources have been allocated to countries according to needs, and while many have appreciated this approach, it has dispersed investments and limited larger impacts. In 2021, there will be a conscious effort to set investment priorities not only from the ground up but in response to better defined global priorities.
- ▶ To **strengthen interventions supported by the Funding Windows**, a coordinated multidisciplinary technical review process for each submitted proposal began in 2020. Experts from diverse disciplines reviewed the proposals and provided feedback to enhance individual submissions, including on gender, youth, human rights, conflict prevention, core governance issues, disaster risk management, livelihoods, migration, natural capital and partnerships. There was an emphasis on cross-regional collaboration and the complementarity of resources with other streams of funding. Through this process, \$24 million in flexible resources was allocated to 43 technically endorsed projects (see Annex 4). The technical reviews greatly enhanced the proposals and ensured high-quality allocations. The process was time consuming, however, and in some cases resulted in missed opportunities.

In 2021, an improved technical accompaniment process will aim at a more effective and time efficient process. Country offices are expected to leverage the Global Policy Network experts in their regions at earlier stages of proposal development. To further accelerate allocations, some responsibilities have been delegated, steps eliminated and engagement refocused.

- ▶ The 2020 reporting exercise was recalibrated after seeking **feedback from contributing partners on the usefulness of the information provided**. Though responses varied widely, the insights gathered proved instrumental in shaping the current report and better understanding donor expectations. This type of feedback should continue to flow to improve each reporting exercise. Clarified and more pointed reporting questions for country offices helped them provide richer material on results and the catalytic value of the Funding Windows.

Engaging with Funding Windows contributing partners

The revamping of the Funding Windows formalized the ability of partners to earmark resources to UNDP flagship projects. This has enabled UNDP to leverage more resources, increasing the Funding Window portfolio from \$187 million in the original structure (2016-2019) to \$230 million in the new structure (2019-2020). UNDP is grateful to partners for this increased trust in the thematic windows, which helps to validate their utility as an instrument for partners to channel funding to common priority themes.

In 2020, however, only \$8 million or 7 percent of contributions were entirely flexible, coming from **Luxembourg**, the **Republic of Korea**, **Sweden** and **Switzerland**. This is the lowest level of flexible resources for the Funding Windows since 2016, when they were double that amount (\$16 million). A critical purpose of the Funding Windows is to support UNDP's and partners' commitment to the Secretary-General's Funding Compact—specifically, to “double the share of non-core contributions provided through development related pooled and thematic funds.”⁴

UNDP intends to deepen dialogue with existing and potential contributors to secure a greater share of flexible resources in the Funding Windows. This will include enhanced engagement with Funding Windows partners, including in the Technical Engagement Groups and bilateral informal exchanges, as well as more targeted efforts at attracting new Funding Windows supporters. UNDP will invest in capacity to explore a business case for the Funding Windows with emerging partners (both governments and multistakeholder partnerships). This is expected to result in greater efforts towards broadening the donor base.

Visibility is provided to our Funding Windows contributors as highlighted in 2020 corporate communications, including the illustrated [Annual Report of the Administrator](#) (distributed to all UNDP partners at multiple levels) and the annual [Funding Compendium](#). In 2021, UNDP will update its guidance to country offices on visibility for Funding Windows contributors. The guidance will encourage country offices to use offline and online communication channels to publicize supporters of the Funding Windows and the results achieved from resources provided. The guidance will also aim to further enhance the visibility of Funding Windows contributing partners in the UNDP corporate communications strategy.

Insights from country offices

COVID-19 proved challenging on many fronts but also opened opportunities to rethink and reset.

The pandemic diverted government attention and resources in many countries, posing risks that core areas of work would be side-lined. But UNDP and its partners found many ways to pull together and surmount obstacles, including during lockdowns. For some projects, virtual support improved outreach and impacts, suggesting that virtual practices may be more widely applied in the future.

A virtual training of trainers in **Angola** became an opportunity to mobilize trainers from different UN organizations, including OHCHR, UNPOL/SPC and the UNDP Global Risk Team. They collaborated with the joint UN team involving UNDP, UNHCR and IOM. The process developed bespoke training material in a short time for trainers from the Ministry of Interior, with the package expected to be cascaded to 5,000

⁴ [A/74/73/Add.1-E/2019/4/Add.1](#) Indicator: percentage of non-core resources for development-related activities channelled through single agency thematic funds. UNDP baseline: 1.5 percent (2018). UN system-wide target: 6 percent (2023).

law enforcement agents across the country. **Kazakhstan's** Mission 2030 hackathon was initially planned in person, but once it moved online, it attracted more participants than initially expected. Costs fell without the need for travel and rented space.

In the **global** UNDP-DPPA conflict prevention programme, PDAs who worked remotely could not perform tasks that demand sensitive in-person negotiation and mediation. But they could provide expert socio-economic and political analysis vital to pandemic responses. They took part in impact assessments, the development of response plans, programmatic adjustments and provision of human rights-related advice.

For countries in the **global** NDC programme, a common challenge was managing lockdowns while trying to meet deadlines for the submission of revised NDCs, particularly as most countries had plans to expand stakeholder engagement and outreach in the design and validation process. The programme countered this challenge by working closely with government partners to review planning and assess whether and how to adjust the sequencing of key deliverables so that overall timelines did not alter too drastically. This proved successful; many countries only required extensions of three to six months to overcome COVID-19-related delays. One important lesson was that governments and society can be highly adaptable if alternative approaches are available. Nearly all countries, including those most challenged by digital and technological divides, were able to move to virtual consultations and trainings.

The digital divide hampered abilities to reach vulnerable groups.

Gaps in IT infrastructure surfaced as soon as lockdowns took effect and people began interacting remotely. This posed particular difficulties in reaching people on the wrong side of the digital divide, including women, rural communities and other vulnerable groups. UNDP in **Niger** stressed that it is critical to find other means to hold training and awareness-raising activities given that impoverished rural areas have no Internet or options for virtual meetings. Similar challenges emerged even in countries with more affluence and infrastructure. UNDP in **Costa Rica** flagged problems in reaching women in rural areas. In **Turkey**, where it was already difficult to engage with Syrian refugee women, going online presented even more daunting obstacles.

In **Georgia**, lack of access to technology was a stumbling block in assisting IDPs, with a rapid assessment capturing their concerns about limited chances to pursue economic activities and education. UNDP and its partners explored different ways of organizing training to allow participation. Solutions included incorporating laptops and Internet equipment into programming and forming partnerships with nearby community centres to use their facilities. Setting up e-community learning centres in or near IDP locations was another solution.

COVID-19 dramatically impacted the **global** programme on ending gender-based violence since community mobilization methodologies are often the basis for evidence-based prevention. Strategies to adapt included working closely with women's leaders and networks to respond to needs on the ground. Feminist work practices, such as practice-based learning and reflections on power dynamics, encouraged linking and leveraging all parties' capacities, and enabled more context-specific adaptation. The project also incorporated mental health elements to enhance resilience and abilities to keep up activities.

UNDP in **Iraq** found that supporting local peace mechanisms and community leaders and engaging community-based organizations during the pandemic helped maintain and extend prevention, support and recovery services to the most vulnerable people. Such interventions also limited conflict escalation, reduced stigmatization and encouraged social cohesion in the face of a common threat. Access to technology and virtual platforms was vital in maintaining support, but the experience also underscored the need to build technical capacities among partners and targeted beneficiaries in order to Leave no One Behind and target the most vulnerable.

UNDP makes advances on sensitive issues by adapting to context and maintaining flexibility.

Several projects reported on how they navigated highly complex and sensitive issues, including those around violent extremism. Such efforts, often on the vanguard of not just UNDP support but international assistance in a given country, require careful stewardship, flexibility and constant attention to a variety of influential factors from political alignments to the choice of language.

In **Pakistan**, UNDP is working to prevent violent extremism. It is attempting to anchor disengagement, rehabilitation and deradicalization at the local government level. But to manage resistance and other challenges, a first move has been to engage with the federal National Counter Terrorism Authority and National Security Adviser in the Prime Minister's Office to advocate for the endorsement of an empirically tested model of disengagement. UNDP's rehabilitation and reintegration work with young prisoners and probationers was limited to those involved in petty crimes as development and/or civil society organizations (CSOs) do not have access to radicalized or violent extremist prisoners, who are often kept in isolation under high security protocols.

In the **Philippines**, the term 'deradicalization' tends to raise questions and generate negative reactions. UNDP has explored more conflict-sensitive terms such as peaceful engagement, reformation and transformation, and resilience building. It has also emphasized the need to put mental health and psychosocial support at the heart of both peacebuilding and the prevention of violence extremism, urging that frameworks for transformation should not only stress social or economic changes, but also behavioural and psychological ones to deepen and sustain progress.

The election commission in **Ecuador** faced concerns around strategic communications and the transmission of poll results in previous electoral processes. To mitigate risks, the UNDP electoral assistance project supported by the Funding Windows deliberately kept assistance to a technical level and emphasized the commission's responsibility to manage the election.

Preparing for the future can keep momentum despite multiple crises.

Proactive monitoring, risk management and a long-term perspective support results even in a turbulent environment. Work on anti-corruption in **Lebanon** faced many acute challenges in 2020, with the tipping point coming in October. That period saw massive social upheaval, unstable and complex political and security situations, and a major economic crisis, even on top of the pandemic. When this led to delays and cancellations of planned activities, the project focus shifted to work with CSOs, raising their awareness and preparedness to tackle anti-corruption issues once the Government was fully operational. UNDP also took time to update informative anti-corruption videos so these would be ready once public focus inevitably goes back to this major concern.

Gender norms require going below the surface and questioning assumptions.

Several projects wrestled with the complexities of challenging deep-seated gender norms, including one in **Tajikistan**, which ran into challenges around tackling the root causes of gender-based violence, even as it was clear that not addressing these impedes meaningful changes. While the project produced evidence of gender discrimination and drivers of violence and insecurity, there was little opportunity to discuss such findings with state partners. Some were strongly reluctant to do so given perceptions that such issues are domestic or household-level matters, as well as social practices that still encourage survivors of violence to return to their abusive families. A key lesson is that any programming on gender-based violence must be supported by systematic national and sub-national advocacy to combat harmful social norms, including those within legal frameworks, policymaking and broader rhetoric. Further, resolving these issues requires time to achieve State buy-in and readiness to change existing structures and norms in society.

In **Sierra Leone**, more could have been done to understand and manage complex motivations and priorities in advocacy for gender equality. UNDP found that there is not always a straight line from women gaining seats in parliament to a willingness to advocate for gender equality in governance. UNDP assumed that working with the Female Parliamentary Caucus in advocating affirmative action would be a natural fit for mobilizing political will behind a new law. But it underestimated the loyalty of women parliamentarians to their parties. This made it challenging to get the full attention of caucus members at a time of intense post-electoral litigation and parliamentary boycotts by the main opposition. While women politicians often are committed to gender equality, they depend on political parties to gain their seats and consider party interests a high priority. Beyond better recognition of these dynamics and the importance of galvanizing broad-based political support for gender equality, encouraging women to contest as viable independent candidates within this specific context would render them less in thrall to party endorsements.

X. Financial Resources

In 2020, eight government partners contributed \$125 million to the Funding Windows: **Germany, Denmark, Sweden, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Luxembourg, the United Kingdom** and the **Republic of Korea**.

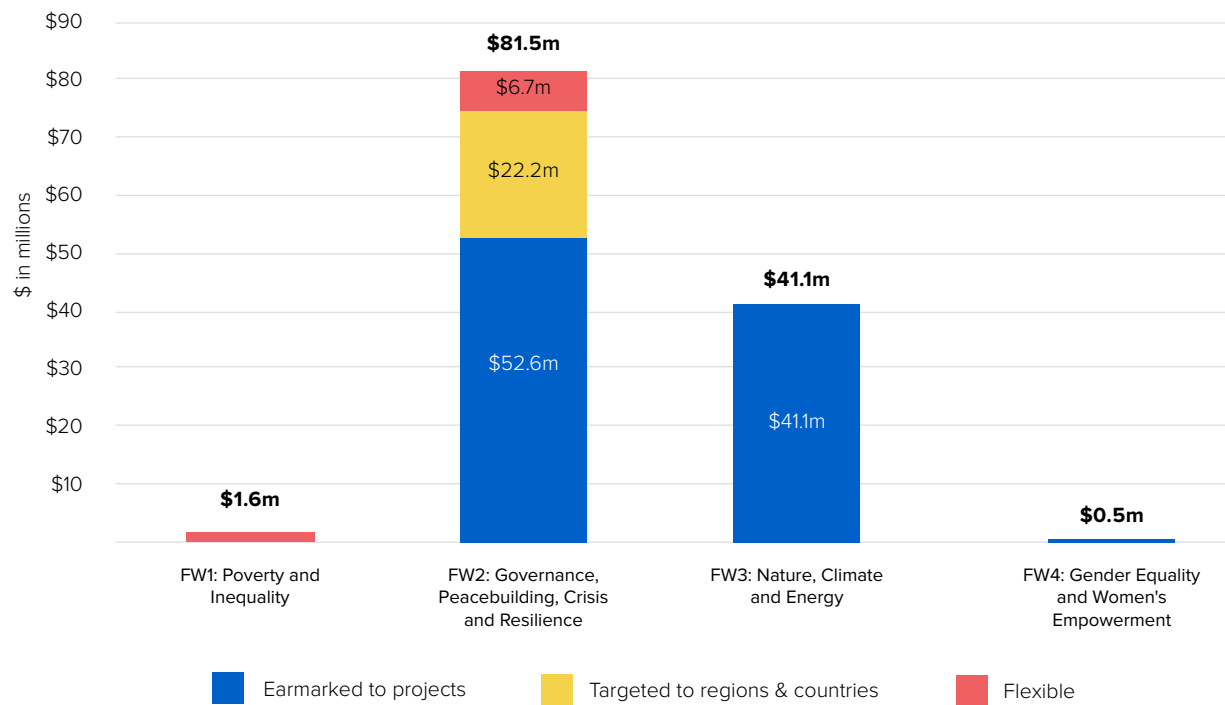
TABLE 1. 2020 CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT BY DONOR AND FUNDING WINDOW

2020 contributions	Poverty and Inequality	Governance, Peacebuilding, Crisis and Resilience	Nature, Climate and Energy	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	Total per donor
Germany		\$29.75m	\$41.11m		\$70.86m
Denmark		\$22.18m			\$22.18m
Sweden		\$11.74m			\$11.74m
Netherlands		\$7.10m			\$7.10m
Switzerland		\$4.97m			\$4.97m
Luxembourg	\$1.64m	\$1.64m			\$3.28m
United Kingdom		\$2.57m			\$2.57m
Republic of Korea		\$1.54m		\$0.46m	\$2m
Total per Funding Window	\$1.64m	\$81.49	\$41.11m	\$0.46m	\$124.7m
Percentage share of 2020 total:	1.3%	65.4%	33%	0.3%	100%
Ratio of flexible (to window, sub-window, or region)/ earmarked	100% / 0%	35% / 65%	0% / 100%	0% / 100%	25%/75%

In the level of resources mobilized, 2020 was the most successful year to date, with a 21 percent increase in contributions from \$103 million in 2019, bringing the total to \$392 million (2016-2020).

As in previous years, earmarked contributions remained the majority of 2020 contributions. Of the amount received in 2020, \$94 million (75 percent) was earmarked to specific projects by **Germany**, the **Netherlands**, the **Republic of Korea**, **Sweden** and **Switzerland**; \$22 million (18 percent) was earmarked to regions and countries by Denmark; and only \$8 million (7 percent) was for flexible allocation, coming from **Luxembourg**, the **Republic of Korea**, **Sweden** and **Switzerland**. The Governance, Peacebuilding, Crisis and Resilience window received \$82 million (65%) of contributions. The Nature, Climate and Energy window received \$41.1 million (33 percent). The other two windows, Poverty and Inequality and Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, received 1 percent or less.

FIGURE 5. 2020 CONTRIBUTIONS BY FUNDING WINDOW AND DEGREE OF EARMARKING



Expenditures reached \$48 million in 2020. This sum is similar to that of 2019 due to the multifaceted crisis brought about by COVID-19, which caused the suspension of planned development activities and diverging priorities for UNDP country offices. Figure 6 presents expenditures by Funding Window.

FIGURE 6. 2020 EXPENDITURES BY FUNDING WINDOW

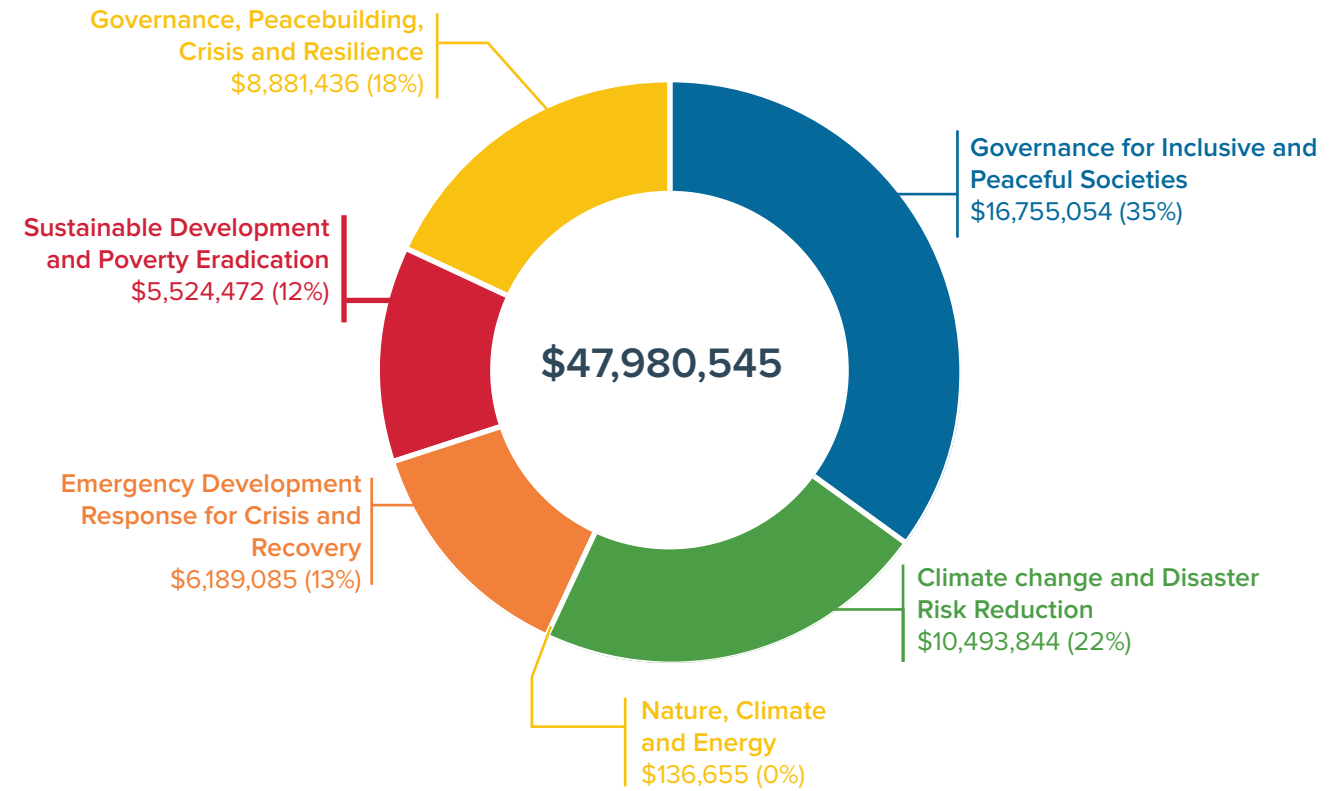




Table 2 presents expenditures by Funding Window, sub-window and country. Figure 7 list the 10 countries with the highest expenditures across all four Funding Windows. Figure 8 illustrates expenditures by region. Table 3 details expenditures according to UNDP's Strategic Plan outcomes and outputs.

TABLE 2. 2020 EXPENDITURES BY FUNDING WINDOW, SUB-WINDOW AND COUNTRY (IN DOLLARS)

 Governance for Inclusive and Peaceful Societies			
Country/location	Main window	Democratic Governance for Peace and Development sub-window	Conflict Prevention sub-window
Albania	-	-	574,830
Algeria	-	-	155,062
Angola	81,891	-	-
Armenia	94,500	-	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-	-	168,689
Burkina Faso	-	1,399,210	-
Cameroon, Republic of	-	-	112,831
Central African Republic	129,627	-	-
Chad	-	832,486	-
Comoros	-	-	6,579
Costa Rica	-	72,047	-
Ecuador	-	76,993	-
Ethiopia	270,817	-	-
Global project: Ending Gender-Based Violence	-	738,917	-
Global project: UNDP-DPPA Joint Programming	-	-	3,949,941
Honduras	-	-	101,571
Jordan	80,000	-	-
Kosovo	-	-	295,638
Lebanon	256,382	-	-
Maldives	131,106	-	-
Mali	-	1,183,109	-
Mauritania	-	1,454,072	-
Montenegro	128,588	-	28,880
Myanmar	47,175	-	1,170
Niger	-	1,951,156	-
Paraguay	108,741	-	-
Philippines	237,569	-	-
Regional project: Solution to SALW in the Western Balkans	-	-	59,828
State of Palestine	-	-	181,214

 Governance for Inclusive and Peaceful Societies			
Country/location	Main window	Democratic Governance for Peace and Development sub-window	Conflict Prevention sub-window
Republic of North Macedonia	-	-	315,902
Serbia	-	-	789,258
Sierra Leone	136,187	-	-
Sudan, Republic of the	248,087	-	-
Tajikistan	156,553	-	-
Trinidad and Tobago	-	-	96,505
Turkey	-	-	86,130
Uzbekistan	-	15,981	-
Adjustments	(148)	-	(20)
Total	\$16,755,054	\$2,107,076	\$7,723,971
			\$6,924,008

*All reference are per UN Security Council resolution SCR 1244.



Emergency Development Response to Crisis and Recovery

Country/location	Main window
Albania	114,782
Brazil	14,963
Burkina Faso	99,993
Colombia	16,046
Democratic Republic of the Congo	49,486
Djibouti	315,305
Ethiopia	423,443
Global Project: Crisis Response	25,896
Iran, Islamic Republic of	165,470
Iraq	122,861
Jamaica	381,322
Malawi	950
Mali	477,569
Mauritania	283,821
Myanmar	149,524
Niger	620,483
Philippines	142,656
Somalia	1,012,839
South Sudan, Republic of	548,484
Sudan, Republic of the	226,798
Syria	513,300
Venezuela	472,771
Zimbabwe	11,092
<i>Adjustments</i>	<i>(771)</i>
Total	\$6,189,085



Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

Country/location	Main window	Climate Change sub-window
Argentina	-	239,113
Bhutan	-	285,169
Chile	-	204,851
Colombia	-	330,225
Costa Rica	-	477,392
Democratic Republic of the Congo	-	59,179
Ecuador	-	3,876
Ethiopia	-	37,383
Ghana	-	264,810
Global project: NDCs	-	3,004,679
Guatemala	-	14,606
Indonesia	-	219,677
Kazakhstan	-	95,463
Kenya	-	292,318
Lao People's Democratic Republic	-	235,191
Lebanon	-	206,603
Mali	-	160,867
Mongolia	-	136,407
Morocco	-	911,723
Nepal	119,936	129,180
Nigeria	-	221,628
Pakistan	-	21,981
Panama	-	104,242
Peru	-	1,106,983
Philippines	74,357	149,740
Rwanda	-	169,395
Sao Tome and Principe	-	254,009
Thailand	-	91,998
Togo	-	34,150
Trinidad and Tobago	-	175,808
Uganda	-	227,720
Vanuatu	-	180,529
Viet Nam	-	78,825
Zambia	-	173,830
Total	\$10,493,844	\$10,299,550



Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication

Country/location	Main window	Environment and Natural Capital sub-window
Belize	-	142,262
Bolivia	213,209	-
Botswana	-	78,500
Brazil	-	65,488
Colombia	-	142,016
Costa Rica	-	540,544
Cuba	-	26,945
Ecuador	-	120,562
Egypt	109,510	-
Georgia	-	131,203
Global project: BIOFIN	-	1,165,366
Guatemala	-	115,224
India	-	92,182
Indonesia	-	113,637
Kazakhstan	71,567	66,783
Kyrgyzstan	-	54,930
Madagascar	-	46,354
Mexico	-	463,868
Mongolia	-	54,363
Mozambique	-	183,289
Nepal	-	92,170
Peru	-	139,526
Philippines	-	293,553
Rwanda	-	3,873
South Africa	135,054	78,184
Sri Lanka	-	82,837
Thailand	-	501,050
Tunisia	8,895	-
United Republic of Tanzania	-	30,105
Viet Nam	-	102,065
Zambia	-	58,473
Adjustments	886	-
Total	\$5,524,472	\$4,985,351



Governance, Peacebuilding, Crisis and Resilience

Country/location	Main window	Democratic Governance sub-window	Conflict Prevention and Sustaining Peace sub-window	Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction sub-window	Crisis Response sub-window
Angola	-	-	2,256	-	-
Armenia	-	-	205,485	-	-
Bangladesh	-	-	29,155	-	-
Barbados	-	-	12,296	-	-
Bhutan	6,307	-	-	-	-
Bolivia	-	-	8,140	-	-
Burkina Faso	-	-	(18,073)	-	-
Cambodia	-	-	37,800	-	-
Central African Republic	-	-	39,650	-	-
Chad	-	-	285,089	-	-
Chile	-	-	101,784	-	-
Costa Rica	-	19,722	-	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	-	-	2,858	-	-
Crisis Bureau Core Capacities	173,734	-	-	-	-
Democratic Republic of the Congo	-	-	88,053	-	-
The Gambia	-	-	37,167	-	-
Georgia	65,159	-	118,759	-	-
Global project: CPPRI	-	-	1,099,519	-	-
Global project: GPRoL	-	-	683,016	-	-
Global project: UNDP-DPPA Joint Programme	-	-	3,771,056	-	-
Guatemala	-	-	37,678	-	-
Guinea-Bissau	-	-	66,230	-	-
Guyana	-	-	18,684	-	-
Honduras	-	-	97,654	-	-
Kazakhstan	-	-	36,529	-	-
Kenya	-	-	109,590	-	-
Kyrgyzstan	-	-	159,512	-	-
Lao People's Democratic Republic	-	-	-	13,758	-
Lesotho	-	-	34,724	-	-



Governance, Peacebuilding, Crisis and Resilience

Country/location	Main window	Democratic Governance sub-window	Conflict Prevention and Sustaining Peace sub-window	Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction sub-window	Crisis Response sub-window
Liberia	-	-	178,278	-	-
Mali	-	-	150,771	-	-
Moldova, Republic of	-	-	3,339	-	-
Niger	-	-	2,664	-	-
Panama Regional Centre	-	-	46,527	-	-
Papua New Guinea	-	-	20,064	-	-
Peru	-	-	210,183	-	-
Sao Tome and Principe	-	-	201,733	-	-
Somalia	-	-	53,982	-	-
South Sudan, Republic of	-	-	132,434	-	-
Sri Lanka	-	-	32,826	-	-
Sudan, Republic of the	-	-	149,998	-	-
Syria	14,304	-	-	-	-
Tajikistan	-	-	51,662	-	-
Thailand	-	-	50,490	-	-
Timor-Leste	-	-	129,564	-	-
Uganda	-	-	47,326	-	-
Ukraine	-	-	51,162	-	-
Zimbabwe	-	-	10,093	-	-
Adjustments	-	-	(744)	-	-
Total	\$8,881,436	\$259,504	\$19,722	\$8,588,451	\$13,758



Nature, Climate and Energy

Country/location	Main window
Global project: BES-Net	85,564
Global project: PANORAMA	14,580
Kazakhstan	36,057
Nigeria	453
Total	\$136,655

FIGURE 7. TOP 10 COUNTRIES WITH THE HIGHEST EXPENDITURES ACROSS ALL FOUR FUNDING WINDOWS, 2020 (\$)

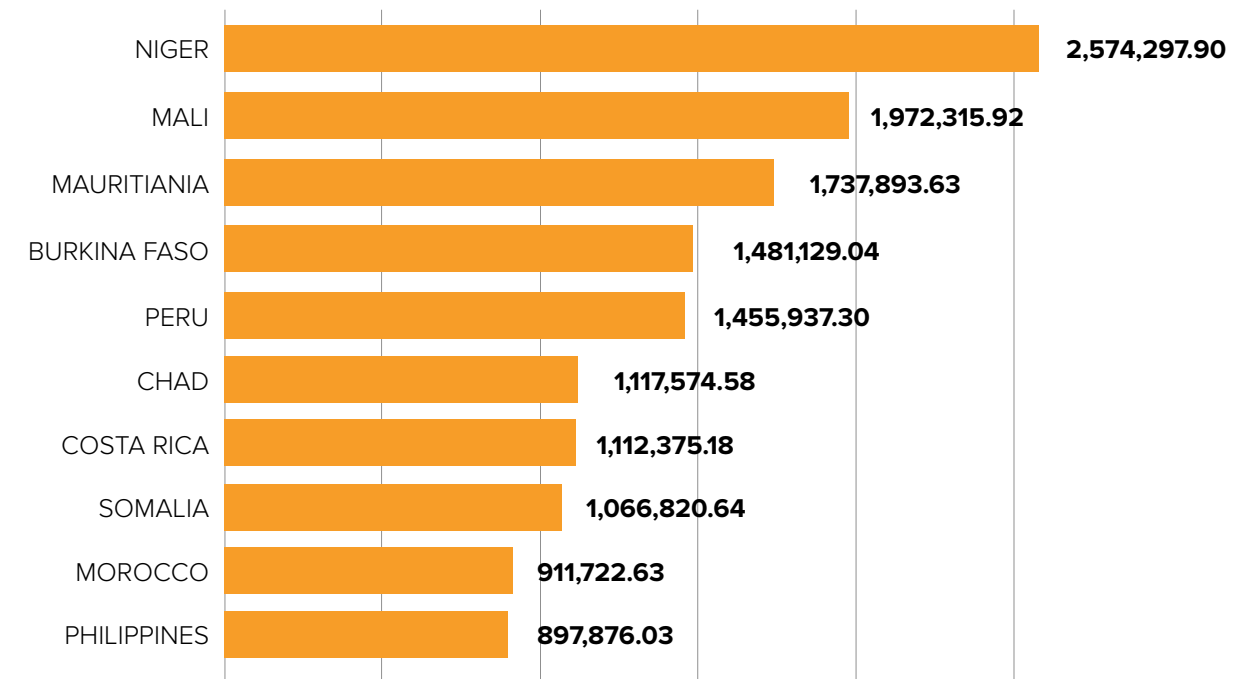


FIGURE 8. 2020 EXPENDITURES BY REGION ACROSS ALL FUNDING WINDOWS

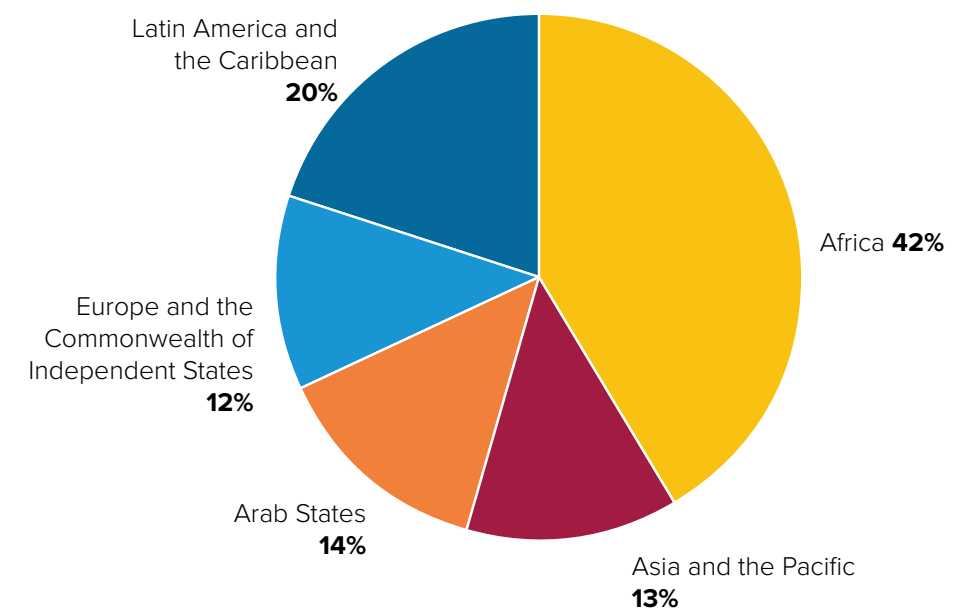


TABLE 3. 2020 EXPENDITURES BY 2018-2021 UNDP STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS

Strategic Plan outcomes	Strategic Plan outputs	Expenditures(\$)
Outcome 1 Advance Poverty Eradication in All Its Forms and Dimensions	1.1.1 Capacities developed across the whole of government to integrate the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and other international agreements in development plans and budgets, and to analyse progress towards the SDGs, using innovative and data-driven solutions.	744,619
	1.1.2 Marginalised groups, particularly the poor, women, people with disabilities and displaced are empowered to gain universal access to basic services and financial and non-financial assets to build productive capacities and benefit from sustainable livelihoods and jobs	4,595,263
	1.2.1 Capacities at national and sub-national levels strengthened to promote inclusive local economic development and deliver basic services including HIV and related services	716,259
	1.2.2 Enabling environment strengthened to expand public and private financing for the achievement of the SDGs	454,390
	1.2.3 Institutions and systems enabled to address awareness, prevention and enforcement of anti-corruption measures to maximize availability of resources for poverty eradication	100,053
	1.3.1 National capacities and evidence-based assessment and planning tools enable gender-responsive and risk-informed development investments, including for response to and recovery from crisis	580,952
	1.4.1 Solutions scaled up for sustainable management of natural resources, including sustainable commodities and green and inclusive value chains	5,831,872
	1.5.1 Solutions adopted to achieve universal access to clean, affordable and sustainable energy	428,724
	1.6.1 Country-led measures accelerated to advance gender equality and women's empowerment	229,394
	1.6.2 Measures in place and implemented across sectors to prevent and respond to Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)	891,584
	Outcome 1 sub-total	(30%)
Outcome 2 Accelerated Structural Transformations for Sustainable Development	2.1.1 Low emission and climate resilient objectives addressed in national, sub-national and sectoral development plans and policies to promote economic diversification and green growth	5,827,765
	2.1.2 Capacities developed for progressive expansion of inclusive social protection systems	1,553,093
	2.2.2 Constitution-making, electoral and parliamentary processes and institutions strengthened to promote inclusion, transparency and accountability	2,209,538
	2.2.3 Capacities, functions and financing of rule of law and national human rights institutions and systems strengthened to expand access to justice and combat discrimination, with a focus on women and other marginalised groups	5,551,423
	2.3.1 Data and risk-informed development policies, plans, systems and financing incorporate integrated and gender-responsive solutions to reduce disaster risks, enable climate change adaptation and mitigation, and prevent risk of conflict	1,920,064
	2.4.1 Gender-responsive legal and regulatory frameworks, policies and institutions strengthened, and solutions adopted, to address conservation, sustainable use and equitable benefit sharing of natural resources, in line with international conventions and national legislation	331,907
	2.5.1 Solutions developed, financed and applied at scale for energy efficiency and transformation to clean energy and zero-carbon development, for poverty eradication and structural transformation	533,792
	2.6.1 Capacities strengthened to raise awareness on and undertake legal, policy and institutional reforms to fight structural barriers to women's empowerment	129,627
Outcome 2 sub-total	(38%)	18,057,209
Outcome 3 Strengthen Resilience to Shocks and Crisis	3.1.1 Core government functions and inclusive basic services restored post-crisis for stabilisation, durable solutions to displacement and return to sustainable development pathways within the framework of national policies and priorities	2,057,145
	3.2.1 National capacities strengthened for reintegration, reconciliation, peaceful management of conflict and prevention of violent extremism in response to national policies and priorities	11,611,346
	3.2.2 National and local systems enabled and communities empowered to ensure the restoration of justice institutions, redress mechanisms and community security	252,025
	3.3.1 Evidence-based assessment and planning tools and mechanisms applied to enable implementation of gender-sensitive and risk-informed prevention and preparedness to limit the impact of natural hazards and pandemics and promote peaceful, just and inclusive societies	1,243,962
	3.3.2 Gender-responsive and risk-informed mechanisms supported to build consensus, improve social dialogue and promote peaceful, just and inclusive societies	185,744
	Outcome 3 sub-total	(32%)
Grand total		\$47,980,545

Annex 1: Detailed Results by Thematic Area

Inclusive Governance, Conflict Prevention and Peaceful Societies

Algeria

Several national policies and initiatives have sought to improve the lives of rural women in Algeria, but with limited impact. The Government sought UNDP's support to foster more concrete results, starting with a conference to set the basis for joint and coordinated national action. High-level political visibility drew 16 ministers to the meeting, as well as senior officials from public institutions supporting rural women's economic opportunities and UN entities inside and outside of Algeria. They shaped recommendations for a comprehensive, ambitious new programme to improve the ecosystem for women's entrepreneurship in rural areas and forge links to essential social services and social protection.

Angola

In Angola's Lunda Norte province, UNDP provided integrated support for a more diversified local economy, greater resilience and higher social cohesion under a joint project with UNHCR. Both refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and local residents have gained skills and resources for livelihood development and income-generation. In 2020, 142 people learned skills as entrepreneurs and received business start-up kits as well as mentorship and coaching on business licensing and the establishment of cooperatives. Two thirds of participants were refugees; the rest were local youth.

Another component involved developing a cadre of 12 specialist trainers on law enforcement and human rights, which has been positioned to cascade human rights training to local police forces and service providers on responding to vulnerable groups, including refugees. The cadre has already trained 150 mobile police unit supervisors, 20 migration services supervisors, 20 detention centre supervisors and 10 civil protection services supervisors.

Armenia

While public sector reforms had been wide-ranging in Armenia, gender dimensions were mostly overlooked until a UNDP pilot promoted gender-responsive practices in the central Government. By applying conventional technical assistance approaches with innovative user-centric ones, UNDP positioned gender responsiveness at the core of the Public Administration Reform Strategy 2021-2030. A countrywide survey of 1,200 respondents explored public attitudes and perceptions, while a systematic gender screening of around 60 legal acts related to the civil service system identified gender gaps in the regulatory framework.

A second survey captured the perspectives of the next generation by polling over 1,100 students at 16 leading academic institutions. Application of the global Gender Equality Seal Award Methodology for Public Institutions at the national Civil Service Office scrutinized all internal practices and rules, and accompanied a survey of office staff on gender equality in the workplace. Findings from the research helped elaborate recommendations on gender-sensitive core and elective competencies for civil servants. Another element

of UNDP support involved partnering with the Civil Service Office and the newly established Corruption Prevention Commission to develop online anti-corruption training modules for civil servants and a digital anti-corruption investigation tool.

Burkina Faso

UNDP supported peace consolidation activities in Burkina Faso, combining support for the economic empowerment of rural women, prevention of violent extremism and social cohesion. In the impoverished Sahel and Central North regions, living conditions and livelihoods improved through drilling eight boreholes providing water to 2,400 IDPs as well as 1,160 animals. Market gardening sites bettered livelihoods for women, who were allocated 70 percent of the planting areas; 108 women and 47 men operate the sites. Awareness campaigns reached 2,000 people with messages against violent extremism, while nearly 160 radio journalists acquired skills to use information in fostering cohesion between communities of the Sahel, the north and the centre-north, including through interactive broadcasts.

In 2020, all 98 magistrates and clerks working on economic and financial crimes and terrorism cases improved techniques for investigation and judgment. An additional 63 magistrates and clerks were trained to strengthen the capacity of the judicial system on economic, financial and terrorist crimes. Mobile hearings in eight municipalities processed 260 civil and 12 correctional files. With UNDP technical assistance, the National Human Rights Commission conducted a fact-finding mission in one municipality on allegations of human rights violations following terrorist attacks by national security forces.

UNDP also supported the greater participation of women in elections with a concerted campaign in three regions involving 10,000 posters, 18 theatre productions, and 8 TV and radio spots. Collaboration with civil society mobilized 300 volunteers to carry out door-to-door advocacy. Training equipped 200 media professionals on reporting election information amid a social and security crisis, including in terms of gender issues. Nearly 300 politicians and opinion leaders, including 100 women, participated in sessions across the country to boost awareness of the new national law providing financial incentives for political parties to reach 30 percent of female candidates on their party lists.

In tandem, coaching sessions for 365 women candidates running for the legislative elections and one running for the presidential election developed skills related to campaign management, political leadership, communication and electoral litigation procedures, among other topics.

Central African Republic

Vakaga, Ndele and Obo are among the most remote and disadvantaged areas of the Central African Republic. Interventions by national or international actors are rare. UNDP worked with six municipalities to create local development plans based on an inclusive process and reflecting gender analysis. Training built skills for 265 local people, including 100 women, to manage the plans, carry forward peacebuilding and conflict management, and advance women's political participation.

A complementary initiative strengthened income-generation prospects, providing 325 people, including 300 women and 25 men, with skills to conserve and process agricultural and livestock products, and distributing seed kits. For women, this increased income and enhanced their status in their communities and participation in local governance mechanisms.

Chad

In Chad, less than 0.4 per cent of the national budget goes to the justice sector, below the share in neighbouring countries. Funding Window resources have been vital for UNDP to support the Ministry of Justice to build institutional capacities, digitize services and improve the flow of information. Greater awareness of new penal and criminal codes came through outreach to appeals court judges in Sarh and N'Djamena, while training helped 40 court officers master the fundamentals of criminal law and procedure. Computer, local area network and other equipment improved services by the courts as well as the Directorate General for Human Rights and Legislation.

Support options for survivors of gender-based violence grew by training service providers on essential medical, psychosocial, legal and judicial tools. Nearly 500 students from Sarh University gained understanding of their rights and protection mechanisms, while the National Women's House established facilities for skills training to help victims of gender-based violence enter the workforce. The pro bono defence of 15 women victims of rape, in conformity with the law, set a new example in a context where rape is rarely prosecuted. This improved communication and information sharing between different departments of the penal chain institutions within the jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal.

UNDP also built awareness of 3,500 young people and 2,500 prison detainees on the prevention and fight against HIV/AIDS, while supporting the revision of the national law on HIV/AIDS in line with international standards.

With the 2020 elections postponed until 2021, UNDP helped initiate updates of the electoral roll. Training equipped 207 political party members with better understanding of the electoral legal framework, reducing contention around electoral issues. An elections security strategy and operational plan were endorsed by all stakeholders, including the defence and security forces. To monitor implementation, a taskforce of election officials and government is in place and will designate electoral security focal points covering all 112 towns in the country. Training for members of the National Human Rights Commission provided tools to respect human right during the electoral process.

Costa Rica

In the run-up to municipal elections in 2020, UNDP brought women's political participation to the centre of national discussion in Costa Rica, shedding light on institutional and cultural gaps, challenges blocking equality and violence against women in politics. The 'Equality Opens Roads' audiovisual campaign circulated on social networks and reached more than 1 million people, highlighting women's political participation in municipal decision-making as key to sustainable local development.

Over 1,000 women politicians strengthened their political leadership capacities and ability to develop political campaigns. Twenty-seven women elected as mayors, deputy mayors, council members and trustees politicians participated in one-on-one mentoring that helped them develop technical and practical knowledge of municipal administration. As COVID-19 emerged, UNDP partnered with the Red Costarricense de Mujeres Municipalistas and the National Women's Institute to set up a virtual space for elected women politicians to learn and share experiences in integrating pandemic-related gender differences in municipal operating plans.

Ecuador

In Ecuador, UNDP helped strengthen the management of election results and foster trust in the electoral process, overcoming weaknesses in transmitting results that had raised concerns around electoral fraud. Ahead of the 2021 elections, the project improved skills and technology for the election results database, including by bringing in international expertise from similar efforts in Bolivia and Costa Rica. As a result, the national elections commission processed and publicized 88 per cent of presidential election results within eight hours of polls closing. Live tracking of electoral votes was available on an official website and a mobile app.

Ethiopia

A UNDP assessment report on Ethiopia's Oromia and Somali regions highlighted the value of women's roles in peace and reconciliation. It informed the design of peacebuilding programming as well as training on conflict management, prevention and mediation for 572 people, including women members of Parliament, members of three regional councils, civil society leaders, and peace ambassadors and traditional mediators. To galvanize sustained momentum, UNDP partnered with the Union of Ethiopian Women Charitable Associations to establish a peace forum that will coordinate and amplify peacebuilding efforts by a variety of women-focused CSOs.

Georgia

The pandemic has severely affected IDPs in Georgia. While UNHCR has directed protection and assistance resources towards those in Abkhazia, the breakaway region, flexible Funding Window resources enabled UNDP to focus complementary support on IDPs in the Shida Kartli, Imereti and Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti regions. E-community learning facilities at 10 IDP centres opened learning opportunities linking peace and human rights sessions with entrepreneurial skills. Recent vocational training graduates, 80 per cent of whom are young women, attended sessions for micro- and small enterprises and acquired skills that will allow them to start their own businesses. Concurrent support for legal aid, including the provision of IT equipment, proved critical for legal counsellors to safely provide counselling on gender-based violence during the pandemic.

Honduras

UNDP has worked closely with the national human rights commission and 36 municipalities to develop tools and action plans for preventing conflicts and consolidating peace. This has created a network of national and local actors focused on these issues, including in relation to specific vulnerabilities among women, children, Afro-descendant communities and indigenous peoples. Early achievements have comprised recommendations to create a mechanism to recognize indigenous peoples.

Sustained engagement, advocacy and institutional training on conflict prevention with national groups successfully mobilized resources to scale up the work. Two million euros from the European Union will support transparent and peaceful elections in 2020-2022, and \$3 million from the Peacebuilding Fund will promote transparency, institutional effectiveness, and inclusion for conflict prevention, in alliance with UN Women and OHCHR.

Lebanon

Unprecedented progress in the fight against corruption in Lebanon culminated in the 2020 adoption of a revised and updated national anti-corruption strategy. Supported by UNDP, the strategy engages all stakeholders in fighting corruption and enhances information-sharing with parliamentarians. UNDP also backed steps to implement the Access to Information Law, including through assistance with a draft national action plan and implementation decree aimed at increasing compliance among public administrations, municipalities and federations. The launch of the Guide for International Cooperation with the Lebanese Republic to Recover Assets Originating from Corrupt Acts further aligned Lebanon with international standards. A corruption risk methodology was updated and now integrates a gender lens.

Maldives

Digitalizing judicial services in the Maldives proved a prescient move as the pandemic began. UNDP purchased ICT equipment and developed innovative approaches to legal education and training. The latter included a mobile app that expedites research and learning on laws and regulations, strengthening judicial case management and the fair administration of justice. Virtual platforms to facilitate online court hearings sustained access to justice during COVID-19 and improved access for people on remote islands. Since September 2020, 11,900 online hearings have taken place.

Mali

Security advisory committees have been discussed in Mali since 2015, based on the peace and reconciliation agreement and the security sector reform strategy, but were never set up. With Funding Window resources, UNDP supported the government in establishing 14 of them in Mopti, Ségou, Gao and Menaka. The committees provide space for exchanges between populations and security forces to gradually restore confidence and trust, and have already resulted in community reconciliation pacts that foster greater social cohesion. For 170 women members of the committees, capacity development has empowered them with skills linked to peacebuilding; a core group of 54 women dubbed 'Amazons of Peace' received funds to bring communities together for awareness-raising activities. Two peace centres in Bandiagara and Djenné support local state reconciliation teams in providing resources and support for the committees, while a 500-seat structure built at the Mopti women's house has quickly become a gathering point for women leaders.

UNDP also began supporting the government in revitalizing 138 municipal land commissions to prevent and manage land disputes between herders and farmers, a source of most intercommunity conflicts in central and northern Mali. Other activities included aiding the construction of a police station and a district court in Djenné, where the presence of security and justice actors has been scarce. This measure could strengthen access to security and justice for nearly 200,000 people.

Since the management of IDPs in Mopti has been a major concern for national authorities, UNDP assisted with their social reintegration and return to their villages of origin. Training on trades for 1,050 IDPs, including 752 women, accompanied seed money for income-generation activities. Six market gardening areas increased production among women affected by conflict, generating at least 1,200 jobs. For 2,995 women members of 51 women's cooperatives, UNDP provided equipment that helped reduce the impact of COVID-19 on entrepreneurial activities.

Mauritania

Amid the pandemic, UNDP continued reaching isolated populations and helping to prevent radicalization. The construction of an FM radio station in Maghamaa au Gorgol, with more than 130,000 inhabitants, created a platform for regular information and education on social cohesion and peaceful coexistence, with content shared over the entire Radio de Mauritanie network in all local languages.

UNDP also backed a broad campaign popularizing the national Constitution and sharing messages around rights and obligations that reached over 80 percent of people in the country. Work with young parliamentarians helped put forward a bill setting a quota for young people on electoral lists for municipalities and regional councils, and as deputies. Supported by major political parties, the bill reflects consultations with more than 500 young people on their concerns and aspirations for democracy.

In the cross-border area with Mali, UNDP assisted 10 village committees in the most landlocked municipalities to organize intercommunity meetings that support social cohesion. Local economic infrastructure projects for 9,740 inhabitants of the municipality of Adelbegrou, including water systems and vaccination parks, have helped surmount some of the challenges of geographic isolation and an arid climate. Income-generating activities have been anchored in women's cooperatives, supporting the emergence of local women leaders widely seen as role models in their communities. Altogether, 15,300 people benefited from income-generation activities; 70 percent were women.

Montenegro

Gender mainstreaming requires effective intersectoral planning, a challenge for many governments. UNDP took a systemic approach in Montenegro, enhancing capacities of the Government, Parliament, civil society and municipalities. More than 350 civil servants and activists for gender equality developed skills related to gender mainstreaming, instigating a cultural change forging better links between gender equality principles and ongoing public administration reforms. The new Public Administration Strategy now features six normative provisions on gender equality. Gender mainstreaming principles have been integrated in the work of the National Human Resource Management Authority and become key criteria in strategic planning. The authority appointed 24 certified trainers for gender mainstreaming and made training on the issue mandatory for public employees.

During the pandemic, UNDP's partnership with women's political networks unlocked financial support for women's start-ups in 14 municipalities. The mobile 'Be Safe' app for reporting gender-based violence was developed and registered 30 percent of reported cases during lockdowns, helping to connect victims to specialized services.

Niger

The catalytic investment of Funding Window resources in Niger led to the mobilization of new resources from the Peacebuilding Fund to scale up social cohesion efforts in Chéimari, Gueskérou and Diffa. Ten sessions on community safety emphasized the involvement of women and youth; other measures bolstered three local peace committees. Radio broadcasts reached more than 10,000 people emphasizing that peace allows communities to make the most of shared resources. Similar messages echoed in door-to-door outreach to at least 2,000 people.

In two communes, economic empowerment programmes engaged 700 women and young people in larger-scale infrastructure projects improving local living conditions, such as renovated municipal buildings and improved water systems. Some 50 women's groups involved in construction have increased their purchasing power.

UNDP also jumpstarted advances under the government women's leadership programme, training 1,000 women on leadership and other skills, and sensitizing 28,000 women on their roles and rights in elections. The Prime Minister endorsed a national convention calling on political parties to better position women within their parties, while media agreed to devote more airtime to women candidates. In local elections in one region, Maradi, newly empowered women won 26.5 per cent of 895 communal, district and city councillor seats, up from 16 per cent in the 2016 poll.

Paraguay

Based on the findings of a UN-DPPA mission to Paraguay, UNDP helped deepen electoral reforms related to the use of electronic voting machines and an open list system of candidates. Preparation for leasing voting machines took place under citizen and media scrutiny and concluded successfully, heightening the credibility of the electoral commission. The commission's technical capacities grew through installation of a GIS platform to coordinate operations in all districts in real time. Communications capacities improved through new skills to create citizen-friendly messages, prevent fake news and build trust in elections. Two online conferences on social media reached over 40,000 viewers, stressing the importance of electoral reforms, particularly the open-list system, to expand participation.

The Philippines

In the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, UNDP assisted the Provincial Government of Lanao del Sur with rehabilitating former members of extremist groups through the Maute-IS Reintegration Programme. Peace consultations with local municipalities and settlements helped determine priorities for reintegration, including small projects to expedite community rehabilitation. Around 200 returnees and their family received food packs, hygiene supplies, educational materials and agricultural inputs; 53 underwent psychosocial support sessions supporting their return as peaceful and productive citizens.

More than 150 young women leaders gained skills to advance community-based peacebuilding, while partner women insider mediators began developing a Women's Rapid Action and Mobilization Platform to bolster women's roles in peace and security, including deradicalization. Other efforts involved convening faith-based leaders and women mediators to extend pandemic assistance to areas most vulnerable to violent extremism. They provided information and support in adapting to health risks, easing the deep sense of marginalization in some communities.

At the national level, UNDP helped to support women's leadership in reformation and transformation initiatives for former members of violent extremist groups in reformation and security institutions, such as the Bureau of Corrections and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology. This included support for education and livelihood trainings as well as COVID-19 prevention and protection.

State of Palestine

Through support for the Shufuna platform, UNDP has galvanized public debate and awareness around women's low levels of political participation in the State of Palestine. The platform links 250 men and women from diverse background in a drive for women's greater political engagement and in decision-making, including in reconciliation discussions. The Ministry of Women's Affairs has endorsed the Shufuna strategy as a key tool for continued advances on women's political participation and representation ahead of the 2021 elections.

Platform members have organized public events with political parties and public figures. A 'Reconciliation Bus' that ferried them to meetings with influential figures became the subject of a documentary film. Eight TV shows were broadcast where Shufuna Platform members help to acquaint decision-makers from the public and private sectors on women's roles in decision-making and reconciliation. Five virtual town meetings along with a stand-up comedy show further emphasized women in decision-making.

Sierra Leone

UNDP engaged with the Sierra Leone Female Parliamentary Caucus to promote affirmative action for women, including through study tours to Kenya and Rwanda that showed gender balance in politics in post-conflict settings. The Gender Empowerment bill is now awaiting parliamentary approval. This bill would reserve 30 percent of political seats and 30 percent of appointed positions for women, and includes provisions for gender mainstreaming and budgeting. UNDP also partnered with the caucus to develop a guide for mentoring girls as leaders. Pre-tested in six schools, the guide is expected to become part of life skills education across the country. Social media networks helped pilot schools share experiences and support, including during the 2020 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, when 720 pupils, teachers and local council staff campaigned against school violence.

Sudan

UNDP made an immediate and vital contribution to Sudan in the wake of its revolution, assisting with the government strategy to support the devolution of power to states, and consolidate the foundation for change in the country. Over 800 Sudanese local authorities and newly established neighbourhood committees convened in all states to develop capacities related to planning, peacebuilding and conflict prevention, environmental governance, public finance management, gender-sensitive budgeting and mechanisms for SDG localization. The process helped shape a revised local governance act now before the Ministerial Council for approval.

Syria

Development strategies that are gender-responsive and sensitive to people with disabilities have received little support in Syria, but with Funding Window resources, UNDP built new partnerships with NGOs to advance attention and action. As an entry point, it assisted in firming up coordination mechanisms for 12 networks of CSOs. The umbrella Syrian CSO Strategic Forum developed a shared resource centre and appointed 25 women with disabilities as trainers. After 80 women from 70 organizations learned to analyse women's presence in CSO, they created the Women Leadership and Gender Group. It has called on all members of the Forum to put women on boards of directors, adopt gender policies and gender-responsive budgeting concepts, and integrate gender equality in performance indicators.

Tajikistan

UNDP supported a legislative review that resulted in 13 draft amendments to laws on violence in the family, anti-discrimination, legal assistance guaranteed by the State and legal aid as well as the Criminal Code. Aligned with international human rights standards, the drafts are now under government consideration.

Monitoring the implementation of the 2013 Law on the Prevention of Violence in the Family yielded detailed recommendations for improvement. Better coordination, referral and support services for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence emerged through the creation of multidisciplinary working groups in four target districts. Over 400 public servants gained skills for more effective investigation, prosecution, and adjudication of sexual and gender-based violence cases, while 90 police officers learned community policing techniques. Greater knowledge and capacity resulted in increased issuance of protection orders.

As an immediate response to increasing domestic violence cases during the pandemic, UNDP supported the Women's Resource Center and the 24-hour 1313 hotline operating under the Committee on Women, which provided free psychological and legal support to nearly 1,700 women.

Timor-Leste

In Timor-Leste, UNDP helped improve women's access to quality justice services under a larger portfolio of support to the justice system. Training of over 300 local community members on the formal justice system, gender equality and gender-based violence, and community-based mediation led to the registration of 36 civil cases, almost all related to land disputes. Among the 76 disputants, 38 percent were women. UNDP also assisted with a Ministry of Justice conference on gender justice, convening over 70 sitting judges, prosecutors, public defenders, national police and members of academia. A strategic plan on legal aid is under development along with a monitoring system for gender-based violence cases within the national human rights institution.

Trinidad and Tobago

In Trinidad and Tobago, the UNDP-led Youth Peace Ambassadors Programme aimed to move at-risk youth away from gangs, radicalization and violence, and empower them to become role models and agents of positive change with a focus on capacity building and enhancing resilience. Participants also benefitted from mentoring and networking related to vocational and academic training. Residents of the youth detention centre accessed psychoeducation on COVID-19, psychosocial interventions, vocational training and additional components of yoga, meditation, drama, music and art therapy. The youth prison programme was virtually scaled up from an initial in-person programme with 20 youth to eventually serve approximately 100 residents during the virtual programme in the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Turkey

UNDP improved livelihoods and employment for Syrian refugee women and women in host communities in Turkey through collaboration with Koton, one of the country's largest textile manufactures. In 2020, nearly 1,000 women made finely crafted goods sold through the company's Hand Made Collection, generating nearly \$82,000 while building social ties between the two communities.

Given a deficit in care for the elderly in Turkey, UNDP hosted 10 webinars for health and social service workers to address concerns faced by older people and their families. While operations had to be temporarily suspended due to the pandemic, the first elderly day-care centre in South-Eastern Turkey has been set up and is slated to support the active participation of older people in social life and foster intercultural integration. It has attracted attention as a model for similar facilities in other regions.

Global Project: Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Responsive Institutions

UNDP's global project on conflict prevention and peacebuilding aims to stabilize and protect hard-won development gains, mitigate risks of relapse or recurrence, and build institutional and community resilience.

On conflict prevention and peacebuilding, the project developed a global Prevention Offer, launched the Crisis Bureau's flagship Prevention Forum and held the Prevention in Action Regional Dialogues. The team also rolled out three global guides on conflict sensitivity, peacebuilding and sustaining peace, and insider mediators and social cohesion. At the regional level, prevention strategies were developed focusing on peace architectures and conflict resolution mechanisms in the Arab States, political dialogue in Latin America, and addressing drivers of conflicts through early action in the Mali+5 countries in West Africa.

At the country level, the project provided catalytic funding to **South Africa** for work on xenophobia and social cohesion leading to the development of a government social cohesion strategy, and to **Thailand** on food security and social cohesion. Technical expertise assisted **Belarus** on preparedness, **Kyrgyzstan** and **Tajikistan** in addressing cross-border natural resources issues, **Armenia** and **Azerbaijan** in response to the conflict in Nagorno Karabakh, and **Ethiopia** in response to the conflict in Tigray. In the **Central African Republic**, policy advisers worked with the Office of the Prime Minister and initiated a dialogue on decentralization. In **Sudan**, experts supported the creation of an aid management structure in line with new priorities stemming from the peace agreement.

On the prevention of violent extremism, global policy experts assisted several national initiatives to rehabilitate people formerly affiliated with violent extremist groups, showcasing the importance of integrating elements of psychosocial support along livelihood and other interventions. These national initiatives served as important pieces in the development of a stronger global offer on mental health and psychosocial support in relation to both peacebuilding and prevention of violent extremism.

For example, in **Iraq**, UNDP facilitated local peace agreements and brokered the return of 2,700 families perceived as affiliated with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) to return to their places of origin. This was a first step in an integrated package of support comprising assistance related to psychosocial services, prevention of violent extremism, livelihoods and the rehabilitation of infrastructure and shelter, as community peace dividends. UNDP also strengthens local capacities for conflict prevention, working with local peace mechanisms, women and youth groups, civil society and community-based organizations and journalists for peace. In **Pakistan**, technical experts developed and tested a model for the disengagement and rehabilitation of ex-offenders and youth considered at risk from violent extremism. The first programme of its kind in the country, the model involved working with both communities and national counterterrorism and military authorities and led the Government to adopt the model to further build resilience and tolerance in communities vulnerable to instability. Related efforts comprised training prison staff in Karachi on the rehabilitation and reintegration of young people in conflict with the law, coupled with livelihood skills programmes and psychological counselling for 110 young prisoners, including 20 women.

On core governance functions, the team supported inclusive and accountable governance systems with the aim of assisting governments and local actors to return to sustainable development pathways and strengthening their ability to prevent future crises. In **Lebanon**, municipalities play a pivotal role in upholding stability and managing relations between citizens and the high number of refugees. Yet localities struggle with financial deficits and inefficient systems and planning. Through the Lebanon Host Communities Support Programme, technical experts are piloting an intervention to develop capacities for municipalities and CSOs to manage the crisis with accountable, transparent, efficient planning that is also conflict sensitive and inclusive.

Global Project: Ending Gender-Based Violence and Achieving the SDGs

The global project aims to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence while accelerating progress towards other development goals. Since 2018, it has tested 13 approaches in seven countries, with several already generating sufficient evidence to prove their effectiveness. In the **Republic of Moldova**, a ‘planning and paying’ approach centred on a participatory process to identify actions to end gender-based violence resulted in increased services for survivors and their communities. One regional government is funding a women’s safe space that is the first of its kind.

Political commitment has resulted in policy changes. In **Peru**, the municipal government of Villa El Salvador, an underserved district of Lima, officially adopted a joint action protocol to respond to survivors of gender-based violence. The protocol is the first on the local level to implement the national Law 30364 on gender-based violence. As part of Peru’s #NoEstásSola campaign to address gender-based violence, UNDP partnered with actors most accessible to survivors, including over 2,000 supermarkets and pharmacies, to disseminate information on how to apply the joint action protocol as well as on prevention and support services. This complimented partnerships and awareness-raising with the police, solid waste collectors and community health networks.

Iraq and **Lebanon** have mainstreamed work on preventing gender-based violence into projects on livelihoods and social cohesion. In Lebanon, prevention and response measures featured in COVID-19 communications campaigns as well as cash-for-work interventions, where gender-sensitization sessions involved nearly 600 women. Interventions in Iraq and Lebanon adapted the Indashyikirwa model for prevention, which engages couples from host and Syrian refugee communities along with community leaders to transform harmful social norms, promote gender equality and help create communities free from gender-based violence. In the face of COVID-19-related lockdowns that made face-to-face engagement impossible, this initiative was digitized, turning it into a virtual prevention programme. This entailed efforts to increase accessibility and digital literacy among participants, special efforts to uphold vigorous data privacy and safety standards, and the development of new audio-visual tools to ensure high engagement via WhatsApp.

Global Project: UNDP-DPPA Joint Programme for Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention

In 2020, the UNDP-DPPA Joint Programme deployed a cadre of 106 peace and development advisers (PDAs). Based in 64 countries, they supported over 80 Resident Coordinators and UN country teams. Six regional programme specialists backstopped national support and regional conflict analysis and sustaining peace efforts.

Almost all PDAs engaged with national governments to provide technical expertise, including on infrastructure for peace. Sixty-two percent supported the drafting or updating of national policies and strategies for conflict prevention. In **Chad**, the PDA advised on the creation of a National Peacebuilding Steering Committee, reinforcing the country’s peacebuilding architecture. The PDA in **Kenya** held consultations with peace actors across the country about their roles in the response to COVID-19, which led to the development of the National Prevention and Peacebuilding Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Recovery.

Seventy percent of PDAs supported or engaged in preventive diplomacy, good offices, mediation or dialogue; 55 percent worked on enhancing the participation of women; and 62 percent bolstered the participation of youth in dialogue and mediation. The PDA in **Guyana** facilitated a dialogue among key Afro- and Indo-Guyanese advocacy groups, religious organizations and human rights groups to improve identity solutions focusing on ethnic relations and advancing systemic reforms. In **Nigeria**, the PDA supported the establishment of a coordination platform for partners and national stakeholders working to minimize conflicts between farmers and herders in the Middle Belt and North-Central regions, allowing for sustained dialogue and consensus-building.

Seventy-four percent of PDAs designed or facilitated peace and conflict analysis in the last three years. The PDA in **Cambodia** conducted a UN-wide conflict analysis with insights and perspectives from a diverse group of stakeholders—the first in four years. The team in **Tunisia** set up a UN early warning group to monitor violent incidents, creating a dashboard that documents and visualizes the geographic prevalence of popular protests.

Ninety-four percent of PDAs supported UN country programming for conflict prevention while all PDAs backed the mainstreaming of conflict sensitivity. The PDA in **Kyrgyzstan** provided in-depth analytical and advisory support to the UN country team on the ongoing political crisis and supported the design of scenario and contingency planning.

Seventy-seven percent of PDAs contributed to strengthening a humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach in different contexts. With PDA assistance, the Peace and Development team in **Myanmar** launched a Durable Solutions Initiative to assist the voluntary, safe, dignified, and sustainable return and resettlement of IDPs. The team also provided an analysis of the conflict and peace processes dynamics to assess potential impact of UN interventions on conflict actors and conflict-affected communities.

Global Project: Strengthening the Rule of Law and Human Rights for Sustaining Peace and Fostering Development

UNDP's Rule of Law and Human Rights flagship programme helps uphold international human rights norms and the rule of law as cornerstones of development in conflict and crisis-affected contexts. It directly addresses the drivers of conflict and helps foster peace and social cohesion, based on the principles of trust, accountability and justice. In 2020, support went to over 45 countries; joint interventions with the UN Department of Peace Operations through the Global Focal Point supported 16 particularly complex and politically nuanced situations.

Responding to the COVID-19 crisis, the project provided over \$1.8 million to ensure non-interrupted access to justice, accountability and the protection of human rights during curfews, confinement, public order management, arrest and detention. In **Angola**, UNDP worked with the police to remain human rights-compliant during a state of emergency. Engagement with the national human rights institution in **Nepal** resulted in a checklist to monitor human rights violations; human rights messages featured prominently in radio broadcasts covering 77 districts. In **Ukraine**, UNDP supported the Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights in monitoring human rights and access to public information about protective measures, which yielded recommendations for local authorities to improve access and accuracy.

The global project consistently seeks to foster resilient communities supported by just institutions. In **Colombia**, legal representation and psychosocial support helped 2,283 individual and 277 collective victims in presentations to the Special Jurisdiction for Peace. In **South Sudan**, UNDP's technical and advisory support has enabled the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs to successfully secure a renewed political commitment by the Council of Ministers to initiate a permanent constitution-making process, transitional justice and judicial reforms.

As fundamental to extending access to justice for all, UNDP focuses on interventions critical to women, such as in **Guinea-Bissau**, where awareness-raising campaigns on preventing gender-based violence and upholding women's rights reached more than 90,000 people. A complementary process supported national efforts to provide free legal aid for the most vulnerable groups. For more information on the Global Programme on Rule of Law and Human Rights, please see the [2020 Annual Report](#).

Regional Project: Support to the Implementation of the Roadmap for a Sustainable Solution to the Illegal Possession, Misuse and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons and Their Ammunition in the Western Balkans

UNDP supported authorities in the Western Balkans to achieve significant progress on the implementation of the [Roadmap for SALW Control](#), the most comprehensive arms control exercise in the region. The project helped improve the collection and analysis of evidence on firearm-related crimes, achieve a more effective and standardized approach to countering illicit arms trafficking, and enhance firearms-related data recordkeeping and collection to facilitate information exchange. It built better understanding of how to mainstream gender into arms control policies and laws, and of the impacts of firearms on domestic and gender-based violence. The 2020 project report can be accessed [here](#).

In **Albania** and **Serbia**, UNDP supported ballistic laboratories and crime scene investigation units to deliver reliable and consistent forensic evidence through the development of standard operating procedures, training for crime scene investigation officers, and necessary equipment for ballistic analysis and safekeeping of evidence.

In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, the project helped the Border Police and 14 entity and cantonal police agencies to combat illicit arms trafficking through standard operating procedures for detection of firearms, risk analysis, tracing and emergency situations. Police and border authorities in **Kosovo** gained capacities to conduct more effective border crossing controls and surveillance of the green border lines. Five trained dogs able to detect weapons made of polymer materials were procured, along with equipment for firearms detection.

In **Montenegro**, progress was made towards the security upgrade of two magazines and the guardhouse of the Ministry of Interior/Police Directorate storage in Rogame in line with international standards. In the Republic of **North Macedonia**, the Ministry of Interior improved its Weapons Registration and Stockpile Management Software, allowing easier identification and tracking of firearms. More than 120 people from the ministry, firearms shops and import-export companies learned to use the software.

In **Serbia**, UNDP focused on increasing awareness of the gender dimensions of firearms use. A review of national laws to prevent firearms use in domestic violence led to proposed improvements to the Law on Weapons and accompanying bylaws to effectively address the use of firearms in domestic violence. The analysis also shaped a methodology for a regional gender screening of firearm legislation and inspired similar assessments in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of North Macedonia. With Journalists against Violence, a group of more than 60 women media editors and journalists, a qualitative analysis of media reporting on firearms misuse and its effects on gun culture triggered greater media coverage of domestic violence and firearms control.

4. References to Kosovo are in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Crisis Response and Recovery

Albania

Following the devastating earthquake in Albania in November 2019, UNDP joined forces with the Government and the European Union for a post-disaster needs assessment that guided donor pledges of 1.15 billion euros for reconstruction and recovery. A quick injection of Funding Window resources propelled three UNDP-led early recovery projects assisting Albanian local municipalities most affected by the earthquake, helping to restart small and medium enterprises. Early support to restore educational facilities eventually fed into the multimillion euro 'EU4Schools' Programme. A pilot project in the municipality of Lezha established a participatory disaster risk assessment based on dialogues with nearly 600 people as well as research and GIS mapping. It became the basis for a municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and Civil Emergency Action Plan. UNDP also piloted interventions that led to the creation of Resilience Strengthening in Albania (RESEAL), a multi-partner initiative. In 2020, the Government of Sweden contributed 20 million SEK to the project and the Government of Portugal provided 250,000 EUR.

Jamaica/Bahamas

As the Bahamas struggled to recover from Hurricane Dorian, UNDP set up two mobile centres to support reconstruction by providing advice to homeowners and contractors. Over 200 home assessments helped homeowners access funds from the national Small Home Repairs Programme and a 'building to code' manual was disseminated on reconstruction in line with national and international building standards. UNDP also assisted with environmental restoration through a boat and vehicle decontamination programme, a cash-for-work debris clearance programme and a marine debris assessment. The cash-for-work programme provided employment for 269 people while removing debris from schools and teachers' homes.

While the Government moved to address socio-economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, UNDP drew attention to communities still struggling to recover from the hurricane. This ensured food and sanitation packages targeted the most affected populations, including 2,400 families on Abaco, 65 percent of whom were women-headed households. In Grand Bahama, 4,500 meals-on-wheels were delivered to shut-ins, people with disabilities and the elderly.

Djibouti

On the outskirts of the town of Damarjog, not far from the capital of Djibouti, nearly 700 families displaced by drought cluster in an encampment. Funding Window resources have helped to demonstrate how to meet a combination of their needs, setting a direction for broader support for vulnerable communities. The establishment of a new health centre is providing medical services and storing health items for neighbouring communities. Building on earlier interventions, social innovation training has encouraged youth to pursue entrepreneurial activities, including to maintain solar energy kits.

When the pandemic hit, lockdowns and basic service shortages imposed additional risks for the community. UNDP continued providing supplies and knowledge on COVID-19 prevention, along with food, drinking water, sanitary goods and mosquito nets to safeguard community health and resilience.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

UNDP research on links between the 2018-2020 Ebola outbreak, the security situation and conflict dynamics in the Democratic Republic of the Congo captured new insights on how to respond. The study showed how Ebola, where poorly managed, increased insecurity, left the population socially divided and aggravated risks such as the activism of armed groups. To support crisis management, UNDP assisted in sustaining payments to Ebola workers on the frontlines of the response. It also helped the Government design strategies to meet the needs of the most vulnerable populations, such as through upholding laws protecting the rights and safety of women and girls. UNDP helped the Government to improve its communication strategy on the Ebola crisis as well as the mechanism that allows the Government to better coordinate and harmonize interventions on the field.

Ethiopia

UNDP provided continued recovery assistance to people in Gedeo and West Guji displaced by conflicts, meeting needs for shelter and livelihoods. Development and peacebuilding initiatives strengthened resilience and peaceful co-existence. The project provided seeds, tools and other agricultural supports to 4,500 farmers, while around 2,000 landless and poor victims of conflict took part in natural resource conservation activities such as building flood prevention works, gaining cash benefits and improved food security. Over 250 houses were constructed for households that lost homes due to conflict and had no resources to repair the damage. UNDP also helped women organize 71 self-help groups and make links to financial institutions to open bank accounts and save income. According to an independent survey, business increased their assets (capital, labour and land) by 50 percent within four months.

Iran

After floods and landslides in 2019, the Government commissioned the UN system in Iran to conduct a post-disaster needs assessment of three provinces, Golestan, Lorestan and Khuzestan. UNDP helped orchestrate a process involving more than 30 national and local entities and over 200 experts. They estimated damage, loss and recovery needs across social and productive sectors, infrastructure, the environment, and gender and social inclusion. This became the basis for recovery plans for Lorestan and Golestan provinces, and resulted in national disaster management entities adopting the assessment methodology to use in future disasters.

UNDP also responded to recovery needs in Lorestan and Golestan, helping to revive affected livelihoods of 1,000 individuals in medium, small and microenterprises. Technical trainings, equipment and the rehabilitation of damaged irrigation and drainage systems led to a twelvefold increase in agricultural output. Vocational training and equipment backed quick-impact production in silk weaving and beekeeping, among others.

Iraq

During the pandemic, UNDP's continued work on social cohesion and conflict prevention in Iraq proved crucial as vulnerabilities increased and funding priorities focused on health. Sustained programmes strengthened local peacebuilding mechanisms and formed youth and women's groups that implemented 27 community peace awareness initiatives benefiting over 11,000 people. Complementary work with media professionals and bloggers as well as five dialogue sessions for religious leaders fostered agreement on the value of building a more peaceful and cohesive society, countering hate speech and cultivating positive relationships among different groups. Training for 75 social workers improved psychosocial support for over 7,500 survivors of gender-based violence.

Mali

With youth employment a crucial concern in rural areas, UNDP provided two multifunctional platforms that created nearly 1,800 jobs, mainly for young people and women. Two drinking water supply systems constructed for displaced returnees eased tensions among villages. Solar production equipment backed the formation of six production cooperatives with 220 young members, while a market gardening development delivered livelihood benefits for 966 agricultural producers.

Mauritania

After a Funding Window investment catalysed dialogue among national institutions in charge of food security, demining, social cohesion and rural development, a collaborative initiative took shape to transform local infrastructure in rural areas of Mauritania vulnerable to climate change. Thirty-one new market gardening areas benefitted around 6,650 people and helped minimize conflicts between farmers and breeders. Water networks improved. More than 100 cooperatives of women and young people developed new artisanal production techniques for making soap and food products as well as greener cook stoves that reduce energy consumption and indoor air pollution. Production equipment such as grain mills and solar refrigerators increased food storage and allowed new enterprises such as meat businesses to flourish. Altogether, the process created over 2,500 jobs, and enhanced living conditions for around 40,000 people.

Myanmar

UNDP enhanced access to justice and legal empowerment for over 9,000 people in Myanmar's Rakhine State, including people who are internally displaced. Legal awareness training involved nearly 6,200 participants; 535 people gained skills as paralegals and around 350 people obtained legal representation in court. A drive to raise awareness of gender-based violence reached almost 3,000 women with 819 receiving legal advice through hotlines, mobile legal clinics or in-person consultations. To mitigate economic fallout from COVID-19, UNDP helped over 370 small and medium enterprises access government relief loans, and assisted nearly 900 people, half of whom were women, to restore livelihoods, with 64 per cent reporting increased income.

Niger

While an influx of refugees from Nigeria was initially welcomed in two communes in the Guidan Roudjji department of Niger, mounting pressures on poor communities included floods and pest attacks on crops. Humanitarian action aided the refugees, yet host populations went hungry, a situation that stirred local tension. UNDP conducted a socio-economic needs assessment and developed a recovery plan bridging humanitarian and development needs. The plan centred on improving livelihoods and fostering social cohesion, and became the basis for steps to revitalize the local economy through temporary jobs and economic opportunities for over 20,000 people. Jobs included the removal of invasive weeds to develop 217 hectares of pastoral areas, which increased income for over 800 vulnerable households, more than half headed by women.

Stronger technical and agricultural skills for nearly 4,700 people complemented the installation of agricultural processing equipment, empowering women in particular through new sources of income generation. The construction of rainwater drainage works helped prevent flooding. Training for 38 local leaders and awareness activities for 35,700 people fostered better understanding of mutual aid in community life.

Somalia

Disaster risk reduction is vital to resilience and mitigating the impact of crisis, yet in many countries related strategies and tools still need to be developed. UNDP used Funding Window resources in Somalia to make significant inroads on disaster risk reduction, engaging with five disaster management institutions at the federal and state levels to define and close gaps. Building on the earlier development of a resilience and recovery framework in partnership with the European Union and World Bank, standard operating procedures were developed to clarify institutional roles and responsibilities. Forty officials developed skills to manage multi-hazard early warning systems with particular attention to community outreach. These measures underpin effective and accountable actions by Somali authorities as well as humanitarian partners in serving more than 5.2 million people highly vulnerable to disaster risks.

Sudan

After the recent revolution in Sudan, UNDP pivoted to work with the transitional government, assisting with a new structure for the Prime Minister's Office. Technical expertise to draft four laws set the stage for establishing commissions on transitional justice, anti-corruption, peace and human rights. Institutional reforms helped the Ministry of Finance cultivate capacities for aid coordination and management. To support a constitutional 40 percent quota for women in political offices, UNDP created a database of potential women candidates for the Legislative Council. Communications equipment provided to key line ministries sustained critical services during COVID-19.

Syria

In Syria, UNDP has strengthened evidence for resilience and early recovery programming attuned to different localities. The process has built common understanding across the UN country team and among major international NGOs on applying a context-sensitivity lens. In 2020, UNDP deepened and updated 17 local context analysis reports covering all 14 governorates and three cities. Field research tapped perspectives from over 1,000 respondents in interviews and focus group discussions. The analyses painted a revealing, nuanced picture of drivers of local peace and conflict dynamics to inform interventions that are mostly likely to build social cohesion and prevent future tensions. Findings of these analyses have underpinned a shift in UNDP and in the UN country team more broadly towards participatory area-based resilience and early recovery programming, through which communities are empowered to play a more central role in defining resilience solutions, and cooperate across societal cleavages to identify ways to meet collective resilience challenges. Area-based early recovery interventions are also being used to more directly address inequalities and patterns of exclusion that may have contributed to local tensions in the past or that could contribute to future local conflicts.

Venezuela

Amid a critical national fiscal deficit and lack of external financing in Venezuela, UNDP used Funding Window resources to rehabilitate a maternity hospital serving 400,000 people, improving water and sanitary systems, power supplies, and air conditioning and ventilation, and coordinating closely with UNFPA, which trained medical personnel and provided supplies. Better facilities and care for mothers and newborns reduced the risks of health complications for both. The project developed detailed engineering plans for nine more hospitals in three states.

Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management

Nepal

In Nepal, UNDP accelerated the national roll-out of the disaster risk reduction policy and related strategic action plan. A multi-year, multisectoral framework to tackle risks and build resilience is in place in all seven provinces and 20 municipalities, and implementation is moving forward. This framework provides guidance on time bound actions for reducing loss and damage by disasters and addressing issues of gender equality and social inclusion. A disaster information management system was set up incorporating a loss and damage database accessible by all 753 local governments. An interlinked system generates disaster profiles of administrative regions based on historical disaster data; it includes information disaggregated by sex and age.

New guidelines for risk-informed public investment aim at improving local fiscal planning. For provincial and local governments, UNDP also tested and upgraded existing capacity-building curricula on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, including materials on risk-informed governance. Pilot small-scale, eco-friendly disaster mitigation works in communities most vulnerable to landslides established baselines for developing larger-scale initiatives.

Philippines

UNDP is supporting the creation of a result-based monitoring and evaluation system for the National Disaster Risk Reduction Plan to address the absence of an established, functional and standard monitoring and evaluation system for disaster risk reduction activities across all parts of the government. The system will include a framework, tools, governance mechanisms and a web-based dashboard and platform for real time monitoring accessible to all users.

UNDP responded to a request from the Albay local government to assist with a rapid post-disaster needs assessment after Typhoon Kammuri in December 2019. Digital solutions like the IT-enabled iPDNA fast-tracked data collection and analysis. Five local government units learned to generate loss and damage estimates by sector and create data visualizations for pre- and post-disaster comparisons. This significantly sped up post-disaster assessment reporting.

UNDP also helped the local government of Tualaba establish the Development through Local Indicators and Vulnerability Exposure Database (DevLIVE+), which assists in collecting, organizing, visualizing and managing pre-disaster baseline data and information on households, building structures and production areas. The system disaggregates data by gender and age, and captures specific information on people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

UNDP started to address the scarcity of geospatial data on risks and vulnerabilities in pilot areas of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, where a long history of conflict exacerbates vulnerability to natural disasters. A mapping of the vulnerabilities of communities, individuals, assets and natural resources to natural hazards is under development. It will be superimposed with conflict data, culminating in recommendations to regional government authorities to develop detailed area and sectoral plans improving resilience.

UNDP's comprehensive approach to disaster risk reduction in the Philippines as a whole has linked different initiatives and integrated tools, building a strong foundation for the upcoming \$12 million DFAT-funded SHIELD Project. Support to the Office of Civil Defense helped update the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Plan with a strong resilience focus and new strategies to plan for pandemics. On the ground, a review of recovery efforts in other parts of Asia influenced the national response to Super Typhoon Rolly and Typhoon Ulysses, including through economic initiatives targeting the most vulnerable women and the use of nature-based solutions to bolster resilience.

Poverty Eradication

Bolivia

UNDP led the measurement of territorial multidimensional poverty using the Alkire and Foster method and an IFAD approach adjusted to rural environments. A multidimensional poverty index reports the incidence, intensity, severity and vulnerability of poverty, thus identifying the poorest households. Eleven dimensions and more than 100 indicators were considered, which are reflected in a dashboard that allows a comprehensive analysis of the environmental, social and economic aspects of poverty. The information is contributing to better territorial planning and provides public investment option on how to reach the most vulnerable people.

A consultation on livelihoods with small producers, mayors of municipalities and technical staff of the Oruro Departmental Government collected information on trends in adverse weather, seasonal livelihood activities, and responses in typical and bad years. The process brought to the fore the value of ancestral knowledge in adapting to climate change and highlighted comprehensive risk management to reduce the impact of disasters. As a result, proposals for multidimensional solutions and concurrent investment plans were formulated.

Egypt

UNDP supported the application of the International Futures model as part of Egypt's analytical framework for SDG prioritization. This exercise and associated capacities built on using the International Futures tool is allowing policy makers to refine policy recommendations and make informed choices on SDG programming. Related support to the national monitoring and evaluation system will allow the Government to better track progress on the SDGs.

The Egyptian government has since used International Futures forecasting as part of its 2021 Voluntary National Review to highlight COVID-19 impacts on the SDGs and compare different post-COVID-19 policy choices.

Kazakhstan

UNDP helped Kazakhstan build capacities to integrate the SDGs into national planning, calculate indicators and identify interlinkages. Partnership with UNICEF and ESCAP resulted in effective support to national partners in establishing an Integrated National Financing Framework. Guided by existing SDG financing methodologies, UNDP helped the Government complete a Development Finance Assessment, and rapid integrated assessments of the national budget, drawing in part on exchanges with officials in Mexico who shared experiences in aligning national financing with global goals.

South Africa

As South Africa seeks to renew its social welfare system, UNDP has supported increased efficiency through formative research on links between social grants, an inclusive society and poverty reduction. Findings shaped development of a digital payment mechanism to both lower costs and increase access to payments. A second measure has connected grant recipients more effectively to existing employment and entrepreneurship programmes as a path out of poverty, particularly for women and youth.

For the research, UNDP filled longstanding data gaps with information from a nationally representative consumer survey on financial services. This underscored the need for data on how grant recipients use financial products and their income outside grants. A data analytics project has been set up to generate more detailed evidence on recipients and the multiple forms of marginalization many face.

Nature and Climate

Global Project: Nationally Determined Contributions Support Programme

Through this flagship project, UNDP is helping governments define priorities to address climate change in Nationally Determined Contributions or NDCs, which are stipulated under the Paris Agreement. In 2020, countries had a first opportunity to submit more ambitious, second-generation NDCs.

Drawing on project support, eight countries raised their national ambitions, including **Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Kenya, Mongolia, Panama and Peru**. A number of countries embarked on an inclusive process of revision, such as through high-level national dialogues to agree on priorities (**Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sao Tome and Principe, Tunisia and Uganda**), outreach to parliamentarians (**Democratic Republic of the Congo**), proactive engagement of youth and women (**Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Nigeria and Peru**), subnational roadshows (Mali) and a national survey on climate change (**Costa Rica**).

Seven countries strengthened institutional frameworks for NDC implementation, ranging from new regulatory decrees (**Colombia and Morocco**) to improved coordination (**Argentina, Chile and Tunisia**) and the mainstreaming of NDC targets in sectoral and/or development plans (**Côte d'Ivoire and Rwanda**).

Thirteen countries beefed up systems for tracking NDC progress. These comprised improved or new online monitoring systems (**Chile, Ghana, Guatemala, Mongolia, Nigeria, Philippines, Rwanda, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda and Vanuatu**) and platforms capturing private sector climate actions (**Chile, Colombia, Peru and Viet Nam**). **Bhutan** advanced NDC priority actions on waste, while **Lao People's Democratic Republic** and **Vanuatu** made strides on solar energy.

Seven countries completed investor risks analyses for key sectors of NDCs (**Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Paraguay, Philippines, Tunisia and Uganda**) while **Nigeria** prepared risk assessment policy briefs for five sectors. Towards expanded NDC finance, **Indonesia** moved forward with its third global green sukuk (an Islamic financial certificate similar to a bond) and second retail green sukuk. **Morocco** supported 14 African countries in the Congo Basin to design the Congo Basin Blue Fund.

The NDC process offers a unique opportunity to integrate gender-responsive measures across national climate plans, and advance the transformational, systemic changes demanded by the climate crisis. With the NDC project backing, three countries integrated gender into policy frameworks: **Bhutan's** National Climate Change Policy and Action Plan, **Chile's** Climate Change Framework Law and tourism adaptation plan, and a subnational climate plan and investment plan in **Côte d'Ivoire**. **Ghana** conducted a gender audit of its energy policy, while **Ecuador** established a Gender and Climate Change Technical Round Table. Four countries (**Chile, Ecuador, Uganda and Zambia**) integrated gender considerations into systems for measuring and tracking NDC progress.

Global Project: BIOFIN Phase II

Extended through 2025, Phase II of the highly successful BIOFIN initiative supports countries to develop biodiversity finance solutions under the Convention on Biological Diversity. In 2020, BIOFIN helped establish 200 new or improved finance mechanisms in 30 countries. In addition, 40 policy proposals reflected new data on biodiversity finance, economic valuation and natural capital accounting. Thirty countries integrated at least one biodiversity measure in COVID-19 recovery packages.

Indonesia secured a \$2.7 million investment in a bird conservation centre in the Maluku islands. The **Botswana** Cabinet approved revised fees for protected areas with the potential to raise over \$1 million per year.

Through BIOFIN advocacy and expertise, a green fund for **Mexico City** began generating savings of \$3 million per year. **Zambia** adopted a national framework for green bonds with discounted fees. Payments for ecosystems services now cover 500 hectares of upland agricultural land in **Sri Lanka**, while a small hydro plant, Vidu Lanka, agreed to pay \$20,000 as a first tranche to farmers to improve agricultural practices and prevent risks to hydropower operations.

In **Costa Rica**, the '+Women +Nature' programme launched a strategy that promotes gender equality and women's empowerment. It works through a collaboration between the National Forest Financing Fund and Rural Woman Credit that offers financing to rural women for activities related to biodiversity management, conservation and sustainable use.

BIOFIN in **Mexico** partners with the Global Environment Fund's Small Grants Programme on a bioeconomy strategy to accelerate the development of community enterprises that positively impact biodiversity. Technical assistance helped over 200 women obtain commercial registration and sanitary licenses, and develop business models and market access.

In **Kazakhstan**, BIOFIN supported the biodiversity finance plan of the protected areas with total coverage of 2,7 million hectare, encompassing seven municipal governments and 17 administrations.

The BIOFIN crowdfunding campaign 'Keep Conservation Heroes in their Job' kicked off in four countries in 2020: **Costa Rica, Ecuador, the Philippines and Thailand**. Campaigns in the **Philippines and Thailand** exceeded their targets by bringing in over \$32,000 and \$89,000, respectively.

UNDP joined the OECD in convening a virtual Global Conference on Biodiversity Finance as a milestone on the way to the 2021 Conference of the Parties to the Convention. Amid record interest in ties between biodiversity loss and human health risks, BIOFIN sponsored informative courses, webinars, blogs and social media posts, and attracted coverage by the Reuters news agency.

Global Project: BES-Net Phase II

Building on the successful experience of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net) Phase I, demand for technical and financial support to undertake comprehensive national BES assessments has increased among member states of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). Even greater impetus has come from the sharp focus on biodiversity-zoonoses-human health interfaces during the COVID-19 pandemic. Assessments are integral to setting national agendas to implement the forthcoming global biodiversity framework.

In 2020, UNDP transitioned into Phase II of BES-Net to provide necessary capacity-building support for additional stronger assessments. Sixteen countries will be equipped to undertake priority BES policy actions, scientific studies and on-the-ground practices in accordance with renewed national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

During the year, consultations in seven BES-Net Phase I beneficiary countries began agreeing on the scope and modality of follow-up support. **Kazakhstan, Nigeria and Trinidad and Tobago** reached an advanced stage in designing multi-year workplans for IPBES thematic assessments, building on the policy-science-practice joint review and analysis of assessment findings and messages during Phase I. Government endorsements of technical partners to undertake national ecosystem assessments were secured in the **Dominican Republic, Malawi and Thailand**, and institutions were identified to coordinate the assessment process in the **Dominican Republic, Malawi and Thailand**.

Global Project: Scaling Up Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture

Agriculture and land use are key economic sectors, and at high risk of climate change in developing countries. In 2020, UNDP and FAO launched the joint Scaling Up Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture project (SCALA), based on a detailed review of earlier experiences with agriculture and national adaptation plans. It will support 12 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America in enhancing and diversifying agricultural/ecosystem-based livelihoods, and accounting for climate and disaster risks. The project will help accelerate action on agriculture and land use through national adaptation plans as well as enhanced NDCs. A technical facility will share knowledge across countries and stimulate private sector engagement and public-private collaboration.

Annex 2: Projects That Received Ear-marked Funds Through the Funding Windows in 2020



Governance, Peacebuilding, Crisis and Resilience

Burkina Faso's Social Cohesion, Security and Rule of Law (COSED) programme

Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Responsive Institutions (CPPRI)

Global Programme on Strengthening the Rule of Law and Human Rights for Sustaining Peace and Fostering Development (GPRoL)

Support to the Implementation of the Roadmap for a Sustainable Solution to the Illegal Possession, Misuse and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and Their Ammunition in the Western Balkans

UNDP-DPPA Joint Programme for Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention



Nature, Climate and Energy

BES-Net Phase II

BIOFIN: Biodiversity Finance Initiative

Support to indigenous peoples' and community conserved areas and territories (ICCA)

Nationally Determined Contributions Support Programme

Scaling Up Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture



Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Ending Gender-based Violence and Achieving the SDGs

Annex 3: 2020 Countries That Received Crisis Response Resources, by Crisis Level

Level 3

Country	Crisis	Date of crisis declaration	Funding Windows investment
Lebanon	Beirut Port explosion	August 2020	\$1,000,000
Armenia	South Caucasus conflict	October 2020	\$150,000
Azerbaijan	South Caucasus conflict	October 2020	\$150,000

Level 2

Country	Crisis	Date of crisis declaration	Funding Windows investment
Sudan	Political transition	July 2019	\$500,000
Ethiopia	Tigray conflict	November 2020	\$500,000
Sudan	Floods	September 2020	\$350,000

Level 1

Country	Crisis	Date of crisis declaration	Funding Windows investment
Mauritius	Pollution	August 2020	\$200,000
Guatemala	Hurricanes Eta and Iota	November 2020	\$150,000
Philippines	Typhoon Kammuri	December 2019	\$200,000
Fiji	Tropical Cyclone Yasa	December 2020	\$50,000

Annex 4: 2020 Flexible Allocations

Allocation month	Country office	Allocation amount	Activity supported	Window
January	Philippines	200,000	Response to Typhoon Kammuri*	EDRCR
March	Sudan	500,000	Core Governance Functions (L2)	EDRCR
June	Crisis response	25,200	Effective Support to Country Offices	EDRCR
June	Philippines	450,000	Recovery and Resilience-building*	CC-DRR
August	Lebanon	1,000,000	Beirut - Port Explosion (L3)	Crisis Response
September	Uzbekistan	305,000	Deeper SDGs Integration in the Parliament	GIPS-DG
September	Turkey	300,000	Public Services for Victims and Survivors of SGBV	GIPS-DG
September	Georgia	300,000	Conflict-Affected Women during COVID-19	GPCR
September	Lebanon	300,000	Public Sector Reform	GIPS
September	Armenia	250,000	Rule of Law and Justice Reform	GPCR-CPSP
September	Ecuador	300,000	Electoral Assistance	GIPS-DG
September	Maldives	500,000	Integrated Governance Programme II	GIPS
September	Sri Lanka	350,000	Transparency, Accountability and Inclusion capacities	GIPS-DG
September	Myanmar	350,000	Local Government Planning in Conflict-affected States	GIPS
September	Costa Rica	250,000	Building a Common Pathway to 2030	GPCR-DG
September	Zimbabwe	500,000	Modernising the Public Sector for service delivery, economic recovery and social cohesion	GPCR-CPSP
September	Jamaica	320,000	Jamaica's Youth-inclusive Citizen Security Policy	GIPS-CP
September	Morocco	300,000	Youth-led Social innovation for sustainable development	GPCR-DG
September	Colombia	300,000	Estado de derecho para avanzar hacia el ODS16+: Fortalecimiento de capacidades territoriales para el acceso a la justicia y la seguridad ciudadana	GPCR-DG
October	Central African Republic	300,000	Digitalization, redeployment and continuity of key government services scaled up to provide an effective response to the COVID19 pandemic*	GPCR
October	Timor-Leste	350,000	*Accelerating Access to Justice for Women and Girls	GPCR-CPSP
October	Bhutan	350,000	*Supporting a Just, Harmonious and Sustainable Bhutan	GPCR
October	Haiti	500,000	Haiti's Integrated Economic Opportunity Development Services and Job Creation	GIPS
October	Cameroon	500,000	UNDP's engagement in the Presidential Plan for Reconstruction and Development	GIPS-CP
October	Sudan	340,000	Partnering Against Violent Extremism (PAVE) in Sudan*	GIPS-CP
October	Jordan	300,000	Harnessing Gender Justice in microfinancing for an inclusive Financial sector	GIPS

October	Trinidad and Tobago	200,000	PVE - Youth Empowerment and Strengthening	GPCR-CPSP
October	Sierra Leone	300,000	Strengthening Youth meaningful participation in decision-making structures in Sierra Leone	GIPS
October	South Sudan	500,000	Restoring Trust and service delivery in the states and communities	GPCR-CPSP
October	Sudan	300,000	*Strengthen effective, inclusive and accountable governance	GPCR-CPSP
October	Lao People's Democratic Republic	430,000	*Urban risk management and resilience	GPCR-DRR
November	Syria	300,000	*Gaziantep Civil Society initiative	GPCR
November	Global	2,200,250	*COVID-19 Rapid Financing Facility	COVID
December	Afghanistan	1,500,000	COVID 19 Response & Social Cohesion	GPCR
December	Somalia	2,800,000	Institutional Strengthening to Support Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding for Security and Stability	GPCR
December	Iraq	200,000	Innovation for Development – Youth Entrepreneurship	GPCR
December	Iraq	1,000,000	Anti-Corruption for Trust in Iraq	GPCR
December	Mali	800,000	Response to COVID19: resilient recovery and building back better and greener	GPCR
December	Iraq	400,000	Community based Reconciliation & Reintegration (C2RI)*	GPCR
December	Burkina Faso	800,000	Project participation citoyenne et cohésion sociale (PaCoS) – *Grand Ouest	GPCR
December	Burkina Faso	1,500,000	Cohésion sociale : État de droit et, Sécurité*	GPCR
December	Niger	1,000,000	Projet d'Appui au Cycle Électoral (2019-2021) PACE*	GPCR

*Least developed country



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