

The below highlights contributions made by UNDP in 2022-early 2023 to the implementation of the inter-agency and system-wide plan of action for eradicating poverty and reducing inequalities.

With its broad mandate and in line with its integrated approach to poverty reduction, UNDP contributed to all key areas of policy focus of the plan, working in collaboration with several partner agencies.

Structural transformation, productive employment, and decent work

Together with ILO and UNICEF, **UNDP has been supporting the inception activities of the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions (GA)**, including the GA Implementation Strategy, consultations with UN country teams in potential 'pathfinder countries', as well as briefings and awareness and advocacy initiatives with UN and other partners (on-going). As a follow-up to [ILO-UNDP Joint Statement for a Human-centered recovery from COVID19](#) (February 2022), and in line the Global Accelerator priorities, UNDP and ILO also developed **a joint program on 'Fostering pathways to Formality'** which aims at expanding gender-responsive social protection and enhancing productivity and resilience of informal enterprises while facilitating transitions to formality.

Skills development: Through the imaGen Ventures -one of Generation Unlimited's flagship initiatives, implemented by UNICEF, UNDP, USAID, Plan International and the World Movement of Scouts,- **we continued to provide young people (15 million since 2018) with access to green and social entrepreneurial skills.** In Africa, in collaboration with the Songhai Center, UNDP also delivered a regional training on Youth Empowerment for a Sustainable Circular Economy in Africa.

Digital transformation: Acknowledging the stark implications of the digital divide for poverty reduction and development prospects, **UNDP is promoting a whole-of-society, inclusive, and rights-based approach to digital transformation.** Currently, UNDP is supporting over 30 countries with Digital Readiness Assessments to inform the development of inclusive digital strategies, governance frameworks, and regulations. UNDP also developed [the Digital Development Compass](#) (currently in beta version), which is the largest ever collection of publicly available digital indicators. UNDP also supports the **development of safe and trusted Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) to ensure inclusive connectivity and access to foundational services like digital ID or payments for all.** In Afghanistan, for instance, UNDP improved a digital payment system, allowing for greater financial inclusion and interoperability for financial services providers. UNDP is also stewarding the deployment of Digital Public Infrastructure across critical sectors such as climate, justice, and social protection that impact millions of vulnerable population segments including women.

Expanding social protection systems to underpin inclusive, poverty-reducing development

In 2022, UNDP launched **the implementation of its new [Social Protection Offer](#)**, which aims at a new generation of programs to protect poor and vulnerable people in a context of multidimensional vulnerability with a focus on accountable governance, resilience, and environmental sustainability. In 2022, **UNDP supported improvements to social protection services and systems in more than 45 countries.** In Ukraine, UNDP supported a data

exchange system which contributed to sustain social protection and service delivery despite the war. In Cambodia, we tested a graduation-based social protection model involving cash, productive assets and training for national expansion. UNDP also expanded its support to gender-responsive social protection support from 20 countries in 2019 to more than 70 countries 2022.

1. Human capability development, addressing the non-income forms of poverty

Multidimensional poverty analysis and capacity development: Jointly with the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), UNDP produced a set of [Briefs](#), which highlighted disparities in multidimensional poverty reduction across population groups and subregions in Saharan Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Moreover, the 2022 Global [multidimensional poverty](#) report contributed to identify 'deprivation bundles' that commonly impact those who live in multidimensional poverty and require integrated action - showing for instance that 30% of poor people world-wide are deprived of nutrition, cooking fuel, sanitation, and housing at the same time. In 2021-2022, UNDP also supported the development of national MPI reports in Malawi, India, Nepal, Uganda, Nigeria and Samoa.

Jointly with OPHI, UNDP also continued to build capacities on multidimensional poverty through the third edition of Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on "Designing a Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). The course was delivered in English, French, Spanish, Russian, as well as in Arabic attracted over 2,800 participants from 156 countries.

Energy poverty: in 2022, **UNDP launched the Africa Minigrid Program** which covers 21 countries, including 19 Least Developed Countries. If implemented at scale, the program has the potential to provide clean power to nearly 265 million deprived people with co-benefits for health care, education, and businesses.

Health poverty: UNDP's health portfolio continued to work with partners to support countries and communities to scale integrated solutions which address the inequalities that drive pandemics, strengthen multisectoral governance for health and build resilient and sustainable health systems. UNDP notably scaled-up the use of digital and data tools to strengthen health systems, and improve access to COVID-19 vaccines. UNDP has been providing COVID-19 vaccine equity and health systems support in 34 Least Developed Countries. As of October 2022, more than 1.4 billion people in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia and Nepal had received COVID-19 vaccines through innovative digital systems put in place with UNDP support.

Gender-based Violence: UNDP deepened its support to end gender-based violence (GBV) in more than 90 countries, including through the [EU-UN Spotlight Initiative](#), working with UN Women, UNFPA and UNICEF and other key partners and stakeholders. More than 1,100 local and grassroots women's rights organizations working with Spotlight reported having greater influence and agency to work on eliminating GBV. In Honduras, the Spotlight initiative notably involved equipping 70 young leaders in various municipalities with the skills they need to conduct research and advocate for change.

2. Future of food and sustainable agriculture

UNDP acknowledges that food systems involve complex challenges, whose scale and nature call for a systemic, multi-level and multi-stakeholder participatory approach across economic, social and environmental dimensions. Building upon the [Guide to Effective Collaborative Action](#), UNDP, together with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Food and Agriculture

Organization of the United Nations (FAO), developed a guide on "Rethinking food systems: a guide for multi-stakeholder collaboration" to aid stakeholders at all levels of the food system in the implementation of the National Pathways for Food Systems Transformation".

UNDP and FAO are also advancing the follow-up to the [2021 Food Systems Summit](#), through the co-design of a **Food Systems Country Support Programme** to provide additional support to national governments for the implementation of their food system pathways, while also helping them to address the impacts of the food, energy, climate and nature crisis. Moreover, UNDP in collaboration with, FAO, UNEP and government and non-governmental agencies, is supporting the implementation of **the One Planet Network Sustainable Food Systems Programme** that advocates and provides tools and knowledge to countries for food systems transformation.

Aligned with its Food & Agricultural Commodity Systems (FACS) strategy, UNDP is developing a Food Systems Resilience guidance to respond to the global impacts of the Ukraine Crisis and other crises (COVID-19, climate, conflicts in many countries especially in Africa, etc.).

4. Reducing Inequalities (gender inequality)

In 2022, UNDP launched and started the implementation of its new [Gender Equality Strategy 2022-2025](#). The Strategy has **elevated UNDP's ambition** to shift power structures and the economic systems that perpetuate discrimination. UNDP is working to help build gender equal economies by expanding its work on 1) Universal and gender responsive social protection and care services, and 2) expanded access to essential services and digital and other assets, and finance. UNDP has also introduced a new priority to help transform economies through 3) fiscal policies that work for gender equality, with a focus on tax systems and public expenditure.

Working across 40 standards based on international commitments, **UNDP Gender Seal for Public Institutions continues to advance gender responsive public policies and to foster inclusive governance**. In 2022, the initiative was being implemented in 21 countries with 69 public institutions, ranging from Ministries of Environment to Parliaments and municipalities, with over 100.000 public officials affected. The initiative was also scaled-up, including through a new stream targeting Ministries of Finance and tax administrations. **UNDP also continued to roll out the Gender Equality Seal for Private Sector initiative**. UNDP notably built capacities of 42 experts (71 percent women and 29 percent men) from nine African countries, as well as officials from four Regional Economic Communities (ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC and ECCAS) to scale-up the initiative in the region.

UNDP has also taken steps towards more gender equal economies through **the development and expansion of comprehensive care systems** in Latin America. In the Dominican Republic, UNDP together with ILO, UN-Women and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) supported a national care policy that has become a role model for the Caribbean. UNDP also developed a Care Georeferencing Tool to generate real-time information about care supply and needs, and collaborated with ECLAC, ILO, and UN-WOMEN to build capacities among 120 government officials around Care, Social Protection and Gender Equality^[1].

In 2022, through UNDP support, **5.4 million** women gained jobs and improved their livelihoods in 39 countries in crisis or post-crisis settings, up from 4.8 million in 2021.

^[1] Annual report of the Administrator on the implementation of the UNDP gender equality strategy in 2022

5. Addressing climate change and the intensification of natural hazards

In 2022, through the [Climate Promise](#) -- the world's largest offer of support to countries on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) enhancement and implementation- UNDP supported 20 countries to submit enhanced NDCs. This brought the total number of supported countries to 105 covering 23.48% of global GHG emissions and representing 61% of all Party submissions to the UNFCCC and 83% of developing country submissions. 95% of countries had integrated gender equality considerations – almost double the number of countries to do so in their first generation of NDCs.

Moreover, UNDP supported nine Least Developed Countries (Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, South Sudan, Guinea, Mali, Liberia, Benin, Lao PDR and Senegal) to mobilize US\$50 million from the LDC Fund and the Green Climate Fund, and unlocked US \$236 million of public resources to advance the resilience agenda in their respective NDCs.

UNDP actively engaged in the [2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference or Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC \(COP27\)](#) side events and campaigns, including UNDP's Flagship Event in partnership with UNFCCC and ILO on "[Advancing Nationally Determined Contributions: Signs of Progress](#)".

UNDP together with WHO also designed regional and global interventions on climate and health and launched a new Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) on Nature for Health with 50 million Euro from Germany, led by UNEP.

Fighting poverty in fragile and humanitarian contexts

UNDP continued strengthening its work and partnerships on *preventing*, responding to and recovering from crises. **UNDP launched its advanced [Crisis Offer](#)** to promote a range of new development solutions and tools to catalyze work and partners towards a Nexus approach that can connect short-term responses to longer term transformation by addressing the roots causes of fragility and helping countries better prepare for possible future shocks. In 2022, through UNDP's assistance, at least 11 million crisis affected people gained jobs and improved their livelihoods. Around 5.5 million people fleeing crisis found safety and protection through integrated packages of essential services.

UNDP also scaled up its work on human mobility (migration and forced displacement) to help address the needs and vulnerabilities of internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees and other migrants, while enhancing their contribution to the development of their countries/communities of origin and destination. The Joint IOM-UNDP joint programme on "Making Migration Work for Sustainable Development", rolled out in 11 target and associate countries aims at providing national and local governments, as well as other stakeholders, especially from the private sector, with the relevant tools and guidance to better integrate migrants and communities into their planning and strategies. In the same vein, the UNDP-UNHCR Global Collaboration Framework for Inclusion and Solutions 2023-2025 – adopted in 2022 – provides a platform to coordinate actions and deliver better results in responding to current and future displacement crises. In line with the 2022 Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, UNDP's report "[Turning The Tide on Internal Displacement: A Development Approach to Solutions](#)" provides recommendations on how governments and development partners can better address the consequences of displacement for IDPs and affected communities.

Financing

Countries' efforts to reduce poverty and finance the SDGs must respond to an exceedingly challenging global environment.

Debt has reached levels that severely impede poverty and inequality reduction prospects in many developing economies¹. To document the challenge and inform policy debates, UNDP produced a paper on [Avoiding 'Too Little Too Late on International Debt Relief](#), and more recently a Brief on [Building Blocks Out of the Crisis: The UN's SG Stimulus Plan](#), which identified 52 low and middle-income developing economies either in debt distress or at high risk of debt distress (accounting for more than 40 percent of the world's poorest people) and suggests that 30 percent haircut on their public external debt stock in 2021 could help save up to \$148 billion in debt service payments over eight years.

To advance domestic resource mobilization – the most reliable source of revenue to finance poverty reduction efforts and the SDGs -UNDP continued to offer expert tax audit capacity through the OECD-UNDP Tax Inspectors without Borders initiative. Over US\$1.5 billion has been leveraged with tax audit support. In April 2022, UNDP also launched the *Tax for SDGs Initiative* to support developing countries increase their economic resilience against global shocks by empowering national tax administrations and ministries of finance to tackle tax evasion and avoidance, and helping countries align tax and fiscal policies with the SDGs for sustainable growth.

In 2022, UNDP continued supporting countries (now totalling 86 countries including more than 70% of Least Developed Countries) with the development of [Integrated National Financing Frameworks](#) (INFFs) and worked more than 15 UN agencies and multiple IFIs to help countries operationalize INFF financing strategies for sustainable development and national development plans.

UNDP is also working on rolling-out much-needed insurance solutions -- benefiting millions of people -- through the [Insurance and Risk Financing Facility](#) (IRFF) which is operational in 27 countries. In 2022, in order to support countries where the insurance industry has been historically reluctant to engage, the IRFF has launched the Engagement Initiative which focuses on Least Developed Countries and V20 climate-vulnerable countries and highlights how insurance and risk financing can best support and safeguard these countries.

¹ UNDP has put gender equality at the heart of 100 climate action plans and 15 integrated national financing frameworks