

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



FUNDING WINDOWS

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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I. Overview

The UNDP Funding Windows were launched in 2016 to mobilize and align thematic funding with [UNDP's Strategic Plan](#). By pooling resources from multiple funding partners, the Funding Windows enable UNDP to invest in priority activities that accelerate action on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Their flexible structure facilitates long-term planning and allows UNDP to pilot and scale up interventions that respond to national priorities and advance the global fight against poverty, inequality and climate change.

The four UNDP Funding Windows are:



Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication



Governance for Inclusive and Peaceful Societies

- Democratic Governance for Peace and Development
- Conflict Prevention



Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction



Emergency Development Response to Crisis and Recovery

This report presents 2019 results achieved through interventions supported by the Funding Windows at the national, regional and global levels. It attests to the critical importance of activities to build integrated and lasting solutions for people and the planet, leaving no one behind.

II. Highlights of 2019 Results

In 2019, the Funding Windows mobilized more resources, reached a broader set of countries and delivered more results than in any previous year. A record US\$103 million was mobilized from eight donors: **Denmark, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, and Switzerland.**

A total of \$56 million was allocated to projects in 2019, a 50 percent increase from 2018. Funds supported achievements in 97 UNDP country offices, and global expenditures reached \$48 million. As in 2018, 40 percent of funds, a total of \$19 million, went to 31 least developed countries. Detailed financial information is provided at the end of this report.

The Funding Windows contribute to the implementation of UNDP's Strategic Plan, the organization's vision to support the 2030 Agenda. In 2019, the Funding Windows continued to invest across all three development settings outlined in the Strategic Plan: eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, accelerate structural transformations for sustainable development, and build resilience to shocks and crises. Projects tackled multidimensional inequalities, deepened accountable and inclusive governance, delivered integrated solutions to mitigate and adapt to climate change and reduce disaster risk, invested in conflict prevention, bolstered core government functions, and built resilience to shocks. The Funding Windows delivered results in countries and communities around the world as detailed in this report and described in the midterm review of the Strategic Plan.

In line with UNDP's corporate guidelines, the Funding Windows aim to deliver 15 percent of resources to activities that empower women and promote gender equality. In 2019, the Funding Windows exceeded this target for the first time: 17 percent of disbursements by country offices were directed specifically to women's empowerment and gender equality projects (GEN3). The share reached 89 percent when including projects with a significant, consistent focus on gender equality (GEN2)¹.

1. 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.

Towards 2030 and leaving no one behind

Leaving no one behind is a fundamental principle of the 2030 Agenda. The Funding Windows accordingly prioritize initiatives that reach the most vulnerable and marginalized first. This concerted focus is imperative in the final decade of action to achieve the SDGs—particularly in light of persistent inequality that is now rising as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Funding Window support in **Benin** targeted the intersection of poverty and gender, two forms of vulnerability that compound each other. A series of interventions in some of the country's poorest municipalities, home to nearly 300,000 people, include introducing solar-equipped multifunctional platforms that women's groups use to transform agricultural production. The women's groups also manage them, attaining both greater economic empowerment and new leadership roles in their communities.

Funding Window investments have fuelled important work to identify the most vulnerable communities. In **Malaysia's** Sabah region, for instance, inclusive SDG localization emphasized mapping the needs of undocumented and stateless people, a sensitive task requiring sustained and flexible support. In **Bolivia's** impoverished South Highlands of Oruro, a poverty monitoring system established in 2019 now factors in the multiple dimensions of poverty. Able to tap new technology, it uses geospatial analysis with satellite information to track evolving needs. This contributes to more effective public planning and policymaking that can make a lasting difference in ending poverty.

Work on leaving no one behind is guided by international human rights standards. In **Georgia**, UNDP supported the Government to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This led to the initiation of a government coordination mechanism to accelerate progress for persons with disabilities, as well as new national standards to make buildings more accessible.

Human rights, gender equality and stakeholder engagement remained key elements in the work of the global Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN). In **Botswana**, local communities participated in a review of protected areas fees, which recommended investing revenues in livelihoods and conservation. In **Colombia**, a preliminary payment for ecosystem services model for indigenous communities was formulated.

Integrating issues to go to scale

The Funding Windows deliberately emphasize interventions with strong potential to generate transformational change. Projects are grounded in an understanding of how different dimensions of development reinforce each other—or the opposite. Through an integrated, multidisciplinary approach that takes advantage of synergies and assesses trade-offs, UNDP supports projects that manage the inherent complexities of development to accelerate progress. Increasingly, projects draw on the full breath of UNDP and United Nations intellectual resources and build on country-level partnerships.

An important starting point for integrated development strategies is national planning, with the SDGs offering a comprehensive entry point. **Egypt** now has a strong monitoring and measurement system linked to the goals. As part of an International Futures workshop, staff from over 10 government institutions modelled a range of scenarios and devised integrated, innovative policy responses to long-term challenges. **Kazakhstan** trained a cadre of 30 statisticians on methods for calculating a cross-section of SDG indicators, such as on the environment, governance and gender. In the **Maldives**, UNDP supported the democratic transition by engaging in national development planning after almost a decade of its absence. This included the formulation of the milestone national five-year Strategic Action Plan, and an integrated national financing framework aimed at diversifying the economy, initiating a blue economy transformation, and providing more opportunities for youth.

A growing emphasis in integrated programming is working with youth and broadening their leadership in managing complex challenges. In 2019, UNDP supported the mobilization of 3,800 university students in **Mauritania** to debate issues such as quotas for youth in decision-making. In **Tunisia**, 125 youth camps across the country mobilized 3,000 young people to identify solutions to development challenges, with a pivotal partner in the camps being a start-up dedicated to women's entrepreneurship.

In **Ecuador**, UNDP worked with local officials to integrate peace principles in planning. In tandem, a market analysis shaped a strategy to improve value chains and boost local economic opportunities. An emphasis on inclusive economic development has also led localities to be more open to integrating migrants in the local economy. Across the border in **Colombia**, more than 40 institutions are coordinating efforts to provide employment and entrepreneurship opportunities and restore services. Four citizen networks engage communities to prevent violence and xenophobia. In one locality, public awareness-raising is linked with concrete community actions bringing migrants and host communities together to clean streets, rehabilitate public spaces and establish community gardens.

Making the humanitarian-development link through recovery

The Funding Windows have enabled UNDP to further bridge humanitarian response and development. During recovery efforts, UNDP serves both programming and advocacy roles, and draws on its diverse partnerships and expertise. Recovery is vital to transition out of a humanitarian crisis, laying a strong foundation for development for societies and communities to get back on track.

Immediately after Cyclone Idai struck **Mozambique**, UNDP coordinated technical assistance for all clusters of humanitarian actors to integrate early recovery activities across the humanitarian response. UNDP helped the Government conduct a post-disaster needs assessment, hold a donor pledging conference, and develop a National Disaster Recovery Framework. UNDP's quick issuance of guidelines on disposing debris containing asbestos, coupled with training for local government staff, supported the safe removal of toxic materials. Cash-for-work schemes reached over 103,000 families, providing temporary employment along with basic tools and training to develop income generation activities and small businesses.

After a series of disasters hit **Malawi**, UNDP helped develop a national disaster recovery framework and demonstrated ways to respond to recovery priorities for the most vulnerable groups, such as through building climate-resilient housing. Continued capacity development helped the Tonga Legislative Assembly optimize use of new IT equipment, including cloud-based solutions that offer in-built protections from future natural disasters. As one of a few countries to develop an e-parliament plan, Tonga had a base to maintain legislative functions as it responded to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Looking forward: more agile, more effective Funding Windows

In October 2019, after extensive consultations with contributing and non-contributing partners, and broad discussions with internal stakeholders, UNDP approved a revamping of the Funding Windows with the aim of improving performance and alignment with the Strategic Plan. The revamped structure and governance arrangements provide partners with a more bold and agile mechanism for pooled, flexible funding. It takes full advantage of the resources of UNDP's Global Policy Network and is fully attuned to UNDP's core areas of work. To fortify UNDP's integrator role, the Funding Windows will intensify investment in multidisciplinary solutions that connect issues and people, and accelerate the pace of change.

Gender Everywhere

Funding Windows investments are increasingly in gender-focused projects and emphasize gender integration across the portfolio. Highlights from 2019 include:

Women in planning and budgeting

Tunisia: Parliament passed a new law with the first provisions for gender-sensitive budgeting.

Niger: Municipalities headed by female mayors introduced gender-sensitive planning with improvements for women farmers.

Women in peace and prevention

Republic of Congo: Women accounted for 40 percent of participants in dialogues critical to reconciliation.

Chad: Over 9,000 women in areas with significant shares of refugees and returnees restarted businesses and re-stored infrastructure to stabilize their communities.

Women in national discourse

Costa Rica: The Equality Opens Roads campaign galvanized over 1 million people to support women's rights in municipal decision-making.

State of Palestine: The SHUFUNA ("See us") multimedia campaign challenged a million people to encourage women's participation and was endorsed by the Central Election Commission for future polls.

Women in the economy

Viet Nam: 800 ethnic minority women in impoverished communities created 49 cooperatives that sell over 130 products through e-commerce platforms.

Women in justice

Sudan: New women members of traditional councils are transforming how the councils mete out justice, such as by referring rape cases to the police.

Maldives: The first two female justices joined the Supreme Court.

Women in politics

Guinea Bissau: The newly elected Government nominated women to head 50 percent of government ministries.

Sierra Leone: The President endorsed a road map for an affirmative action bill.

Panama: Training helped prepare 250 women candidates to run for office; 40 percent won seats.

Women and social services

Pakistan: A local gender desk extended essential services to poor women and reports on their priorities.

Republic of Moldova: Human-centred design techniques created the first integrated services for survivors of gender-based violence in a marginalized region.

Uzbekistan: A pilot integrated service delivery model for women in difficult circumstances inspired national recommendations to improve 197 shelters across the country.

Women in public administration

Armenia: 24 legislative amendments were developed to improve women's leadership in public administration.

Montenegro: The Human Resources Management Authority adopted a gender mainstreaming plan, which informed a comprehensive education programme in public administration.

Women in anti-corruption

Lebanon: The first engagement of women's groups on anti-corruption issues accompanied an updated corruption risk methodology that integrates gender considerations.

Women in climate change

Uganda: A climate change adaptation and wetlands restoration project integrated an explicit focus on preventing gender-based violence.

Ecuador: Gender equality was embedded in national climate strategies, laws and monitoring systems.

Women in resilience

Mauritania: In communities highly vulnerable to drought, 94 local women's cooperatives established microenterprises and learned techniques for processing and marketing local products.

Nepal: Provincial and municipal frameworks for addressing disaster risks made special arrangements for women's security and post-disaster reconstruction and rehabilitation needs.

Women in humanitarian action

Bangladesh: In refugee areas, 110 community police forums responded to cases of sexual and gender-based violence; local police stations set up women's desks and private interview rooms.

Turkey: Through a partnership with Koton, Turkey's biggest textile retailer, over 2,600 refugee and host community women sold handicrafts in the 'handmade collection' line.



Global network, local solutions



Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication



Governance for Inclusive and Peaceful Societies



Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction



Emergency Development Response to Crisis and Recovery



III. Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development's commitment to ending poverty in our lifetime has never been more relevant. The COVID-19 pandemic threatens to erase painfully secured gains and add half a billion people to the ranks of the world's poor. UNDP works with countries to keep sustainable development on track, guided by national and local planning aligned with the SDGs. We are sensitive to the complex nature of development and tailor our responses to needs on the ground. We focus on the rights of poor and vulnerable groups, including women, to secure decent work and livelihoods, meet basic needs and enjoy a healthy environment.



UNDP Indonesia

Delivering the Sustainable Development Goals



In **Tunisia**, UNDP helped to establish a national mechanism to coordinate action on the SDGs across institutions. This was coupled with assistance in applying the mainstreaming, acceleration and policy support (MAPS) approach to prioritize the SDGs across the National Development Plan. To promote broader involvement in achieving the SDGs, Tunisia began developing an interactive, accessible public information system for SDG monitoring. Direct engagement in 2019 came through 125 youth camps across the country that mobilized 3,000 young people to identify solutions to development challenges. Ten group solutions reached a stage of further incubation and acceleration. Four are led by young women, with a pivotal partner in the camps being a start-up dedicated to women's entrepreneurship. A national platform tracks the evolution of the projects and provides a mentorship tool connecting youth to international and national experts.



UNDP assisted **Kazakhstan** to successfully prepare its 2019 Voluntary National Review, building on new skills cultivated among 40 employees at the national SDG Secretariat. Specialized training for 30 statisticians shared methods for calculating SDG indicators on the environment, governance and gender. An assessment of the national budget and financial flows, conducted with the Asian Development Bank, was a first move towards a financing strategy for SDG implementation. Broad public engagement brought over 750 people from different ages, backgrounds and abilities to SDG workshops in all 17 regions of the country, where they used gamification and the Imagine 2030 tool to spark discussion. Findings were shared with the national SDG Coordination Council, chaired by the First Deputy Prime-Minister.



Unleashing the transformative capacity of the business sector was the aim of **Azerbaijan's** first Public-Private Sector Dialogue on the SDGs, hosted by UNDP and the Government. Representatives from more than 100 firms considered ways to tap private sector innovation and capital to accelerate the goals. Business leaders shared insights on investment and partnership opportunities, specifically focusing on inclusive labour markets, innovation, big data and gender equality. The dialogue provided a base for a novel national action plan on public-private sector engagement and partnership for the SDGs.



EGYPT

In **Egypt**, UNDP worked to improve the integration of SDGs and their targets into national planning. An updated national development agenda will now include a strong monitoring and measurement system linked to the goals. A MAPS engagement helped define SDG accelerators specific to the country, while an International Futures workshop equipped 25 government staff from over 10 institutions to model different scenarios, and devise and assess integrated, innovative policy responses to long-term challenges. A UNDP-supported development finance assessment and a mapping of social protection provisions prepared the ground for comprehensive financing of the goals.



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Localities take up the global goals



BOLIVIA

Funding Window support has fuelled UNDP's work to reach the most vulnerable communities. A poverty monitoring system piloted in the highly impoverished South Highlands of Oruro of **Bolivia**, for instance, factors in the multiple dimensions of poverty, and uses georeferencing to prioritize needs in different localities. Geospatial analysis with satellite information evaluates changes in natural resources such as soil, water and vegetation cover, while seasonal livelihoods consultations track productive activities, including gender differences. This information increases the effectiveness of public planning, allowing it to address multidimensional poverty while balancing environmental needs. The Minister of Development Planning expects to replicate the initiative in other poverty 'hot spots' requiring comprehensive solutions that leave no one behind.



BRAZIL

In the northeast region of **Brazil**, women in the state of Piaui struggle with high rates of maternal mortality, unemployment and gender-based violence. The UNDP-supported Resilient Women = Resilient Cities initiative has sought to lift these barriers. It works with five municipalities and the state government in exploring how public policy can unleash the catalytic potential of gender equality for the entire society. All five municipalities developed detailed SDG analysis complemented by qualitative gender research; training equipped 16 other municipalities to conduct similar exercises. The process shaped a set of 20 'Resilient Women' actions to accelerate gender equality, with five geared towards making the issue much more visible in public policy. One proposal, creating an intermunicipal network for monitoring policies for women in the state, is already being implemented. Ongoing work with political leaders and public managers has elaborated strategies for keeping women's rights high on political agendas and in budgetary choices. An online state platform sharing information on each of the SDGs, including through a georeferenced baseline for all municipalities, will monitor progress over time.



INDONESIA

Indonesia's Lampung and Gorontalo Provincial Governments have embraced the 2030 Agenda through new planning tools and experimental initiatives. UNDP helped establish a dashboard of development data for SDG localization to identify baselines, gaps and targets. Both provinces have set up SDG action plans informed by a combination of public perception surveys and public financial management analysis, allocating 800 million Indonesian rupiah each (approx. \$60,000) for governance and planning processes for SDG localization. In Gorontalo Province, the EmPOWERed Farmers initiative is part of a prototype 'SDG village' supported by UNDP. One experimental initiative involved convening government officials, farmers and social businesses, in particular young entrepreneurs, to work with fintech companies that use apps to generate financing from individual investors. In a two-week crowdfunding period, the initiative raised \$140,000 for 150 farmers, who invested in agricultural inputs and saw incomes soar by 80 percent and land productivity by 75 percent.