



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

UNDP IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA  
**SUPPORTING A REGION  
ON THE MOVE**

United Nations Development Programme

# PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Sub-Saharan Africa is bustling with progress. Having grown rapidly over the last 10 years, the region is beginning to develop more robust manufacturing and service industries and is now home to a flourishing middle class. Over the same period, Africa has seen commendable social and political change, exemplified by improvements in human development indicators and a dramatic increase in the number of free and fair elections.

# 4.8%

ESTIMATED GDP GROWTH OF THE

# AFRICAN CONTINENT

IN 2013





The region's major challenge will be to ensure these advances benefit the many. For example, poverty rates across the region remain stubbornly high, while progress on health, sanitation and food security has been slow and uneven. Africa's most buoyant decade was also characterized by joblessness and limited opportunities for participation in politics and business, particularly for women and young people. At the same time, sub-Saharan Africa remains vulnerable to shocks such as conflict, extreme weather events and economic volatility and long-term pressures, including demographic growth and environmental degradation.

# 48.5%

THE PROPORTION OF PEOPLE LIVING ON

**LESS THAN US\$ 1.25 A DAY**

IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA IN 2010,

**DOWN FROM 56.5 PER CENT**

IN 1990

# UNDP'S MISSION IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA



Aerial view of Monrovia, Liberia  
Credit: UN Photo/Christopher Herwig

**US\$1.08 billion**  
UNDP'S PROGRAMME  
EXPENDITURE IN THE REGION  
**(2012)**

Directing traffic in Masiko, Province Orientale, DRC  
Credit: UNDP/DRC



## SUPPORTING A REGION ON THE MOVE

Aiming to eradicate poverty, violence and hunger, UNDP is assisting countries in Africa to translate economic growth into long-lasting, inclusive human development. We work with governments, businesses, communities and regional organizations, helping countries to develop capacity, share knowledge and mobilize funds for sustainable development.

Our focus is helping countries build and share solutions to the challenges of:

- Poverty Reduction and Achievement of the MDGs
- Democratic Governance
- Crisis Prevention and Recovery
- Environment and Energy for Sustainable Development

We carry out national projects in 46 sub-Saharan countries and implement regional projects that provide policy, programming and technical assistance to groups of countries as well as regional or sub-regional organizations. UNDP also coordinates all UN development activities at the country level as manager of the UN Country Team.



**1 million**

PEOPLE IN  
BENIN CAN LISTEN TO  
**live parliamentary  
debates**

ON A UNDP-FUNDED

**RADIO  
PROGRAMME**

**38,000**  
Number

OF BALLOT BOXES  
DISTRIBUTED BY UNDP  
DURING **SIERRA LEONE'S**  
**2012 GENERAL  
ELECTION**

**56%**  
proportion

OF WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT  
**in RWANDA**



## INCLUSIVE AND EFFECTIVE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS

UNDP aims to help countries expand freedom of choice, economic opportunities and basic services for all African women and men. We encourage people to become active citizens, leaders and entrepreneurs, while assisting their governments to plan and deliver development objectives. In all of its activities, UNDP focuses on gender equality and women's empowerment not only as human rights, but also because they are a pathway to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and sustainable development.

## Achievements

- The poor are disproportionately affected by lack of access to affordable energy services. UNDP established a regional initiative that is providing energy to 3.5 million rural dwellers in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo. The scheme uses diesel and biofuel engines that relieve women and communities of the most difficult household tasks, liberating time and money for health, business, education and nutrition.
- In order to ensure people have a voice in the democratic process, we support dozens of elections in Africa each year. In recent years, UNDP helped to conduct key elections in Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Niger, Sierra Leone and South Sudan.
- Achieving a critical mass of women in parliament is the best way to ensure national debates and policies reflect gender perspectives. In Rwanda, UNDP supported a non-partisan group that advocated for the adoption of gender quotas in parliament.



Police recruits ahead of the South Sudan referendum.  
Credit: UN Photo/Paul Banks

A woman has her finger dipped ink after voting in legislative by-elections in Grand Laho, Côte d'Ivoire  
Credit: UN Photo/Hien Macline

## MORE RESILIENT SOCIETIES

Because violence and disaster can demolish years of hard-won development gains, building resilience to conflicts and disasters is at the very heart of UNDP's work. We help countries prevent armed conflict and alleviate the risk and effects of disasters from natural hazards. We also support them as they build back better and stronger. When a crisis strikes, UNDP ensures that while the humanitarian response focuses on the immediate lifesaving needs of a population, those responsible also work towards longer-term development objectives.

**19%** INCREASE  
IN CALORIE INTAKE AMONG  
HOUSEHOLDS BENEFITING FROM  
**ETHIOPIA'S SAFETY  
NET PROGRAMME.**

Mine clearing has been opening up areas for development across the region.  
Credit: UN Photo.

## Achievements

- Food security is essential for development, yet more than one in four Africans are undernourished. In Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and Niger, UNDP is bringing together local and international development partners around a common plan, known as the MDG Acceleration Framework, to identify bottlenecks and practical solutions to dramatically reduce hunger over time.
- Lasting peace requires that key actors have the skills and access to forums and institutions allowing them to cooperate across political or sectarian lines. In Ghana, the National Architecture for Peace – supported by UNDP – has promoted community dialogue and raised early warning alerts on potential conflict since 2005.
- Looking at reintegration as a long-term process, UNDP helped the Government of Burundi to put into place a three-stage scheme allowing ex-combatants and people affected by war to rebuild livelihoods through community projects. The participants earn a salary in the first stage, pool their savings for business projects in the second and are supported by micro-finance institutions and business incubators in the third.





## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PATHWAYS

Development is not just about growth. Sustainable development is about meeting the needs of people today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. UNDP works to ensure sustainability, encouraging countries to promote a kind of development that is less carbon-intensive, better suited for Africa and that uses the vast natural wealth of the continent in an economically, socially and environmentally responsible manner.

**3.5** MILLION

RURAL DWELLERS BENEFITED FROM AN ENERGY ACCESS SCHEME **in WEST AFRICA**

**0%** PROJECTED INCREASE IN CARBON EMISSIONS, BASED ON ETHIOPIA'S GREEN GROWTH STRATEGY FOR THE NEXT 20 YEARS

UNDP-sponsored solar stoves in Togo  
Credit: UNDP Togo.

## Achievements

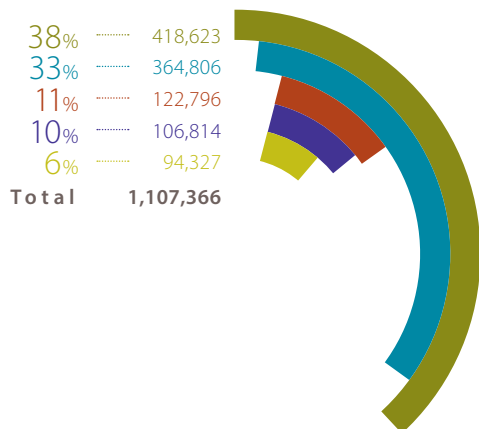
- With technical and financial support from UNDP Ethiopia embarked on a plan that aims at boosting the country's economy and development over the next 20 years while keeping its greenhouse emissions to current levels.
- Under a \$92 million programme for climate change adaptation, UNDP helped promote better information gathering, build stronger institutions and mobilize funds for climate change adaptation in 20 African countries. Among other results, the programme dispatched weather stations across Burkina Faso, led to the creation of climate change units in the Environment Ministries of Mauritius and Congo and helped establish a national natural disaster response strategy in Sao Tome.
- UNDP strives to ensure programmes are sustainable and nationally owned. In Liberia, for instance, a UNDP-led programme has provided the Ministry of Health with the expertise required to take over as the principal recipient of a multi-million dollar grant by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.



PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE:

2011

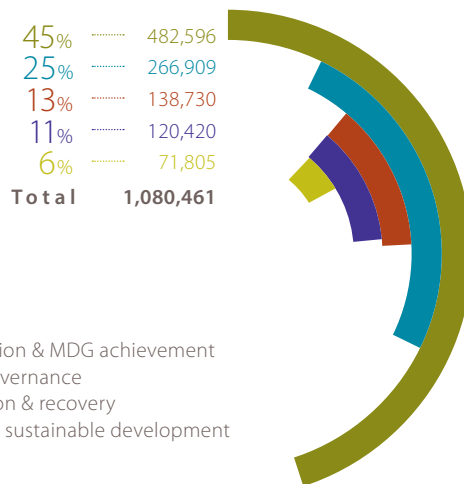
(amounts in US\$ thousands)



PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE:

2012

(amounts in US\$ thousands)



FOCUS AREA

- Poverty reduction & MDG achievement
- Democratic governance
- Crisis prevention & recovery
- Environment & sustainable development
- Other

**TOP TEN**

LARGEST COUNTRY PROGRAMMES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

2011

(amounts in US\$ thousands)

2012

COUNTRY	DELIVERY
Democratic Republic of Congo	\$213,362
South Sudan	\$99,685
Zimbabwe	\$83,090
Zambia	\$56,974
Liberia	\$47,574
Niger	\$44,331
Nigeria	\$43,890
Ethiopia	\$42,755
Kenya	\$35,298
Central African Republic	\$33,986

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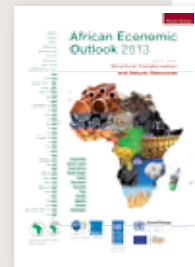
COUNTRY	DELIVERY
Zimbabwe	\$168,587
Democratic Republic of Congo	\$158,668
South Sudan	\$109,464
Zambia	\$84,849
Ethiopia	\$47,585
Kenya	\$44,672
Nigeria	\$39,604
Sierra Leone	\$31,432
Tanzania	\$24,344
Burkina Faso	\$23,736

## FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE: KNOWLEDGE AT WORK

UNDP mobilizes cutting-edge expertise from across the region and globe, promoting a sharper understanding of development challenges and the policies and programmes needed to tackle them. We produce analytical work, promoting innovative new ideas and constructively challenging policies and approaches that constrain human development.

We rally national and international development partners around the implementation of practical policy options that lead to systemic change and create large-scale impact.

We also serve as a global knowledge hub, encouraging African policy-makers to discuss these practical solutions with their counterparts in countries such as Brazil, China and India, which have succeeded in rapidly reducing poverty.



### Our publications and forums

- **The Africa Human Development Report**, which in 2012 examined the relationship between food security and long-term human development in the region.
- **The African Economic Outlook** provides an overview of the economic prospects in 53 African countries.
- **Assessing Progress towards the MDGs in Africa**, highlights advances, challenges and policy options for the achievement of the MDGs on the continent.
- The yearly **African Economic Conference** promotes innovative thinking and policy dialogue on the region's economic issues.

**UNDP** IS WORKING WITH COUNTRIES  
AND PARTNERS TO HELP DEFINE PRIORITIES FOR THE  
**POST-2015 AGENDA.**

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Resilient nations.*

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