



FIRST EDITION

# SDG Good Practices

*A compilation of success stories and lessons learned in SDG implementation*



United Nations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

The content of this publication is based on submissions received from Governments and other stakeholders through UN DESA's online SDG Good Practices portal during the first open call (2018-2019), edited and adjusted by the Division for Sustainable Development Goals of UN DESA.

The views presented by the individual practices do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations and the United Nations does not endorse the accuracy or reliability of any advice, opinion, statement or outcomes presented in these practices.

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# ABOUT UN DESA

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat is a vital interface between global policies in the economic, social and environmental spheres and national action. The Department works in three main interlinked areas: (i) it compiles, generates and analyses a wide range of economic, social and environmental data and information on which States Members of the United Nations draw to review common problems and to take stock of policy options; (ii) it facilitates the negotiations of Member States in many intergovernmental bodies on joint courses of action to address ongoing or emerging global challenges; and (iii) it advises interested Governments on the ways and means of translating policy frameworks developed in United Nations conferences and summits into programmes at the country level and, through technical assistance, helps build national capacities.



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# LIST OF ACRONYMS

<b>AU-IBAR</b>	African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources	<b>NGOs</b>	Non-Governmental Organizations
<b>CAHWs</b>	Community Based Animal Health Workers	<b>NTDs</b>	Neglected Tropical Diseases
<b>CBOs</b>	Community Based Organizations	<b>PPE</b>	Personal Protective Equipment
<b>COVID-19</b>	Coronavirus Disease 2019	<b>SBM</b>	School-Based Management
<b>CPI</b>	City Prosperity Index	<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization	<b>SWOT</b>	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats
<b>e-PHR</b>	electronic Personal Health Record	<b>UN DESA</b>	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
<b>EU</b>	European Union	<b>UN-GGIM</b>	United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	<b>UNAIDS</b>	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
<b>FMNR</b>	Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration	<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>GIF</b>	Global Indicator Framework	<b>UNDRIP</b>	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
<b>HLPF</b>	United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development	<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>I-REC</b>	International Renewable Energy Credit	<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>IAEG-SDGS</b>	Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals Indicators	<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>ICRC</b>	International Committee of the Red Cross	<b>UNV</b>	United Nations Volunteers
<b>IGAD</b>	Intergovernmental Authority on Development	<b>VLR</b>	Voluntary Local Review
<b>ILO</b>	International Labor Organization	<b>VNRs</b>	Voluntary National Reviews
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration	<b>VSF</b>	Vétérinaires Sans Frontières
<b>ISHC</b>	Intergenerational Self-Help Clubs	<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
<b>MAGNET</b>	Modular Applied GeNeral Equilibrium Tool	<b>WCIP</b>	World Council of Indigenous Peoples
<b>MSMEs</b>	Micro, Small, and Medium sized Enterprises	<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization

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# FOREWORD

Since 2015, the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been driving and inspiring Governments and all stakeholders to take transformative actions, individually and collectively, for people, planet and prosperity, while strengthening universal peace in larger freedom.

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) is a vital interface between global policies and national efforts in the economic, social and environmental spheres. In this role, the Department manages multiple databases for collecting information about the implementation of the SDGs, which give visibility to the contributions made by national Governments and other actors.

In 2018, UN DESA launched an open call for good practices, success stories and lessons learned in SDG implementation. More than 700 submissions were received from Governments, the United Nations system, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders around the world. The submissions were reviewed by a team of experts from around 20 United Nations entities. The outcome of the open call was made available in 2019 in the form of an online platform showcasing more than 500 SDG good practices, with clear evidence of results and impact.

The SDG Good Practices, Success Stories and Lessons Learned initiative has demonstrated the commitment, creativity and partnership capacity of all stakeholders at different levels – from national Governments who are in the driving seat of SDG implementation to community actors who are at the frontlines providing assistance to the most vulnerable, and from United Nations system entities that are working relentlessly to contribute their expertise and support to private sector organizations who are committed to social responsibility and sustainable partnerships – targeting one or more of the SDGs across all regions of the world.

As we embark upon the Decade of Action to Deliver the SDGs while tackling the unprecedented challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, we will need to draw on the continued support of local, national and global partners to secure, accelerate and strengthen existing efforts to fulfill the commitments of the 2030 Agenda. We need to know what is working and how to scale up progress, and we need to make this information available as broadly as possible. The urgency of the needs at hand demands that all sectors of society galvanize greater participation and leadership, more resources and improved, game-changing solutions to address increasing inequality and the escalating climate emergency.

This publication presents several outstanding examples across the globe received in response to the first open call for SDG Good Practices, Success Stories and Lessons Learned. We hope that these examples will inspire more actors from all regions to continue and strengthen their efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda, our most comprehensive and unifying vision of sustainable development.



**LIU ZHENMIN**  
Under-Secretary-General  
for Economic and Social Affairs

# INTRODUCTION

From November 2018 to February 2019, UN DESA conducted an open call for “SDG Good Practices, Success Stories and Lessons Learned” in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. More than 700 submissions were received from all stakeholders including Governments, international organizations, civil society, private sector, local governments, academia and others, out of which which 512 have been identified as SDG Good Practices by an inter-agency expert team from the United Nations. The outcomes of the first open call for SDG Good Practices are featured on a [dedicated website](#) as well through a [data visualization dashboard](#). This highly accessible database showcases all those inspiring breakthroughs and success stories that are showing results and impact all over the world, many with a great potential of being replicated and scaled up to accelerate SDG implementation.

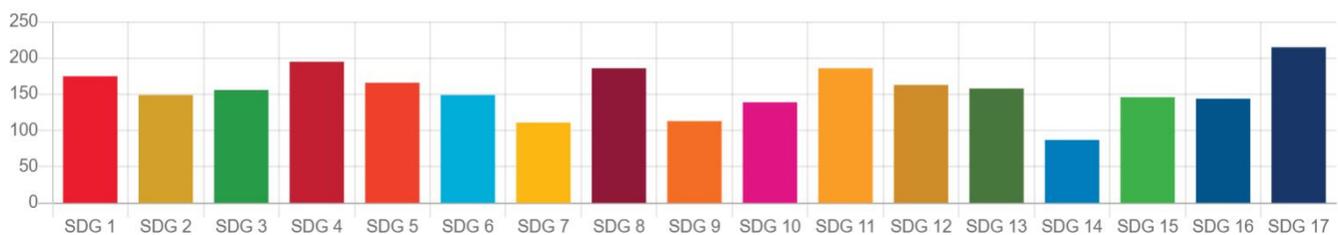


Figure 1: Number of Good Practices per SDG in the first open call. Source: UN DESA

The SDG Good Practices cover all the 17 SDGs and range from Government action plans for long-term development to community-based projects that help the most vulnerable groups overcome challenges in their daily routines. As indicated in **Figure 1**, the top five SDGs with the most Good Practices are SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals); SDG 4 (Quality Education); SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities); SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and SDG 1 (No Poverty). Notably, there were also 49 SDG Good Practices which were identified to contribute to the achievement of all 17 Goals.

Through UN DESA’s extensive outreach efforts during the first open call, with generous support from UN partners including the Regional Commissions, relevant Agencies and Programmes, submissions were received from all regions of the world, with Latin America, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe in the lead (Figure 2).

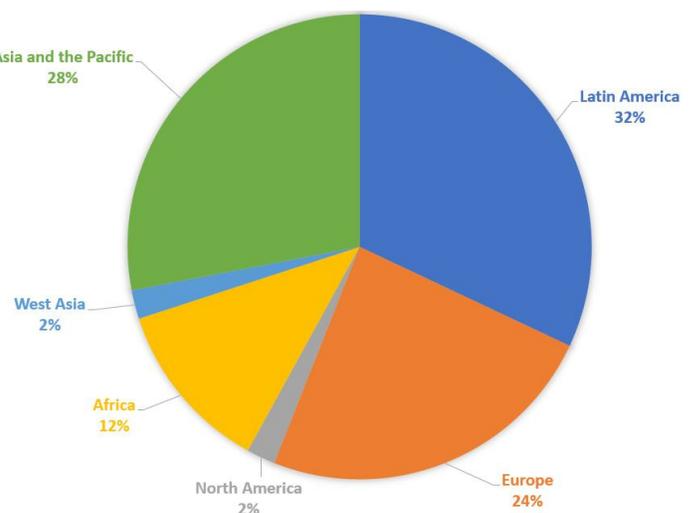


Figure 2: SDG Good Practices submitted by regions in the first open call. Source: UN DESA

In addition to the broad geographic representation, applications came from all sectors of society including Governments, Civil Society Organizations, UN entities, Private Sector, Academic Institutions, Philanthropic Organizations and Others, with the most submissions coming from Governments at national, regional and local levels (Figure 3).

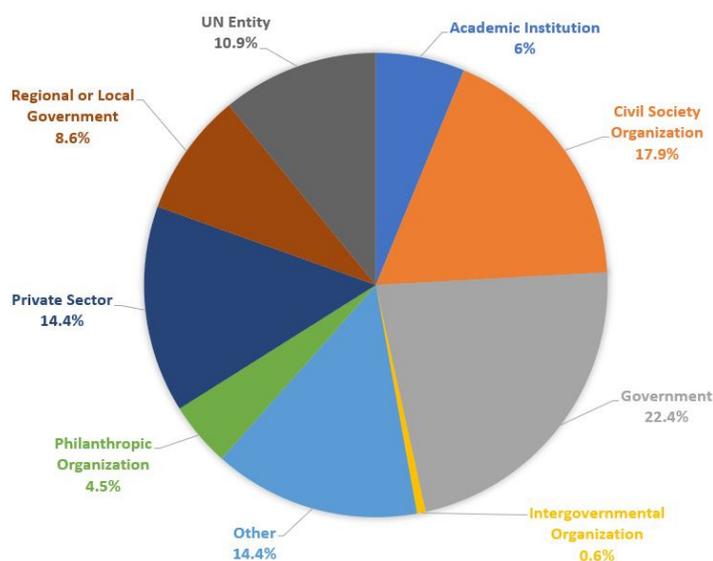


Figure 3: SDG Good Practices submitted by sector in the first open call. Source: UN DESA

This publication presents 16 SDG Good Practices drawn from the online platform presented in chapters organized by geographical representation. As the world pursues a transformative recovery from COVID-19 and embarks on the Decade of Action for accelerating the implementation of the SDGs, it is hoped that the selected Good Practices featured in this publication provide inspiration to Governments and stakeholders in their efforts to address crisis, reduce the risk of future potential emergencies and deliver on the ambitious and inclusive vision of the 2030 Agenda.

A short summary of each chapter can be found below.

## CHAPTER I - AFRICA: GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS, LOCAL IMPACT

The selected SDG Good Practices in this chapter showcase how the integration of the SDGs is taking place at all levels through various multi-stakeholder partnerships and frameworks and with a common priority of reaching the most vulnerable communities and groups. In the most remote rural areas of South Sudan, Community Based Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) (p. 13) were trained to provide quality and localized animal health services as well as offered a cost-efficient solution to those hard to reach communities that rely on livestock for survival. In Niger, UNODC and their partners jointly launched a project (p. 16) to strengthen criminal justice systems in the country, providing legal aid to detainees awaiting trials, with a gender-sensitive approach, and prioritizing the assistance to the most vulnerable groups in prisons. This chapter also includes two practices which originated in Africa, and then expanded to other regions as a result of their universality and replicability. Sightsavers' experience (p. 19) in many African countries have demonstrated that Civil Society Organizations can contribute to the Voluntary National Review process and ensure that the voices of the most vulnerable are included in SDG implementation and follow-up. As a low-cost land restoration technique, Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) (p. 22) has proved to be effective in reducing poverty,

improving livelihoods, enhancing food security and resilience, and has expanded to more than twenty countries across the globe.

## **CHAPTER II - ASIA-PACIFIC: STRONG LEADERSHIP, EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION**

The three SDG Good Practices presented in this chapter have all benefited from the commitments and leadership of Governments at all levels, either through policy integration or effective partnership frameworks. In Vietnam, HelpAge (p. 27) has been working with local partners to establish Inter-generational Self-Help Clubs (ISHC) which are community-based organizations dedicated to ensuring that no one is left behind. In Deqing County (p. 30), a historical town located at the northern part of the Zhejiang Province of China, a pilot project was set up to progress in SDG implementation using geo-statistical data and an evidence-based approach to provide guidance on local development policymaking. In Southeast Asia, the regional Fit for School (FIT) (p. 34) programme supported national and local governments to develop national standards and implementing guidelines for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities in schools, through effective health interventions under the leadership of the education sector. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the critical nature of this programme which could be scaled-up to reach more schools, to ensure a safe and healthy educational environment for more school-age children in the region and other parts of the world.

## **CHAPTER III - WESTERN ASIA: EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES, SUSTAINED FUTURE**

The practices featured in this chapter bring solutions to some of the main challenges in the region, including water scarcity, desertification and land degradation and the increased pressure to manage and preserve natural resources in a more efficient and equitable way. With the support offered by the Enhanced Rural Resilience in Yemen (ERRY) (p. 39), members of the local communities, in particular youth and women, were able to establish solar-powered micro-businesses to provide sustainable energy, stable income and self-reliance. Additionally, community-based organizations (CBOs) and youth groups in Jordan (p. 43) were offered the opportunity to be trained through a capacity building program, to design climate change adaptation plans according to their local setting, priorities and challenges.

## **CHAPTER IV – EUROPE: COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH, INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT**

The European Union has committed to implement the SDGs both in its internal and external policies and has continued to reinforce its efforts to make progress in delivering the SDGs. As part of its efforts, the European Commission (EC) has utilized the Modular Applied GeNeral Equilibrium Tool (MAGNET) (p. 47) to examine the impact of global change on food and nutrition security, the implications of a shift towards a more bio-based economy and environmental, trade and agricultural policy reform scenarios.

The MAGNET model is also currently used to analyze the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic for different regions and sectors over time. Started locally in Finland seven years ago, EKOenergy (p. 50) has expanded its ecolabel network worldwide and is supporting renewable energy projects in remote areas of developing countries. To enhance health monitoring and access to basic health care services for migrants across Europe, the IOM has developed the electronic Personal Health Record (e-PHR) module (p. 53), which has contributed to the facilitation of a comprehensive approach at level of the EU to foster health provisioning to migrants. With its agile settings and elaborate guidelines, this module could be replicated and adjusted to accommodate various requirements in other countries and regions.

## **CHAPTER V - NORTH AMERICA, LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: TACKLING ALL DIMENSIONS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, ACCELERATING ACTION**

Governments and other stakeholders in this region have demonstrated their commitments to accelerate actions to implement the 2030 Agenda, and one third of the identified SDG Good Practices originated from this region (Figure 2, p. 8). The Indigenous Navigator (p. 58) is an effective framework and tool for indigenous peoples to systematically monitor the level to which their rights are recognized and implemented. The data and information generated from this project filled the gap for

disaggregated data and is helping to ensure that the indigenous communities will not be left behind in the SDGs implementation process. In Brazil, Suzano (p. 61) operates an innovative program to restore degraded habitats and promote environmental conservation of ecosystems in Brazilian biomes. Suzano's success in sustainable environmental management also highlights the critical role of the private sector in achieving the SDGs, and that a commitment to social responsibility can also lead to economic benefit and prosperity. In 2015, UN-Habitat introduced the City Prosperity Index (CPI) in Mexico (p. 64), aiming to accurately reflect the prosperity conditions of Mexican cities and to provide tools to local governments for analyzing, planning and monitoring urban policies geared towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. As the host city of the United Nations Headquarters, New York City became the first city in the world to report on local implementation of the SDGs through a Voluntary Local Review (VLR) and launched the "Global Vision|Urban Action (GVUA)" platform (p. 68) to share experiences and lessons learned with local partners and global counterparts. Through the GVUA, New York City continues to lead the VLR process for the localization of SDGs.

# CHAPTER I.



CAHW PROJECTS SUPPORT COMMUNITIES IN REMOTE AREAS OF SOUTH SUDAN. SOURCE: FAO

# AFRICA

Global partnerships, local impact

## Community-Based Animal Health Workers (CAHWs): Guardians for quality, localized animal health services in hard to reach livestock production systems

### SNAPSHOT

**Geographical coverage:** South Sudan

**Entity name:** Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock ([www.livestockdialogue.com](http://www.livestockdialogue.com))

**Entity type:** Global Multi-stakeholder Partnership

**Implementation period:** August 2018--May 2022

**Key stakeholders and partnerships:** Food and Agriculture Organizations of the United Nations (FAO); Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries (MARF) of South Sudan; South Sudan Veterinary Association; Food Security and Livelihood Cluster; Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD); African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR); Non-Governmental Organizations and relevant academic institutions

**Relevant SDGs:**



**Click to learn more:** [sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=29469](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=29469)

### Brief Summary

In conflict-ridden South Sudan, more than half of the population depends on livestock for survival, but many remote areas are underserved by public or private qualified veterinarians. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (VSF) trains Community-based Animal Health Workers (CAHW) of hard to reach and at-risk communities in good husbandry practices and basic animal health care. These trained CAHWs are able to perform a limited range of veterinary tasks and popularize husbandry methods in order to optimize animal production. CAHW is a cost-efficient and protecting locally available option to offer access to quality animal health services. The practice contributes to protect key livelihood assets and to grant access to food of animal origin, hence improving food, nutrition and income security of vulnerable populations.

Livestock not only provide highly nutritious food, it is also a source of income, savings and employment throughout various sectors, which links the practice to SDG 1. The animal health extension services through the CAHW system also focus on awareness creation on the prevention and control of zoonotic diseases (anthrax, brucellosis, rabies etc.) and other Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs).

VSF trains the mobile and versatile CAHWs on public health and facilitates linkages with health service providers to tackle concerns such as cholera epidemics in cattle camp settings. Addressing diseases of public health importance leads to better health outcomes among communities and directly links the practice to SDG 3 (targets 3.2 and 3.3).

The CAHW system is implemented as an integral part of emergency livestock intervention projects funded by donors on a short to medium term basis in the country. The endorsement of the national veterinary services in the country has been a key enabling environment for the success of the CAHW system. Sustained funding to livestock interventions by the donors is another key contributor to the success of the practice. In South Sudan, CAHWs were the preferred, in many places the only available, animal health service providers due to the superior accessibility, availability, affordability and quality of their services. The proven impacts include: reduced number of disease outbreaks; reduced mortality of sick animals and mortality during crises; increased productivity, milk production and fertility of animals; secured income of farmers through the sale of milk and animals in good health; improved food security and nutrition of livestock keeping communities; better management of animal health, animal welfare and safety/hygiene of animal-sourced food. In South Sudan, one of the most outstanding achievements of CAHW system

was the eradication of Rinderpest, a major cattle plague in Africa, with South Sudan being one of the few focus countries in the early 2000. The eradication of the disease from the country has contributed to a major livestock based economic boom in the Greater Horn of Africa, with significant contribution to the GDPs of the regional countries. The success of the Rinderpest eradication through the CAHW system has provided the impetus to initiate the Global PPR Eradication program by 2030 which is currently a major focus of the countries of the region with CAHWs being at the center of the eradication campaigns.



*CAHW perform vaccination in South Sudan. Source: FAO*

The CAHW system has proven to be a viable model for animal health services delivery, especially in fragile or remote areas with no stable public services delivery systems. Its implementation entails a very robust community participation that enhances its acceptance, usability and replicability.

Since the territorial coverage of animal health services remains insufficient in many countries of the global South, there seems to be a clear need to invest in (i) training veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals and in (ii) the spreading of qualified CAHWs to ensure quality animal health services, adapted to the needs of smallholder livestock keepers. However, several challenges still exist for CAHWs to be fully recognized as true guardians for quality, community-based animal health services. Efforts should be made (both internationally and country-by-country) to integrate CAHWs in the national veterinary legislation, as well as to facilitate their training, follow-up and service delivery; to clarify the roles and responsibilities of each of the actors involved in the local animal health system, to assure sustainability; and to promote stronger public-private engagements and frameworks to incentivize investments in the system.

## Impact of COVID-19

The practice was affected by COVID-19 in many ways. As part of the infection prevention and control measures, group trainings are restricted and scheduled refresher training sessions have been postponed. Travel restrictions imposed by Governments hindered access to deliver critical supplies to the CAHW teams from the central country office stores. Supply chains for critical drug and equipment supplies were also disrupted. CAHWs who were infected or in contact with infected persons were mandated to remain in self-quarantine or isolation thus affecting their mobility and availability for service delivery. To overcome these challenges and to ensure the duty of care for CAHWs, the VSFs have lobbied Governments to declare animal health services as an essential service thus lifting restrictions on the movement of CAHWs. The VSFs also adapted their programs to integrate COVID-19 infection prevention and control measures as an integral part of program delivery, providing PPE for CAHWs and promoting messaging on basic hygiene measures to ensure safety of pastoralists and CAHWs themselves as service providers.

# Providing Legal Aid to Detainees Suspected in Terrorism Cases - UNODC's project to strengthen criminal justice system in Niger

## SNAPSHOT

**Geographical coverage:** Niger

**Entity name:** United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([www.unodc.org](http://www.unodc.org))

**Entity type:** United Nations Entity

**Implementation period:** January 2017 - Ongoing

**Key stakeholders and partnerships:** United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); United Nations Volunteers (UNV); National partners in Niger and donor countries

**Relevant SDGs:**



**Click to learn more:** [sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=30957](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=30957)

## Brief Summary

Since Boko Haram began to extend its reach into Niger in 2014, around 1,600 suspected terrorists were arrested. Facing a high number of cases, the Nigerien justice system and especially the Specialized Judicial Unit in charge of the terrorism cases has been under pressure. In January 2017, as part of its programme on strengthening the criminal justice systems in the Sahel, UNODC and their national counterparts launched a twofold project in Niger with two main objectives: (i) to strengthen the capacity of the judicial anti-terrorism unit and specialized anti-terrorism chambers to effectively investigate, prosecute and adjudicate terrorism cases and; (ii) to ensure a facilitated access to justice in the context of the fight against terrorism by providing legal aid to detainees suspected of terrorism awaiting trials in Niger's prisons.

An effective, fair and humane criminal justice system is based on the commitment to uphold human rights in the administration of justice, regardless of the crime that has been committed. Respecting human rights of detainees suspected in terrorism cases is key to strengthening the links between the populations and the authorities and thus safeguard the rule of law. This project was designed to bring human rights to the fore and ensure that the detainees suspected of terrorism in the prisons in Niger were provided with legal assistance, information on their cases and were tried in a reasonable time by competent judges, prosecutors and magistrates. One of main objects of the project was to bring some backlogged cases to the attention of the Specialized Judicial Unit. Ten UN Volunteers have been hired and trained by UNODC and they started with weekly prison visits to the three prisons of Niamey, Kollo and Koutoukalé. To ensure equal access to justice, the volunteers visited detainees in prisons, identified people who have exceeded the statutory period of remand as well as vulnerable persons in need of legal or judicial assistance (women, minors, elderly); brought cases requiring assistance to the attention of the competent authorities; and, if necessary, assisted inmates to complete court formalities. Their work was challenging but crucial to ensure that no one was left behind during the process.

The project contributes to achieving SDG 16 by reducing the number of “unsentenced detainees as a proportion of the overall prison population” (SDG indicator 16.3.2). More importantly, this pilot project is also reducing the sense of injustice among detainees and thus indirectly contributing to prevent radicalization in prisons (Target 16.a). The project also contributes to SDG 5 on gender equality in various aspects: achieving gender parity in the UNVs team (5 female, 5 male), prioritizing on assisting women, children and the elderly as they are considered the most vulnerable groups in prisons, and also taking a gender-sensitive approach by addressing specific needs of women in prison settings.

Furthermore, by partnering with UNVs, UNODC is placing volunteerism and youth at the core of the project, in line with the 2030 Agenda. The project has been integrating volunteerism into peace and development and promoting people's engagement in all stages, especially young people, and increasing its transformational potential. UNVs in this project are national young law graduates, and the project offered them the opportunity to gain valuable professional experience in the legal field and to develop a better understanding of terrorism in the country. The volunteers have proven that the youth can be change-makers, critical thinkers and innovators, and their success could be replicated in other areas in the region.

Through the project, UNVs have conducted 328 prison visits and a total of over 1,030 prisoners received legal aid. A resounding success of the implementation of this project has been the processing and disposal by the Specialized Judicial Unit of 460 cases involving 1,026 terrorism suspects by the end of 2018. Among those 1,026 suspects, 812 were freed and 214 were condemned. Thus, the project resulted in the decrease of detainees in pre-trial in the prisons of Niger. Detainees understand better their situation and have more confidence in the state authority, thus becoming more resilient to the risk of radicalization in prisons. In addition, judges that were not welcomed anymore in the communities after the arrests, were able to organize audiences back and to come back to the communities. This has indicated that the tensions were relieved, and trust was rebuilt between the local population and the justice sector. Given the success in Niger, UNODC is discussing with donors to expand the practice to other countries in the region.

## Impact of COVID-19

As of August 2020, physical visits to prisons were not possible due to the restrictions under COVID-19. However, UNVs continued working to advance judicial files of pre-trial detainees suspected of terrorism, through telephone contacts with the prison administration and regular follow-up visits at the level of the specialized judicial pole. UNODC is also assessing the possibility to start virtual visits through online platforms.

# Enhancing Civil society engagement in Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) - Sightsavers' experience (2016 - 2019)

## SNAPSHOT

**Geographical coverage:** Africa (Cameroon, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe; Asia (Bangladesh, India)

**Entity name:** Sightsavers ( [www.sightsavers.org](http://www.sightsavers.org) )

**Entity type:** Civil Society Organization

**Implementation period:** January 2016 - Ongoing

**Key stakeholders and partnerships:** National - Local Civil Society Organizations, Governments

**Relevant SDGs:**



**Click to learn more:** [sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=30702](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=30702)

## Brief Summary

As part of its follow-up and review mechanisms, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages member states to "conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven" (paragraph 79). These national reviews are expected to serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the high-level political forum (HLPF) and are voluntary, state-led, undertaken by both developed and developing countries, and involve multiple stakeholders. The voluntary national reviews (VNRs) aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The VNRs also seek to strengthen policies and institutions of Governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Since 2016, Sightsavers has been working on the development of coalitions and strengthening the collective ability to influence by technically supporting and enhancing civil society engagement in VNR processes. Sightsavers promotes two distinguishing features of the 2030 Agenda to promote SDG implementation: 1. Integration of the environmental, social and economic pillars of sustainable development by aligning, or triggering the process for National Development Planning and/or sectorial strategies (economic and growth) to support SDGs implementation (Cameroon); 2. Design for acceleration of progress and reaching the furthest behind first by supporting civil society forums.

Sightsavers works with partners to promote opportunities for the voice and participation of people with disabilities in national development planning processes, to ensure that national and international institutions effectively consult with people with disabilities, to ensure national Human Rights Institutes are adequately protecting and promoting the rights of people with disabilities, to make sure all election processes are accessible and the political parties include the voices of people with disabilities in their policy agendas. In addition, Sightsavers supports civil society forums either through enhancing existing forums or leading the creation of new and inclusive groups; setting up sub-groups within coalitions; building sector-specific coalitions

and then formalizing a relationship with the main SDG coalition; supporting consultations to bringing the voice of marginalized communities into the process so that disability and eye health have a higher and more accurate profile.

All the Sightsavers teams stressed the importance of working in coalition to effectively influence VNRs, which is done either through actively participating in existing coalitions (India, Kenya, Senegal, Mali) or by establishing coalitions (Cameroon, Sierra Leone, Bangladesh). Therefore, a significant part of Sightsavers' work on the VNRs was in supporting the development of coalitions and strengthening the collective ability to influence the national review process. Coalitions proved to be the most strategic approach for three reasons: first, coalitions minimized risk to individual organizations by presenting a unified position and voice, and this was important in incentivizing engagement from civil society in those sensitive contexts; second, working in coalition increased the legitimacy of the message presented to Governments and this feedback greatly increased the confidence of the teams in their influencing work; finally, working in coalition made it far easier to build a strong relationship with Governments.

In Cameroon and Sierra Leone, Sightsavers played a critical role to secure the consultation with and the engagement of civil society in the VNRs. In partnership with other stakeholders,

Sightsavers founded the CSO SDG Forums in both countries and provided significant leadership in linking civil society, particularly the organizations working with people with disabilities, with those leading the process in Governments. In a number of other countries, multi-actor technical working groups have been set up, with the objectives of a consultative process while drafting/writing the VNR and developing a longer-term follow-up mechanism. Other activities include but are not limited to: organizing consultation processes; meeting with focal points for clarification and developing SDGs briefing notes; hosting technical working group retreats to work on a zero draft; public presentation of zero drafts for feedback; finalizing the VNR and developing the final presentation. Sightsavers also worked with Governments to ensure that the final report was sent to relevant government representatives for validation before being submitted to the United Nations Secretariat, and to reach agreement on the delegation representing the country at the HLPF.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – with its emphasis on new national plans and reviews – is an opportunity to ensure Sightsavers’ priorities are included in the wider development plans of Governments in the countries where they work, and their advocated

issues are aligned to mainstream development priorities. As a broader, interlinked and universal framework, it also provides the opportunity to develop effective policy recommendations under a wider sustainable development context, to ensure the voices and perspectives of the most vulnerable groups of people are included in all aspects. Through its engagement in the VNR process, Sightsavers continues to address the challenges, to ensure that the voices of people with disabilities can be heard in emerging national planning, implementation and accountability mechanisms; and are reflected in new regional and international processes.

## Impact of COVID-19

Given the restraints on in-person meetings and gathering of big groups under the impact of COVID-19, Sightsavers supported virtual consultation workshops and provided financial support for the most marginalized groups to cover their internet connection cost, in order to ensure their participation at those virtual workshops.

# Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR): a technique to effectively combat poverty and hunger through land and vegetation restoration

## SNAPSHOT

**Geographical coverage:** Africa (Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Eswatini, Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, Chad, Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Senegal) Asia (India, Myanmar, Indonesia, Timor-Leste) and the Caribbean (Haiti)

**Entity name:** World Vision Australia ([www.worldvision.com.au](http://www.worldvision.com.au))

**Entity type:** Civil Society Organization

**Implementation period:** Ongoing

**Key stakeholders and partnerships:** Global Evergreening Alliance, World Agroforestry Centre, World Resources Institute, other NGOs, local governments, forest and agriculture agents, merchants, traditional chiefs, religious leaders, farmers, nomadic herders and other members of the community

**Relevant SDGs:**



**Click to learn more:** [sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=30735](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=30735)

## Brief Summary

Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) is a low-cost land restoration technique used to combat poverty and hunger amongst poor subsistence farmers by increasing food and timber production and resilience to climate extremes. Started in 1983 in Niger, FMNR is a form of coppicing and pollarding, drawing on traditional practices and sensitive to local variations. In FMNR systems, farmers protect and manage the growth of trees and shrubs that regenerate naturally in their fields from root stock or from seeds dispersed through animal manure. FMNR is an easy, low-cost way for farmers to increase the number of trees in the fields.

The main goal of FMNR is to improve livelihoods through improved ecosystem health and function. FMNR addresses multiple problems simultaneously through the restoration of vegetation, including: land degradation, soil infertility and erosion, biodiversity loss, food insecurity, fuel wood, building timber and fodder shortages, and dysfunctional hydrological cycles (exacerbated flood and drought events, reduced ground water recharge, drying of springs, wells and streams). FMNR is both an effective climate mitigation and adaptation intervention. At scale, FMNR contributes to increased recharge of groundwater and increased soil moisture, and more so when done in combination with physical soil and water conservation measures. Through these impacts and its contribution to lifting yields and income, FMNR is an effective means to reduce poverty of those furthest behind and has a positive effect on livelihoods, food security, resilience and risk reduction.

The implementation of FMNR includes the following procedures: 1) Conduct FMNR participatory sensitization meetings with stakeholders including traditional and government leaders, forestry and agriculture agencies, other NGOs/CBOS and community members; 2) Organize FMNR training for project staff and government extension agents; 3) Selection of FMNR champions in the communities to lead and actively teach other members; 4) Training of farmer champions conducted by extension agents, who will also

follow-up and monitor progress, offer assistance and problem solving; 5) Facilitate exchange visits from neighboring districts; 6) Develop tree product value chains to integrate with other livelihood options in the communities for diversified income sources to meet immediate needs. Originally co-developed with farmers in Niger, FMNR is adapted in each new context, to fit the unique needs and goals of local communities in line with their environment. Along with its low cost, this freedom and “farmer managed” aspect of FMNR has enabled it to spread rapidly.

FMNR’s success has been proven in many countries across the globe, particularly in Africa. Through FMNR, Nigerien Farmers produce an additional 500,000 tons of cereal/year compared with the 1970s and 1980s, resulting in food security for 2.5 million people. A 2018 study in Kenya found that cows are more likely to survive dry periods with FMNR, which allows for productive rather than disaster management. FMNR also leads to tripling of carrying capacity and reduces the work burden of women. Studies also showed that farms with well-managed full FMNR double productivity and economic performance of staple crops and are up to 5-fold better off in drought years compared with the non-FMNR neighbors. FMNR has also substantially alleviated the fuelwood energy crisis in Niger and other countries where it has been adopted. Indigenous trees and shrub have been regenerated across millions of hectares of land,

providing habitat and food for birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, increasing ecosystem function and biodiversity. FMNR farmers have greater access to wild foods, traditional medicines. Additionally, new enterprise opportunities arise such as bee keeping.



*Female farmer demonstrating FMNR technique in Upper Eastern Region, Ghana. Credit: Tony Rinaudo*

In addition, FMNR enables women to have an increased role in the decision-making process in their community and contributes to achieve gender equality. Through FMNR, women and children's burdens become lighter as fuel wood is easier to gather, so they have more time to pursue economic activities for increased income, which leads to their social status elevation. FMNR also brings unanticipated impacts, including restoration of hope, which builds confidence and willingness to invest; improved land use and sustainably managed natural resources; greater awareness, appreciation and sustainable development; recharged water tables and restoration of water sources; reduction in conflict and poverty driven migration, etc.

FMNR has great potential to reduce vulnerability and increase the resilience of households in the dryland of sub-Saharan Africa and beyond through environmental restoration and sustainable land and vegetation management. FMNR improves the livelihoods of the smallholder farmers while at the same time contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation. FMNR broke new ground because it is empowering and does not create dependency on external resources or expertise. It is simple, low cost, rapid and accessible to the poorest farmers. FMNR is a 'no regrets' technology - there is no insurmountable downside to adoption, so risks are minimal. FMNR is farmer driven and connected to people's aspirations, sense of self-worth and dignity. What happened in Niger was not a technological breakthrough and it was not reliant on enormous injections of money. It was people's breakthrough and a model for sustainable land management.



*FMNR on grazing land in Wukro, Ethiopia. Credit: Tony Rinaudo*

## Impact of COVID-19

Due to the requirement of social distancing, staff of active projects now engage with communities digitally to a greater degree where possible. Because land users do not need external inputs, once they are aware of and understand the practice, they can implement it independently. Therefore, as land users are still able to visit their fields under COVID-19, the practice is still being implemented.

## CHAPTER II.



FIT-SATHA KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS IN LAO PDR WASH THEIR HANDS WITH SOAP EVERY DAY. SOURCE:GIZ

# ASIA-PACIFIC

Strong Leadership, Effective Implementation

## Inter-generational Self-help Clubs (ISHC)-Promoting Inclusive Sustainable Development to Improve the Well-being of Disadvantaged Groups

### SNAPSHOT

**Geographical coverage:** Vietnam

**Entity name:** HelpAge International ([www.helpage.org](http://www.helpage.org))

**Entity type:** Civil Society Organization

**Implementation period:** January 2006 - Ongoing

**Key stakeholders and partnerships:** HelpAge Global Network, Vietnam Association of Elderly (VAE), Vietnam Women's Union (VWU), state government agencies, and other relevant organizations who provided technical and funding support.

**Relevant SDGs:**



**Click to learn more:** [sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=27868](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=27868)

### Brief Summary

Since 2006, HelpAge has been working with local partners and communities in Vietnam to establish community-based organizations (CBOs) called Inter-generational Self-help Clubs (ISHC) with the objective of establishing and strengthening the capacity of inclusive, sustainable, and affordable civil society organizations. The ISHCs are multifunctional, intergenerational CBOs that can effectively engage with local community and authorities, to promote greater inclusion of vulnerable groups in service delivery and local development. The ISHC model is an innovative approach for communities to lead in the provision of essential services as well as relevant communication around those services. ISHCs are highly inclusive and empowered to design, conduct and manage their own development activities in partnership with local communities, service providers and authorities, and aim to ensure that every community member's potential is tapped into community development and no one is left behind.

The ISHC development model benefits the entire target communities with various social, health, economic and development interventions, with a special focus to help those most vulnerable groups including women, the elderly, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities and people in poverty. Through ISHCs, those economically disadvantaged households were able to make their income more productive, sustainable and environmentally friendly, diversify sources of income and build a foundation for productivity. ISHCs have led to a reduction in poverty as well as to financial independence and social stability for those households. ISHCs also help the beneficiaries remain active and improve health conditions by facilitating high-quality primary health care through mutual and lasting partnerships with local service providers, providing access to government health insurance, and strengthening community mechanisms to support frail and vulnerable people with homecare service. In addition, ISHCs also organize monthly workshops on healthy lifestyles, provide training at community level on health, livelihood, environment, human rights, gender, ageing etc., promote volunteerism in the communities, and mobilize local resources to help those most vulnerable.

Since its inception, 2985 ISHCs have been established in 60 provinces and cities throughout Vietnam. According to HelpAge's data, 98.9% of the ISHC members are satisfied

with their ISHC activities, and at least 60,000 disadvantaged households have increased their income by more than 40% on average in two years. ISHC also facilitated improved health and care services for 1,500,000 people annually: at least 85% of the ISHC members practice regular self-care and physical exercise (at least 3 times per week) and more than 94% of them receive at least two health checkups annually. 88.5% of the ISHCs managed to organize at least two club meetings a year to discuss and provide recommendations for local programs and policies that affect their well-being, and community-based right and entitlement monitoring systems were established in more than 90% of the ISHCs. All the ISHCs have received official support and recognition from the local authorities and/or service providers with 90% of the ISHCs established under local social development funds. Furthermore, the country adopted two national policies which included the ISHC as a target ("National Plan of Action on Ageing 2012-2020" and "Decision 1533 - national scale-up of ISHC").



*Community members participating in group exercise, Thanh Hoa Province, Vietnam (2017) Source: HelpAge International*

The ISHC approach emphasized capacity building for the local community rather than providing extensive direct assistance. Even when direct assistance is provided (e.g. provision of livelihoods assets), it is intended partly to demonstrate the potential cost-effectiveness of offering small investments through ISHCs. As community-based organizations, ISHCs led by disadvantaged people are becoming increasingly popular due to their proven success in providing concrete and long-lasting community empowerment, health, livelihood and social impacts in the target communities as well as in their replicability to a large number of disadvantaged communities in Vietnam. In particular, the ISHCs offer opportunities for collective activity and solidarity among older people. The development of the ISHC model aims to impact not only the target communities but a much wider audience by demonstrating mechanisms that can be used elsewhere.

## Impact of COVID-19

ISHCs continued their work during the COVID-19 pandemic and have played critical roles in supporting their communities.

# SDGs Local Monitoring - China's Pilot Practice

## SNAPSHOT

**Geographical coverage:** China (Deqing County, Zhejiang Province)

**Entity name:** National Geomatics Center of China ([www.ngcc.cn](http://www.ngcc.cn))

**Entity type:** Government

**Implementation period:** March 2017 - Ongoing

**Key stakeholders and partnerships:** Ministry of Natural Resources of China, Zhejiang Provincial Government, National Bureau of Statistics, Deqing County Government, an international multidisciplinary expert group

**Relevant SDGs:**



**Click to learn more:** [sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=29982](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=29982)

## Brief Summary

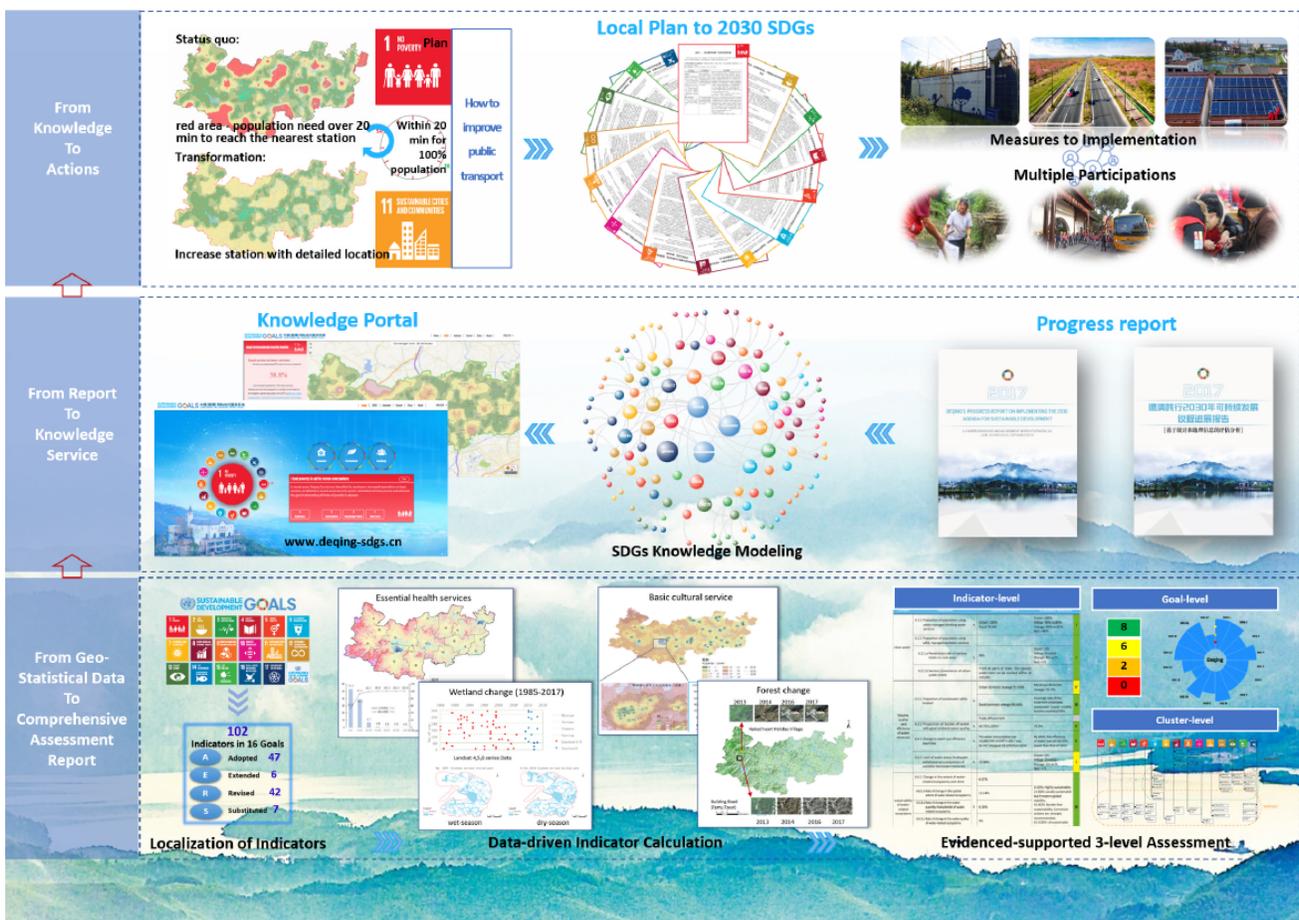
Recognizing the necessity to conduct indicator-based and data-driven measuring and monitoring of SDGs progress at national, regional and global levels, the United Nations has adopted a Global Indicator Framework (GIF) with a set of 234 indicators developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (IAEG-SDGs). The GIF covers all 17 SDGs and 169 targets for the 2030 Agenda, but its implementation, particular at sub-national levels, requires significant resources and the production of timely and reliable data disaggregated by a number of specific characteristics, including by geographic location. Geospatial data and enabling technologies play an instrumental role since many of the indicators and their associated targets have a geographic context. The success of a comprehensive measurement and assessment depends on the selection of appropriate indicators, the availability and effective integration of reliable statistical and geospatial data, as well as spatial-temporal evidence-supported analysis.

In order to follow up and review SDGs at national and local levels, Deqing County was selected as a pilot study area in 2017. The pilot project aimed to set a good example, and compliant with the GIF, in measuring the overall progress towards the SDGs using geo-statistical data, and with methods which could be shared and replicated across the world. The practice produced valuable results on SDGs local monitoring, including a data-driven and evidence-supported approach within a geospatial framework, a cooperation network to focus resources on major tasks, and guidance on local development policymaking. It is a proactive response to the United Nations' call for follow-up and review of the global indicator framework for SDGs at national and local levels.

As the principal implementer for the project, National Geomatics Centre of China (NGCC) led a multi-disciplinary research team and worked together with a group of local departments and agencies organized by Deqing County Government. Significant efforts have been devoted to the localization of the GIF according to the local circumstances, data collection and processing, quantitative measurement and qualitative analysis, as well as institutional coordination. A set of data-driven and evidence-supported approaches, within a geographic framework, was established and then applied to measure the overall progress towards the SDGs in the pilot County. The results delivered an overall picture about how far the County is from achieving the SDGs that

have been used by the local policy-makers to formulate a transformation programme and Three-Year Action Plan (2020-2022). The pilot practice was carried out with an indicator-based, data-driven and evidence supported approach, in six consecutive steps: 1) localized GIF according to local context; 2) acquired and processed multi-type data; 3) measured 102 indicators within a geographic framework; 4) assessed all 17 SDGs at three hierarchical levels; 5) documented and disseminated the results; and 6) moving to transformation actions (Three-Year Action Plan). A progress report was produced as one of the major outputs of the project, presenting the major findings and answers about "how far Deqing is from achieving the SDGs". According to the report, the County has made significant economic and social advances while maintaining a balanced ecological environment in the past 5 years. For the 79 SDGs indicators that have comparable reference criteria, 68 have been reached or were very close to the 2030 Agenda, or ranked top in China and even the world, 9 indicators need to be improved, and 2 indicators were facing challenges. For the 16 SDGs analyzed, the County has realized 8 SDGs, while needed to improve in 6 SDGs and faced challenges in the remaining 2 SDGs. Furthermore, an SDGs knowledge portal ([www.deqing-sdgs.cn](http://www.deqing-sdgs.cn)) has been established, which is a four-hierarchical knowledge network that allows users to form different perspectives of the Deqing profile and development stories.

This project is one of the first comprehensive measurements in a local context over an entire administrative progress towards achieving the SDGs both in China and in the world. This pilot practice has successfully performed SDGs local monitoring through establishing a cooperative partnership among all stakeholders to mobilize resources, developing a set of data-driven and evidence-supported approach, and transforming monitoring results into action plans. It has demonstrated that SDGs progress can be well monitored in a local context and has strengthened local implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) Secretariat has decided at the end of 2018 to “showcase the work as a flagship example on how countries can practically measure their progress using statistical and geospatial information, especially at the sub-national level”. The Deqing SDGs information portal is being transferred into the UN Open SDG Data Hub to serve as “an example to assist countries to develop their own sustainable service-based, interoperable and standards driven system-of-systems approach to measure, monitor and report, in an integrated and consistent manner, on the SDG indicators”.



China (Deqing) SDGs Profile. Source: National Geomatics Center of China

## Impact of COVID-19

Scheduled workshops for sharing experience of the practice were delayed or cancelled, and a couple of projects were postponed. Instead, online virtual meetings have been organized for knowledge sharing and project implementation.

# Regional Fit for School Programme - Developing national standards and implementing guidelines for WASH in schools

## SNAPSHOT

**Geographical coverage:** Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, the Philippines

**Entity name:** GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)

([www.fitforschool.international](http://www.fitforschool.international))

**Entity type:** Government Organization

**Implementation period:** December 2011 - Ongoing

**Key stakeholders and partnerships:** Southeast Asia Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO), Regional Centre for Educational Innovation and Technology (INNOTECH), Regional Center for Food and Nutrition (RECFON), Department of Education (the Philippines), Ministry of Education and Culture and Ministry of Religious Affairs (Indonesia), Ministry of Education of Sports (Lao PDR), Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (Cambodia), UNICEF, WFP and relevant NGOs.

**Relevant SDGs:**

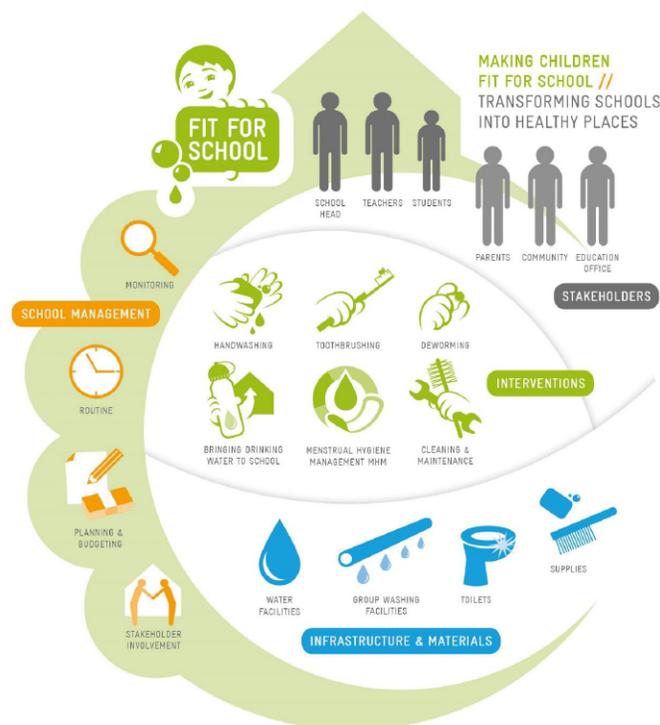


**Click to learn more:** [sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=30972](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=30972)

## Brief Summary

In many schools around the world, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities and services are inadequate, resulting in preventable diseases such as diarrhea, acute respiratory diseases, worms and dental caries in children. These common ailments negatively affect children's ability to learn and their well-being. The Fit for School (FIT) Programme was established in 2011 to support Ministries of Education on national and subnational levels in developing national standards and implementing guidelines for WASH in Schools, based on the basic service level set out in SDGs 6 and 4.

The approach of the FIT Programme is intersectoral – bringing together WASH improvements and effective health interventions under the leadership of the education sector. Therefore, it predominantly works with the education sector on different levels to support the development and implementation of minimum standards for WASH in schools in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR and the Philippines to achieve a broad impact. The approach aims to improve health and learning conditions mainly of primary but extending to pre-primary and secondary school children. Evidence-based and cost-effective preventative measures, such as daily handwashing with soap and brushing teeth with fluoride toothpaste in groups, are promoted to form routine activities, along with school-based deworming according to WHO guidelines. Institutionalizing these interventions addresses some of the most prevalent diseases among school children. To provide a healthy environment, schools need usable WASH facilities and services. The programme encourages regular operation and maintenance of WASH facilities and promotes hygiene practices through hard and software tools such as manuals, lists, videos, and packaged supplies for hygiene, cleaning and repair. The aim is for the education sector to integrate cleaning and maintenance of WASH facilities into the core responsibilities of school heads and to improve their capacities to manage the toilets and washing facilities.



*Fit for School Organigram. Source: GIZ*

Interventions are modelled into a template-based package to simplify implementation through education staff and students in the school context with the least extra effort possible. Packages are adaptable to different settings and stages of development and are building on the principles of School-Based Management (SBM), the predominant school management approach.

All students of a school benefit from improved WASH, particularly those from the most disadvantaged households. In addition, special attention is paid to improving menstrual hygiene management to prevent girls from missing school during their period or dropping out due to inadequate facilities or lack of privacy contributing to gender equality. On the policy level, the programme supports Ministries of Education to integrate WASH in Schools into existing structures of the education sector.

The FIT Programme has been rolled out in three phases. The first phase (4 years) concentrated on adapting the FIT approach to the respective country contexts: starting with pilot projects in few selected schools to identify what works and to ensure a proper model in place before going to scale. The second phase focused on scaling up successful models within the partner countries. The third and current phase concentrates on strengthening capacities of national structures and processes and on increasing knowledge management to prepare for the end of the programme. Monitoring and research are core components of the FIT Programme to keep implementation on track and to inform advocacy, policy development and decision-making. Regular monitoring has been conducted in all model schools, using the adapted Fit for School monitoring tool. Aligned with the WASH-related SDGs, the FIT Programme supports the respective Ministries of Education to include a set of globally agreed indicators into the

national Education Monitoring Information Systems and thereby confirm the responsibility of the education sector for WASH in School.



*FIT - Students of Thapalanxay Primary School in Lao PDR do their daily cleaning of the sanitation facilities. Source: GIZ.*

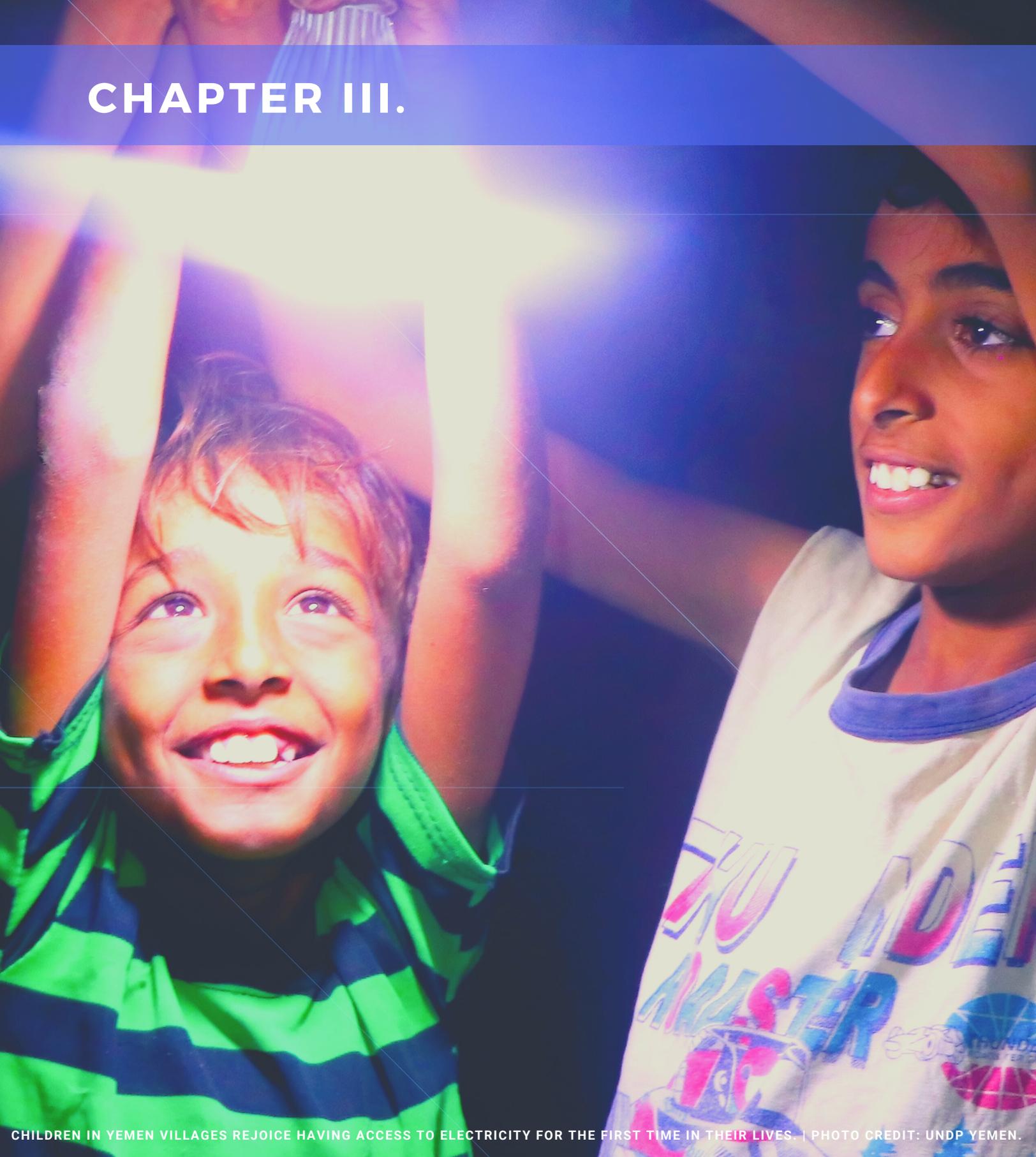
Simplicity, scalability, sustainability and system-orientation are the core principles and success enablers of the programme. The simplicity of the approach has proven to be appealing and opening doors with stakeholders and decision makers who are looking for practical and tangible models and implementation at scale. WASH improvements have been successfully delivered in settings with challenging preconditions. As part of the programme, regular learning exchanges are organized to bring a broad range of stakeholders together. Organized jointly with UNICEF, the format of international learning exchanges with stakeholders and government representatives from Asian, African and Pacific Island countries has gained major traction and is now the leading forum to bridge science, evidence, policy and practice related to WASH in Schools.

On the international level, the programme was awarded multiple times for its innovative and intersectoral character, as well as for bridging science and practice through promoting evidence-based interventions. Among the major recognitions was the award for Innovation in Global Health from UNDP, World Bank and the WHO in 2009. These international achievements contributed greatly to the international momentum towards improving WASH in Schools, and to scaling-up the reach of programmes using the FIT approach. The FIT approach and its implementation have demonstrated that improving WASH in schools is possible, even in challenging settings with poor resources. The positive impacts generally include a stronger supportive policy context, improved capacity of stakeholders to plan, implement, manage and monitor WASH in Schools, as requested in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The programme has contributed to great progress in WASH in Schools in all partner countries, as well as mobilized actors and influenced programming of WASH in Schools on regional and global level to make it more effective and impactful.

## Impact of COVID-19

During school closures under the pandemic, various capacity development measures have been taken such as offering online courses to address current demands for focus on hygiene in schools, and programme funds were utilized to support the preparation for reopening schools and implementing hygiene measures in schools.

# CHAPTER III.



CHILDREN IN YEMEN VILLAGES REJOICE HAVING ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THEIR LIVES. | PHOTO CREDIT: UNDP YEMEN.

## WESTERN ASIA

Empowered Communities, Sustained Future

## Enhanced Rural Resilience in Yemen (ERRY) project intervention: Breaking the barriers of displacement and protracted crisis through inclusive approach of solar livelihood improvement in Yemen

### SNAPSHOT

**Geographical coverage:** Yemen

**Entity name:** United Nations Development Programme Yemen ([www.ye.undp.org](http://www.ye.undp.org))

**Entity type:** United Nations Entity

**Implementation period:** June 2018 - March 2019

**Key stakeholders and partnerships:** Women, youth and marginalized persons; Abbs and Bani Qais districts (Hajjah Governorate) and Al Feyoush district (Lahj Governorate) in the northern and southern province; UNDP Yemen; the private sector; micro-finance institutions

**Relevant SDGs:**



**Click to learn more:** [sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=29998](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=29998)

### Brief Summary

Yemen is one of the world's most energy insecure and water poor countries, with most of the country lacking sustainable access to energy. The ongoing war has made the situation worse. Energy supply in Yemen for many years has been very limited due to weak generation capacity, limited access, high electricity losses from the grid and increasing demand. The Enhanced Rural Resilience in Yemen (ERRY) project intervention has addressed the above challenges by taking pathways from service delivery to livelihood improvement. The objective of the intervention was to support displaced and marginalized youths and women through decentralized solar energy systems to improve access, employability skills, stable income and self-confidence.

The intervention was in three folds (3x6 approach): provision of emergency employment opportunities, capacity building for employability skillset and support in the establishment of solar micro-businesses.

In terms of emergency employment, target beneficiaries were provided income through short term cash-for-work (\$6/day for 30 days) activities while rehabilitating community and productive assets such as roads leading to market, health facilities and schools, as well as the improvement of market centers. Subsequently, target beneficiaries received basic and advanced solar micro-business training. The capacity building activities were done in close collaboration with the International Labor Organization (ILO). The beneficiaries graduated from training developed business proposals for their solar projects.

The intervention has supported 160 individuals (50% women) who were previously unemployed to establish solar micro-businesses. These solar micro-businesses have recovered 50% of the seed grant in addition to earning \$100/month stable income since their establishment.



Source: UNDP Yemen

Providing the group of women with a regular income and opportunities to provide employment to others has increased their acceptance in their community.

Initially, diesel suppliers and service providers saw the transition of working with the solar micro-businesses as a roadblock and feared losing clients to them. The female members reached out to suppliers to explain the benefits of solar micro-grids, including environmental benefits and income generation opportunities. By seeing trained women as solar technicians, communities have been able to witness that women can be engaged in economic activities to support their families and neighbors. The solar micro-grid and individual businesses have provided women and youths with a dignified income opportunity to feed and support their families. The women and youths have become role models in their community, while also promoting access of solar energy as a stable income generation activity.

People's acceptance and attitudinal response to solar energy was the biggest enabling factor to pilot this good practice. The opportunity to generate income from the proposed businesses was also the key factor to convince the beneficiaries, as it was unprecedented in Yemen. As the intervention focused on women and youth, the biggest challenge or constraint that needed to be overcome was the perception of communities and associated risks due to high exposure.

However, the engagement of women and youth since the beginning of the emergency employment activities helped build the perception that the proposed activities supported households and the community. The community acceptance for solar micro-grid energy has been the major enabling factor, in addition to the response from the market. The stations have received encouragement, as well as appreciation, and there continues to be an increasing demand to register for access to energy. The project team is also working to improve the access to financial institutions and the private sector, a common constraint for MSMEs in Yemen.

The interventions have been shared widely with aid agencies in Yemen. UNDP has also established a solar working group to promote the replication of the practice. The intervention has supported households facing the huge challenge of earning money in the context of Yemen's socioeconomic situation. Most humanitarian responses support short-term cash grants without any exit strategy. In contrast, the solar intervention has looked into building the nexus between daily survival and sustainable development through meeting immediate needs as well as providing stable income and self-reliance. The solar livelihood interventions managed to break the gender barriers of the labor force and prove that women can be engaged in skill-based economic activities. Through solar livelihood activities, the intervention has brought

recognition for both women and youth' capability to support communities to overcome the shocks and stress of socio-economic instability.



Source: UNDP Yemen

In 2020, the project was the winner of the Ashden Awards for Humanitarian Energy. UNDP will scale-up the solar micro-grids across Yemen, further cutting carbon emissions, support more vulnerable families and will keep important services like schools and health centers open during the conflict. With the support from the private sector, it will be possible to move from micro to mini- grids and reach more communities.

## Impact of COVID-19

Despite the COVID-19 impact, the micro-grid stations continue to make a profit and run with full capacity. The practice is continuing to run to support the communities and marketplaces. Due to consistent profit, the owners of the stations have offered a COVID-19 subsidy to those households and shops unable to earn income during the pandemic. UNDP Yemen plans to support these stations in expanding their capacities to meet the demand through financial inclusion and private sector engagement.

# Enabling Communities for Climate Change Adaptation Planning: Understanding Gender Roles

## SNAPSHOT

**Geographical coverage:** Jordan

**Entity name:** West Asia North Africa Institute ([wanainstitute.org/en](http://wanainstitute.org/en))

**Entity type:** Academic Institution

**Implementation period:** September 2017 - June 2019

**Key stakeholders and partnerships:** Communities in Jordan most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and water scarcity; 25 environmental Community Based Organizations representatives (representation of women and men) and 30 youth.

**Relevant SDGs:**



**Click to learn more:** [sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=31032](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=31032)

## Brief Summary

The project aims to empower local communities through Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and youth ambassadors in three different governorates in Jordan to design local climate change adaptation plans. It also provides a platform for local communities to share these climate change adaptation plans with relevant ministries and municipal councils. The effects of climate change on gender roles in Jordan is investigated and mainstreamed within these adaptation plans. The project covered a period of two years, in which it covered mapping of beneficial stakeholders (Environmental CBOs and youth from universities) in Jordan (first 6 months), consultation workshops with selected youth and CBOs through a selection criteria (application for CBOs and competition for youth, 1 month), a capacity building program with 4 training modules (4 months) and finally a SWOT analysis that identified the local setting of climate change challenges, action and adaptation plan building (1 Year).

To distinguish between climate change adaptation and mitigation, CBOs and youth were exposed to an extensive training module that linked climate change to their local scene, while taking into account previous and ongoing international efforts. CBO representatives demonstrated increased knowledge about climate change and the application of climate change adaptation strategies. Youth ambassadors demonstrated increased awareness and normative commitment regarding climate change and water insecurity in Jordan and the importance of adaptation measures. The project helped in augmenting the capacity of civil society and youth in three climate change hotbeds of Jordan.

The project comprised a set of interventions which addressed a better understanding of climate change science and improved the ability to craft and deliver gender sensitive adaptation plans. The project therefore empowered civil society and youth with the knowledge and skills to develop effective gender sensitive strategies for climate change adaptation in their areas. Momentum building, which focused on creating dialogue between CBOs and local governments, enabled and boosted discussions related to gender mainstreaming climate change adaptation in their areas, and also helped in placing local adaptation needs on the public agenda.

The project has created a platform to promote

better cooperation and coordination between CBOs and local municipalities which will help sustain activities in the future. Training manuals will also be disseminated to a wider audience through the CBOs and the online platform to ensure sustainability in the future. Through these activities, locals have the chance to build their own climate change adaptation and water security plans, which over the long term, will allow other development stakeholders such as international and national NGOs, public and private sector entities in Zarqa, Irbid and Balqa, to build capacity and collaborate with local CBOs to help implement local climate change adaptation plans. These three governorates will become a model for other areas in Jordan where best practices can lead the way in forming a suitable adaptation plan. These plans will feed into the national adaptation plan adopted by The Ministry of Environment in Jordan.

The project worked on strengthening capacity of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and local authorities in terms of forging adaptive policies. The project also presented different platforms to collaborate and develop collective strategies to augment their reach, impact and policy influence, informed by a collective understanding of key issues. The broad-reaching, comprehensive and sustained capacity building was the core of the project. Key breakthroughs will only be remedied when Governments and municipalities see a strong and influential civil society sector that advocate

for their rights and consults with all stakeholders of the society including youth.

In Jordan, climate change is expected to have varied impacts on its climate, natural resources and local communities. Jordan is a resource poor country facing a set of other complex developmental challenges, with increasing average temperatures and declining rainfalls. These trends are projected to worsen and will not be limited to progressive changes such as heat and drought, which makes adapting to climate change even more urgent. As the world scales up climate change actions, enhanced cooperation, capacity-building and access to financial and technical support will be needed to both adapt climate change and mitigate it. Local communities in Jordan have an array of knowledge when it comes to their needs and priorities but in most cases, they lack insight and capacity to address those needs. While stakeholders were aware that their climate was changing and that access to water was increasingly scarce, they had little insight into the practical measures they could take to promote resilience. This project has targeted and worked on several aspects to tackle those gaps and deficits.

## Impact of COVID-19

The project was concluded in June 2019.

# CHAPTER IV.



EKOENERGY FLAG DURING A CLIMATE DEMONSTRATION IN HELSINKI, FINLAND. SOURCE: EKOENERGY.

# EUROPE

Comprehensive Approach, Inclusive Development

## Modular Applied GeNeral Equilibrium Tool (MAGNET): Global simulation model for policy coherence modelling with SDG coverage

### SNAPSHOT

**Geographical coverage:** Europe

**Entity name:** European Commission ([ec.europa.eu](http://ec.europa.eu))

**Entity type:** Government

**Implementation period:** October 2017 - Ongoing

**Key stakeholders and partnerships:** Wageningen Economic Research (WeRC); European Commission - Joint Research Centre, Seville (JRC.D.4).

**Relevant SDGs:**



**Click to learn more:** [sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=29828](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=29828)

### Brief Summary

The Modular Applied GeNeral Equilibrium Tool (MAGNET) is a global economic market simulation model. The MAGNET model has been used to examine (inter alia) the impact of global change on food and nutrition security, the implications of a shift towards a more bio-based economy, and environmental, trade and agricultural policy reform scenarios. The model includes up to 141 regions and 97 commodities, including 14 primary agricultural commodities. A key strength of the MAGNET philosophy is its modular approach to modelling. Employing a user-friendly windows-based platform, this flexible tool is equipped with a broad range of non-standard modelling extensions that can be specifically tailored to the research question at hand.

To achieve a more holistic and coherent approach to policy implementation, the representation of the SDG indicators/metrics within an ex-ante global market simulation model provides a unique insight into the synergies or trade-offs in scenarios where several policy instruments and other drivers are operating simultaneously. The Modular Applied GeNeral Equilibrium Tool (MAGNET) has been providing high-level policy advice to clients including the European Commission and other organizations. The extension to SDG indicators allows addressing a broad array of questions related to economic, social and environmental sustainability in a global context.

The MAGNET SDG Insights Module (MAGNET SIM) embeds 60 official and supporting indicators, touching upon 13 of the 17 SDGs for each region of the world. A further advantage is that complex modelling results are made accessible through their translation into a series of SDG metrics that capture the spirit of the SDG indicators, which is increasingly part of the common language of global impact assessment. The results can be produced for key time intervals (e.g. 5-year steps) up to 2050 and show how specific market drivers (i.e., technology change, public policy changes, education) can bring us closer to the Sustainable Development Goals. Improvements to the module are ongoing, through the reconciliation of physical unit satellite databases (i.e., employment, energy usage, water usage, air pollution) with the core

MAGNET model mechanisms, whilst also implementing further developments to enumerate non-market SDG targets in areas relating to health (SDG 3), education (SDG 4) and income inequalities (SDG 10). It is envisaged that further modelling work will enable the user to set SDG targets, for which the model will provide a descriptive account of the necessary market allocation of resources to achieve.

The MAGNET model has been widely used for research and policy analysis in the food-energy-climate-water-health nexus. The MAGNET model has recently been referenced in the impact assessment of the legal proposal related to the "Modernizing and simplifying (of) the Common Agricultural Policy". In the field of sustainability in the academic literature, MAGNET has featured prominently as an impact assessment tool within a broad variety of areas including: land-use change; EU domestic support; Biofuels; Food Security; Climate Change (van Meijl et al., 2018) and the EU bioeconomy. The latest developments of the MAGNET SIM module are quoted in the COM(2018)673 and SWD(2018)431 "A sustainable Bioeconomy for Europe: strengthening the connection between economy, society and the environment" as approach model framework for assessing policy coherence and SDGs.

The module is growing in scope, whilst its longevity and maintenance will continue to rely

on access to timely and relevant respected satellite secondary data sources, expert modelling input and peer review assessments. Despite these challenges, there is optimism that with sustained moderate investments into this quantitative simulation modelling approach, the potential reward in terms of the insights this methodology offers within this high-profile field of study is considerable.

The main novelty of the MAGNET tool with the SDG insights module is the capacity to simulate, in a holistic, coherent and comprehensive manner, the relationship between anticipated global market macroeconomic developments, expected and hypothesized public policy instruments and their associated drivers and the repercussions on the SDGs. With the current focus on developing policy coherence within the European Commission's Green Deal, a key advantage of the MAGNET approach, with its internalization of all economic activity flows worldwide, is that it is keenly tailored to understand the synergies and trade-offs associated with multiple market instruments.

## Impact of COVID-19

The MAGNET model with its broad SDG coverage is currently used to analyze the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic for different regions and sectors over different time horizons.

# EKOenergy - the ecolabel for energy

## SNAPSHOT

**Geographical coverage:** Finland, expanding worldwide

**Entity name:** EKOenergy ([www.ekoenergy.org](http://www.ekoenergy.org))

**Entity type:** Civil Society Organization

**Implementation period:** June 2013 - Ongoing

**Key stakeholders and partnerships:** EKOenergy's network of local and international NGOs focusing on environmental issues; Finnish Association for Nature Conservation; energy providers; local grassroot organizations; volunteers, trainees and young people.

**Relevant SDGs:**



**Click to learn more:** [sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=29804](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=29804)

## Brief Summary

EKOenergy is a worldwide, non-profit ecolabel and a network of environmental NGOs. Initially launched in 2013, the organization aims to fight climate change, protect the environment and alleviate energy poverty. The ecolabel is a tool, working within existing market mechanisms, for people to find energy produced through highly sustainable means and contribute to financing renewable energy projects in remote areas of developing nations.

EKOenergy has three main objectives. First, broad structural change in the economy towards a more sustainable model: the ecolabel provides a tool to effect broad structural change in society, in line with SDG 12. In order to qualify for EKOenergy's ecolabel, power plants must be both renewable and must meet additional environmental requirements. Second, communication about climate change and the adoption of renewable energy: EKOenergy works to maintain environmental issues, global warming and

the injustice of energy poverty within public discourse. To do this, EKOenergy's website was translated into 40 different languages, and the organization maintains active blogs and stays vocal on various social media platforms. The third key objective is to channel money into renewable energy projects that alleviate poverty and inequality in developing countries. For each megawatt hour of energy sold with the ecolabel, the seller contributes 0.10€ to the EKOenergy Climate Fund. Unlike a more conventional fundraising model, the Climate Fund allows for efforts and impacts to complement one another by encouraging people to buy eco-labeled energy, bringing all the structural and environmental benefits of supporting sustainable energy, whilst also providing renewable energy solutions to those who are in need of it most.

The organization works to bridge the gap between environmental NGOs and energy suppliers by finding and promoting power plants that fulfill their sustainability criteria and contacting Governments and regulators to inform them about the need for infrastructure to support the development of the renewable energy industry. The number of energy providers that offer EKOenergy labelled electricity started at 16, predominantly in Finland, and has now increased to 55, in countries spanning all over the globe. The total Climate Fund budget has grown significantly from 2014 (1,307€) to 2018 (254,734€). This growth has allowed funding for an increasing

number of climate projects such as: providing solar lanterns to communities in North Darfur, Sudan; funding the installation of solar panels on five medical buildings in Guinea; the installation of a solar internet cafe in Nisur, Tajikistan; and the setup of solar powered spinning machines in Marangani, Peru, among others.



*EKOenergy Project in Palestine  
Source: EKOenergy*

The growing interest in renewable energy worldwide makes EKOenergy's work possible. Energy markets are developing rapidly due to both economic factors and growing public concern over climate change. The need to address climate change is growing immensely as climate effects become increasingly visible. On the other hand, due to the development of new technology, renewable energy is getting cheaper yearly. Therefore, EKOenergy is becoming more relevant as their ecolabel functions as a guide to highlight the best renewable energy choices available. One of the

most significant factors which has enabled this work is the existence of tracking systems for renewable electricity. These include the Guarantees of Origin system in Europe and I-REC certificates which the organization uses in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The existence of renewable energy legislation such as these is important for allowing a renewable energy market to exist, so EKOenergy vocally supports Governments which are in the process of introducing this kind of legislation.



*EKOenergy Project in Togo, Source: EKOenergy*

Through the EKOenergy ecolabel, the Climate Fund and Environmental Fund, EKOenergy works to realize the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2020, EKOenergy's overall contribution to several SDGs through new clean energy projects has exceeded 1 million euros. EKOenergy has made it a primary goal to communicate about environmental and climate related issues, even though achieving visibility is an ongoing challenge that is faced.

Through partnerships with other environmental organizations, energy providers and companies who promote clean energy, their gradual growth into new markets around the world has allowed more and more people to learn about their services. The ecolabel not only works as a fundraising tool, but also helps to change the behavior of consumers and raise awareness for the impact of people's daily lives on the environment. EKOenergy's work highlights the importance of buying sustainable energy, and through communication, encourages the public to account for sustainability issues by demonstrating small yet impactful practices that people can incorporate into their daily lives.

## Impact of COVID-19

COVID-19 has minor impact on EKOenergy, as most of its work has been carried out digitally before the pandemic. The organization will continue its endeavors in promoting renewable energy and sustainable development.

# Electronic - Personal Health Record (e-PHR) to foster access to health and integration of migrants

## SNAPSHOT

**Geographical coverage:** Europe

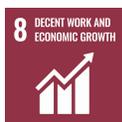
**Entity name:** International Organization for Migration ([www.iom.int](http://www.iom.int))

**Entity type:** United Nations Entity

**Implementation period:** February 2016 - Ongoing

**Key stakeholders and partnerships:** EU Third Health Programme (2014-2020) of the European Commission's Directorate General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE); IOM offices in Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Slovenia and Serbia; European Centre for Disease Control; UN agencies and programs (WHO, UNFPA, UNAIDS, and ICRC); National and Local Health Authorities.

**Relevant SDGs:**



**Click to learn more:** [sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=30034](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=30034)

## Brief Summary

The electronic Personal Health Record (e-PHR) was developed in 2016 to establish a more comprehensive approach to foster health provisioning for migrants arriving in Europe, and to facilitate follow-up and continuity of care. The product was requested by the European Commission - General Directorate for Health and Food Safety (EC-DG SANTE), in the context of large numbers of new arrivals to the region challenging domestic health systems and demonstrating the need to expedite implementation of EU directives regarding cross-border care and data sharing. The e-PHR is a resource for health professionals aiding health assessments and medical follow-ups for new migrants.

Large numbers of migrants arriving into Europe posed challenges around health provisioning. There was a growing need for a harmonized tool for health assessments within and across EU Member States which would allow for recording and retracing the medical history, examinations, medications and vaccinations of newly arrived migrants within and across countries, facilitating the transit to destination countries and fostering the integration in national health systems. The e-PHR presents an example of best practice in enhancing health monitoring and health information systems as well as ensuring continuity of care for refugees and migrants.

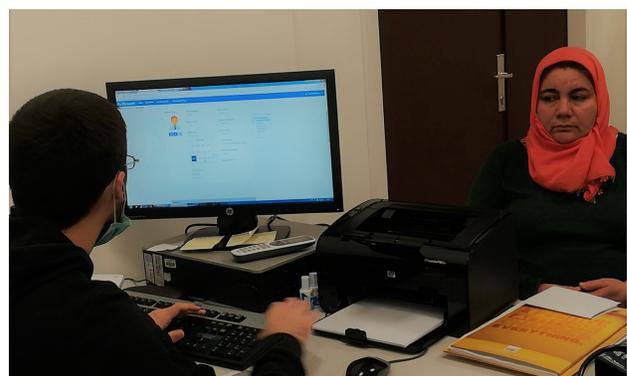


*Health mediation in Belgrade, Serbia. Source: IOM*

The e-PHR helps to construct/reconstruct the medical history, examinations and medication and vaccination for arriving migrants, thereby establishing and recording a migrant's health status and medical needs. It provides an opportunity to record subsequent provision of treatment (including vaccinations), offer counselling and health education services and overall, foster appropriate health care provision

for migrants, including continuity of care. The tool also supports health professionals in getting a comprehensive view of the person's health status and needs during clinical encounters and/or treatment. For authorized users, records are retrievable from multiple locations within the member states and across borders. The e-PHR is accompanied by a handbook to be used by health professionals, which provides guidance on the use of the e-PHR and, in more general terms, the health assessment process for migrants and refugees. In addition, Member States are supported in building the capacity of health mediators, selected also among the migrant/refugee population, to provide training on health mediation and on the electronic platform usage.

The e-PHR has been developed, piloted and implemented within broader initiatives led by IOM: the Re-Health and Re-Health2 programmes. These programmes are aimed at assisting EU Member States under migratory pressure to address the health-related migrant issues, while taking into consideration possible communicable diseases and cross-border health events.



*e-PHR implementation in Zagreb, Croatia. Source: IOM*

The initiative consisted of three main components: i. establishment of an electronic health database and the electronic PHR, ii. exploratory phase, and iii. piloting of the PHR/e-PHR in the field in different countries across Europe.

By January 2019, over 24,000 health assessments have been completed using the e-PHR. The e-PHR has contributed to the facilitation of follow-up and continuity of care to migrants arriving to selected EU Member States, facilitating a comprehensive approach at the EU level to foster health provisioning to migrants. The e-PHR has also increased and improved the presence of health professionals in the designated sites, the quality of their assessments and care and the presence of qualified and trained health mediators able to ensure that not only interpretation took place (in systems where often this professional figure is not yet recognized). In addition, health promotion and wellbeing were fostered among the beneficiaries and trainings on migration health for Law Enforcement Officers, HPs and Social Workers were carried out. Using this standardized tool as well as improving awareness and resources through this action ensured that migrants were properly followed up with and attendance at emergency departments for minor illnesses was decreased. Finally, the e-PHR can generate tailored reports, which highlight the main disease trends and needs across the migrant population, and this

aggregate information has been an important public health information for decision makers.

The e-PHR has been successful because it leveraged IOM's extensive international experience with health assessments and medical data management. This was coupled with financing and support received from EU DG SANTE, Member States and other partners. There is now a need to further develop and disseminate the e-PHR implementation module of governance across Europe ensuring that health checks are offered and provided to ensure access to health care for all migrants requiring health protection. With the current pandemic the e-PHR is even more needed to address issues concerning cross-border care and data sharing.

The e-PHR can be replicated and used in settings besides Europe and is easy to interface and adapt, becoming either a more agile or elaborate tool in line with an IOM needs assessment. The e-PHR system is currently being upgraded in order to enable interested States and other key stakeholders to acquire skills, knowledge and expertise to collect, analyze, share and disseminate quality, timely, disaggregated and comparable migration health data. This upgrade will take into account the latest technology available and update of variables (e.g. COVID-19) as well as adapt the platform for a better interface with national systems.

## Impact of COVID-19

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the demand for support with the IOM e-PHR has increased. Under the upgrading process planned for this tool, variables related to COVID-19 will be developed. During the current pandemic, human rights-oriented e-health solutions have demonstrated to be key to ensure that nobody is left behind. The IOM e-PHR enabling access and continuity of care for all migrants is crucial to support the health security agenda.

# CHAPTER V.



MUCURI RIVER BASIN AFTER 20 YEARS OF RAINFOREST RESTORATION. SOURCE: SUZANO.

## NORTH AMERICA, LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Tackling all dimensions of sustainable development, accelerating action

## Indigenous Navigator-Generating disaggregated indigenous community data to achieve the SDGs

### SNAPSHOT

**Geographical coverage:** Africa (Cameroon, Kenya, Tanzania), Asia (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal, Philippines), Latin America (Bolivia, Colombia, Peru, Suriname)

**Entity name:** International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs ([www.iwgia.org](http://www.iwgia.org) & [www.indigenoustravelator.org](http://www.indigenoustravelator.org))

**Entity type:** Civil Society Organization

**Implementation period:** February 2017 - Ongoing

**Key stakeholders and partnerships:** Indigenous peoples' organizations at local, national, regional levels; Governments; UN programmes and agencies; Civil Society Organizations; Indigenous peoples and communities

**Relevant SDGs:**



**Click to learn more:** [sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=29578](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=29578)

### Brief Summary

The Indigenous Navigator is a framework and set of tools for and by indigenous peoples to systematically monitor the level of recognition and implementation of their rights. By using the Indigenous Navigator, indigenous organizations and communities, duty bearers, NGOs and journalists access free tools and resources based on community-generated data. The Indigenous Navigator monitors the implementation and uncovers the crucial links among multiple frameworks: the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP); relevant International Human Rights conventions, including the ILO Convention No. 169; essential aspects of the SDGs; and outcomes of the World Council of Indigenous Peoples (WCIP).

The Indigenous Navigator Initiative consists of a series of interventions: a website, including the data portal and data collection tools, training and capacity building through participatory community workshops for local indigenous partners and on-site support for data collection, as well as building alliances with strategic partners at the national level. Building on and complementing these interventions, the objective of the project is to support the scaling-up of data collection as well as the design and preparation of knowledge products (reports, briefs, fact sheets etc.) on the situation of indigenous peoples, with the involvement and contributions of the communities concerned. These products feed into country-level, regional and global advocacy and policy dialogues allowing indigenous peoples to engage with key development actors at all levels.



*Community focus group discussions in Sunimarka, Peru, 2019; Credit: Pablo Lasansky (IWGIA)*

Participation of indigenous communities in data collection has been very strong and many indigenous communities were informed for the first time about their rights through the tools. In particular, the project provided a rare and new space for indigenous women to get involved as actors rather than as bystanders, ensuring to leave no one behind. National human rights institutions and regional mechanisms have shown a great appetite for understanding and mastering the tools to make the SDGs a reality for indigenous peoples. In addition, the Indigenous Navigator has contributed to fill the gaps between official statistics and the statistical data suppliers engaging with the initiative. Indigenous peoples, their networks and organizations, have increased their capacity to monitor their rights and advocate to close the implementation gap.

The data and information generated by the project, and the related advocacy and dialogue initiatives, are expected to fill the gaps of disaggregated data that have been identified by the Governments of the participating countries. On this basis, the project and the use of the Indigenous Navigator beyond the project duration is expected to influence each country's mid- and long-term development strategies and policies, and their implementation, in a manner that is more inclusive and reflective of indigenous peoples' rights, conditions and development needs.

The Indigenous Navigator project has created meaningful impact regarding enhancing

indigenous communities' access to, knowledge of and advocative capacity for their rights. It has enhanced the working relationships, local capacities, and availability of tools and resources for partner organizations and their respective national partners. In 2018 alone, over 200 communities engaged in data collection, which built upon training in data survey and sensitization on their human rights within each local context. 106 workshops were held in 11 countries, and 49 data-driven projects were drafted. Furthermore, more than 120 community-generated surveys are being implemented by local partners, with 92 validated and published as of January 2019. The Indigenous Navigator has proved to be a dedicated platform to providing tools and inspiration for assessing the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples.

Table 1: SDGs targeted by the 11 countries implementing Indigenous Navigator projects in selected communities

SDG #	Bangladesh 10 projects	Bolivia 4 projects	Cambodia 3 projects	Cameroon 1 project	Colombia 5 projects	Kenya 6 projects	Nepal 6 projects	Peru 7 projects	Philippines 6 projects	Suriname 5 projects	Tanzania 4 projects
1: No Poverty	●	●			●		●	●	●		●
2: Zero Hunger	●	●			●	●	●	●			●
3: Good Health and Well-being	●			●	●	●	●	●		●	●
4: Quality Education	●	●	●	●			●		●	●	
5: Gender Equality	●				●		●	●			
6: Clean Water and Sanitation		●		●				●			●
7: Affordable and Clean Energy			●								
8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	●				●			●			
9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure					●						
10: Reduced Inequalities	●			●		●	●	●			
11: Sustainable Cities and Communities					●				●	●	
12: Responsible Consumption and Production					●						
13: Climate Action					●			●			●
14: Life Below Water									●		
15: Life on Land	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	●			●			●		●	●	●
17: Partnerships For The Goals					●			●		●	●

## Impact of COVID-19

The practice is continuing to address and respond to the impacts of COVID-19 across their 11 operating countries and the hundreds of indigenous communities which are covered by the project. Work has been done through increased flexibility in implementation timelines, repurposing of planned activities and increased communications and virtual advocacy activities.

# Suzano's Restoration Program - Transforming Degraded Pastureland into Regenerative Native Brazilian Vegetation

## SNAPSHOT

**Geographical coverage:** Brazil

**Entity name:** Suzano SA ([www.suzano.com.br](http://www.suzano.com.br))

**Entity type:** Private Sector

**Implementation period:** April 2009 - Ongoing

**Key stakeholders and partnerships:** Non-Governmental Organizations; Academia and Research Institutes; Financial institutions; Local Small and Mid-size Enterprises

**Relevant SDGs:**



**Click to learn more:** [sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=30660](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=30660)

## Brief Summary

An innovative Restoration Program established by Suzano, a leading Brazilian company of products made from eucalyptus pulp, seeks to restore degraded habitats and promote environmental conservation of ecosystems in four out of the six Brazilian biomes (Amazon Rainforest, Atlantic Forest, Cerrado and Caatinga). Suzano's sustainable environmental management increases afforestation and reforestation in Brazil, ensures conservation of important habitat including its biodiversity and watersheds and strengthens Suzano's adaptive capacity to climate change.

In one of the countries that suffers the most significant deforestation in the world, Suzano is responsible for one of the largest private restoration programs. The objective of the program is to transform degraded, pastureland that provides few ecosystem services into regenerative, native Brazilian vegetation. Suzano plants eucalyptus in over 1.011 million hectares with the goal to produce pulp that is then transformed into forest products such as toilet paper, tissue, lignin, printing and writing paper, among others.

Suzano has implemented an Annual Restoration Plan with specific targets that have resulted in 10.7 million native seedlings planted in 31,200 hectares undergoing restoration from degraded land and soil, spread out across 1,335 rural properties managed by Suzano. It is estimated that after 30 years, these areas will contribute to remove approximately 22 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e (~709.29 tCO<sub>2</sub>e/ha) from the atmosphere. The company plans to continue its restoration initiative in other degraded areas within managed properties.



*Mucuri river basin after 20 years of Atlantic rainforest restoration. Source: Suzano*

The recovery of native ecosystem coverage fostered by Suzano's Restoration Program, together with its conservation areas, promotes the improvement of ecosystem services including: provision of water, water purification, biological control of pests and diseases, local and regional climate regulation, air quality, carbon sequestration and storage, pollination, moderation of extreme events, erosion prevention and maintenance of soil fertility, habitat for species and maintenance of genetic diversity. The program also contributes to the creation of ecological corridors, which integrate the restoration initiatives with other conservation areas within the company and connect these to other conservation areas including state and federal parks. Together, these conservation areas contribute to the enrichment of fauna and flora biodiversity. An emblematic example is the Neblinas Park, with 6,000 hectares of private reserve owned by Suzano, located near São Paulo. The park conserves the Itatinga River Basin and promotes scientific research, forest management, socio-environmental education, protection of biodiversity, restoration of the Atlantic Forest and visitation.

Pioneering surveys, constant monitoring and innovative environment conservation methods yield increasingly more significant benefits, with important results for ecosystems and restored biodiversity. Over 246 endangered species were recorded within company-managed, conservation areas. In addition, the company has set up a database of over 800 species of birds, 156 species of mammals and 2,000 species of plants, all of which were also recorded in these conservation areas. In early 2018, researchers even discovered a new tree species, a type of cinnamon tree part of the Lauraceae family, at a company farm in the interior region of the state of São Paulo.

Through partnership with other sectors, Suzano has stepped up its efforts in the Restoration Program. Together with Unesp University, Suzano developed a monitoring system for the Cerrado, Brazil's second largest natural biome, where the loss of vegetation coverage is as high as 51%. A long-term technical cooperation with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) was established for satellite monitoring of restoration areas in Maranhão and Bahia. Suzano also works with community cooperatives that provide native seedlings to be planted in the restoration processes. Through these efforts, this initiative also promotes income generation and decent work for local communities and throughout the country which has brought social and economic impact beyond the environmental benefits.

The Restoration Program in its essence promotes sustainability through the restoration of natural capital and its inherent ecosystem services. Through acquired knowledge from nearly a decade of intensive work, Suzano constantly improves the practices in order to ensure more forest coverage and connectivity, and the company is determined to engage and exchange knowledge with its network of partners to be better equipped to overcome ecological challenges. These practices, commitments and partnerships can leverage the achievement of the restoration targets in Brazil's Nationally determined contributions (NDCs) as committed in the Paris Agreement. Suzano's Restoration Program plays a key role in protecting local habitat and biodiversity, as well as contributing to the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. Through its Restoration Program, Suzano is dedicated to preserving biodiversity and mobilizing financial resources for environmental conservation.

## Impact of COVID-19

COVID-19 imposes minimal impact on the Program. Some events and activities have been postponed or rescheduled, but all partnerships have been maintained without any interruption.

# Measurement of City Prosperity Index in Mexico - Generating evidence under the framework of “Infonavit leading the implementation of the 2030 Agenda: housing at the center of SDGs”

## SNAPSHOT

**Geographical coverage:** Mexico

**Entity name:** United Nations Program for Human Settlements (UN-Habitat)  
([onuhabitat.org.mx](http://onuhabitat.org.mx))

**Entity type:** United Nations Entity

**Implementation period:** August 2017 - November 2019

**Key stakeholders and partnerships:** Infonavit’s Sustainable Development Research Center, The Secretariat of Agrarian, Territorial and Urban Development (SEDATU), National Housing Commission (CONAVI), The Institute of Statistics (INEGI) and the National Population Council (CONAPO), Municipalities and local government, Universities and research institutes.

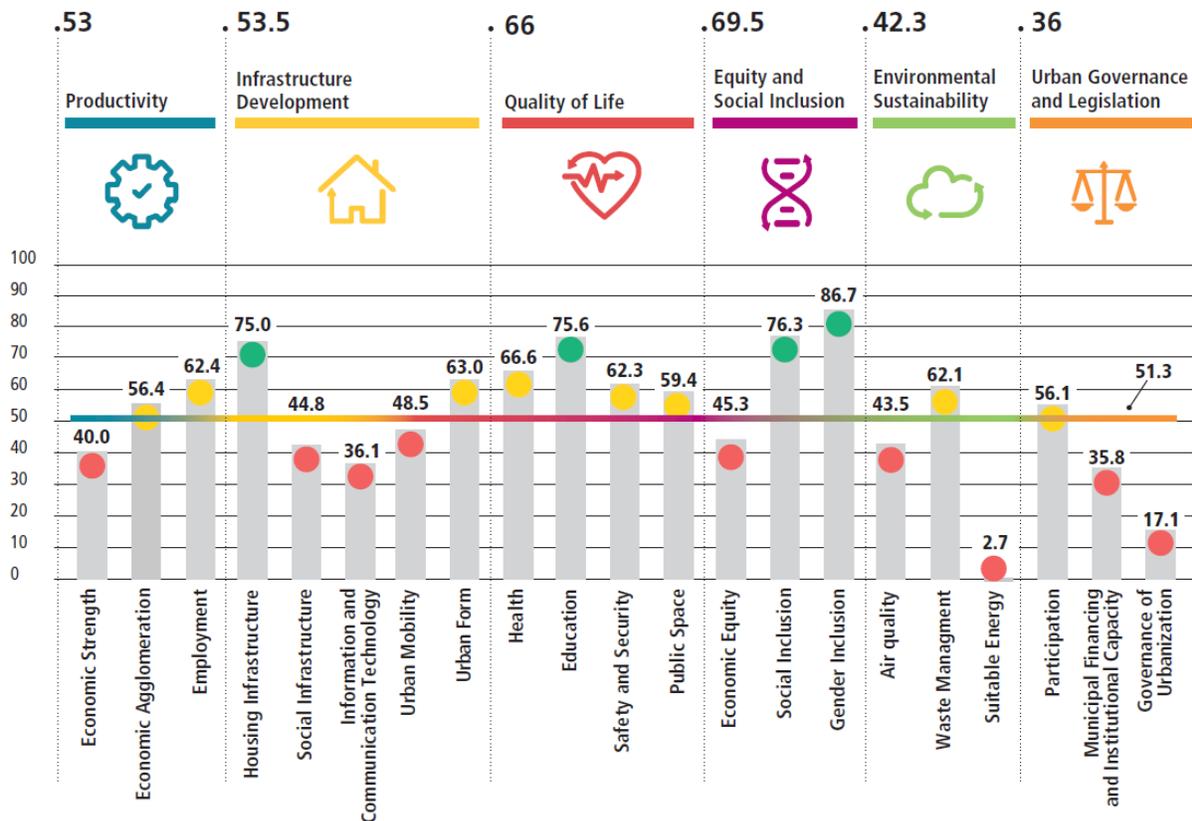
**Relevant SDGs:**



**Click to learn more:** [sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=30783](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=30783)

## Brief Summary

The measurement of the City Prosperity Index (CPI) in Mexico, carried out from 2015 to 2019, pursued the objective of creating accurate knowledge of the prosperity conditions of Mexican cities, while delivering tools to local governments for analyzing, planning and monitoring urban policies geared towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Partnered with UN-Habitat, Infonavit, the largest social mortgage institution in Latin America implemented a national strategy based on the City Prosperity Index (CPI) developed by UN-Habitat, to generate evidence for evaluating, monitoring and following-up on the prosperity of Mexican cities and the impact of public policies and government actions for achieving the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The data project tracked how each city rated on six dimensions of urban prosperity: productivity, infrastructure for development, quality of life, equity and social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and governance and legislation.



Source: UN-Habitat.

National City Prosperity Index results of Mexico, Source: UN-Habitat

Due to the lack of mechanisms to analyze, compare and measure city conditions with reliable data, the measurement of the CPI contemplated the creation of a comprehensive system to monitor the urban prosperity of Mexican cities and the impact of public policies. The public-private project developed a metric that provides statistical evidence for facilitating political dialogue and accountability, identifying challenges and opportunities for cities in Mexico, and supporting evidence-based decision-making for local and regional governments. Such measurement allowed monitoring government efforts towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the commitments of the New Urban Agenda. The project was implemented in two phases: phase one with the measurement of 153 municipalities across the country and phase two with the measurement of additional 152 municipalities including the 'Extended CPI' versions for the urban agglomerations of Mexico City, Guadalajara and Monterrey.

Based on the results and key findings of the project, a series of reports were produced with statistical evidence to facilitate political dialogue and accountability, identifying challenges and opportunities for cities in Mexico. The recommendation sheets presented in these reports included the time-frame of the proposals (short, medium, long terms), the political-administrative level of implementation (municipal, state or federal), the necessary actors and stakeholder's involvement (public institutions, NGOs), a series of strategic lines of action and exemplary cases relevant to the proposed strategies. Furthermore, such recommendations were conceptualized for and respond to a variety of SDG goals and targets, which were clearly indicated in each recommendation sheet, thus contributing to Governments efforts in implementing the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable

Development and the New Urban Agenda pledges. The reports produced, through the measurement process itself, information and a deep understanding of the current state of many urban settlements in Mexico. Notably, the most recent Urban Prosperity National Report (2019) presented a proposal to develop a national urban policy in Mexico that will be recommended to the federal Government.

The implementation of the City Prosperity Index (CPI) in Mexico was an unprecedented exercise in metrics and analysis of the state of Mexican cities, which gathers, in a single database, official information generated by a multitude of fragmented and poorly coordinated institutions and providing easily-available information to decision-makers and the general public. It was the first exercise of this scope and scale in the continent and its influence and relevance in public policy contribute to the fulfilment of several SDG targets and goals. The project demonstrated that decision-making must be based on scientific evidence, which has the power to define the most important actions to be undertaken. Urban prosperity is multidimensional. The balance between the six dimensions of prosperity affecting the most harmonious growth and jeopardizing the sustainability of cities. The articulation of the different levels of government and their associates are critical for the prosperity of urban centers. The study showed clearly that prosperity cannot be achieved in isolation, and the concurrence of levels of government is fundamental in this process.



*CPI workshop with local stakeholders in Guadalajara.  
Credit: Hector Bavona, UN-Habitat*

Furthermore, the analysis of policies and actions that work and the elements that integrate them are a central element of prosperity. Currently, various local governments in Mexico have elaborated their urban development plans and other strategies by drawing upon the information, indicators and policy recommendations developed in this project.

## Impact of COVID-19

The practice was concluded in 2019 so it was unaffected by the pandemic. However, for future implementation, the CPI will consider intraurban inequality conditions related to COVID-19, in order to create more resilient policies to face similar pandemics or other urban inequality factors.

# Global Vision Urban Action: New York City's Voluntary Local Review of the Sustainable Development Goals

## SNAPSHOT

**Geographical coverage:** United States (New York City)

**Entity name:** New York City Mayor's Office for International Affairs  
([www1.nyc.gov/site/international/index.page](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/international/index.page))

**Entity type:** Local Government

**Implementation period:** December 2015 - Ongoing

**Key stakeholders and partnerships:** Member States, Local Governments, UN Agencies and Offices, City Coalitions, Civil Society, Academia

**Relevant SDGs:**



**Click to learn more:** [sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=30984](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=30984)

## Brief Summary

In April 2015, New York City (NYC) committed to the principles of growth, equity, sustainability and resiliency through its groundbreaking OneNYC strategy. When global leaders committed to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015, NYC recognized the synergies with their local strategy, and established the “Global Vision | Urban Action (GVUA)” platform to use the SDGs as a common framework to both share experiences and learn from partners in NYC and worldwide. In July 2018, NYC became the first city in the world to report on local implementation of the SDGs through a Voluntary Local Review (VLR).

NYC Mayor's Office for International Affairs also launched the VLR Declaration to enable subnational governments to formally commit to the Sustainable Development Goals. The VLR transforms the way that cities can use the SDGs as a common language to identify challenges and share solutions. Throughout the 2030 Agenda, there is recognition of the important role that local authorities play in achieving the SDGs, and the VLR demonstrates in practical terms what this means and why it matters. This includes city-to-city cooperation as well as engagement with other key stakeholders, including the United Nations, civil society, academia and other groups. The VLR is a tool that demonstrates how all stakeholders can engage in the SDG conversations and through the VLR Declaration, the SDGs can be adapted to the local contexts of subnational governments, ensuring that the unique needs of constituents are met across all societies.

Both qualitative and quantitative metrics were utilized to measure the impact of their work in three key areas, namely internal coordination with NYC agencies, engagement with other cities who may be interested in using the common language of the SDGs to share experience and cooperation with other stakeholders. In terms of internal NYC coordination, more than 20 agencies within the city have been engaged since the inception of the GVUA platform. Over 25 events, panel discussions and site visits for the UN diplomatic community have been organized, focusing on various SDGs. During the July 2018

HLPF, nearly 20 NYC representatives shared their expertise at events, bilateral meetings, and additional exchanges. Most notably, the NYC Mayor's Office launched an updated version of the OneNYC strategy in April 2019, and the Office of International Affairs joined the core planning team to ensure that the SDGs were incorporated into the strategic plan.



*2019 VLR Declaration Signing Event at the UNHQ in New York City on September 25, 2019; Credit: Megan MacInnes*

Cities have always been at the forefront of implementing the topics addressed in the SDGs, though every city has a different language for thinking about problems, a different governance structure, a different way of planning and prioritizing urban challenges and a different way of implementing strategies and accountability measures. As host city to the United Nations and home to the largest diplomatic community in the world, NYC recognizes its unique position to advocate for the priorities of cities before the international community, including the work in localizing the SDGs. Additionally, NYC hosts hundreds of

foreign government delegations every year, which provides an additional opportunity for NYC to connect and liaise with cities and countries around the world. Since the launch of the VLR Declaration in September of 2019, over 208 local and regional governments have committed to sharing good practices using the framework of the SDGs and VLRs. During the July 2019 HLPF, a number of cities either submitted a VLR or expressed a commitment to submitting a VLR through signing the VLR Declaration.

The SDGs are not entirely new commitments for cities, but rather a common language for cities around the world to identify existing priorities in practical terms as well as gaps where they could learn from each other. Cities have all the necessary information to speak the language of the SDGs, and they need to engage with each other as well as other stakeholders to better understand how cities can most effectively use the VLR and other tools to do so. To facilitate this engagement, NYC is calling on other cities to join this initiative by committing to map their existing city strategies and programs to the SDGs, provide at least one forum where stakeholders can come together to share good practices using the SDG framework and submit a VLR.

Five years since the inception of the GVUA platform, NYC continues to demonstrate what the SDGs can be— a common language for

local and regional governments to exchange and develop strategies for a more just and sustainable world. NYC agencies are increasingly taking on the language of the SDGs in their work, to connect with international counterparts and other stakeholders, to share good practices and improve their own service delivery. Additionally, NYC is leading the SDG Strategy Hub Action Stream on Cities and Local Authorities and will use the opportunity to continue to amplify the VLR as a tool for localizing the SDGs. NYC is committed to engage with subnational governments and other stakeholders to find equitable solutions to some of the world's toughest challenges.

## Impact of COVID-19

Since the pandemic, more subnational governments have committed to using the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Voluntary Local Review in their efforts to build back better and address the disparities highlighted by COVID-19. Despite the impact of the pandemic on their work, the Mayor's Office continues to support subnational governments in these efforts and continues to provide platforms for local governments to share best practices and key experiences as they look to address the challenges of the crises such as COVID-19, in an equitable and sustainable way.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[SUSTAINABLEDEVELOPMENT.UN.ORG/PARTNERSHIPS/GOODPRACTICES](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnerships/goodpractices)

[SDGS.UN.ORG](https://sdgs.un.org)

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