



2022 Annual Report

A Year in Action
to achieve Sustainable
Development in
South Africa



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Sustainable Development in
South Africa

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Foreword

South Africa, the most advanced economy in Africa, faces structural limitations including overconcentration of the economy in a few hands, limited skills, power shortages, and deteriorating confidence in the democracy. The COVID-19 pandemic worsened its economic vulnerabilities, leading to a significant output contraction (-6.4%) in 2020, which worsened poverty, unemployment, and inequality, particularly for children, youth and women. For instance, unemployment rates for the age groups of 15-24 and 25-34 reached alarming levels of 66.5% and 43.8% respectively – a ticking time bomb whose explosion will have far-reaching consequences. The improvement in the economy in 2021 and 2022 has not yielded the much-anticipated improvement in people's living conditions. While the economy was gradually recovering from the debilitating impact of COVID-19, the Russian-Ukraine conflict and the associated geopolitics further worsened the cost of living leading to high inflation, rising interest rates, a weakened Rand, and a disrupted supply chain in the context of recurring electricity outages, political uncertainty, among other factors (including floods in KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape provinces that culminated into over 400 fatalities and massive destruction on infrastructure and properties).

Despite these formidable challenges, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) remained firm in its commitment to accompany the Government of South Africa in its development journey by investing in youth and women empowerment initiatives (skills development, employment promotion, and supporting entrepreneurship), promoting renewable energy, building state capability, disaster response, lobbying for biodiversity investments, and driving innovation. Our cumulative support to youth since 2019 has touched the lives of 20,045 youths and 7,812 SMMEs – altogether, 27,857 youth and women have benefitted from our skill and entrepreneurship development programmes. In 2022, the most notable results include the nearly 1000 youths that we placed in employment and income generation opportunities, over 200 SMMEs

supported through training and grant funding, the provision of a relief package worth R2.3 million to support over 5000 flood-affected victims in KZN, and powering 67 households in the Upper Blinkwater community through our wind-solar hybrid mini-grid system, as well as providing 24,000 litres of water to two schools (Matyantya Primary School and Kleinboo Secondary School) on a daily basis through our wind-power water pumping facilities.

We firmly believe that sustainable development is a collaborative journey, and the achievements presented in this report would not have been possible without the collective efforts of our partners and stakeholders. 2022 also provided an opportunity to strengthen and cultivate new partnerships, particularly for resource mobilization. We brokered commitments for government cost-sharing which will bear fruits in 2023 for interventions in the areas of digitization, entrepreneurship, innovation, state capability and just energy transition. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the South African government, donors, and our implementing partners for their unwavering support and commitment to our shared vision. We sincerely appreciate the solidarity of the Government of Japan and Toyota South Africa for their continuous support of our skills development programmes.

As we move forward to 2023, the challenges ahead are daunting, but they are also opportunities for transformation and scaling. The urgency to address climate change, reduce inequalities, and promote sustainable development has never been greater. Guided by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the national priorities of South Africa, we will continue to innovate, adapt, and scale up our efforts to accelerate progress towards a more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable future.

I invite you to delve into the pages of this Annual Report 2022 and explore the impactful stories, data, and insights that reflect our collective journey towards sustainable development. Together, let us build on our achievements, learn from our experiences, and forge ahead on the path to a brighter and more resilient South Africa.



Ayodele Odusola PhD
Resident Representative
UNDP South Africa



Gabriel Dava
Deputy Resident Representative
UNDP South Africa

Towards Agenda 2030 and South Africa's National Development Plan

UNDP in South Africa plays a role in contributing to the National Development Plan (NDP)'s Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) 2019-24, the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2020-25, and Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development. This is achieved through delivering responsive and transformative interventions to achieve prosperity for the people of South Africa guided by the UNDP South Africa Country Programme Document (CPD) 2020-2025.

With a focus on promoting inclusive and sustainable development, we align our interventions with the objectives and targets outlined in the country's frameworks, working closely with the South African government and other stakeholders. In 2022, we embarked on the third year of implementing the UNDP CPD 2020-2025, a comprehensive guiding framework rooted in a human rights-based approach. The CPD underscores our commitment to leave no one behind, promote gender equality and women's empowerment, ensure government ownership and accountability, and report on people-centred impact. Additionally, it aligns closely with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), reinforcing our dedication to contributing to the global agenda of sustainable development. Throughout the year, we have continued to advance these principles, leveraging the CPD as a roadmap to guide our interventions and maximize our positive impact on the lives of people and the planet.

Youth and women's empowerment and employment serve as the cornerstone of our CPD, as they form the foundation for reducing poverty and inequality in South Africa. To bring this vision to life, we operationalized our efforts through three interconnected portfolios;



Portfolio 1

Inclusive, just and sustainable economic growth



Portfolio 2

Effective, efficient and transformative governance



Portfolio 3

Climate resilience and sustainably managed natural resources

Innovation cuts across the three portfolios as accelerator of an inclusive and sustainable development.



SAY NO TO GBV

UNDP
23 Bacus Road,
Clairwood Traders
ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY THOUSAND RAI



Overall, the UNDP's contributions to the NDP and SDGs in South Africa demonstrate its commitment to advancing sustainable and inclusive development, supporting the country in its journey towards a more prosperous and equitable future.

UNDP 2022 Snapshot



1 064 457

meals distributed

to provide relief to flood-affected
victims in KZN



21kW
Wind Energy

generated, powering the Upper
Blinkwater community



Youth Empowerment & Entrepreneurship

694 Students linked to income-generating opportunities via the SAYouth platform

259 Flood-affected informal traders supported through seed grants

226 Young people placed in various employment opportunities

216 SMMEs supported through training or seed grants

15 Young innovators granted seed funding to upscale their innovations



20

Projects implemented



4 Innovation Challenges launched

- Digital Innovation Challenge,
- Tshwane Innovation Challenge,
- Ocean Economy Innovation Challenge,
- Green Innovation Challenge South Africa



Top SGDs contributed to





Key Results & Highlights

2.1



INCLUSIVE, JUST AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

UNDP implements a set of programmes to strengthen capacities and access to equitable social and economic opportunities, as well as to increase productivity and enhance value chain development, placing priority on women, youth and other marginalized groups. The Country Office (CO) works with diverse stakeholders in government, the private sector, academia and civil society.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT, SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY

UNDP supported the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) towards meeting skill needs in a post-COVID-19 economy in the automotive sector by enhancing automotive training programmes in three TVET colleges through a series of interventions.

Funded by the Japan Government, the interventions included the delivery of automotive training, lecturer upskilling, provision of ICT equipment and automotive components, digital content for soft skill development, and the development of digital systems to link graduates to employment opportunities. Some highlight from this intervention include;



R6.5 million in ICT equipment support, automotive components, mechanical, electronic, and electrical workshop equipment and tools, and digital content and simulators.

64 youth trained through accredited training for entry-level manufacturing



Female **26**



Male **38**

Equipment support

ICT equipment and automotive components provided to Coastal KZN TVET College, Northlink College and Tshwane South College

Lecturer Development Training capacity development of **59** TVET college lecturers and staff members.

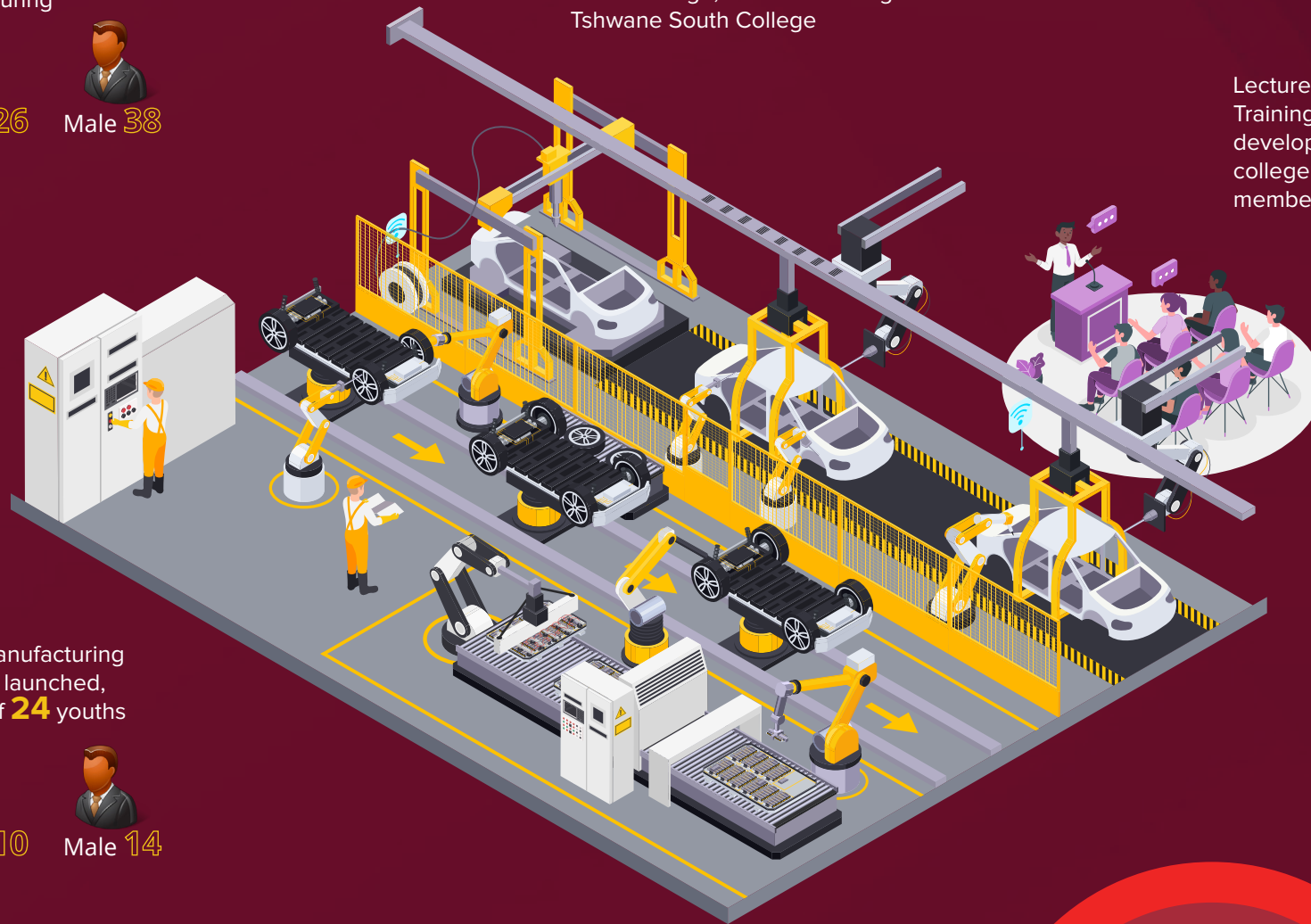
Toyota Manufacturing Academy launched, training of **24** youths



Female **10**



Male **14**



SAYouth platform Promoted **12,230** TVET college students registered, with **694** having found earning opportunities

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

UNDP South Africa intensified its efforts to bridge the digital divide by championing initiatives to build and improve ICT infrastructure, impart digital skills to youth and entrepreneurs, and promote innovation. Building on the 2021 success of the UNDP and Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) project to deliver low-cost internet using TV White Space (TVWS) technology, UNDP reached 13 communities in townships and rural areas across eight provinces.

Moreover, UNDP and ILO conducted a mapping exercise on digital skills needs and opportunities in KZN and the Eastern Cape (EC), leading to training programmes delivered in the two provinces, including launching a Digital Innovation Challenges for SMMEs targeting 10 SMMEs and 70 youth innovators. A partnership between UNDP and Al Baraka Bank led to the establishment of the Olwandle High School Computer Lab in KZN.



13 Communities in townships and rural areas across eight provinces provided with Wi-Fi connection since 2021.

Nine SMMEs

capacitated and trained for the installation and operationalisation of the TWS network infrastructure.
(*since 2021)



Digital skills training

to **1,124** (959 employed; 165 unemployed) youths. **165** unemployed youth now placed into job opportunities.



Digital Innovation Challenge

Three winning innovations received support to further their products, and **24 of 70** youth innovators placed in **12-24** months internships.

Internet connection

to **156** public facilities including schools, hospitals and taxi ranks, totalling to **51,326** daily users. **781** households and **120** small businesses connected, and **59** job opportunities created.
(*since 2021)



\$24,000

To set up a brand-new computer lab.

ENHANCING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

To foster equitable and sustainable economic development that benefits all segments of society, UNDP continued its efforts to support SMMEs and informal traders (mostly women-led) through several interventions aimed at increasing market access and business recovery. UNDP, in partnership with USAID and Business Leadership South Africa, provided business development training to 190 SMMEs (59% female-owned) in Gauteng to increase their access to markets. Seven SMMEs signed offtake agreements with corporates in the country.

In responding to the 2022 devastating floods that hit KZN, UNDP with the 22-on-Sloane provided financial grants to 259 flood-affected informal traders for recovery. The financial grants were used to replace affected equipment such as sewing machines and buy necessary materials to enable business continuity.



100 000 USD grant funding to support 259 flood-affected informal traders in KwaZulu-Natal for business recovery.



DATE: December 2022

PAY
TO THE
ORDER
OF

28 Bacus Road,
Clairwood Traders ZAR **180 000**

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY THOUSAND RAND ONLY

*The United Nations
Development Programme.*

FROM



MIRIA DESIGNS CREATED TO CHANGE THE WORLD, CHANGE ATTITUDES, CHANGE BEHAVIOURS AND RESHAPE LIMITS.

INNOVATE DURBAN
R. 55,000.00

WOOD GLUE

APHELELE

THEMBEXA

THE MAKE SPACE

CONTRIBUTOR

THE MAKE SPACE

2.2



STRENGTHENING TRANSFORMATIVE AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

UNDP implements programmes and projects to strengthen transformative governance and enhance service delivery to enable a capable developmental state and improve and promote inclusive public participation in the implementation of government national priorities, ensuring that no one is left behind. Through our work, we support the peaceful resolution of conflicts and promote the rule of law and access to justice, citizen security and human rights.

INSTITUTION BUILDING FOR IMPROVED SERVICE DELIVERY

UNDP carried forward its efforts to support strong governance and building institutional capability in the public sector through several interventions across the country. Together with the Centre for Public Service Innovation, UNDP is supporting the rollout of the Let's Talk Digital platform, an innovative system for citizen engagement and citizen-orientated communication, to support service delivery in local governments in five municipalities and their citizens. The platform has provided a real-time communication interface, linking citizens and authorities in the wards for service delivery reporting and response, especially for water services, applications for indigent services and billing services.

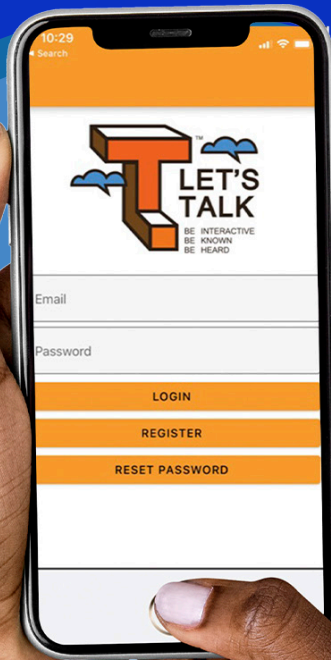
Moreover, UNDP teamed up with the Eastern Cape Provincial Government in continuing efforts to build the capacity of the local government towards the implementation of the District Development Model (DDM). A case study on the district planning and budgeting process in OR Tambo, Sarah Bartman, and Chris Hani districts was undertaken which generated lessons that informed the improvements in the development of a 'DDM One Plan' for each district and metro, promoting greater horizontal and vertical integration. As a result, a geographical information platform was developed to identify and track the status of catalytic projects on a local, provincial and national level to provide both detailed and high-level information to government officials, decision-makers and potential partners and funders of the projects in the districts.



Online learning materials and digital platform
Developed on district planning to be used by the National
School of Government and higher education institutions.

Let's Talk APP

rolled out in **87 wards** within local municipalities of King Sabata Dalindyebo, Nyandeni, Lephahale and Bela Bela.



139

Respondents

endorsed the App to be user-friendly and improving the turnaround of service delivery.

20

Internships

offered to youth to support the rollout of the Let's Talk App

STRENGTHENING DISASTER MANAGEMENT

To respond to the floods disaster in KZN, As part of a UN-joint emergency response, UNDP placed four UN specialist volunteers (UNVs) at the KZN Provincial Disaster Management Centre (PDMC) offices. The UNVs have supported the development and review of disaster management plans and frameworks, as well as provincial disaster risk profiles in the districts, to strengthen their institutional and technical capacity for disaster risk management and coordination. Moreover, UNDP, together with FoodForward SA provided a comprehensive relief package including food items and temporary shelter.



Nearly **5000** flood-affected victims received daily meals including breakfast, lunch and dinner, totaling **1 064 457** meals distributed.



R2.3m

worth of food items

procured to provide relief to flood victims.

7 district municipalities

benefited from the contribution of UNVs.



Approximately

15,000

daily meals were provided in 28 relief sites across KZN.

PROMOTING CIVIC EDUCATION AND STRENGTHENING ELECTORAL INTEGRITY

The Digital Observers Platform, which UNDP developed with the Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC), is now being used as a common management platform for observer registration and accreditation processes, strengthening the credibility and transparency of electoral processes. The platform enables accredited observer groups to conduct real-time monitoring and reporting on the electoral process, with access to reports by citizens. 51 local citizen observers were trained on their role and responsibility in monitoring pre-election, election day and post-election phases to enhance transparency and trust in the electoral process in preparation for the 2024 National and Provincial elections. This training integrated gender as one of the components of the course and focused on ensuring gender balance in the composition of the observer mission and the role of the observer mission in identifying gender-related issues during their observation mission.

Additionally, UNDP worked with Activate Change Drivers to produce a novel civic education toolkit to facilitate civic education in communities across all nine provinces. Community members, especially youth, now understand how to engage local government representatives and hold them accountable for issues affecting their communities.



21 Civic Education Trainings Conducted Nationally To Capacitate Youth On Local Government and Community Development.



Endorsed by United Nations
Development Programme



CIVIC EDUCATION FOR YOUTH

ACTIVATE!
change drivers

nts

uth programme was created from the learnings and
orkshop series conducted in 2018 by ACTIVATE! and
. This programme aims to educate young people
ocal government, which they can then use to address
representatives to account, and more significantly be
utes towards making local government work.

ions, The Independent Electoral Commission
mocracy Works Foundation, The Education Training
opment Programme (UNDP), The Department of
al Affairs (COGTA) for their contributions.

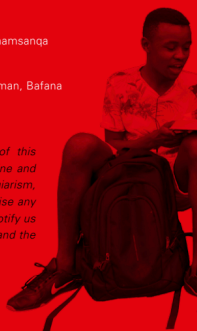
atment Action Campaign (TAC), SERJ, and Read Hope
e for developing the Making Local Government Work

on to the United Nations Development Programme
orsing and contributing towards the printing of the
ough this support we will be able to distribute the
nd civil society organisations.

was compiled by Tebogo Suping, Thamsanqa
rika Joubert.

in Daniels, Landy Wright, Ashley Roman, Bafana
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*contributed to the development of this
I content from a wide range of online and
ethics and the principle of non-plagiarism,
I sources. Should any reader recognise any
is not been acknowledged, please notify us
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ced content. Thank you.*



ACTIVATE!
change drivers

CIVIC EDUCATION FOR YOUTH



PROMOTING SOCIAL COHESION

UNDP has been supporting the revision of the 2012 social cohesion strategy by working with the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture (DSAC), stakeholders from the arts and culture sector, civil society and other government departments. As a result, the revised strategy will be represented to the Cabinet in 2023 as a policy framework to strengthen coordination and ensure dedicated resources for local implementation.

In contributing to national efforts to address the scourge of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF), UNDP organized the Not In My Name Campaign on GBVF awareness with DSAC and its provincial wings, other government departments, CSO, regional bodies, and academic institutions. The campaigns were activated across seven provinces that are considered GBV hotspots, including the Mangosuthu University of Technology and the University of Venda.



GBV awareness campaigns piloted
across seven provinces





2.3



CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREENING SOUTH AFRICA'S ECONOMY

The UNDP Nature, Climate, and Energy programmes stand at the forefront of global efforts to address the interconnected challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, and energy transition. We recognize the urgent need to protect our planet, promote sustainable development, and ensure a secure and clean energy future for all. By working with governments, local communities, and other stakeholders, UNDP facilitates the conservation and sustainable management of ecosystems, promoting biodiversity and the services they provide. These efforts not only safeguard valuable natural resources but also enhance resilience to climate change, reduce disaster risks, and support sustainable livelihoods.

PROMOTING CLEAN AND RENEWABLE ENERGY IN RURAL AREAS

UNDP and the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) under the South African Wind and Energy project, established a wind-solar hybrid mini-grid in the Upper Blinkwater community in the Eastern Cape province, contributing to the development of renewable energy technology solutions. The community now has access to affordable clean energy, shifting from wood and paraffin as the main source of fuel. Further complementing this work, UNDP installed groundwater-pumping wind turbines in two remote primary schools (Matyantya and Kleinboo) in the same province.

21kW


of electricity generated through the wind-solar hybrid mini-grid

177

PEOPLE benefitting in

57

households



Female-headed
55%



Male-headed
45%

Electricity Data Centre

established to collect and store electricity data for research and analysis on integrated power systems for future developments of renewable energy sources.



2 Wind Turbines installed,

providing access to clean water for



551
Students



16
Teachers



JUST ENERGY TRANSITION AND YOUTH IN CLIMATE ACTION

To accompany the Government of South Africa in its endeavour to transition into renewable energy, UNDP hosted the Just Energy Transition Hackathon to capacitate over 120 youth in concepts relating to the just transition and design thinking, resulting in 15 unique solutions being developed. The solutions included artificial intelligence to separate food waste at source, modular aquaponic systems powered by solar panels, conversion of waste cooking oil to biodiesel, and a piezoelectricity device to capture kinetic energy.

UNDP and the South African government hosted a side event on the margins of the 77th United Nations General Assembly on Just Transition to Deliver Climate Actions in Africa. The event convened African ministers, thought leaders, academia, and other international development partners to discuss the future of energy finance, policy, and technical support needed on the African continent to deliver a “Just Energy Transition” for climate action.



5 of the Just Energy solutions were provided with grant funding for upscaling.



PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE LAND AND WATER BASIN MANAGEMENT

UNDP and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), through sustainable land management initiatives (e.g. rangeland rehabilitation, bush clearing, alien plants control, etc.), placed 345,321ha under improved Sustainable Land Management practices in three landscapes of Karoo, Olifants and EC.



345,321ha placed under improved Sustainable Land Management practices in three landscapes.

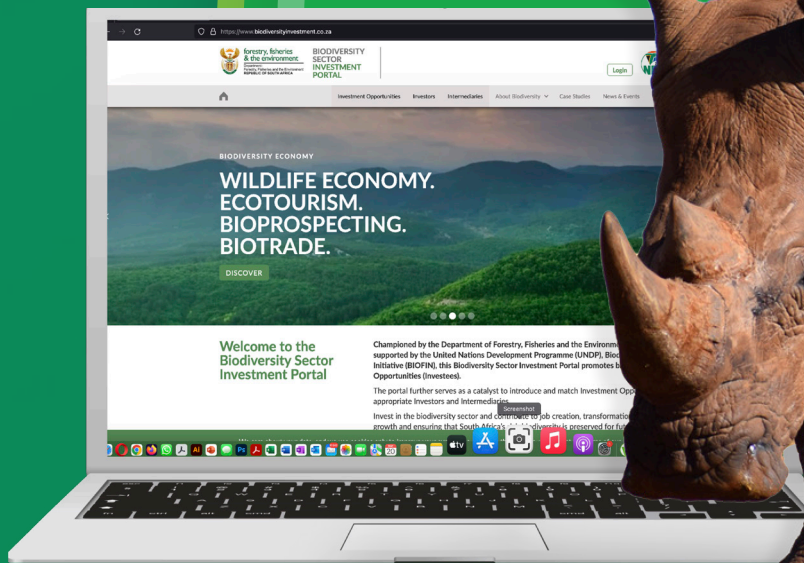




PROMOTING CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

UNDP in partnership with DFFE reviewed the Benefit Sharing Agreement for African ginger R&D to make benefit-sharing commitments to communities in three provinces. Three ha of African ginger has been planted in Mpumalanga province for clinical trials on the treatment of inflammatory and allergic diseases. The ginger project has received international recognition as a high-impact social project.

In order to connect investors with bankable projects and expand the biodiversity economy, UNDP, through its flagship BIOFIN programme, supported DFFE in developing and launching the biodiversity sector investment portal. The portal encourages the growth of connections between communities and investor-ready and bankable intermediaries to ensure that the sector can contribute to the expansion of the economy and the welfare of society while preserving our nation's rich biodiversity. It also promotes investment opportunities in the biodiversity sector.



UNDP Small Grants Program Highlights

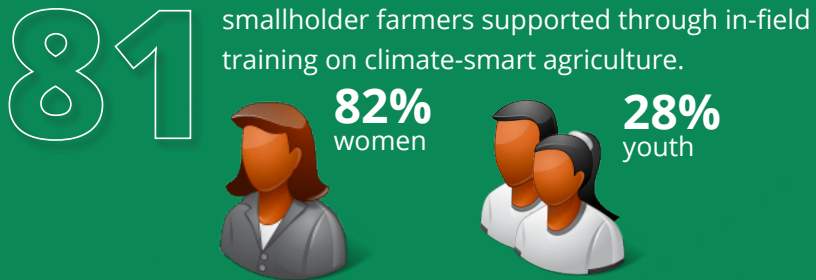
UNDP implements community-based initiatives through the GEF-Small Grants Programme (SGP), on focal areas of climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation, land degradation, sustainable forest management, international waters and chemical and waste management. In 2022, 17 community projects were under implementation in SGP's priority landscape, the Vhembe Biosphere Reserve, with funding support of **US\$550,000**.



Climate-smart agricultural enterprises

Through the SGP, we supported a transformative initiative designed to foster resilient and sustainable farming practices in the face of climate change. With a focus on promoting climate-smart agriculture, this project aims to empower farmers, enhance agricultural productivity, and mitigate the negative impacts of climate variability. The projects implemented are actively contributing to the development of the local food value chain and enhancing food security, as well as fostering a shift towards sustainable agriculture practices while empowering individuals and communities to take charge of their economic well-being. Some highlights of these initiatives include;

Enterprise Development



GBV Victims

Supported in agri-business, gained experience in agroecology methods of farming and business management

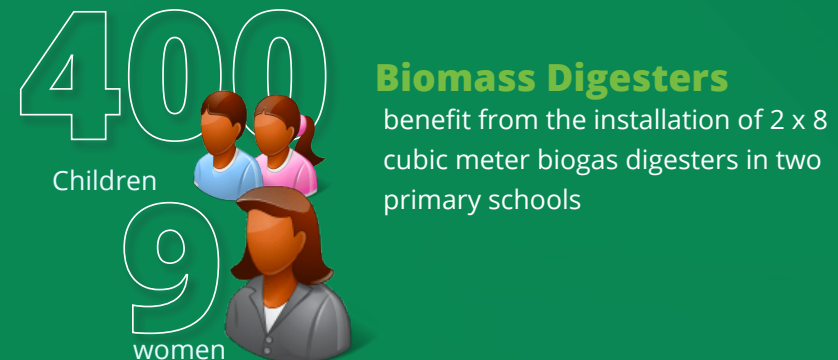


Climate change mitigation and waste management

UNDP recognizes the urgent need to address climate change and its associated challenges, including waste management. Through our climate change mitigation and waste management initiatives, we are committed to promoting sustainable practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate impacts, and effectively manage waste streams. Some highlights of these initiatives include;

Income Generation

over five tonnes of plastic waste and biomass collected to produce low-smoke eco-briquettes and recycled plastic paving bricks.



Biodiversity conservation (including wetland conservation & ecotourism)

SGP also supported projects to mitigate human-wildlife conflict, poaching of animals and illegal harvesting of plant species in the 2,500-hectare buffer zone of the Makuya Nature Reserve. Additionally, an adopt-a-river project was supported to clear waste in wetlands, as a the implementation of a project to revive sacred heritage sites which had long been forgotten by communities. These initiatives continue to ensure the health of our planet, harmonious existence humans and wildlife, and sustainable ecotourism.



Job creation for **5 people**, training of **8 rangers** to patrol the buffer zone and clearing of roads for patrolling, helping to minimize poaching incidences and illegal harvesting of plants



R2 million in additional funding mobilised to erect an electric fence as a preventive measure around the buffer zone, thus consolidating the SGP's support.



25 springs were rehabilitated, and their surroundings were paved with stones to prevent mud from filtering in and fenced with Bamboo reeds and coral trees.



57 waste collection stands were installed along the roads to avoid waste dispersal in streets.



Hiking trails for tourists established, connecting seven sacred heritage & natural sites on the Nwali Heritage Route.



10 homesteads representing Venda culture have been selected to be homestays for tourists.



Waste clearing in **20 wetlands** covering **4 hectares** of land and **25,4 tones** of waste collected;





Innovation & Gender



(In pursuit of achieving sustainable development across economic, social, and environmental dimensions, UNDP continues to place a heavy emphasis on gender - **as a driver of inclusive development** - and **innovation** - as a core component of achieving the SDGs by 2030. We continue to place gender equality at the centre of all programmatic interventions to ensure that we and partner institutions deliver gender-responsive solutions. A similar form of integration is present with innovation the Accelerator Lab (AccLab) which is designed to close the gap between the current practices of international development and the accelerated pace of change.

AccLab Highlights

In 2022 AccLab supported the Country Office (CO) in embedding innovative methodologies and processes in the design and execution of programmes. This included practices such as systems and design thinking, portfolio approaches, experimentation, co-creation, prototyping, collective intelligence and sensemaking. The AccLab also leveraged its partnerships within the national innovation ecosystem to implement, co-fund and promote CO projects. A significant contribution to the CO in 2022 was AccLab's ability to mobilise resources, build strong and multisectoral partnerships, and create knowledge, to grow the CO's work and position it on the global scale (e.g. AccLab SA was selected to participate in the Global AccLab Design Studio on Collective Intelligence for Climate Change).

The AccLab mobilised euro 215 000 in funding from the German Development Agency, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), to scale UNDP's digital skills programme in KZN and EC for youth and young entrepreneurs in basic and intermediate digital skills through Business Process Enabling South Africa (BPESA). USD 867 000 was mobilized from the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) to implement a project focusing on bolstering ecosystem support to improve the success rate of innovative entrepreneurs in South Africa; UNDP committed match-funding to this 3-year project. Moreover, through global competitive processes, the AccLab was selected for the Japan SDG Innovation Challenge, Digital X Innovation Challenge, and the Collective Intelligence Design Studio, receiving catalytic funding to support various initiatives in deepening knowledge, inclusive enterprise development, and youth empowerment.



Digital X Innovation Challenge

to scale the Youth Market Place (Yoma)

Collective Intelligence Design Studio

towards accelerating the Just Energy Transition through the inclusion of ethnographic data collected from coal miners and mining communities.

Other 2022 projects include the Tshwane Innovation Challenge, Ocean Economy Innovation Challenge, Green Challenge South Africa, and the Biomimicry Collective Intelligence Platform.



Japan SDG Innovation Challenge

to support low-tech and low-cost seaweed cultivation and enterprise development opportunities for coastal communities

Gender Highlights

We continued to centre gender in the majority of UNDP's key interventions for 2022, promoting gender-responsive programming, building capacity, and GBV awareness raising across the country. Some highlights include;

32

women entrepreneurs

affected by floods provided with seed grants to recover their businesses.



3 Wendy Houses

built to provide disaggregated accommodation for flood victims in KZN to mitigate the risk of potential sexual abuse in the shelters.

30 Women Councillors

trained on gender-responsive budgeting for their wards in KZN.

“Not In My Name”

GBVF Awareness Campaigns

Approx 3000 students, lecturers, and university staff reached in the GBV campaigns



4



UNDP Operations



Operations

The Operations Unit stands at the heart of our organization, driving the seamless execution and efficient functioning of our company's core processes. The Operations Unit continued to provide effective operational support to ensure the successful delivery of UNDP programmes. From overseeing financial management, supply chain, human resources, ICT support, and travel, to optimizing operational efficiency and ensuring impeccable service delivery, the team has consistently demonstrated excellence in their relentless pursuit of operational excellence. In this section, some key accomplishments and highlights include;

\$10,543,933
disbursed in
payments

Procurement value

Procurements to the value of **\$6 million** from **\$7.2 million** in 2021 (17% reduction).

2 International postings

National staff members transitioned to international posts

8 Human capital

CO recruitments were completed for both programme and operational roles

Institutional expenditure

decreased by **21%**, a reduction from **\$2.71 million** (2021) to **\$2.15 million** (2022).

FINANCE

1392

financial transactions processed in support of the CO's and other agency services

7 Learning Sessions

learning sessions conducted on various topics

30 Learning and Development

x Procurement Level Certifications and Quantum Procurement Module training conducted

Approximately

16141

IT cases handled and resolved

\$394,216 Travel

of travel transactions

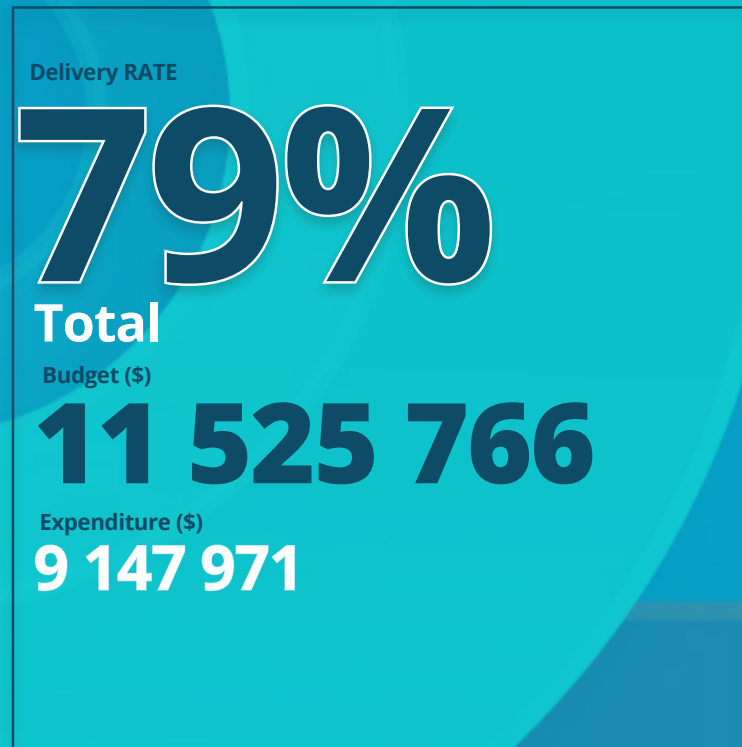
ATLAS to Quantum Migration

Successfully managed and now live.

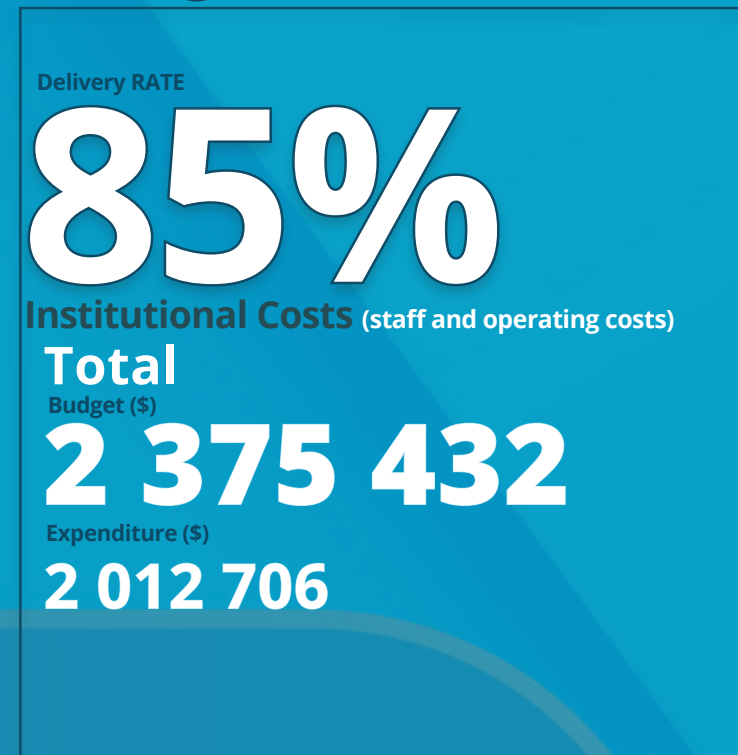
Programme Budget and Delivery

The Operations Unit stands at the heart of our organization, driving the seamless execution and efficient functioning of our company’s core processes. The Operations Unit continued to provide effective operational support to ensure the successful delivery of UNDP programmes. From overseeing financial management, supply chain, human resources, ICT support, and travel, to optimizing operational efficiency and ensuring impeccable service delivery, the team has consistently demonstrated excellence in their relentless pursuit of operational excellence. In this section, some key accomplishments and highlights include;

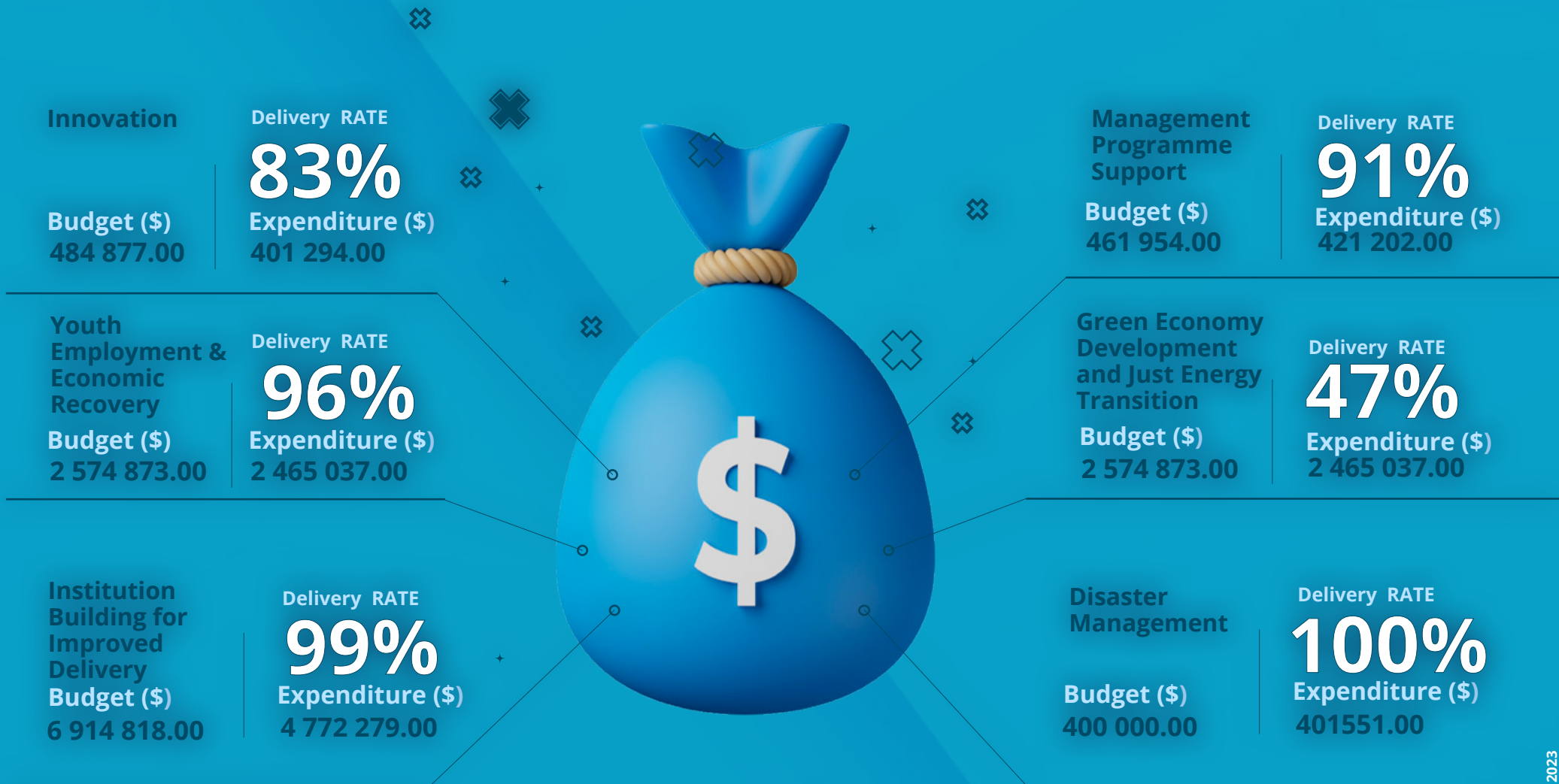
2022 Programme Budget & Expenditure



2022 Institutional Management Costs



Programme Budget & Expenditure breakdown



Communication, Partnerships, and Knowledge Management

In today's interconnected world, effective communication, strategic partnerships, and continuous knowledge creation have become essential pillars for UNDP to enhance programme delivery. We recognize the immense value these elements bring to our operations, enabling us to reach diverse audiences, forge mutually beneficial collaborations, and foster innovation. In this section, we proudly present our endeavours in communications, partnerships, and knowledge creation over the past year, highlighting the milestones achieved, the valuable connections established, and the insights gained. In this section, some key accomplishments and highlights include;

15 Media Coverage

pieces published on TV, Print, and Online media.

3 Communication Products

Audio-visual communication products developed on **Renewable Energy, Youth Empowerment, and Digital Skills**



Media Training

Internal media training conducted on **field content collection**

Website Migration

Successful migration from WordPress to Drupal CMS



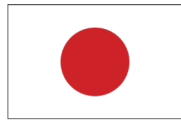
Social Media Campaign

Social media campaign on the **Climate Promise**

Partnerships

Partnerships have played a pivotal role in our journey towards delivering high-impact programmes. Recognizing that collaboration is essential to tackle complex global challenges, we have actively sought out strategic alliances with like-minded organizations, governments, and civil society groups. Through these partnerships, we have expanded our reach, pooled resources, and leveraged diverse expertise to drive tangible impact.

Some of Our Partners



From
the People of Japan



global
environment
facility
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET



sport, arts & culture
Department:
Sport, Arts and Culture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



higher education
& training
Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



BUSINESS
LEADERSHIP
SOUTH AFRICA



german
cooperation
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT



giz
Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



Business Process
Enabling
South Africa



mineral resources
& energy
Department:
Mineral Resources and Energy
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



SANBI
Biodiversity for Life
South African National Biodiversity Institute



Custodian of Good Governance



the cpsi
Government Component:
Centre for Public Service Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



school of government
Department:
National School of Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



UNITED NATIONS
SOUTH AFRICA



22 ON SLOANE
POWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENTREPRENEURS



forestry, fisheries
& the environment
Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



South Africa Siyasebenza

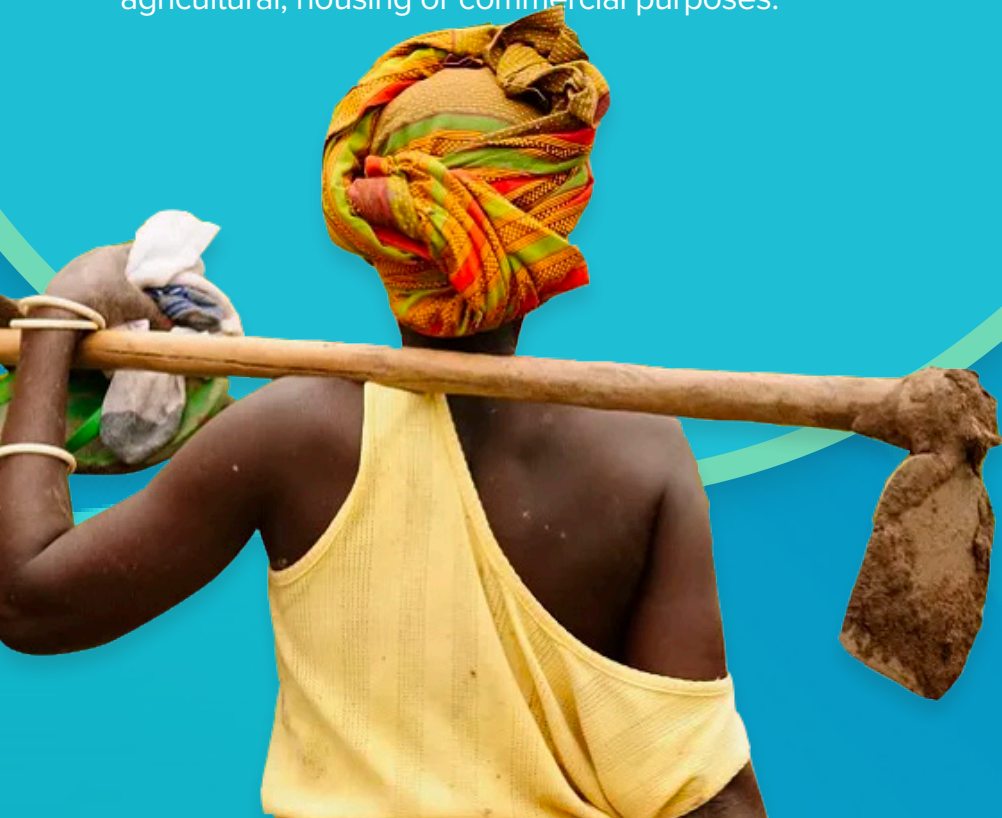


Knowledge creation and management

Knowledge creation has been a driving force behind our pursuit of sustainable development. We have invested in research, data analysis, and knowledge-sharing initiatives to generate evidence-based insights and inform our decision-making processes.

Land Rights Tool and a Recordal of Rights Execution/Rollout Plan

To contribute to policy development, UNDP supported the Department of Agriculture Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) to develop a Recordal of Land Rights Tool and a Recordal of Rights Execution/Rollout Plan to increase transparency on existing land rights in the country; previously disadvantaged individuals and women have benefited from this initiative, with increased access to land and participation in land utilization for agricultural, housing or commercial purposes.



Social Insurance Schemes for the Informal Sector in South Africa with a focus on Women and Youth study

Knowledge creation has been a driving force behind our pursuit of sustainable development. We have invested in research, data analysis, and knowledge-sharing initiatives to generate evidence-based insights and inform our decision-making processes.

Biomimicry Collective Intelligence Platform

Learning from nature through biomimicry concepts, UNDP launched the Biomimicry Collective Intelligence Platform to support, educate, and share information on the creation and adoption of socially and environmentally sustainable solutions based on nature's strategies of surviving over billions of years. The platform was informed by engagements with 200+ people from previously disadvantaged communities, who conceptualised 50+ nature-inspired innovations.



Civic Education Toolkit

Together with Activate! Change Drivers, UNDP produced the Civic Education Toolkit to empower young people and communities with tools and knowledge on local government, democracy, and active citizenry, including engagement methodologies to entrench democratic practices in society and foster community-based active citizenry. The toolkit sets out to promote collective accountability and the creation of conditions for young people to interrogate, question and continuously hold political representatives accountable through legitimate, non-violent and democratic means for meaningful change and social transformation.



5

Lessons Learned & Looking Forward



2022 Lessons Learnt

Effective monitoring and evaluation (M&E) practices are essential tools for organizations committed to achieving sustainable impact. At UNDP, we recognize the importance of robust M&E frameworks to measure progress, assess outcomes, and learn from our interventions. In this section, we highlight the valuable lessons we have gleaned from our 2022. By continuously monitoring our performance and evaluating our strategies, we aim to enhance our accountability, optimize our interventions, and drive meaningful change that aligns with our mission and vision.



Disaster Management

While the UNDP is not primarily a humanitarian agency, its value in disaster risk reduction has been evident through its capacity and agility to address immediate needs and prepare for transformative interventions in the medium and long term. In the wake of the devastating floods in KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape, UNDP has recognized disaster risk reduction as an urgent emerging issue in the country. Building upon its emergency response and recovery efforts, UNDP has witnessed an increased demand from national and sub-national partners for capacity development, technical assistance in information management systems and tools, knowledge sharing, and expert support in the development of disaster management plans integrated within their broader development plans. This presents a significant opportunity for the UNDP to not only incorporate but also reinforce its commitment to disaster risk reduction within the country's overall development agenda.



Just Energy Transition (JET)

During the COP27, the Government of South Africa showcased climate action as its primary focus and introduced the innovative JET Investment Plan. This heightened level of government engagement in international dialogues and commitments has created favorable circumstances for the UNDP to forge partnerships with relevant stakeholders, initiate a JET project, and mobilize resources for clean energy solutions. Moreover, the government's determined resolve to address the energy crisis in the country has served as a solid foundation for the UNDP to expedite the implementation of energy efficiency projects, further advancing sustainable development objectives.



Youth Employment

Although skills training and job linking platforms were provided, the integration of candidates into work placements has been slower than expected. This is primarily due to many companies experiencing downtime and refraining from hiring, coinciding with the candidates' readiness for placement.

Therefore, it is crucial to establish a skills development and work placement program under the ownership of an industry body capable of engaging employers to anticipate specific job vacancies and determine the number of trained candidates they can accommodate. Securing upfront contractual agreements between training institutions and employers is essential to facilitate short-term work placements. This approach will enhance the absorption rate of candidates, providing them with valuable opportunities and signalling positive encouragement.

Accronnynms

AccLab	Accelerator Lab
CO	Country Office
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease
CPD	Country Programme Document
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
DDM	District Development Model
DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
DHET	Department of Higher Education and Training
DMRE	Department of Mineral Resources and Energy
DSI	Department of Science and Innovation
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ICT	Information And Communications Technology
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund

JET	Just Energy Transition
NDMC	National Disaster Management Centre
KZN	KwaZulu-Natal
IEC	Independent Electoral Commission
SMME	Small, Micro, and Medium-Sized enterprise
PSA	Public Service Administration
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
TVET	Technical Vocational Education and Training
TVWS	Television White Space
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WRC	Water Research Commission

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