



Final Narrative Report of the Sustainable Development Goals Fund 2014-2019

Prepared by the SDG Fund Secretariat and United Nations
Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office

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Acronyms

AECID	Spanish Agency for International Cooperation
BMI	body mass index
DRR	disaster risk reduction
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
ILO	International Labour Organization
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ITC	International Trade Centre (United Nations)
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund (Office)
NGO	Non-governmental organization
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SICA	Central American Integration System
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDS	United Nations Development System
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

I. OVERVIEW OF THE SDG FUND

The Sustainable Development Goals Fund (SDG Fund) was an international multi-donor and multi-agency development mechanism founded in 2014 by UNDP on behalf of the United Nations Development System (UNDS) to support sustainable development through integrated and multi-dimensional joint programmes. Its main objective was to bring together United Nations organizations, national governments, academia, civil society, and businesses to address the challenges of poverty, promote the 2030 Agenda, and achieve the (Sustainable Development Goals) SDGs. Building on the experience and lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Fund (2007-2013), the SDG Fund acted as a bridge from the MDGs to the SDGs, providing concrete evidence for how to achieve a sustainable and inclusive world through integrated and joint approaches.

The Government of Spain made an initial contribution of \$41 million US dollars to establish the SDG Fund, and subsequent contributions, including those from other public and private sector donors, added up to \$58.8 million US dollars. As an inter-agency mechanism, the SDG Fund worked with 14 organizations across the UNDS, implementing joint programmes in 23 countries with a budget of \$70 million US dollars. National and international partners, including the private sector, provided 55 per cent of resources through matching funds for joint programmes. Each joint programme contributed to several SDGs, and SDG Fund resources supported two major types of activities (joint programmes and partnerships) in addition to those implemented by the Secretariat:

- **Joint programmes** | Most of the SDG Fund budget was invested in sustainable development interventions. In total, 22 joint programmes in 23 countries were approved with a total budget of \$68.6 million US dollars. Of this, 55 per cent were matching contributions from national and international partners, including national governments and the private sector. The SDG Fund worked through the United Nations Resident Coordinator System. In each joint programme, the Resident Coordinator, in collaboration with United Nations Country Teams, determined which UNDS organizations should work together to address challenges more efficiently. Every joint programme contributed to multiple SDGs.
- **Partnerships** | The SDG Fund also supported various United Nations initiatives aimed at facilitating rapid implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This included United Nations Development Group (UNDG) dialogues on post-2015 implementation, the Samoa Conference on small island developing states (SIDS), a regional programme on security and prevention of violence affecting children, adolescents and youth in Central America, the Colombian Post Conflict Trust Fund, and a project implemented by the SDG Fund Secretariat to promote partnerships for knowledge and social mobilization to the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat.

The SDG Fund governance and management units were comprised of the SDG Fund Steering Committee and Secretariat. The Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO) acted as the Administrative Agent. The roles and responsibilities of the various units are outlined below.

- **SDG Fund Steering Committee:** Represented by United Nations organizations, the government of Spain, and participation from the SDG Fund Secretariat and MPTFO (ex-officio). The Steering Committee met at least once per year and provided overall guidance and strategic direction.
- **SDG Fund Secretariat:** A small, specialized team housed in UNDP's Bureau of External Relations and Advocacy in New York, the Secretariat supported the Steering Committee and had the mandate to implement Steering Committee decisions that ensured the rollout of activities and country joint programmes. The Secretariat played an important role in guaranteeing transparency, establishing clear criteria in programme selection, and improving the quality of joint programme formulation. It served as a link between the Steering Committee and participating countries, and directly implemented activities in the action plan approved by the Steering Committee.
- **The Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office:** The Administrative Agent for the SDG Fund, MPTFO provided financial and reporting services. All financial information and disbursements related to the SDG Fund are available on the MPTF Office Gateway (<http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/SDG00>).

At the national level, all joint programmes were guaranteed national ownership by way of national steering and programme committees.

- **National Steering Committee:** United Nations Resident Coordinators, and government, stakeholder and donor representatives came together to guide implementation at the country level. This was the highest body for strategic guidance, oversight, and programme coordination.
- **National Programme Committee:** A programmatic committee that developed technical sub-committees to lead operations in the field. The committee was a platform for managing the programme and facilitating technical dialogue among different stakeholders. As such, it contributed to improved communication between national institutions. Membership consisted of participating United Nations organizations and relevant government and national counterparts implementing joint programmes.

In December 2017, a Steering Committee meeting was held in New York where the Steering Committee decided, as suggested by the government of Spain, to start the process of winding down the SDG Fund and to transfer any outstanding balance to the Joint SDG Fund. In further meetings, it was agreed that the SDG Fund close operations by September 2019.

2. JOINT PROGRAMME PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

2.1. Joint programme contribution to the SDGs

The SDG Fund implemented 22 joint programmes in partnership with 14 United Nations organizations in 23 countries in Africa, the Arab States, Asia Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean, with programmes making contributions to all 17 SDGs. National and international partners, including the private sector provided approximately 55 per cent of total resources to joint programmes in the form of matching funds. In total, more than 5.4 million people benefited from the SDG Fund's joint programme activities.

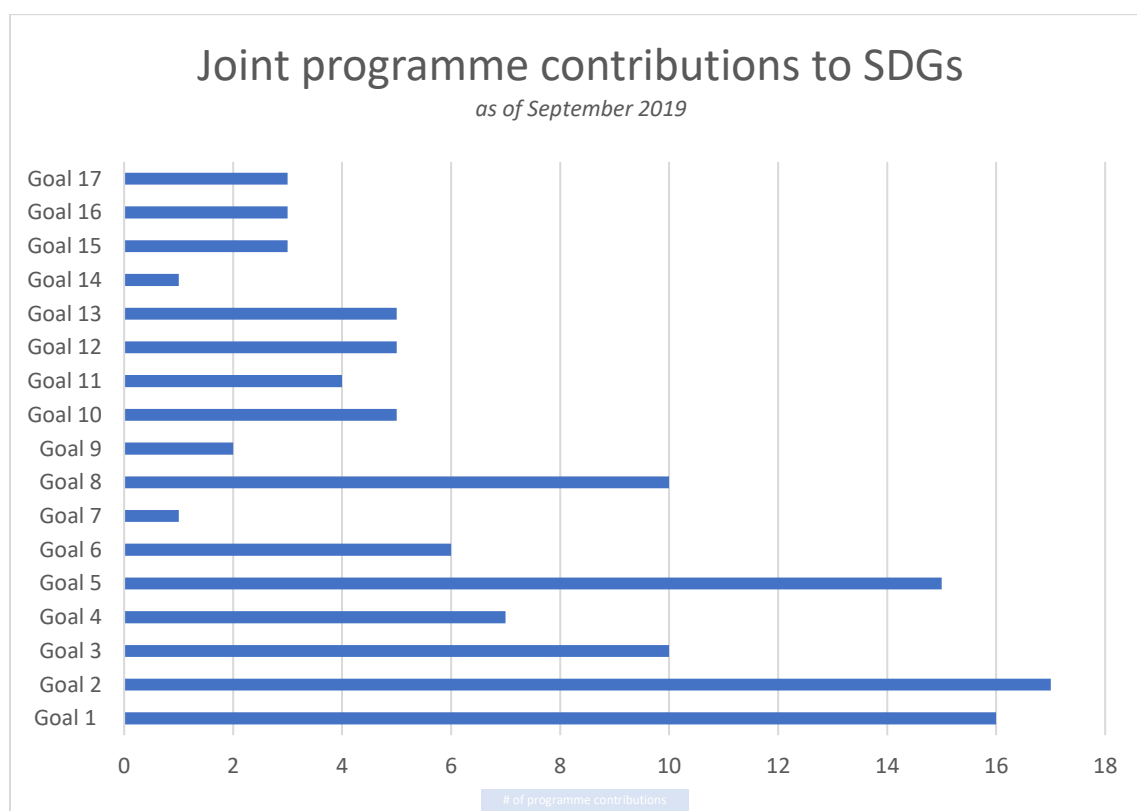


Figure 1 – Joint programme contributions to the SDGs

Due to its multidimensional and multisectorial approach, the SDG Fund joint programmes contributed simultaneously to several SDG targets. Based on information provided in monitoring and evaluation reports, some examples of joint programme contributions to the 2030 Agenda and SDGs are presented according to development goal in the section below. In section 2.2. of this report, there is a brief description of the approach and results of each joint programmes.



SDG 1 - End poverty in all its forms everywhere

5.4 million direct and indirect beneficiaries were reached through SDG Fund joint programmes in the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Sub-Saharan Africa.

- Over \$42 million US dollars in matching funds was mobilized from 20 donors (national and international partners, including the private sector), thereby promoting enhanced development cooperation (SDG 1.A).
- 9,792 people in developing countries including Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Fiji, Honduras, Paraguay and Peru benefited from improved access to finance applications and opportunities. This included mainstream banking institutions, formation of credit unions, seed funding to launch new enterprises, and training on financial literacy, business management, bookkeeping and savings and investments (SDG 1.4).



SDG 2 - End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Interventions valued at \$22.3 million US dollars promoted food security and nutrition in Bolivia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Paraguay, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam.

- 36,408 men, women and children benefited from improved food security and nutrition. Beneficiaries included pregnant and lactating women, children under five years of age, and indigenous men, women and children. Activities promoted dietary diversification, use of micro-nutrient powder to prevent and reduce anemia, water filters to reduce the transmission of water-borne diseases, as well as guidance on exclusive breast feeding and infant and young child feeding and training backed by “1,000 day” principles.
- 18,039 small-scale farmers and their families profited from agricultural capacity development initiatives to improve production techniques, yields, and resilience to climate change (SDG 2.4). Joint programmes targeted *chocho*, quinoa, rice and yuca production, along with also aquaculture (carp and tilapia), guinea pig and poultry farming, community orchards and vegetable gardens, and organic production techniques. Seed producers received training and certification in Bolivia, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, El Salvador, Fiji, Paraguay, Peru, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Viet Nam, and Vanuatu.
- 1.14 million children in 2,250 schools and pre-schools benefitted from school gardens in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lanka programme also resulted in 3,629 pre-school teachers trained on nutrition for pre-school children, and the completion of a nation-wide baseline nutrition survey for school children (8,791 participants) and pregnant and lactating women (14,762 participants).



SDG 3 - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

1,273 beneficiaries, in Tanzania took part in family planning awareness sessions on the mainland and, in Zanzibar, an additional 1,040 youth (aged 10-24) benefited from sessions on sexual and reproductive health (SDG 3.7).



SDG 4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

5,491 entrepreneurs and micro/small business owners started and/or grew businesses in Côte d'Ivoire, Honduras and Mozambique (SDG 4.4).



SDG 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

3,018,931 women and girls directly and indirectly benefitted from 22 SDG Fund joint programmes in 23 countries. Initiatives mainstreamed gender and women's empowerment. Data collected on direct beneficiaries is disaggregated by gender.



SDG 6 - Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

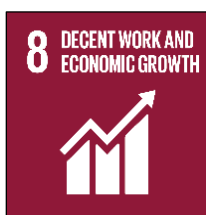
Over \$6.6 million US dollars was used for interventions promoting access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation in Cuba and the Philippines.

- Tens of thousands had improved access to safe drinking water (SDG 6.1) in Central and South America through the adoption of rainwater harvesting technology in Bolivia (four communities); creation of 79 reservoirs (household and community) in Cauca, Colombia. Seventy per cent of families (9,174 households) and 100 per cent of schools and health institutions in Centro Urbano Abel Santamaria, Cuba had safer drinking water along with 500 families in Nueva Trinidad, Las Vueltas and Arcatao, El Salvador.
- 10,057 schools in Cuba, Guatemala, the Philippines and Sri Lanka benefited from improved water and sanitation management (SDG 6.b), including data collection on drinking water and sanitation availability at school level, improved sanitation facilities and awareness raising on good hygiene practices.



SDG 7 - Affordable and clean energy

80 national consultants and company representatives were trained on resource efficient and clean production methodologies in Mozambique.



SDG 8 - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

\$39 million US dollars supported interventions promoting inclusive economic growth in Bangladesh, Colombia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Honduras, Mozambique, Nigeria, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Peru, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Vanuatu.



SDG 9 - Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

1.8 million people in Bangladesh (Kurigram) benefited from 4,156 public asset maintenance schemes, including maintenance of roads, linking villages to vital economic centres (SDG 9.1.1). Disaster risk reduction (DRR) schemes (778) included embankment repair, canal re-excavation, and plinth raising of flood shelters and public places.



SDG 10 - Reduce inequality within and among countries

Interventions on food security and nutrition, water and sanitation, inclusive economic development, and climate change resilience benefitted 7,241 indigenous men, women and children in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Fiji, Guatemala, Honduras, and Paraguay.



SDG 11 - Sustainable cities and communities

Joint activities in Honduras protected and safeguarded the cultural heritage and traditions of the Lenca people through the promotion of traditional foods, crafts, medicine, cultural tourism and local enterprises and NGOs headed by women and youth (11.4).



SDG 12 - Responsible consumption and production

Promotion of sustainable tourism and job creation, and promoting local culture and organic produce among hotels, restaurants, and other companies in Fiji, Honduras, Samoa, and Vanuatu (SDG 12.B).



SDG 13 - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

22 joint programmes in 23 countries mainstreamed climate change components and promoted: integrated management of water resources, early warning systems, vulnerability and risk assessments, uptake of drought resistant crops, deployment of climate smart technologies, and DRR strategies.



SDG 14 - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Low cost sanitation technologies minimized marine pollution through community participation and action in the Philippines. Additionally, 12 barangays in ten Philippine municipalities promoted zero-defecation, and implemented water quality monitoring, risk assessments, and water safety planning.



SDG 15 - Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Elaboration of a special plan for the San Juan Basin of Cuba to ensure effective management and protection of land, forest and water resources.



SDG 16 - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

12,326 adults and children received free legal consultation on economic, civic and access to justice. More than 4,400 individuals received legal documents related to their businesses and 3,515 children received support in Côte d'Ivoire.

- 32,000 people in 54 communities were sensitized on child labour. Community level activities targeted producers to promote changes in norms and perceptions with regards

to child labour in the cocoa industry. More than and 295 children were removed from plantation fields in Côte d'Ivoire.

- 49 community leaders were trained on how to facilitate peaceful conflict resolution using the “Huellas de Paz” methodology in Cauca, Colombia (SDG 16.7).



SDG 17 - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Fourteen United Nations organizations worked with the SDG Fund on joint programmes while more than 240 government, private sector, academia, civil society partners took on implementing partner responsibilities.

- 6,043 civil servants participated in SDG Fund joint programmes in developing countries around the world, making policy and planning contributions, receiving training, and/or facilitating the coordination/implementation programme activities on the ground.

2.2. Results and achievements by country

2.2.1 Bangladesh: Improving women's access to new opportunities

UNDP and the International Labour Organization (ILO) implemented this project for women from the most poor and vulnerable households in Kurigram and Satkhira—areas hit hard by natural disasters and climate change. **The programme promoted employment and an innovative public works model for rural and poor women** by recognizing the central role of local government in providing accountable and gender-sensitive service delivery to reduce poverty and achieve inclusive growth. **The joint programme directly contributed to SDGs 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10 and 13.**

The intervention was designed, taking into account poverty rates, vulnerability to natural disasters, and geographical remoteness. An integrated approach, with social protection and employment taking centre stage, was used and strategies focused on building the human capital, knowledge, skills and confidence of extremely poor women. Programme activities included vocational skills trainings, job placement, climate change-resilient livelihoods options, and social and economic inclusion for women. Joint programme interventions were also aligned with Bangladesh's five-year plan, which promotes an inclusive and equal opportunity workforce and aims to increase women's labour market participation in the formal sector.

Over 2,500 beneficiaries participated in 18-months of knowledge exchange and training—mainly in maintaining or rehabilitating community assets but also in public works and community service. The joint programme encouraged women to save a portion of their wages (including those issued as a graduation bonus) and facilitated connections with small and medium enterprises that hired participants after the programme closed. Support was provided to smooth the transition from safety net to market-driven employment, ensuring women's access to essential public services, as well as social and economic inclusion.

Women who took part in the programme were, often, the sole breadwinners in their households. At the end of the joint programme, the poverty rate among female beneficiary declined significantly: only 27.9 per cent of female-headed households were living below the national poverty line in August 2017 compared to 94.6 per cent in August 2015. What is more, feelings of empowerment increased with 91 per cent of participants—compared to 80 per cent of women in the control group—reported having full control over their property. Fifty three per cent of women also reported having increased decision-making capabilities in generating income. An added, unexpected, benefit came from many women

Human Impact: Anowara



"The SDG programme helped me escape my frustration and build a dignified life for me and my daughter," Anowara says, now employed in the public works sector since August 2015. Anowara, is divorced, a survivor of domestic violence and mother to a young daughter. She lives in rural Bangladesh, 360km from Dhaka. The money she saved from her wages went towards the purchase of livestock, and savings to buy a parcel of land. Because of the programme, Anowara opened **a bank account, secured steady employment, and has better access to government services.**

reporting they felt healthier despite little change in scientific measures of health such as Body Mass Index (BMI).

The creation of rotating savings and credit associations helped participants save money and increased their household assets. In total, 216 associations were formed and beneficiaries used savings from their wages to generate income outside of regular employment (public asset maintenance). Savings were often used to rear livestock, cultivate rice and other crops, and invest in aquaculture. The shift from wage labour to a mix of agriculture and wage labour had tremendous impact on women's self-esteem, economic returns, and social status.

2.2.2 Bolivia: Improving the nutritional status of children by strengthening local production systems

Human Impact: Rosse Mary



Rosse Mary Andia, married at 16 to escape an oppressive and sexist family. Around 2011, living in Pocona with her husband and three children, she began to change her life, finishing her studies, joining a local confederation of rural women, learning about politics and being elected to lead 24 local agricultural unions. "Last year we were approached by the SDG Fund programme and they told us 27% of the children in our town are malnourished. I got worried and it's why I support the initiative," said Rosse Mary.

Programme participants shared information on leadership and agricultural production, and the union received financial support for a new food processing plant. "We will be able to start producing vegetables and greens that we will sell at the local school breakfasts," said Rosse Mary. "We are happy and our children are eating healthier. I think we're moving forward."

Implemented in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the programme sought to improve the nutrition of children under five in Cochabamba and Potosí, providing an integrated approach to food and nutrition security and sustainable local food systems. The joint programme in Bolivia directly contributed to SDGs: 1, 2, 3, 5, 11 and 12.

The integrated approach aimed at reaching children between the ages of 2 to 5 increased livelihood opportunities for children's families in four Bolivian municipalities. Designed in close collaboration with national partners, activities alleviated child hunger and undernutrition, promoted sustainable and resilient livelihoods for vulnerable households, and generated better information on nutrition and food safety.

The joint programme reached 1,149 beneficiaries (517 women and 632 men) through comprehensive and multisectoral activities that strengthened food production systems and improved family diets, incorporated local sources of food, and promoted coordination between municipal governments. With the support of local sustainable food system providers, 1,149 families from 65 communities

increased their per hectare production of native crops with a high nutritional value by 20 per cent. Women had an almost four-fold increase of this amount and produced an average of six different crops, even though they had less access to land and irrigation. Overall, women saw a greater increase in production for commercial ends (23 per cent) and domestic use (51 per cent).

Compared to the programme baseline, more women now assume leadership roles (90 per cent vs. 50.1 per cent) and influence decision-making processes (91 per cent vs. 55 per cent). Along with cultivating thirteen new types of vegetables and two native crops, livestock and fish were incorporated into the food systems of participating families. These families also invested in organic gardening. Participants saw an increase of 400-800 kg per family in food volume, and the nutritional situation of children under five and their mothers improved. Food insecurity decreased by 23 per cent.

The joint programme also supported multi-sector coordination to influence actions related to nutrition, the right to food, and food and nutrition security. As a result, 10 initiatives were implemented by the municipalities (public purchases, integral development, creation of bio-inputs center and a center for the production of vegetable seedlings, water harvesting projects), which improved coordination across sectors and increased the participation of local social organizations.

2.2.3 Colombia: Productive and food secured territories for a peaceful and resilient population in strategic ecosystems in Cauca

UNDP, UN Women, FAO and the World Food Programme (WFP) worked together in Cauca, Colombia to **address post-conflict issues through sustainable agriculture, job creation, better nutrition and, most importantly, peace**. The programme was designed to create a scalable model that could be replicated in different areas of Colombia to strengthen local leadership on peacebuilding and sustainable development through autonomy, food and nutritional security measures, as well as supporting rural producers. **The joint programme directly contributed to SDGs: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 16.**

The United Nations and local partners (the Presidential Agency for International Cooperation, Department for Social Prosperity, National Agency for Poverty Eradication, ministries of foreign trade, health and agriculture, the Government of Cauca, University of Cauca, Coffee Growers Federation and social organizations of indigenous peoples, rural women's groups, quinoa growers and rural producers) followed three specific objectives: strengthen local leadership capacities for peace and sustainable development, improve food and nutritional security, and support the families of rural producers through diversified production and value chain development. Gender and environmental concerns were women into each objective.

As a result of the programme, 1,261 rural families and 21 farmer organizations improved partnerships towards inclusive socio-economic development for the achievement of sustainable human development and peace.

Trainings and other capacity development activities played a central role in expanding opportunities and promoting social and economic progress. In particular, the joint programme promoted a gender-focused model to economically empower rural women through participation and social recognition. Four organizations formed by women, consisting of 103 families, implemented business plans and strengthened quinoa and coffee production while building capacity for development.

In addition, 1,261 families benefited from activities that prevented and reduced anemia, reduced water-borne diseases (500 children in 427 families), and resulted in the planting of community vegetable gardens. More than 400 families benefitted from the new 18 Farmer Field Schools, which strengthened agricultural production and improved food security and nutrition, as well as community cooperation and social cohesion. Families not only adopted diversified production systems but increased their consumption of vegetables and meat and dairy products, and legumes.

The upshot for twenty-one rural farmer organizations included training and mentoring to strengthen technical and entrepreneurial skills, and business partnerships. Quinoa associations were able to improve their post-harvest processes and reduce production risks and financial loss, while the role of women increased along the quinoa and coffee production chains.

In addition, as a climate change adaptation measure, a total of 79 reservoirs (at the household and community-levels, with the capacity for 3 million liters) were built with the help of local residents from six communities in San Antonio and three communities affected by forest fires in El Rosal (San Sebastian). Reservoirs help with rainwater harvesting—ensuring availability of water during the dry season and in case of droughts.

Human Impact: Martha



Martha Timana Imbachi (23) is a local student in El Cauca, a rural region in the Colombian Massif, one of the greatest natural sites in the country and a place heavily affected by armed conflict. In 2015, thousands of hectares of land burned to the ground, placing a considerable burden on the rural communities that rely on the land for farming.

With SDG Fund support, local students and teachers of El Rosal, one of the communities affected, joined efforts to protect the environment by turning their school nursery into a center for education and positive change. “[We have learned about unsafe practices](#), such as the felling of trees, misuse of water, or excess use of fertilizers. It’s been encouraging to see how people who suffered from the fire received new trees for their land,” explained Martha. At the end of the day, [the school nursery is strengthening the fabric of El Rosal by raising environmental awareness and fostering peace in the region.](#)

2.2.4 Côte d'Ivoire: Joint programme on poverty reduction in San Pedro

In Côte d'Ivoire, UNICEF, UNDP and FAO helped reduce poverty by creating economic opportunities for women and youth, two of the vulnerable groups dealing with unemployment and social exclusion. The programme improved access to information about their rights, provided legal assistance, ensured food security, and improved nutrition in the poorest households. [The joint programme directly contributed to SDGs: 1, 2, 5, 8 and 16.](#)

Meeting basic needs and focusing on sharing information and knowledge across sectors were the keys to better supporting local initiatives. The joint programme created economic and employment opportunities for women and youth through income-generating activities, local entrepreneurship, food and nutrition security, and access to legal assistance for better economic and social integration.

Inclusive growth was achieved by creating decent jobs with an emphasis on skills training for young people and women. Two thousand participants received support for income-generating activities so they could produce different agricultural products and increase their incomes. The

Human Impact: Adama



Adama (8) lives in the coastal region of San Pedro where many people spend their lives battling cycles of poverty and inequality. Adama's father abandoned his pregnant mother before he was born and because he was not registered at the civil birth registry, he could not exercise his right to go to school.

Things changed when Adama received legal support via the SDG Fund joint programme. Because of it he obtained a birth certificate and now attends school. "I am so proud of this child. He can now read and even started writing. Adama is a source of pride for the whole family and will follow his dreams to the end," said Madoussou (53), his grandmother.

Other children are also obtaining their births certificates, and through the support provided by UNICEF the civil registry system in Cote d'Ivoire is being revamped to ensure that every child is registered.

programme also reached more than 60,000 indirect beneficiaries in San Pedro and improved the self-sufficiency of 1,789 people, 61.4 per cent of whom are women.

The programme helped create 916 jobs, 494 for women. Of these, 54 per cent were in the agricultural, fishery and food processing sectors. Technical training increased rice yields by 6-9 tons per hectare, doubling the amount of rice produced over previous 3-4 years cycles. Yuca yields increased from five to a maximum of 30 tons. Agricultural producers had greater access to markets due to the improvement of rural roads, and 293 young entrepreneurs (115 women) received training on business planning, as well as funds to launch commercial activities in livestock farming, sales and marketing, and food processing.

An awareness campaign about child labour was launched to promote changes in norms and perceptions with regards to child labour in the cocoa industry. In total, more than 32,000 people in 54 communities were informed about the harms of child labour (exceeding the target of 5,000) and 295 children were removed from plantation fields. Seven literacy centers were established to accommodate these children and also house mother-daughter clubs, benefiting 494 people.

Joint programme outcomes included improving vulnerable group access to information about their rights and legal clinics. The clinics, run by the

Association of Women Lawyers of Côte d'Ivoire, provided information on legal aid and services to families, with a focus on women and children at risk of abuse, negligence, violence and exploitation. Free legal assistance led to improved access to justice and the restoration of rights for women subjected to sexual violence during the post-election period. Moreover, the centers provided aid to children who were not registered at the civil status registry and/or were not in possession of birth records. The legal clinic provided 20,000 people (including 10,085 women) free legal consultation on their economic and civil rights. As a result, 4,466 people

received legal documents related to their business activities and 3,515 children got help obtaining birth records.

2.2.5 Cuba: Strengthening the resilience of families and vulnerable groups affected by the drought in Santiago de Cuba

Implemented by UNDP, UNICEF and WFP, the objective of this joint programme was to improve the resilience of residents of the city of Santiago de Cuba, the country's second largest. The city has struggled to respond to extreme drought, which is why the programme focused on implementing climate change adaptation measures, increasing access to safe water sources, supporting agricultural production, and improving food security for the most vulnerable. **The joint programme directly contributed to SDGs: 2, 3, 5, 6, 11, 13, and 17.**

Designed using an integrated approach, stakeholders focused on the entire water supply chain of Santiago de Cuba to strengthen and better prepare communities for periods of drought. Areas of intervention included improvement of water and sanitation services for the poor and marginalized, introduction of healthy lifestyles through sanitation and hygiene education, and promotion of integrated water governance and climate change adaptation projects. The United Nations worked with local partners to introduce a hydro-meteorological early warning system, along with measures for access to safe water and continuity of food production in drought conditions.

Water management models and drought-resilient agricultural practices were promoted through a pilot project in the community of Abel Santamaría to strengthen links between vegetable producers and social protection networks serving the elderly (supported by WFP with bean rations). The intergenerational approach employed guaranteed a stable supply of food for 5,961 children, 235 senior citizens, and 165 pregnant women. Beyond diversifying their diets and improving food and nutritional security, joint programme staff worked with farmers on maintaining a food supply during the droughts.

The joint program focused on strengthening water management in drought situations, which included the establishment of an early warning system with an emphasis on hydro-meteorological surveillance; water management instruments to assess risk and adaptation measures, and efficient use of water to sustain agricultural production and improve food and nutrition security for the most vulnerable.

The programme improved the capacities those securing water supply and storage. Ninety-five per cent of Santiago de Cuba's population benefited from the improved monitoring and management of these supply sources, along with distribution and quality control, and the elimination of water leaks. In addition, 14,000 inhabitants (7,350 women) living in high rises in Abel Santamaría had better access to safe water. Vulnerable groups (single women with children) were prioritized and gender equity was taken into account. In central Abel Santamaría, 9,174 families received hygiene kits and were trained on how to located safe water sources and reduce the transmission of infectious diseases. Additionally, 30,525 people (15,873 women and 14,652 men) benefited from the installation of new water reservoirs, each with a capacity of 250 liters. Hygiene practices were promoted through the "Safe Water" campaign about the proper

management of water. Overall, 18,712 people (85.8 per cent women) participated in educational hygiene activities in Abel Santamaría and 1,050 health promoters received training (48.7 % women), both of which led to a significant reduction in water and vector-borne diseases by 40 per cent in 2017.

Human Impact: Inalvys



Inalvys Bueno (40), a resident of Santiago de Cuba, saw firsthand how the SDG Fund joint program strengthened the resilience of vulnerable families affected by the drought. Like many others, she coped with the drought by keeping her crops alive in a neighborhoods "where more water evaporates than falls."

With joint programme support, Inalvys and other [women growers in the area can now sustain their incomes](#), covering the nutritional needs of a thousand children, seniors, pregnant women and nursing mothers. "The people in Santiago do not fall asleep, especially women," said Inalvys, "[Here we know how to turn things around and, out of everything bad, something better comes out.](#)"

Under the agricultural support component of the initiative, five cooperatives comprised of 101 producers (74 women and 27 men) received agricultural inputs, tools and training to improve production in drought conditions and encourage the efficient use of water. Farmers benefited from drought-resilient seed varieties, production systems that reduce evaporation, and low-consumption irrigation systems. Similarly, links between social protection programmes and cooperatives were reinforced to provide a diverse supply of fresh vegetables based on beneficiary preferences. Local government capacity to monitor such links was also strengthened.

The studies, analysis and trainings conducted focused on improving water quality, early warning systems, and to promote integrated approaches to meteorological events and agricultural production. All promoted gender-sensitive approaches and, for the first time in Cuba, critical gender dimensions were included in the population perception survey, which was carried out as part of the Danger, Vulnerability and Drought Risk Study.

2.2.6 Ecuador: Strengthening local food systems and capacity building aimed at improving the production and access to safe food for families

This joint programme, implemented jointly by FAO, WFP, UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO), [strengthened local food systems and provided better access to safe and nutritious food in Imbabura province](#). Programme objectives supported the National Plan for Good Living 2013-2017, which focused on strengthening public policy for local agricultural production. [The joint programme directly contributed to SDGs: 1, 2 and 12.](#)

Given the importance of quinoa and lupine crops to rural livelihoods, and the lack of diversified productive systems, joint programme stakeholders focused on alleviating poverty, undernutrition and malnutrition in Ibarra, Cotacachi and Pimampiro. Rural families were encouraged to increase production of quinoa and lupine through an integrated approach that included improved public

policies, local capacity building, adoption of best practices for sustainable management, training on production practices, and improving the nutrition of rural families.

The joint programme focused on improving the health and nutrition of rural families through agro-diversity measures and education sessions on food and nutrition security. In total, 716

families received training on integrated sustainable water and soil management practices with a climate change adaptation component. The programme supported 118 small producers in cultivating *chocho*, diversifying its production, and sowing 122 hectares over two cycles. Despite droughts and floods, yields hit 25 quintals/hectare in 2016. For quinoa, the programme supported 112 small-scale producers in sowing 481 hectares. Participants were privy to training on post-harvest handling, resulting in 4,300 quintals of quinoa harvested and processed each year. Threshing machines were provided, helping improve yields and the quality of seeds.

Human Impact: Nancy



Nancy, a single mother who lives with her grandmother, mother, sister and nephews in the town of Zuleta, smiles when asked about the “1,000 Days” project that was launched in Imbabura with SDG Fund support. “Nancy, selected as one of the 350 beneficiaries, received a monthly basket of diverse foods that provides the necessary nutrients for her family.

Small, local producers distributed baskets during training sessions on health, hygiene, and food and nutritional security. To receive assistance, mothers and babies attended monthly check-ups at local health centers. “Now my children eat more vegetables and feel better too. The support of the program means I can now put healthy food on my table,” says Nancy.

As more than 500 children under the age of 5 were identified as malnourished, joint programme stakeholders worked with 483 families to diversify and improve their food consumption through agro-diverse lots. Results showed that 60.1 per cent of families diversified their diets, including increased consumption of fruits, legumes, and vegetables. Nutrition trainings for 341 families (with expectant mothers and newborn children) resulted in their participation in the “1,000 days” campaign.

On the economic side, associations of small-scale producers of quinoa and *chocho* gained access to markets and trade fairs. Three associations of 233 producers were able to secure contracts for

the “1,000 days” initiative, providing baskets of local produce to expectant mothers and those with children under two years of age. In addition, 12 associations of rural producers (40 per cent included a woman on their Board of Directors) received accounting and tax management training. Seven policy dialogues were coordinated so attendees could identify inter-institutional responses for food security, as well as the health and nutritional needs of children and mothers.

Another notable benefit was 30 per cent of participating families improved their perceptions of gender equality in the fields of production, health, food, and nutrition security. Two gender-sensitive trainings were offered so participants could establish equitable strategies where men and women assumed equal roles and responsibilities.

2.2.7 El Salvador: Food, security and nutrition for children and Salvadoran households

FAO, UNICEF, WHO and WFP worked with local partners in Chalatenango to **improve food and nutrition security and alleviate child hunger and undernutrition**. The programme supported the work of the Government Plan “El Salvador Ahead” (“El Salvador Adelante”) that began in June 2014. Through advocacy and technical support, it designed laws and regulations to support local governments and families. **The joint programme directly contributed to SDGs: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 12 and 17.**

The joint programme relied on multi-sector and institutional approaches to improving food and nutrition security. The government played a fundamental role in coordinating efforts in support of agricultural production, health and nutrition, education and local producers. Implemented in three municipalities of Chalatenango (Las Vueltas, Nueva Trinidad and Arcatao), the programme focused on improving local food production for 5,289 people by reducing food imports, increasing community resilience to climate change, and improving access to information about nutrition. Also important was improving access to health services and promoting women-owned micro-enterprises.

The programme reached 608 families and 2,182 individuals directly (871 women, 856 men, 248 girls and 207 boys), offering invaluable information about food, nutrition and health, along with the diversification of food production through orchards and vegetable gardens, poultry and tilapia farming, and environmental sustainability and climate change resilience.

Five rainwater collection tanks were built in coordination with local government, serving more than 500 families in three municipalities. At the same time, 121 families were assisted in their micro-enterprises, 80 per cent of which were led by women. At the start of the programme, 64 per cent of families faced food insecurity but by the end the rate dropped to 14 per cent.

The programme contributed to food security and nutrition by collaborating with local authorities. Main contributions include the creation of indicators for the National Strategic Plan for Breastfeeding; height and weight measurements among first-grade students for the Fourth

Human Impact: Dora Alicia



Dora Alicia Pineda. In the small village of Las Vueltas in the North of El Salvador, a movement has caused change to ripple through the community in the fight against child malnutrition and development of family livelihoods. **“We are ten women who work to supplement the diet of families and combat children malnutrition,”** said Dora Alicia Pineda, a farmer and ‘family demonstrator’. With SDG Fund support Dora Alicia has become an example of how to effectively administrate resources and grow a business.

“I think work with the new chicken incubator is excellent because it benefits all the women working in this group.” **Dora Alicia’s leadership in her community have led her to participate actively in decision-making bodies in her municipality,** such as the Municipal Committee for Food and Nutritional Security, school purchasing and feeding committees, and committee of the Tamulasco River.

National Census; the creation of three technical regulations on food fortification, and a study on the state of nutrition and oral health of children under five. Strategic plans developed by stakeholders revised micro-basin management and included tools for decision-making and environmental sustainability while training activities strengthened the knowledge of civil servants from 13 institutions (governmental and non-governmental) on the development of the 2016-2020 operational plan on food and nutrition security, school alimentation and maternal breastfeeding.

In terms of raising awareness about nutrition, students, teachers and parents from 10 schools planted vegetable gardens to promote cultivation techniques and nutritional knowledge. Another 15 schools received kitchen utensils in promotion of food safety. Women were empowered when local authorities increased the number of women in local government, and 86 women were trained on technical issues they could carry forward when joining three Municipal Committees on Food and Nutrition Security.

2.2.8 Ethiopia: Joint programme on gender equality and women empowerment - rural women economic empowerment component

Developed to accelerate the economic empowerment of rural women the regions of Afar and Oromia, UN Women, IFAD, FAO, and WFP jointly implemented this programme, which promoted gender equality, reduced rural poverty, and directly contributed to SDGs: 1, 2 and 5.

The programme strategy used a multi-faceted approach in the creation of gender-sensitive agricultural extension services and cooperatives, promotion of women-owned agricultural businesses, and increase in women's participation in rural producer associations, financial cooperatives and unions. Active engagement from federal and regional governments, and local civil society organizations, were instrumental for addressing barriers to rural women's empowerment.

Because of the joint programme 2,500 rural women benefited from increased agricultural production and improved food security and nutrition. Indirectly, the joint programme affected more than 14,000 community members, 80 cooperatives run by rural women, and 3,000 female members of Rural Saving and Credit Cooperatives.

Rural women and their families were able to improve their food and nutrition security by participating in agricultural production trainings, and information sessions on food reserve management and control, and cattle fattening and rearing. Technical capacity building was supported through the provision of innovative agricultural inputs and technologies. It led to rural women in Oromia seeing increases of 100 per cent, 125 per cent, and 83 per cent in the production of wheat, maize and teff (per hectare). Eighty percent of rural women can now feed their households three times a day with a diversified diet while also increasing and diversifying their incomes. Women now have personal savings ranging from \$14 US dollars to \$508 US dollars.

This economic boost led to more women participating in producer associations with the aim of accessing broader markets. For examples, the Bekelcha Beri Milk processing cooperative was able to supply milk and butter to hotels in the district and grain producers from the Bedhatu

cooperative in Dodola supply improved seeds to the Oromia Grain Trade Enterprise through their unions.

The joint programme helped address gender inequality by focusing on sustainable social change in communities and households. As a result, 53 per cent (1,335) of women now jointly make decisions with their spouse about household matters such as the sale of assets like cattle or rental of land. Fifteen per cent (368) of rural women have been inspired to participate in the decision-making processes of rural institutions, which is a significant jump from the baseline of zero participation.

Human Impact: Ila



Ila Robale took part in the rural women's economic empowerment joint programme in Oromia. Her husband died 20 years ago, leaving her to raise five children. Ila has been a member of the Savings and Credit Cooperative Society in her village for over ten years. She values the "saving culture" she developed, as it allowed her to upgrade her house and keep her children in school.

The loan she receives as part of the joint programme is an additional boon, bringing her closer to her goals. "When I receive the loan through the programme I save for purchasing an ox with an estimated cost of 8,000 Birr [about \$US 369]," she said. At the moment she has only one ox and spends her money on renting a second ox to plough the 1.5 hectares of land she owns. Once she has two oxen she will be able to afford to buy fertilizer to increase the yield of her land, providing long-term benefits for her family.

In terms of jobs, 108 women (96 in Oromia and 12 in Afar) took on positions in their local cooperatives, working on administrative, auditing, control and loan committees. Twenty-four cooperative and 54 association leaders, along with 112 rural women received training on leadership and management in a professional setting, as well as family law and economic rights. In addition, 2,127 rural women were able to access credits/loans through their cooperatives. Out of 900 women who received loans in the first round, 744 have already repaid their debt and accessed additional funds to support income-generating activities.

Joint programme activities also supported gender-responsive policies and an institutional environment that fosters women's economic empowerment. A National Network for Gender Equality in Agriculture was created in support of gender-responsive agricultural sector policies, strategies and programmes, and to increase women's national ownership. Through this network, gender-sensitive national plans and policies were sought.

Programme support led to the development of two evidence-based studies ("Costing the

Gender Gap in Agricultural Productivity in Ethiopia" and "Budget Tracking of Agriculture Sector from the Gender Perspective"), which informed policy development and enhanced awareness about gender gaps. Additionally, the "Cooperative Strengthening Manual of Federal Cooperatives Agency (FCA)" was revised to be more gender sensitive.

2.2.9 Fiji: Youth in organic agriculture in Fiji

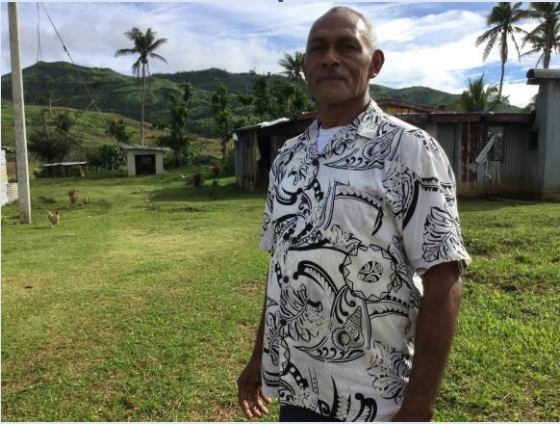
UNDP implemented a joint programme that focused on **the promotion of organic production and certification through participatory guarantee systems in Fiji**. Rolling out in Ra Province, in the northern coastal area of Viti Levu, the largest island in Fiji, the programme supported social enterprise and semi-subsistent farmers, targeting women and youth in five villages. **The joint programme directly contributed to SDGs: 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7.**

Following Category 5 tropical cyclone Winston in February 2016, one of the strongest cyclones to make landfall in Fiji, 44 people lost their lives, 30,000 homes were damaged or destroyed and 40 per cent of the population was adversely affected. The programme targeted some of the communities most severely affected by the cyclone and the floods that followed later in the year.

With an integrated approach to inclusive economic development and post-disaster recovery, the programme improved resilience through the promotion of organic production and certification. Participatory guarantee systems were established in five participating villages, with mentoring and monitoring provided to young farmers. Participants were trained on decision-making and governance processes that can help increase ownership and sustainability.

In total, 1,050 farming families (including 420 youth) benefited from capacity building activities. A group of 233 farmers were trained on organic standards and certification processes as the first step towards organic certification. Taking part in organic peer review training, they learned about farm inspection and the standards required for organic certification of food. Farmers also received training on cooperative management and financial literacy, which was provided in partnership with Westpac Banking. Farmers are now able to directly deposit the income from the sale of their produce into their bank accounts.

Human Impact: Mario



Mario Keni is the village headman of Nabalabala village, one of 12 communities involved in the SDG Fund joint programme. **Initiative stakeholders share information with participants about the organic certification of vegetables and root crops, and connects them with domestic markets.** Following Winston, which devastated Fiji in 2016, communities have looked to get back on their feet and address long-term challenges like food security and high levels of unemployment.

“There is so much excitement! Our plantations were destroyed and it was hard to start again,” said Mr. Keni. “This province used to be labelled as one of the poorest in Fiji but has great potential in the form of resources.” **The programme helps produce organic niche products and connect agricultural producers to new markets,** while providing villagers with training on organic standards and certification.

2.2.10 Guatemala: Food and Nutrition Security Prioritized Municipalities of the Department of San Marcos

The WHO, UNICEF, FAO and WFP joint programme aimed to **reduce chronic malnutrition in children under two** in the municipalities of Tacaná, Esquipulas Palo Gordo, Tajumulco and San

Lorenzo in San Marcos. By engaging local government and other stakeholders in community-based approaches and building on the results of the work of MDG Fund-interventions, the programme promoted integrated solutions for food security, nutrition, local governance and gender mainstreaming, **contributing directly to SDGs: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 17.**

The joint programme focused on strengthening government institutions responsible for food security and nutrition and on building capacities at the local level to improve the food security and nutrition of households engaged in family-based agriculture.

Human Impact: Esmeralda



Esmeralda Barrios (46). In the rural department of San Marcos a network of women volunteers known as "Mother Counselors" joined forces against child malnutrition. **Esmeralda Barrios leads one of the community-based educational interventions that started in early 2015 with the aim of changing feeding practices and care for children under two years.**

"I am a counselor in my community. I identify children with malnutrition and advise mothers to take them to the health center and help them," said Esmeralda. "I also teach mothers with children over six months to prepare recipes that can be combined with breastfeeding." Mothers Counselors provide adequate information to pregnant women and mothers with children under the age of two in their communities, through support groups, home visits and individual counseling.

Supporters focused on municipal planning, including four multi-year plans on food security, nutrition, water and sanitation, and the first "1,000 Days" principles, in addition to 32 plans at the community level. Efforts reached more than 1,500 families, (82 per cent of beneficiaries were women) as they learned how to incorporate organic agricultural inputs, diversify production and improve soil conservation. These new techniques led to 92 per cent of families adding five home-grown greens and vegetables to their diets. Additionally, a 25 per cent increase in food consumption was achieved due to increased agricultural productivity and yields. More than 55 per cent of families reduced the amount of carcinogens (linked to childhood malnutrition, stunting, etc.) in their corn through improved post-harvest handling.

In addition to working with agricultural extension workers, health professionals and midwives, some 50 voluntary "community promoters" (*promotores comunitarios*) and 300 "Mother Counselors" (*madres consejeras*) from grassroots organizations were trained on relevant health, nutrition and infant care issues, including exclusive breastfeeding and preparation of complementary foods.

At the beginning of the programme, the majority of households practiced subsistence agriculture, with only 19 families generating an average income of 106 Guatemalan quetzals per month. With the training and support offered through the programme, 869 families earned 200 quetzals per month by programme closure. Beneficiaries developed small businesses, including rose cultivation, coffee, candles, fish, processed vegetables and honey.

2.2.11 Honduras: Promotion of culture and tourism for local development in Ruta Lenca

In Honduras, UN Women and UNDP, in collaboration with national and regional partners, supported economic development, the revitalization of the Lenca culture, and development of sustainable tourism and micro/small enterprises led by women and youth in the municipalities of La Esperanza, Intibucá, Yamaranguila, Jesús de Otoro and San Miguelito in Intibucá. The joint programme directly contributed to SDGs: 1, 2, 5, 8, 10 and 11.

Lenca cultural heritage and cultural tourism were promoted as a means to revitalize the local economy. This was done by fostering entrepreneurship and small business development, building the skills of Lenca women and youth, along with providing access to finance and fostering intersectoral cooperation and planning.

The joint programme promoted inclusive approaches to development by forming the Local Committee for Entrepreneurship, which served as the primary local decision-making mechanism and relied on the representation of indigenous grassroots organizations and participation by women. The committee selected 38 business proposals to receive support from Centres for Small Business Development, which was comprised of training, business plan preparation, business management, and seed money from the programme upon completion of all other requirements. By the end of the programme, 24 small businesses successfully acquired legal licenses and, of those, 16 were secured financing from rural savings and credit unions.

The creation of an Inter-Institutional Roundtable on Rural Cultural Tourism fostered intersectoral coordination in the Lenca region, as well as the elaboration of the first-ever tourism development plan for the five participating municipalities, covering the period 2017 to 2027. With the cultural tourism sector in the early stages of development, tourist information centres were equipped with resources to promote Lenca culture and the region as a cultural tourism destination. The programme bridged gaps in cultural heritage management and tourism development by training of 73 “cultural managers” (*gestores culturales*) to promote Lenca culture, build the Network of Indigenous Lenca Youth Communicators (*Red de Comunicadores jóvenes indígenas lencas*), and train 34 cultural tourism guides. An important tourist and cultural site has been revitalized and the economic situation of its residents improved.

Human Impact: Xiomara



Xiomara Arriaga is a businesswoman, mother and community leader. Thanks to the SDG Fund joint programme in Honduras she went from spending cold nights selling handmade hats and scarves in a park to owning her own business selling artisanal goods made from traditional Lenca textiles and being an active member of the community.

One of a number of local artisans, Arriaga received funding as part of an initiative to revitalize the native Lenca culture and help break the cycles of poverty many women find themselves in. Support allowed her to establish a business that works on a large scale, providing thousands of lanyards for international events and summits. Her workload has grown to the point where she is now able to provide employment to others, through temporary positions to help fill large orders. “Before, I had no job and no way of making an income for my family. I never imagined I would be able to create jobs for other members of the group. Young people like me need opportunities to help pull us out of poverty,” says Xiomara.

Furthermore, to address several social issues related to the empowerment of Lenca women and youth (access to justice, human rights and gender equality and their root causes) programme stakeholders worked with local organization Las Hormigas to develop a strategy for the prevention of violence against women and a campaign against alcoholism.

2.2.12 Mozambique: More and better jobs in Cabo Delgado and Nampula - Harnessing opportunities of the new economy in Mozambique

In Mozambique, UNDP, ILO and UNIDO worked with the government, local communities and extractive industries in Cabo Delgado and Nampula provinces to help **promote inclusive economic growth and opportunities for local communities**. The joint programme strengthened the capacities of local institutions to provide vocational training and promoted the uptake of local content among multinational enterprises in extractive industries, while also endorsing the development of gender-sensitive employment policies and improving the capacities of small business and value chains. **The joint programme directly contributed to SDGs: 1, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 13.**

At the policy level, programme results included advocating for the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, the elaboration of the Draft National Content Law and the National Employment Policy, and supporting their implementation. Utilizing the Training for Rural Economic Empowerment approach, training and start-up kits were provided to 380 young women and men, giving them the tools needed to start their own businesses. Institutional capacity building focused on local business service centres (*Centro de Serviços de Negócios*) to help local agribusinesses create links with bigger buyers like catering firms and supermarkets.

Efforts to promote and procure local content showed promising results. A market network forum was launched to bring together local companies and agricultural producers in Montepuez, which local and international mining companies took an interest in. At the time of the final evaluation, 472 company profiles were listed on the subcontracting and partnership exchange platform, with 129 matches made between buyers and suppliers, including three domestic companies from South African.

In terms of environmental performance, 80 national consultants were trained on the promotion of resource-efficient and clean production, which benefitted 14 companies. The performance of an additional 69 companies were benchmarked, so management could track and improve their performance.

2.2.13 Nigeria: Food Africa, empowering youth and promoting innovative PPPs through efficient agro-food value chains in Nigeria

An innovative public-private partnership between the SDG Fund, FAO, ILO, International Trade Centre (ITC), the Sahara Group, world-renowned chefs (Roca Brothers), the Nigerian National Government, and Kaduna State Government, the programme sought to improve food security and nutrition, and alleviate poverty by strengthening local value chains for farmers. The programme promoted agro-food value chain development, food and nutrition security, youth employment and poverty alleviation by testing a replicable model in Kaduna State. The joint programme directly contributed to SDGs: 1, 2, 5, 8 and 17.

Partners worked together to promote replicable and integrated solutions for agro-food value chain development, food security and nutrition, youth employment, and poverty alleviation. Piloted activities in Kaduna State supported public-private partnerships to create business models that could boost local agriculture and establish local food processing facilities. The programme also aimed to improve the livelihoods of farmers by expanding their market access. Primary outcomes included opportunities for decent jobs that alleviated hunger and nutrition problems, and promoted sustainable economic growth. A secondary focus was on empowering local youth by improving their technical and business management skills.

Implemented between August 2018 and September 2019, joint programme activities supported the reduction of post-harvest losses and establishment of a processing facility for agri-business development. Market-driven business models were used so farmers could better access new markets. In all, 246 farmers and 15 cooperatives/farmers groups were reached over six months and participated in skill training sessions, as well as access to agricultural inputs and equipment to improve productivity and minimize post-harvest losses. Although the short time frame prevented 246 farmers from securing contracts to sell produce to directly to the processing facility, Sahara Foundation is committed to operating the facility beyond the programme period and establishing contracts with local farmers.

Furthermore, the Food Africa programme strengthened agro-food value chains and improved access to markets in the Jere farming area. Farmers were connected with micro, small and medium enterprises, strengthening local business and value chain development. Because of value

Human Impact: David



David Israel, a 19-year-old from the province of Kaduna, Nigeria, is aware of the difficulties many farmers face in West Africa. Not only has he seen his neighbors' plots succumb to the threat of a moth that ruins entire yields of tomatoes, but he has also seen how the price of tomatoes has decreased to the point where many producers end up abandoning their goods on the roadside.

Because David knew the SDG Fund Food Africa project was offering training courses on organic agriculture, he showed up despite not being on the list of selected beneficiaries. With no finances other than his own savings, David joined and was an enthusiastic participant of the sessions on value addition, market links and food safety and quality. David says he plans to study Agricultural Engineering at the University of Kaduna where he will obtain a degree and, one day, be a successful local producer of maize, beans, guinea corn, cashews, and palm oil.

chain market programmes, 78 farmers, market agents and food processors (44 women) improved their knowledge of financial services, markets and off-farm opportunities. Moreover, under agreements between the farmers and micro, small and medium enterprises, farmers sold 139 tons of produce. Sixty-two young people and women in Jere and surrounding communities attended business management workshops, leading to each participant developing a business plan that would enable them to turn small-scale farming practices into large-scale agri-businesses.

2.2.14 State of Palestine: One-stop-shop to create sustainable businesses on inclusive economic growth

FAO, ITC and UN Women collaborated with local stakeholders in Palestine to **improve the livelihoods of Palestinian women by building their capacities in managing micro, small and medium size enterprises and cooperatives**. Preserving cultural heritage, traditions and crafts were part of the programme focus as creating marketable products and improving the regulatory environment for local products and women-led cooperatives and businesses, the programme could address issues related to the Palestinian National Export Strategy and promote inclusive market development. **The joint programme directly contributed to SDGs: 1, 5, 8, 10 and 17.**



Fatin Anani. In a time where only 5 per cent of the businesses in Palestine are owned by women, the SDG Fund Joint initiative provided women with the skills needed to bring their products to larger commercial markets.

A large part of the programme fostered growth of local business associations. For Fatin Anani, a local entrepreneur, she discovered the collective power of working with an association, **“It used to be that each of us had our own separate businesses. Now, we have established an alliance for our businesses, which makes us more powerful. We can now make decisions for ourselves and our products.** We hope to share this feeling with other women and continue to support fair trade products which are produced by women only enterprises.”

The joint programme promoted inclusive socio-economic development by creating an enabling environment and improving market access for women-owned businesses and cooperatives. Women benefited from training on business and financial management, bookkeeping, food processing, food safety and quality control, packaging and labelling, and marketing. In terms of fostering market networks, women business owners participated in exhibitions, showcasing their products in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates, Berlin, Germany, and Geneva, as well as various business-to-business meetings. The women connected with buyers from different countries and received feedback on product specifications.

Twenty-three women-led cooperatives (comprised of 923 members) signed contracts to supply two shops, Al-Rozana and Al-Thimar, to bring their products to market. Selling under the brand, *Baitutie* (homemade), both companies saw substantive increases in sales (40 per cent and 68.1 per cent) in 2016. Apart from \$113,000 US dollars in direct sales to the public, an additional

\$205,000 US dollars was generated through export markets. As of March 2017, a contract with the intermediary exporting company New Farm generated \$60,294 US dollars in sales from

produce provided by 13 cooperatives supported by the joint programme. Overall, the 43 participating businesses saw an average increase in sales of 42.8 per cent.

Government officials improved their knowledge of gender mainstreaming through awareness raising sessions aimed at developing gender-sensitive policies. Gender mainstreaming efforts also rolled out in the private sector with the Bank of Palestine and Birzeit Pharmaceuticals Company (the largest in their respective sectors) undertook comprehensive gender audits. Both committed to implement recommendations to have gender-sensitive policies.

2.2.15 Paraguay: Paraguay protect, promote and facilitate effective implementation of the right to food security and nutrition in prioritized vulnerable populations

WHO, UNICEF, FAO and WFP programme design focused on **improving the lives of indigenous and rural communities by reducing extreme poverty and child malnutrition**. The programme supported government efforts to find integrated solutions for food security at the national level through a cross-sector approach that worked with indigenous and vulnerable rural households to produce nutritious and diversified food. **The joint programme directly contributed to SDGs: 1, 2, 3, 5 and 10.**

The joint programme promoted a multi-sector approach to the food and nutrition security of indigenous population and rural communities in three highly vulnerable areas (Presidente Hayes, Caaguazú, and Caazapá). This was accomplished through a collaboration with the Government of Paraguay on finding integrated solutions to food security at the national level through a cross-sector approach. Stakeholders worked with indigenous and vulnerable rural households (with children under 5 years of age).

Programme design included an integrated model to decrease malnutrition with a focus on rights, gender and respect for different cultures. This approach was supported by national and sub-national strategies on the use of technology for food production, and risk management to reduce vulnerability and improve adaptation to climate change. Strengthening institutional capacities was an important component as it helped generate information related to food security and nutrition.

Human Impact: Regina



Regina Sosa. To address the financial inclusion of women SDG Fund programme supported groups of women entrepreneurs. **They promoted 50 savings groups made up solely of women, indigenous people, and individuals from poor households, resulting in over 800 women having, for the first time, access to a savings account.**

"We are extremely happy with the experience," said Regina Sosa, President of the Administrative Committee of the Toro Kangué Community Savings Group, rural department of Caaguazú. "Most beneficiaries thought it would be difficult to save, but as they developed the methodology of the program, they discovered that it was possible."

Direct beneficiaries included 9,300 farmers and their families, including 1,963 children (936 girls). Main results include the empowerment of vulnerable population to improve their food and nutrition security and supporting women-headed households in producing nutritious and diversified foods. Equipment and different seed varieties were purchased and delivered to 902 indigenous, and 147 rural, families in line with production plans that were community led. Eighty-two per cent of targeted families participated in training on early agricultural warning systems to improve food production.

To reduce malnutrition among children, school gardens were planted, which provided vegetables for students and their families who were also encouraged to plant vegetable gardens at home to help improve nutrition and eating habits. Children also benefited from learning about ecological agricultural practices at school while those who suffered from malnutrition received milk provided through the national Comprehensive Nutritional Food Program.

Supporting forty-eight savings groups, formed by women, promoted gender equality, as did providing training on financial literacy. Through such initiatives women (heads of households and young women) learned about the importance of mutual support, shared responsibility and collective financial discipline.

To improve local connections and networks, 41 facilitators from participating communities received interactive training on cultural diversity, with a focus on indigenous culture. Facilitators, including 13 indigenous and four rural women, trained 2,984 families on issues related to food and nutrition security. For stronger institutional capacities, the joint programme promoted policy coordination through roundtables on technical management and inter-cultural, multi-ethnic and indigenous affairs.

2.2.16 Peru: Economic inclusion and sustainable development of Andean grain producers in rural areas of extreme poverty in Ayacucho and Puno

Local and national stakeholders, along with ILO, FAO and UNESCO, promoted the inclusive economic growth of quinoa production in Ayacucho and Puno in the Andean region of Peru. The reputation of being a “superfood” has increased international demand for quinoa. Despite a boom in exports at the local level, many small-holder producers still struggle to make a living and are unable to escape poverty. The programme delivered an inclusive approach to quinoa value chain development to improve the incomes and livelihoods of local quinoa producers. The joint programme directly contributed to SDGs: 1, 2, 5, 10, 12 and 17.

Closely aligned with national development strategies, the programme focused on smallholder producers of quinoa. A value chain approach was used to increase the uptake of organic production, reduce post-harvest losses, and promote gender equality and cultural heritage. Emphasis was placed on public-private partnerships, knowledge management, and sustainable development practices in the quinoa sector.

Human Impact: Nina



Benjamina “Nina” Gonzalo (52). Quinoa producer Benjamina struggled for years to make a living. Among thousands of poor smallholder farmers in Peru, she was unable to benefit from the rising global demand of the “super grain.”

Peru is the world’s biggest producer of quinoa followed by Bolivia, and together they account for 80% of global trade; yet, while exports of quinoa have increased in recent years, it has not led to higher incomes for Peruvian farmers like Nina. It wasn’t until Nina took part in the Andean Grains joint programme, promoted by the SDG Fund, that her circumstances improved. “We have been taught to select and distinguish the types of seeds and which type of grain is most in demand. We now know the properties of each one and its benefits,” Nina said. “Previously, we produced little, but thanks to the cooperative business model we are more connected to the quinoa market.”

In total, 3,366 quinoa producers benefited from training and technical assistance in cooperative business models, occupational safety and health, cleaner production techniques, and organic production and certification. In Puno, an increase in collective sales led to an improvement in prices by 22 per cent. In Ayacucho, incomes increased by 47 per cent between 2016 and 2017. Quality and traceability were improved along with the strategic positioning and branding of quinoa produced in Puno through the registration of the collective organic trademark “Aynok’a—Ancestral Highland Quinoa” in 2016 and through the implementation of an inclusive business model.

Focusing on providing access to improved seeds, 49 producers (59 per cent women) in Puno were trained in seed production and 12 were successfully registered as certified seed producers. This group produced some 15,700 kilograms of seeds, of which 36 per cent were certified by the National Institute of Agrarian Innovation (INIA). In Ayacucho, 159 farmers (23 per cent women) were trained and four achieved certified seed producer status, producing 7,500 kilograms of authorized seeds as per INIA standards.

In addition to improving productive capacities, the programme raised awareness about gender

equality, prevention of alcoholism and domestic violence, and leadership, negotiation and interpersonal skills. By raising visibility of quinoa as a vital part of Andean culture the local heritage was promoted. A 2017 study on Andean Grains in Peru, “Hupa Quinoa: Sacred Seed, Ancestral Food,” put a spotlight on the historical, ecological and ethnographic dimensions of quinoa in the Andean region and also highlighted the role of women and ancestral cultivation practices.

2.2.17 The Philippines: PRO-WATER: Promoting water and sanitation access, integrity, empowerment, rights and resiliency

The joint programme, implemented by UNDP, UNCEF and WHO, targeted impoverished and water-scarce areas in the Philippines (Basud, Capalonga, Aroroy, Cawayan, Milagros, Monreal, Bobon, Mapanas, Siayan, and Sindangan) to increase access to clean water and sanitation, and encourage good hygiene and sanitation practices in households, schools, health centres and public spaces. The joint programme directly contributed to SDGs: 1, 2, 5, 8, 10, 13, 14 and 15.

An integrated approach was used to improve the governance of, and access to, safe water, sanitation and hygiene in six “waterless” provinces (where less than 50 per cent of households have access to safe water). Targeted gender-sensitive solutions benefited local households and communities, improved the capacities of schools and health centres, and generated data that could be used to inform policy, planning and capacity building practices.

The development of the Integrated Safe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (iWaSH) framework laid the foundation for pursuing a coordinated approach to safe water, sanitation and hygiene at the local level. It was adopted nationally and its local implementation was supported by all 16 regional water and sanitation hubs established through earlier MDG Fund interventions.

iWaSH is now recognized as a leader in the development of water safety plans for 10 local government units, including increasing targets for access to safe water to from 68 per cent to 97 per cent and access to sanitation and hygiene from 68 per cent to 100 per cent. Locally, improvements in water quality, monitoring and planning were realized because of water quality and risk assessment plans were created, as well as local policies to support ‘Zero Open Defecation’ and introduction of water quality testing kits. Low-cost sanitation technologies were introduced in all targeted local government units and, at the time of final evaluation, 37 barangays in six municipalities in two provinces had been declared “open defecation free.”

Gender mainstreaming was promoted in all aspects of programme planning, decision-making, monitoring and implementation. In total, 3,277 women participated in programme activities, including conducting assessments and data validation, planning, resource allocation, monitoring and evaluation, sanitation programming, community organizing/social preparation activities, and communications and advocacy on iWaSH.

2.2.18 Samoa: Engaging youth in Samoa in organic farming and menus. A farm-to-table value chain approach

UNDP and IFAD tackled **youth unemployment and its negative effects on the social and economic development of Samoa**. The joint programme promoted employment opportunities for youth through organic agriculture and public-private partnerships, and also provided assistance with



For **Rene Celespara**, mayor of the town of Bobon, **projects on water, sanitation and hygiene should remain a priority even when the SDG Fund iWASH programme ends**. During the presentation ceremony in December 2016, the local representative said, “Water plays a critical role in the integration process and we all have a responsibility to contribute to development. After the evaluation last year, we were able to obtain data that reflects the real situation of our municipality. If there is no access to water, there cannot be sanitation and hygiene either.”

Projected costs and investments based on objectives over the next decade are 32 million Philippine pesos (\$613,000 US dollars) for water supply and 3.7 million for sanitation.

agricultural processing, skills training, and education. The joint programme directly contributed to SDGs: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 9.

Programme partners, including the Government of Samoa, civil society groups and private sector organizations sought to “re-invigorate agriculture” and support the development of organic products and the organic Samoa brand.” Vocational trainings on organic farming were an important component of the joint programme as students learned practical skills and overcame challenges related to low levels of education.

In the first two years, 574 youth, 1,027 farmers, 137 children, 30 businesses, and 61 NGOs benefited directly from the joint programme. In terms of skills training and knowledge transfer, Women in Business Development Incorporated (WIBDI) helped 574 young people learn about organic agriculture. Their training focused on organic farming practices and climate change, but also had a strong emphasis on business planning, budgeting, and making organic farming profitable. At the end of the programme, 1,027 farmers received certification and were able to supply WIBDI with organic produce—an increase of 36 per cent from two years earlier. Successful younger graduates sold their produce directly night markets.

In addition to farmers, 137 children and 1,028 elderly people also attended trainings in their villages to learn about the “farm-to-table” process. Evaluation findings confirm that involving all community members, including children and the elderly, motivate younger people to get engaged in organic family farming because social capital in Samoa is built on strong family values.

In addition to individual beneficiaries, 61 NGOs and 30 businesses participated in programme activities through WIBDI. After seeing programme results, local hotels also expressed interest in partnering with WIBDI to promote organic farming.

Human Impact: Iese



Iese Mata'ia. In Samoa, warriors play a large role in the culture. A group of young women and men, also known as the “Organic Warriors” used this cultural marker to produce food through more sustainable techniques. The SDG Fund initiative promoted youth employment, especially those who dropped out of school and young women. Iese Mata'ia is a proud organic warrior who is grateful to the programme.

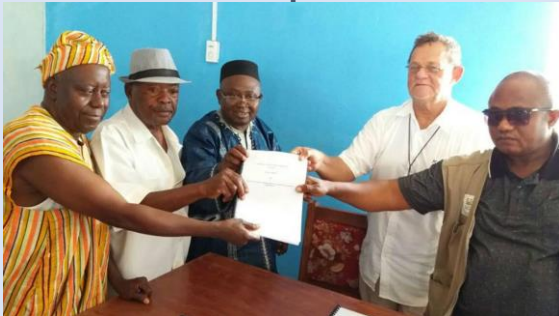
“It taught us important things about how to become a successful farmer. And I think this is a great programme for all the youth who didn’t do so well in school.” Iese and other warriors are now building their own small vegetable gardens using their knowledge to generate new income opportunities by selling their organic products to local restaurants and tourist markets.

2.2.19 Sierra Leone: Enabling sustainable livelihoods through improved natural resource governance and economic diversification in Kono District

UNDP and FAO worked together in Kono district to enhance the sustainable and inclusive governance of natural resources, and diversify sustainable livelihood opportunities for young people and women in agriculture, aquaculture, and food processing. The programme promoted

public-private partnerships in natural resource governance, directly contributing to SDGs: 1, 2 and 16.

Human Impact: Paul



Paul Ngabba Saquee V. Kono District in eastern Sierra Leone is the most productive mineral sector in the country, but revenue was not being reinvested in local development or job creation. Mining had degraded the environment and sources of local livelihoods. But community members, supported through an SDG Fund project, succeeded in creating an agreement so mining can benefit the communities.

Despite earlier challenges, civil society organizations, local media, NGOs, local councils, traditional local authorities, and private sector representatives were advised on how to conduct negotiations. Paramount Chief Paul Ngabba Saquee V recognized that “This community-company arrangement brings high hopes as it will help to reduce the blame paramount chiefs receive in the communities for taking community money, and for not being transparent or accountable.”

An integrated approach and multi-stakeholder collaboration resulted in a programme designed to address the governance of natural resources and diversification of livelihoods for young people and women through job creation and increased business opportunities. The programme focused on working with beneficiaries living below the national poverty line of \$2 US dollars a day.

Sierra Leone, heavily affected by the Ebola outbreak, saw a bulk of its emergency funds go towards combating the virus. Because of this, it was important to build the resilience of communities, post-recovery. It is why investments were made in sustainable development and employing adaptive methods to reach targeted groups.

Programme activities increased knowledge sharing and inclusive participation around the issues of natural resource governance, promoting effective dialogue for local development initiatives and alternative livelihood opportunities for poor and disadvantaged youth. The programme engaged stakeholders, particularly civil society members and communities, and raised awareness about a

land reclamation intervention that involved mining plots of land (including agricultural).

The needs of communities were taken into account and partnerships were formed so solutions could be found in the agriculture, aquaculture, mini-processing and trade sectors. Six hundred and fifty alternative sustainable livelihoods were created for young people (160 women)—they started businesses or sowed agricultural plots after receiving vocational and entrepreneurship training. Other vocational skills offered included agriculture, welding, electrification, refrigeration, auto-mechanics, heavy-duty truck driving, heavy-duty machine operation, block-laying and computer software/hardware. Two hundred young people (114 women) learned agribusiness skills and received tools to help them cultivate mined-out land (20 acres was reclaimed and cultivated for rice, vegetables and economic tree production), while 150 young people (48 women) were trained on natural resource management.

With regards to conflict resolution mechanisms, a study was carried out to identify issues caused by mining activities in Koidu. This enabled stakeholders to speak transparently and engage in

dispute resolution without resorting to violence or conflict. More than 450 people (20 per cent women) from 25 organizations attended face-to-face sensitization sessions. An additional 60,000 people were targeted by a mass media outreach campaign on environmental management, mining policies and laws, and advocacy approaches for natural resource management. In tandem, and with support from the Center for International Earth Science Information Network at Columbia University and the Environmental Protection Agency, environmental changes were monitored using a centralized GIS database. Staff were trained to produce, interpret and share information based on satellite images.

This support for improved natural resource governance resulted Koidu Holdings signing the second community development agreement in Kono district. As a result of the agreement, 0.25 per cent of the company's export earnings will be reinvested in the community. The first payment of \$190,000 US dollars supported community projects to reduce local tensions and create jobs for poverty reduction.

2.2.20 Sri Lanka: Scaling-up nutrition through a multi-sector approach

In this joint programme WFP and FAO collaborated with the Government of Sri Lanka to **address the causal factors of poor nutrition at the household level**. This involved coordinated responses between multiple sectors including primary health care, poverty alleviation programmes, education, agriculture, and indigenous medicine. **The joint programme directly contributed to SDGs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 17.**

Nutritional needs were addressed through a multi-sectoral approach. A Presidential Task Force on Nutrition was formed to lead implementation and the Multi-Sector Action Plan for Nutrition prioritized communication, community, education, economics, food security, and the first 1,000 days of life. The plan focused on vulnerable groups, including pregnant and lactating women, and children.

WFP and FAO conducted a baseline nutrition survey comprised of 14,762 pregnant and lactating women and 8,791 school children from 262 schools across the country. This helped the government better understand links between health, food security and micronutrient deficiencies. Using the data gathered and from surveys and lessons from previous initiatives, WFP and FAO targeted the areas with the highest need. Outreach on nutrition in preschools and primary schools was successful as children ate foods they had not previously eaten and stopped bringing less healthy foods to school as a result.

Human Impact: Kanagaratnam



Kanagaratnam Sridharan. Principal of Mylambvelo Sri Vigneswara Vidyalayam School in Batticaloa is an advocate for health. "Children are from poor families and most come to school without breakfast. **The meals we give them are very nutritious, healthy and clean. So, not only is attendance is high, but children are happy to learn.**" School canteens also play a role in sharing guidelines on nutrition practices and making such food available. **Nutritional education combines classroom learning with practical activities, creating a nutrition supportive school environment that involves the entire school community.**

Apart from improving the quality of the local produced food supplement “Thripasha” (an experience shared from Rwanda), joint programme stakeholders were able to reopen the dialogue on rice fortification—a crop that had been previously overlooked in favour of wheat. Drawing on experiences from India and Bangladesh, fortified rice was introduced, on a trial basis, in social safety net programmes. A nationwide school nutrition database system was also developed with pre-school guidelines on health and nutrition, which were included in the updated school canteen circular and manual that was distributed to 10,000 schools.

2.2.21 Tanzania: Joint programme to support Tanzania’s productive social safety net

Human Impact: Kazijya



Kazijya Kila. At the age of 18, Kazijya Kila dropped out of secondary school because she was pregnant. Although she married, life was tough for the new mother with no job. “I was just a housewife. The first three years of my marriage were the hardest. I would wake up at night and hear my baby crying, and most times, it was because he hadn’t had enough to eat. That used to break my heart,” Kazijya recalls.

But in 2013, Kazijya enrolled with the Tanzania Conditional Cash Transfers project, supported by the SDG Fund, and received her first instalment of 20,000 shillings (\$10 US dollars). “This has been a blessing and my life will never be the same again,” she said. Those transfers enabled Kazijya to start her own business, a story that represents the 1.1 million households living below the food poverty line in Tanzania.

UNDP, ILO, UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Government of the United Republic of Tanzania expanded the flagship national social protection programme—the Tanzania Productive Social Safety Net. The programme used conditional cash transfers to promote employment through public works programmes and raised awareness about family planning and the importance of primary and secondary education for getting out of extreme poverty. The joint programme directly contributed to SDGs: 1, 2, 3, 5, 10 and 17.

The joint programme expanded the safety net and improved its efficiency by strengthening inter-sector coordination, implementation and delivery systems for supporting sustainable livelihoods, resilience and poverty reduction mechanisms. Activities were designed in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and Tanzania Social Action Fund. The aim was to promote an integrated approach to poverty and malnutrition, finding ways to sustain poverty eradication efforts at the household level, improving safety net programme implementation and delivery systems (including M&E), and strengthening sustainable livelihoods and resilience mechanisms for beneficiaries

through training and outreach.

Piloted activities included the launch of the *Stawisha Maisha* community engagement toolkit for safety net beneficiaries in Unguja North B (Zanzibar) and Mbeya District Council (mainland). *Stawisha Maisha* (nourishing life) utilized community sessions to increase engagement and information sharing among 10,272 women, caregivers and grandmothers on infant feeding and young child nutrition. Another initiative was Pilot Cash Plus, which focused on extremely poor

adolescent youth and helped them successfully transition to adulthood by providing cash transfers and life skills training.

Tanzania Social Action Fund was responsible for enrolling 1.1 million households into social safety net activities. Organization members were also trained on toolkit development and use, monitoring and data collection, and communication and advocacy strategy. These aspects grew understanding of the national safety net programme across audiences.

Other joint programme outcomes included the development of sustainable livelihood and resilience mechanisms for 1,000 youth (between 15-35 years of age, with 52 per cent of young women involved) to strengthen entrepreneurship skills and providing post-training support, and providing sessions on sexual and reproductive health to 1,040 young people aged 10-24. From extremely poor households (and part of the national programme).

In terms of institutional support, the joint programme worked with the Zanzibar Ministry of Labour to enhance the coordination, enforcement and implementation capacity of social protection interventions at local government, ministerial and agency levels. Such actions helped the Government of Zanzibar develop a child protection policy that coordinates child-related issues, reinforces synergies and avoids duplication.

2.2.22 Vanuatu: Youth in organic agriculture

UNDP sought technical assistance from the Farm Support Association, Vanuatu Organic Certification Committee and other national organizations, to launch a programme that **promoted the uptake of organic certification on Tanna island through the formation of participatory guarantee systems**. Tanna Coffee, Lapita Café Vanuatu and Nasi Tuan collaborated with programme stakeholders to establish the “Organic Pasifika” mark. **The joint programme directly contributed to SDGs: 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7.**

Organic agriculture is a means of promoting long-term agricultural sustainability, soil conservation and climate change resilience through effective ecosystem management, which is why this programme focused on strengthening existing value chains and creating access to new markets by promoting organic certification through participatory guarantee systems. By securing the framework of a stakeholder structure, that includes farmers and consumers, local network-based quality assurance systems offer credible, accessible and lower-cost alternatives to third-party certification.

The joint programme reached more than 3,000 farmers and provided them with access to agricultural tools and equipment. Semi-subsistent and smallholder farmers, including women and youth, were taught to diversify their crops (island cabbage, kava, maize, manioc, sandalwood and taro) to avoid the negative effects of monoculture/cash-crop production and also insert new,

Human Impact: Monica



Monica tends to her plot, which (in addition to coffee arabica) includes taro, banana, cassava, kava, and sandalwood. **Monica and other small farmers in her community were taught to intercrop with island cabbage, kava, maize, manioc, sandalwood and taro to diversify their farming practices, families' diets, livelihoods and revenue streams.**

nutritious alternative into their diets. The certification process brought attention to the importance of quality control. Programme partners, local companies, NGOs and farmers recognized the benefits of adopting a more holistic approach to agriculture.

South-South cooperation was a central theme of the programme, with knowledge and information shared with residents of the Solomon Islands and new market opportunities assessed in New Caledonia. Although it is still too early to make definitive conclusions, programme partners reported increased sales (including hotel rooms) in the organic tourism sector of Vanuatu and improved access to foreign markets where organic certification is requisite.

At the national level, the Government of Vanuatu will be one of the first in the region to broadcast its organic policy. This policy will be closely aligned with established priorities on food security, healthy eating, and prevention of non-communicable diseases. The joint programme facilitated these policy changes and strengthened links between banks to ensure a robust exit strategy that protects access to finance for the rural poor and “unbanked.”

Drawing from experiences in the Caribbean, climate risk insurance for farmers will be piloted by combining SMS-based early warning systems and satellite technology for remote verification in case of loss due to extreme weather events. For smallholder farmers this “alternative collateral” is accepted by financial institutions.

2.2.23 Viet Nam: Joint programme on integrated nutrition and food security strategies for children and vulnerable groups in Viet Nam

Implemented by FAO, UNICEF, WHO, and local partners, the joint programme **supported the development and implementation of integrated approaches to food security and nutrition to achieve targets in the National Nutrition Strategy and National Food Security plans.** Viet Nam has made great progress in terms of economic growth over the past two decades; however, nutrition and food security are two of the country's biggest development challenges. **The joint programme directly contributed to SDGs: 1, 2, and 5.**

Joint programme stakeholders focused on building political support for scaling up nutrition by building on the experience of the MDG Fund project, and promoting best practices found in laws, policies, and action plans focused on mutual accountability.

Food security and nutrition policy changes were seen through the approval and implementation of *Decree 100* on the marketing of breast milk substitutes, *Decree 9* on mandatory food fortification (salt for human consumption and food processing, wheat flour, and cooking oil), and new Ministry of Health guidelines on early essential newborn care. Other accomplishments included a proposal to restructure the rice sector, which was endorsed in June 2016. Additionally, nutrition profiles for 63 provinces were developed and published on the website of the National Institute of Nutrition.

Locally, the establishment of Farmer Field Schools positively affected the lives of 5,466 farmers (2,969 women). Local government officials in the four targeted districts of Ninh Thuan and Lao Cai provinces assisted farmers in improving their knowledge of seven types of crop, livestock, and aquaculture production. The Ministry of Health approved technical guidelines on early detection and treatment of children with severe acute malnutrition, along with national guidelines on diagnosis and early treatment. Guidelines were used in communities in Ninh Thuan and scaled up to an additional 334 in the 28 districts most affected by the 2016 drought crisis, providing 7,000 severely malnourished children with assistance in affected provinces.

Community Child Feeding Clubs targeting women in each village proved successful. Skill sharing focused on making the best use of available foods, providing guidance on exclusive breastfeeding and complementary feeding, and hygiene and sanitation. Clubs met once per week at the home of the village leader with members exchanging foodstuffs to improve nutritional diversity. Club members also had access to grinding equipment at in order to make fortified flour.

Human Impact: Chamaléa



Chamaléa Thi Cuc. In the rural province of Ninh Thuan, parents, caregivers and farmers received information and training on nutrition, childcare and household food security thanks because of the SDG Fund programme. Chamaléa Thi Cuc, a resident of Phuoc Thanh took part in these information sessions and said, “After attending the technical training on chicken raising, vegetable and maize production, and nutrition I learned how to increase my crop and livestock productivity. The maize yield tripled, enough that I have additional funds to buy more nutritious food for my family.”

The application of these lessons assisted beneficiaries like Chamaléa in significantly reducing child malnutrition rates from 62 per cent at the beginning of the program to 43 per cent two years later.

3. SDG FUND PARTNERSHIPS

The SDG Fund used global partnerships to collaborate with United Nations organizations to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The main partnerships are listed below. Financial expenditures for each partnerships can be found in the consolidated financial report.

3.1.1 Partnership with post-2015 Secretariat in building the post-2015 development agenda

The SDG Fund supported a broad, transformative and ambitious development agenda by facilitating evidence based practices and open dialogue. The SDG Fund supported the post-2015 Secretariat project by working with Secretariat staff and second coordinating consultations with the private sector. Although administered and hosted by UNDP, the project was led by UNDG-UNDP to allow for a joint approach where multiple United Nations organizations could work together on progressing the 2030 Agenda.

3.1.2 Comprehensive security and prevention of violence that affects children, adolescents and youth in Central American Integration System (SICA) countries

The Comprehensive Security and Violence Prevention that affects Children, Adolescents and Youth in SICA Countries Regional Project contributed to reducing factors associated with insecurity and violence in SICA countries, particularly violence affecting children, adolescents and youth in Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, and the Dominican Republic. It addressed all types of violence affecting target populations, in the public and private sphere, and regardless of gender, age or other socio-economic and cultural factors. Under this framework, it directly contributed to the priorities of the Central American Security Strategy and its Youth Violence Prevention Project.

Although helping develop and implement plans that could improve social causes of violence against/among youth was the priority, the emphasis was on at risk populations in places with high crime rates. The SDG Fund contributed by promoting South-South and triangular cooperation, along with the adaptation of best practices and innovative approaches for citizen security.

3.1.3 Contributions to the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Sustaining Peace in Colombia

In February 2017, the SDG Fund, following proposal by Spain Co-Chair of the Steering Committee, transferred \$500,000 US dollars to the Colombian Post-Conflict Trust Fund, which is managed by the MPTF Office. Resources were earmarked for a project on access to water in Tumasco (Nariño) and Puerto Asis (Putumayo), with a completion date of December 2018. Funds were allocated from SDG Fund unearmarked and ad-hoc contributions received from the Government of Spain. In a December 2017 Steering Committee meeting it was decided to allocate an additional, unearmarked \$1 million US dollars.

3.1.4 Partnerships as knowledge, dialogue and mobilization for sustainable development

This project, funded through two grants from the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECID), was to generate knowledge, best practices, raise awareness and mobilize partnerships in the transition between the MDGs and SDGs. Due to the importance of SDG 16 one project activity focused on conflict prevention and institutional strengthening. UNDP (the SDG Fund Secretariat) led on implementation of project activities but other United Nations organizations participated on aspects related to knowledge management and advocacy.

Communication and knowledge management outcomes included creation of the first SDG online library, development of the SDG Fund Best Practices platform, and submission of a case study on the MDG Fund by researchers from the City University of New York. Media and communication engagements received positive feedback as well with consistent media coverage and greater media engagement. Several non-cost partnerships with media stakeholders were established and a new approach to engaging United Nations Goodwill Ambassadors was piloted. Social media was another area where the SDG Fund Secretariat saw rapid growth and engagement, including a successful #Recipe4Change campaign, which received global recognition and promoted people to rethink the SDGs from food and culinary perspectives.

3.1.5. Support the organization of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Samoa

The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States was held in September 2014 in Apia, Samoa. It focused the attention of global citizens on the countries that are a special case for sustainable development because of their unique vulnerabilities.

Project funding supported representatives from developing countries, SIDS and other stakeholders of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in conference and pre-conference activities. Due to the success of this conference and the ongoing support the SDG Fund provides to SIDS, the SDG Fund was granted approval to support a regional joint programme on SIDS (in Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu) that was established in 2016.

4. SDG FUND SECRETARIAT ACTION PLAN

Besides designing, funding and implementing the joint programmes, the SDG Fund also focused on building partnerships, and providing knowledge management, advocacy and communication support on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Important aspects of these activities were funded with contributions from AECID, particularly for the “Partnerships as Knowledge, Dialogue and Mobilization for Sustainable Development” project implemented by the SDG Fund Secretariat.

4.1. Partnerships with new development actors with a special focus on private sector

Partnerships were an important part of SDG Fund efforts in promoting the 2030 Agenda and engaging non-traditional actors (particularly private sector, academia, and creative industries). Through these partnerships the SDG Fund explored innovative approaches that propelled creative industries leaders to the forefront of sustainable development while promoting private sector engagement in achieving the SDGs.

The SDG Fund was particularly interested in working with private sector businesses and networks that were aligned with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. In 2015, the SDG Fund and private sector created the Private Sector Advisory Group, which consisted of business leaders from different industries who offered valuable knowledge and insights on how to advance the SDGs.

Furthermore, the SDG Fund supported private sector initiatives that tried to overcome traditional sustainable development challenges by pooling expertise, technology, and resources. Members of the Private Sector Advisory Group committed to identifying areas of common interest and deciphering the best paths of joint engagement, as well as offering suggestions for how to work more effectively at the country level. Many business leaders from the Global South provided the SDG Fund with insight on how they could be agents of change for global initiatives.

As a result of this collaboration, the SDG Fund produced three reports to increase the awareness on the role of the private sector in achieving the 2030 Agenda.

- SDG Fund Private Sector Advisory Group, Harvard's Kennedy School and Business Fights Poverty (2015). ***Business and the United Nations: Working Together Towards the Sustainable Development Goals: A Framework for Action***. Outlines cases in support of more joint United Nations and business collaboration, as well as recommendations on how the United Nations can work more effectively on this shared visions.
- SDG Fund Private Sector Advisory Group and Global Compact (2016). ***Universality and the SDGs: A Business Perspective***. Highlights perspectives from large and small companies working to understand the new development agenda.
- SDG Fund Private Sector Advisory Group, Pennsylvania University Law School and McDermott Will & Emery (2017). ***Business and SDG 16: Contributing to Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies***. Examines how Sustainable Development Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) is relevant to the private sector and offers perspectives on links between peace and the development agenda.

Aware of the potential of creative industries have to promote sustainable development, the SDG Fund welcomed interest from creative industry professionals (music, theatre, architecture, literature, gastronomy, cinema, sport, fashion, design, etc.) and assessed ways they could contribute to SDG acceleration. One example involves the Roca Brothers, who were appointed as Goodwill Ambassadors in 2016 to work with the SDG Fund on reaching the Sustainable Development Goals through culinary art. This appointment allowed the SDG Fund to have ongoing conversations with the Roca Brothers on ways to use culinary art to make headway in the areas of food security, nutrition, and inclusive economic growth. The #Recipe4Change campaign, launched by the Roca Brothers, was awarded the best campaign 2.0 in 2018 by Ecovidrio.

Other creative ventures included the SDG Fund collaboration with Open Dialogue to host the Pritzker Prize Ceremony and promote the role of architecture in creating sustainable cities, and taking part in a dialogue on diversity and inclusion in the music industry hosted by Berklee College (Department of Music) in 2017.

4.2 Knowledge management

Knowledge management was a core function of the SDG Fund. In addition to incorporating knowledge management into programmes and their learning cycles, the SDG Fund established partnerships with United Nations organizations, external think tanks, and academic institutions to promote knowledge generation and sharing. These alliances were used to analyze SDG Fund and MDG Fund good practices and lessons learned, capture success stories from joint programmes, and promote South-South cooperation by facilitating information exchange between countries.

The SDG Fund produced and collaborated on more than 20 research papers, books and joint United Nations reports. By researching and capturing the lessons learned, the SDG Fund supported policymakers and development practitioners around the world in improving development cooperation and reducing poverty. High-level events and public engagements were used by SDG Fund staff to promote international debate and raise awareness about the complimentary nature of the SDGs.

The SDG was also part of the Academic Chair on Development and Poverty Eradication initiative, promoting the engagement of universities around the world on the 2030 Agenda. Other major contributions include:

- United Nation Secretary General on the State of South-South Cooperation 2017 and 2016;
- United Nations nexus dialogues to share experience of SDG Fund joint-programmes;
- Teaming up with the Office of the Director-General of the United Nations Office in Geneva and publishing their contributions the sdgstories.com platform.
- Sharing experiences at a gender and SDG workshop organized by the Global Institute for Human Rights, Penn Law School (2017);
- Sharing experiences at a workshop on SDG 16 organized by the University for Peace /Chair on Development and Poverty Eradication;

- Participation in discussions co-organized by the University of Navarra School of Law and General Council of Spanish Lawyers on the importance of providing access to justice (SDG 16);.
- Working with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) to develop an online tool for business and governments that builds momentum around, and networks in support of, the SDGs. The online program offered a new e-learning tool (specialized training modules) as part of a course on SDG promotion that would help the public and private sectors gain a better understanding of the United Nations and the SDGs.
- UNITAR, the Spanish Diplomatic School and SDG Fund organized a series of events on strengthening preventive diplomacy and multilateral negotiation and an e-learning course addressing structural causes of conflict, and early warning and preventive mechanisms;
- Participated in the workshop on “Business leading the way: the SDGs as a tool for sustainability and growth” to share experiences about working with the private sector on the SDGs (High-Level Panel Forum Workshop, July 2017); and,
- UNDP Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean 2016 Regional Human Development Report: *Multidimensional Progress: Well-being beyond Income*.

As part of its knowledge management strategy, the SDG Fund created the [SDG Online Library](#) to share best practices relevant to the 2030 Agenda. Publications related to the SDGs were collected and archived in the online library, filling an important gap in helping governments, academics, journalists, private sector, philanthropists, members of the general public and others better understand the importance of SDGs in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Users can consult available publications and find best practices, SDG data and theoretical approaches from the United Nations, development banks, and research institutions.

In addition, the SDG Fund Secretariat provided content for four books published on sustainable development, in cooperation with the Academic Chair on Development and Poverty Eradication. The Secretariat also published a selection of best practices on achieving a sustainable world and advancing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. This [series of best practices](#) features country case studies with a particular focus on challenges, lessons learned, and the potential for sustainability and replication.

- SDGs: Main Contributions and Challenges (2019). Book by Universidad Rey Juan Carlos/UNITAR/SDG Fund/ Chair on Development and Poverty Eradication. Published by UNITAR and the Center of Ibero-American Studies, University of Rey Juan Carlos.
- SDG 5: Gender Equality. (2019). Book by Universidad Rey Juan Carlos/SDG Fund/ Chair on Development and Poverty Eradication. Publisher: Thomson Reuters Aranzadi.
- SDG 5: Gender Equality. (2019). Book by Universidad Rey Juan Carlos/SDG Fund/ Chair on Development and Poverty Eradication. Publisher: Thomson Reuters Aranzadi.
- Sustainable Development Goals. Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. (2017). Book by Universidad Rey Juan Carlos/SDG Fund/ Chair on Development and Poverty Eradication. Publisher: Thomson Reuters Aranzadi.
- International Society and Sustainable Development Goals. (2016). Book by Universidad Rey Juan Carlos/SDG Fund/ Chair on Development and Poverty Eradication. Publisher: Thomson Reuters Aranzadi.

To promote relevant publications and campaigns, the SDG Fund organized and participated in high-level side events, roundtables, inter-agency seminars and international conferences.

4.3 Advocacy and communication

Communication and advocacy were integral to SDG Fund activities. A communication and advocacy strategy was drafted to cover 2014 to 2016 and pulled heavily on MDG Fund experience. The SDG Fund Secretariat also conducted an in-house assessment of its communication functions and compared it to the MDG Fund and other SDG-oriented initiatives in the UNDS. This an important step helped the Secretariat identify the best ways of transferring knowledge, expertise and best practices.

The SDG Fund website (www.sdgfund.org) was the central communication tool for gathering and storing knowledge on joint programmes, including evaluations and message exchange. Since its launch in March 2015, the corporate website attracted 849,133 unique impressions, with the most views originating in the United States, India, Mexico, Colombia, Philippines, Spain, United Kingdom, Peru, Nigeria, and Ecuador. On average, each website visitor spent 2:32 min on the website, which reflects relatively high interest and interaction. To communicate with stakeholders and general audiences the SDG Fund created a digital footprint on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#) (+17,000 followers on Twitter and 42,000 on Facebook), which has been transferred to the Joint SDG Fund to facilitate continued outreach.

The SDG Fund Secretariat worked closely with country offices, providing communication and advocacy support on ways to increase communication and national ownership of messages at the local level. The Secretariat supported joint programme teams in producing communication content, advised on the use of visual identity guidelines, provided social media and web feedback on disseminating results joint programme results.

To improve reach, the SDG Fund established partnerships with online platforms and outlets to regularly circulate information on development-related events and issues. This helped the Fund reach a larger audience and enhance its visibility. As part of its advocacy and communication activities, the SDG Fund participated in forums and events around the world, focusing on private sector engagement and SDG achievement. This kind of visibility meant many organizations were eager to include SDG Fund in their networks and activities, which ranged from annual meetings of investors to events in Silicon Valley.

Workshop and event collaboration (at no cost to the Fund) was another central feature of the SDG Fund communication strategy, working public diplomacy institutions and experts such as the Clingendael Institute, the Swedish Institute, and the University of Southern California Center for Public Diplomacy.

5. SUMMARY OF LESSONS LEARNED

The SDG Fund generated important experience and lessons on how to work across the UNDS, attract multiple donors, engage the private sector, and ensure local and national governments in the name of the 2030 Agenda. The SDG Fund officially closed September 2019, and most of its remaining balance, along with the pioneering work and lessons learned, were transferred to the Joint SDG Fund.

Since the SDG Fund accumulated unique perspectives on promoting inter-agency collaboration to advance sustainable development with new types of partnerships, the SDG Fund Secretariat produced a report that captured primary lessons. Below is a selection of some of the findings.

5.1 Lessons learned from joint programme management, monitoring and evaluation

1. Clearly define Terms of Reference, and the modality and process to select, design and implement joint programmes

Ensuring clear guidance on rules and procedures in the selection, design and implementation of joint programmes will help streamline procedures, reduce delays and promote greater efficiency at the country-office level.

2. More time is needed for joint programme implementation

Based on MDG Fund recommendations, a four-month inception period exclusive of the 24-month work plan was granted to all programmes, allowing for total implementation time of 28 months.

3. Ensure national ownership through the National Steering Committee

National steering committees are to be comprised of representatives from the government, United Nations, and donor community. They promote mutual accountability and serve as an important vehicle for national ownership and the strategic direction of joint programmes.

4. Manage all programmatic funds through a third-party administrative agent

Reporting of matching funds was a challenge for joint programmes. It would be preferable for all funds to be transferred, when possible, into the account of a local third-party administrative agent. This would improve transparency and accountability, ensure availability of funds, and avoid currency exchange volatility that can affect implementation.

5. Ensure quality of all programmatic interventions

The quality of data generated by monitoring and evaluating a joint programme depends on decisions made in the design phase. Because the capacity to design coherent, holistic and integrated joint programmes varied a technical review by external experts was invaluable to the process.

6. Conduct monitoring missions of all joint programmes

Monitoring missions are important for validating data and quality assurance purposes, particularly to address recurrent issues. Joint programmes are larger and more complex than

single-agency interventions. Monitoring missions should be prioritized, particularly when delays are noted as frequent and/or capacity for results management and monitoring is weak.

7. Harmonize reporting, monitoring and evaluation requirements for donors and MPTF Office (Administrative Agent)

Given the complexity of joint programmes, particularly if a number of partners are involved, routine reporting was a heavy burden at the joint programme/country-office level. Harmonizing reporting, monitoring and evaluation requirements of donors and the MPTF Office can increase efficiency.

8. Establish online platforms as a low-tech, low-cost online solutions for joint programme results management

The SDG Fund results management platform was designed as a low-tech, low-cost solution for online results management and monitoring. The simple functionality of the platform lowered site programming and maintenance/troubleshooting costs. The platform allowed for timely submissions of concept notes, programme proposals, technical reviews, monitoring reports, and final evaluation and narrative reports.

9. Strengthen capacity for evaluation at joint programme/country-office levels

Evaluations at the joint programme/country-office levels require strengthening and backstopping from the Secretariat. With a decentralized evaluation function, final evaluations of all programmes (from all regions) were delayed.

10. Maintain roster of approved evaluation experts

There were delays in recruiting evaluators as many programmes struggled to find qualified candidates, and several required a second-round of recruitment. Identifying experts in evaluation theory and methodology was challenging due to limited in-country capacities. A roster would have reduced these delays.

11. Explore options for joint final evaluations

Given that joint programmes were multi-faceted, other options for joint final evaluations—such as cluster evaluations, meta-evaluations at the regional level, and global thematic evaluations—could help ensure learning and accountability, as well as the sharing of results and recommendations. These options require more planning at the onset but can lead to additional findings at regional/thematic levels and reduce costs.

5.2. Lessons learned from private sector engagement

I. Create better engagement strategies between the United Nations and private sector

The 2030 Agenda cannot be achieved without meaningful engagement from businesses, as the private sector plays a critical role in offering innovative and technological solutions necessary for economic growth and employment.

2. Raise awareness about the SDGs

There is a need to raise awareness about the SDGs in the business community. By coordinating public-private dialogues, businesses are able to give and receive advice on how to operate sustainably using the SDGs as a framework. Feedback from the SDG Fund private sector workshops suggests that business leaders became more mindful that sustainable business ultimately depends on sustainable societies.

3. Create platforms for partnerships

Businesses require global platforms that can be used to facilitate interactions for the achievement of the SDGs. Business leaders are eager to take advantage of powerful platforms to leverage comparative advantages, ensure change across the global private sector, exchange information, and provide resources for development activities. It is important to create sustainable structures for project design, funding, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

4. Ensure adequate risk management

The SDG Fund conducted rigorous due diligence with each potential partner as per UNDP Policy on due Diligence and Partnerships with the Private Sector. Private sector engagement showed that most businesses are faced with material or reputational risks, so there is a need to effectively tackle sustainable development challenges in a way that mitigates risks, strengthens corporate relationships, and long-term resilience. This helps guarantee sustainability and leads to profitability.

5. Create a common and shared language

Effective partnerships require a common language between the private and public sectors. Although the United Nations and private sector do not speak in the same language, a middle ground can be found through the use of effective communication strategies.

5.3. Lessons learned in knowledge management

1. Academia is an important partner that can offer a wealth of knowledge on development work

The SDG Fund expanded information dissemination by partnering with research institutions around the world that focused on the SDGs. Academics can support policy-makers to eradicate poverty and ensure the welfare of all.

2. Use inter-agency partnerships to generate information and advance the SDGs

Partnering with other United Nations organizations, pooled funds, development banks, civil society, and stakeholders can provide benefits in terms of collaborating according to

comparative advantages, and sharing knowledge and experience. The SDG Fund actively participated in inter-agency research activities and networks, sharing best practices and findings from its joint programmes in support of the 2030 Agenda.

3. Use knowledge management to support South-South cooperation by sharing best practices and experiences

South-South cooperation was an important part of SDG Fund work in implementing 22 joint programmes in 23 countries. Use of best practices included peer-to-peer exchange among programme countries. The SDG Fund considered South-South cooperation as a necessary vehicle to facilitate policy and technical exchange.

4. Knowledge management products should be shared and made available online

The SDG Fund created the SDG Online Library to host resources from the MDG Fund, the SDG Fund, other UNDS programmes, think tanks, academia, and more (<http://www.sdglibrary.org/>). The library features over 1,000 publications with content related to the implementation of SDGs.

5. Explore the use of new technologies, particularly Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)

MOOCs are innovative education tools available to everyone, everywhere. The SDG Fund worked with leading universities to align efforts and develop joint training modules. One outcome was a collaboration with UNITAR, which led to MOOCs on new partnership models.

6. Generate templates that facilitate knowledge gathering and sharing of best practices to support the 2030 Agenda

The use of common templates facilitates knowledge sharing. The SDG Fund developed a series of case studies based on joint programme results, repurposing content from the MDG Fund and aligning it with the 2030 Agenda. Case studies were prepared using a common layout: Summary, situation, strategy, results and impact, challenges, lessons learned, sustainability, and potential for replication.

5.4 Lessons learned in communication and advocacy

1. Communication should be considered a strategic programmatic asset

The communication strategy made it clear that its success was dependent on local efforts. In that regard, the SDG Fund Secretariat worked closely with country offices to provide communication and advocacy guidance and support on SDG Fund-supported initiatives and joint programmes.

2. Digital presence is central for advancing communication objectives

The SDG Fund relied heavily on its website (www.sdgfund.org) to communicate challenges, ideas, and progress. The website offers good content and compelling human stories, along with links to programme documents, narrative reports and final evaluations.

3. Communication supports research and advocacy

The SDG Fund had a privileged vantage point when it came to producing research thanks to its experience on 150+ joint programmes (including those from the MDG Fund)—this is why it prioritized advocacy. Communication functions supported the production, dissemination and repurposing of research, and promoted the Fund as a source for best practices and information about how the United Nations can build and sustain partnerships to achieve the SDGs.

4. Encourage engagement between the United Nations, private sector, academia and others

The SDG Fund participated in forums and events around the world with the express purpose to engage everyone in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

13. Support joint programmes and encourage them to develop their own communication strategies

The SDG Fund supported country teams in creating communication content such as photo essays and libraries, publications, press releases, factsheets and videos. The Secretariat also offered advice on visual identity guidelines, strategic approaches to communications, media outreach, and content creation.

14. Explore and forge long-term relationships and partnerships with media

It is important to work with journalists and the media to promote SDG Fund results. The communications team focused on cultivating relationships with journalists from the United Nations Correspondents Association and representatives of non-United States media. It prioritized European media and news agencies, as well as United Nations communication networks, like the Department of Public Information, in order to share SDG Fund messages in Latin America, Asia, and Africa.