UNDP’s Core Mandate and Priority Areas

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the UN's global development network working in 177 countries and territories, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. UNDP coordinates all United Nations (UN) development activities at the country level as the manager of the Resident Coordinator system. In its resolutions 59/250 and 62/208, the General Assembly reiterated that; “..the management of the resident coordinator system “should continue[d] to be firmly anchored in the United Nations Development Programme”.

UNDP continues to base its activities on the fundamental values of the United Nations while learning from its past and leveraging its core competencies and unique capabilities. These include its dual role as a UN agency that delivers programming and coordinates the UN country office presence, extensive knowledge network, decentralized structure, and business model. In pursuing this course, UNDP is further guided by General Assembly resolution 62/208.

UNDP supports the global push to achieve the MDGs in several ways, including:

- Working with countries on in-depth country analyses on MDG progress and achievement;
- Assisting countries to identify, and prioritize, bottlenecks to MDG achievement and their solutions;
- Providing policy and technical advice to countries as they work to accelerate MDG progress, as well as monitor and evaluate MDG acceleration plans.

UNDP also administers the UN Capital Development Fund, which promotes microfinance in 38 least developed countries; and UN Volunteers, which fields over 7,500 volunteers from 160 countries in support of peace and development through volunteerism worldwide.

UNDP works in four main areas:

**Poverty Reduction & Achieving the MDGs**

UNDP sponsors innovative pilot projects and locally-based development programmes. We provide countries with the know-how to access and manage national and international resources and we also work with countries and partners to strengthen their national response to HIV and AIDS.

**Democratic Governance**

UNDP is the only UN development agency with a specific mandate to promote democratic governance. It supports governments to establish responsive and independent electoral,
judicial and security institutions and methods that promote fair, inclusive elections and rule of law, with a special focus on women and marginalized groups.

Crisis Prevention & Recovery

UNDP’s work in crisis prevention and recovery helps countries prevent armed conflict, alleviate the effects of natural disasters and build back better and stronger when crises happen.

UNDP incorporates peace-building initiatives into many of its poverty and democratic governance programmes and offers expert crisis advice to governments and communities on risk reduction.

Environment & Sustainable Development

UNDP is an important player in initiatives around the world that focus on forestry, energy access for the poor, desertification, biodiversity conservation, water and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

UNDP’s business model

UNDP’s business model provides the framework for its support to programme countries as they work to fulfill their national development strategies, specifically noting that:

(a) UNDP programme support for national development priorities should be in line with General Assembly resolution 34/213, which affirmed the responsibility of Governments in coordinating assistance at national level;

(b) Enhanced support for United Nations development system coordination should be in line with the affirmation by General Assembly resolution 34/213 of the role of the resident coordinator in terms of overall responsibility for the coordination of United Nations operational activities for development at country level, and the subsequent recommendations of General Assembly resolutions 59/250 and 62/208 to provide further support to the resident coordinator system;

(c) Guided by General Assembly resolution 62/208, support to national governments in creating an enabling environment to strengthen the links among national governments, the United Nations system, civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in the search for new and innovative solutions to development challenges in accordance with national policies and priorities. In that connection, UNDP will pursue innovative strategic partnerships with civil society organizations and networks, as well as with the private sector. South-South cooperation will also be an important element of corporate and country-level
partnership strategies. UNDP will annually identify initiatives that gradually widen the array and impact of partnerships. The initiatives will include:

(i) Strengthening existing partnership arrangements, reflected in memoranda of understanding with United Nations partners, to ensure a practical division of labour and to create synergies;

(ii) Seeking more structured partnerships with international financial institutions, in particular the World Bank, in at least three critical areas: the MDGs and poverty reduction; early recovery; and aid effectiveness;

(iii) Establishing networks, including South-South networks, for United Nations system-wide support to boost local entrepreneurship, private-sector development and civil society in at least 50 countries by 2009, in collaboration with United Nations partners;

(d) Refining internal institutional arrangements of UNDP to bring corporate and regional policy and advisory support closer to where they are needed on the ground, and to make those services more responsive to country programme needs. This will entail understanding the different contexts in which UNDP works, and tailoring its services (advocacy, policy and advice, and technical support) to the specific needs of programme countries;

(e) Managing knowledge effectively through the global presence of UNDP and use of its knowledge and resource management systems – two of its main comparative advantages. To deliver effectively on the agenda laid out in the present plan, UNDP must: (i) further expand and improve its existing knowledge networks; (ii) open these networks to other United Nations staff to help build an open United Nations-wide knowledge network; and (iii) gradually open the networks to allow direct participation by external experts, civil society and institutions. Work has already begun in all three areas.

**UNDP’s Structure**

UNDP’s organizational structure can be viewed here:  

For details on UNDP’s Country Offices and the currently serving Resident Coordinators, please visit:  

**UNDP’s Budget**

Total UNDP’s resources projections for the 2008-2011 period amount to $5 billion, or an average of $1.25 billion a year. These resources are administered by UNDP in support of country programmes and activities of the United Nations system and primarily take the form of
multi-donor trust funds and other pass-through joint programmes. This category of resources has grown substantially since 2005, and is expected to expand over most of the 2008-2011 period. The classification of countries (low income, middle income, net contributor) on the basis of indexed classification thresholds of GNI per capita will be maintained. This will preserve universality and take into account shifts in relative growth and the priority of target for resource assignment from the core (TRAC) funding for lower-income countries. Over a four-year period (2008-2011), the estimated overall availability of regular and other resources for UNDP is projected at $20.5 billion (in nominal terms). Assuming that cost classification will be harmonized among the United Nations funds and programmes, there will be an allocation of approximately $18.5 billion (90.2 per cent) for programmes and related costs; $1.5 billion (7.3 per cent) for management functions and approximately $500 million (2.4 per cent) for United Nations coordination. This would include an attribution of approximately $500 million in management/development effectiveness costs to programme expenditure, in line with the practices of partner organizations. On an annualized basis, the estimate for United Nations system coordination ($125 million) amounts to approximately 0.8 per cent of the total funding for United Nations system operational activities.