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Resilient nations.



# Russia - UNDP Partnership

## Overview for 2016-2017





## **Russia - UNDP Partnership Overview for 2016-2017**

June 2017

The overview covers the growing partnership between the Russian Federation and UNDP and outlines main cooperation directions and development results since the first annual partnership consultations in April 2016. The document continues a series of overviews first produced in 2016 and aims to provide background for second annual partnership consultations to be held in July 2017. It was prepared under the Knowledge Management and Capacity Building in Russia-UNDP Partnership project.

Cover: UNDP Kyrgyzstan





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# THE RUSSIA - UNDP PARTNERSHIP AT A GLANCE



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## BECOMING A TRULY GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

with projects in



PACIFIC SIDS



CUBA



PHILIPPINES



VANUATU



SYRIA



SERBIA



ZIMBABWE

## WHILE KEEPING

### THE FOCUS ON THE CIS

with projects worth

KYRGYZSTAN  
\$8.9 M

BELARUS  
\$1.6 M



TAJIKISTAN  
\$9.7 M

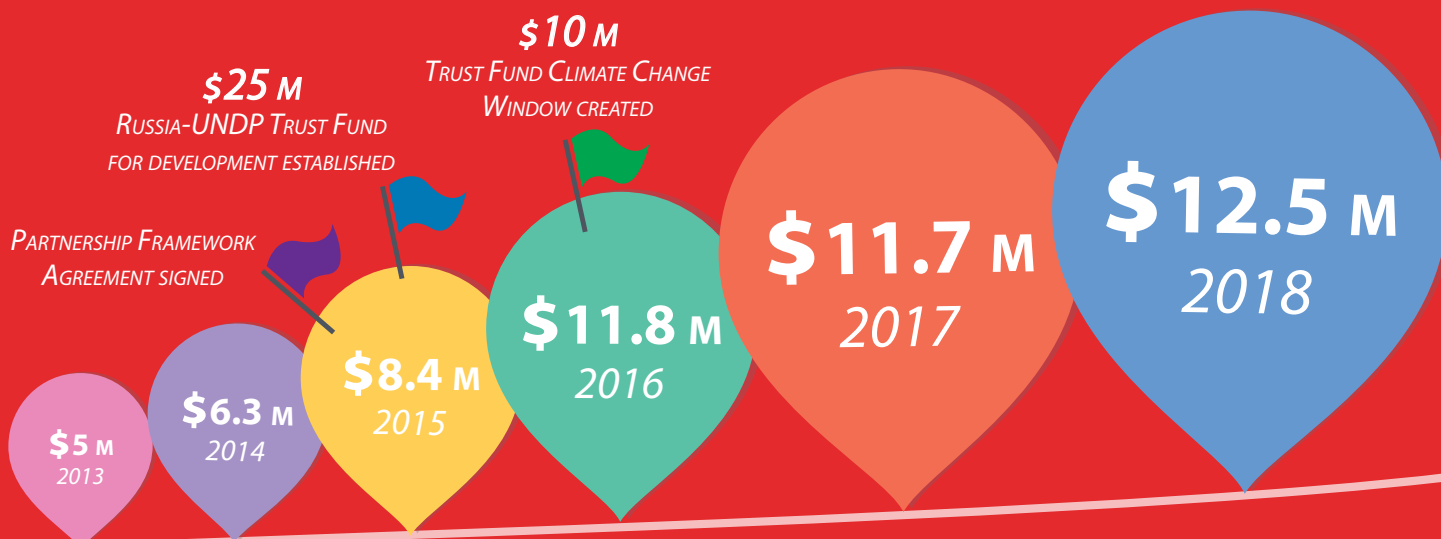


ARMENIA  
\$8 M



## GROWING BOTH IN SIZE AND SCOPE

OVER \$60 M FUNDING FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WITH THE FOLLOWING DISBURSEMENTS







# ADDRESSING DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES AND SUPPORTING POVERTY REDUCTION



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VIA ITS PROJECTS, THE **RUSSIA - UNDP PARTNERSHIP** SUPPORTS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN PARTNER COUNTRIES AND HELPS ACHIEVE RESULTS SUCH AS:

**1** NO  
POVERTY



**747** permanent  
and **3000** seasonal  
jobs created in  
*Tajikistan*

**2000** families benefited  
from construction  
materials produced in  
*Cuba*

**2523**  
emergency  
jobs created in  
*Syria*

**412** civil servants trained in local economic  
planning, statistics and analysis in  
*Tajikistan*

**10 km** rural roads  
rehabilitated in  
*Kyrgyzstan*

**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES  
AND COMMUNITIES



**8** DECENT WORK AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH



**84** small  
enterprises  
created in  
*Kyrgyzstan*

**13** organizations received grants  
for capacity support to  
agricultural producers in  
*Tajikistan*

**3493** rural residents  
have received soft  
micro credits in  
*Tajikistan*

Access to clean water  
improved for **25000** persons in  
*Kyrgyzstan*

Land irrigation improved:  
**9000 h** in  
*Kyrgyzstan*      **3000 h** in  
*Tajikistan*

**6** CLEAN WATER  
AND SANITATION



**13** CLIMATE  
ACTION



Debris cleared on **1739 km** of  
roads after the Typhoon Haiyan in  
*Philippines*

Solar heating systems installed in  
**12** social infrastructure facilities in  
*Kyrgyzstan*

New courses  
introduced at **4**  
vocational schools in  
*Kyrgyzstan*

**1234**  
technicians  
trained in  
*Cuba*

**438** students have better study  
conditions in 6 renovated and  
equipped vocational schools in  
*Tajikistan*

**4** QUALITY  
EDUCATION





# 01

## Introduction

**Russia and UNDP work together to achieve better development results for people in the CIS and globally.**

Their joint efforts, based around Russia's growing role as a donor, focus on supporting countries in reaching their national development priorities and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

In many ways, 2016 was an important year for the partnership, solidifying cooperation and expanding it in size and scope. Real progress was made in several dimensions envisaged by the **2015 Partnership Framework Agreement**: development cooperation in developing countries; support to multilateral efforts; alignment of development efforts to increase their effectiveness; and knowledge and expertise sharing.

The **first annual consultations** on Russia-UNDP partnership were held on 18 April 2016, and provided an opportunity to take stock of the fast growing partnership as well as discuss the key directions and initiatives to be implemented in 2016-17, including those related to climate change and knowledge management.

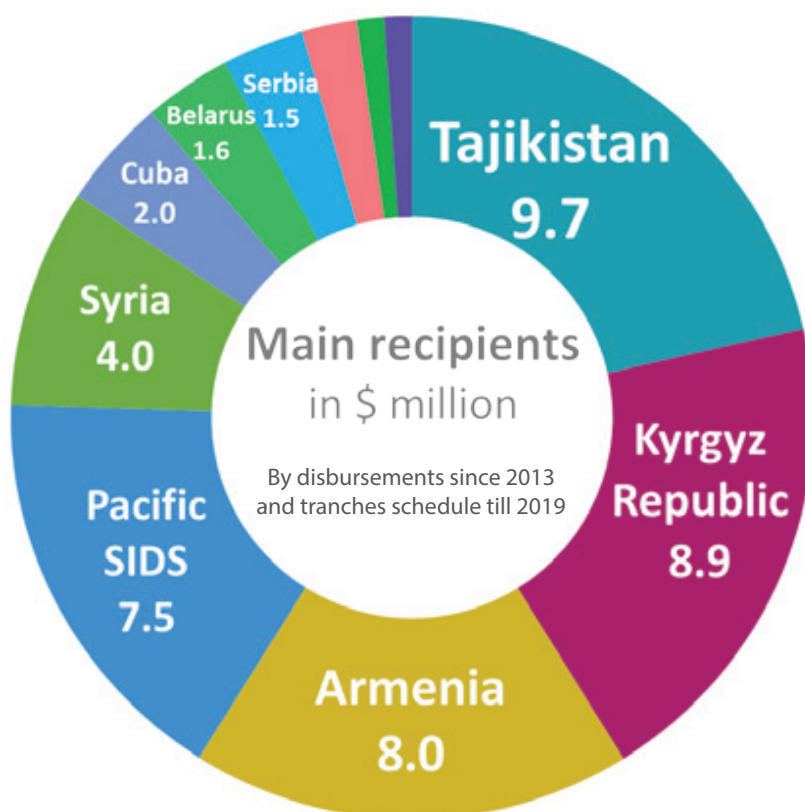
It was also the first full year of the **Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for Development** operation. The Trust Fund was established in 2015 with

initial funding of \$25 million. In 2016 it was fully institutionalized and proved to be an efficient and reliable instrument to support competitively selected development projects. In 2016, Russia committed additional \$10 million for the Trust Fund to support efforts to mitigate and prevent the negative effects of climate change in developing countries.

The intellectual dimension of the partnership has been also gaining momentum with the establishment of

new **Russian knowledge and expertise** sharing instruments introduced in 2016.

The present overview encompasses the main directions of the partnership – development cooperation outside of the Trust Fund, including humanitarian response, the Trust Fund, and knowledge management – and presents **results achieved** since the first annual consultations to date. It also outlines the main **priorities of the partnership** for 2017 and beyond.





# UNDP projects funded by Russia since 2013

## Development Projects outside of the Trust Fund for Development

Comprehensive development of Naryn Region, Kyrgyzstan, 2014-2016	\$3,500,000
Livelihood improvement of rural population in 9 districts, Tajikistan, 2014-2017	\$6,700,000
Assisting the Government of Belarus in accession to WTO, 2014-2017	\$589,680
Development of communities around radioactive sites, Kyrgyzstan, 2015-2016	\$1,476,000
Integrated support to rural development in Tavush region, Armenia, 2015-2020	\$5,024,988
Capacity building in cattle identification, Kyrgyzstan, 2016-2017	\$450,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$14,240,668</b>

## Humanitarian Response

Contribution to the UNDP part of Syria SHARP Appeal, 2013	\$2,000,000
Contribution to the UNDP part of the Philippines appeal, 2013	\$1,000,000
Post-hurricane recovery in Cuba, 2014	\$1,000,000
Vanuatu debris clearance initiative, 2015	\$500,000
Emergency support to the Syrian people, 2015	\$2,000,000
Post-hurricane recovery in Cuba, 2017	\$1,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,500,000</b>

## Projects of the Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for Development

Disaster resilience for Pacific small island developing states, 2016-2019	\$7,500,000
Integrated Osh area-based development, Kyrgyzstan, 2016-2019	\$3,500,000
Integrated rural tourism development, Armenia, 2016-2019	\$3,000,000
Aid for trade: support to capacities in agro-industrial sector, Serbia, 2016-2019	\$1,500,000
Promotion of employment in small and medium towns, Belarus, 2016-2019	\$1,000,000
Strengthening preparedness and response capacity, Tajikistan, 2016-2018	\$1,500,000
Knowledge management and capacity building, 2016-2018	\$500,000
Social and economic opportunities for women and youth in Zerafshan Valley, Tajikistan, 2017-2019	\$1,500,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,000,000</b>



# 02

## Development Cooperation outside of the Trust Fund for Development



Since 2011 with Russian funding, UNDP has been able to launch innovative initiatives across the CIS region and globally. Projects in Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan address the needs of the vulnerable, spurring employment, growth and more effective governance. In addition, Russia provided support in response to humanitarian appeals in Syria, the Philippines, Cuba, and Vanuatu, including the latest contribution of \$1 million to UNDP Cuba for Hurricane Matthew recovery in 2017.

### Area-based Development Projects

Implementation of several projects in Kyrgyzstan, Armenia and Tajikistan continued in 2016. All projects focused on providing support to mainly rural populations and followed the area-based approach. Their components were identified jointly with the respective governments and communities and reflected the area's particular environmental, economic, social, cultural and other features. In 2016, two such projects were completed in Kyrgyzstan.

#### Program of Comprehensive Development of the Naryn Oblast, 2014-2016

The Program of comprehensive development of the Naryn oblast in Kyrgyzstan was the first development project completed under the new phase of partnership. With Russian funding amounting to \$3.5 million for 2014–2016 it was able to effectively achieve regional and local development priorities. It supported initiatives by local communities and residents of 30 pilot villages with the population of about 70 000 people in Ak–Talaa, At–Bashy and Jumgal rayons. Assistance focused on rehabilitation of key economic and social infrastructure, support for income-generating activities, and the improvement of vocational education and increasing capacity of programme beneficiaries in agriculture and entrepreneurship.



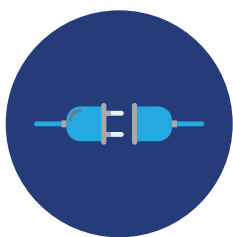
## Key results of the Program of Comprehensive Development of Naryn oblast, Kyrgyzstan



Rehabilitation and installation of water supply pipes with total length of **22 km** resulted in improved access to clean potable water for more than **25000 persons**.



For the **rational use of energy resources**, demonstration projects were implemented, such as solar collectors for hot water provision, biogas plants, energy-efficient street lighting and solar green-houses.



**1800** households received improved access to electricity due to the installation of **28 transformer** substations and construction of electricity transmission lines with the length of over **5 km**.



For promotion of goods produced in Naryn oblast to local and external markets, **a single trade brand was developed**. Export-oriented products, including mountain honey, dairy and meat products, handicrafts will be promoted under the new trade brand.



Repair and construction of irrigation channels with the total length of **52.4 km.**, **3 culvert siphons** and **2 daily runoff ponds** resulted in improved irrigation of **9000 hectares** of agrarian land.



To reduce the risk of emergencies, to protect residential areas and rural infrastructure from mudflows and landslides, a total area of **5.8 hectares were planted by trees**.



New specialties **“gas and electrical welders”**, **“seamstress”** and **“cook”** were introduced in 4 pilot lyceums. The lyceums are provided with new training equipment and textbooks. Teachers and foremen passed advanced training courses.



**84 small enterprises** (sewing and pastry shops, mobile shearing units, fisheries, poultry farms, construction materials production) were established; **375 permanent jobs** were created. **305 persons** (among which 158 are women) created **61 self-help groups**, received soft loans to launch their own business.



Young people in Ak-Tatyr village of Naryn region, Kyrgyzstan, have recently become active in the area of small entrepreneurship with UNDP support. The undertaking is beneficial for all. Now people have the opportunity to get new types of services, most of which are unique for the entire rayon. The young business founders also committed to donate up to 10 % of their revenues to the local budget.

Recently, trucks have started to arrive at the entrance of the Ak-Tatyr tire repair workshop, created by the “Birimdik Demilgesi” youth association. “At present this is the only workshop for the repair of large size tires not only for the

entire Jumgal rayon, but also up to Balykchy city,” says Mr. Jumabek Sultan Uulu, the truck owner as he waits in the queue.

The equipment was delivered in early 2016, it included the tire repair machine for wheels, a 16 bar air compressor and a vulcanizer. After 3 months, it has become clear that even now 10–15 trucks on average arrive for service per day. But during the heating season at least 1 000 vehicles from 12 coal pits are on the road and this figure will increase several times. “Then we will increase the number of employees. Now we have 5 persons,” says 28-year-old Mr. Bekten Kadyrov, the administrator.



# Socio-economic Development of Communities around Radioactive Sites in Kyrgyzstan, 2015-2016

The project supported residents of Ak-Tyuz, Kadzhi-Sai, Min-Kush and Orlovka to improve their livelihoods; gain access to employment opportunities, better education facilities and health services; and improve access to electricity and water. In 2016, the final year of project's implementation, **over 15 000 people benefited from its activities:**

- Over 12 000 people improved their access to clean drinking water after rehabilitation of water supply systems in 3 target communities;
- Over 3 500 people have vital access to electricity, that is uninterrupted during bad weather days, as a result of the rehabilitation of the power transmission lines in Min-Kush;
- Over 200 community members were trained in disaster risk management;
- Energy saving lamps for streets were installed in 3 communities. Solar systems of heating water were installed in 2 schools, 4 kindergartens, and 2 village health posts;
- Irrigation of 695 hectares of land was improved through rehabilitation of the irrigation canal in Orlovka town - as a result, families started cultivating their lands for better income;
- Small business enterprises, such as 3 greenhouses, 1 poultry farm, 1 information center for tourists, 2 sewing shops, 1 furniture production shop, 1 juice bar and 1 bakery were created with the project's support increasing livelihoods;
- At 3 healthcare facilities roofs were repaired, the rooms of a village healthcare post were renovated, improving access to health care for the community;
- 2 cattle baths and 1 bio thermal pit were built to prevent livestock diseases, a bridge in Min-Kush village was repaired, a biogas unit was installed in Kadzhi-Sai village, and much more.



The project also focused on children's wellbeing and education. Over 2000 children now have better conditions for study and rest. UNDP helped 5 schools, 7 kindergartens, 2 student activity centers and 1 sport school to improve facilities by repairing the buildings, replacing heating systems, building playgrounds and so on.

UNDP Kyrgyzstan





Tajikistan could be a challenging place to start a new business. The remote geographic location, lack of seaport, shortage of arable land, widespread poverty, and regional economic turmoil affect all entrepreneurs. However, women often face additional barriers. Many of these reflect a complicated gender landscape, from overall lower levels of education among women to enduring responsibilities for childcare and homemaking. At the same time, families where women contribute to household income are more resilient against economic hardship and less at risk of poverty.

Mijgona from Navgilem Jamoat of Isfara district is 27 and from her childhood had a dream to become a tailor and create beautiful outfits for women. In 2015, she had the opportunity to take the course on adras weaving and successfully completed a 12-week training to become a special master.

Master Mijgona says: "I am proud of our work that together with my students we were able to develop and produce 14 varieties of adras, differing by color, texture and pattern, that apparently won the hearts of local fashionistas." Her young business has received support under the livelihood improvement project of the Russia-UNDP Partnership.

According to the Deputy Chairman of Navgilem jamoat, Soliyev Abduvohid "there are more than 3 thousand housewives in Navgilem and creation of such workshop makes possible both to learn the profession and work from home. The group of 11 women passed short training courses. Now they work and make money to support their families."

Adras is difficult, performed exclusively by hand weaving technique which goes back to the Bronze Age. Adras consists of 50% silk and 50% cotton that is knitted and painted with natural dyes manually. The adras keeps cool in summer and warm in winter.





The machine and tractor station was created in Kulyab. Now over 500 households and farmers can rent machinery to cultivate their lands. Manual work has decreased twice and farmers are able to reap the harvest twice a year.

## Livelihood Improvement of Rural Population in 9 Districts of the Republic of Tajikistan, 2014-2017

The project focuses on remote areas of the country far from the regional centers, with high unemployment, lack of infrastructure and high poverty levels. **Over 350000 people improved their livelihoods** as a results of project activities in 2016, new jobs were open for 1500 beneficiaries. The project provides better opportunities for all residents, including women.

### The project started in 2014 and by the end of 2016 has achieved significant results:

- 3493 rural residents have received soft micro credits with a total amount of \$2.3 million - 41% of beneficiaries are women;
- 747 permanent and 3000 seasonal jobs were created;
- 438 students have better conditions to study as 6 vocational colleges were renovated and equipped. Over 120 students are employed;
- 412 civil servants were trained in local economic development planning, statistics and analysis. District development plans and system of monitoring socio-economic development were introduced in 8 districts;
- 36 representatives of local authorities and business took part in knowledge exchange between southern and northern parts of the country;
- 6 platforms of public-private partnership were established and provide assistance and consultations on business and investment development;
- 13 public organizations have received grants for capacity development of local agricultural producers and processors, creating of value chains and income generation opportunities;
- 29 projects of local economic development completed;
- Irrigation of over 3000 hectares of agricultural land was improved.



# Integrated Support to Rural Development: Building Resilient Communities in Armenia, 2015-2020

In Armenia, people living in the border area of the Tavush region receive support from the project on rural development and building resilient communities.

In 2016, the project supported the participative planning exercises in 12 communities, which were able to meet strict new Government requirements for producing five-year development plans. This also helped the project staff to closely engage with the communities, setting the stage for more effective and demand-driven implementation in the future.

UNDP installed 70 LED street lamps in Koghb to decrease lightning costs and increase the security of the community. The lamps were sourced from a Russian company and will lead to significant reduction in spending on electricity by the municipality and availability of funds for other

important projects in the town.

The project helped repair small community infrastructure in Koghb and Voskevan, as prioritized in the Community Development Plans in the respective communities. In Voskevan, the Culture House was renovated. As a result, the energy efficiency of the building is estimated to have increased by 45% which will result in the reduction of costs for heating and cooling the building.

Within the collaboration efforts with the World Food Programme and Russian Social and Industrial Food Institute, the project renovated seven school canteens in various communities in Tavush. As a result of the renovations, the canteens were brought to sanitary requirements and water and gas pipes were installed where necessary.



32 energy efficient greenhouses were installed in 2016. Farmers were able to increase their income by cultivating crops in greenhouses in a safe environment. For some vegetables, profits for greenhouse production are twice higher than for open field. By introducing slight modifications, farmers were also able to grow greens such as onions during winter months for sale.

UNDP Armenia / Jodi Hilton





About 37% of Armenians live in rural communities. Most of them work in subsistence agriculture on small farms and get about \$110 a month.

UNDP experience in the country has shown that to deal with such development challenges an integrated approach is needed. It should target social, economic and environmental pillars of development to raise the resilience of people to social-economic and natural risks.

The project in Tavush will continue through 2020 and will benefit residents of all 45 bordering communities in that region, with an overall population of 62000. They will be able to get access to quality infrastructures, collection centers of agricultural products and parks of agricultural machinery, create fruit orchards with drip irrigation as well as employment in agricultural and agro-processing sectors.





#### **"Miss Identification of Kyrgyzstan"**

A cow named Zor'ka from the village of Luxembourg in the Kyrgyz Republic was the first animal from the herd of thousands of animals in Kyrgyzstan, which underwent the tagging procedure and received the electronic passport No 0000000001

*UNDP Kyrgyzstan*

## **Capacity Development Initiatives**

Most of the programmes under the Russia-UNDP partnership have a capacity building component often related to business and trade. The partnership also supports projects specifically focusing on capacity development.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, UNDP, with Russian funding, has launched in 2016 a project to help local meat producers get access to Eurasian markets by introducing the highly needed **system**

**of cattle identification.** The project focused on education and training of Kyrgyz specialists for the organization of the system of livestock identification and tracking within the participation in the Eurasian Economic Union. In 2016, over 3000 people were trained all across the country. Five different lines of trainings were organized for operators, trainers, specialists from veterinary inspection, businesspersons, and veterinarians.

In **Belarus**, UNDP has been supporting the national government in its **accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) process.** The fourth phase of the project, funded by the Russian Federation, started in 2014. The project prepared analytical reviews on compliance of the Belarusian legislation with the norms of WTO, trained national experts in the area of Belarus' integration into the world trade system and supported raising public awareness

about benefits and impact of WTO accession. In 2016, the project supported participation of Belarus experts and civil servants in 20 relevant international events, provided translation of documents required for the accession process, organized four practice oriented seminars, prepared and published special manuals. The project has greatly benefited from the Russian expertise via special trainings and study tours to Moscow.





Together with local authorities and communities, UNDP constructed five community centers and rehabilitated one on islands in the Shefa province of Vanuatu. The centers can withstand category 5 tropical cyclones and might be used as evacuation centers during emergencies. In regular times, they would serve as market centers for trade, a meeting place for the communities, hosting of women's handcraft-making, storage room for the community equipment and much more.

*UNDP in the Pacific & PNG*

## Humanitarian Assistance

Russia continued to support humanitarian operations in **Syria**, Vanuatu and Cuba in 2016. In Syria, UNDP helped people recover their disrupted livelihoods and strengthen resilience. In 2016, the project initiative reached 2450 direct beneficiaries via 12 local initiatives. New jobs in food processing, farming, sewing, infrastructure rehabilitation and solid waste management among others, were created. The project continues in 2017.

Additional assistance of \$1 million was extended in early 2017 to **Cuba** for humanitarian relief in the wake of Hurricane Matthew. Russia's support will be used for construction, water supply and sanitation projects. UNDP plans to launch the production of construction materials from the

debris collected locally. It will not only help utilize the debris after the hurricane and produce the necessary construction materials for rebuilding housing, but will also create jobs and improve livelihood for the local population.

The Tropical Cyclone Pam hit **Vanuatu** in 2015. With Russia's funding UNDP was able to support the Vanuatu Livelihoods for Resilience Initiative that was successfully completed in 2016. The project supported various improvements in peoples' lives with households receiving portable solar lamps to enable children to study at night, while women were also able to spend time doing their weaving and sewing. Fishermen received motors with fishing gear sets to increase their catch. Solar freezers were provided to

store the daily fish catch of community fishermen. Six poly tanks of 10,000 liters capacity were installed to harvest rainwater to supplement the water sources in Shepherd's Islands. Women benefitted from a number of trainings on income generating crafts, such as pandanus weaving and artifacts production, sewing and shell crafting.



The offshore islands of Efate, Vanuatu, were among the hardest hit islands during Tropical Cyclone Pam, which caused much destruction on people's livelihood. While most of them depend on farming to meet their basic needs, the islands are rich with marine resources that can supplement daily incomes.

As part of the recovery effort, UNDP, in partnership with the Vanuatu Government's Fisheries Department organized a fisheries training program. The intention was to shift

the fishing effort from near-shore to off-shore fishing and increase the landing and marketing of catches to reduce pressure on reef fish, other coastal marine resources while improving income needs for the local communities. More than 30 fishermen attended the five-day technical training in 2016.

"I have been a fisherman for a couple of years now, and to bring this training to our islands is the right decision as it addresses the real need for us as fishermen. Now we will

become more efficient in our fishing activities with less time and fuel that cost us a lot in our budget," Robsen Firiam said.

"We used to spend many hours in the sea for our catch and use a great amount of fuel. However, with the deployment of these two Fish Aggregate Devices, it will increase our catch and of course we can make more money to improve our lives in these islands," he added.



# 03

Signing ceremony of one of the Trust Fund projects in Armenia, 2016. National governments have the leading role in conceptualization and implementation of every project.

UNDP Armenia

## Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for Development

The **Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for Development** was established in mid-2015 with initial funding of **\$25 million**. In 2016, the Fund was fully institutionalized and has proven to be an efficient and reliable instrument to support **competitively selected development projects** with a particular focus on the CIS region and with specific emphasis on assistance to least developed countries (LDCs) worldwide. The thematic scope of assistance is wide and includes such priority areas as poverty reduction, rural development, sustainable management of water resources, disaster risk reduction and early preparedness to emergencies, as well as sustainable energy.

### Regional and country-specific development projects

In 2016, the first full year of the Russia-UNDP Trust Fund operation, implementation of several country projects and regional initiatives was initiated. Currently the Trust Fund is providing resources to the following projects:

- Disaster resilience for Pacific small island developing states, 2016-2019, \$7.5 mln;
- Integrated Osh area-based development, Kyrgyzstan, 2016-2019, \$3.5 mln;
- Integrated rural tourism development, Armenia, 2016-2019, \$3.0 mln;
- Aid for trade: support to capacities in agro-industrial sector, Serbia, 2016-2019, \$1.5 mln;
- Promotion of employment in small and medium

towns, Belarus, 2016-2019, \$1.0 mln;

- Strengthening preparedness and response capacity, Tajikistan, 2016-2018, \$1.5 mln;
- Knowledge management and capacity building, 2016-2018, \$0.5 mln;
- Social and economic opportunities for women and youth in Zerafshan Valley, Tajikistan, 2017-2019, \$1.5 mln.

### The Disaster Resilience in Pacific Small Island States project

was the first to be launched under the Trust Fund. It aims to strengthen local early warning and climate monitoring systems capacity; equip national partners with mechanisms and tools to manage disaster recovery processes and support use of financial instruments to share disaster related risks and fund post disaster recovery. In 2016 to consult with stakeholders on what support can be offered through the project, UNDP organized project missions and consultations in eight countries. The project supported the 2016 Pacific Climate Outlook Forum as the venues for regional knowledge-sharing. Forum focused on collaboration between Meteorological Offices and their counterparts in the disaster management agencies. As a results they compiled action plans to ensure more collaboration. The project also provided training to Fiji Meteorological Staff on how to electronically archive manual records.

In **Tajikistan**, the Trust Fund is supporting national capacity in preparedness to disaster response and much progress has already been achieved in 2016 and early 2017.





Tajikistan, with 93% of its territory covered with mountains, is a highly disaster prone country. Mudflows, landslides and floods are most frequent, followed by avalanches and small-scale earthquakes.

The Trust Fund project aims to provide much needed support to

Tajikistan in emergency preparedness and response capacities. It will work towards establishment of a “Unified System on Preparedness and Response” and strengthen search and rescue capacities to enable timely and qualified search and rescue services. Efforts under the Trust Fund project are coordinated with all relevant

partners, including other donors such as Japan and Switzerland.

In May 2017, the project delivered 11 units of heavy emergency rescue machinery for the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.



Trust Fund projects in Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, Belarus and Serbia and UNDP Regional Hub initiative on knowledge management have also started in 2016.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, the Trust Fund supports the development of the Osh province and renders assistance in efforts aimed at significant reduction of poverty and improving welfare of target communities. The project implements a participatory area-based development approach: it starts from joint identification of community needs and later provides assistance in accordance with demand. In **Armenia**, the Trust Fund project aims to create income-generating opportunities in the rural areas via development of rural tourism. In **Serbia**, UNDP supports income generation in rural communities by helping farmers improve their productive capacities and increase their knowledge on markets and export through the aid for trade project. The project in **Belarus** focuses on small and medium-sized towns and promotes employment and self-employment of the people. One more project

supporting youth and women in Zeravshan valley will also start in 2017 in **Tajikistan**.

## Climate Change Window

In 2016, the Government of Russia committed **additional \$10 million contribution** to support efforts to mitigate and prevent the negative effects of climate change in developing countries. As a result, the **Climate Change Window** of the Trust Fund was created to strengthen the capacity of vulnerable and developing countries to gain access to climate finance, support implementation of Low Emissions Development Strategies, promote energy efficiency, and scale up successful climate change adaptation practices in agriculture, water and tourism sectors. In particular, it will support the formulation and implementation of tangible projects that help address key climate related challenges in the CIS and other regions, including by the wider use of Russian expertise in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

UNDP Tajikistan

Results of the first Call for proposals showed that there is high demand for the Climate Change Window support. UNDP in Cuba, Zimbabwe, Armenia, Tajikistan and a Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS submitted a total of 10 proposals (6 country and 4 regional ones). Funding decisions will be made in 2017. Project ideas range from prevention and control of wildfires in Armenia and climate change education to water planning in drought conditions in Santiago de Cuba and promotion of energy efficiency in the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union.

# 04

## Knowledge and Expertise Sharing

As Russia and UNDP share a mutual interest in facilitating the exchange of knowledge and expertise to achieve sustainable, scalable development impact in partner countries, a survey of UNDP Country Offices<sup>1</sup> was launched in 2016 to gauge the level of demand for Russian expertise. It revealed that **Russian expertise is in demand** and pertinent to tasks in many thematic areas ranging from trade capacity development to vocational education and preparation of skilled cadre. Survey results also showed that UNDP often involves Russian experts for projects that are not funded by Russia, for example in forest management or in social reforms on disability. Overall, the survey showed that demand for Russian expertise is much greater than what existing opportunities could cover.

Furthermore, most of the projects under the Russia-UNDP partnership already contain an important element of Russian knowledge and expertise sharing. For example, the Institute of Trade Policy of the Higher School of Economics, Russia, provided several trainings to experts and civil servants from **Belarus** on various aspects of accession to WTO process. In **Kyrgyzstan**, the project on socio-economic development of communities around radioactive sites used Russian experts to produce a feasibility study to establish the system on monitoring and forecasting of natural disasters. A strong partnership was built with the All-Russian Scientific and Research Institute for Civil Protection and Emergency Situations along with the Russian Research and Development Union “Diagnosis and Analysis of Risks”. Russian experience in social entrepreneurship and business support is of special interest to **Tajikistan** and the UNDP project on livelihood improvement in 9 districts is supporting study tours and exchanges with Russian business incubators and other relevant institutions. Russian expertise in veterinary and phytosanitary standards of agricultural commodities is built into the UNDP aid for trade project that will facilitate the process of sharing that valuable expertise with national partners in **Serbia**.

In response to these needs, in 2016, the Trust Fund launched the **Knowledge Management and Capacity Building in Russia - UNDP Partnership** project to offer new solutions and meet demand for Russian development expertise in partner countries through several expertise sharing mechanisms:


- An online **expert database** will enable UNDP country offices, international organizations, including development banks, Russian ministries and other stakeholders to promptly locate appropriate Russian expertise needed for development assistance projects;
- The programme of **internships and volunteering** intends to facilitate the contribution of interns and volunteers to the socio-economic development of partner countries and formation of a pool of young professionals with experience living and working in developing countries. Together with the **United Nations Volunteers** the project aims to increase the number of qualified Russians serving in the programme;
- **Secondments** of Russian specialists to UNDP programme countries aim to promote a skilled cadre from the Russian Federation in the field of development;
- The **Russian Experts on Demand Programme** enables the rapid deployment of experts for small-scale interventions and consultancies and peer-to-peer knowledge sharing through mentorship. The range of expertise currently provided under the programme is very diverse: hydropower development in Cuba, energy efficient schools in Belarus, cardiologic surgery capacity in Kyrgyzstan, agro meteorology in Cuba, energy efficient buildings in Armenia. The programme was to a good start and many UNDP offices have expressed willingness to attract more Russian experts, for example to support forestry inventory in Armenia and civil service reform in Uzbekistan.





Turkmenistan has benefitted from several Russian Expert on Demand assignments. Two experts from the Russian "Central Research Institute of Epidemiology" supported their colleagues in Turkmenistan in assessing the laboratory practices in testing for viral hepatitis in order to further improve efficiency of different methods. The mission results were instrumental for the future strategy of Turkmenistan in fighting viral hepatitis.

One more Russian expert delivered a training to the staff of national tuberculosis programme on using computer-based statistical packages for analysis of tuberculosis epidemiology as a basis for evidence-based policy planning. The expert will continue mentorship support till the end of 2017.



Cybercrime is growing and developing countries are especially vulnerable to its threats. Cyber attacks put at risk the critical infrastructure of developing nations, such as information systems of hospitals, air traffic control facilities, police and military.

Following the request by the State National Security Committee of Kyrgyzstan, a Russian Expert on Demand was deployed to support the development of the Strategy of cybersecurity in the Kyrgyz Republic, its action plan and its implementation, based on the best Russian and

international practices.

The first task was to analyze the existing situation in depth. "Urgent actions are needed to implement the intended digital transformation of Kyrgyz national economy and governance system. There are serious regulation and legislative gaps with regard to critical information infrastructure and its protection, terminology and doctrinal basis, cybercrime investigation and prosecution, standardization and technical regulation of cryptography. Lack of trust prevented exchange of

information on cybersecurity threats between private actors and state agencies. However, active and flexible position of policy-makers together with quite strong commitment to improve the situation among both regulators and private actors is a crucial asset that lays the basis for potential future success" – concluded Oleg Demidov after his first mission to the country. The next step would be to propose detailed recommendations and the assignment of the expert will continue until mid-2017.



Under the knowledge management project, in March 2017 in Kyrgyzstan, UNDP organized a regional round table to facilitate exchange of insights, ideas and experiences on the design, implementation and assessment of area-based programmes funded by Russia, with participants from Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The round-table took place back to back with the forum marking the completion of several Russia-funded projects in Kyrgyzstan, and was attended by high ranking Kyrgyz officials, the Russian Ambassador, regional government representatives, international organizations and civil society.

The round table revealed that in general the area-based development approach has proven successful in addressing development problems at community and

grassroots level, stimulating local economic growth through the creation of employment opportunities, solving local infrastructure problems (by for example building an irrigation system or repairing an electricity station). More importantly, participants were able to share experiences and lessons learned on with regard to specific aspects such as community development planning, income generating activities, infrastructure projects and so on. Results were summarized in a report that serves as an update on the best practices and lessons learnt from area-based programming in the CIS and beyond.



Some communication materials prepared by UNDP to inform the wide public in Kyrgyzstan on results of Russia-funded projects.

UNDP Kyrgyzstan



# 05

## Conclusion and Partnership Plans

In 2016, the Russia-UNDP Partnership was further solidified. Several country specific projects were successfully completed and new country and regional projects were launched within the scope of the Trust Fund. Through a consultative and transparent process, most of the Trust Fund funding was allocated for two regional and six country projects benefitting people in Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Tajikistan and small island states in the Pacific.

The Partnership gained a new impetus with the launch of the Trust Fund's Climate Change Window and of the knowledge management initiative.

Building on the progress in 2016 and in line with the Partnership Framework Agreement, the **key priorities for the future** include:

- Continue to focus on **results and greater development impact**;
- Support increased **visibility** of the Russia-UNDP

Partnership and its contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

- Accelerate the provision of **Russian expertise** by increasing the participation of Russian specialists and organizations in development projects, launch of the new modalities including secondments;
- Explore ways to supplement Russian expertise provision by **knowledge and innovation exchange**, including via partnership with Russian private sector and public institutions;
- Provide assistance under the **Climate Change Window** of the Trust Fund and explore new opportunities for continued support.

The partnership plans will be discussed in more detail during the second annual consultations to be held in July 2017.









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