



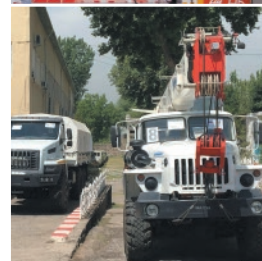
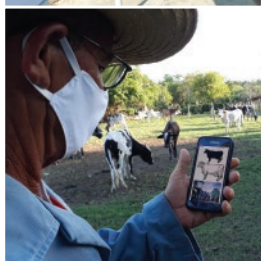
With financial support
from the Russian Federation



2015



2025



YEARS of Russia-UNDP
Trust Fund
for Development



Photos on the front and back cover are from TFD projects in Armenia, Belarus, Cambodia, Cuba, Guinea, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Zimbabwe, and the Pacific SIDS Region

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10 YEARS OF THE RUSSIA-UNDP TRUST FUND FOR DEVELOPMENT

**Established
in 2015**



By 2025

\$80 million
for 54 competitively
selected projects



in 33 countries
in the CIS, Africa,
Asia and
the Caribbean



≈5.0 million
direct
beneficiaries



≈38.2 million
indirect
beneficiaries



\$58.9 million
contributed by national
partners in kind
or in parallel



Over 5,400
national and
local partners



\$31.9 million
co-financing by UNDP
and international
partners



400
Russian experts
engaged



Over 260
Russian partner
organisations



Over 9,200
news and other
media items



Key focus areas

**Sustainable
livelihoods**



**Employment and
entrepreneurship**



**Climate change mitigation
and adaptation**





Examples of results

4,635 entrepreneurs

from Armenia, Belarus, Botswana, Cambodia, Cuba, Guinea, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Serbia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan successfully launched or expanded their businesses



75 modern automated weather stations

in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and the Pacific SIDS Region enhanced weather forecasts and **2.5 million** people make better agricultural decisions and prepare for extreme weather



≈ 100,000

rural people in Armenia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Tajikistan and Zimbabwe gained access to solar energy. With solar water heaters and panels, they reduced monthly expenses by **50%**



Examples of use of Russian expertise

Innovation:

over **50** assignments across **7** countries – digital finance, startups, industrial zones, techno parks, and AI



Clean energy:

16 assignments across **9** countries – energy management for public buildings and energy efficiency technologies



Inclusive growth:

35 assignments across **8** countries – trade capacity, WTO support, youth entrepreneurship, creative industries, tourism



Examples of sustainability of results

In Armenia, **32** out of **36** family-owned «Gastro Yards» (rural tourism businesses serving local cuisine) that opened in 2019 survived the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to operate in 2025



In Cambodia, findings from a Social Protection Pilot covering **1,587** households contributed to the national policy «Pentagonal Strategy», that would be implemented for the next 25 years



A greenhouse in Ittifoq village, Tajikistan opened in 2021 now produces **7,000** pistachio seedlings annually. Local farmers use affordable (\$1 vs. \$13 imported) planting materials and support reforestation



Abbreviations

AI	Artificial Intelligence
AWS	Automated Weather Station
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CO	Country Office
EAEU	Eurasian Economic Union
LDC	Least Developed Country
LLDC	Landlocked Developing Country
MERL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Risk and Learning
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MGIMO	Moscow State Institute of International Relations
MSMEs	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
PDR	People's Democratic Republic
Roshydromet	Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring of the Russian Federation
Rossotrudnichestvo	Federal Agency for the Commonwealth of Independent States Affairs, Compatriots Living Abroad and International Humanitarian Cooperation of the Russian Federation
SC	Steering Committee
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprise
TFD	Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for Development
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
VET	Vocational Education and Training
WFP	World Food Programme
WTO	World Trade Organisation

Executive summary

Established in 2015, the Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for Development (TFD) has so far delivered sustainable development solutions across 33 countries through 54 projects thanks to Russia's financial contribution of US\$80 million. By leveraging Russian expertise and United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) global reach, TFD has directly benefitted around 5.0 million people, with an estimated 38.2 million indirect beneficiaries.

TFD has contributed to all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) except SDG 14 (Life Below Water). Key results include the creation of 7,380 jobs, support for 4,630 entrepreneurs from Armenia, Belarus, Botswana, Cambodia, Cuba, Guinea, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Serbia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, and the training of nearly 900,000 people. Over 100,000 rural people received access to solar energy. New agriculture practices, including drip irrigation, unlocked about 45,000 hectares of previously uncultivated land for agriculture while climate change resilience initiatives improved disaster preparedness for millions.

Over 80% of TFD's resources were allocated to Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), reinforcing its commitment to equitable global development. While maintaining a global presence, TFD prioritized the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) region, with significant investments in Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

TFD has evolved into a fully operational instrument, with transparent rules and procedures ensuring effective project selection, approval, and implementation. Its two-step competitive project selection process – guided by a Steering Committee (SC) composed of the Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economic Development, and UNDP – has supported demand-driven, high-impact initiatives.

TFD maintains a country-driven approach by anchoring all projects in national development priorities and leveraging domestic capacities, thereby fostering

local ownership and sustainable outcomes. Over 5,400 national and local organisations took part in the implementation of the TFD projects.

Every TFD project adheres to a dedicated Communications and Visibility Strategy, ensuring recognition of the Russian Federation as a funding partner. The Russian expertise is integrated into most initiatives, with Russian Embassies actively participating in local project governance. TFD engaged over 400 Russian experts and 260 organisations, fostering knowledge exchange.

Over 90% of supported initiatives remain operational, demonstrating long-term impact. Partnerships with governments, United Nations (UN) agencies, and local stakeholders mobilized \$90.8 million in co-financing.

Strong SC oversight and alignment with UNDP policies and procedures ensured effective implementation. Key challenges included delays in project initiation and the need for enhanced sustainability monitoring. TFD's adaptability during crises, such as COVID-19, underscored its resilience. A main lesson learned at the project level is the importance of integrating flexible timelines, contingency budgets, and remote monitoring tools into initial project design.

Demand for TFD support remains high in such areas as inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction, digital transformation and innovation, and climate change mitigation, adaptation and green transition. Looking into the future, TFD could develop a comprehensive Monitoring, Evaluation, Risk, and Learning (MERL) framework and establish rapid-response mechanisms for early recovery and post-disaster response.



Photo: TFD project in Tajikistan

Introduction

Established in 2015, the Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for Development (TFD) supports sustainable development in partner countries by financing high-impact projects and sharing Russian expertise where it is most needed. Leveraging UNDP's broad mandate and presence in 170 countries and territories, TFD delivers assistance thanks to Russia's financial contribution of \$80 million.

Since its inception, TFD has expanded thematically and geographically, achieving global reach while maintaining a strong focus on CIS countries. To date, 54 projects have been implemented across 33 countries and territories, all aligned with national priorities and designed to deliver tangible outcomes.

TFD directs its primary efforts toward poverty elimination and employment generation, with attention to creating and modernizing social infrastructure, advancing trade development, and promoting sustainable energy solutions. Key priorities include fostering entrepreneurship and establishing stable income-generating opportunities for beneficiary communities.

Supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, TFD established its Climate Change Window in 2016. This dedicated funding stream has enhanced national disaster preparedness systems, strengthened post-disaster recovery capacities, supported climate change adaptation measures, and implemented sustainable energy consumption mechanisms across partner countries.

Addressing a critical challenge of the 2030 Agenda, TFD launched its Youth Window in 2017 to combat youth unemployment. This initiative concentrates on creating decent employment opportunities for young people, nurturing youth entrepreneurship, and providing essential digital skills training to enhance workforce competitiveness.

Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, TFD allocated additional Russian contributions in 2020 to finance targeted projects mitigating the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This report presents TFD's achievements throughout its decade of existence, examines key functional parameters of its implementation framework, and extracts lessons learned from its extensive field experience.

The report was prepared by the TFD Secretariat, based on final reports of completed projects (45), annual reports by ongoing projects as of 2025 (9), evaluation reports (24), SC meetings documentation (34), Annual Consolidated Trust Fund reports (9), information collected from open sources – mostly UNDP websites – information provided by project teams on sustainability of results of previously completed projects (5 Country Offices (COs) contacted by TFD Secretariat in March-May 2025).



Photo: TFD regional project in Pacific SIDS

Key milestones

2015

June – Agreement on the establishment of TFD signed with Russia's initial contribution of \$25 million

July – TFD First SC meeting held at the MFA of Russia

August – First Call for Proposals launched

December – First TFD project approved in Pacific SIDS

2016

November – TFD Communication and Visibility Strategy approved

December – Climate Change Window Agreement signed with Russia's contribution of \$10 million

2017

March – Regional workshop for TFD area-based projects in Kyrgyzstan

December – TFD Replenishment Agreement signed with an additional contribution from Russia of \$10 million

December – Youth Window Agreement signed with an contribution from Russia of \$10 million

2018

November – Regional workshop for TFD projects on innovation in Armenia

2020

February – Review of TFD Operations, meeting held at the Ministry of Finance of Russia

May – TFD Second Replenishment Agreement signed with an additional contribution from Russia of \$30 million

December – Second Replenishment under the Youth Window Agreement signed with Russia's additional contribution of \$10 million

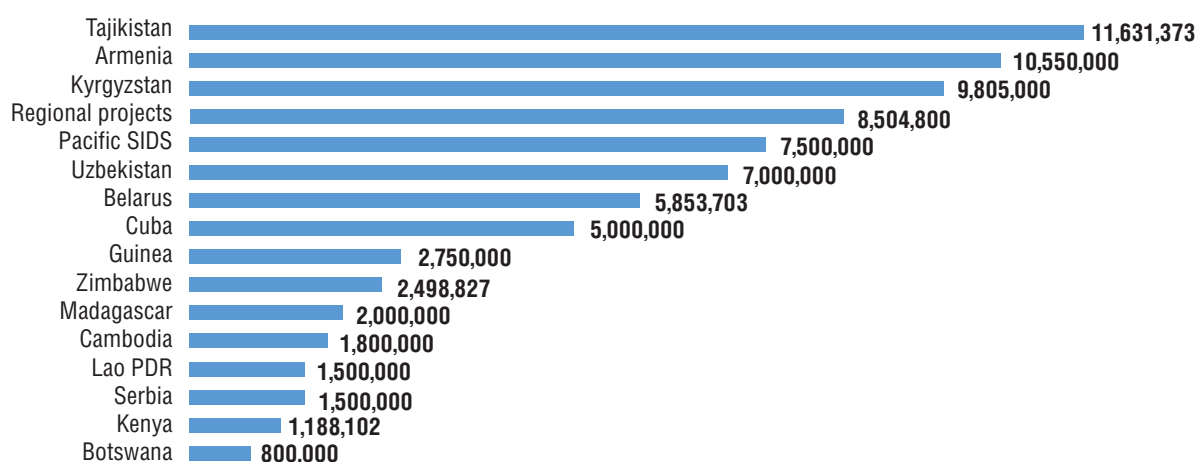
Overview of key results

According to current estimates, since its launch in 2015 and by the end of 2024, TFD has directly improved the lives of about 5.0 million people, and reached additional 38.2 million indirect beneficiaries.

Geographically, while TFD maintains a broad global presence – with country-specific projects in 14 nations

and regional initiatives spanning an additional 19 countries and territories – its strategic focus remains anchored in the CIS region. The majority of funding is concentrated in the region, with Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan representing core priority countries.

Trust Fund funding allocations per country in 2015–2025, in USD



Thematically, the TFD projects have delivered transformative impacts across multiple sectors, emphasizing economic empowerment, youth employment, skills development and entrepreneurship, digital innovation, post-COVID economic recovery, climate change adaptation, disaster resilience, energy efficiency, renewable energy and green transition, infrastructure, and rural development.

TFD's projects contribute to all SDGs except SDG 14 – Life Below Water. TFD projects report on the SDGs they target, with many projects addressing multiple SDGs, maximizing development outcomes across thematic areas.

Below are key results for each SDG, presented in order of the number of projects addressing them (from most to least frequent). Country examples are illustrative rather than exhaustive, highlighting the breadth of TFD support.

Number of projects that support specific SDG (one project can target multiple SDGs)



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals

TFD projects foster sustainable development through multi-sectoral collaboration between governments, businesses, civil society, and international organisations.

Several TFD initiatives supported national partners in the mobilization of development funding. In Tajikistan, a TFD project worth \$950,130 helped unlock over \$67 million of new finance from Adaptation Fund, Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund, Islamic Development Bank, Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, and Saudi Fund for Development to support climate resilience of the country. New projects are now strengthening the climate resilience of over 132,000 people directly, ensuring resilient livelihoods.

TFD projects strengthen institutional capacities through a wide range of capacity-building initiatives, including training programmes, workshops, mentorship, and the development of educational materials. For example, in Armenia, more than 800 locals enhanced their competencies and skills in rural tourism through more than 70 capacity-building opportunities. In Tajikistan, the State Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense's search and rescue teams enhanced their disaster response capacities through trainings, tabletop exercises, and field exercises with the support of the "All Russian Scientific Research Institute on Civil Defense and Disaster Management" of the Ministry of the Russian Federation for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters. In Uzbekistan, 479 officials improved their knowledge of World Trade Organisation (WTO) accession, while 440 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) were trained in export promotion.



Russian expert speaking at the 2025 UNECE International Public-Private Partnerships Forum in Belgrade, Serbia, participation supported by the TFD Knowledge Management project

Trade as a vehicle for economic growth was actively supported across multiple countries. TFD supported Belarus and Uzbekistan in progressing toward their WTO accession, while agricultural producers in Serbia increased their exports. SMEs across Armenia, Belarus, Botswana, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan received targeted support to enter new local and regional markets, broadening their economic opportunities.

Knowledge sharing is integral to almost every TFD project and easy access to the Russian know-how is facilitated by a special initiative – "Knowledge Management and Capacity Development" Project. More details are provided in the respective section below.

13 CLIMATE ACTION



SDG 13 – Climate Action

TFD projects, particularly through the Climate Change Window, have supported national governments in strengthening countries' resilience by enhancing national capacities to adapt to climate-related hazards and natural disasters through the integration of climate change policies in national planning frameworks and enhanced public awareness of climate risks.

Seventy-five modern Automated Weather Stations (AWS) in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and the Pacific SIDS Region improved the quality of meteorological observations by 60%, significantly improving the quality and reliability of weather forecasts. As a result, 2.5 million people can make informed decisions in agriculture and better prepare for extreme weather events.



One of 15 agrometeorological stations in Ferghana Valley supplying essential data for agriculture, Uzbekistan



In Armenia, 10 Early Warning Systems were competitively procured from Russia and integrated with the existing National Early Warning Systems. As a result, over 56,865 people benefited from safer livelihoods and strengthened resilience, and over 27,367 hectares of forest ecosystems' rich biodiversity are better protected.

In Zimbabwe, the Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy was developed through a comprehensive national consultation process. It was signed by the Minister of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industry in March 2021.

Over 85,000 schoolchildren in Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan are using Climate Box to learn about climate change and what they can do to reduce their carbon footprint.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth

TFD projects have supported partner countries in achieving inclusive and sustainable economic growth by tackling unemployment, bridging skills gaps, and fostering entrepreneurship and innovation.

Over 4,630 entrepreneurs from Armenia, Belarus, Botswana, Cambodia, Cuba, Guinea, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Serbia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan successfully launched or expanded businesses with support of acceleration programmes, funding, and equipment.

Almost 900,000 young people in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan directly benefited from business and skills trainings.

Over 1,000 innovative ideas of young entrepreneurs were supported by acceleration programmes for start-ups in Armenia, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

TFD projects created significant employment opportunities, with a strong focus on youth, women, and vulnerable communities. A conservative estimate is that about 7,380 new jobs were created by TFD projects across sectors like tourism, agriculture, IT, construction, and public works. In Cambodia,



StartUp Choikhona winners supported to bring their innovations to reality, Tajikistan

1,755 young people received a direct job offer through UNDP-supported National Career Matching.

Many TFD projects support national governments in piloting new initiatives and approaches to employment generation. In Armenia, TFD projects have been supporting Active Labor Market Policy instruments. Over 270 youth completed fully funded three-month on-the-job training programme, achieving an average employment rate of 45% upon completion.



Photo: TFD project in Uzbekistan



SDG 5 – Gender Equality

TFD projects have enhanced gender equality by focusing on bridging skills gaps and expanding employment opportunities for women.

In Cambodia, 90% of 1,587 bank accounts newly opened under the “Social Protection Pilot” activities were opened by women. Over 60% of Cambodian SMEs supported by another TFD project were women-owned or women-managed.

In Guinea, 786 women have gained an increased and predictable income as they were integrated into new fish-farming value chains.

In Belarus, 340 female entrepreneurs enhanced their skills at specially organized business schools, and 70% of participants testified that schools enabled them to develop their business ideas.

In Kenya, 202 girls completed computer/web programming training and 180 of them continue to use the skills for income generation or further education. In Kyrgyzstan, 180 young women from Osh, Jalal-Abad,



Over 180 girls have acquired employable digital technology skills through a six-month training, Kenya

and Batken Regions received training in information and digital courses of their choice. Over half of them secured employment in the IT sector.

In Tajikistan, 120 female students completed advanced IT courses in software engineering, 1C accounting, and data analytics, with around 60 graduates securing internships in private companies.





SDG 4 – Quality Education

TFD's investment in quality education, most notably via the Youth Window, generates measurable impact by directly linking learning to economic opportunity. Interventions are designed to produce a skilled workforce, translating into higher employment rates and stronger alignment with local economic development goals.

Armenia has strategically strengthened its Vocational Education and Training (VET) system through data-driven foresight and modernized infrastructure, aligning education with labor market demands. Evidence-based VET reforms by the Ministry of Education were supported by launching the Edu2work platform (analyzing job postings) and the Career Tracking Digital Tool to provide real-time graduate employment data.

In Belarus, a TFD project introduced 10 new educational programmes, training over 500 teachers, while 462 VET system representatives enhanced their skills through specialized courses.

In Kyrgyzstan, students in Bishkek and Osh now learn coding and Artificial Intelligence (AI) as new IT curricula were developed and 131 instructors were trained.

In Tajikistan, more than 4,000 young people improved their skills in various courses, for example, on advanced machine learning models. Support also includes an infrastructure dimension. Young girls from small villages in the Zerafshan Valley of Tajikistan have improved access to VET thanks to the renovated Vocational Technical Lyceum dormitory. As a result, the number of enrolled girls increased fourfold and reached 127.



Photo: TFD project in Kyrgyzstan

Children engage in robotics learning at a tech exhibition, Kyrgyzstan

In Uzbekistan, 18 vocational training hubs, also known as “Monocenters”, were upgraded with WorldSkills¹-standard equipment for professions like welding, IT, and electrical engineering, while 444 specialists received training in career counseling and soft skills. Situational Rooms for Career Guidance were developed with support of a competitively selected Russian firm.



Photo: TFD Climate Box regional project

¹ WorldSkills is a global organisation and international movement dedicated to promoting professional skills and vocational education. At WorldSkills Competitions talented young people showcase their expertise in various skilled trades and technologies.



SDG 1 – No Poverty

SDG 1 as the overarching goal of the United Nations' (UN), 2030 Agenda, is targeted in most TFD projects as they contribute to the reduction of multidimensional poverty due to the lack of employment, education, healthcare, housing, etc.

The TFD project in Cambodia particularly stands out as it addressed the SDG target 1.3 on the implementation of nationally appropriate social protection systems. Almost 75% of target, 1,587 households have seen an improvement in their socio-economic indicators as a result of the “Graduation-based Social Protection Pilot” project. The project has not only supported the most vulnerable people in their efforts to graduate from poverty but has also provided a scientifically robust case for the adoption



Safe markets with access to clean water for the benefit of vulnerable communities in Zimbabwe

of new approaches within the country that combine cash transfers with the allocation of productive assets, to build investment in human and physical capital.



SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

Several TFD projects catalyze industrial growth and fuel innovation, building more competitive and diversified economies.

In Belarus, to align training with changing industry needs, educators were supported to develop state-of-the-art skills in competencies like mechatronics, welding, digital metrology, digital agriculture, and many more.

In Cambodia, TFD project supported the government in Industry 4.0 adoption in the apparel and footwear industries with a focus on youth skills, including employees in the garment sector. The Institute



A young woman is learning to solder at the newly established I4.0 tech laboratory, Cambodia

of Technology of Cambodia opened an I4.0 tech laboratory and engaged young entrepreneurs with tech prototyping resources and assistance.



SDG 2 – Zero Hunger

TFD projects have enhanced food security, improved nutrition, and advanced sustainable agriculture practices, building more resilient food systems. Farmers in Armenia, Cuba, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan have adopted new agricultural practices, including drip irrigation, unlocking about 45,000 hectares of previously uncultivated land for agriculture while significantly improving water-use efficiency. For example, to overcome the lack of livestock feed in Cuba, “Iván Rodríguez” Livestock Enterprise was able to cultivate 16,000 hectares of new land thanks to new machinery.

In Guinea, over 25,500 people enjoy greater food diversity and security thanks to 33 new fish-farming sites stocked with varied species of fast-growing fish.



Oyster mushroom cultivation as a means to enhance economic potential of communities in rural Armenia

In Zimbabwe, an estimated 80,560 people are benefitting from resilient urban food supply chains thanks to 12 rehabilitated or newly constructed markets that link small farmers to urban traders via e-commerce platforms.



SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities

Several TFD projects contributed to government efforts in making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable by focusing on disaster resilience, urban infrastructure, and inclusive economic opportunities.

In Cuba, over 450,000 people now have access to improved water quantity and quality thanks to modernized water pumps in Santiago de Cuba and El Caney. More than 39,000 m³ of debris were collected and processed in Havana for future construction, aligning with circular economy principles. The project also strengthened the capacity of national partners



Workers coordinate debris cleanup efforts in one of Havana's central neighborhoods, Cuba

to enhance disaster resilience, while raising public awareness about building collapse risks through targeted campaigns.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities

TFD projects have actively contributed to reducing inequality within countries by prioritizing the most vulnerable populations, empowering rural communities, and addressing the needs of people with disabilities.

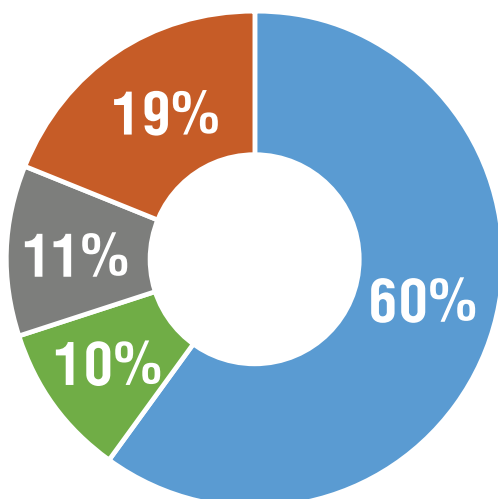
In Uzbekistan, “Imo Ishora” (Sign Language) – an innovative web-based video-transmission software – transformed online sign language interpretation services. Piloted in Employment Support Departments in Tashkent and the Ferghana Region, this cutting-edge tool demonstrates how technology can foster inclusivity and tackle societal barriers.

At the Trust Fund level, TFD aligns with SDG target 10.b, which seeks to reduce inequalities among countries by directing development assistance to those in greatest need – particularly LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS. Over 80% of TFD’s resources were allocated to these priority countries, reinforcing its commitment to equitable global development.



Participants of the YouthConnect Acceleration Programme for women in Guinea

TFD funding per country category
(for country specific projects and SIDS regional project)



- Landlocked Developing Countries
- Least Developed Countries
- Small Island Developing States
- Other developing countries

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being

Access to better health care services was included in some area-based interventions of TFD projects.

In Armenia, about 30,000 people have access to 12 renovated medical institutions that were also furnished and equipped with solar water heaters and solar panels.

In Kenya, county and national governments were supported to identify critical medical items to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and a total of 123,200 individual health care items, — such as protective coveralls, respirator masks, and gloves — were purchased and distributed.

In Kyrgyzstan, new technologies for remote cardiovascular disease diagnostics allowed providing proper medical examination for over 8,000 patients from remote areas of Osh Region.



Residents of remote communities of Uzgen District, Osh Region, now have access to remote cardiovascular monitoring thanks to new equipment, Kyrgyzstan

In Tajikistan, 2,300 people benefited from consultations of narrowly specialized health experts thanks to the “Health Caravan”.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production

TFD projects have supported national governments in promoting resource efficiency, reducing waste, and minimizing environmental degradation while supporting economic growth and well-being.

In Botswana, the “Smart Waste Management Technologies and Solutions” Innovation Challenge equipped nine youth innovators with training and mentorship to develop sustainable waste management solutions. Three of them received seed funding to advance their innovations.



Tajik entrepreneur educates local women to sew reusable diapers following a learning visit to “Beregu Planetu” (I Care for the Planet) production in Ekaterinburg in Russia, Tajikistan

In Cuba, a Russian expert trained 655 specialists from various institutions and municipalities on urban solid waste management, strengthening local capacity in waste handling.

In Kenya, the TFD project helped provincial governments address the surge in healthcare waste amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The initiative included installing advanced Microwave Waste Handling equipment and distributing consumables across 15 health facilities in Busia, Kisumu, and Migori. Additionally, 45 staff members were trained in COVID-19 waste management to prevent further virus transmission through waste.

In Zimbabwe, four newly constructed wholesale markets and eight satellite markets (six newly built, two rehabilitated) introduced green waste management solutions. Solar drying equipment helps reduce food waste and income loss caused by spoilage due to fluctuating demand. Waste transfer stations are maintaining clean market spaces. The newly completed Gwanda Waste Facility now processes aluminum, metal, and glass.



SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation

Access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation has been part of many community-level interventions in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, and Tajikistan.

In 2018 TFD project in Osh Region of Kyrgyzstan supported Uzgen Sanitary and Epidemiological Department by providing modern equipment for water quality control. Up to now, 300,000 residents of Uzgen District have been drinking clean water that was checked for its chemical composition against nine indicators. According to the Head of the Laboratory of the Uzgen Center for Disease Prevention, State Sanitary and Epidemiological Supervision, cases of diseases related to water quality have significantly decreased in recent years.



One of 16 hand pump wells restored in Madagascar for safe access to clean water

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



SDG 16 – Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

TFD projects have supported national governments in promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies.

In Armenia, with support from the TFD project between 2018 and 2021, Armenia's National SDG Innovation Lab advanced public sector innovation. Four pilot behavioral interventions resulted in a significant rise in free cervical cancer screenings among women, improved tax declaration compliance, increased usage of the Government's portal for online citizen requests, and reduced plastic bag consumption in supermarkets.

The Ministry of Health adopted behaviorally informed communication strategies in its official policy and is planning to scale up the intervention for breast cancer screenings.

In Kyrgyzstan, the TFD project transformed local administration systems by equipping and training specialists in rural municipalities of the Osh Region. This support enabled the implementation of the “Single Window” service delivery method, enhanced by an automated document control system and the “Ayil” (Village) information system.



Photo: TFD project in Kyrgyzstan

“Single window” government service in rural district of Karool, Osh Region, Kyrgyzstan

In Uzbekistan, the project strengthened public service delivery by supporting the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations in digitizing key services. This included developing and launching the “MyMehnat” (My Labour) mobile application and “Labour Migration” application for digital provision of employment-related services.



Photo: TFD projects in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy

TFD projects have boosted renewable energy adoption, and improved energy efficiency.

Almost 100,000 rural people in Armenia, Kenya, Madagascar, and Zimbabwe have received access to clean energy and sanitation and were able to cut their monthly expenses on average by 50% thanks to the installation of solar water heaters and solar panels in their houses and in public buildings.

In Armenia, 606 energy-efficient street lights have been installed in 12 settlements covering more than 20 kms improving the standards of living for 17,452 people by enhancing street security and safety.

TFD regional project in the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) member states introduced modern energy efficiency standards and raised consumer awareness. Key achievements included adoption of the EAEU Technical Regulation on energy efficiency requirements (EAEU TR 048/2019), development of energy efficiency labeling systems, and establishment



Solar water heaters at residential buildings in Armenia

of two photometric testing laboratories in Armenia and Kyrgyzstan. Project experts estimate that implementing new energy efficiency requirements will save 3.8 billion kWh annually by 2030 in four EAEU countries, with cumulative savings reaching 38 billion kWh over a decade – equivalent to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20.6 million tons of CO₂.



Photo: TFD project in Kyrgyzstan

15 LIFE ON LAND



SDG 15 – Life on Land

Several TFD projects protect, restore, and promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, delivering measurable progress in halting biodiversity loss.

Armenia has strengthened its wildfire resilience through enhanced early warning systems and improved policy frameworks. For example, weather forecast quality was increased by 75% in the Khosrov Forest State Reserve. As a result, the protection of over 23,213 hectares of forest ecosystems' rich biodiversity was enhanced.

The TFD project in Belarus promotes ecotourism and eco-education, the creation of new sustainable jobs, and the implementation of a voluntary ecological certification system for ecotourism products. It supports four ecotourism clusters formed in the pilot Specially Protected Natural Areas. An online map in English, Belarusian, and Russian has mapped over 1,300 objects, enabling tourists to calculate and create their own nature tour routes using GPS-coordinates.



Photo: TFD project in Belarus

One of the glampings constructed by the Ecotourism project in Belarus

In Madagascar, land rehabilitation through Cash-for-Work programmes cleared invasive species (e.g. marabou) on 130 hectares, enabling sustainable farming.

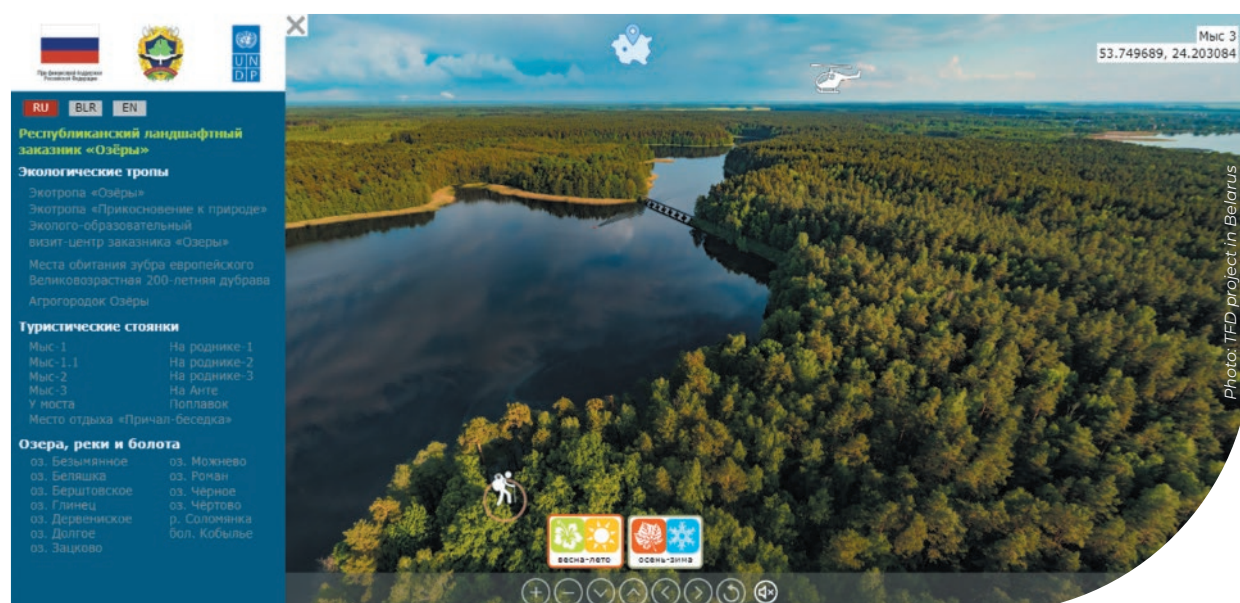


Photo: TFD project in Belarus

CAMBODIA – Kem Touch lives in Kampong Chhnang province. “I never went to school,” Touch says. “I don’t even know how to write my name.” Earlier, Touch bought 12 chickens that reproduced 200 chicks. Yet when it was time to sell them, they all died, leaving Touch in greater debt than she was before.

In 2020, Touch participated in the TFD project. Touch received 15 chickens, zinc sheets for roofing, and netting, and vaccines to build her coop. She also received a \$10 monthly stipend and training on raising chickens to avoid a loss like the one she previously faced.

Touch can now earn about \$70 from selling chickens when she needs money. Building on her success, Touch aims to expand her chicken coop and boost her sales. “Even if there is no project team to assist me in the future, I can help myself. I am motivated to do better, to be stronger, and to have a better life.”



Photo: UNDP Project in Cambodia

Sustainability of results

Sustainability is embedded at every stage of the TFD cycle – from project design to evaluation. Competitive selection for TFD funding prioritizes interventions with strong sustainability mechanisms. Key mechanisms include aligning with national priorities, engaging partners throughout the project cycle, securing co-financing for infrastructure to ensure commitment and maintenance, and building local capacity so that beneficiaries have the skills, knowledge, and resources to sustain the project's benefits. Regular monitoring and learning from past experiences further enhance sustainability. The TFD final reporting template includes a dedicated sustainability section, and projects often have a separate exit and sustainability strategy.

In Armenia, Cuba, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, a portfolio approach has proven effective – multiple TFD projects implemented by a single team leverage past lessons, strong partnerships, and synergies to sustain results. Institutional memory helps retain stakeholder relationships beyond individual project cycles.

The success of Cambodia's "Graduation-based Social Protection" Project has elevated this approach to the national policy level, ensuring lasting sustainability: it has been incorporated into the Pentagonal Strategy – the country's long-term national policy framework – for implementation over the next 25 years.

TFD's structure enables tracking of project outcomes years after completion, ensuring accountability and long-term development gains. In March-May 2025, TFD Secretariat collected anecdotal evidence on the sustainability of projects completed in previous years from five COs.

In Armenia, one initiative stood out for its results: the "Rural Tourism" Project's Gastro Yards. These family-owned culinary tourism businesses have shown extraordinary staying power, with nearly 90% still thriving – a remarkable achievement considering the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic to the tourism sector.

Established in 2018-2019, 36 Gastro Yards benefited from a holistic support package that included infrastructure development, business capacity building, and financial assistance. A key sustainability measure was the 60:40 co-financing model, requiring significant beneficiary investment to ensure commitment. This approach was complemented by \$120,000 in infrastructure co-funding from Armenia's Ministry of Economy for 16 locations. The project has also engaged with legislators to amend local laws that were previously treating a family-owned small food-serving entities the same as large restaurant businesses.

Thirty-two of these tourist-oriented businesses survived COVID-19 pandemic and continue to operate successfully in 2025. One of the key success factors was the differentiation strategy (combination of hospitality services with production of local foods) allowing each business to generate multiple income streams and sustain seasonal fluctuations.

In Belarus, in 2022-2024 the TFD project has strengthened the capacity of the Ministry of Emergency Situations to respond to diverse emergencies, including infectious disease outbreaks, climate-related events, and man-made disasters. The project's legacy continues through sustained use of its equipment, online learning platforms, and enhanced staff capabilities.

Over 1,000 emergency personnel were trained in lifesaving first aid techniques during 2025, using equipment and methodologies developed during the 2023-2024 project period. The Life Safety Educational Center's online courses have reached more than 18,300 unique users since their creation. Furthermore, the project enabled over 100 immersive training sessions in the earthquake simulation "City," which engaged more than 2,000 students through practical drills enhanced by specialized equipment, such as smoke machines and strobe lights.

The ongoing TFD project "Harnessing Youth Innovation Potential for Accelerated Sustainable Development in

Belarus” is implemented by the Republican Institute for Vocational Education, ensuring integration into national systems for lasting impact.

At the same time, it should be noted that not all results stand the test of time. For example, the WTO National Centre established in Belarus in 2021 with project support to advise businesses on WTO-related matters has ceased its operations.

In Kyrgyzstan, monitoring missions regularly assess the impacts of TFD projects. The latest mission was undertaken in April-May 2024. It confirmed that the drip irrigation and mudflow protection established in 2019-2023 continue to serve local population. AWS provide improved weather forecasts.

The overall sustainability rate of business support activities under the TFD socio-economic projects in Osh, Jalal-Abad and Batken Provinces is approximately 90%. For example, the business founder of the educational center “Innovate” in Osh received TFD support in 2022. As of 2024, the Center was successfully functioning, employing three people and offering English and computer literacy courses to children and youth.

In Tajikistan, search and rescue capacities were significantly strengthened in 2018 with the competitive procurement of 13 heavy machinery units and 196 other equipment units from Russia. As of June 2025, this machinery remains in active use by the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense. Five GAZ Verp vehicles transport rescuers, evacuate populations, and deliver aid in the Khatlon, Sughd, and Gorno-Badakhshan Regions, also serving on winter duty in avalanche-prone areas. The supporting fleet, including a fuel tanker, a water truck for drinking water, a truck crane for rescue operations, and an aerial platform for high-rise fire evacuations, is fully deployed for ongoing emergency response.

Examples of sustainable impact of socio-economic interventions in Tajikistan include many stories from local farmers and entrepreneurs. For example, a refrigerated storage facility for fruits and vegetables in

Kulob established in 2022 is operating at full capacity. Its storage space has tripled, now holding up to 250 tons of produce-boosting the entrepreneur’s income and ensuring a steady supply of fresh fruits and vegetables for local communities.

The Central Hospital in Mastchoh’s Rogh village, Tajikistan, was supported with new equipment in 2019, including two ambulances. Over 5,600 residents across 13 villages in Zeravshan Valley continue to benefit from this support, as ambulances play a crucial role in transporting patients from remote areas.

In Uzbekistan, in April 2025 impact assessment of three TFD projects was undertaken: “Promoting Youth Employment in Uzbekistan” (2019-2022), “Aid for Trade” (2020-2022) and “Adapting Population Skills to the Post Pandemic Economy in Ferghana Valley” (2021-2024). All 73 businesses of different sizes and specializations that received support from the projects were functioning in 2025. Two monitoring specialists contacted all entities and then visited 13 beneficiaries to assess the long-term results of TFD support. Two examples illustrate the findings.

Farm “Dostmuhammad Yoldoshev” continues to thrive with its peanut processing line operating at full capacity – doubling production to 1,200 tons annually since installing project-supported equipment in 2021. Today, 32 employees – mostly women and including vulnerable groups – power the production of peanut kernels, paste, and butter.

Supported by the TFD project in 2021, the training center run by Dilshodbek Otaboev acquired essential office equipment and significantly broadened its course offerings. The equipment continues to be utilized, allowing the center to train nearly 22,000 participants between 2021 and 2024 in key areas such as entrepreneurship, management, and marketing. Today, the center plays a vital role in government initiatives, including a 2024 contract with the Chamber of Commerce of Uzbekistan to train 5,000 young people.

UZBEKISTAN – When the COVID-19 pandemic threatened her garment business, Rislikhon Juraeva, founder of “Sanam Uychi” (the Uychi Beauty) company in Uzbekistan’s Namangan Region, seized an opportunity to grow. In 2021, with \$10,000 worth of modern sewing equipment provided by the TFD project, Rislikhon expanded her production capabilities beyond traditional women’s clothing to include disposable masks and gowns.

In just four years, her company’s annual production value surged from 45 million Uzbek sums in 2020 to 140 million sums in 2024 – a threefold increase. This growth enabled Rislikhon to create 30 new jobs.

Today, “Sanam Uychi” no longer serves only the Uychi District but supplies markets across the entire Ferghana Valley and has begun exporting its products to Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan.



Photo: TFD project in Uzbekistan

Contribution of Russian expertise

Russian expertise remains highly relevant and in demand in many countries, especially in the CIS. The widespread use of the Russian language in business, government, and technical fields provides a critical advantage for communication. Furthermore, the deeply integrated infrastructure, legal systems, and technical standards mean that expertise from Russia is immediately applicable and highly valuable.

In line with the TFD Agreement, TFD projects “use the knowledge, experience and expertise of Russian ministries, agencies, think tanks, universities and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)” (TFD Agreement, 2015, Article A of the Annex). This is operationalized at both project design and implementation stages: Concept notes have a dedicated section on planned partnerships with Russia-based institutions and experts; and annual and final project reports include

a mandatory section tracking engagement with Russian partners. TFD Secretariat provides tailored advisory support for sourcing Russian expertise. As a results, during implementation, TFD projects benefited from engaging over 400 Russian experts. In addition, over 260 Russian organisations took part in various projects’ activities and provided some services.

Russian expertise is utilized through multiple engagement modalities. Russian specialists and institutions participate actively in partner-country conferences and events. Individual experts are frequently contracted as consultants, while organisations are engaged as service providers. Reciprocally, national partners from programme countries conduct study tours to Russia for knowledge exchange and capacity building. Some



examples of impactful interventions are given below. In Armenia, Krasnoyarsk Science Center of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences delivered wildfire management training to 4,545 Armenian professionals in 2021, leading to the adoption of academic modules on wildfire management by Armenia’s Crisis Management State Academy and Agrarian University for bachelor’s and master’s programmes.

In Belarus, in 2024 the TFD project on youth skills engaged eight Russian organisations and seven expert consultants to strengthen local capacities across multiple domains. This comprehensive knowledge transfer enhanced Belarusian partners’ expertise in management systems, digital transformation tools, education quality improvement, and professional competition preparation, while facilitating the introduction of innovative technologies.

The collaboration significantly contributed to building robust innovation ecosystems and developing future-oriented skills among Belarusian youth.

In Cuba, in 2022 Russian expert conducted a specialized capacity-building programme on urban waste management for Cuban stakeholders, including the Specialized Construction Services Agency “SECONS”, the Provincial Delegation of Land Use and Urban Planning, municipal service providers, and recycling operators. The knowledge exchange focused on adapting Moscow’s successful urban management approaches to Havana’s context, identifying shared challenges and practical solutions to enhance the city’s waste management system and overall urban resilience.

In Guinea, in 2020-2023, the State Technical University of Astrakhan was engaged in TFD project aimed to strengthen food security through sustainable aquaculture development. The university’s comprehensive support included capacity-building for 160 fisheries professionals through specialized training programmes on tropical aquaculture techniques, disease prevention protocols, and optimized fish nutrition. Their technical contributions extended to developing three tailored fish feed formulas and conducting field assessments of local fish farming operations, with their evidence-based recommendations being fully adopted by Guinean partners to improve production outcomes.

In Kyrgyzstan, with the support of the “All-Russian Research Institute of Agricultural Meteorology”, the Agency for Hydrometeorology of the Kyrgyz Republic successfully adapted and implemented a dynamic-statistical method for rice yield forecasting

in 2021. This precision agriculture tool, based on Russian methodology, now enables Kyrgyz rice growers to optimize planting cycles, reduce harvest losses, and secure more stable incomes through accurate yield predictions and planning for market demand.

In Tajikistan, in 2024, one of the innovation challenge grantees, the public organisation, was supported to visit Ekaterinburg, Russia, where activists studied reusable hygiene product manufacturing at “Beregu Planetu” (I Care for the Planet). Upon the return, this knowledge transfer enabled training for 12 Sughd Region women to launch local production in Tajikistan.

In Uzbekistan, a joint initiative with Uzbekistan Ministry of Higher Education brought four methodologists to Moscow’s Architecture and Design College in 2023. Participants subsequently developed updated vocational curricula in four key construction trades (welding, electrical work, plumbing, and plastering), incorporating Russian best practices.

In 2024, Russian expertise transformed Ferghana’s career center into a regional pioneer featuring Virtual Reality profession simulations and gamified assessments, supported by comprehensive trainer certification – creating a new standard for vocational guidance in Uzbekistan.

Under a regional Energy Efficiency project, in 2019, a delegation from the Kyrgyz Republic’s Centre for Standardization and Metrology (under the Ministry of Economy) visited the RosTest Moscow Standardization and Metrology Centre in Russia. The study tour aimed to strengthen their capacity in laboratory development and product testing.



Photo: TFD project in Tajikistan

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT - For Maria Iastrebova, a former intern of the Knowledge Management Project, the UNDP Belarus internship marked the beginning of her career in the UN system. After successfully passing a competitive selection process, she became a UN Volunteer with UNDP Kenya, serving as an associate officer on environment and resilience. She later joined UNDP Libya, where she supported electoral and governance initiatives that empowered women and youth to take on leadership roles in municipal governance and public life.

In 2025, Maria continues her journey with the United Nations Organisation Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). Based in South Kivu province, she contributes to transition planning and implementation while coordinating UN system monitoring and reporting for the mission. Her journey, which began with Russian-funded opportunities, exemplifies how early career support can lead to impactful global service.



Photo: TFD Knowledge Management regional project

Knowledge Management and Capacity Development in Russia-UNDP Partnership

Launched in September 2016, the regional project “Knowledge Management and Capacity Development in Russia-UNDP Partnership” serves as a platform for knowledge exchange, fostering innovation and sustainable development solutions between Russia and partner countries.

The project’s flagship initiative, the Russian Experts on Demand programme, enables UNDP COs to swiftly deploy Russian specialists for short-term consultancies, peer-to-peer knowledge sharing, and targeted interventions. Since 2017, 157 assignments have been successfully implemented across Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Cuba, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Moldova, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

Innovation support was delivered through over 50 assignments across Armenia, Belarus, Cuba, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan, covering digital financial services, mobile banking, startup ecosystems, industrial zones, techno parks, and AI. For example, the Chairman of Russia’s Technical Committee for Standardization “Artificial Intelligence” supported Belarus’ standardization body to strengthen normative and technical regulation of AI.

Inclusive economic growth was advanced through 35 assignments in Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Moldova, and Serbia, focusing on trade capacity, WTO accession support, youth entrepreneurship, creative industries, and tourism.

Clean energy and efficiency were promoted via 16 assignments in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Serbia, and Turkmenistan, with energy management systems for public buildings and smart efficiency technologies implemented.

The Knowledge Management Project’s success is evident in COs’ continued engagement of experts beyond initial assignments, using COs’ own funds to deepen impact - demonstrating long-term value and

trust in the initiative. For example, in Turkmenistan a Russian expert previously engaged under the Experts on Demand programme was later contracted by CO to analyze and align the national Tax Code with WTO requirements.

The Knowledge Management Project maintains a database of Russian Experts, widely utilized by COs to recruit top-tier professionals across 20 thematic areas, including sustainable energy and climate action, digital transformation, health, education, entrepreneurship and many more.

The Project actively promotes international dissemination of Russian expertise by facilitating participation of Russian specialists in key SDG-related forums worldwide. This initiative enables Russian experts to showcase innovative development solutions on global platforms, establish cross-border professional networks and contribute to achieving SDGs through knowledge transfer.

Since 2018, the Knowledge Management Project’s internship programme has placed over 50 Russian students in UNDP COs across Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and the UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub. The alumni now contribute to the UN, international organisations, and the Russian MFA, leveraging their cross-cultural expertise.



Implementation framework

Governance and project selection

TFD has established itself as a well-institutionalized and effectively operationalized financing mechanism, with clearly defined governance structures and operational procedures that ensure efficient implementation of development initiatives. Governance is overseen by a Steering Committee (SC) that provides strategic direction, composed of representatives from key Russian government institutions – MFA, Ministry of Finance, and Ministry of Economic Development – alongside up to three UNDP representatives. This governance body has demonstrated consistent engagement through 35 committee meetings conducted over the past decade using various formats including in-person sessions, virtual meetings, and written consultations.

The TFD Manager supported by the TFD Secretariat is responsible for supporting SC and TFD's day-to-day management ensuring its effective functioning. The TFD Manager prepares documentation for SC decisions, administers the Calls for Proposals, and allocates funds to projects. Additionally, the Manager monitors project implementation through regular communication with project teams, field visits, and participation in selected project boards, while providing guidance on visibility and the use of the Russian expertise. Finally, the TFD Manager compiles and submits an annual consolidated report to the SC.

Call	Date when launched	#of applications	#of funded projects	Countries where projects were funded	Initially allocated funding, USD (some projects were cost extended later)
First TFD Call	August 2015	12	6	Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, and Tajikistan	12,000,000
First Climate Change Call	January 2017	10	7	Armenia, Cuba, Tajikistan, Zimbabwe, and regional projects	6,668,757
Second Climate Change Call	January 2018	5	4	Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan	3,331,243
First Youth Window Call	March 2018	9	6	Armenia, Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and a regional project	5,000,000
Second TFD call	December 2018	17	7	Belarus, Cambodia, Cuba, Guinea, Madagascar, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan	10,000,000
Second Youth Window Call	July 2019	7	3+1	Cuba, Guinea, and Lao PDR + Botswana ²	4,200,000 +800,000
Third TFD call	July 2020	15	8	Armenia, Belarus, Cuba, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Zimbabwe	12,000,000
Third Youth Window Call	March 2021	5	5	Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan	10,000,000

² Proposal from Botswana of \$800,000 was submitted under the Third TFD Call, but as resources were exhausted and the project was about youth, SC has decided to fund it from the First Youth Window leftovers.

The Fund employs a rigorous two-stage competitive selection process that has proven effective in identifying and supporting high-quality, demand-driven projects. The process begins with the SC establishing thematic priorities and geographic parameters for each funding cycle. Potential initiatives first undergo concept note evaluation, with successful proposals then advancing to a second stage involving detailed project document submission and assessment before final funding decisions are made.

Several initiatives³ have been funded outside of the Calls for Proposals on an exceptional basis given their urgency, importance and/or special role.

Once TFD SC has made a decision to allocate funds for a project, TFD Secretariat informs the CO and allocates funds to the project based on agreed tranches.

This approach financially entails three aspects:

1 Contributions to TFD are exempt from the UN Coordination levy of 1% as they are not considered

tightly earmarked and projects are funded based on the Call for Proposals;

2 Per TFD Agreement any interest derived from contributions to the Fund is credited to the Fund. As funding partner contribution first comes to TFD account, interest is credited both on available funds on TFD account and on unused funds by the projects as in the system they are attributable to TFD as a source of funding. On average, \$347,000 of interest have been credited to TFD annually;

3 TFD Secretariat serves an intermediary between the funding partner and projects, it administers Calls for Proposals, oversees project implementation and transmits tranches to the projects. It is funded from TFD resources per TFD Agreement and its annual costs are on average about \$180,000.

Project implementation

TFD ensures that its country-specific projects maintain strong alignment with both the UN Development Assistance Framework and the UNDP Country Programme in each respective nation. This alignment guarantees that TFD-funded initiatives contribute effectively to national development priorities.

TFD maintains a country-driven approach by anchoring all projects in national development priorities and leveraging domestic capacities, thereby fostering local ownership and sustainable outcomes. Over 5,400 national and local organisations took part in the implementation of the TFD projects. Governance structures reinforce this principle, as project boards

invariably include representatives from national governments who play a decisive role in steering project direction and decision-making processes. This embedded national leadership ensures that interventions remain responsive to country-specific needs.

Implementation of TFD projects follows all applicable UNDP rules and policies, reinforcing efficiency and transparency throughout the process. Projects benefit from UNDP's established safeguards, including social and environmental standards, as well as access to all relevant platforms and benefits, including 0% VAT on all purchases.

³ WTO project in Belarus; "Disaster Resilience for Pacific SIDS"; "Innovative Solutions for SDG Implementation in Armenia"; three phases of Knowledge Management Project, and "Strengthening Capacities for Sustainable Development Finance in the CIS Region".

ARMENIA – Young entrepreneur Ani Mkrtchyan from Ddmashen Village in the Gegharkunik Region, runs a greenhouse with an aquaponics food production system.

“This is the first commercial aquaponic greenhouse in Armenia. Aquaponics is about saving water resources. As an ecologist, I want to have sustainable production and sustainable consumption. We try to involve local people and use community resources. I believe that having the right business skills and strategies will directly contribute to the sustainable development of our community,” says Ani.

Ani was one of the 92 young entrepreneurs who benefited from business development courses in the fall of 2022 that were supported by TFD project.

Besides business training, she has also received a \$6,000 grant to upgrade the existing facilities which led to increased production volumes, sales, and revenues. The company supports Armenia’s transition to a circular economy by reducing waste, optimizing resources, and promoting eco-friendly innovations.



Photo: TFD project in Armenia

Monitoring

To maintain accountability and measure impact, TFD projects are part of UNDP's regular monitoring. These include regular performance assessments, participatory monitoring, risk monitoring, etc. TFD SC has also conducted dedicated monitoring missions

to evaluate progress on the ground. In response to COVID-19 travel restrictions, SC adapted by increasing engagement with COs, including inviting select offices to participate in its meetings.

Date of the SC monitoring mission	Country	Representatives of Russia
October 2016	Pacific SIDS	MFA and Roshydromet
March 2017	Kyrgyzstan	MFA, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economic Development
December 2017	Tajikistan	MFA and Rossotrudnichestvo
November 2018	Armenia	MFA, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economic Development
May 2019	Cuba	MFA
October 2019	Serbia	MFA and Ministry of Economic Development
January 2020	Tajikistan	MFA and Ministry of Economic Development

The TFD's annual and final report templates, approved by SC, maintain UNDP's core reporting structure while including supplementary sections that specifically highlight collaboration with the Russian Federation and address visibility aspects.

A consolidated annual report, synthesizing information from individual project reports, is systematically prepared and presented to SC for review.

Beyond SC reporting, the monitoring framework incorporates regular progress reporting to project boards, where Russian Embassy representatives typically participate as a funding partner. This dual-level reporting mechanism – both to the central SC



and to individual project boards – ensures multi-tiered oversight and maintains engagement with all key stakeholders throughout the project lifecycle.

Evaluations

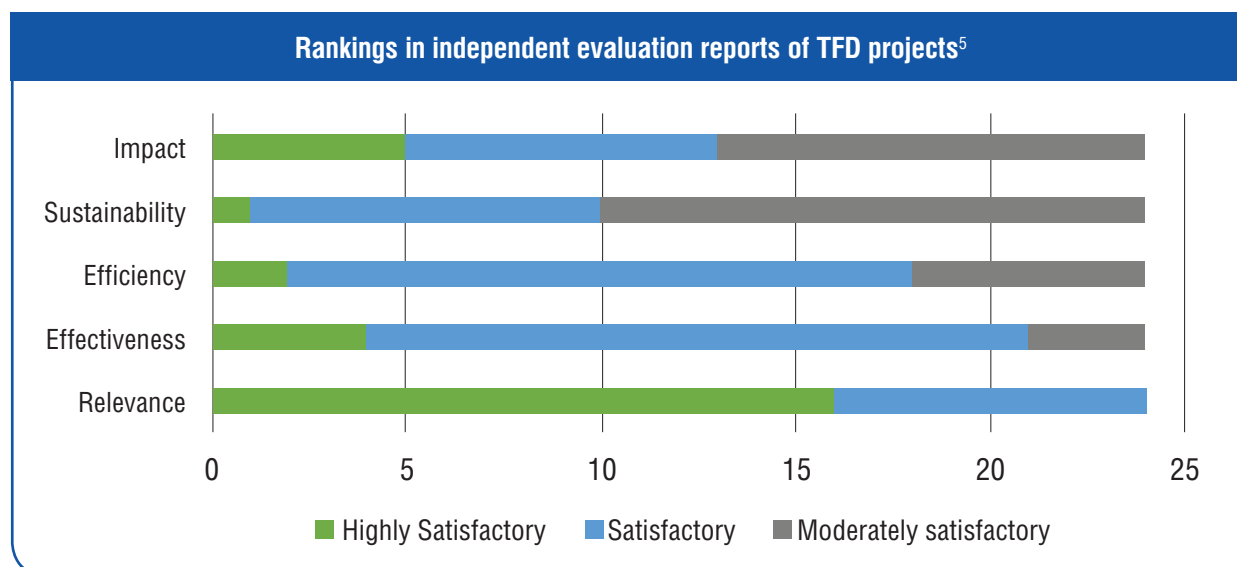
To promote accountability, learning, and improved decision-making for future programming, 24 TFD projects were independently evaluated.⁴ These evaluations employed comprehensive methodologies, including document reviews, stakeholder interviews,

and field missions to project sites, ensuring evidence-based assessments. Independent evaluation aims to assess the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, impact, and sustainability of projects and programmes.

⁴ In UNDP, project evaluations are mandatory when projects are expected to reach or pass certain thresholds, see p. 10 of the UNDP Evaluation Guidelines at https://erc.undp.org/pdf/UNDP_Evaluation_Guidelines.pdf. All evaluation reports are available at <https://erc.undp.org/>

The evaluation results demonstrated strong overall performance, with all projects rated as at least “satisfactory.”⁵ Projects received particularly high marks for relevance, confirming that TFD initiatives were well-aligned with beneficiary needs, national priorities, and broader development contexts. However, sustainability ratings were comparatively lower,

as evaluators noted that the long-term viability of project outcomes often requires extended timeframes to fully materialize. By systematically evaluating its portfolio, TFD not only validates its project effectiveness but also generates critical insights to refine future programming.



Visibility

TFD has established a comprehensive Communication and Visibility Strategy to ensure consistent recognition of Russia’s development contributions across all funded projects while also enhancing public awareness of their tangible results and positive impact. This strategic framework provides clear guidelines for UNDP COs, regional teams, and global thematic units on effective media engagement, branding protocols, and public outreach initiatives.

TFD ensures consistent on-site branding implementation across all funded projects, with the Russian flag and accompanying tagline prominently displayed on various visibility materials. Projects

actively engage local media channels to ensure key stakeholders and beneficiary communities remain informed about project activities and outcomes. This strategic communication approach serves multiple objectives: reinforcing funding partner visibility, demonstrating development impact, and maintaining transparency with beneficiary communities.

Visibility reporting has been institutionalized through mandatory annual reporting, with remarkable results – by 2025, TFD-funded initiatives had garnered coverage in over 9,200 media items across news outlets and other communication platforms.

⁵ UNDP projects are assessed against five key criteria: effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, impact, and sustainability. While providing formal ratings for these categories is not mandatory, many evaluators have done so. For evaluations without explicit ratings, estimated ratings were derived from the evaluation text to enable consistent analysis and visualization. The resulting chart should be interpreted as an illustrative representation of the general trends and conclusions from these evaluations, rather than a definitive scoring of all projects.

Synergies and coordination with partners

By actively collaborating with UN agencies, international organisations, and national partners, TFD projects ensure integrated programming that aligns with national priorities while maximizing development effectiveness.

Examples of this collaborative approach include partnerships with the World Food Programme (WFP) in Armenia, Cuba, and Kyrgyzstan, where TFD projects supported school feeding programmes, benefited from food procurement platforms and food-for-work initiatives. In Madagascar and Zimbabwe, TFD has joined forces with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to enhance access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene services, ensuring a unified response to critical development needs. Additionally, TFD's multi-stakeholder engagement facilitated the development and implementation of Zimbabwe's Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy, achieved through cooperation with Global Environment Facility, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), WFP, and the World Bank.

In Kyrgyzstan's Batken Region, the TFD project has fostered strategic collaboration with the World Bank and WFP to establish a unified approach in procuring AWS. By aligning their technical specifications, the three agencies ensured that the installed equipment forms a seamlessly integrated observation network that provides more reliable weather data to support climate resilience and early warning systems in the region.

TFD projects make an extra effort to coordinate its activities with Russia's bilateral development assistance. For example, in Tajikistan the TFD project renovated and equipped Cultural and Education Center in Bokhtar city benefits over 100 schoolchildren and young people annually, offering a platform for cultural development and the enhancement of soft skills and knowledge.

Since its establishment, TFD has managed to leverage about \$58.9 million of co-financing by national partners, and an additional \$31.9 million was attracted as co-financing from international partners and UNDP resources. Examples of co-financing include \$190,000 for professional equipment in rural colleges in Armenia from the UN Human Security Trust Fund and UN Multi Partner Trust Fund.



TAJIKISTAN – For the last few years, farmers in remote villages of Ayni District in Tajikistan have incurred huge losses as the irrigation canals get damaged due to climate change-induced events like rapid snowmelt and excessive rainfall. In Urmetan village, harvests decreased by 75% after the irrigation canal was damaged.

In 2020, TFD project established drip irrigation systems in Urmetan and Yori villages and planted trees on desert slopes. “There is a lack of arable land and together with the project we demonstrated to the villagers that natural resources can bring more if you use them effectively,” says Safulloh Dustmuhammedov, one of the farmers, who is very happy to see that his idea of making the desert slopes usable becomes true.

As a result, farmers now achieve higher yields. Initiative also reduces the risk of mudflows and flooding in villages located downhill.



Photo: TFD project in Tajikistan

Challenges and lessons learnt

At the project level, risk identification and mitigation, documentation of challenges, and lesson-learning are integral to regular monitoring. Projects report on key risks, challenges, and lessons learned during mid-year and annual reporting to the TFD Secretariat. Outside formal reporting cycles, the Secretariat provides support to project teams in addressing challenges as they arise.

Russian Embassies in programme countries participate in Project Boards and contribute to key project-level decisions. TFD SC oversees project monitoring through annual reporting, monitoring missions, and selected COs presenting progress updates at SC meetings, as well as through ad hoc requests to the Secretariat.

Since many challenges are context-specific, e.g. procurement delays in Cuba due to embargo or restructuring at government bodies in Kyrgyzstan, this section highlights those that are relevant to TFD as a whole or to a significant number of projects.

TFD projects have shown strong resilience in responding to unforeseen disruptions, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. While adapting to new realities required time and caused some delays, all projects ultimately achieved their objectives through adaptive management – shifting to online trainings, revising implementation strategies, and reallocating budgets.

A key lesson learned at the project level is the importance of integrating flexible timelines, contingency budgets, and remote monitoring tools into initial project design. Some projects even turned challenges into opportunities, significantly expanding their reach through digital solutions. For example, a TFD project in Kyrgyzstan engaged over 11,730 participants in online events – demonstrating the potential of innovative delivery methods.

One lesson at TFD level is the importance of establishing contingency funding to address external shocks. The demand for such support is high, and projects often need to adapt quickly to meet urgent

needs. For example, in Belarus, the WTO Accession project addressed urgent COVID-19 needs by procuring protective equipment, with the \$10,000 expenditure later reimbursed through a SC decision. When Hurricane Oscar struck Cuba's Guantánamo province in October 2024 - displacing over 400,000 residents - the TFD youth employment project utilized budget savings to provide 1,140 mattresses for affected families.

While the TFD Agreement explicitly includes “post-disaster response and early recovery” among its objectives (Article 1), the TFD has not yet financed projects of this nature. The current Call for Proposals mechanism does not seem fit for disaster response, as emergencies occur unpredictably and require rapid funding decisions. TFD SC could consider establishing dedicated provisions for crisis response. TFD is uniquely positioned for such interventions, as usually it maintains readily available funds (unlike mechanisms requiring new governmental decrees) and can disburse resources quickly through SC decisions. This untapped potential could significantly enhance TFD's ability to deliver timely support in crisis situations.

Many TFD projects have experienced delays during initiation, primarily due to lengthy government approval processes (e.g. national project registration in Belarus often takes over a year) and slow hiring of key personnel. A key lesson from this is the importance of setting realistic timelines and thorough inception planning.

Some COs, like Armenia and Tajikistan, have adopted a portfolio-based approach, where a core team implements multiple TFD projects, bringing in additional staff as needed. This method has not only reduced management costs but also accelerated project start-up and delivery. Additionally, stakeholder relationships are maintained as projects transition seamlessly from one to the next. However, this approach is only feasible when a CO manages multiple TFD-funded projects in related areas (e.g. socio-economic development or climate action) either simultaneously or consecutively.

No-cost extensions have been the primary method for addressing project delays, with more than half of TFD projects requiring at least one extension. Initial extensions are typically authorized by the Project Board with participation of the Russian Embassy, upon a diligent review of the justification for the extension request, while cases requiring multiple extensions or involving significant delays were elevated to SC for consideration. The average extension is nine months for a country-specific project, while regional initiatives tend to require longer extensions, averaging thirteen months.

Regional projects often experienced delays due to complex coordination structures and weaker CO engagement. During a review of TFD operations at the Ministry of Finance on 19 February 2020, a key lesson emerged: multi-country projects with clear national components are more effective than purely regional initiatives. An alternative approach was adopted in November 2021, when TFD approved funding for three youth-focused projects in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, with the requirement that each CO incorporates regional collaboration into their work. This strategy has proved successful, fostering cooperation in areas such as digital entrepreneurship. If a regional project is to be initiated, it should be fully in line with UNDP regionality principles⁶, and focused on regional public goods and common development challenges that are best addressed regionally or subregionally.

Due to evolving international financial regulations, and to ensure uninterrupted implementation of contracts with Russian expertise providers and other vendors based in Russia, the TFD Secretariat stepped in and now facilitates payments in local currency in full compliance with UNDP's financial regulations – both for TFD-associated works and other UNDP contracts. This solution has allowed Russian providers to remain active in UNDP procurement.



A similar issue arose when a regional volunteering project attempted to engage a Russian NGO as a Responsible Party. However, in this case, no viable solution was found. The NGO was expected to receive funds from UNDP in rubles (converted from dollars at the UN exchange rate) and then distribute them in dollars to grantees in CIS countries. Due to potential currency exchange losses and evolving international financial regulations, the financial and operational risks were deemed too high, and the intervention was not pursued. The unutilized funds were subsequently returned to the TFD budget in accordance with standard procedures.

Project priorities sometimes shift during implementation. Allowing sufficient flexibility helps address such challenges. In most cases such requests are managed at the project board level. For example, in Kyrgyzstan's COVID-19 recovery project, an activity on the production of local personal protective equipment was repurposed to broader employment and youth support based on the project board decision.

⁶ The UNDP regionality principles are: (a) promotion of regional public goods based on strengthened regional cooperation and integration; (b) management of cross-border externalities and spillovers that are best addressed collaboratively on an intercountry basis; (c) advancement of awareness, dialogue and action on sensitive and/or emerging development issues that benefit strongly from multi-country experiences and perspectives; (d) promotion of experimentation and innovation that overcome institutional, financial and/or informational barriers that may be too high for an individual country to surmount; and (e) generation and sharing of development knowledge, experience and expertise, so that countries can connect to, and benefit from, relevant experiences from across the region and beyond.

When additional funding is needed, SC steps in. TFD project “Strengthening COVID-19 Response for Kenya” constructed a modern catering facility at the Jaramogi Hospital, known as the Russian Hospital. The local County Government was initially committed to supplying cooking equipment for the facility but was unable to do so. After a 2023 site visit by the Russian Embassy, SC approved an additional \$188,102 to the project budget for cover costs, ensuring full operation of the catering facility.

In total, eight TFD projects received additional small funding through TFD SC decisions.

Quality of reporting by TFD projects was a challenge in the early stages of TFD’s operations, as various COs used different approaches. To address this, SC adopted standardized reporting templates for annual and final reports, while the TFD Secretariat provided additional guidance and incorporated reporting into onboarding sessions for new project teams. Although the quality of individual reports has improved, TFD still lacks a comprehensive Monitoring, Evaluation, Risk, and Learning (MERL) framework with overarching targets and indicators at the fund level.

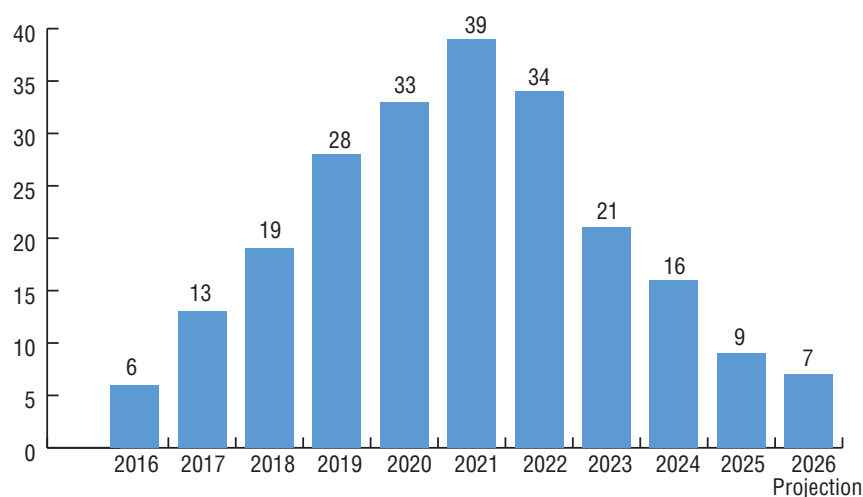
On the one hand, this allows flexibility and maintains a focus on project-level results. On the other hand, developing such a framework for TFD could enhance

the visibility of its overall impact and strengthen future decision-making. A potential results framework could incorporate impact, outcome, and output statements, along with indicators to monitor progress toward the goals outlined in the TFD Agreement – with particular attention to higher-level results that reflect the collective impact of multiple projects.

As noted in the section on TFD functioning, many evaluation reports highlight the difficulty of fully assessing the sustainability of project results. This is often because evaluations, funded through project budgets, are conducted mid-project or at their conclusion, limiting their ability to capture long-term impacts. To address this, based on SC decisions, the TFD Secretariat could commission independent evaluations of all projects under a specific theme or in a particular country – these evaluations might be conducted several years after project completion to better assess long-term sustainability.

A key challenge TFD faces in 2025 is the phasing out of its projects, which risks leaving partners without sustained support. Many areas of TFD work depend on long-term institutional strengthening, capacity-building, and financial resources needed to consolidate gains. TFD’s legacy could be constrained by a lack of enduring influence.

Number of projects under implementation in a given year



KYRGYZSTAN - Daniyar and Asel Atayev have successfully launched the workshop for processing vegetables and fruits in Aravan District in Osh Region.

“At the beginning, everything seemed to be in order, but sales remained low. During this period, I heard about the opportunity to participate in the acceleration programme. To be honest, at first, I didn’t fully understand what it was, and I was more attracted to receiving a grant to develop my business. However, it turned out to be the opposite: it was participation in the acceleration programme that gave a powerful push to the development of my business, and the grant was an addition that I spent on purchasing quality packaging containers,” shares Daniyar.

Since their start, the Atayev family’s workshop has doubled in size. Now five women are working in the workshop, and all of them are residents of the Aravan District. “We will continue expanding the work of the workshop, and I hope you will soon see our products in markets in Bishkek.” Daniyar was one of the participants in the business acceleration programme supported by a TFD project.



Photo: TFD project in Kyrgyzstan

Conclusion and a look into the future

Over the past decade, TFD has demonstrated its effectiveness as a financing mechanism, delivering tangible results across 33 countries while prioritizing climate resilience, youth empowerment, and inclusive growth. By leveraging Russian expertise and UNDP's global reach, TFD has not only addressed immediate development needs for five million direct beneficiaries but also laid the groundwork for long-term sustainability.

Russia's development assistance continues to be in high demand among partner countries. The 2023 update to Russia's Concept of State Policy in International Development Assistance highlights a focus on bolstering recipient states' capacities to achieve self-sufficiency and sustainable development. In implementing this policy, the Russian Federation aims to share its expertise in socio-economic transformation with developing nations. Additionally, Russia seeks to enhance its international development efforts by fostering mutually beneficial cooperation in trade, investment, and technology.

Russia possesses a wealth of development expertise and proven best practices. For instance, in 2025 MGIMO⁷ compiled 115 successful practices spanning all 17 SDGs, implemented by regional authorities, businesses, and non-profits.

Recognizing the critical need to strengthen developing nations' capacity for domestic resource mobilization, Russia has championed simplified tax administration and business registration for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), as well as enhanced access to public services – including through open-source digital solutions. These proposals were formally endorsed in the Outcome Document of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, underscoring their global relevance.

UNDP continues to be the partner of choice for governments, civil society, international financial institutions, and other stakeholders, delivering

effective development solutions across 170 countries and territories.

The AidData Listening to Leaders survey of development partners in 147 low- and middle-income countries consistently ranks UNDP among the top five development organisations for its advisory support and implementation assistance. UNDP is also recognized as a global leader in aid transparency by the Aid Transparency Index. Furthermore, in 2024, UNDP achieved its 19th consecutive clean audit from the UN Board of Auditors.

Looking ahead, UNDP's forthcoming Strategic Plan (2026-2029) outlines an ambitious vision: advancing human development on a healthy planet through four interconnected strategic objectives: Prosperity for all, Effective governance, Crisis resilience, and Healthy planet.

Demand for TFD's support remains high in such areas as:

- **Inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction**, including by strengthening MSMEs as engines of job creation, area-based development, fostering a creative economy, enhancing youth economic inclusion through training and entrepreneurship support, trade facilitation and value chain integration;
- **Digital transformation and innovation**, including by promoting digital literacy and digital infrastructure to harness emerging technologies, advancing digital government, e-commerce, broadening the tax base via digital solutions, innovation, entrepreneurship and venture development;
- **Climate change mitigation, adaptation, and green transition**, including by promoting energy, efficiency and nature-based solutions, sustainable water management, disaster risk reduction, advancing circular economy practices and low-carbon development, green financing.

⁷ https://una.ru/uploads/userfiles/file/OON_Report_RU.pdf

Moving forward, TFD can implement several operational enhancements, subject to SC approval. One priority could be adopting a comprehensive MERL framework, with particular emphasis on higher-level results that reflect the cumulative impact of TFD's projects while measuring impact on SDGs and other national/regional development objectives. Such a framework would facilitate evidence-based decision-making by systematically tracking performance indicators aligned with TFD's strategic objectives, which could be further linked to global indicators like SDGs, the Paris Agreement, G20 other relevant international commitments. Additionally, conducting sector-specific and geographic evaluations would enable TFD to assess the long-term sustainability and impact of its interventions.

The portfolio approach can be promoted as an implementation modality for TFD projects in COs to enhance efficiency and effectiveness. This method involves designing, managing, and delivering development interventions in a more integrated, flexible, and systemic manner. Rather than addressing projects in isolation, it organizes related initiatives into a unified portfolio, maximizing impact, reducing fragmentation, and holistically tackling complex

development challenges.

To strengthen its impact and enhance agility and responsiveness, TFD could consider establishing special provisions for rapid disbursement of support in post-disaster response and early recovery, consistent with the objectives outlined in the TFD Agreement. As a development agency, UNDP underscores the critical need to integrate development solutions from the onset of crises – thereby strengthening resilience and accelerating recovery. While Russia previously financed similar initiatives outside of TFD, TFD could serve as an efficient rapid response/early recovery mechanism, particularly if funds are already on its accounts. Potential interventions might include debris clearance to restore critical infrastructure and roads, rehabilitation of community assets, re-establishment of local government operations, and emergency energy provision during crises.

Leveraging its established presence in programme countries, proven delivery mechanisms, and extensive thematic and geographic reach, TFD is well-positioned to enhance and amplify development cooperation together with UNDP through a multilateral approach that delivers country-owned, SDG-aligned results.



Photo: TFD project in Cuba

BELARUS – Manufacturing automation is rapidly reshaping the job market. Mechatronics engineering stands out as a highly promising job that integrates the skills of control systems programmers, machine operators, mechanical fitters, and electricians. Dasha Valevich is a second-year student at the College of Modern Technologies under the Republican Institute of Vocational Education. The Institute is an implementing partner of the TFD project, which aims to create conditions for youth to acquire in-demand professional skills for digital transformation.

“I have always enjoyed studying blueprints and diagrams, working with equipment. Of course, it is hard to predict where I will be in 10 years, but I will definitely work in my field after graduation. Following two years of mandatory employment at a plant, I plan to continue working in manufacturing. Alongside my job, I will pursue higher education to take on more complex tasks and eventually move into leadership roles”, Dasha dreams.

In April 2024, Dasha took third place at the professional excellence championship in robotics held in Saint Petersburg, Russia.



Photo: TFD project in Belarus

Annex 1: List of TFD projects

Projects of the Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for Development main funds
Projects of the TFD Climate Change Window
Projects of the TFD Youth Window

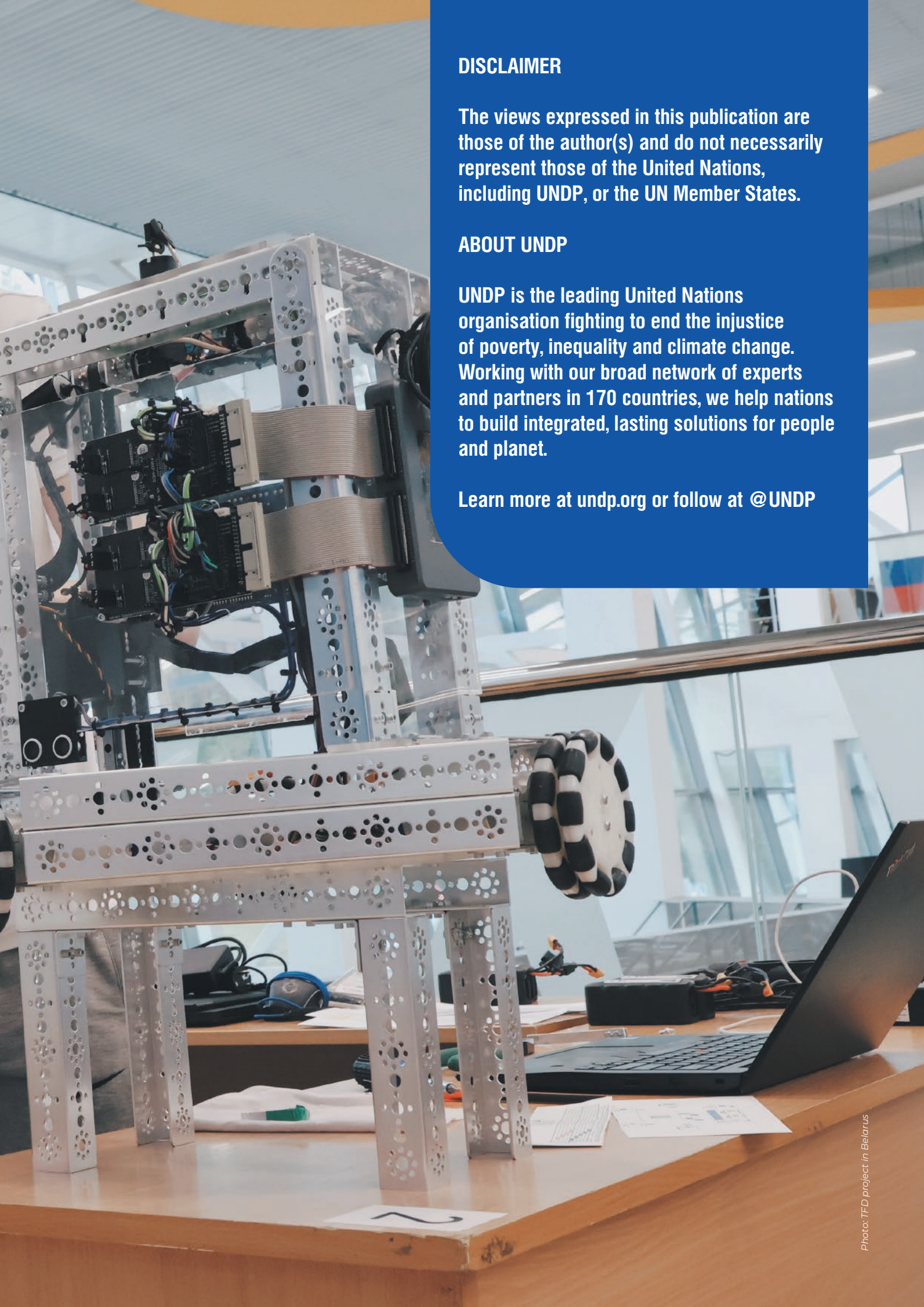
Project		Implementation period	Funding in USD
Armenia			
1	Integrated rural tourism development in Armenia	2016 – 2020 Completed	3,000,000
2	Addressing climate change impact through enhanced capacity for wildfires management in Armenia	2017 – 2021 Completed	1,000,000
3	Innovative solutions for SDG implementation in Armenia	2018 – 2021 Completed	1,250,000
4	Future skills and jobs for Armenia's rural youth	2019 – 2021 Completed	800,000
5	Increase resilience of Armenia to climate change through modernization of Armenia's hydro meteorological service	2019 – 2021 Completed	800,000
6	Building back better through strengthening resilience of rural communities in Ararat, Aragatsotn, Armavir and Kotayk Regions	2021 – 2024 Completed	1,700,000
7	Unleashing employment and income generating opportunities for the youth in the regions of Armenia	2022 – 2025	2,000,000
Belarus			
8	Promotion of employment and self-employment of the population in small and medium-sized towns in the Republic of Belarus	2017 – 2020 Completed	1,151,200
9	Assisting the government of the Republic of Belarus in accession to the World Trade Organisation through strengthening national institutional capacity and expertise (Phase 5)	2018 – 2022 Completed	752,503
10	Green transition to inclusive and sustainable growth through ecotourism development in the Republic of Belarus	2021 – 2026	1,450,000
11	Adaptation of emergency response system of Belarus to functioning in an unfavorable global epidemiological situation caused by COVID-19	2022 – 2024 Completed	500,000
12	Harnessing youth innovation potential for accelerated sustainable development in Belarus	2023 – 2026	2,000,000

Botswana			
13	Women and youth build resilient businesses	2021 – 2022 Completed	800,000
Cambodia			
14	Graduation-based social protection project, Cambodia	2019 – 2024 Completed	1,000,000
15	Promoting decent youth employment in Cambodia	2019 – 2022 Completed	800,000
Cuba			
16	Adapting to drought: strengthening sustainable water planning and management in Santiago de Cuba, for greater resilience and adaptation to climate change	2018 – 2022 Completed	1,000,000
17	Expanding quality job opportunities for the youth in Guantánamo in key economic sectors by strengthening productive capacities, education, and training and vocational guidance, Cuba	2020 – 2024 Completed	1,500,000
18	Strengthening capacities to increase urban resilience to disaster risks in central areas of Havana, Cuba	2020 – 2023 Completed	1,000,000
19	Support to the revitalization of employment in the livestock production chain in the Province of Guantanamo, in the post COVID-19 recovery phase	2021 – 2024 Completed	1,500,000
Guinea			
20	Empower young women entrepreneurship through access to digitalized services, financing and economic opportunities within the existing YouthConnekt, Guinea	2020 – 2022 Completed	1,200,000
21	Support for the development of aquaculture in Haute (Upper) and Moyenne (Middle) Guinea Regions	2020 – 2023 Completed	1,550,000
Kenya			
22	Strengthening COVID-19 response for Kenya: preparedness, response and recovery	2020 – 2024 Completed	1,188,102
Kyrgyzstan			
23	Integrated Osh area-based development	2016 – 2019 Completed	3,700,000
24	Digital skills and opportunities for youth employment to advance digital economy in Kyrgyzstan	2019 – 2022 Completed	1,000,000
25	Strengthening climate resilience of the Batken Province of the Kyrgyz Republic through introduction of climate smart irrigation and mudflow protection measures	2019 – 2023 Completed	1,105,000
26	Socio-economic recovery from negative consequences of COVID-19 in Osh, Jalal-Abad and Batken Provinces of the Kyrgyz Republic	2021 – 2025	2,000,000
27	Economic empowerment of youth and developing sustainable solutions for youth's entrepreneurship at the local level for fostering greater social cohesion and resilience	2022 – 2026	2,000,000

Lao PDR			
28	Enhancing social and economic opportunities for youth in Lao PDR	2020 – 2022 Completed	1,500,000
Madagascar			
29	Development of vital factors of production, water and energy in the Great South of Madagascar	2020 – 2023 Completed	2,000,000
Serbia			
30	Supporting agriculture and rural development in Serbia (Aid for trade)	2016 – 2019 Completed	1,500,000
Tajikistan			
31	Strengthening preparedness and response capacity	2016 – 2018 Completed	1,500,000
32	Promotion of social and economic opportunities for women and youth in Zerafshan Valley of Tajikistan	2017 – 2019 Completed	1,500,000
33	Facilitating climate resilience in Tajikistan	2018 – 2021 Completed	950,130
34	Building climate resilience in agriculture and water sectors of rural Tajikistan	2019 – 2022 Completed	831,243
35	Youth for business and innovation, Tajikistan	2019 – 2021 Completed	1,000,000
36	Strengthening communities in Khatlon Region and Rasht Valley of Tajikistan	2020 – 2022 Completed	1,850,000
37	Accelerating post COVID-19 economic recovery through improved livelihood, employability, and regional cooperation in Ferghana Valley, Tajikistan	2021 – 2025 Completed	2,000,000
38	Youth empowerment through skills development and promotion of innovations in Tajikistan	2022 – 2025	2,000,000
Uzbekistan			
39	Enhancing the adaptation and strengthening the resilience of farming to climate change risks in Ferghana Valley	2019 – 2021 Completed	800,000
40	Promoting youth employment in Uzbekistan	2019 – 2022 Completed	1,000,000
41	Aid for trade in Uzbekistan	2020 – 2022 Completed	1,400,000
42	Adapting population skills to the post-pandemic economy in Ferghana Valley, Uzbekistan	2021 – 2024 Completed	1,800,000
43	Empowering the youth to embrace the digital economy and digital entrepreneurship	2021 – 2025	2,000,000

Zimbabwe			
44	Support towards implementing Zimbabwe's Nationally Determined Contributions	2018 – 2021 Completed	998,827
45	COVID-19 recovery and resilience building: entrepreneurship and innovative e-solutions for resilient urban food supply chains in Zimbabwe	2021 – 2023 Completed	1,500,000
Regional projects			
46	Disaster resilience for Pacific Small Island Developing States (Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Niue, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Palau, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Tokelau)	2016 – 2021 Completed	7,500,000
47	Knowledge management and capacity building in Russia-UNDP Partnership (Phase 1)	2016 – 2018 Completed	500,000
48	Climate change education and awareness project – Climate Box (Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan)	2017 – 2021 Completed	654,800
49	Enhancing access to climate finance in the ECIS region (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan)	2017 – 2022 Completed	750,000
50	Regulatory framework to promote energy efficiency in EAEU countries (Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan)	2017 – 2019 Completed	1,500,000
51	Strengthening capacities for sustainable development finance in the CIS region (Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan)	2017 – 2022 Completed	1,200,000
52	Knowledge management and capacity building in Russia-UNDP Partnership (Phase 2)	2018 – 2021 Completed	1,000,000
53	Strengthening youth volunteerism in the CIS through partnerships for development – Youth, Unite and Volunteer!	2019 – 2022 Completed	400,000
54	Knowledge management and capacity development in Russia-UNDP Partnership (Phase 3)	2022 – 2026	2,500,000



A custom-built robot constructed from silver metal beams and various electronic components, including a Raspberry Pi and several USB drives, is positioned on a wooden table. The robot has a black and white striped wheel visible on its right side. In the background, a laptop and other desk items are visible, suggesting a workshop or lab environment.

DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations, including UNDP, or the UN Member States.

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UNDP is the leading United Nations organisation fighting to end the injustice of poverty, inequality and climate change. Working with our broad network of experts and partners in 170 countries, we help nations to build integrated, lasting solutions for people and planet.

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