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RUSSIA-UNDP PARTNERSHIP OVERVIEW FOR 2019–2021



In **Uzbekistan**, the Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for Development (TFD) project installed and created a network of nine agrometeorological stations in Fergana Valley. The network helps in providing weather forecasts and possible disease/pests outbreaks, alerts, recommendations and other information through Telegram groups created for each target area.

Photo: UNDP Uzbekistan

The overview was prepared under the “Knowledge Management and Capacity Building in Russia-UNDP Partnership, Phase II” project.

Cover: Guinea

The TFD project in Guinea aims to empower young women entrepreneurs by developing targeted digitalized services, especially for women living in enclaved regions who do not have access to the necessary services to initiate and grow flourishing businesses and respond to market demand.

In 2021, 150 women entrepreneurs in Lower Guinea received smartphones with M'Mawali cash management application. Each month 1,500 interactions are occurring within the application.

Photo: UNDP Guinea

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Introduction

As one of UNDP's strategic partners, the Russian Federation is an indispensable and vital partner in UNDP's mission to end extreme poverty, reduce inequality, build resilience to crisis and shocks and accelerate structural transformations to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Russia-UNDP Partnership is multifaceted and fosters efficient development cooperation in support to multilateral efforts, leveraging the extensive knowledge, experience and expertise of the Russian Federation and promoting a skilled cadre of national experts in the field of development within UNDP.


By investing in sustainable livelihoods, access to employment, community infrastructure, trade opportunities, education, climate-smart and disaster-proof solutions, the Russia-UNDP Partnership aims at contributing to the achievement of the SDGs and of the current UNDP Strategic Plan 2018–2021 and the upcoming one for 2022–2025. By mid-2021, it has reached over **6.5 million direct beneficiaries, including 4.5 million beneficiaries through TFD projects**, supporting countries in keeping people out of poverty and enhancing prevention and recovery capacities for resilient societies.

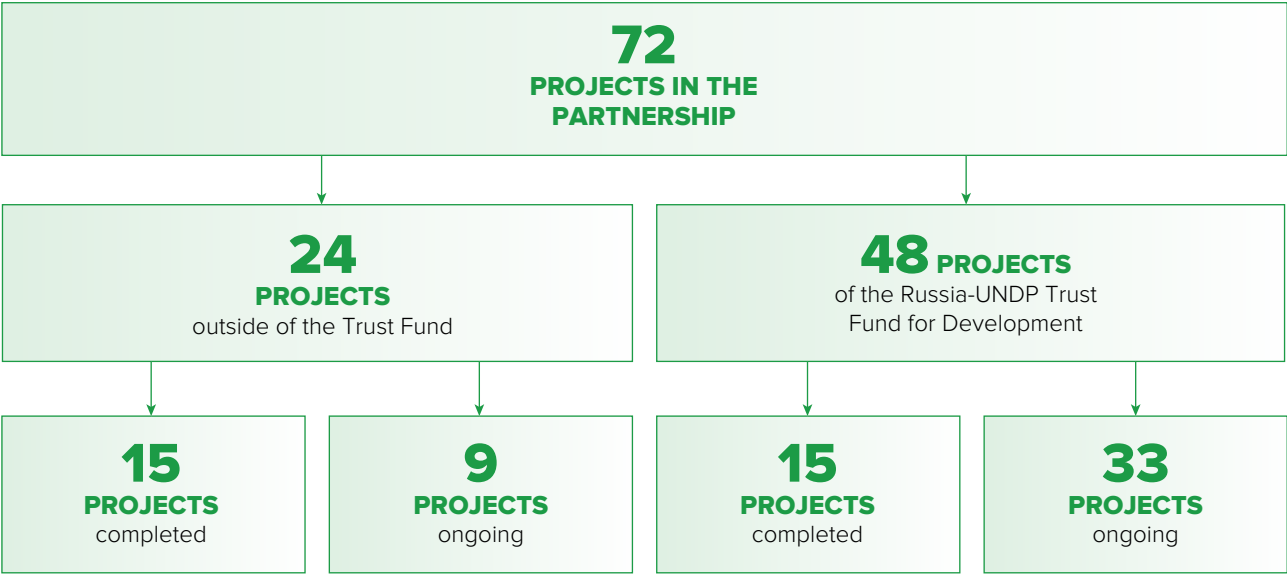
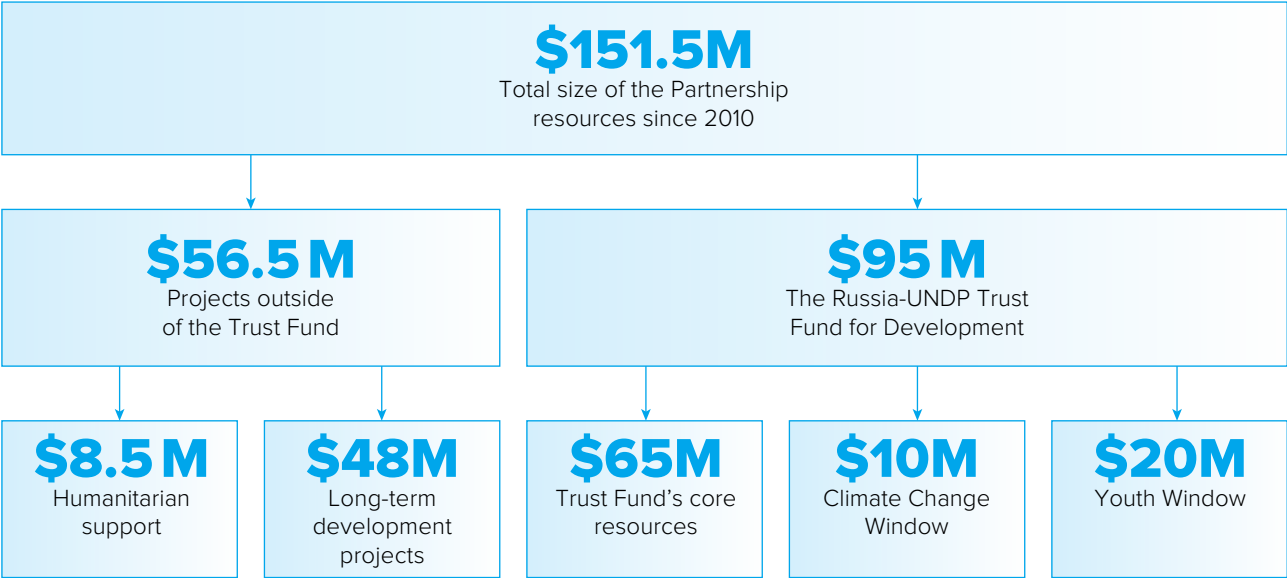
The Russia-UNDP Partnership Overview is prepared in line with the Partnership Framework Agreement signed in 2015. It aims to inform the partnership stakeholders about the main achievements of the UNDP projects funded by Russia and discuss partnership's progress and future prospects.

While building on past overviews, the current one is different in structure. Instead of focusing on single projects, it aims to present an analytical overview of key partnership features, synthesize main results achieved by projects, discuss key challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic and highlight key changes in the partnership, including the widening of the geographic scope to include the African Continent.

Annex 1 provides a full list of all Russia-funded UNDP projects. Annex 2 presents major results of the projects completed in 2019–2021 and is issued as a separate document.

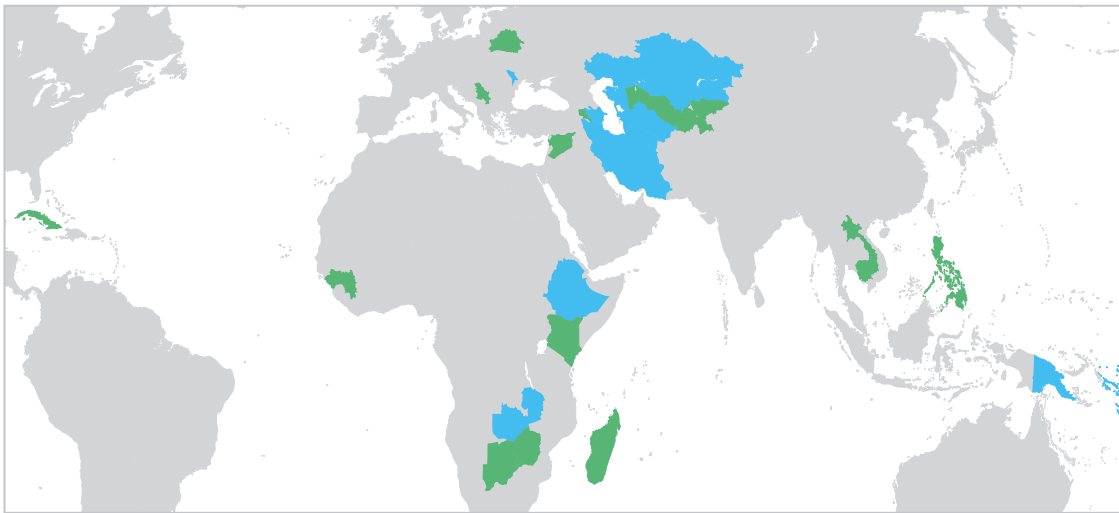
The state of the Russia-UNDP Partnership in 2021

 **2015:** Partnership Framework Agreement signed, and the Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for Development established



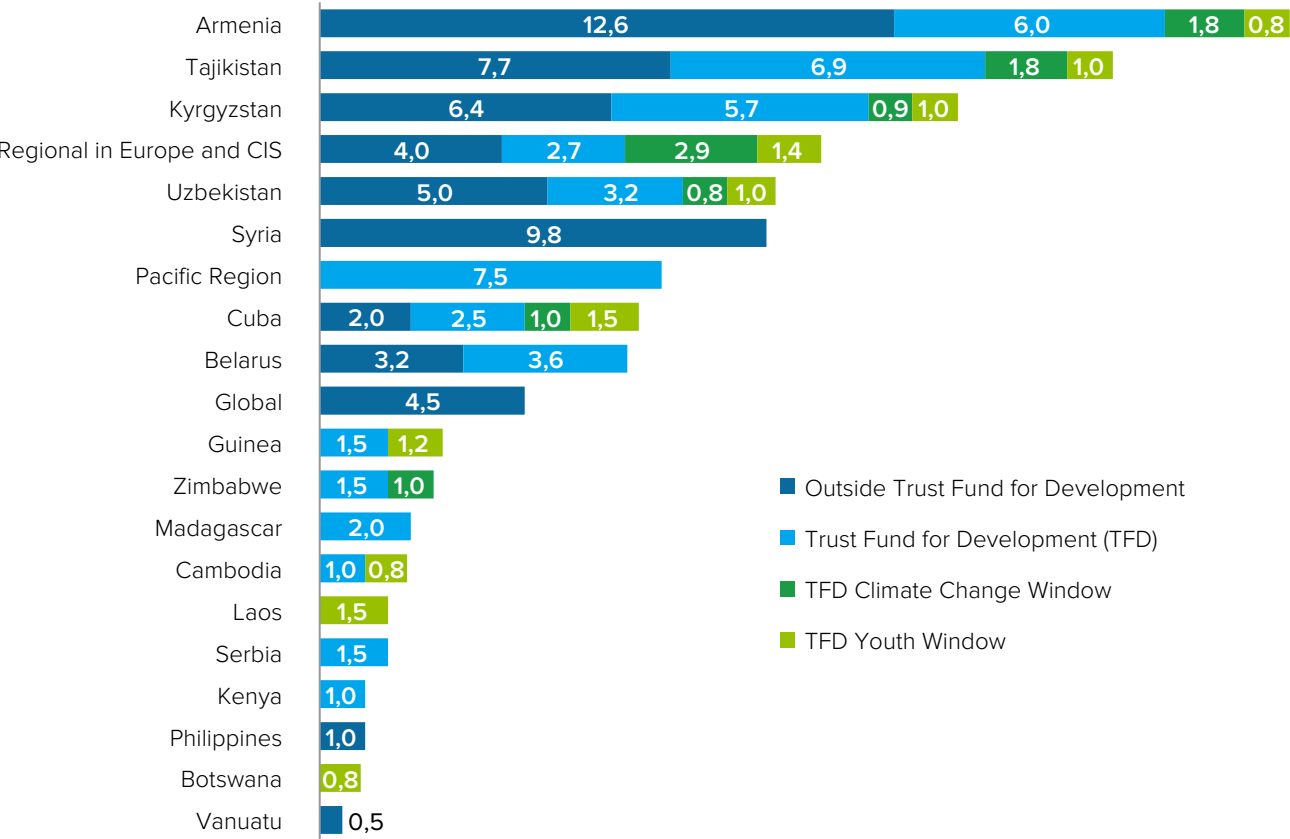
 **6.5M** direct beneficiaries
21M indirect beneficiaries

38 countries benefit from support



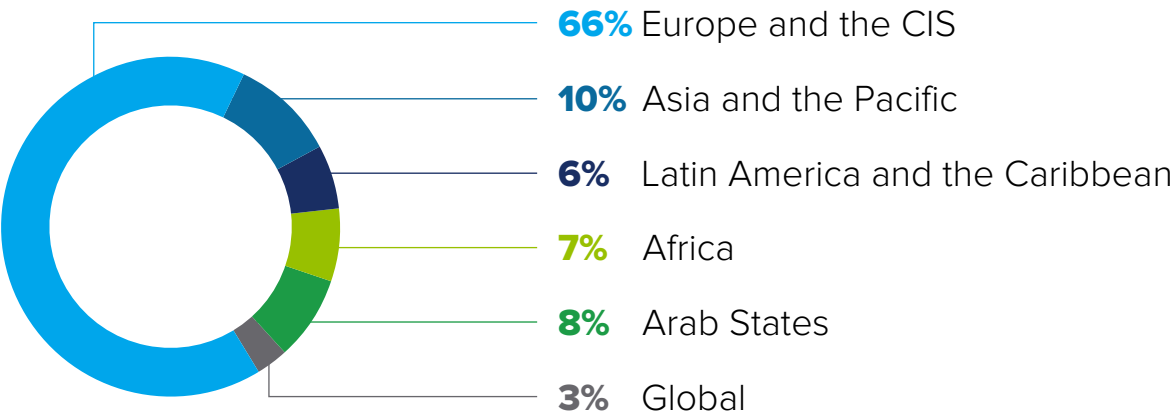
17 countries have country specific projects
21 countries only take part in regional and global projects

Geographic distribution of Partnership projects for allocated funds, \$M

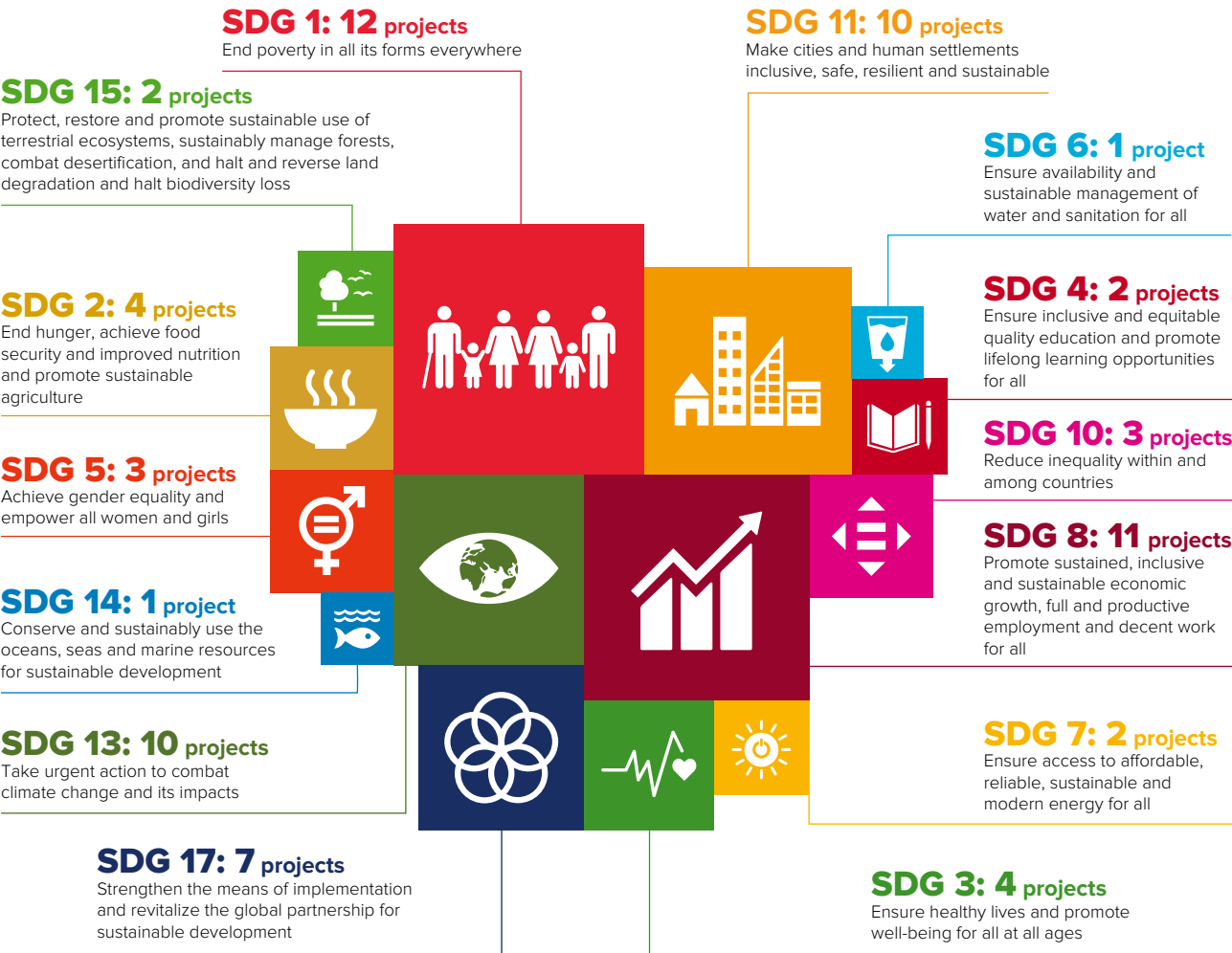


The Partnership is delivering worldwide while maintaining its focus on the CIS region

Partnership funding for projects per region

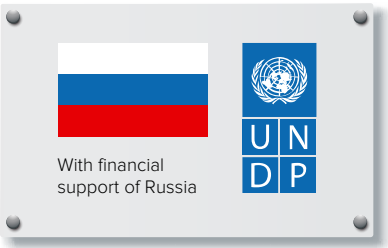


Russia-UNDP Partnership supports UNDP programme countries on a diverse number of issues, helping to achieve the SDGs¹:



¹Methodology: many projects support achievement of several SDGs, but for clarity reasons to show a rough estimate of level of support only the main SDG was assigned for each project and the graph represents the most frequent goals.

The Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for Development is the most efficient instrument to deliver Russia's support via competitively selected projects



Visibility of Russia's support is duly ensured in all projects

The Trust Fund's performance includes



\$14.6 M
cofinancing already provided by national partners



\$14.7 M
cofinancing provided by international partners and UNDP



>190
Russian experts were engaged



170
Russian organizations took part in project's activities



1,600
national, provincial and local organizations as project partners



5,500+
news items and posts on TFD projects and their results

In Osh region of **Kyrgyzstan**, 193,295 villagers received access to better quality of drinking and irrigation water supply, secondary and pre-school education, and medical services. Long-term and temporary employment was provided to 2,324 persons.

In Batken region, seven on-farm irrigation canals were rehabilitated and they will help avoid losses of about 8,000 cubic meters of irrigation water per season. The designed mudflow protection measures will benefit 30,513 people.

All over the country, more than 11,730 people participated in 48 online trainings for young computer programmers, interface designers, private-sector project managers and much more.

Chinara Dzholdosheva from Sherali village of Uzgen district in Osh region of Kyrgyzstan. A single-mom and now a business owner, who turned her hobby into a profitable business and gave her son an opportunity to get higher education.

Photo: UNDP Kyrgyzstan



OVERVIEW OF THE PARTNERSHIP IN 2019–2021

The Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for Development (TFD)

The Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for Development (TFD) continues to be the major funding instrument under the Russia-UNDP Partnership. By investing in sustainable livelihoods, access to employment, community infrastructure, trade opportunities, education, climate-smart and disaster-proof solutions, the TFD contributes to the achievement of SDGs and supports the implementation of the UNDP Strategic Plan 2018–2021 in keeping people out of poverty and enhancing prevention and recovery capacities for resilient societies.

2019 was an important year to reflect on for the future of the TFD. UNDP carried out a special review of its operations in 2019. The review consolidated information on the TFD's main results and operations, assessed its functioning in 2015–2019 and has drawn lessons.

Following the review, **consultations between Russian governmental representatives and UNDP in February 2020** have confirmed positive assessments of the TFD performance and agreement was reached on the replenishment of the TFD, both for its core and thematic windows.

On May 21, 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov and UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner signed a **Memorandum on TFD replenishment for \$30 million** during an online ceremony.

In his welcoming remarks Sergey Lavrov emphasized that the Trust Fund is a unique tool that ensures the effectiveness and sustainability of Russian assistance to international development. He also suggested to channel part of the new funds to support priority countries in overcoming the negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 22 December 2020 Mourad Wahba, UNDP Associate Administrator a.i., and Dmitry Chumakov, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations, have signed an agreement on the **new contribution of \$10 million for the TFD Youth Window**. The Youth Window was established in 2017 and is focused on supporting employment opportunities for youth, digital skills, professional education, entrepreneurship and innovation.

With the \$30 million general replenishment, part of which was channeled for COVID-19 related recovery, and the additional \$10 million to the TFD Youth Window, the **Trust Fund's resources have almost doubled and reached \$95 million**.

As several new projects were approved for funding in 2019–2020, TFD's geographical coverage has expanded to include Botswana, Cambodia, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Lao PDR and Uzbekistan. In 2020, a new approach was tested: the Steering Committee has allocated funds for three separate, but interconnected and aligned projects in the Ferghana Valley in Central Asia in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan aimed at supporting the socio-economic recovery in the region and at mitigating COVID-19 impact on the lives of people.

Development impact of the TFD work was further strengthened in 2019–2021. As of end of 2020, TFD projects reached cumulatively over **4.5 million direct beneficiaries** supporting their livelihoods, decent employment, access to quality water supplies, education and medical facilities. The number of indirect beneficiaries is estimated at 21 million people. Country specific projects are implemented in 15 countries and several regional initiatives cover additional 19 countries and territories. The TFD managed to leverage at least \$14.6 million of co-financing by national partners, and an additional \$14.7 million were attracted as co-financing from international partners and UNDP resources.

Over 1,600 national and local organizations took part in the implementation of the TFD projects. During implementation, the TFD projects benefitted from engaging over 190 Russian experts. In addition to that, over 170 Russian organizations took part in various projects' activities and provided some services. Projects' implementation and results were featured in over 5,500 news and other media items.

Ten hospitals and schools were rehabilitated in **Syria** and more than 408,000 people from local communities and internally displaced people have improved access to quality health and education services. Around 980,000 affected people are now enjoying cleaner and safer environment due to the removal of 59,153 tons of solid waste and of 9,000 m3 of debris from 52 neighborhoods in Aleppo and Tartous governorates.

The rehabilitated maternity hospital in Daraa is capable now to render health services to more than 19,000 women per year.

Photo: UNDP Syria



Projects implemented outside of the Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for Development

Several important initiatives have started in 2019–2021 **outside of the Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for Development**.

Russia has continued its support for most crisis-affected populations of **Syria**. With financial support of \$5.8 million, UNDP is implementing the “Community-based resilience in critical areas of Syria” project since early 2020. The project is ultimately contributing to improving peoples lives and reducing negative coping mechanism and dependence on humanitarian relief.

As of August 2021, **1,492,926 crisis-affected people** in Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, As-Sweida, Dara’, Deir-ez-Zor, Lattakia, Quneitra and Tartous have benefitted from the project. The target groups have accessed emergency job opportunities created through several interventions, such as solid waste and debris management projects, infrastructure rehabilitation, as well as vocational and skills training and provision of productive assets that enabled targeted beneficiaries to independently generate their income.

Three projects have started in **Armenia** in 2020–2021. Fostering Participatory Development in Bordering Settlements of Gegharkunik and Vayots Dzor Regions project aims at supporting sustainable development and economic integration of 34 bordering settlements with a total population of 41,981. Another project “Stronger Services for Equal Participation and Inclusive Development”

started in mid-2020 and it is implemented jointly with UNICEF to deliver comprehensive support to advance the rights of persons and children with disabilities, to improve and strengthen service provision. In early 2021, one more initiative was launched aiming at contributing to the sustainable, tangible and people-centered post-conflict recovery of the most vulnerable communities and groups offering durable solutions across the humanitarian-development nexus.

Four projects outside of the TFD have completed in the reported period. One of the biggest projects focused on integrated support to rural development and building resilient communities in Tavush region of Armenia has successfully finalized its activities in 2020. In 2017–2019 Russia – UNDP Partnership provided support to Cuba to rehabilitate local production of construction materials following the Hurricane Matthew. In 2019–2020, UNDP has provided equipment for the Slavonic Cultural Educational Center in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. First phase of the WHO-UNDP Global Joint Programme on ‘Catalyzing Multisectoral Action for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases’ was finalized in 2019 and a second round of the programme has started in 2020.

In December 2021, Russia has provided funding for four new UNDP projects enhancing the resilience of local population of the Aral Sea region in Uzbekistan, supporting nationalization of Sustainable Development Goals in Belarus, addressing marine litter in the Caspian Sea region and promoting climate change education globally.

In **Cambodia**, 131 youth entrepreneurs representing 7 startups and 30 small enterprises completed intensive and rigorous Bluetribe Incubation Programme. Several start-ups have launched their products after the training.

Looking further into the impact level, one of these startups, KLEMBOX, has already accelerated digital and project based learning in public schools by deploying experiential learning kits alongside an offline learning lab and tested this with four public schools in the provinces. Another startup, HOMEAPP, progressed significantly in terms of business model and financial success.

The TFD project supports a variety of activities aimed at helping Cambodian youth to integrate into digital economy. For example, students at the Institute of Technology of Cambodia have access to high-tech learning, research and product development thanks to the equipment.

*Incubation programme for young startups.
Equipment for the Institute of Technology, Cambodia.*

Photo: UNDP Cambodia



The COVID-19 pandemic and Russia-UNDP Partnership

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all operations and projects under the Russia-UNDP Partnership.

On the one hand, most of the projects faced delays due to disruptions on procurement and trainings., However, on the other hand, they often served as a vehicle to deliver much needed assistance to fight both the pandemic itself and its socio-economic consequences.

Responding to the challenges posed by COVID-19 pandemic, many projects have introduced **mitigation and support measures**, shifting trainings online, supporting national partners with IT equipment to enable uninterrupted workflow, refocusing activities to respond to the needs emerged during the pandemic, including purchase of personal protective equipment, socio-economic support to vulnerable communities and others. Some examples are given below.

In **Armenia**, food and personal protective supplies were delivered to the most vulnerable people over the age of 65 in Tavush and Gegharkunik regions.

In **Tajikistan**, InnoResponse Challenge was launched to provide technical and financial support to businesses that will promote and test innovative solutions, products, and services to strengthen the resilience of people, households and private sector and address the negative consequences of the economic recession triggered by COVID-19 pandemic.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, experts from the Russian Academy of Sciences delivered a series of online trainings for 37 members of the Republican Crisis Response Center. The global pandemic caused a threat not only to the physical health of millions of people, but to their mental health as well. The goal of the practical trainings was to improve the capacity of mental health and psychosocial support experts in the Kyrgyz Republic under the circumstances of the global health crisis. Special emphasis was put on mental disorders among women in emergency situations. The expert assignment was implemented under the Knowledge Management and Capacity Building in UNDP-Russia Partnership project.

In **Uzbekistan**, the TFD project has helped the Ministry of Economic and Labor Relations to digitize training courses for working professions in order to provide opportunity to people in lock-down to engage in or continue their vocational education. The project has prepared 10 video courses (total of 253 video lessons) on 10 working professions with sign language interpretation. A Business Clinic was established and has provided consulting support to over 1,000 small businesses affected by the crisis.

Apart from repurposing the ongoing projects, the Russian-UNDP partnership has supported several countries with specific COVID-19 response initiatives. In November 2020, the Russia-UNDP Trust Fund has allocated funding to **9 projects** in **Armenia, Belarus, Botswana, Cuba, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Zimbabwe** to support socio-economic recovery after COVID crisis.

In the CIS region, the package of three interconnected proposals from **Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan** on social and economic recovery in Fergana Valley were supported. In **Armenia**, the project focuses on strengthening resilience of rural communities in Ararat, Aragatsotn, Armavir and Kotayk regions. In **Belarus** the emergency response system will be adapted to functioning in the global epidemiological situation caused by COVID-19.

In **Cuba** support will be directed towards revitalization of employment in the livestock production chain in the province of Guantanamo in the post Covid-19 recovery phase. In **Botswana**, the project will focus on supporting women and their resilience to the crisis. In **Kenya**, response and recovery capacities will be strengthened, including by targeted support to hospitals. In **Zimbabwe**, COVID-19 recovery and resilience building will be enabled by supporting entrepreneurship and innovative e-solutions for resilient urban food supply chains.

In **Armenia**, over 5,600 people were provided with access to tourism related jobs in rural areas.

Installation of solar water heaters by 406 families has led to the reduction of carbon emissions equivalent to 535.7 tons of CO₂.

Over 56,865 people would benefit from safer livelihoods and strengthened resilience, over 27,367 ha of forest ecosystems' rich biodiversity would be better protected thanks to ten Early Warning Systems procured from Russia and integrated with the existing National System.

Building the first accessible mineral water source and an alcove for visitors made the village of Bjni, Armenia more attractive to tourists and other guests.

Photo: UNDP Armenia



Sustainability of project results

The end goal of the cooperation between Russia and UNDP is the achievement of sustainable development results in programme countries by supporting livelihoods and strengthening the resilience of the communities.

Every UNDP project at the initial design stage outlines sustainability provisions to ensure that Russia's funding has long term sustainable impacts. Sustainability potential of the proposed interventions and specific instruments put in place to ensure it are among the key considerations for competitive selection of projects for TFD funding.

Several TFD initiatives that were completed in 2018–2020 shared data on sustainability of the past interventions.

The projects reported that results have proven to be sustainable in the mid-term even though they have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Below several examples are provided.

In **Armenia**, mini-hotels and gastro yards supported under the Tourism Development project are sustainable businesses models over a year after the project's completion. They have reopened even after the COVID-19 related shut down and are continuing to host visitors, most of the times fully booked as of summer 2021.

In **Serbia**, several instruments introduced by the TFD "Aid for Trade" project are successfully functioning, such as One Stop Shop platform, which is now integral part of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia, Farmers Club at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management.

The activities implemented in partnerships with local agribusiness companies and civil society organizations have proven to be very successful and sustainable in a long run, as companies who have participated in the project development activities have been transformed from small, family-owned local business, into a nationally and regionally recognized export-oriented companies.

In **Tajikistan**, 6,000 people are living in Rogh village and 13 surrounding villages in Zerafshan Valley. The radius of coverage of the medical department of the Rogh village is up to 120 km. There was not a single ambulance at the department. In 2019, the TFD project rebuilt the only hospital in the area, provided new medical equipment and purchased two ambulances with lifesaving equipment on board. Since the end of the project in 2019, all facilities and equipment are operating well, and the ambulances have about 200 calls per month.

The **regional TFD project** on Knowledge Management and Capacity Development supports Russian interns and UNVs in serving for UNDP and other UN Agencies. Besides providing their skillset for the benefit of development projects, talented Russian youth also uses this opportunity to start the career in the UN system. After the completion of assignment supported by the Russian funding, 11 former interns are continuing their career in several UN agencies under the assignments funded by the Agencies and other donors.

In **Guinea**, to increase availability of fish on local markets 18 fish farming sites were developed. Astrakhan State Technical University of Russia was engaged to develop online courses for the National Agency for Aquaculture, formulate a new fish feed by using local ingredients and train local fishery communities in 2020–2023.

Delegation by the Astrakhan State Technical University of Russia.

Photo: UNDP Guinea



Region in focus: Africa

As the partnership and especially the Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for Development has been expanding significantly in 2019–2021, one of the main developments has been the widening of the geographical scope to include the African Continent. Five African countries have joined the TFD portfolio.

In **Botswana**, the project launched in early 2021 aims to address the challenges of post-COVID-19 business recovery in a heavily resource-dependent economy. It will expand ongoing Business Supplier Development Programme to support women and youth-owned Small and Medium-sized Enterprises and build back better through leveraging business opportunities in the health, agriculture and technology sectors.

In **Guinea**, two initiatives are supported: one focused on strengthening food security via expanding availability of fish and the other on supporting women's and youth empowerment. In 2020, 18 fish farming sites were developed to increase availability of fish on local markets. Over 200 temporary jobs were created during the process. Equipment and trainings were provided to strengthen the operational and technical capacities of the National Aquaculture Agency of Guinea. Astrakhan State Technical University of Russia has been engaged for 1,5 years to develop online courses for the National Agency for Aquaculture, formulate a new fish feed by using local ingredients and train local fishery communities in 2020–2023. The use of Russian expertise is further enhanced by an international UN Volunteer (UNV) from the Russian Federation, Specialist in Aquaculture issues, who joined the project team in late 2020.

Under the second initiative in Guinea, 150 women entrepreneurs benefitted from consulting support on business growth and accounting. Seventy-five of these women are now using a simplified accounting system. Women mentors were very engaged in coaching their peers. Increased awareness of 600 students on entrepreneurship and its challenges has been achieved.

In **Kenya**, the TFD project is initiating its activities aimed at strengthening the capacity of the health system through procurement of medical and non-medical equipment and enhanced coordination, livelihoods and enterprise recovery and foster innovation through digitization.

In **Madagascar**, the TFD project aims to ensure people's access to vital resources, such as energy and water. In 2020, construction of four photovoltaic solar power plants benefitted at least 800 households who now have access to clean energy. The project also supported 2,000 households in remote villages to improve their living conditions by using solar kits. One hydro-agricultural infrastructure of Ambatopilake was rehabilitated contributing to the exploitation of additional 20 ha of arable land belonging to 400 farmers. To produce improved complementary fodder for cattle, sheep and goats using the invasive plant of red cactus, an innovative technology which has proven its worth in Brazil is used to crush and mix cactus. This activity directly benefitted 200 farmers. For forage plant cultivation, the farmers have been provided with 50 ha of land. Quality of production of castor oil by women's cooperatives was increased by providing additional equipment and training.

In **Zimbabwe**, two projects were supported with TFD funds. One initiative aiming to contribute to the low emission development pathway for Zimbabwe was finalized in 2021. Through numerous stakeholder consultations, trainings, sectorial studies and data collection exercises, the project has supported development of the Zimbabwe's long-term Low Green-house Gas Emission Development Strategy (LEDS). It is based on the government's economic planning up to 2050 and covers mitigation measures across sectors of Energy, Industrial Processes and Product Use, Agriculture, Forestry and other Land use and Waste. The implementation of all 38 identified mitigation measures is expected to have a significant positive economic impact with a net present value of \$7,130 million. The Strategy was endorsed by the Minister of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industry in March 2021.

One more project is just starting its implementation in 2021 with a view to support COVID-19 recovery and resilience building via entrepreneurship and innovative e-solutions for resilient urban food supply chains.

Targeting children aged 7 to 16, the curriculum integrated into Climate Box has been designed to teach children how to lead climate- and environmentally-friendly lifestyles.

To date, it has reached over 60,000 students in eight countries throughout Eastern Europe and Central Asia: **Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.**

The Climate Change Box interactive learning tool was initially developed by Russian experts and later adapted to teaching in other countries.

With the new Russia's contribution of \$3 million, UNDP will scale-up Climate Box at the global level across four regions of Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America, advance the curriculum with digital tools, and support cross-country exchanges.

Photo: Sochi Environmental Education Center



Russian expertise in support of projects' implementation

Russian expertise, know-how and experience remains highly relevant for many of the projects, especially in the CIS region. Projects use various modalities to attach Russian specialists: by facilitating partnerships of national institutions with Russian counterparts, hiring experts and institutions from Russia for specific assignments, supporting participation of national partners in Russian events, webinars and other learning and collaboration opportunities. Some examples from the projects are given below.

As of December 2020, the TFD projects benefitted from engaging over 190 Russian experts. In addition to that, over 170 Russian organizations took part in various projects' activities and provided some services.

In **Belarus**, partnerships with Russian institutions helped ensure sustainability of the TFD project on employment in small towns that was finalized in 2020. For example, the Center for entrepreneurship support in agriculture "ALRIKO" cooperates with Russian Union of Rural Youth to ensure participation of Belarusian youth in the international business game "Young Farmer". The Center also partners with Bryansk Business Services Center "My Business" to exchange experience in development of rural tourism and agricultural business. In 2020 the center organized business missions for Belarusian entrepreneurs to the Republic of Adygeya, Russia, resulting in new international contracts.

The **Knowledge Management and Capacity Development projects** plays a special role in expertise sharing under the TFD. It is a main vehicle to deploy experts for small-scale assignment on demand from COs, support implementation of UNDP projects with interns, provide an opportunity for COs to engage Russian institutions to provide services for the national partners. The database of experts maintained by the project is highly used by COs to source best Russian expertise in specific knowledge areas.

The project also supports raising awareness among Russian specialists on the opportunities to serve as **UNVs**. The number of Russian volunteers being registered as UNVs is steadily increasing, reaching 4,000 in 2020. As a result, the number of Russian UN Volunteers serving in the field also rose to 62 in 2020 from 15 in 2017, out of which 28 were Fully Funded volunteers.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, more than 11,730 people participated in 48 online webinars, trainings and events that were conducted in 2020–2021 to support youth and entrepreneurs develop their business ideas during COVID-19 pandemic. The Leading Researcher of the Scientific Research Institute of the Ministry of Finance of Russia delivered four webinars to over 150 participants on technological trends development, giving specific recommendations for Kyrgyzstan.

In **Uzbekistan**, "Promoting youth employment" project provided support to the Government in adopting and integrating international occupational standards into vocational training programmes with technical assistance from the WorldSkills Russia. As part of this collaboration, WorldSkills Russia provided capacity development of the National WorldSkills Association (WorldSkills Uzbekistan) that was officially registered in August 2019.

Heavily relying on Russian experts, the project on energy efficiency standards in the **Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)** provided technical assistance to national partners and the Eurasian Economic Commission in harmonization of the EAEU Technical Regulations "On requirements for energy efficiency of power consuming devices" (already enforced, EAEU TR 048/2019), completed the development of energy efficiency labelling, developed a number of regulatory acts at national level in Armenia and Kyrgyzstan. According to the Project experts, by establishing new energy efficiency requirements and modifying the share of energy saving products in the market by 2030, savings of 3.8 billion kWh per year will be achieved in 4 Union countries.

The Disaster resilience for **Pacific Small Island Developing States** (SIDS) project installed 26 new Automated Weather Stations (AWS) helping the countries of the region to prepare for the natural disasters in advance. The network aims to improve data collection for climate, hydrology and aviation purpose.

The establishment of the bundled micro-insurance product first launched in Fiji was later replicated in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Through this scheme, cover is provided for term life and funeral expenses, personal accident and damage to the main dwelling of the insured person. In Fiji in 2021, the total number of direct users was about 140,000 (over 15% of the population and their families are covered with them).

The establishment of the Pacific Emergency Recovery Fund helped to provide government agencies and NGOs from all 15 Pacific Island Countries with quick funding to support their early recovery needs following a disaster. The Fund has already supported Vanuatu Ambae Volcano Recovery as well as Tropical Cyclone Harold Recovery for Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, Kiribati and Tuvalu.

In 2019, the feasibility study for the Pacific Regional Training Center received endorsement from the Pacific Meteorology Council. One of the authors of the study was the Russian expert from the State Hydrological Institute.

Regional Training in Fiji by Fiji Meteorological Services (FMS) for 60 observers from the Sugar Research facility, agriculture, and National Disaster Management officers.

Photo: UNDP Fiji



Synergies with other UN agencies and Russia-funded initiatives

UNDP continues to work closely with UN country teams to deliver coherent and integrated development solutions, driven by country demand, that maximize collective results and impact. Russia-UNDP Partnership projects aim to ensure coordination and synergies with initiatives implemented by other UN Agencies and international and national partners. That is especially important for fostering synergies with Russia funded projects implemented by partners. Some examples are provided below.

In **Armenia**, the Partnership project in Tavush region partnered with **WFP** and Russian Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute to deliver lunches for schoolchildren. UNDP project has renovated ten school cafeterias for the School Feeding System, creating a more hygienic and welcoming environment for the children beneficiaries of School Feeding Programme. In their turn, **WFP** and the Institute provided the necessary equipment and training for the school cafeteria staff. Additionally, the UNDP project provided a bean harvesting combine, high quality seeds, professional consultation to the farmers as well as helped to establish and legally register the bean producers' cooperative, while WFP built the bean/legume collection center and assisted with consultations on food security and safety standards. Similar cooperation with WFP is envisaged in Gegharkunik and Vayots Dzor regions.

In **Belarus**, Russia's 2021 contribution of \$3.5 million will help enhance efforts to nationalize and localize SDGs. A joint initiative by UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, and WHO aims to develop the capacity of the National institutional mechanism for achieving the SDGs, integrate them in the planning and monitoring systems.

The TFD project "Expanding quality job opportunities for the youth in Guantánamo" in **Cuba** has established partnership with **ILO** Mexico to collaborate on lessons learned and good practices on methodologies to vocational education programs.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, the TFD project has teamed up with **WFP** to support the community initiative in Osh region to plant trees on particularly dangerous slopes. Nine thousand fruit samplings with a strong root system were planted in the area of 27 hectares. 150 households with 750 inhabitants, 1.15 hectares of land, a school, a sports facility, and a municipal office were protected from landslides. WFP conducted training on agroforestry and basic reforestation. Public works with the WFP contribution of food (flour and oil) were arranged in the implementation of infrastructure projects.

In the Batken region, the **WFP** project "Empowering food insecure and vulnerable communities through climate services and diversification of climate sensitive livelihoods in the Kyrgyz Republic", recently funded by the Green Climate Fund, aims to scale up the results and best practices of the TFD project on climate smart irrigation and mudflow protection measures.

In **Madagascar**, the access to drinking water and hydro agricultural infrastructures is critical in the semiarid region of Androy where the project intervenes. Sixteen wells were rehabilitated by the TFD project allowing 600 households to permanently have access to water and carried out vegetables' cultivation. Each user household pays a small contribution of \$0.13 per year to maintain the infrastructure. The water management committee was established with **UNICEF's** support to ensure the maintenance and management of the pumps.

In **Zimbabwe**, the newly launched TFD project that aims to leverage innovative solutions for resilient urban food supply chains is partnering with **UNICEF** to align market infrastructure with planned or ongoing construction of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities under UNICEF's Urban WASH resilience project. The partnership will help to create strong synergies and leverage existing works around community and market infrastructure and labour-intensive income generation activities for the beneficiaries.

The overarching goal of the “Graduation-based social protection” project in **Cambodia** is to inform and influence national policy choices in the context of the National Social Protection Policy Framework implementation, and specifically provide a case for the adoption of graduation-based approaches within the country. Graduation models combine cash transfers with the allocation of productive assets, to build investment in human and physical capital, thus offer a powerful means of durably improving livelihoods. The project aims to conduct a large-scale control trial to validate past research findings and test field delivery of graduation-based programmes with further scaling up of the latter nationwide.

Despite of the COVID-19 lockdown, the project managed to carry out the baseline survey and completed the interview with nearly 3,000 households in two target districts in the first quarter of 2021. The data are now being reviewed and cleaned and will be used to distribute cash transfers and productive assets.

Baseline survey participants.

Photo: UNDP Cambodia



Conclusions and way forward

By the middle of 2021, the Partnership has reached over 151 million in funding covering 38 countries and territories. The wide range of topics and modalities is being further developed to include an increased focus on emerging development priorities such as digital transformation and innovation, two of the three enablers that will support the implementation of the signature solutions under the new UNDP Strategic Plan.

The TFD continues to be the major funding instrument under the Russia-UNDP Partnership. With the US\$30 million general replenishment part of which was channeled for COVID-19 related recovery and additional \$10 million to the TFD Youth Window (YW), the Trust Fund's resources have almost doubled and reached \$95 million. About \$20 million of these funds are to be allocated following competitive selection processes in the coming years. Several new project ideas are currently considered for potential support both for the TFD and outside of it.

As highlighted by the Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in his opening remarks at the ceremony of signing the Memorandum on the TFD Replenishment in May 2020, UNDP remains Russia's key partner within the UN system for international development assistance with high level of structured cooperation.

The Russia-UNDP Partnership continues to grow. Five new projects will be launched in early 2022 under the TFD Youth Window, supporting youth employment, entrepreneurship and innovation potential in Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

A new TFD Call of Proposals aims to competitively select new projects that would deliver integrated, tangible and impactful development solutions in the area of climate change adaptation and mitigation driven by country priorities.

Outside of the TFD, four new initiatives will be launched in early 2022 enhancing the resilience of local population of the Aral Sea region in Uzbekistan, supporting nationalization of Sustainable Development Goals in Belarus, addressing marine litter in the Caspian Sea region and promoting climate change education globally. Several new project ideas were developed for potential support outside of the Trust Fund, including on supporting resilience of vulnerable communities heavily impacted by the crisis in Syria.

UNDP remains committed to ensure quality implementation, achievement of results, their sustainability, and visibility of Russia's funding for all projects under the Partnership.

ANNEX 1: LIST OF RUSSIA-FUNDED UNDP PROJECTS IN 2021

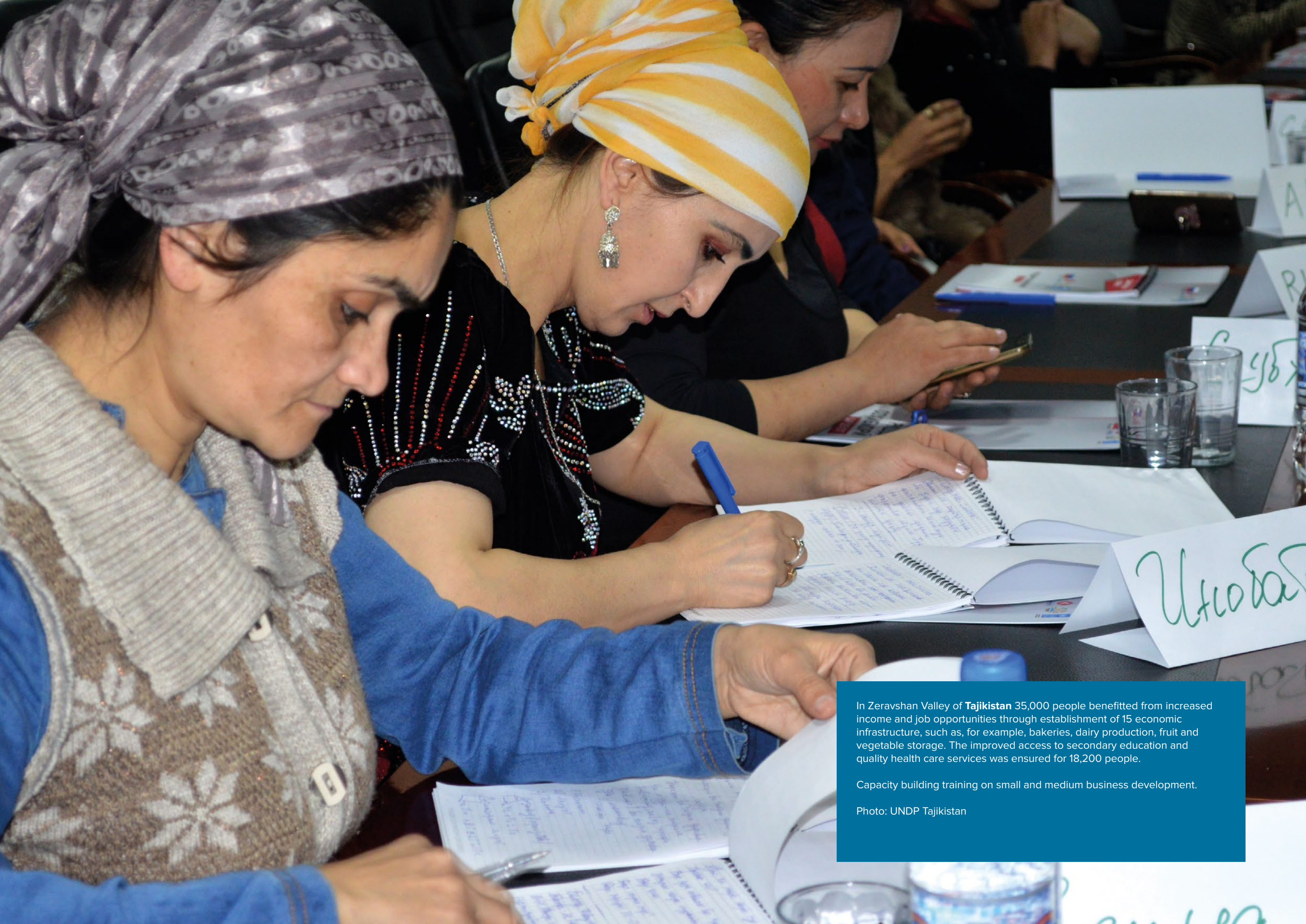
- Projects of the Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for Development main funds
- Projects of the Climate Change Window of the TFD
- Projects of the Youth Window of the TFD
- Projects funded outside TFD

Project	Implementation period	Russia's funding in USD
Armenia		
1 Integrated support to rural development in Tavush region	2015–2020 Completed	5 024 988
2 Integrated rural tourism development in Armenia	2016–2020 Completed	3 000 000
3 Addressing climate change impact through enhanced capacity for wildfires management in Armenia	2017–2021 Completed	1 000 000
4 Innovative solutions for SDG implementation in Armenia	2018–2021 Completed	1 250 000
5 Increase resilience of Armenia to climate change through modernization of Armenia's hydro meteorological service	2019–2021 Completed	800 000
6 Future skills and jobs for Armenia's rural youth	2019–2021 Completed	800 000
7 Fostering Inclusive Economic Development in Bordering Areas of Gegharkunik and Vayots Dzor Regions	2020–2022	2 772 277
8 Stronger Services for Equal Participation and Inclusive Development	2020–2022	1 566 788
9 Post-Conflict Early Recovery and Resilience in Armenia	2021–2022	3 200 000
10 Building Back Better through Strengthening Resilience of Rural Communities in Ararat, Aragatsotn, Armavir and Kotayk regions	2021–2023	1 700 000
Belarus		
11 Assisting the Government of Belarus in accession to WTO, Phases 2-4	2012–2018 Completed	1 034 680
12 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
13 Assisting the Government of the Republic of Belarus in accession to the World Trade Organization through strengthening national institutional capacity and expertise, Phase 5	2018–2022	742 503
14 Green Transition to Inclusive and Sustainable Growth through Ecotourism Development in the Republic of Belarus	2021–2024	1 200 000
15 Adaptation of Emergency Response System of Belarus to Functioning in an Unfavorable Global Epidemiological Situation Caused by COVID-19		500 000
16 Support of nationalization and localization of Sustainable Development Goals in Belarus	2022–2024	2 150 571

Botswana			
17	Women and Youth Build Resilient Businesses	2021–2022	800 000
Cambodia			
18	Promoting decent youth employment in Cambodia	2019–2021	800 000
19	Graduation-based Social Protection Project, Cambodia	2019–2023	1 000 000
Cuba			
20	Post-hurricane recovery in Cuba after the impact of Hurricane Sandy	2014–2016 Completed	1 000 000
21	Post-hurricane recovery in Cuba after the impact of Hurricane Matthew	2017–2019 Completed	1 000 000
22	Adapting to drought: strengthening sustainable water planning and management in Santiago de Cuba, for greater resilience and adaptation to climate change	2018–2021	1 000 000
23	Expanding quality job opportunities for the youth in Guantánamo in key economic sectors by strengthening productive capacities, education, and training and vocational guidance, Cuba	2020–2023	1 500 000
24	Strengthening capacities to increase urban resilience to disaster risks in central areas of Havana, Cuba	2020–2022	1 000 000
25	Support to the Revitalization of Employment in the Livestock Production Chain in the Province of Guantanamo, in the Post COVID-19 Recovery Phase	2021–2023	1 500 000
Guinea			
26	Empower young women entrepreneurship through access to digitalized services, financing and economic opportunities within the existing YouthConnekt, Guinea	2020–2022	1 200 000
27	Support for the Development of Aquaculture in Haute (Upper) and Moyenne (Middle) Guinea Regions	2020–2023	1 549 865
Kenya			
28	Strengthening COVID-19 Response for Kenya: Preparedness, Response and Recovery	2020–2022	1 000 000
Kyrgyzstan			
29	Recovery work in the South of Kyrgyz Republic	2010–2012 Completed	1 000 000
30	Comprehensive development of Naryn Region	2014–2016 Completed	3 500 000
31	Development of communities around radioactive sites	2015–2017 Completed	1 476 000
32	Capacity building in cattle identification	2016–2017 Completed	450 000
33	Integrated Osh area-based development	2016–2019 Completed	3 700 000
34	Strengthening climate resilience of the Batken province of the Kyrgyz Republic through introduction of climate smart irrigation and mudflow protection measures	2019–2021	900 000

35	Digital skills and opportunities for youth employment to advance digital economy in Kyrgyzstan	2019–2021	1 000 000
36	Socio-Economic Recovery from negative consequences of COVID-19 in Osh, Jalal-Abad and Batken provinces of the Kyrgyz Republic	2021–2024	2 000 000
Laos			
37	Enhancing social and economic opportunities for youth in Lao PDR	2020–2022	1 500 000
Madagascar			
38	Development of vital factors of production, water and energy, in the Great South of Madagascar	2020–2021	2 000 000
Philippines			
39	Contribution to the UNDP part of the Philippines appeal	2013–2014 Completed	1 000 000
Serbia			
40	Supporting agriculture and rural development in Serbia (Aid for Trade)	2016–2019 Completed	1 500 000
Syria			
41	Contribution to the UNDP part of Syria SHARP Appeal	2013–2014 Completed	2 000 000
42	Emergency support to strengthen the resilience of the Syrian people and foster the recovery of disrupted livelihoods	2016–2017 Completed	2 000 000
43	Community-based resilience building in selected areas of Syria	2020–2021	5 767 300
Tajikistan			
44	Livelihood improvement of rural population in 9 districts, Tajikistan	2014–2017 Completed	6 700 000
45	Strengthening preparedness and response capacity	2016–2018 Completed	1 500 000
46	Promotion of social and economic opportunities for women and youth in Zerafshan Valley of Tajikistan	2017–2019 Completed	1 500 000
47	Equipping the Cultural Educational Center under the Dushanbe Eparchy	2019–2020 Completed	1 000 000
48	Facilitating climate resilience in Tajikistan	2018–2021	950 130
49	Youth for business and innovation, Tajikistan	2019–2021	1 000 000
50	Building climate resilience in agriculture and water sectors of rural Tajikistan	2019–2022	831 243
51	Strengthening Communities in Khatlon region and Rasht Valley of Tajikistan	2020–2022	1 850 000
52	Accelerating Post COVID-19 Economic Recovery through Improved Livelihood, Employability, and Regional Cooperation in Ferghana Valley, Tajikistan	2021–2023	2 000 000
Uzbekistan			
53	Enhancing the adaptation and strengthening the resilience of farming to climate change risks in Fergana Valley	2019–2021	800 000
54	Promoting youth employment in Uzbekistan	2019–2021	1 000 000

55	Aid for Trade in Uzbekistan	2020–2022	1 400 000
56	Adapting Population Skills to the Post-Pandemic Economy in Ferghana Valley, Uzbekistan	2021–2023	1 800 000
57	Enhancing the resilience of the local population and promoting the green, inclusive development of the most vulnerable communities of the Aral Sea region	2022–2026	4 950 495
Vanuatu			
58	Vanuatu livelihoods for resilience initiative	2015–2016 Completed	500 000
Zimbabwe			
59	Support towards implementing Zimbabwe's Nationally Determined Contributions	2018–2021 Completed	998 827
60	COVID-19 Recovery and Resilience Building: Entrepreneurship and Innovative E-Solutions for Resilient Urban Food Supply Chains in Zimbabwe	2021–2022	1 500 000
Regional projects			
61	Knowledge management and capacity building in Russia-UNDP Partnership (1st phase)	2016–2018 Completed	500 000
62	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
63	Regulatory framework to promote energy efficiency in countries of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) (Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan)	2017–2019 Completed	1 500 000
64	Climate change education and awareness project – climate box (Armenia Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan)	2017–2021 Completed	654 800
65	Enhancing access to climate finance in the ECIS region (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan)	2017–2021	750 000
66	Strengthening capacities for sustainable development finance in the CIS region (Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan)	2017–2021	1 200 000
67	Knowledge management and capacity building in Russia-UNDP Partnership (2nd phase) (CIS countries, Serbia, Cuba and Laos)	2018–2021	1 000 000
68	Strengthening youth volunteerism in the CIS through partnerships for development – Youth, Unite and Volunteer!	2019–2021	400 000
69	Addressing Marine Litter and Marine Plastics – A Systemic Approach in the Caspian Sea	2022–2025	3 999 208
Global Project			
70	Contribution to the UNDP-WHO global joint programme on activating national responses to non-communicable diseases (NCDs)	2017–2019 Completed	1 030 000
71	WHO-UNDP Global Joint Programme on ‘Catalyzing Multisectoral Action for the Prevention and Control of NCDs’ (Phase II)	2020–2021	465 000
72	Climate Education to Advance SDGs and Climate Action (Climate Box)	2022–2024	3 000 000



In Zeravshan Valley of **Tajikistan** 35,000 people benefitted from increased income and job opportunities through establishment of 15 economic infrastructure, such as, for example, bakeries, dairy production, fruit and vegetable storage. The improved access to secondary education and quality health care services was ensured for 18,200 people.

Capacity building training on small and medium business development.

Photo: UNDP Tajikistan

Solar lamps distribution in **South Madagascar** under the TFD project that supports access of the local population to vital resources such as water and energy. In 2020, the intervention benefitted 2,000 households in remote villages.

Photo: UNDP Madagascar



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UNDP Partnership Support Office in the Russian Federation
9, Leontyevsky Lane, 125009, Moscow, Russia

Printed on 100% recycled paper



With financial support
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