



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*



Russia-UNDP Partnership Overview for 2017-2018



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

Cover: © UNDP Tajikistan

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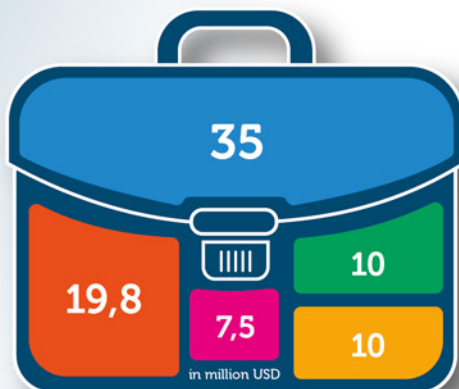
Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

The RUSSIA-UNDP PARTNERSHIP is growing

FUNDING

Portfolio includes
over \$80 mln in projects

\$19,8 mln
Development
projects outside
the Trust Fund



\$35 mln
Russia-UNDP
Trust Fund for
Development



\$10 mln
Climate Change
Window of the
Trust Fund



\$10 mln
Youth Window
of the Trust Fund

\$7,5 mln
Humanitarian
assistance



RUSSIAN EXPERTISE SHARING

Over 50 short-term expert assignments, 20 student internships for 3 months and 20 UN Volunteer assignments for 1-2 years have contributed to high quality implementation of development projects in partner countries.



50
EXPERTS



20
STUDENTS



20
VOLUNTEERS

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Country specific and regional projects are implemented in



Armenia



Azerbaijan



Belarus



Cambodia



Cuba



Ethiopia



Iran



Kazakhstan



Kyrgyzstan



Moldova



Pacific Small Island
Developing States

(Cook Islands, Federated States of
Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall
Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua
New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon
Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu)



The Philippines



Serbia



Syria



Tajikistan



Turkey



Turkmenistan



Uzbekistan



Vanuatu

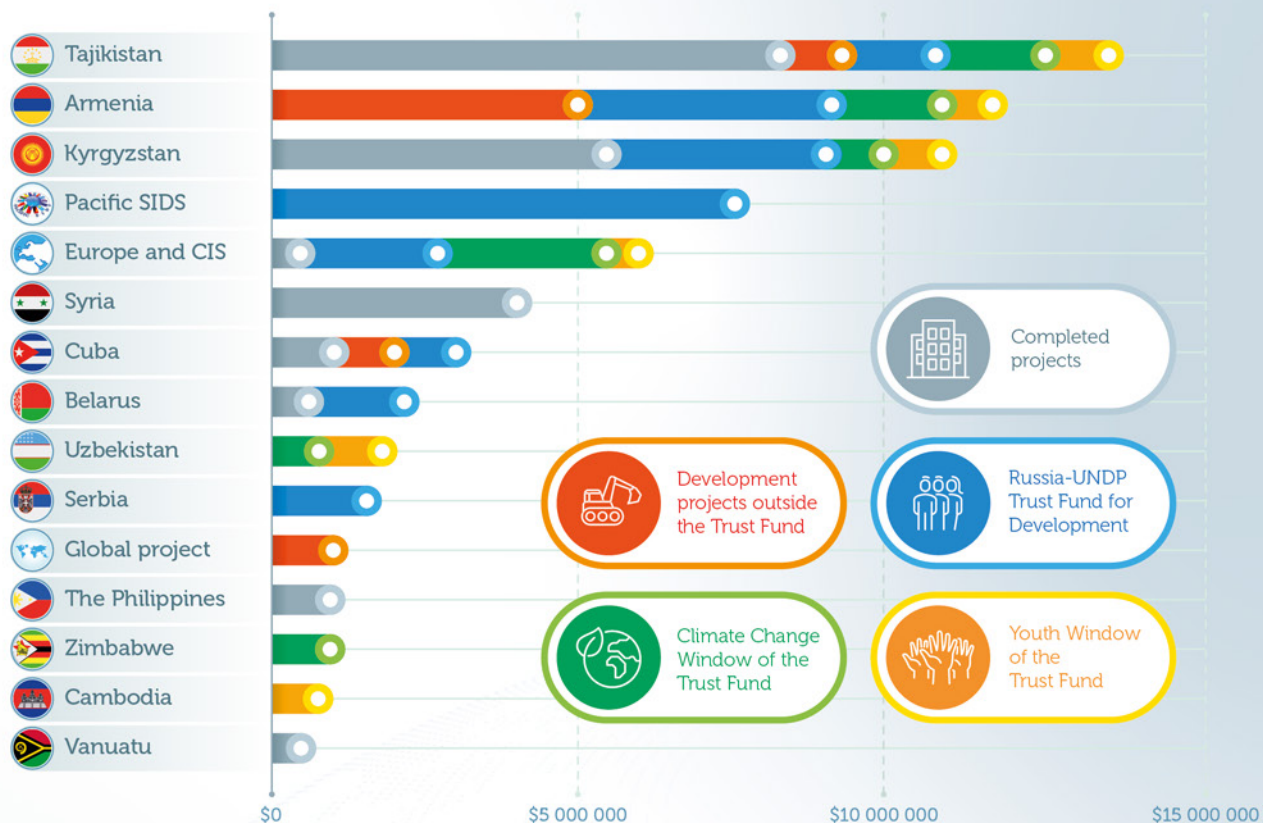


Zambia



Zimbabwe

LARGEST RECIPIENTS INCLUDE



THEMATIC SCOPE

Diagram represents proportional presence of thematic areas in the portfolio.



VISIBILITY

Over 1000 news in local media, over 500 posts in social media and special branding in all implementation sites.



1000
NEWS



500
POSTS



**SPECIAL
BRANDING**

For more
information please visit
www.expertsfordevelopment.ru



List of projects

Project		Implementation period	Thematic focus: SDGs №	Russia's funding in USD
Armenia				
1	Integrated support to rural development in Tavush region	2015 – 2020	1, 8, 9, 11	5 024 988
2	Integrated rural tourism development	2016 – 2019	8	3 000 000
3	Addressing climate change impact through enhanced capacity for wildfires management in Armenia	2017 – 2020	13, 15	1 000 000
4	Innovative solutions for SDG implementation in Armenia	2018 – 2020	17	1 000 000
5	Increase resilience of Armenia to climate change through modernization of Armenia's hydro meteorological service	2019 – 2020	13	800 000
6	Future skills and jobs for Armenia's rural youth	2019 – 2020	4, 8, 11	800 000
Belarus				
7	Promotion of employment and self-employment of the population in small and medium-sized towns in the Republic of Belarus	2017 – 2020	8, 17	1 000 000
8	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 – 2020	10, 17	592 503
Cambodia				
9	Promoting decent youth employment in Cambodia	2019 – 2021	4, 8, 9, 10	800 000
Cuba				
10	Post-hurricane recovery in Cuba after the impact of Hurricane Matthew	2017 – 2019	1, 13	1 000 000
11	Adapting to drought: strengthening sustainable water planning and management in Santiago de Cuba, for greater resilience and adaptation to climate change	2017 – 2020	6, 13	1 000 000
Kyrgyzstan				
12	Integrated Osh area-based development	2016 – 2019	1, 5, 6, 8, 13, 16, 17	3 500 000
13	Strengthening climate resilience of the Batken province of the Kyrgyz Republic through introduction of climate smart irrigation and mudflow protection measures	2019 – 2020	2, 13	900 000
14	Digital skills and opportunities for youth employment to advance digital economy in Kyrgyzstan	2019 – 2021	4, 9, 10	1 000 000
Serbia				
15	Supporting agriculture and rural development in Serbia	2016 – 2019	1, 8	1 500 000

Tajikistan				
16	Promotion of social and economic opportunities for women and youth in Zerafshan Valley of Tajikistan	2017 – 2019	1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 13	1 500 000
17	Facilitating climate resilience in Tajikistan	2018 – 2019	1, 2, 9, 11, 13, 15	950 130
18	Building climate resilience in agriculture and water sectors of rural Tajikistan	2019 – 2021	2, 6, 13	831 243
19	Youth for business and innovation, Tajikistan	2019 – 2021	1, 8, 9, 11, 17	1 000 000
20	Equipping school in Dushanbe	2019 – 2020	4	1 000 000
Uzbekistan				
21	Promoting youth employment in Uzbekistan	2019 – 2021	1, 4, 8	1 000 000
22	Enhancing the adaptation and strengthening the resilience of farming to climate change risks in Fergana Valley	2019 – 2021	2, 11, 13	800 000
Zimbabwe				
23	Support towards implementing Zimbabwe's Nationally Determined Contributions	2018 – 2020	7, 13	998 827
Regional projects				
24	Strengthening youth volunteerism in the CIS through partnerships for development – Youth, Unite and Volunteer!	2019 – 2020	17	400 000
25	Strengthening capacities for sustainable development finance in the CIS region (Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan)	2017 – 2020	8, 17	1 200 000
26	Climate change education and awareness project – climate box (Armenia Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan)	2017 – 2019	4, 13	469 800
27	Enhancing access to climate finance in the ECIS region (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan)	2017 – 2019	13, 17	750 000
28	Regulatory framework to promote energy efficiency in countries of the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) (Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan)	2017 – 2019	7, 13	1 500 000
29	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 – 2019	5, 13	7 500 000
30	Knowledge management and capacity building in Russia-UNDP Partnership (2nd phase) (CIS countries, Serbia, Cuba and Laos)	2018 – 2021	17	1 000 000
TOTAL:				43 817 491



Development projects outside the Trust Fund



Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for Development



Climate Change Window of the Trust Fund



Youth Window of the Trust Fund

Completed projects

	Project	Implementation period	Russia's funding in USD
Belarus			
1	Assisting the Government of Belarus in accession to WTO, Phase 4	2014 – 2018	589 680
Cuba			
2	Post-hurricane recovery in Cuba after the impact of Hurricane Sandy	2014 – 2016	1 000 000
Kyrgyzstan			
3	Comprehensive development of Naryn Region	2014 – 2016	3 500 000
4	Development of communities around radioactive sites	2015 – 2017	1 476 000
5	Capacity building in cattle identification	2016 – 2017	450 000
The Philippines			
6	Contribution to the UNDP part of the Philippines appeal	2013 – 2014	1 000 000
Syria			
7	Contribution to the UNDP part of Syria SHARP Appeal	2013 – 2014	2 000 000
8	Emergency support to strengthen the resilience of the Syrian people and foster the recovery of disrupted livelihoods	2015 – 2017	2 000 000
Tajikistan			
9	Livelihood improvement of rural population in 9 districts	2014 – 2017	6 700 000
10	Strengthening preparedness and response capacity	2016 – 2018	1 500 000
Vanuatu			
11	Vanuatu livelihoods for resilience initiative	2015 – 2016	500 000
Regional project			
12	Knowledge management and capacity building in Russia-UNDP Partnership (1st phase)	2016 – 2018	500 000
Global project			
13	Contribution to the UNDP-WHO global joint programme on activating national responses to non-communicable diseases (NCDs)	2017 – 2018	1 030 000
TOTAL			22 245 680



Introduction

The Russia-UNDP Partnership has seen a rapid growth over the past three years evolving from a collection of discreet projects totaling \$24 million in 2015, to a fully-fledged institutionalized partnership of **over \$80 million in 2018**. The cornerstone of the Partnership is the **Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for Development** (Trust Fund), established in 2015 with initial pledge of \$25 million to support to competitively selected projects in developing countries around the world. The Trust Fund became an effective partnership instrument jointly governed by the Russian Federation and UNDP in accordance with UNDP's Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures.

The reporting period saw the further maturing of the Russia-UNDP Partnership with the **completion in 2017-2018 of seven projects** in Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Syria and Tajikistan, including two Trust Fund projects. Furthermore, the **\$10 million** pledged to the Trust Fund **Climate Change Window** were allocated to 11 projects and most of them have already initiated implementation. Several new initiatives were launched. In late 2017 Russia has committed additional **\$10 million** for the Trust Fund to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Russia has also prioritized development and well-being of youth and same year committed additional **\$10 million for the Youth Window** of the Trust Fund.

Joint efforts of Russia and UNDP continue to focus on national development priorities of the partner countries supporting them in achieving the SDGs. **30 projects** are under implementation, demonstrating results on the ground in Armenia, Belarus, Cambodia, Cuba, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe. Regional initiatives also include Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Moldova and Turkmenistan. Further expanding the geographic scope, the 2nd Trust Fund Call for proposals was announced in 2019 with a wider range of eligible countries.

In line with the 2015 Partnership Framework Agreement, the partnership includes a strong knowledge sharing aspect. **Russian expertise and experience** are widely used by the projects' various thematic areas. The **visibility of Russia** as a donor remains high on the agenda of all project implementation teams. Project results are communicated via press, TV, internet media and social networks.

UNDP's Partnership with Russia has set the ground for Russia's successful cooperation with **United Nations Volunteers** (UNV), a programme administered by UNDP. The joint programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and UNV started in 2018 and now 19 Russian citizens are gaining the unique international experience and provide support to UN work in 16 countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

The overview continues a series of reports prepared for the Russia-UNDP Partnership Consultations in April 2016 and July 2017. It aims to present results achieved in 2017-2018 and discuss future plans.

Projects completed in 2017-2018

Livelihood Improvement of Rural Population in 9 districts of the Republic of Tajikistan



Sughd, Khatlon and Districts of Republican Subordination, Tajikistan



\$6 700 000



2014 - 2017



The project supported sustainable local economic development by ensuring effective planning and monitoring. Participative elaboration and revision of District Social and Economic Development Programmes led to implementation of 50 priority initiatives targeting the rural population in 9 districts of Tajikistan. The **main results were:**

- > **611 532 people** benefitted from **84 local economic development projects**;
- > **4 402 people** received affordable credit to generate income and start a micro-business;
- > **9 vocational and technical institutions** were rehabilitated and equipped;
- > **1026 students** were trained and 265 young people found a job after vocational trainings;
- > **412 civil servants** were trained in economic development planning, statistics and analysis;

- > Investment guides for all target districts developed and disseminated;
- > Several Regional Contraction Forums and International Trade Fairs took place;
- > Farmers established demonstration plots in Isfara, Lakhsh and Ayni districts to showcase introduction of drip irrigation technologies in the mountainous districts.

The project benefited from extensive cooperation with **Russian regions and experts**. Representatives of Tajikistan took part in study tours to Altay and Sverdlovsk regions. Business start-up leaders from Tajikistan participated in the Summer School of Business Incubators at the National Research University Higher School of Economics in Moscow. Russian expert was involved for further mentoring of incubators in Tajikistan and delivered an open lecture for 75 participants.

Emergency Support to Strengthen the Resilience of the Syrian People and Foster the Recovery of Disrupted Livelihoods



*Deir-ez-Zor, Hama, Homs,
Lattakia, Rural Damascus
and Tartous, Syria*



\$2 000 000



2016 - 2017

The Russia-UNDP interventions were designed to address the emerging needs in target communities and promote socio-economic recovery of the crisis-affected population, including vulnerable groups, through restoration and stabilization of disrupted livelihoods.

6 governorates benefitted from multiple interventions carried out in cooperation with a wide network of local partners. 14 local projects were implemented positively impacting **1 108 082 indirect beneficiaries** and **10 882 direct beneficiaries**. The implemented initiatives provided **1 187 monthly job opportunities** and **927 productive assets**.

Local projects included solid waste management, rehabilitation of basic infrastructures, establishing productive workshops for sewing and food processing, farming support through distributing farming inputs such as cows and sheep, vocational training to unskilled workers to improve their employability opportunities in local markets. A few examples are given below:

- > To alleviate the negative impact of power outages, project installed **98 street solar LED lighting units** in Tartous and **119 units** in Homs. The solar lit streets facilitated free movement of people and goods;
- > **752 families** benefited from sheep distribution in rural areas of Hama and Rural Damascus, where sheep are the dominant type of livestock. The beneficiaries were selected based on vulnerability, giving priority to poorest families, internally displaced people, female-headed households and people with disability;
- > **150 trainees** benefited from the vocational training in the marketable local skills including hair-dressing for men and women and sewing skills.



Hala, 37 years old, from the rural areas of Lattakia, lost her husband and was abducted with her two daughters when she was nine months pregnant. She was later released with her nine-month-old baby. It was very hard for Hala to return to normal life. Hala is one of the beneficiaries who received a cow as part of the programme's initiative to distribute farming inputs. By selling the milk and dairy products, Hala can make a living and provide for her family. Recently, the cow gave birth to a calf. "I do not know how to describe the miserable situation I was going through before I got the cow, but there's still some good left in this world, and I have to let go", Hala said.

Strengthening Preparedness and Response Capacities, Tajikistan Livelihoods



Tajikistan



\$1 500 000



2016 - 2018

The main objective of the project was to build the capacities of the **Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense** under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (CoES) in preparedness to disaster response operations in the country.

The project engaged Russian partners in implementation. All Russian Science Research Institute on Civil Defense and Disaster Management of EMERCOM was contracted for capacity assessments and trainings. In September 2017, a four-

day training was conducted for officials responsible for operation of the Unified State System on Preparedness and Response. In March 2018, a two days table top exercise on response coordination to the large-scale disaster was conducted for the 23 Governmental entities. The presented scenario helped to simulate response of an earthquake that damaged 18 small and large cities in Tajikistan.

The technical capacity assessment conducted by Russian EMERCOM and CoES experts revealed lack of sufficient heavy machinery and search and rescue equipment. In response, **13** heavy machinery and **196** pieces of search and rescue equipment were provided. It included **11** units of specialized heavy machinery produced in Russia by “GAZ Group”. URAL vehicles were already deployed for the evacuation of people from flood affected areas in several districts. On 14 June 2018, Search and Rescue teams had a hands-on training on effective use and maintenance of the procured new equipment.



Provision of equipment was responsive to the emerging needs. For example, the avalanches of 2017 revealed a significant gap in communication system as mobile phones are not always reliable. Upon request from the CoES, 6 additional satellite phones were provided.

A possibility for the establishment of a commercial entity under the CoES to be responsible for commercial services when the machinery is not used in emergencies was examined. Learning about foreign experience included visits by the CoES delegation to Belarus and Kyrgyzstan.

Russia's Contribution to the UNDP-WHO Global Joint Programme on Activating National Responses to Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs)



Armenia, Belarus, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Philippines, Turkey, Zambia, Uzbekistan



\$1 030 000



2017 - 2018

Russia and UNDP are working together to scale-up multisectoral responses to NCDs worldwide. NCDs are now the single greatest cause of preventable illness, disability and mortality worldwide.

The project jointly implemented with WHO supported countries in formulating NCD response to reverse the worsening epidemiological trends. Following main results were achieved:

- > **11 country-tailored, compelling and clear national NCD investment cases** completed or in progress. Each country received a report and advocacy materials outlining the current health and economic burden of NCDs and the benefits of scaling up action over the next 15 years;
- > **Three trainings** for international and national experts conducted, covering 26 economists;
- > More than 12 hours of video coverage of **NCD investment cases course** made available online for health economists from around the world;
- > A comprehensive **Guidance Note on implementing investment cases** for NCDs has been developed.

Assisting the Government of Belarus in accession to World Trade Organization (WTO), Phase 4



Belarus



\$589 680



2014 - 2018

Accession to the WTO is one of the priorities of the national trade policy of the Republic of Belarus. In recent years, Belarus has shown tangible progress in moving towards accession to WTO and has entered the final stage of the negotiation process: formulation of the final commitments before WTO. The project provided support to the MFA of Belarus in several directions:

- > **5 sets of agreements and legislation** reviewed for compliance with WTO and Eurasian Economic Union;
- > Several **manuals** on negotiations and analyses of Belarus' current legislation produced;
- > **42 normative legal acts** and other documents translated into English for negotiations;
- > **24 learning and practice events** held in the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan,

Switzerland, Spain, USA, Ukraine, Kenya and Australia;

- > Over **250 representatives** of regional enterprises, business associations, education institutions and local authorities participated in regional roundtables “WTO Week in Belarus” that were held for the business community.

Russian experts and organizations were widely involved in project implementation, including the National Research University “Higher School of Economics”, WTO Expertise Center, Russian Foreign Trade Academy and independent consultants.

Knowledge Management and Capacity Building in Russia-UNDP Partnership, Phase I



*Armenia, Belarus, Cuba,
Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Serbia,
Tajikistan, Turkmenistan,
Uzbekistan*



\$500 000



2016 - 2018



The project supported Russian knowledge and expertise sharing to achieve sustainable, scalable development impact in partner countries through the programmatic promotion of several mechanisms:

- > The Russian experts' database on the web-platform www.expertsfordevelopment.ru was created to facilitate the involvement of Russian experts in the implementation of development programmes and projects. **135 experts** were registered in 14 various thematic areas;
- > **40 short-term assignments** were implemented by Russian experts in Armenia, Belarus,

Cuba, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Russian specialists shared Russia's experience and consulted national partners on various issues, from viral hepatitis and energy efficiency in schools to start-up infrastructure and satellite image analyses for crops' forecast;

- > **11 Russian students** had an internship in UNDP Country Offices in Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, and Tajikistan and Istanbul Regional Hub;
- > Information and technical support to **Partnership implementation** was provided, including support of the Russia-UNDP Annual Consultations, reports and reviews, field missions by Russian officials to partner countries, presentations and knowledge sharing events, facilitation of UNDP high-level' participation in events in Russia, including the Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum;
- > A regional round table on **area-based development programmes** was organized in March 2017 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan to facilitate knowledge and best practice sharing among Russian Federation-funded projects;
- > Video on **Russia-UNDP cooperation on climate change** was presented on the margins of the Bonn Climate Change Conference in November 2017;
- > A video on the Strategic partnership between **Russia and UN agencies for SDG implementation** was produced and presented at the side-event of the 2018 High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development in July 2018 in New York.
- > The Memorandum of Understanding was signed with **MGIMO** on co-financing the **internships programme** in Phase II of the project.
- > Russian expertise in creating **volunteer infrastructure** was shared with Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, and Tajikistan;
- > Number of Russian citizens in the **UNV roster** has increased from 376 to **1 233**.

Capacity building in cattle identification, Kyrgyzstan



Kyrgyzstan



\$450 000



2016 - 2017

The full-scale launch of the Animal Identification and Tracking System in Kyrgyzstan was needed to comply with the Eurasian Economic Union requirements, but low capacity of employees of authorized state organizations in this area hindered the progress.

With the support of the project, a large-scale campaign was launched to train veterinarians, farmers, entrepreneurs, operators and registrars in the field of identifying and tracking cattle. The project conducted **134 trainings** (including 2 trainings of trainers) covering **2 962 specialists**.

Ongoing projects

The section presents a few examples of projects currently implemented under the Russia-UNDP Partnership and highlights key achievements and cases.

Area-based development

Integrated Support to Rural Development in Tavush Region, Armenia



*Tavush region,
Armenia*



\$5 024 988



2015 - 2020



In **Armenia**, the project on integrated support to rural development in **Tavush region** continues building more resilient communities and investing in people's wellbeing. 38 community development plans were elaborated using a participatory approach. Based on these plans, the following interventions were supported:

- > **86 greenhouses** (each 135m²) with drip irrigation systems, seedlings and pest control measures were provided to individual farmers and interested schools;
- > Over **40 ha of new fruit orchards** were planted by 26 beneficiaries. The project introduced new crops, provided seedlings and drip irrigation systems;
- > **17 small wine producers** received winemaking equipment and consultancy;
- > **8 dried fruit production** units were provided;
- > **3 agricultural machinery pools** were created in community clusters, doubling the cultivated land plots and decreasing the loss of harvest by 25%;

- > **2 agricultural collection centers** were created for community clusters;
- > Individual **startups** (bakery, sewing services) led by young people were supported to find their niche in the market as well as provide an opportunity for employment and growth.

By 2020 the residents of all **45 bordering communities** of Tavush region, with an overall **population of 62 000**, will get direct or indirect benefits from the project in the form of access to quality infrastructures, collection center of agricultural products and parks of agricultural machinery, as well as employment in agricultural and agro-processing sectors.

Integrated Rural Tourism Development, Armenia



10 Marzes,
Armenia



\$3 000 000



2016 - 2019



The Tavush project works hand in hand with another Russia-funded initiative: **Integrated Rural Tourism Development Project**. The project supports development of rural tourism in Armenia through creation of sustainable income-generating opportunities. Some results thus far include:

- > Assessment of local products and services attractiveness for tourism market was conducted in **952 villages**;
- > **91 youth** was trained in different tourism and business skills related topics;
- > **4 Tourism Research & Development centers** were opened in Tavush, Lori, Gegharqunik and Shirak;
- > Small museums, gastro spots, pottery centers, wine yards, bakeries, restaurants, trails, hotels and other tourism infrastructure were supported in **10 marzes**.

Integrated Osh Area-Based Development, Kyrgyzstan



Osh region,
Kyrgyzstan



\$3 500 000



2016 - 2019



© UNDP Kyrgyzstan

In **Kyrgyzstan**, the **Osh** Area Based Programme has achieved significant results. **102 projects** have contributed to improving the access of the rural population to socio-economic opportunities and public services. **193 295 villagers** gained access to improved quality of drinking and irrigation water supply, secondary and pre-school education, and medical services. The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic has demonstrated high level of ownership in project implementation, providing a contribution from **16% to 41%** depending on the complexity of the initiatives. The programme continues till the end of 2019, some results achieved to date include:

- > **44 149 people** benefitted from measures taken to increase employment opportunities, access to financial, natural, productive resources, and markets;
- > **1 638 people** were provided with long-term and temporary jobs;
- > **1 464 people** got access to temporary work at public works initiated jointly with **WFP** at **15 social infrastructure facilities**. It enabled the pilot communities to earn additional 50 tons of flour and more than 5 tons of oil;
- > **261 people** use evidence-based new technologies in agriculture;
- > Rehabilitation of **15** water lines, **4** head water installations, **5** on-farm canals, **8** secondary schools, **7** kindergartens, **3** sports grounds, **1** culture house;
- > **27 business projects** aimed at developing the market for agricultural products, employing rural youth, and rehabilitating 75 social and economic infrastructure facilities;
- > **12** communities were provided with street lighting;
- > **5** medical facilities have been provided with portable cardio equipment;
- > Model of the “single-window” services was demonstrated in pilot municipalities.

The Programme has enjoyed extensive cooperation with **Russian partners**. The Russian Federal Center for Agricultural Consulting and Retraining of the Agri-Industrial Complex has provided several trainings. The All-Russian Society of Cardiovascular Surgeons was involved in introducing new medical equipment.

Positive feedback and results of the Programme attracted additional funding and new partnerships, for example with the **Kyrgyz diaspora in Russia**. UNDP and the “Kyrgyz Congress” signed a memorandum of understanding and as a result more than 800 migrants allocated **\$20 223** to rehabilitate 4 social-economic facilities in Osh province.



A Russian agri-business expert from the **Kuban State Agrarian University** was recruited for the Osh project as a **United Nations Volunteer** for an 18-month assignment. The expert established partnerships with relevant Russian agriculture development agencies for knowledge exchange and methodology transfer, and organized a visit of Osh regional government representatives and leading farmers to Russian counterparts. Agreements with 5 Russian research institutions and leading agricultural companies for systematic delivery of seeding and planting materials and consulting support were reached.

Promotion of Social and Economic Opportunities for Women and Youth in Zerafshan Valley, Tajikistan



Zerafshan region,
Tajikistan



\$1 500 000



2017-2019

In **Tajikistan's Zerafshan Valley** Russia and UNDP work together to ensure a more active participation and enhanced contribution of rural women and young people to the local economic life, and have improved access to decent employment, education and health. Having started in late 2017, the project has already achieved significant results:

- > **59 rural women** got jobs through trainings for establishment of new and expansion of existing businesses,
- > Startup trainings were conducted for **210 young people** of Kuhistoni Mastchoh and Ayni districts, as a results **41 business plans** were developed;
- > A **40-bed dormitory** was renovated for female students of vocational technical lyceum. The number of female students has increased by 20%;
- > **177 households** were able to receive quality medical treatment thanks to a constructed Medical House. Newborns and children now receive vaccinations on time;
- > **Health facilities** are better able to serve local population, especially women of reproductive age through received medical supplies and inventories;
- > Local farmers are provided with **agriculture machinery** such as backhoe loaders, tractors and other equipment;
- > **72 local government officials** responsible for employment and migration issues in Ayni and Kuhistoni Mastchoh districts participated in professional trainings.

Girls from remote villages are mastering the profession of electrician



© UNDP Tajikistan

17-year-old Gulrivodzh Mirov from the remote village Makhshevad of the Aini district in Sogd oblast chose a profession that is unusual for the Tajik society. She is in her third month of training as electrician at a lyceum. "There have been practically no electricians in our village in recent years, and we have to wait a long time to repair electrical lines", Gulrivodzh says. At first, parents and relatives were against the education of girls in the lyceum, despite the lack of specialists. After two months of training, when Gulrivodzh went home and repaired all the sockets, cartridges and installed the electrical wiring in the house, the mother and all family members were satisfied with her work.

More than 250 students, of whom 138 are girls, are studying in the Vocational and Technical Lyceum of the Aini district. The Aini district is a mountainous area and the villages there are located far from the center, it was difficult for students to overcome the distance every day. The number of students has increased due to the renovated dormitory with the help of Russia and UNDP.

Climate change related projects

Disaster Resilience for Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS)



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



\$7 500 000



2016-2019

The **Disaster Resilience in Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS)** project aims to improve Pacific SIDS resilience to climate-related hazards. The project is working with its partners primarily within the Pacific Meteorological Council of the 15 countries and territories. Early warning systems and climate monitoring capacities were strengthened. The project repaired **14 Automated Weather Stations (AWS)** damaged by a Tropical Cyclon and trained technicians.



© UNDP Pacific

Today **99% of AWS** in the region are operational and work on a 24/7/365 basis providing timely information for aviation, maritime, agriculture and other important sectors.

Based on needs assessment of all participating countries in meteorological and hydrological services, a **feasibility study** on establishment of the Pacific Regional Training Center of the World Meteorological Organization was conducted in 2018 with the participation of a Russian expert.

Regional and national capacity was enhanced to manage disaster recovery processes. **46 government officials from 7 countries** were trained to conduct post disaster needs assessment and train other national officials in this area. In 2018 the project has provided support to the Kingdom of Tonga and to Vanuatu in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Gita and the Ambae Volcanic eruptions respectively. Papua New Guinea was supported with technical expertise and resource mobilization for early recovery work, following the earthquake in the Southern Highlands in 2018, that affected more than 500 000 people.

The “**bundled insurance**” package has been elaborated and marketed to manage and share disaster related risks. The beneficiaries of this product are recipients of government social welfare poverty benefit scheme, sugarcane, rice, dairy and copra farmers in Fiji. A total of **120 167 people** registered with the first affordable micro-insurance to mitigate risks and protect assets during catastrophic or tragic events.

Regulatory Framework to Promote Energy Efficiency in Countries of the Eurasian Economic Union



Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan



\$1 500 000



2017-2019

A regional initiative to promote **energy efficiency in countries of the Eurasian Economic Union** (EAEU) was launched in 2017. The project supported drafting of the Eurasian Economic Council’s Decision on establishment of energy labeling and provided recommendations to amend the draft EAEU Technical Regulation on Energy Efficiency. A roundtable discussion on Energy efficiency policies in the EAEU was held in Moscow during “Russian Energy Week International Forum-2018”. Schoolchildren from Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan took part in summer schools of the “Orlyonok” and “Smena”. At a country level, following activities were implemented:

- > a draft legal and regulatory framework to introduce the energy efficient public procurement system in Armenia was developed;
- > experts are involved into amendment of Kyrgyz Republic Law “On Energy Saving” to include provisions on setting minimum and high energy performance requirements;
- > concept for development of energy performance testing laboratories in Armenia and Kyrgyzstan was elaborated and agreed with the key national stakeholders;
- > preparations for the youth festival for energy efficiency #BrighterTogether kicked off in Armenia and Kyrgyzstan aimed at promoting energy efficiency behavior among schoolchildren and youth.

Climate Change Education and Awareness Project – Climate Box



*Armenia, Kazakhstan,
Kyrgyzstan, Moldova,
Tajikistan, Turkmenistan,
Uzbekistan*



\$469 800



2017-2019

The regional project on climate change education continues the UNDP **Climate Box** initiative launched in 2014 in Russia and scales it up in **Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan**. The Climate Box is an interactive learning toolkit that consists of an illustrated textbook, the Climate Quiz game, a wall map illustrating the possible effects of climate change on nature and mankind, a poster with tips on how to reduce one's carbon footprint, and a disk with all of the toolkit materials.

The project was launched at the **UN Climate Change Conference in Bonn (COP23)** in November 2017 and later presented at the **COP24 side events in Katowice, Poland**. In Armenia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan translation of the Climate Box to the national languages started. Climate Box training workshops and training-of-trainers sessions have been organized in Armenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. Furthermore, the first regional educational conference for teachers, educational experts and representatives of ministries of education from the beneficiary countries on climate change was organized on 1-2 November 2018 in Yerevan, Armenia.



Engagement of Russian experts

Russia-UNDP projects benefit from cooperation with the Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring of Russia (**Roshydromet**) and have engaged its experts.

The Deputy Director for Development of the **State Hydrological Institute** joined the international expert group to assess the feasibility and effectiveness of the establishment of the Pacific Regional Training Center of the World Meteorological

Organization (WMO). In June 2018, the expert visited **Tonga, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Fiji** to conduct a survey and advise local hydrometeorological services. A detailed analysis of the situation on the ground was necessary to see whether the problem of shortage of human resources needed to use advanced technologies and support accurate forecasting and climate monitoring can be solved through the establishment of a regional training center. The expert task was implemented within the framework of the project «Disaster Resilience for Pacific Small Island Developing States».

Leading Russian experts from the All-Russian Research **Institute of Agricultural Meteorology** have supported the Institute of Meteorology of the **Republic of Cuba** on the use of satellite data in agrometeorology. The experts prepared materials for the training of their Cuban colleagues based on many years of relevant work in Russia. In March 2018, one of the experts directly consulted his Cuban colleagues and delivered a training session, including a presentation of methods for using vegetation indices derived from satellite images to develop a model for estimating rice yields in Cuba.



Experts from the **State Research Center for Space Hydrometeorology «Planeta»**, from the Siberian Branch and from the Far Eastern Branch provided expert advice to Cuban colleagues on water resource availability and forecast. One expert focused on remote sensing through satellite images available in **Cuba** and provided a training on registration, processing, mounting and installation of tools to systematically capture and process hydrological variables. Second expert focused on interpretation of satellite images for the management of hydrological resources and provided a training on monitoring and forecasting drought, mapping flood extent, predicting flood extent, identifying and monitoring water reservoirs.

The Deputy Director of the All-Russian Scientific Research Institute of Hydrometeorological Information - **the World Data Center of Roshydromet**, assessed the institutional and technical needs of the **Tajikistan** Agency for Hydrometeorology, including what trainings and equipment were received under various projects and what the needs are. The expert also consulted on the weather forecasting methods efficiency used by Tajikistan Hydromet and visited some automatic meteorological stations to assess their operational capacity. Based on the analysis, expert provided a comprehensive capacity building strategy/plan, including the list of equipment.

The assignments in Cuba and Tajikistan were supported by the project «Knowledge Management and Capacity Building in Russia-UNDP Partnership».

Trade related projects

Supporting Agriculture and Rural Development in Serbia



Serbia



\$1 500 000



2016-2019

In **Serbia**, Russia and UNDP support productive capacities in the agro-industrial sector. The aid-for-trade project has organized export promotion activities for Serbian agribusiness companies, including participation of 55 Serbian companies in 2017 and 2018 World Food Moscow and 2018 and 2019 PRODEXPO. New contracts exceeded 40 million euros as a result of these promotional activities.



© UNDP Serbia

A **Farmers Club** was established within the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of Serbia. It provides trainings for agribusiness companies, cooperatives and farmers associations, presentations of new legislative framework (e.g. Laws, bylaws and other regulatory framework changes), lectures, public debates, conferences and meetings.

The online **One Stop Shop platform** developed under the project aims to facilitate access to the Russian market for all export-oriented producers interested in information on export requirements, market intelligence, qualitative and quantitative needs of selected priority markets, duty relief, quotas and other useful information. This service is integrated into existing structures of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia.

Russian experts were engaged for the **Business Acceleration Support** to advise 17 Serbian agribusiness companies from small and medium enterprise's sector and organize business-to-business meetings in Moscow in December 2018.

Assisting the Government of Belarus in Accession to WTO through Strengthening National Institutional Capacity and Expertise, Phase 5



Belarus



\$592 503



2018-2020

In **Belarus**, the fifth and final stage of the project “Assisting the Government of the Republic of Belarus in Accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO)” has started in 2018. In October-November 2018, “**WTO Weeks in Belarus 2018**” in the form of round tables for the business community was held in all regional centers of Belarus to discuss the most in-demand topics on the process, status and implications of the country's accession to the WTO as well as WTO membership. The events brought together over 600 representatives of regional authorities, enterprises, business associations and higher educational institutions.

Future plans

The main focus of the Partnership remains on achieving effective results in **each of 30 ongoing projects** and ensuring proper visibility of the Partnership in respective countries. As over 10 projects are expected to be completed in 2019 – first half of 2020, an overview of lessons learned as a result of projects' implementation will be prepared to inform implementation of ongoing and future initiatives.



11 projects were already approved for funding and will **start implementation in 2019**.

Climate change related initiatives will be launched in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. They will support national partners on such issues as modernization of the hydrometeorological services, climate smart irrigation, climate resilient agriculture and water sectors, resilience of farming to climate change risks.

The first set of projects financed under the **Youth Window** of the Trust Fund will initiate implementation in Armenia, Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan with youth employment as the main focus. Additional areas include digital skills and innovations. A regional initiative will support development of volunteerism in the CIS and sharing of Russian experience in that area. The second Call for Proposals for funding from the Youth Window is planned for 2019.

New initiatives are expected to start in 2020. A new Call for Proposals for funding from the Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for Development was announced in December 2018. 17 project proposals from Armenia, Belarus, Cambodia, Cuba, Guinea, Laos, Madagascar,



Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were received in late February 2019, and several of them will be approved by the Trust Fund's Steering Committee for funding and implementation.

Support to **humanitarian appeals** and important international initiatives on recovery of countries damaged by natural or social-economic disasters will be continued. For example, a proposal on financial support to humanitarian needs of Syria through the community-based resilience in critical areas is elaborated.

The Partnership supports the initiation of new projects **with other UN agencies**, such as WHO, UNEP, UNICEF, UNIDO.

New directions of cooperation are being rolled out under existing projects. For example, the regional project on Knowledge Management and Capacity Building is starting an initiative to share **Russian expertise on innovations** with programme countries. Russian specialists are continually involved in implementation of other projects.







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