

UNDP 2021 ANNUAL REPORT





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FOREWORD



Dr Ayodele Odusola
Resident Representative - UNDP South Africa

South Africa's development prospects have been dominated by the persistent impact of COVID-19, including a deep recession in 2020 of -6.4 percent¹ and social unrests that took place in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) and Gauteng provinces (GP), underpinned by growing unemployment, poverty and inequality.

More than 300 deaths were recorded, with an estimated economic impact of ZAR20 billion on the KZN GDP and the national impact estimated at ZAR50 million, 8 causing a national GDP contraction of 3 percent for quarter three of 2021.²

Inequality in the country continues to be widened with the income Gini coefficient rising from 0.59 in 1993 to 0.63 in 2019³ and inequality is likely to have worsened during the pandemic. The unemployment rate is currently at 34.9 percent,⁴ with higher unemployment among youth aged 15–24 years and 25–34 years (66.5 percent and 43.8 percent respectively).^[5]

The economic recovery in 2021 was relatively strong — the International Monetary Fund estimates an output rebound of about 4.6 percent⁶ due to the upswing in the global economy, higher commodity prices, the formal end of the COVID-19 third wave and the relaxation of containment measures to level one (the least restrictive) on 1 October 2021. However, the rebound has not decreased the unemployment rate amid deteriorating confidence (exacerbated by the July social unrest in KwaZulu Natal and Gauteng), anemic private-sector investment and weak credit extension. This has been compounded by power

shortages that will constrain the post-pandemic recovery with growth expected to slow to 1.9 percent in 2022 and 1.4 percent in 2023.⁷ The main engine of growth will transition from exports (as global commodity demand and prices are projected to slow over 2022) to internal demand, driven by household consumption and investment. Household consumption should remain

strong, boosted by an improving labour market, sustained credit levels and government social transfers. Private investment should progressively pick up on the back of needed capital replacement and expected improvements in the implementation of policy reforms and electricity generation. Trust in public institutions has dropped significantly, and this poses a great risk to democracy and governance in the country, and the UNDP has to be equal to the task, going forward, to work with government, the IEC, and partners to turn the tide.

Even before the pandemic, the country was trapped in a low-growth trajectory because of inadequate implementation of policies. By exposing underlying fault lines such as widespread poverty and inequality, and highlighting the need for urgent action, the pandemic is a potential catalyst for deeper and faster structural reform, including a greater role for the private sector in infrastructure investment and

In September, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the KZN Provincial Government to support its economic recovery from the social unrest and the CO to lead a study on the socio-economic impacts of this social unrest.

“Development policy needs to consider sustainability, resilience, and inclusiveness in a much more integrated manner, putting people at the centre of development agenda.”

the energy sector. To sustain a growth rebound in the medium term, the government should focus on deeper structural reform alongside targeted measures such as employment incentives. With the benchmark interest rate at a record low of 3.75 percent, the next move will be upwards, and the need for fiscal consolidation precludes a broad-based fiscal stimulus, despite revenue gains from higher commodity prices.

A decisive policy action on electricity generation is needed to lift the country's growth potential. With the recovery and improved growth prospects, electricity shortages will start to have a negative impact on production. Further increasing the purchase of renewable energy could quickly bring additional electricity in the grid and stimulate confidence, which in turn is needed for business investment. Fixing failing state-owned enterprises, including through better governance and privatisation, would reduce government transfers to these entities and therefore contribute to restoring public finances and confidence. Furthermore, prolonging the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Social Relief of Distress Grant until jobs lost during the pandemic are recovered would support household consumption and growth. Improving the implementation of public infrastructure investment projects, particularly in the transport sector, will reduce trade bottlenecks, reduce the cost of doing business and increase growth potential.

In September, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the KZN Provincial Government to support

its economic recovery from the social unrest and the Country Office to lead a study on the socioeconomic impacts of this social unrest. The country office (CO) signed a programme with the Independent Electoral College to strengthen the capacity of the electoral bodies in the country and the region. The CO continued to support the government's national response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) interventions in South Africa in 2022 will focus on addressing the immediate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the triple development challenge of inequality, poverty and unemployment that the county faces. This is an opportunity to examine the structural issues that existed before the pandemic, and work towards green, resilient and inclusive development. In a world where South Africa faces multiple crises – from COVID-19 to climate change – UNDP recognizes that poverty, inequality, climate and environmental degradation are closely interlinked. Therefore, development policy needs to consider sustainability, resilience, and inclusiveness in a much more integrated manner, putting people at the centre. In this regard, UNDP interventions will include the promotion of youth employment; building resilience to climate change impacts; biodiversity conservation; ■

Dr Ayodele Odusola
*Resident Representative – UNDP
South Africa*

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AccLab	Accelerator Lab
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease
CPD	Country Programme Document
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
DDM	District Development Model
DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
GDP	Gross domestic product
ICT	Information and communications technology
IEC	Independent Electoral Commission
IMF	International Monetary Fund
KZN	KwaZulu-Natal
SMME	Micro, small and medium-sized enterprise
NDMC	National Disaster Management Centre
PSA	Public service announcement
SLM	Sustainable land management
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WRC	Water Research Commission



UNDP Model

Gabriel Dava

Deputy Resident Representative – UNDP South Africa

Although South Africa is classified as a middle-income country, it still faces challenges commonly experienced by low-income countries, characterized by the triple challenge of poverty, inequality and unemployment.

Further, as a middle-income country, opportunities for resources mobilization are limited given the principles that govern the flow of Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) “Official” development assistance is more common than overseas, to middle-income countries, and the country’s Public Financial Management Act that lacks provisions for government cost-sharing to the United Nations agencies. The UNDP Model is structured to respond to these challenges. Partnership development is key in delivering UNDP’s full suite offer in South Africa.

We work towards fostering partnership with various stakeholders, including government institutions, private sector, foundations and civil society organizations (CSOs) as a mechanism to take advantage of capacities and resources of these stakeholders to leverage those of UNDP.

Considering the importance of private investment in advancing the SDGs and addressing the country’s triple development challenge, we seek to attract domestic and international investments that have impacts on SDGs and the country’s development challenges using the SDGs Impact Investment Mapping tools (developed by UNDP) to link South Africa and international enterprises. We adopt an integrated approach in addressing the triple challenges in line with our role of SDGs integrators.

We focus on employment creation as key to address poverty and inequality, and we use our work in nature, climate and energy sector as opportunity for employment creation. Nature-based solutions can be a source of employment, contribute to lift people out of poverty and reduce inequalities.

Capacities development to enable people to be resilient and policy analysis to inform national policies are key element of our model in South Africa.

We are determined to identify, experiment and disseminate sustainable solutions to existing and emerging development issues that can accelerate the achievement of SDGs. The Accelerator Lab is fully integrated in the programmatic units to better understand the issues and assist in finding innovative solutions.

We place gender equality at the centre of what we do and ensure institutions deliver gender-responsive solutions and results by instituting gender mainstreaming policies and monitoring their implementation. UNDP South Africa’s 2021 work was guided by the Country Programme Document (CPD 2020–2025), centred on the human rights-based approach – leaving no one behind, gender equality and women empowerment, government ownership and accountability, reporting on people-centred impact, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063.

“ We are determined to identify, experiment and disseminate sustainable solutions to existing and emerging development issues that can accelerate the achievement of SDGs. ”

The UNDP CPD is aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF, 2020–2025), which was developed in partnership with the Government of South Africa to address multi-dimensional development challenges including poverty, inequality and unemployment, among others.

UNDP South Africa Country Office contributes to three strategic priorities of the UNSDCF in the areas of gender, innovation and response to COVID-19 cross-cutting in all priority areas outlined below:

- Inclusive, Just and Sustainable Economic Growth
- Effective, Efficient and Transformative Governance
- Climate Change and Greening South Africa's Economy ■

STRATEGIC FOCUS



Our strategic focus is outlined in our Country Program Document (CPD) 2020–2025, which is informed by:

- United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF, 2020–2025)
- Government Mid-Term Strategic Plan
- UNDP Strategic Plan 2022–2025
- UNDP Strategic Offer for Africa

“ The strategic offers aim to **Build Resilience, Structural Transformation and Leave No One Behind** through **integrated development solutions that include digitalization, transparent and inclusive governance, nature, resilience and nature, and gender equity.** ”

2021 IMPACT

UNDP South Africa, in partnership with various key actors and stakeholders, delivered a portfolio of interventions to respond to the most pressing challenges of the country, including youth unemployment, the digital divide, citizens’ democratic participation, social cohesion, climate change impacts, and services delivery to the population.

Additionally, UNDP also prioritised the South African Government response to the impact of COVID-19 by contributing financial, technical and policy advisory support.



Addressing Climate Change



Electoral Management



Building State Capability



Low-Cost Internet Access



Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment Promotion



Value Chains and Circular Economy



Social Cohesion



Digital Skills Development

2021 Snapshot



119%

Total programme
delivery rate
(exceeded by 19%)



Expenditure

US\$12,295,230

Top contributors



- The Global Environment Facility
- Government of Japan
- Government of South African
- Multi-Partner Trust Funds

Partnerships

Established



41



26

Projects Implemented

INCLUSIVE, JUST AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

The UNDP Inclusive Growth portfolio implements a set of programmes to strengthen capacities and access to equitable social and economic opportunities, as well as to increase productivity and enhance value chain development, placing priority on women, youth and other marginalized groups. The Country Office works with diverse stakeholders in the Government, the private sector, academia and civil society organizations.



ADVANCING YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL, MICRO AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES

Building on the successes of previous years in supporting youth entrepreneurship across the country, in 2021, UNDP deepened its support beyond the provision of capacity development and seed funding, and further mobilized access to finance for the entrepreneurs. Under the food waste project, 20 SMMEs were supported with various packages of seed funding, tech transfer, enterprise development and investor-readiness support. In addition, a further ZAR35.5 million was raised in collaboration with the Branson Centre

for Entrepreneurship, and the entrepreneurs have secured new clients new clientele and access new markets. UNDP has also supported small start-ups in their growth from concept to actual revenue generation through various other interventions aimed at advancing youth entrepreneurship. Overall, the Country Office through several supported 1,646 entrepreneurs, youth start-ups and small businesses as well as informal traders in general. ■

9 ADDITIONAL SMMEs



Capacitated to deliver the Television White Space (TVWS) Network technology in rural areas.

ZAR35.5 MILLION



Mobilized and secured investment and grant funding for food waste innovations.



227 SMALL BUSINESSES

Aligned to supplier development support.

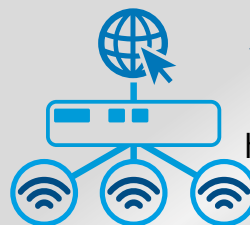
10 FEMALE-OWNED SMMEs



Affected by civil unrests in KZN and Gauteng Provinces received seed grants to rebuild their business.

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE AND SKILLS GAP

The Country Office further upscaled its work on supporting the digital economy and digital connectivity, an area of increasing significance in the country. Through the UNDP-Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Television White Space (TVWS) Network Operator Support Programme, two of the four low-cost internet sites that were supported in 2020 were successfully launched in Port Shepstone (KwaZulu-Natal, or KZN) and Mdantsane (Eastern Cape Province). The SMMEs were granted the TVWS network infrastructure and capacitated to develop affordable broadband-based digital entrepreneurship and sustainable business



100 PUBLIC WI-FI HOT SPOTS

have been erected

CONNECTING 37 PUBLIC FACILITIES

- Schools
- Hospitals
- Clinics
- Community halls
- Taxi ranks

models. AdNotes Mobile, one of the SMMEs based in KZN, has expanded its services and now supports additional communities and townships. The innovative SMME is supported by the KZN provincial government.

Moreover, in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), UNDP supported the Government’s District Development Model (DDM) through the initiative “Digital Skilling to Enhance Youth Employment in the 4th Industrial Revolution” in O.R. Tambo and Waterberg District Municipalities.

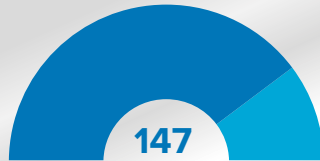
In further advancing **youth skills development**, UNDP carried out an initiative, “*Automotive Training and Re-Skilling in the Post-COVID-19 Economic Recovery for Vulnerable Youth and Women in South Africa*”, in support of the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative (PYEI). Through the project, 65 youth (26 female, 39 male) mostly from rural areas and townships in KZN, joined an accredited training and work placement programme to acquire the skills for a career in the automotive industry.

The project also supported the establishment the YakhiFuture digital platform, and the strengthening of the roll-out of the SA Youth.Mobi digital platform. The objective is to link youth to upskilling and employment opportunities. Additionally, 1,123 youth were registered on the PYEI platform to link them to job and learning opportunities; 9 youth obtained full-time employment. ■



43 JOBS
Created under the TVWS project

YOUTH TRAINED

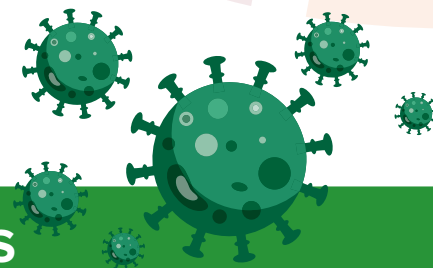


In different digital skills in the digital economy.

THE TVWS TECHNOLOGY SERVICES



470 households
56 small businesses



COVID-19 RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

- In response to civil unrest that took place in mid-2021 in South Africa, which affected many small businesses, the Country Office partnered with the Government of South Africa under the initiative, “Post-COVID-19 Early Recovery – Youth Entrepreneurship Action Hub, and supported 10 entrepreneurs. An additional 100 will be supported in 2022 with resources leveraged from other partners.
- UNDP, in partnership with the Progressive Women Movement of South Africa, conducted training for 338 women in agricultural skills to ensure food security during COVID–19 and beyond in four district municipalities in KZN (uMgungundlovu, Harry Gwala, uMzinyathi, and King Cetshwayo). The women farmers were equipped with practical tools and knowledge for sustainable income generation, food security and economic independence, and were empowered to explore and gain access to more markets through technology platforms such as WhatsApp and Facebook.

Q & A WITH UNDP BENEFICIARY – SONGEZO MHAMBI, CEO OF MDANTSANE MOBILE



The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), together with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), supported SMMEs to roll out the TV White Spaces (TVWS) network technology in rural areas under the project, “Support to SMMEs to Provide Low-Cost Internet in Township and Rural Communities”. TVWS harnesses unused spectrum between **Songezo Mhambi, CEO of Mdantsane Mobile, is one of the 10 benefiting SMMEs of the UNDP-CSIR initiative, and his company is already**

servicing the community in Mdantsane, Eastern Cape. Mdantsane Mobile was established by Songezo in 2019 as a community Wi-Fi network operating from his grandmother’s backroom, selling handwritten Wi-Fi vouchers to neighbours. Songezo shared his story of success as a young entrepreneur thriving in rural Mdantsane.



[click to read more](#)

FOOD WASTE INNOVATION CHALLENGE 2021 ENTREPRENEURS



[click to read more](#)

BRANSON CENTRE AND UNDP AIM TO ENABLE ENTREPRENEURS WITH A NEW FOOD WASTE INNOVATION CHALLENGE

The Branson Centre of Entrepreneurship South Africa and its partner, the United Nation Development Programme Accelerator Labs (UNDP AccLab) South Africa, selected ten entrepreneurs under the Ignite programme from more than 100 innovative

solutions as part of the Food Waste Innovation Challenge. Ten enterprises aimed at reducing food waste underwent a six-month go-to-market and investor-readiness programme to scale their food waste solutions.



FOOD WASTE AND LOSS

UNDP implemented a portfolio of interventions to address Food Waste and Loss (FWL) through research, experimentation, support to entrepreneurs, training with local stakeholders, and a behaviour change campaign. UNDP worked with a variety of partners to deliver this, including the Branson Centre of Entrepreneurship, World Wide Fund for Nature, Southern African Food Lab, Seriti Institute, African Circular Economy Network, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and Indalo Inclusive. This project supported 20 entrepreneurs, reached over 3 million people online with a behaviour change campaign, developed FWL frameworks for three local districts, tested biogas and composting solutions, and provided training to over 60 local stakeholders. ■



An example of an innovative garden solution under the UNDP and INR food security intervention in poor communities across the rural and peri-urban areas of KwaZulu-Natal province.



A training workshop provided to SMMEs, Start-Ups, Decision Makers, and other key actors on the circular economy in the food waste sub-sector.

2

EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT AND TRANS- FORMATIVE GOVERNANCE

UNDP implements programmes and projects to strengthen transformative governance and enhance service delivery to enable a capable developmental state, and improve and promote inclusive public participation in the implementation of government national priorities, ensuring that no one is left behind. Through our work, we support the peaceful resolution of conflicts, and promote the rule of law and access to justice, citizen security and human rights.



BUILDING STATE CAPABILITY

UNDP partnered with the Public Service Commission, National Planning Commission (NPC) and the National School of Government to initiate a five-year Building State Capability programme. Through this partnership, the parties are delivering strong results and are drawing South Africa closer to achieving a state that is well-governed by effectively coordinated state institutions, as recommended by the National Development Plan (NDP). As part of the support to the implementation of the District Development Model (DDM), UNDP, together with O.R. Tambo, Waterberg and eThekweni district municipalities, the Department of Cooperative Governance

and Traditional Affairs, and the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA), collaborated to assess the state of Thusong

Partnership led to the development of an action plan for increased digitization, capacity development and infrastructure support

service delivery centres. This partnership also led to the development of an action plan for increased digitization, capacity development and infrastructure support to revive these centres, as well as a framework for the coordination

and policy direction on how they can be enhanced. Together with the Eastern Cape provincial government, UNDP conducted the Scenario Planning Project in Eastern Cape Province to explore the socio-economic recovery route and produced four possible scenarios. This work has supported the National Planning Commission in strengthening its advisory role in long-term planning, the PSC and NSG in the implementation of the framework towards creating a professional and meritocratic public service and starting with a pilot on the policy and analytic occupations. ■

The Thusong Service Centre programme is an initiative of the South African Government that was set up to re-focus government services to meet the basic needs of people, particularly those who live below the poverty line in rural, disadvantaged areas, to deliver information and

services to them, and to strengthen their access to government. Thusong Service Centres act as a one-stop service centre providing Government information and services to communities based on the needs of the specific community. ■



During the signing ceremony of the five-year Building State Capability programme: Mr Tshediso Matona, Secretary of the Public Service Commission (PSC), Advocate Richard Sizani, National Planning Commission (NPC) and Dr Ayodele Oduola, Resident Representative (UNDP).

SUPPORT TO THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA

As part of the UNDP UCount initiative, UNDP worked with and supported the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) in several activities aimed at promoting electoral integrity and improving confidence in local government elections in preparation for hosting the 2021 South African Local Government Elections that took place on 1 November 2021. These activities include: preparing the home-grown domestic observers in five provinces; conducting voter education programmes through various on-site events and media campaigns (television, radio and social media); holding community meetings; and organizing industrial roadshows in several provinces. Additionally, in an effort to promote the integrity of the electoral process and safeguard the independence of the IEC,

UNDP collaborated with the IEC to strengthen the electoral capacity of electoral institutions and stakeholders to ensure free and fair election processes and results. A seminar, Promoting and Preserving the Integrity of the 2021 Municipal Elections during the State of Disaster, was held and brought together 30 stakeholders from the Government, academia, political parties and UNDP. UNDP also provided financial support for the training of observers in four provinces (Free State, Gauteng, Western Cape, and Eastern Cape) to enhance their capacity to monitor the free and fair electoral process.

To promote civic education and encourage registration and voting, the United Nations supported four theatre plays called “Democracy on Stage”. ■



Four industrial theatre plays were staged across four provinces, reaching nearly **1,000** community members.



25 PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

were launched in 18 communities and regional radio stations.



Two live TV special election public debates were broadcast, reaching over **2 MILLION** national viewers.



Participants during the live T.V elections public debate on SABC’s Morning Live show.

DEEPENING SOCIAL COHESION

UNDP supported the Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture to strengthen social cohesion in the country.

This work included reviewing the 2012 National Social Cohesion Strategy, developing the new Strategy and Implementation Plan 2021–2024, and conducting capacity building/training for mediation and peacebuilding in four provinces – KZN, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and Western Cape.

In 2021, UNDP provided technical assistance for the development of the new Social Cohesion Strategy and Implementation Plan 2021–2024. It convened key stakeholder consultations with 29 government representatives, 49 civil society participants, and 19 private sector participants to gather feedback to inform the Strategy. UNDP provided technical assistance to develop peacebuilding, mediation and conflict resolution training materials based on research and stakeholder mapping. ■

The Orange Day Campaign was launched to unite citizens against gender-based violence and support the

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

for No Violence Against Women and Children.

A TRAINING MANUAL with
4 MODULES

on conflict resolution, peacebuilding, reconciliation and an early warning framework tool were developed.

174 PARTICIPANTS

(79 women, 87 men, 8 non-binary) from non-profit organizations were trained on peacebuilding, mediation and conflict resolution in communities.

LAUNCH OF THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM ON NO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN & THE ORANGE DAY CAMPAIN

SAY NO UNITE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Special performance by Don Loka

DATE: 25 November 2021

VENUE: National Library of South Africa

TIME: 08h00 to 13h00

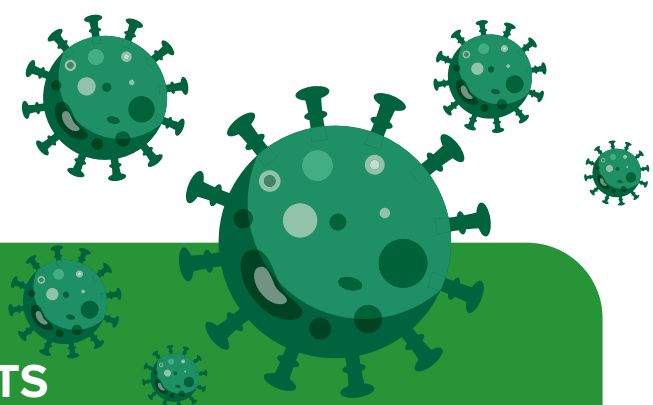
LIVE @SportartsandcultureRSA

The Sport, Arts and Culture Deputy Minister, Ncwane Mafu in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invite you to the launch of Orange Day and 16 Days of Activism on No Violence Against Women and Children.

#OrangeDay #StopGBVF

@SportartsandcultureRSA @SportArtsCultur @sportartsandcultureRSA @SportArtsCultureRSA

Logos: sport, arts & culture; UNITE Africa; UNDP; 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM; STRIVE SAFE



COVID-19 RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

- In partnership with the Community Advice Offices South Africa (CAOSA), UNDP supported 15 vulnerable communities across five provinces (Gauteng, Eastern Cape, Western Cape, North-West, KZN) in safeguarding human rights and protecting vulnerable groups against the effects of the pandemic. Through CAOSA's community interventions, existing structures of advice offices, churches and traditional leaders, the Country Office empowered communities to respond to the impacts of COVID-19 and become resilient while ensuring the protection of rights for the vulnerable groups.
- UNDP partnered with the National Disaster Management Centre to strengthen the capacity for disaster response and recovery, and build resilience at the national, provincial and municipal levels. Through the partnership, UNDP provided technical assistance to review COVID-19 institutional management arrangements for future disasters, provided technical capacity on business process and systems development and equipment for remote working for staff at the Disaster operations centre." ■

POST-DISASTER REVIEW TRAINING



was provided to elections observers in five provinces

A COVID-19 Post-Disaster Review



was conducted and a Recovery Plan was developed.

2,425 PEOPLE

(1,399 women and 1,026 men) had access to legal aid services from 15 CAOSA sites.



4 Awareness campaigns

were conducted, reaching nearly **10,000** people in Gauteng, North West and Eastern Cape.



A TEMPLATE WAS CREATED

to capture fire services data from the information management system



1,934 VULNERABLE PEOPLE

(1,132 women and 802 men) were assisted with human rights protection services



CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREENING SOUTH AFRICA'S ECONOMY

In 2021, UNDP played a key role in supporting the Government of South Africa to strengthen climate governance and democratization, which required a more advanced and ambitious implementation of the country's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of the Paris Agreement. Through the Climate Promise Project, UNDP supported the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) to lead gender mainstreaming engagements in ten priority sectors and the development of training materials for use in 2022.



3



A pilot supported by the Government of Denmark, in cooperation with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), empowered learners and educators in climate and robotics technology across the country. A major highlight was the formalization of agreements tasking UNDP to assist in the preparation of mandatory climate reporting requirements for the United Nations Framework Convention

on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on carbon emissions for the Government of South Africa. A set of eight well-defined, nature-based finance solutions aimed to advance the biodiversity economy through improved finance flow and enhance biodiversity development were presented and accepted by the Government for uptake and follow-through, with scope for a more central involvement of the National Treasury. UNDP

contributed to the substantial expansion of the nation’s protected area estate (legal declarations of more hectares included more than 100,000 ha) and rehabilitation of productive land by implementing sustainable land management practices. In 2021, energy-efficient infrastructure for water production was also established in South Africa and Botswana. ■

CLIMATE PROMISE, GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

UNDP’s support to the DFFE through the global Climate Promise and inter-agency Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) strengthened public climate consultations, with a focus on youth empowerment and gender equality. The Gender and Institutional Analysis on the Paris Agreement: Gender mainstreaming in Nationally Determined Contribution Enhancement in South Africa. The analysis generated high-level recommendations for gender mainstreaming.

UNDP has empowered youth on just energy transition issues, focusing on previously disadvantaged high-school learners, as well as youth living in rural and informal communities associated with mining activities. Through the “Youth in Climate Robotics” project, in partnership with the Embassy of Denmark and UNICEF, digital skills training was delivered to 20 educators (57 percent female) and 164 school-going learners (54 percent girls).

UNDP’s Youth Barometer survey, initiated in 2021 with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), indicates that most young people in South Africa feel that the country needs to accelerate action on both climate change mitigation and adaptation towards an inclusive and low-carbon economy. Furthermore,



renewable energy is the most attractive green sector among youth.



UNDP partnerships led to an uptake of new renewable energy technologies and energy-efficient solutions to accelerate uptake at the local level, where 50 percent of the beneficiaries were women-headed households. Regional sustainable energy access and water security progressed through the Orange-Senqu River Strategic Action Plan (ORASECOM) project, involving South Africa, Botswana, Namibia and Lesotho. In partnership with the multilateral river

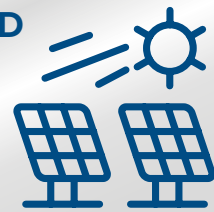
basin commission (ORASECOM Secretariat), two solar-powered and community-based desalination plants were constructed in Rappelspan and Struizendam (South Africa-Botswana border-post area). The surplus energy generated by the solar-powered plants will contribute to income generation for local farmers and communities with a population of 687 (48 percent female) in Rappelspan and 519 (50 percent female) in Struizendam. ■

A cohort of **25 EDUCATORS** and more than **150 LEARNERS** were trained in climate and robotics technology.



2 SOLAR-POWERED AND COMMUNITY-BASED DESALINATION PLANTS

were constructed.



SOUTH AFRICA WIND ENERGY

In 2021, through UNDP's partnership with the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, all of the capacity building and market development components of the South Africa Wind Energy Project (SAWEP) were completed. The project led the national wind resource assessment, creating an enabling environment for small-scale wind sector development and capacity building of technical manpower. The first High-Resolution Wind Resource map and database for South Africa Information on wind masts were launched in all nine provinces (Wind Atlas for South Africa, WASA, <http://www.wasaproject.info>). Several tools and knowledge products have been derived from this knowledge resource, including the development of wind refurbishment markets in South Africa and African territories, spearheaded by the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition.



PROTECT AREAS AND SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT

In 2021, UNDP provided technical assistance to the South African Government to comply with the Nagoya Protocol and the National Biodiversity Economy Strategy to strengthen value chains for products derived from genetic resources that contribute to the equitable sharing of benefits and the conservation of biodiversity.

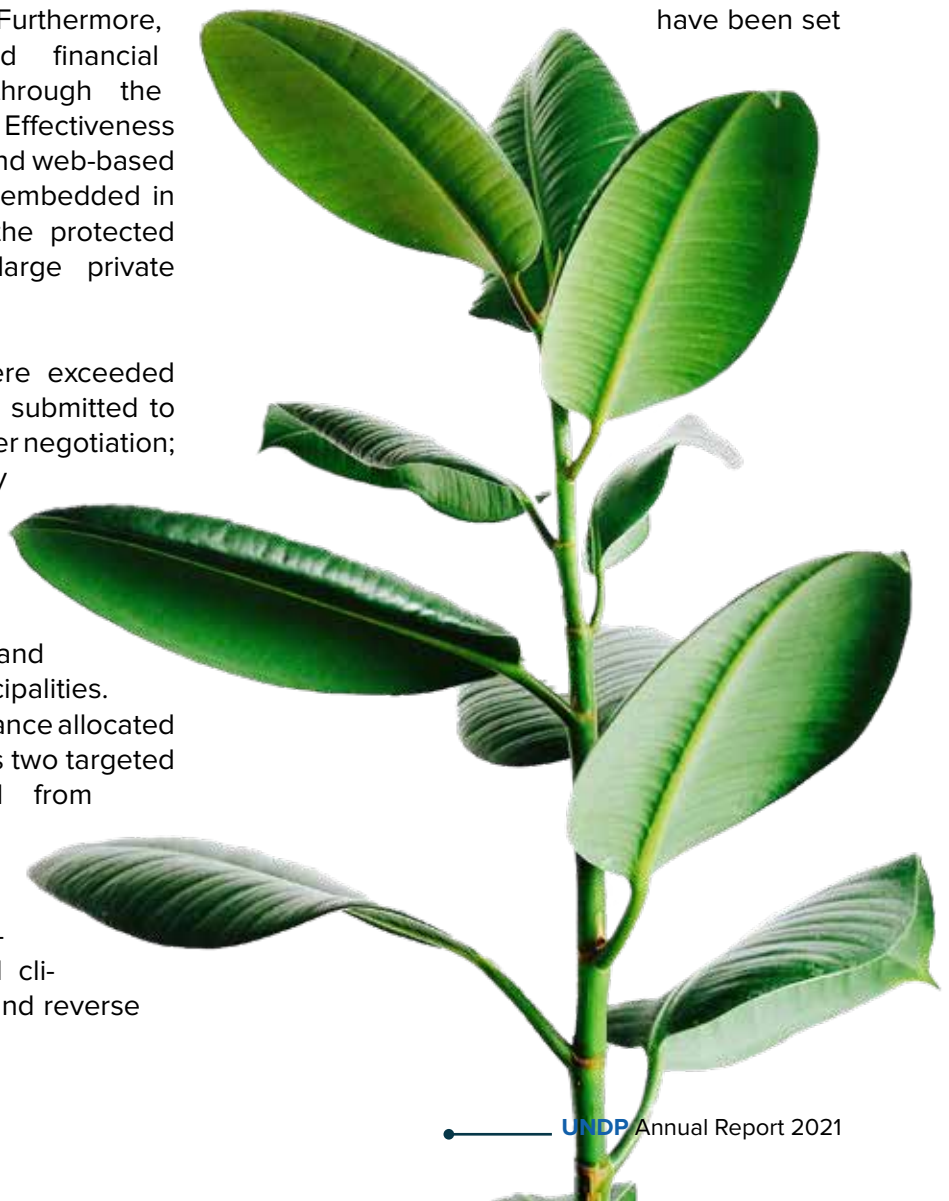
In 2020, protected land accounted for 11,280,684 ha (9.2 percent) of the mainland: 44.5 percent was nature reserves, and 37.4 percent national parks. The third-largest protected environment increased by more than 171.4 percent between 2015 and 2021 as a result of stewardship initiatives focused on knowledge-sharing, capacity building and the provision of legal advice to landowners.

UNDP's partnership with South African National Parks resulted in the expansion of protected areas totalling 502,863 ha of new land, leading to community benefits and a transformative platform and transformative partnership. A total of 969,234 ha of high biodiversity priority buffer zones were integrated into local municipal planning mechanisms. Furthermore, management effectiveness and financial sustainability were improved through the legally gazetted Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT), a reformed and web-based performance system successfully embedded in DFFE and implemented across the protected area network including eight large private reserves.

UNDP's programming targets were exceeded when 19,314 ha were created and submitted to the Government; 23,091 ha are under negotiation; 273,620 ha of priority biodiversity areas are under better land and natural resource management practices implemented by private and communal landowners; and 2,353,900 ha are under improved land use regulation in eight local municipalities. Furthermore, from 2014 to 2021, finance allocated to biodiversity management across two targeted district municipalities increased from ZAR15.1 million to 16.7 million.

In 2021, strides were made in the scaling up of sustainable land management (SLM) technologies and climate adaptation methods to halt and reverse

land degradation in productive, rural landscapes. In partnership with the South African National Biodiversity Institute, the CSIR, Endangered Wildlife Trust and Rhodes University, progress has focused on nationwide nature-based solutions with ecological and livelihood benefits in the Northern Cape (Richtersveld), Western Cape, Karoo, Eastern Cape (Machubeni, Baviaankloof, Matatiele) and the Olifants Catchment. Community-based initiatives include home garden agroforestry fodder production, integrated farm planning, ecotourism activities, rangeland management and herding, erosion control, alien plant clearing and bush thinning. Driven by the South African National Biodiversity Institute, improved biodiversity standards and certification systems have been set




up in the fruit, sugar and forestry production sectors. In line with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Land Degradation Neutrality Targets to which South Africa subscribes, the total area of degraded land under improved SLM practices increased by at least 5,567 ha in 2021 (9 percent) towards the total five-year target of 63,700 ha.


As a first result, access and benefit-sharing monetary agreements for flagship products were developed from genetic resources/derivatives of Rooibos. The first clinical trials of African ginger pharma potential in CSIR laboratories

commenced in 2021. Overall, sustainable finance for biodiversity is an ongoing global challenge, particularly in light of recovering tourism value chains and strained fiduciaries. In 2021, UNDP's Biodiversity Finance Initiative in South Africa (BIOFIN) stepped up engagement with the National Treasury and other partners through collaboration on spatial planning of essential life support areas to inform nature-based policies that intersect with state support, including an array of biodiversity finance incentives such as tax incentives, land ownership, own-revenue generation, harmful subsidy reform and other areas. ■


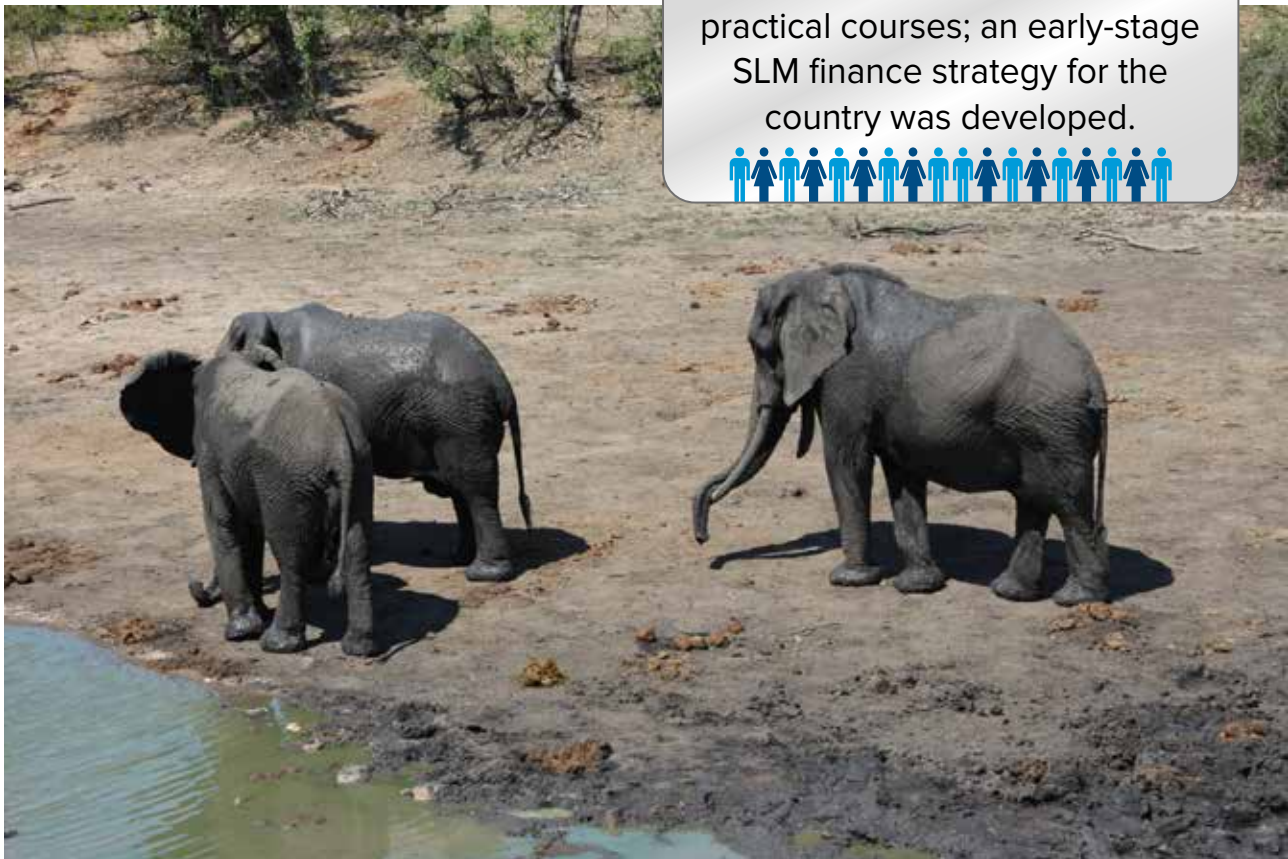
STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENTS
 37,766 ha of biodiversity priority areas were declared through biodiversity stewardship agreements.



1,045 JOBS in targeted district municipalities (55% women and youth) and **915 DIRECT AND LEVERAGED** jobs were created.



200 (over 30% women) were trained in sustainable land management (SLM) field-based practical courses; an early-stage SLM finance strategy for the country was developed.

UNDP'S GEF SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

UNDP implements community-based initiatives through the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme, on focal areas of climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation, land degradation, sustainable forest management, international waters, and chemical and waste management.



Agroecology in-field training support to over 250 smallholder farmers (85 percent women) in Limpopo and northern KZN resulted in a three-fold yield improvement for drought-resistant crop varieties. Farmer groups are now supplying vegetables to local retailers with an average monthly income of over ZAR3,000 per farmer. In Limpopo, a women's cooperative helped generate ZAR30,000 in income over four months during the COVID-19 lockdown from the sale of vegetables.



The introduction of an incentive-based market access initiative through mobile auctions (negotiated stewardship agreements for improved rangeland management) to over 200 smallholder livestock farmers in Matatiele, Eastern Cape helped improve rangelands while generating an income for farmers. Over 100 households realized an average sale of ZAR16,000 per household per livestock auction and improved rangelands in over 200 ha.



As part of non-lethal human-wildlife conflict mitigation measures, the placement of 20 livestock guarding dogs in Limpopo combined with proper kraal construction with 20 smallholder farmers led to a two-fold reduction in livestock losses from leopard and cheetah attacks, thereby improving farmers' livelihoods with an estimated financial impact of ZAR192,000/year. The introduction of a compensation scheme led to a reduction in the persecution of leopards by commercial farmers in the Western Cape.



Situated learning of 12 unemployed youth (7 women and 5 men) in Pietermaritzburg, KZN helped with the clearance of alien plants in 4 ha of the riparian zone and 1,000 m of the riverine area using the miniSASS biomonitoring tool as well as the collection of 30 tonnes of waste, of which 4 tonnes were recycled.



Thirty-five unemployed youth in Cape Town townships of Philippi and Bardale (18 female, 17 male) received plumbing training on installing and maintaining solar water heaters through the Government's low-income housing partnership with a private developer and the provincial government. Eight young people are now employed by the Government, while others are self-employed, sourcing plumbing work from their communities.



Six young men from the North-West Province were trained on the installation and maintenance of biogas digesters. They helped install eight biodigesters in seven households and one school, which allowed an estimated savings of ZAR300/month on household electricity. The sale of surplus gas at an estimated ZAR23/kg is contributing to income generation and has now expanded to include organic vegetable and poultry farming.

THINK BIG, START SMALL: PAVING THE WAY FOR A YOUTH-LED DIGITAL AND SUSTAINABLE REVOLUTION

UNDP South Africa, in partnership with FEMSTEM, Sci-bono Discovery Centre, and the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), launched the “Think Big Start Small: Youth-led Robotics for Multi-dimensional Climate Solutions” pilot project to equip educators and high-school learners across

South Africa with skills in STEM fields, including robotics and coding. Supported by the Embassy of Denmark in South Africa, the project is one of several UNDP initiatives towards a youth-driven digital and sustainable development in South Africa, especially in the area of climate change.



[click to read more](#)



UNDP'S ACCELERATOR LAB

INNOVATION

The UNDP Accelerator Lab (AccLab) is designed to close the gap between the current practices of international development and the accelerated pace of change. Progress towards accelerating the SDGs is achieved through identifying, testing and scaling innovative solutions that have the potential to fast-track progress on global developmental challenges. As part of the global network across 91 countries, the South African AccLab has been tackling challenges within key sectors in the country, which include the food-energy-water nexus and unemployment.



In 2021, AccLab supported the Country Office in embedding innovative practices and thought processes in the design and execution of programmes. This included practices such as systems and design thinking, portfolio approaches, experimentation, co-creation, prototyping, collective intelligence and sensemaking. The AccLab also implemented pipeline projects for the Country Office using its seed funds.



AccLab, in partnership with Google and select civil society organizations, ran a programme, “UNDP-Google Partnership to drive E-Learning integration in Secondary schools in South Africa”, in select disadvantaged secondary schools to remove as many of the above-discussed barriers as possible and to ensure the best possibility for impactful integration of e-learning. To date, 20 schools have been provided with internet connectivity with G Suite for Education accounts set up for 805 teachers and 14,334 students.



Through the UNDP – Water Research Commission (WRC) Water Innovation Challenge, seven small, micro and medium-sized enterprises (SMMEs) offering solutions that tackle South Africa’s water challenges were supported to develop their businesses and solutions through technical guidance, technology reviews, in-field solution testing, market demand evaluation, and identification of scaling opportunities.



AccLab initiated a biomimicry study titled, “Unearthing Innovative Socio-Economic Opportunities Resulting from Improved Internet Access in Rural Communities Using Biomimicry and Design Thinking Approaches”. This project supports community members to develop environmentally and socially sustainable solutions that leverage the new internet access provided by CSIR and UNDP, towards improving their socio-economic standing while mimicking natural processes. Nature’s processes have stood the test of time, regenerating the ecosystems that sustain them. Designing solutions based on natural principles offers the potential for greater sustainability. Thirty-nine community members were trained in design thinking and biomimicry concepts and methodologies, and 51 potential products/solutions were identified for further refinement.



Through a partnership with the WRC, Isle Utilities, Bosch Capital and Bosch Projects, seven innovators/small businesses participated in a businesses and technology readiness workshop. These partners also launched the UNDP-WRC Entrepreneurship Training Guide in December 2021.



With the Institute of Natural Resources, UNDP implemented sustainable gardening technologies in 138 households in KZN in 2020. Approximately 900 people were trained to install, maintain and use the gardens to improve household food security and nutrition. In 2021, AccLab conducted a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) study to assess the uptake and retention of the gardens a year later. Around 82 percent of the gardens were found to be operational, and additional gardens were built in the surrounding community, which highlights perceived benefits and natural scaling. Households reported that the gardens were easy to maintain and produced high-quality crops, which resulted in financial savings and additional income. Additionally, seven community members without prior experience were trained in M&E practices such as collecting data and conducting surveys/interviews.



AccLab, in partnership with UNICEF and RLabs, ran an initiative to reduce the employment barriers that youth face, such as work experience, the cost of job seeking, and access to credible networks by rewarding them for performing good deeds. This was achieved through a digital rewards system called Zlto (pronounced “Zlato”). With Zlto, youth can earn digital rewards by performing good deeds and micro jobs in their communities, which enables them to access goods and services from a variety of local vendors. To date, over 75,000 new users have been onboarded on the platform and one million micro tasks have been completed. These tasks have impacted an estimated 200,000 beneficiaries.

“INFLUENCE WITHOUT AFFLUENCE”: VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES AT THE FOREFRONT OF HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE EATING



To curb hunger, enhance nutrition and reduce COVID-19 related mortality rates, UNDP South Africa partnered with the Institute of Natural Resources (INR) to introduce sustainable gardens in 127 rural, peri-urban and urban households in the KwaZulu-Natal Province. The communities in this area face high levels of poverty, with many being unemployed. Most of them rely on social grants or

household farming as a means of income and a source of food. Through UNDP and INR support, the 127 households constructed and tested three innovative garden designs. These gardens were designed to use recycled grey water and food/plant biowaste generated within the households, and were constructed using local materials.



[click to read more](#)

FOR THE PLANET, FOR OUR PEOPLE, AND FOR YOUR POCKET – FIGHTING FOOD WASTE IN THE FESTIVE SEASON

WWF South Africa and UNDP are calling on South Africans to be waste-wise in the holiday season and think before we discard, use leftovers inspirationally and store food safely with an exciting campaign called “SAME TASTE. NO WASTE”.



[click to read more](#)



WELCOME TO WATER ISLAND – WHERE INNOVATION ROAMS FREE



[click to read more](#)

The UNDP Acclab South Africa and WRC launched a national call for water innovations. The aim was to gather a pool of innovations at varying stages of technology readiness, which can play a critical role in a range of priority areas for the water sector. UNDP and WRC sought to fast-track the development and promote the adoption of promising innovations through the Water Innovation Challenge, with the long-term objective of accelerating the rate of progress towards SDG 6 (Ensure access to water and sanitation for all).

MOVING FROM ACCESS TO ACCESSIBILITY: THE DECEPTION OF THE DIGITAL DIVIDE IN DEVELOPMENT

UNDP South Africa in partnership with Google NBU and local organizations is running a pilot programme in select disadvantaged secondary schools in the Western Cape to deliver inclusive E-Learning. Adopting a comprehensive approach, the pilot attempts to bring together high-speed internet access, information learning

technologies, and digital literacy in ways that promote success for students and teachers in trying to participate in the virtual realm and beyond. Outside the digital classroom, the project also aims to assist in overcoming certain socio-economic disadvantages that students face.



[click to read more](#)





UNDP OPERATIONS

In 2021, a key objective for the Operations Unit was to focus on compliance monitoring and implementing internal quality assurance processes to ensure that business operations meet UNDP governance and internal process requirements as set out in the UNDP policies and procedures.



UNDP OPERATIONS

In addition to focusing on compliance monitoring and implementing internal quality insurance processes, UNDP operations also focused on ensuring the alignment of operations activities with the UNDP operational strategies including the organization's human resources, procurement, risk management and digital strategies. Added to this was the need for an efficient transition of the Finance Services Department (accounts payable, pay cycle, project closure, donor refunds, management and review of other receivables) and human resources services (recruitment, payroll and benefits and entitlements administration) to the Global Shared Service Centre in Malaysia. As a service provider to both internal and external (other agencies) clients, operational systems also focused on improving customer service levels and thereby operational efficiency.

To achieve the compliance monitoring objectives and strengthen internal control systems, the Operations Unit successfully implemented and closed the recommendations from the 2020 Country Office Audit, which had highlighted some weaknesses in operational support systems. This has ensured that all operational support is guided by UNDP policies and procedures while also adapting to the ever-changing operating environment. Operations activities related to the clustering of human resources and finance services were successfully implemented, and operational support via the new system has stabilized and is ongoing. To date, more than 1,000 voucher payment requests were submitted to the Document Management System platform. The digitization of these finance and Human Resources functions brings several benefits, including the promotion of a more paperless environment. The transition of procurement activities from a manual system to the eTendering system was another system that improved the Country Office's operational efficiency, which is also in line with the corporate digital strategy for UNDP's operational context. In line with UNDP's People for 2030 strategy, the Operations Unit provided key support in the office refurbishment project. The Country Office staff now have access to a safe and comfortable working environment.

Looking ahead, the Operations Unit will continue to support effectiveness and efficiency initiatives both from a local and corporate perspective.

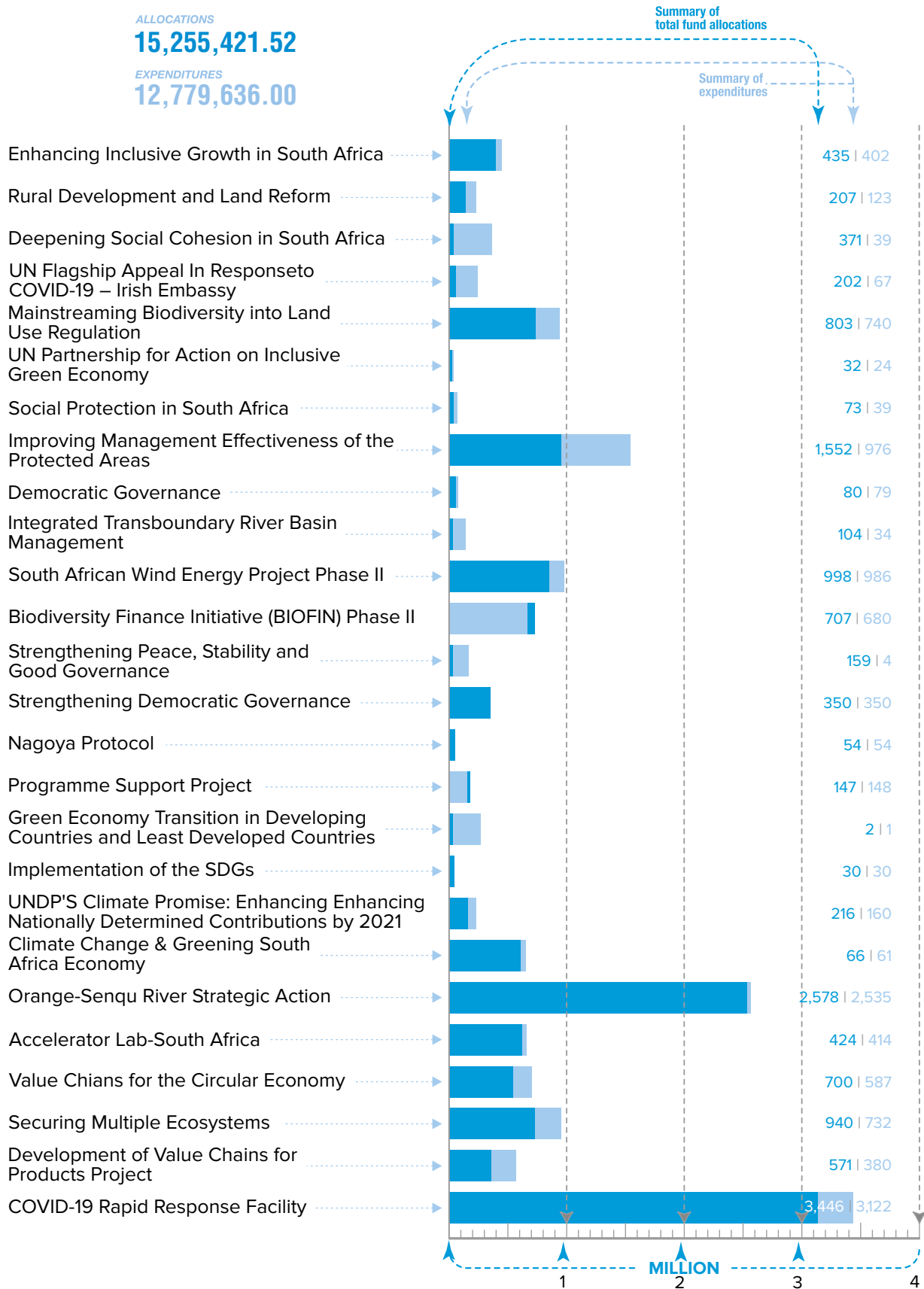
The roll-out of Quantum, the new UNDP Enterprise Resource Planning system, is one such initiative that the Operations Unit aims to leverage to further improve operational support effectiveness. Promoting skills diversity within the Unit to further improve efficiencies will be another focus area for the coming year. The goal is to build the capacity of staff to be more well-rounded in operations functions to effectively serve clients.



EXPENSES AND EXPENDITURE

ALLOCATIONS
15,255,421.52

EXPENDITURES
12,779,636.00



COMMUNICATIONS AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

The UNDP Communications Unit intensified efforts to increase visibility by profiling and sharing UNDP results through various media platforms and supporting partnerships building. The Country Office conducted several activities in which communications played an integral part in ensuring the success of the activities.

UNDP, through the U Count initiative, supported IEC in several activities in preparation of hosting the 2021 South African Local Government Elections. The Country Office partnered with the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) and Newzroom Afrika to host and broadcast two special elections live TV debates ahead of the elections. Both debates promoted civic education and fostered discussion on important themes such as conflict prevention, electoral integrity, and voting during COVID-19. Over 2 million viewers were reached by these media interventions. These media activities were profiled prominently on SABC TV and radio channels (Lesedi FM, True FM, Lotus FM, SA FM). Additionally, to promote voter participation, particularly in hard-to-reach rural communities,

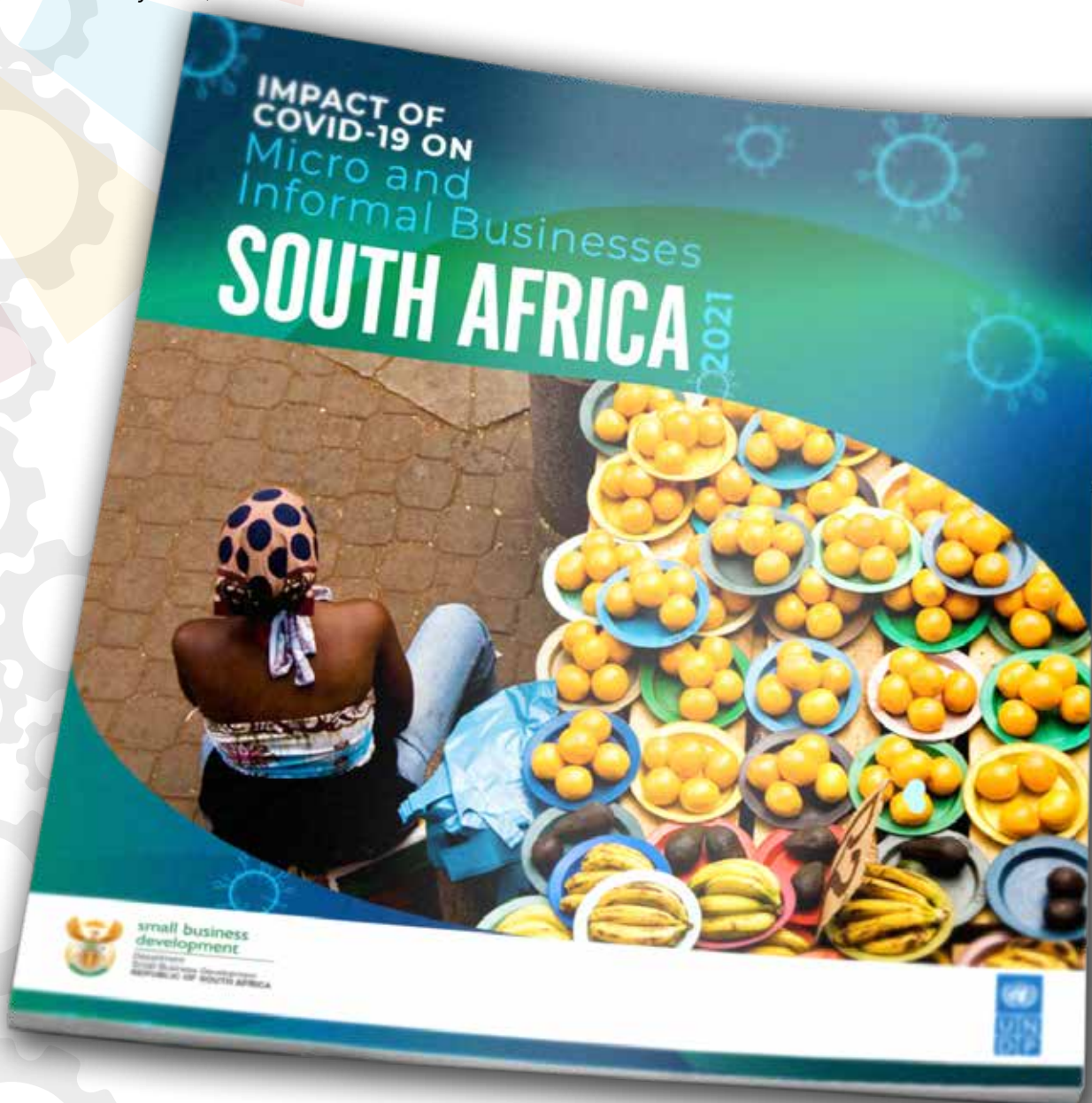
UNDP partnered with the South African National Community Radio Forum on a campaign to flight public service announcements (PSAs) on 18 community radio stations across nine provinces. Twenty-five PSAs, translated in all the South African 11 official languages, encouraged communities to exercise their democratic right to vote and promoted youth and women's participation.

Overall, some key activities that attracted media attention include the 25-year DFFE-UNDP partnership commemoration on UN World Environment Day 2021, the UNDP- South African Local Government Association (SALGA) SMME support initiative, the "Food Waste Innovation Challenge" and the UNDP-CSIR TVWS Network



Operator Support Programme. UNDP released the following visibility and knowledge products in 2021:

- the study, “Impact of COVID-19 on Micro and Informal Businesses in South Africa”, in partnership with the Department of Small Business Development;
- the report, “Mapping the National Development Plan to the United Nations and the African Union Sustainable Development Agendas”, in partnership with the National Planning Commission and the United Nations system;
- research on gender representation, the challenges women experience and opportunities available in public finance management roles;
- the Japanese Supplementary Budget (JSB) report;
- audio-visual materials on innovation, climate change, and SMME development.



PARTNERS AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

UNDP South Africa is working with the Government and people of South Africa, the private sector, United Nations agencies, academia, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders to address the triple development challenges of poverty, income inequality and unemployment. It is through the commitment of the following partners that UNDP achieved the results presented in this report.

In 2021, UNDP established the High-Level Programme Board as part of the partnership strategy. This Board was the first of its kind. It is constituted of Board members from national partners and other development partners, academia and civil society organizations. Additionally, UNDP places great emphasis on communications as a mechanism to facilitate partnership building and increase visibility.



GOVERNMENTS

- South Africa
- Japan
- Denmark

NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

- Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
- Department of Communications and Digital Technologies
- Department of Economic Development, Gauteng Province
- Department of National Treasury
- Department of Science and Innovation
- Department of Higher Education and Training
- Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment
- Department of Sport, Arts and Culture
- Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities
- Department of Small Business Development
- Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
- Department of Mineral Resources and Energy
- Department of Public Service and Administration
- Department of Social Development
- Department of Trade Industry and Competition
- Electoral Commission of South Africa
- National Disaster Management Centre
- Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
- Agricultural Research Council
- Eastern Cape Office of the Premier
- Eastern Cape Socio-Economic Consultative Council
- Western Cape Local Government
- Public Service Commission



- National Planning Commission
- National School of Government
- National Youth Development Agency
- National Electronic Media Institute of South Africa (NEMISA)
- South African National Biodiversity Institute
- South African National Parks
- Agricultural Research Council
- South African National Energy Development Institute

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

- United Nations in South Africa
- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- International Labour Organisation
- Global Water Partnership
- Orange-Senqu River Basin Commission (ORASECOM)
- World Bank
- Japan International Cooperation Agency

CIVIL SOCIETY

- South African National Aids Council
- 22 on Sloane
- International Youth Foundation
- Tshimologong Digital Innovation Precinct
- Endangered Wildlife Trust
- Sci Bono Science Discovery Centre
- FEMSTEM
- International Union of the Conservation of Nature-TRAFFIC
- International Youth Organization
- Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator
- National Association of Automotive Component and Allied Manufacturers

ACADEMIA

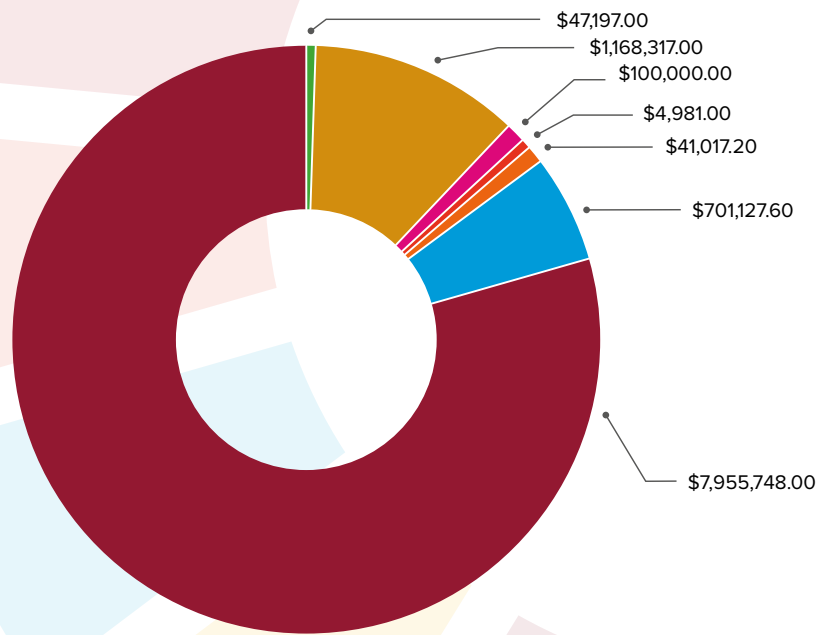
- University of Pretoria
- Rhodes University
- Danish Technical University
- South African Renewable Energy Technology Centre
- Coastal KZN Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) College
- Northlink College
- Tshwane South TVET College

THE PRIVATE SECTOR

- Branson Centre for Entrepreneurship
- Google
- Toyota South Africa Motors
- Microsoft South Africa
- Al-Baraka Bank

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

- Denmark
- Japan
- Multi-Partner Trust Funds
- Philippines
- South Africa
- United Nations agencies
- The GEF



UNDP SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



- **Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs:**

UNDP was acknowledged by the Department's for its contribution towards capacitating the National Disaster Management Centre through the recruitment of a systems developer.



- **Department of Public Service and Administration:**

UNDP was acknowledged by the Department's for its contribution to the conceptualization of the capacity and functionality of the audit role within the public service.



- **Parliament of South Africa:**

UNDP was acknowledged by the Parliament of South Africa for the contribution made towards the development of the Women's Charter for Accelerated Development in Parliament.

SUCCESS

TEAMWORK

PLANNING



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LESSONS LEARNED AND LOOKING FORWARD

The 2022 Annual Work Plan builds on the lessons learned in 2021, which enabled UNDP South Africa to identify and capitalize on the challenges and opportunities to improve the programmatic approach. Based on lessons learned, the work in 2022 will focus on diversifying and strengthening programming to ensure that the CPD outputs are aligned with the new UNDP Strategic Plan 2022–2025.



UNDP will continue to prioritize women, youth and other vulnerable groups impacted by the pandemic, and strengthen stakeholder capacity associated with social and economic exclusion, and gender violence. The COVID-19 crisis, the tight fiscal space, record-high levels of unemployment, particularly among youth, general dissatisfaction with service delivery as well as the recent civil unrest in KZN and Gauteng present an opportunity for UNDP's programming to help the Government and its partners to deliver on its Medium-term Strategic Framework (MTSF) and the National Development Plan (NDP), and to ensure greater alignment with Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. The Government of South Africa's focus on the DDM emphasizes the

need to strengthen the local sphere. It presents a strategic opportunity to work at the community level in order to strengthen impacts on the ground. Hence, UNDP will increase collaboration with counterpart United Nations agencies and national partners. The shift in government policy towards a deeper focus on vulnerable groups in the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan also presents an opportunity to implement tighter alignment with the national recovery agenda. UNDP will continue to be an effective convenor, bringing the right people into the development arena, and serving as a facilitator of knowledge exchange and best practices. ■

Key 2021 Lessons Learned include:

- The COVID-19 pandemic has hindered the country's development trajectory and created opportunities for UNDP to work with Government and its partners to deliver on its Medium-term Strategic Framework (MTSF) and the National Development Plan (NDP), and ensure greater alignment with Agenda 2030 and the SDGs.
- The DDM is an important vehicle to strengthen local capacities and improve service delivery, which has provided UNDP with myriad of opportunities to support government priorities at local levels.
- The Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan presents an opportunity for UNDP South Africa to continue as an effective convenor, bringing the right people into the development arena, and as a facilitator of knowledge exchange and best practices



Growth

Impact

Inclusive

TRANSFORMATION

RESULTS

Development

EMPOWERMENT

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