

Operational development derailed by insecurity and conflict. In that changing context, the design of smart, risk informed and sustainable human development solutions was critical, and the development agencies of the United Nations were committed to remaining strong partners to Member States as they made the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for their citizens.

During its operational activities for development segment, the Economic and Social Council held a dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the UN development system and adopted a resolution on progress in implementing the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the UN system, which had been adopted by the General Assembly in 2012. In December, the General Assembly adopted a resolution urging the development organizations of the UN system to fully align their strategic plans and their strategic planning and budgeting cycles with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review.

Development assistance was mainly providing targets of progress, 1.6 billion people were benefiting from improved livelihoods in 115 countries, 1.6 billion new jobs had been created in 90 countries, over 6 billion new voters had been registered in 70 countries, and 105 disaster reduction and adaptation plans were being put in place in 51 countries.

In 2015, the UN-administered United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme deployed 10,000 UN

and the United Nations Entity for Gender and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) [E/2015/47]; and south-south cooperation for development. The Council took note of the reports of the Executive Boards on 29 June (**decision 2015/219**).

Also before the Council was the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 [YUN 2012, p. 859] on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the UN system [A/70/62-E/2015/4]

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 11 September [meeting 103], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/326** [draft: A/69/L77]
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for the year and two missing their milestones by

tions directed at undp. They included the recommendations addressed to the Executive Board. The report provided a synopsis of management responses to those recommendations and included an update on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in reports issued in 2013 and 2012. Undp had pursued or implemented 92 per cent of the 24 recommendations issued by jiu in 2013. Of the 40 recommendations issued in 2012, 63 per cent had been implemented or were being pursued.

On 9 June [E/2015/35 (dec. 2015/15)], the Executive Board took note of the undp report on the jiu recommendations in 2014 and its statistical annex.

Human Development Report

An oral update on consultations and preparations for the *Human Development Report* editions for 2015 and 2016 was presented to the Executive Board at its annual session.

The Executive Board took note of the oral report on 9 June [E/2015/35dec. 2015/15].

UN Capital Development Fund

In the first two years of implementation of its strategic framework, 2014–2017 [DP/2016/14], uncdf, the UN capital investment organization for the least developed countries, largely achieved its planned results, though in fewer countries than foreseen. The ability to achieve programme results was sustained by

528,000 in the Niger. Financing mechanisms were established to increase resilience to economic and environmental shocks—in particular the Local Climate Adaptive Living facility (Local) programme helped Governments to channel global climate adaptation finance to local governments; the Finance for Food programme supported a local food systems approach to food security; and the Local Cross-Border Initiatives (Lobi) emphasized cross-border cooperation and investment planning in fragile settings. With grants totalling \$3.5 million, the Local mechanism had been implemented in 11 countries. The Finance for Food programme, covering Benin, Burundi, Mali, Mozambique and the Niger, made 83 food security investments in those countries, totalling \$3,661,040.

The first grant under Lobi was disbursed in 2015 to support the implementation of investments in the livestock sector in Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger. uncdf also promoted a policy environment that was conducive to sustainable financing, including through the local development finance practice, whereby trainings on public financial management helped increase the absorption capacity of the local governments and supported them to handle larger infrastructure projects. In Somalia (Somaliland and Puntland), \$8.5 million were channelled into local projects and services through local development finance, supporting roads and water supply infrastructure.

At the annual session of the undp/unfpa/unops Executive Board, the uncdf Executive Secretary presented the annual report on results achieved in 2014 [YUN 2014, p. 1043] and offered perspectives for 2015.

On 9 June [E/2015/35 (dec. 2015/9)], the Executive Board took note of the report on the results achieved by uncdf in 2014 [YUN 2014, p. 1043]; expressed concern that regular resources remained far short of the \$25 million threshold required to sustain uncdf programming in 40 least developed countries; noted with concern that, as a result, the number of countries supported by uncdf dropped from 33 in 2013 to 31 in 2014; recognized that a critical mass of core resources was required to ensure that uncdf maintained its innovation space; and called on Member States to contribute to uncdf to ensure that it reached the target of \$25 million per year in annual regular resources.

UN Volunteers

In 2015 [DP/2016/15], 6,796 UN volunteers from 153 countries worked for the undp-administered United Nations Volunteers (unv) programme, supporting partner UN entities in their peace and development activities through 7,053 assignments. International unv assignments (4,669) represented 66 per cent of the total and national assignments (2,384) 34 per cent. By region, UN Volunteers were deployed in Sub-Saharan Africa (59 per cent), Arab States (16 per cent), Asia and the Pacific

ments with those of sister agencies governed by the Executive Board.

On 9 June [dec. 2015/12], the Executive Board encouraged the Executive Director to proceed with the Audit Advisory Committee in accordance with established best practices of undp and unfpa and encouraged unops to explore the potential of facilitating partnerships with like-minded actors, including from the private sector.

Financial and administrative matters

Budget estimates

A June report [DP/OPS/2015/5] outlined the unops budget estimates for the 2016–2017 biennium in the amount of \$138.7 million, consisting of \$125.6 million in management resources and \$13.1 million for potential provisions. The budget estimates of \$125.6 million corresponded to a 9 per cent real reduction in management resources compared to the budget estimates for the previous biennium. That was achieved by driving down indirect costs while making room for strategic investments. For the biennium 2016–2017, the revenue target was set at \$138.7 million.

In August [DP/OPS/2015/7], the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions recommended approval of the unops budget estimates for the biennium 2016–2017.

On 4 September [dec. 2015/20], the Executive Board approved the net revenue target and endorsed the two-year aspiration of unops with respect to its management results and the targeting of resources to pursue operational excellence.

Audit reports

Board of Auditors report. In June, the UN Board of Auditors transmitted to the General Assembly the unops financial report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2014 [A/70/5/Add.11 & Corr.1]. In 2014, unops had an average of 765 projects across 80 countries. It provided overall project services worth \$1.29 billion, \$666.0 million as the principal and \$619.6 million delivered on behalf of other organizations. Operational reserves as

foster a culture of ethics, integrity and accountability. The Board urged management to allocate sufficient resources to the ethics function and encouraged the offices to provide management with advice and recommendations to strengthen the organizational culture of integrity.

Other matters

Field visits

A 24-member delegation of the Executive Boards of undp/unfpa/unops, unicef, UN-Women and wfp made a joint field visit to Jordan (24 April–2 May) [DP/FPA/OPS-ICEF-UNW-WFP/2015/CRP.1]. The United Nations Assistance Framework (unaf) 2015–2017 for Jordan was the strategic plan guiding UN work in support of the Government, aimed at enhancing systemic reform, social equity and the delivery of quality social services, while investing in young people and preserving the environment. Jordan was seeking to accelerate the pace of its development progress while mitigating the impact of the Syrian refugee crisis. With the conflict in Syria entering its fifth year in 2015, Jordan was hosting 1.4 million Syrians. The Executive Board delegation recommended, among other things, that the United Nations country team work to enhance coordination among all agencies, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator/ Humanitarian Coordinator and in line with the unaf; identify innovative ways to strengthen communication and accountability to beneficiaries,

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to General Assembly decisions 52/466 [YUN 1998, p. 1297] and 53/475 [YUN 1999, p. 1318], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/70/202] on the activities of the Office for Partnerships. The report concluded that the Office continued to host innovative high-impact events and provide advisory services to a wide range of Member States, as well as external stakeholders who sought to partner with the UN system. Unfip supported UN projects and programmes in 124 countries, and unfip complemented the work of many UN agencies that concentrated on the “supply” side of democratic institutions by focusing on the “demand” side through grants to local civil society organizations.

The General Assembly took note of the report on 23 December (**decision 70/552**).

UN Fund for International Partnerships

Unfip was established in 1998 [YUN 1998, p. 1297] to serve as the interface between the UN system and the United Nations Foundation, a public charity responsible for administering Robert E. Turner’s \$1 billion contribution in support of UN causes. At the end of 2015, the cumulative allocations as approved by the Foundation for unfip projects to be implemented by the UN system reached approximately \$1.4 billion. Of that amount, it was estimated that \$0.45 billion (about 32 per cent) represented core Turner funds and \$0.96 billion (about 68 per cent) was generated as co-financing from other partners. The number of UN projects and programmes supported through the end of 2015 by the Foundation through unfip stood at 592. Collectively, those projects were implemented by 43 UN entities in 124 countries.

In 2015, the United Nations Foundation approved projects totalling \$46.1 million, most of which (\$42.6 million) focused on global health. Health-related projects supported by the Foundation through unfip during the year included the Measles and Rubella

of South-South cooperation in an August report [A/70/344], which noted that the global context for forms of such cooperation, such as trade, investment, development assistance and other exchanges between developing countries, was in flux owing to a slowdown in global demand for goods and services. For the first time in the past decade, emerging economies had experienced negative growth rates for four consecutive years, from 2011 to 2014. South-South trade had stagnated since 2011, and intraregional trade continued to be slow in Latin America (e.g. 3.1% in 2012), Africa (e.g. 1.2% in 2012), and Asia (e.g. 1.1% in 2012).

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maximize the contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation to the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

to make recommendations on additional support that the UN system and States could provide to South-South and triangular cooperation; and called upon undp and other organizations of the UN system to assist developing countries in implementing projects of South-South cooperation, including by sharing best practices and experiences from the South.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 December [meeting 81], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/70/477/Add.2], adopted **resolution 70/222 (South-South cooperation)** without vote [agenda item 25 (b)].