

# INDIA-UN

## DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP FUND



India-UN Development  
Partnership Fund 

DECEMBER 2021

# CREDITS

This publication was produced by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) in consultation with the Board of Directors of the India-UN Development Partnership Fund and the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, with contributions from United Nations agencies and partners participating in the implementation of India-UN Development Partnership Fund project activities.

As Fund Manager and Secretariat of the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, UNOSSC is pleased to present this overview of the Fund. Heartfelt thanks and appreciation are expressed to all partners that continue to support, advance and collaborate in making this portfolio a great success.

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# INDIA-UN DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP FUND



**Each nation must give in order to live. When you give life, you will have life. When you receive, you must pay for it by giving to all others."**

*India's legendary philosopher and thinker Swami Vivekananda*



**Our priority is that development should be all inclusive, all pervasive and universal."**

*Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, addressing the United Nations General Assembly in September 2021*



Youth meetings with adolescents of indigenous communities in the district of Caaguazú, Paraguay.  
Photo: UNFPA

The India-UN Development Partnership Fund (India-UN Fund) was established in 2017 as a practical manifestation of the spirit of solidarity that has historically guided the Government and people of India. It is centred on forming partnerships with other developing countries to advance humancentric sustainable development across the world.

The India-UN Fund is a notable example of South-South cooperation with the multilateral system. Sponsored by the Government of India and implemented through the United Nations system, with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) as the coordinating partner, the Fund supports projects that advance all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Priority is accorded to partnering with small island developing States, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and countries affected by disaster.

The workings of the Fund are based on the principles of mutual respect and national ownership. The partnering Government identifies a development need, and the United Nations system assists in project formulation and implementation, guided by the priorities and approaches of the requesting Government. The Fund support is demand-driven, non-prescriptive and non-conditional.

The thematic reach of the India-UN Fund spans all 17 SDGs. Several projects are integrated in nature and address more than one SDG. The project portfolio of the Fund is significantly invested in climate resilience, environmental sustainability, renewable energy, gender equality, health and pandemic response, education and skills, livelihoods, infrastructure, water and sanitation, and agricultural development.

Against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, when Southern solidarities were tested to their limits and proved most instrumental in saving lives and preserving socioeconomic well-being, the India-UN Fund acted with speed and responsiveness. It provided financial support to assist in the procurement of medical supplies and protective equipment to 15 developing countries while continuing to approve development projects focused on people-centred transformational impact.

The Government of India has committed a total of \$150 million over 10 years for the India-UN Fund, including \$50 million under a separate Commonwealth Window, \$14 million dedicated to countries of the Caribbean Community and \$12 million for Pacific Island developing States.

The India-UN Fund innovative portfolio of projects is a testament to the range of impactful results that South-South cooperation can deliver through shared commitments to sustainable development for all. Its accomplishments have been recognized and praised at the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation of the United Nations General Assembly and across various United Nations instruments tracking contributions to the SDGs.

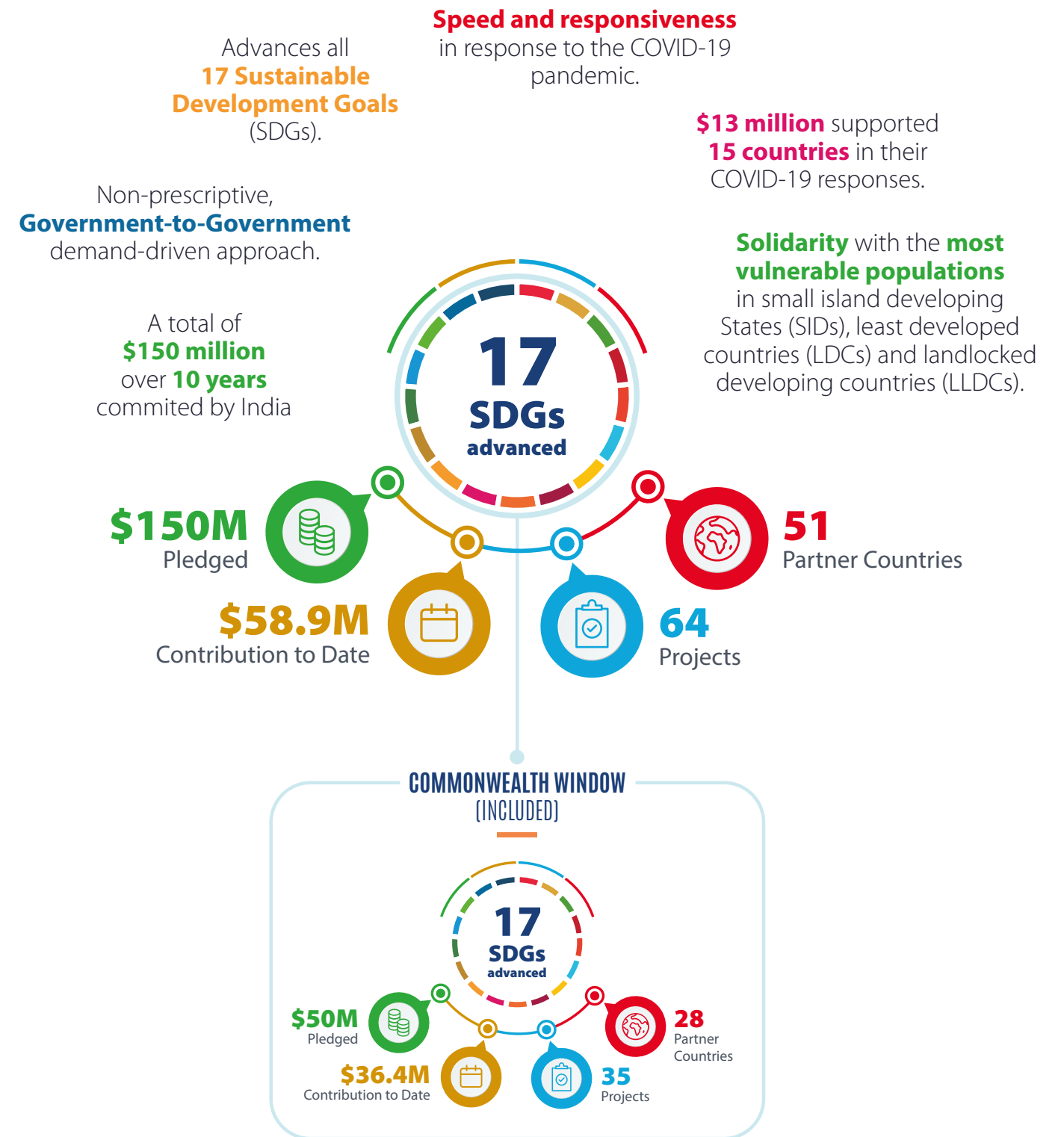


## VISION

Historically, India has prioritized cooperation over conflict, coexistence over competition, sharing over receiving and shared prosperity over zero-sum notions of growth. For this reason, for India, cooperation with fellow developing countries and the sharing of its development experiences with them as an expression of solidarity constitute an axiom.

The India-UN Development Partnership Fund is a practical embodiment of this philosophy, transforming into action India's support to other developing countries through sustainable development projects that advance people's fulfilment throughout the full spectrum of the human endeavour.

## INDIA-UN AT A GLANCE



# GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

The vast majority of India-UN Fund projects are implemented at the country level, since they respond to requests by national governments. The Fund also supports multi-country projects to address transboundary challenges, including, for example, to enhance climate resilience capacities in seven Pacific Island States, making implementation more impactful through the broader regional reach.

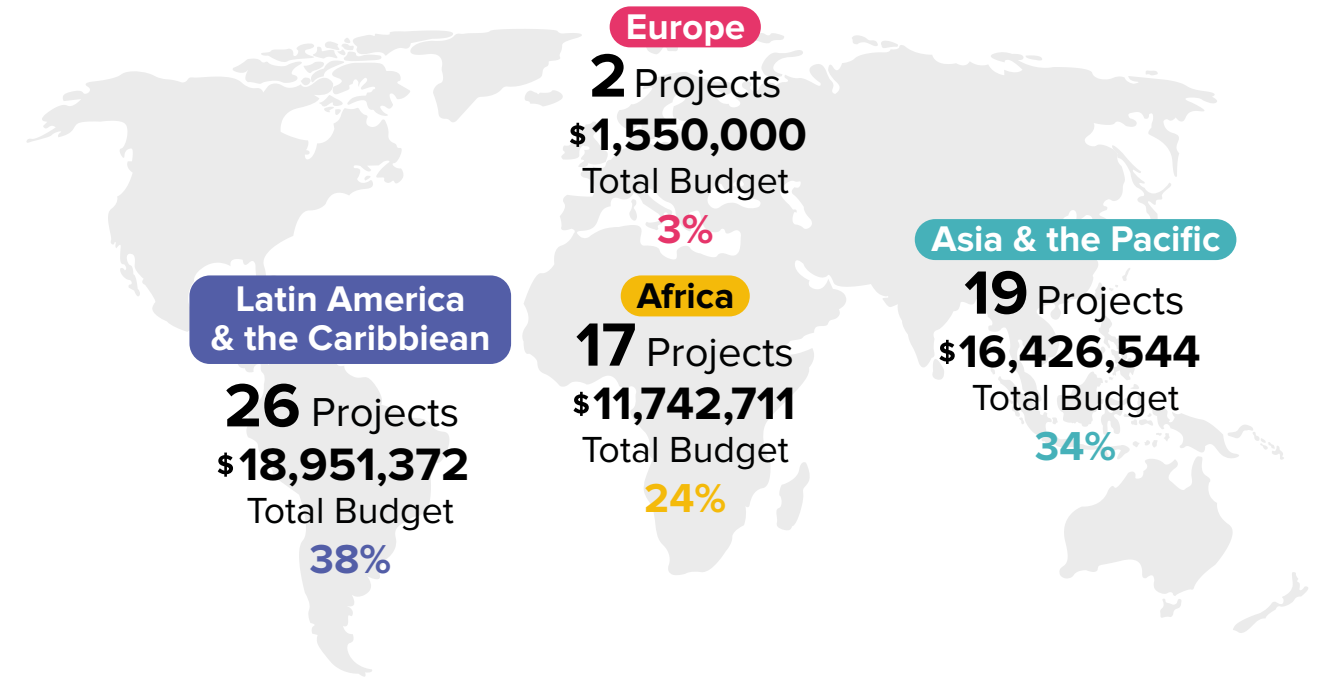
“South-South trust funds and global projects have benefited and supported many developing countries in their journey towards achieving sustainable development. The India-UN Development Partnership Fund supported a project using drones and early warning systems for flood disaster management in the Gambia.”

H.E. Mr. Lang Yabou, Permanent Representative of the Gambia to the United Nations

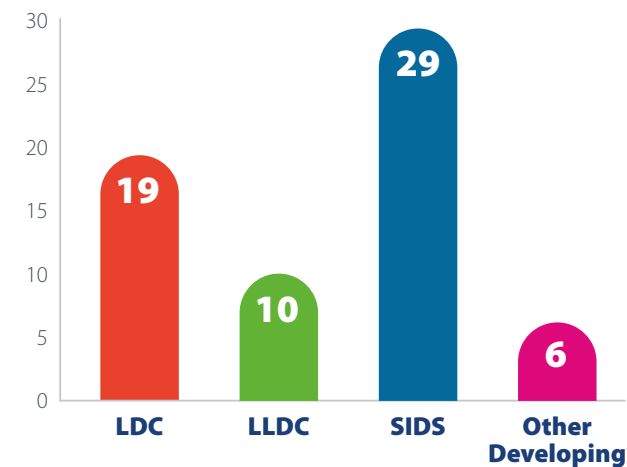


The Gambia, Stakeholder's workshop on disaster risk reduction. Photo: UNESCO

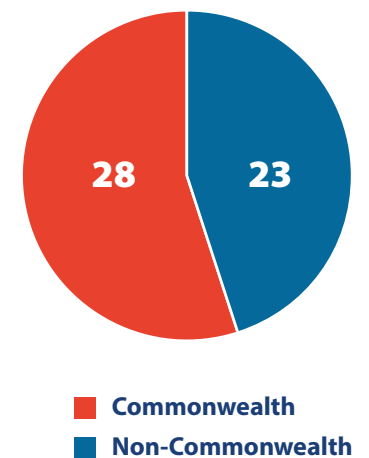
# PROJECTS OF INDIA-UN DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP FUND BY REGION



## NUMBER OF COUNTRIES BY CATEGORY

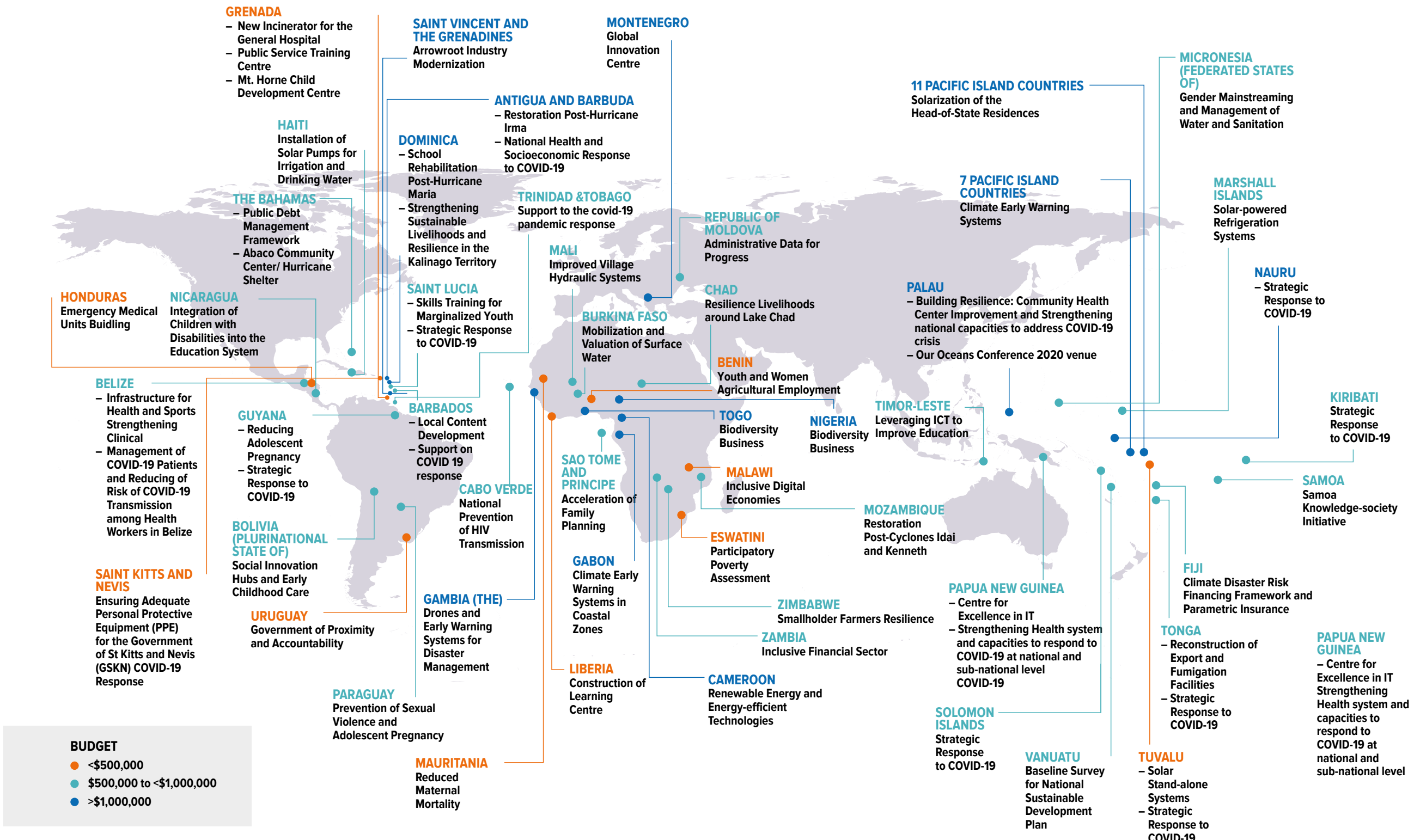


## NUMBER OF PARTNER COUNTRIES



Note: Some Countries may be classified in more than one category.

# INDIA-UN DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP FUND



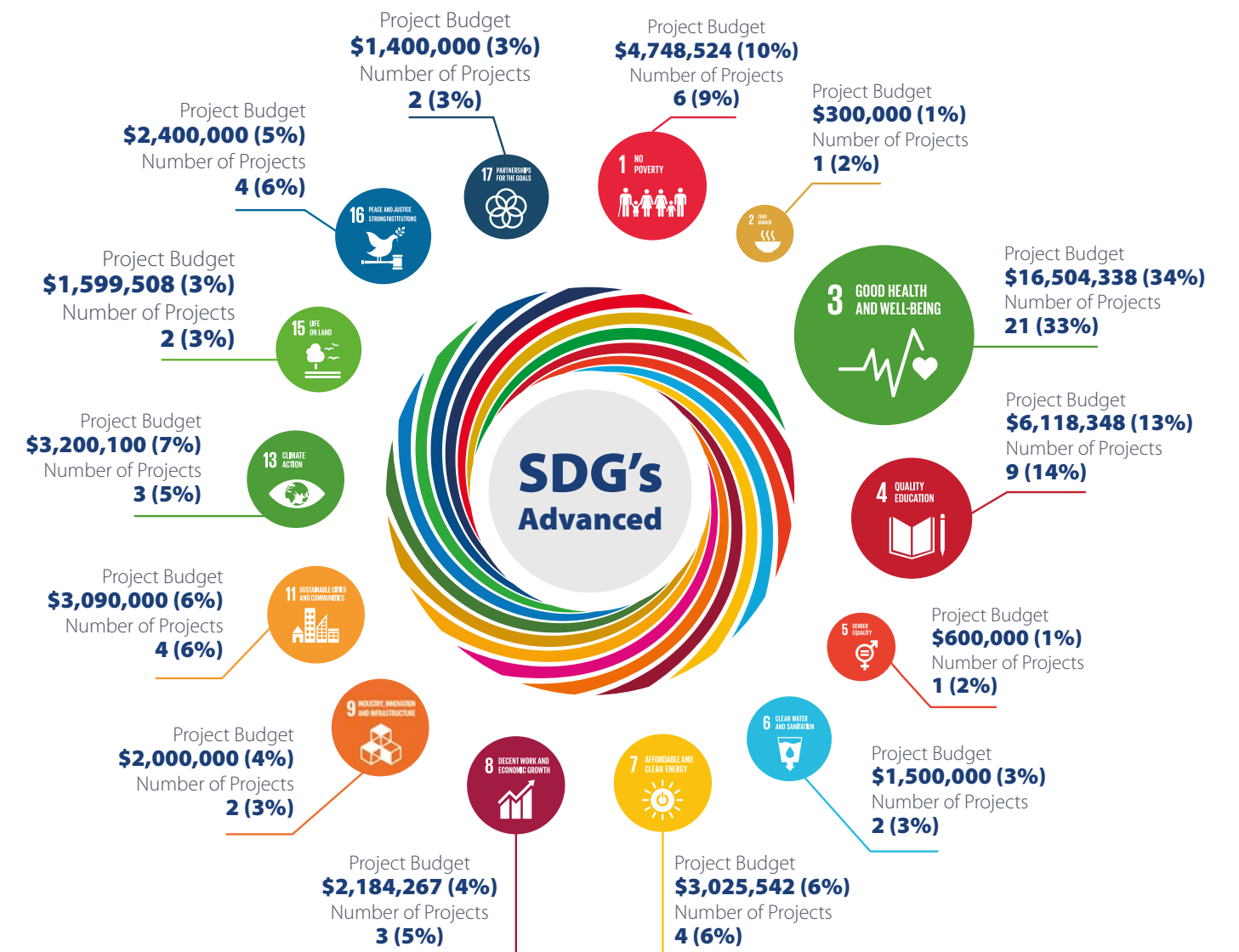
Launching ceremony for the construction of a dam in Burkina Faso.  
Photo: UNDP



## BROAD SPECTRUM OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPACT

South-South cooperation is, above all, demand-driven. The India-UN Fund responds directly to the national priorities and development objectives of partner countries, contributing financial resources and technical knowledge to support partner Governments in achieving the SDGs. Under the umbrella of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Fund responds to development partners' requests in areas of their choice.

## SDGs MOST DIRECTLY ADDRESSED



# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The principles of South-South cooperation underpin the activities of the Fund, with an emphasis on national ownership and leadership, development of local capacities, equality, mutual benefit, sustainability and non-conditionality.



Palau, Rehabilitation of Health Centre in Peleliu.  
Photo: UNOPS



Through South-South cooperation, with significant assistance from India, we have been able to make significant improvements to our national health-care facilities."

H.E. J. Ms. Uduch Sengebau Senior, Vice-President of Palau



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The India-UN Fund Board of Directors is comprised of the Deputy Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations in New York, H.E. Mr. Ravindra Raguttahalli; the Joint Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Division of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi, H.E. Mr. Srinivas Gotru; and the Director a.i. of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, Mr. Adel Abdellatif.

The Board of Directors of the India-UN Fund Commonwealth Window also includes the Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations in New York, H.E. Mr. Cosmos Richardson.

**Fund Manager and Secretariat:** United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation.



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**H.E. Mr. Srinivas Gotru,**  
Joint Secretary – United Nations  
Economic and Social Division



**Mr. Abdel Latif Adel,**  
Director a.i. UNOSSC

# ENABLING UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM SOUTH-SOUTH ACTION

UNOSSC is the United Nations system-wide coordinator and facilitator of South-South cooperation. It supports multilateral South-South policy-making processes; strengthens capacities of Member States to initiate, manage and implement South-South cooperation; and facilitates partner-led and -funded programmes. UNOSSC manages and serves as the Board of Directors Secretariat for the India-UN Fund as well as for a number of other South-South cooperation funds.

Twelve UN agencies, funds and programmes are currently implementing India-UN Fund projects. Through this unique partnership with the UN system, the Government of India is able to leverage the comparative advantages of the UN, particularly its worldwide presence, and its wealth of normative, thematic and programmatic experience. Through this partnership, the Fund is pleased to also support the multilateral system, its 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and shared commitments and instruments to leave no one behind.



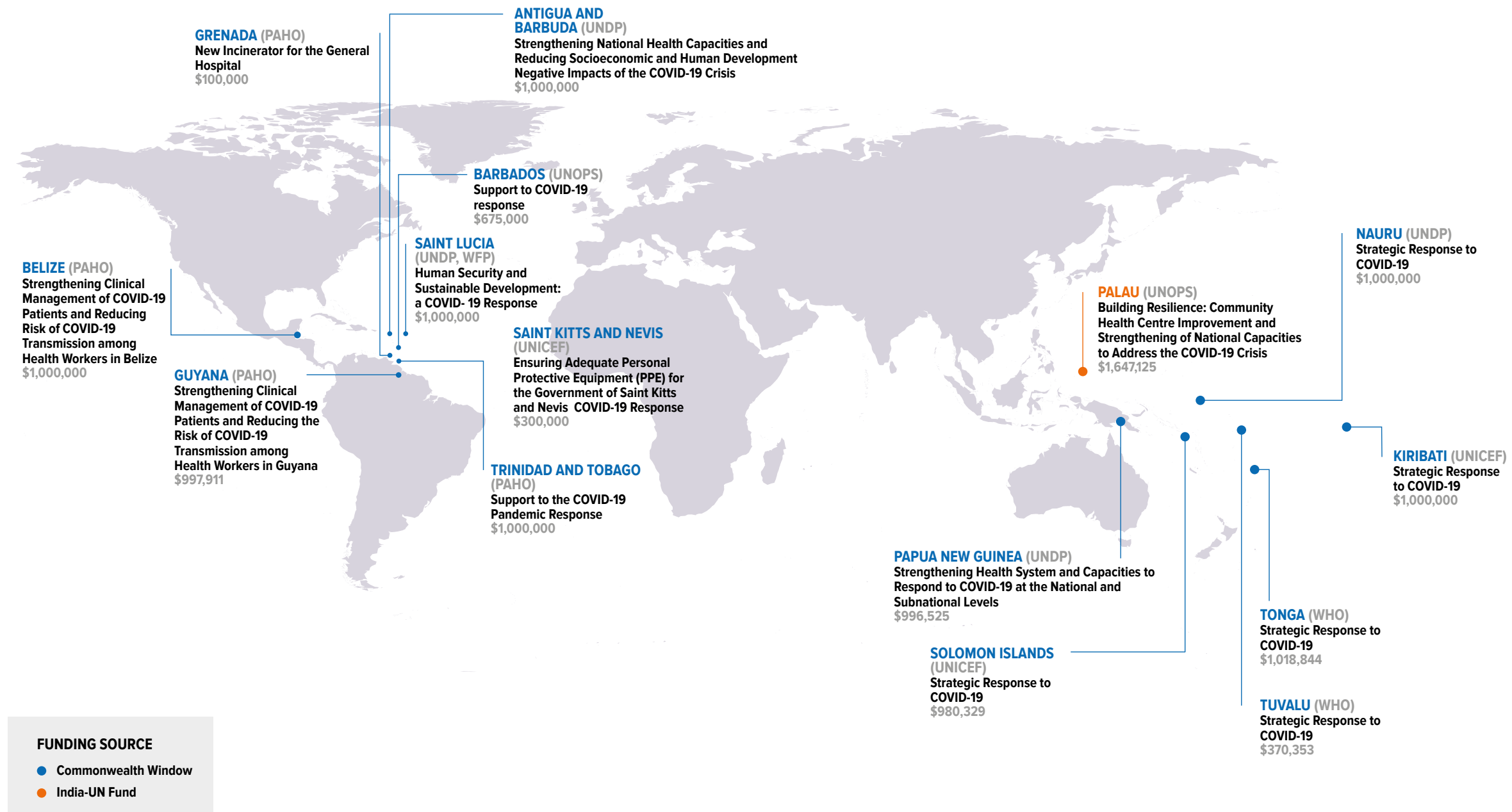
# SUPPORTING COUNTRIES IN THEIR COVID-19 RESPONSES

The COVID-19 pandemic has tested Southern solidarity and the multilateral development system to extents not experienced in decades.

India was not spared the loss of lives and compounded socioeconomic hardship that the virus unleashed.

Nonetheless, the Government and people of India reached out to 150 countries, offering medical equipment and vaccines. For the most part, India provided that support through direct cooperation; however, the India-UN Fund also had a role to play, supporting 15 countries through a broad range of interventions: social protection programmes and cash transfers, digitalization in schools and education, economic stabilization and digital solutions for micro- and small enterprises, and purchases of medical, health and personal protective equipment amounting to \$13 million.

The latter included 56 ventilators, 10 new ambulances and refurbishment of 5 others, 25 Intensive Care Unit hospital beds, 2 medical waste incinerators, a mobile mortuary, tents to be used as isolation rooms and temporary clinics, a needle burner and syringe destroyer, testing kits and chemicals, 8 mobile health-care robots, and over 1.3 million items of personal protective equipment.



SDGs IMPLEMENTATION: FEATURED PROJECTS



# GUYANA

Strengthening Clinical Management of COVID-19 Patients and Reducing the Risk of COVID-19 Transmission among Health Workers in Guyana

**Implementing Partners:**  
Ministry of Public Health and PAHO

**Project Budget:**  
\$997,911

**SDGs Most Influenced:**  
SDG 3

**Duration:**  
2020



The need to improve care for critically ill COVID-19 patients while strengthening infection prevention and control measures was an imminent global challenge as the COVID-19 pandemic advanced and particularly as new waves of infection struck. Facing a surge in infection rates, the Ministry of Public Health of Guyana prioritized increasing the availability of specialized medical equipment in the country to be able to respond to forecasted COVID-19 patient hospitalizations. The Ministry also focused on ensuring that a sufficient stock of personal protective equipment was available for the country's medical and paramedical staff.

Medical supplies received by the Ministry of Health.  
Photo: PAHO

Working closely with the United Nations system, the Ministry of Public Health finalized its response plan for confronting the pandemic. Several protocols were adopted for efficient health-sector activities in COVID 19 infection prevention and patient care. The guidelines and protocols adopted included health system coordination, laboratory capacity, surveillance, and case management and treatment guidelines as well as infection control measures.

The project supported the implementation of those measures and approaches. On an expedited basis, it purchased and delivered 29 portable ventilators and thousands of pieces of personal protective equipment including coverall clothing gowns, 5,000 N95 masks and 4,400 face shields.



Contract signing ceremony.  
Photo: PAHO

SDGs IMPLEMENTATION: FEATURED PROJECTS

# SAINT LUCIA

Human Security and Sustainable Development: a COVID-19 response

**Implementing Partners:**

Ministry of Health and Wellness; Ministry of Equity, Social Justice, Local Government and Empowerment; UNDP and WFP

**Project Budget:**

\$1,000,000

**SDGs Most Influenced:**

SDGs 1, 2, 3, 8

**Duration:**

2020–2021



The COVID-19 pandemic caused the largest global medical emergency in recent history. It also deeply disrupted the national economies and the social and economic development of countries across the Global South. Saint Lucia faced a twofold challenge: it needed to prepare the response of its medical system to the pandemic while also confronting its interrupted tourism-based economy, which had drastically diminished local livelihoods, affecting most acutely those people already living in poverty. A 2020 survey conducted by WFP, the Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency and FAO reported that 53 per cent of respondents had lost their jobs, while 46 per cent reported increases in food prices.

This project provided a comprehensive response to the multifaceted impact of the pandemic. A key pillar was the emergency response to COVID-19, focused on increasing national capacity to contain and manage the spread of the virus. The second pillar reinforced human security by strengthening the social safety nets that safeguard vulnerable communities through cash transfers to low-income households.

Through UNDP, the project supported the Ministry of Health and Wellness by providing two ventilators and the needed medical personal protective equipment: 100,000 respirators or surgical masks, 2,500 goggles, over 7,500 face shields, 40,000 medical and surgical gowns, 40,000 nurse caps and shoe covers.

Through WFP, the project supported the Ministry of Equity, Social Justice, Local Government and Empowerment to enhance and expand its Public Assistance Programme, aimed at ensuring inclusion through an expanded social protection floor. The project conducted a nationwide recertification as well as registration for new recipients for that Programme. It resulted in 807 new households gaining eligibility to receive monthly assistance. In total, India's support through this project enabled 3,221 people to access food and other essential needs for 3½ months to increase their resilience to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Project-facilitated financial support to persons with disabilities and low income. Photo: WFP



Hand-over of ventilators and other medical supplies. Photo: UNDP

SDGs IMPLEMENTATION: FEATURED PROJECTS



# PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Strengthening the Health System and Capacities to Respond to COVID-19 at the National and Subnational Levels

**Implementing Partners:**  
National Department of Health and UNDP

**Project Budget:**  
\$996,525

**SDGs Most Influenced:**  
SDGs 3, 9, 10, 11

**Duration:**  
2020 - 2021



Papua New Guinea already had an overstretched and fragile health services system before the COVID-19 pandemic struck: the country had only 500 doctors and 4,000 nurses to serve its population of 9 million. That highly limited capacity was further put to the test as it had to respond to COVID-19 infections. An aggravating factor was the limited number of ambulances available in the country, resulting in about 70 per cent of the population living outside the ambulance response area of the hospital system.

This project supports rural communities in 10 provinces by equipping the national health-care system with 10 additional ambulances. These health-services extension units significantly expand the capacity of Papua New Guinea to provide front-line emergency services through modern life-saving equipment.

These ambulances will contribute to the immediate COVID-19 medical response and longer-term emergency treatment of patients in areas previously disconnected from the service reach of the hospital.

Through UNDP, the project procured 10 fit-for-purpose ambulances, which are in chronic short supply across the country. In addition, UNDP supported the upgrading of five existing ambulances as well as training to upgrade the skills of the people operating those ambulances and associated equipment. That assistance was crucial to ensure that the equipment would be well used and maintained during the expected increased use of those ambulances and their medical equipment and other items as the pandemic continues.

Access to health services and health outcomes of patients are both expected to improve thanks to the support of this project.



Ambulances hand-over ceremony.  
Photo: UNDP

SDGs IMPLEMENTATION: FEATURED PROJECTS

# TESTIMONIAL



**We went from the despair of a hurricane-destroyed hospital to recovery through rehabilitated buildings, to state-of-the-art technology and sufficient protective equipment to treat COVID-19."**

*Ms. Jenita Cuffy, Head Nurse of Hannah Thomas Hospital, Barbuda*



COVID-19 ward at Hannah Thomas Hospital in Barbuda.

Ms. Jenita Cuffy, Head Nurse of Hannah Thomas Hospital in Barbuda, reflects on how India-UN Fund support transformed her community, standing with them through natural disasters, a pandemic and socioeconomic deterioration. Thanks to the early and quick action by the Government, the India-UN Fund Board of Directors and UNDP, Antigua and Barbuda purchased medical equipment and supplies including a portable ventilator to assist the care and treatment of patients on the island. As medical as well as protective equipment was distributed in the archipelago, its receipt was particularly meaningful at her hospital, which the India-UN Fund was just finishing rebuilding following its total disablement by Hurricane Irma.

"The donation of the portable ventilators and medical and protective equipment was a timely and needed one in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. It bolstered the resources of the newly handed-over hospital, which was lacking in key medical infrastructure and equipment before the passage of the hurricane. We have come a long way, even if we seek to ensure that the standard of care for the people of Barbuda improves even more," she explains.

She also notes that the equipment has significantly improved how efficiently the medical professionals perform their duties and service their community.



Testing and installation of a ventilator gifted by the India-UN Fund, operating at the Hospital in Antigua.



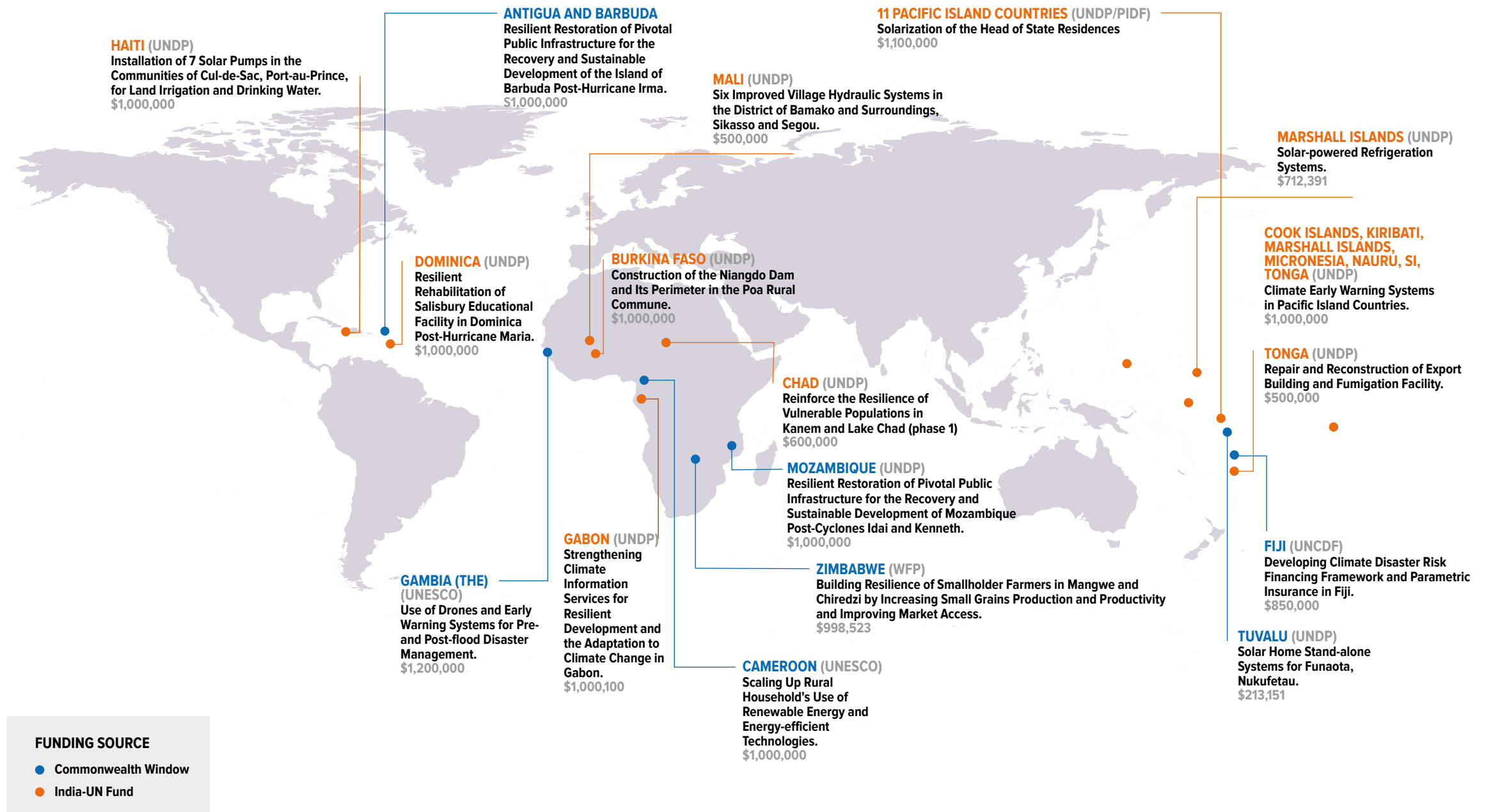
The Ministry of Health, Wellness & Environment and UNDP receive PPE upon its arrival in Antigua and Barbuda.

# CONTRIBUTING TO CLIMATE RESILIENCE

The India-UN Fund is providing support to climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts through projects spanning disaster prevention, impact attenuation and early recovery. An important area of intervention has been the establishment of climate early warning systems. Three projects provide meteorological and hydrological equipment, build technical capacities for consolidated data analysis and warnings, and train governments and communities for action along their extreme weather response plans.

The Fund also contributes to restoring critical infrastructure destroyed by adverse climatic conditions. Through build-back-better techniques, four projects refurbish key buildings using specific measures to retrofit structures based on the hazard risks to which they are vulnerable.

The Fund portfolio also has an important focus on rehabilitating degraded lands, ensuring access to water in areas impacted by desertification, reinforcing the resilience of farmers and of their agricultural methods to climate change, promoting the use of solar energy systems and other renewable energy sources, and developing insurance systems that can mitigate the impact of extreme weather events.



SDGs IMPLEMENTATION: FEATURED PROJECTS

# CAMEROON

Scaling Up Rural Households' Use of Renewable Energy and Energy-efficient Technologies

**Implementing Partners:**  
Ministry of Water and Energy and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

**Project Budget:**  
\$1,000,000

**SDGs Most Influenced:**  
SDGs 7, 13

**Duration:**  
2020 - 2022



Community consultations and trainings.  
Photo: UNESCO



Certification of Solar Mamas after training in Senegal.  
Photo: UNESCO

In Cameroon, only 63 per cent of households have access to the electricity grid. This rate decreases sharply in the far northern regions, where only 10 to 22 per cent of households are connected, relying instead on forest biomass exploitation for more than 95 per cent of their energy.

Through a comprehensive approach to enhance livelihoods and sustainability, this project introduces various environmentally friendly energy sources, ranging from the highly technological to the artisanal, namely, photovoltaic solar equipment to be installed in public buildings, efficient cook stoves produced with local materials, and biodigesters for biogas and biomass production. The project also benefits community members, leaders and government officials, including 6,000 women and youth, through the introduction of these renewable energy systems.

The local University of Maroua, in cooperation with the communities, designed and constructed the three demonstration sites that host the project activities. Each site is equipped with a biodigester, a device for ecological briquette production and improved cooking stoves. These sites provide practical and experiential training to partnering villagers. To date, 1,000 households in the regions of Bibemi, Poli and Zina have participated in the project training activities.

South-South cooperation with the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development will support the production of training modules on climate change and conflict management, and the Barefoot College International will support training in Dakar, Senegal, for five "Solar Mamas": rural, illiterate women from the project intervention area who will maintain and repair the photovoltaic solar systems and train peers in their use.



Activities at the renewable energy demonstration site.  
Photo: UNESCO

SDGs IMPLEMENTATION: FEATURED PROJECTS



FIJI

Developing A Climate Disaster Risk Financing Framework and Parametric Insurance

**Implementing Partners:**  
Ministry of Economy and UNCDF

**Project Budget:**  
\$850,000

**SDGs Most Influenced:**  
SDGs 11, 13

**Duration:**  
2020 - 2022



Stakeholders workshop.  
Photo: UNCDF



The World Risk Index 2018 ranks Fiji among the 10 most vulnerable countries for disasters risks and their socioeconomic impact. Nonetheless, Fiji's disaster risk management plans do not have an integrated climate-risk financing strategy to support low-income communities to manage economic losses after a natural disaster.

To protect livelihoods and increase resilience, the project is supporting the Government of Fiji as it formulates its disaster risk financing legal framework, policies and markets. The goal is to establish an enabling environment, leading to the adoption and popularization of market-based insurance instruments designed for low-income communities.

The project is also supporting the development of insurance products designed for the most vulnerable. Thanks to those products, low-income households will be able to insure their crops, property and livelihood sources so as to withstand losses and rebuild if they suffer them.

Advancing in this direction, a model of a parametric insurance product, tailored to the context and characteristics of Fiji, has been finalized. It was produced through the sharing of South-South technical expertise by the Weather Risk Management Services, a climate and parametric modelling agency from India. The project is currently working with 14 partners to produce and roll out various market-based, inclusive climate disaster mitigation products. It is also facilitating digital innovations to enable inclusive access across the Fijian population to those climate-risk finance services and to promote empowered consumers.

More than 300 farmers as well as micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, academia and local civil society have participated in the design of the climate-risk financing strategies and mitigation solutions.



Enabling Low-cost Climate Disaster Risk Insurance.  
Photo: UNCDF

SDGs IMPLEMENTATION: FEATURED PROJECTS



# THE GAMBIA

Use of Drones and Early Warning Systems for Pre- and Post-flood Disaster Management

**Implementing Partners:**

Disaster Risk Management Agency and UNESCO

**Project Budget:**

\$1,200,000

**SDGs Most Influenced:**

SDGs 11, 13

**Duration:**

2019 - 2021



Drones training completion ceremony.  
Photo: UNESCO



The Gambia, located in the Gambia River basin, is particularly susceptible to flood disasters, specifically, flash floods. Currently, owing to the lack of adequate forecasting and warning capabilities, the standard response to flooding is limited to post-catastrophe crisis management.

This project contributes to poverty alleviation by increasing flood resilience through the establishment of a people-centred early warning system. This system includes equipping specialized meteorological data collection stations, building national capacity for analysis and response, engaging communities in disaster preparedness activities, and deploying five drones to gather early detection data and support disaster response.

The project is working on the development of the Flood Early Warning System as an open data-handling platform with forecasting and warning capabilities. For this purpose, it has established automated weather stations and has trained officials in photogrammetry and drone flight. Beyond consolidating and analysing hydraulic and meteorological data, national officials will deploy drones in pre- and post-disaster assessments to enable long-term climate-risk planning, facilitate terrain mapping and guide the establishment of flood evacuation routes.

Local capacities have also been enhanced through South-South exchanges, since six high-ranking officials from key ministries and agencies undertook a technical visit to the Benin Disaster Risk Reduction Management Agency to learn about their systems and practices.

A national disaster risk reduction curriculum was developed and introduced in schools, with 50 teachers trained in its instruction. In addition, communities have participated in the project hazard mapping, risk identification and flood-disaster-response drills.



Training on drone flight.  
Photo: UNESCO

SDGs IMPLEMENTATION: FEATURED PROJECTS

# TESTIMONIAL



**Before this fountain post, it was very difficult to find drinking water. We could go days without it. This fountain is a real godsend."**

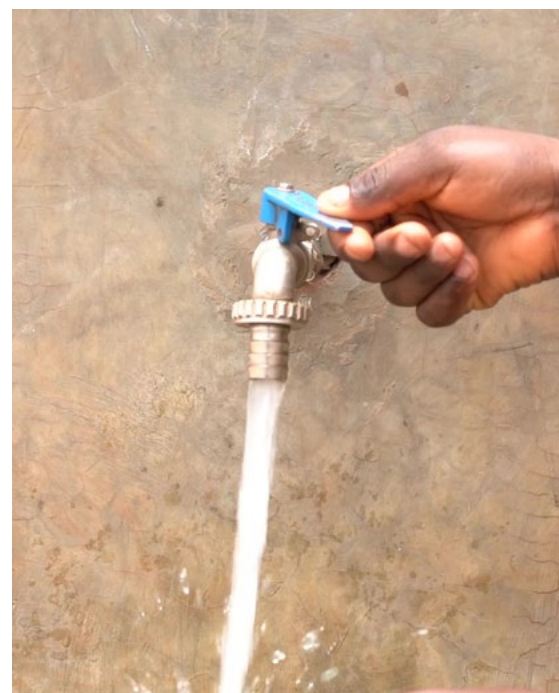
*Ms. Mariam Coulibaly from Dialakôrôbougou, Mali, and villagers in her community and in neighbouring ones are delighted with the solar-powered hydraulic system supported by the India-UN Development Partnership Fund.*



Utilizing the abundant sunlight in that part of the Sahel, the eight solar panel modules installed in each of the six villages provide the energy needed to pump water from the wells drilled by the project to the 15 cubic-metre tanks on towers and finally to the 19 drinking-water distribution points.

"We were really running out of water. We could do 4 to 5 hours to fill 4 to 5 cans at the water pump. Sometimes we would leave without anything," Mariam explains. "Fearing that you won't have enough water that day can feel just as bad as coming home without enough of it."

"Where there is life, there is water. I am thankful we have water now. These days I come to the fountain every day, I easily get my water and know that my family is well taken care of," she elaborates on her day. "I am grateful for this fountain. Even if we still have many needs, this improvement is one that really makes a big difference, particularly for us women and our families."



Running water at the fountain enabled by the project.  
Photo UNDP



Hydraulic structures hand-over ceremony.  
Photo: UNDP



Women celebrating enhanced access to running water.  
Photo: UNDP

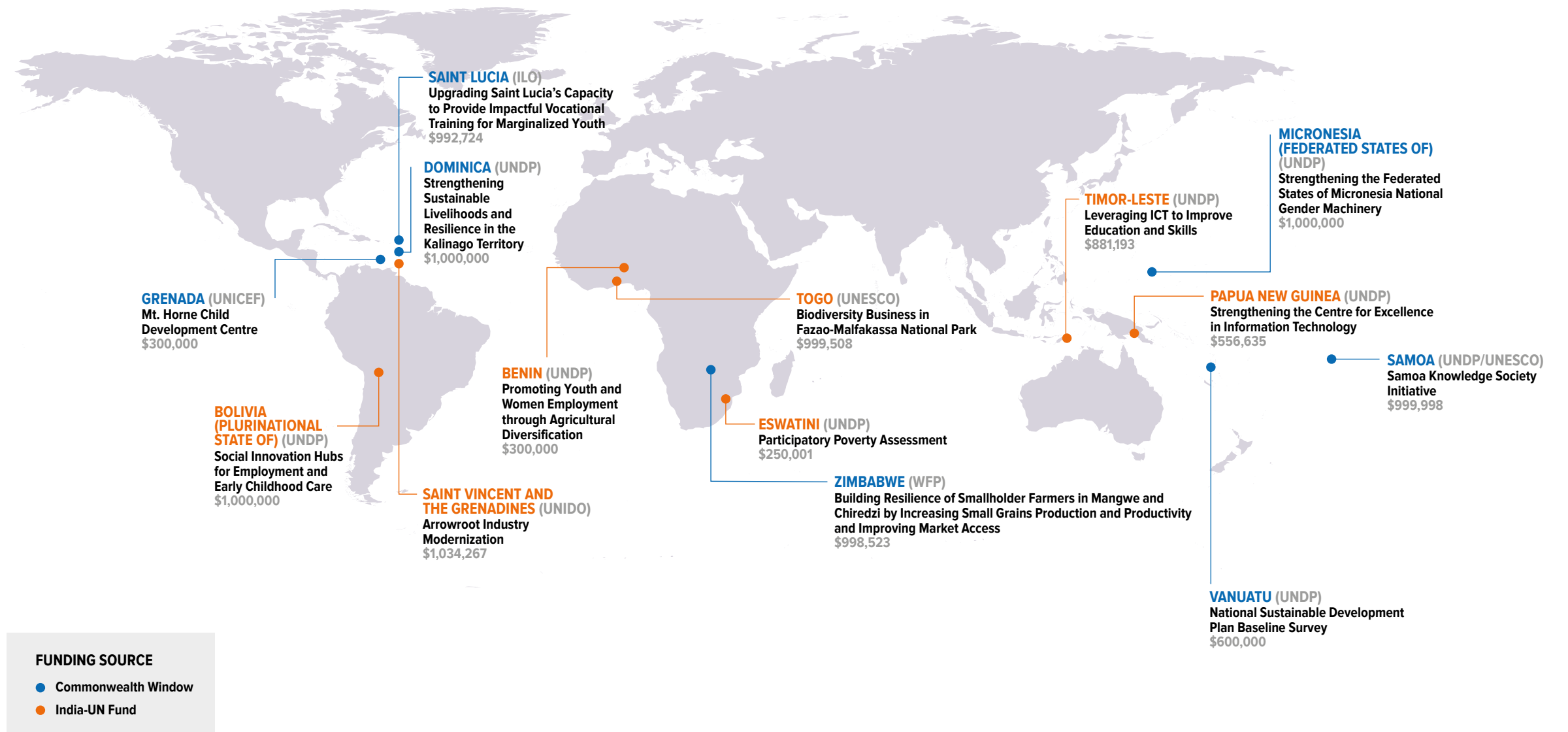
# IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS OF THOSE FURTHEST BEHIND

## Supporting developing countries in their efforts to lift their citizens out of poverty is at the centre of the India-UN Fund activities

The Fund has supported a full range of initiatives aimed at improving the livelihoods of those most vulnerable and their active participation in socioeconomic life. Its projects span poverty data-gathering, analysis and policy formulation; training and upgrading of skills; inputs and technical assistance for farming; industry and sector development; building government capacities to remove barriers to workforce participation; and childcare facilitation.

Besides mainstreaming inclusivity, the Fund portfolio has a focus on the livelihoods of women, indigenous peoples, smallholder farmers, the rural poor and youth, each supported by tailored approaches designed within the context of the project and people.

Building on India's recent development experience, significant promise of bringing about transformational impact through South-South cooperation has been exhibited by projects with strong emphasis on digitalization and on information and communication technologies, which bridge the digital divide and enable vulnerable groups to rapidly make substantial gains in access.



SDGs IMPLEMENTATION: FEATURED PROJECTS

**BENIN**

Promoting Youth and Women Employment through Agricultural Diversification

**Implementing Partners:**  
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and UNDP

**Project Budget:**  
India-UN Fund: \$300,000; Government: \$4,000,000; and UNDP: \$400,000

**SDGs Most Influenced:**  
SDGs 2, 8

**Duration:**  
2018 - 2021

Benin is a least developed country, ranking 158 out of 189 countries in the Human Development Index. Unemployment and underemployment affect 40 per cent of the active-age population, with their incidence exacerbated among Benin's youth, reaching 70 per cent of them. More than 150,000 young people join the labour force every year, the vast majority of them lacking labour-market skills and qualifications.

The Government of Benin is committed to developing the country's agricultural potential and promoting agrobusinesses. With support from the India-UN Fund, it is supporting young and female entrepreneurs to expand their skills, establish their micro- and small businesses, access finance and other business services, and develop viable youth- and/or female-led enterprises.

Thanks to the activities of this project, 450 youth-led small enterprises were established and received training in management as well as in technical fields such as agriculture, agribusiness value chains, agroprocessing and techniques to gain or increase market access for agricultural products. Those youth entrepreneurs also benefited from advisory support and process guidance on the formation of agricultural enterprises.

Emphasis was placed on the development of the practical technical skills of the youth and females as well as on the elaboration of quality business plans suited to the ambitions, capacities and tools available to those young entrepreneurs. A total of 185 of those business plans are now under consideration for financing by banking institutions.



Training workshop.  
Photo: UNDP



Training workshop.  
Photo: UNDP



Encouraging women entrepreneurs.  
Photo: UNDP



Supporting young agro-entrepreneurs.  
Photo: UNDP

SDGs IMPLEMENTATION: FEATURED PROJECTS



# GRENADA

Mt. Horne Child Development Centre

**Implementing Partners:**

Ministry of Social Development, Housing and Community Empowerment and UNICEF

**Project Budget:**

India-UN Fund: \$300,000

**SDGs Most Influenced:**

SDGs 4, 8

**Duration:**

2018 - 2019



Due to lack of access to childcare, young mothers in the community of Mt. Horne in Grenada had limited access to the labour market. The project built a child development centre by refurbishing a previously decommissioned building. That early childhood education and care institution is a nurturing environment that ensures that infants and toddlers have quality daycare and learning opportunities, while their parents participate in studies or employment. The centre is staffed by 15 residents of Mt. Horne.

The project embodies successful cross-ministry as well as grass-roots stakeholder cooperation. The Mt. Horne Community Organization was the main facilitator, voicing the community's need and guiding the establishment of the centre. The Ministry of Agriculture contributed the two-storey building that was refurbished. The Ministry of Health advised on requirements, the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Implementation produced the design works and oversaw construction, and the Ministry of Education shaped the centre curriculums.

Early in 2020, the Child Development Centre became operational, opening its doors to provide services and educational activities to 45 infants and toddlers. The Centre consists of separate rooms for infants and toddlers, a lunch area, a bathing and toilet or potty area, a sandbox and a water-activities play area, a kitchen, a laundry room, a counselling room and an administrative office. The Centre had to shut down owing to the COVID-19 pandemic curfews; however, it reopened in October 2020 and continues to support the community and the future generations of Mt. Horne.



Renovated Mt. Horne Child Development Centre. All photos: UNICEF

SDGs IMPLEMENTATION: FEATURED PROJECTS

TOGO

Biodiversity Business in Fazao-Malfakassa National Park



**Implementing Partners:**  
Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development and Nature Conservation and UNESCO

**Project Budget:**  
\$999,508

**SDGs Most Influenced:**  
SDGs 1, 2, 4, 8, 15

**Duration:**  
2019 - 2022



Consultations with population.  
Photo: UNESCO

Fazao-Malfakassa National Park is the largest national park in Togo, with an area of 1,920 km<sup>2</sup> and nearly 50,000 people living in the villages surrounding it. The livelihoods of those communities are inextricably linked to the biological resources of the Park, yet their continued exploitation is hardly sustainable.

The project is focused on developing biodiversity-friendly and green-economy activities for 350 families through increased knowledge about biodiversity, establishment of new small businesses, enhanced access to markets, and comprehensive start-up business-incubation services. The project will encourage youth and women entrepreneurship while directly training and supporting approximately 1,500 people.

Community members and traditional chiefs from 11 communes bordering the Park, local non-governmental organizations, and local and central government authorities have actively participated in the project workshops. Through mapping, feasibility studies and consultations, a tailored plan was developed to provide support for businesses in apiculture, the rearing of small ruminants and the production of shea butter. A socioeconomic study of 36 villages comprising 529 households and a comprehensive biodiversity inventory were also advanced by the project in support of those sustainable business-development activities.

A total of 160 families acquired new business and marketing skills; 60 participants developed skills in biodiversity conservation, environmental management and the concept of “green economy”; and 100 participants were trained in the management of small-scale beekeeping enterprises. Project support to partnering households through comprehensive start-up business-incubation services and network development are ongoing.



Shea valorization workshop.  
Photo: UNESCO

## TESTIMONIAL



**This project will support a lot because it will improve the quality of life of our women. These women will have the opportunity to work knowing that their children will be well cared for."**

*Ms. Miriam Gallardo, employed by Tarija's municipal government, supports the local pilot experiences transforming the care economy.*



Ms. Miriam Gallardo, the Secretary for Women, Family and Vulnerable People of the Tarija municipal government, observes that "even if this project has started only recently, it will strengthen the autonomy of the women of tarija". With support from the project, the Plurinational State of Bolivia formulated a draft policy on care for early childhood and economic autonomy of vulnerable women, which is now being debated nationally. The project also enabled the establishment of a baseline with data covering nine municipalities. Those data contribute to an understanding of the reach of actions needed and the cost of expanding childcare services.

Gallardo highlights that this project is fundamental for the municipality because it will provide lines of action to provide advice and training to the large number of women in the city and surrounding rural areas who suffer from any kind of mistreatment.

"We know that this pilot test is not enough. We would really like to replicate it in the other districts, and I believe that this will also be a model for the other departments to follow," she concludes.

The project is also establishing two innovation laboratories on early childhood care by partnering with childcare centres in Tarija and La Paz in efforts to test models that enable women to enhance their livelihoods and well-being.

## MESSAGES FROM HIGH-LEVEL DIGNITARIES



**Mr. António Guterres,**  
*United Nations Secretary-General*

The India-UN Development Partnership Fund is a welcome contribution that champions greater prosperity and opportunity for all.

With its focus on the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, the Fund embodies the core promise of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind. It also brings to life our promise to work as one United Nations family, gathering together 12 UN agencies, funds and programmes to implement the Fund's projects.

As this report shows, through this unique partnership, the Government of India is able to tap into the comparative advantages of the UN's expertise and experience, and accelerate development in communities that have seen too little. The United Nations attaches great importance to this partnership, and we look forward to more progress, more development, and more co-operation in the years ahead.



**Mr. Achim Steiner,**  
*UNDP Administrator*

Although 2020 and 2021 were years of tragedy, they also demonstrated what is possible when we work together in the face of complexity and deep uncertainty.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the India-UN Development Partnership Fund managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation India contributed \$13.5 million to COVID-19 response initiatives in the Global South. Such rapid support -- including the provision of medical supplies, personal protective equipment, and vaccines -- arrived when it was needed most.

As some countries start to slowly recover from this devastating pandemic, South-South cooperation will play a central role in surfacing and sharing the bold solutions that we now need to accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. At this pivotal moment, the entire UN family will be on hand to assist communities as they shape that greener, more inclusive, and more sustainable future.



**Ms. Grete Faremo,**  
*UNOPS Executive Director*

The India-UN Development Partnership Fund model, driven by the South-South spirit of solidarity and committed to sustainable development, is a strong testimonial to the importance of multilateralism.

The commitment of the Government of India to South-South cooperation is commendable. For example, with its contribution, UNOPS was able to support Palau to quickly respond to the challenges of COVID-19. This is a part of an already ongoing project that aims to increase quality, availability and access to health care in the country, including through the rehabilitation of local community health centres, ensuring that health care is as close as possible to the most in need.

We know that socioeconomic recovery will require action at scale while public resources will remain scarce and COVID-19 further deepens the challenge. Thus, now more than ever, it is important to mobilize the resources and bring partnerships between the public and private sectors to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals. At UNOPS, we do that through our Sustainable Investments in Infrastructure and Innovation, and the Government of India is a crucial partner in this initiative. We are proud to partner with India to contribute to building a more sustainable and inclusive world.



**Dr. Natalia Kanem,**  
*UNFPA Executive Director*

UNFPA is proud to partner with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and the India-UN Development Partnership Fund in advancing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the Sustainable Development Goals. With financial contributions from the Fund, UNFPA is working with the Governments of Guyana and Paraguay to address adolescent pregnancy and gender-based violence. In Moldova, the funding supported the strengthening of the national statistical registry. In Cabo Verde and Sao Tome and Principe, the funding increased the availability of, and access to, quality family planning services during the COVID-19 pandemic. I commend the Government of India for their leadership in South-South cooperation and for promoting global solidarity through the India-UN Development Partnership Fund.



**Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus,**  
*WHO Director-General*

Global solidarity and cooperation have been the lifeblood of the COVID-19 response. WHO thanks the India-UN Development Partnership Fund for the resources it has provided to help WHO support frontline health services in Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and Tonga.

The Fund's support has been helping WHO equip health systems in these countries with a wide range of items, from personal protective and lab equipment, to portable ventilators, hospital beds, vaccine storage facilities and biomedical waste autoclaves and incinerators. It has also supported vital awareness-raising efforts to a wide range of communities, from urban to rural areas, to promote adherence to public health measures, like mask wearing and hand hygiene.

What the pandemic has demonstrated is how important it is to build a future that is fair and just, and for WHO to forge cooperative strategies and collaborate closely with partners in order to achieve this objective. The support that WHO offices have received through the India-UN Development Partnership Fund is one such partnership that underscores India's commitment to multilateralism and achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



**Ms. Cristina Duarte,**  
*Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa to the United Nations Secretary-General*

As the international community steps up efforts for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals during the Decade of Action, it is critical to ensure that knowledge, a fundamental tool for advancing the 2030 Agenda, is accessible to all. In this regard, South-South cooperation offers a space for knowledge-sharing and collaboration among stakeholders who face similar challenges in their path toward sustainable development. By doing so, it creates an opening for the exchange of best practices and innovations, which as the COVID-19 pandemic has shown, are critical for transforming crises into opportunities.

I commend the generosity of the Government of India, which, despite its own challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, continued its commitment to support fellow developing countries through the India-UN Development Partnership Fund. I look forward to further cooperation between OSAA and the India-UN Development Partnership Fund in leveraging South-South and triangular cooperation to achieve "The Africa We Want".



**Mr. Courtenay Rattray,**

*High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States*

I commend the India-UN Development Partnership Fund for supporting enhanced partnerships to reduce the burden of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change impacts on the least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS). It exemplifies India's dedication to improving the living conditions of those who are left furthest behind. When COVID-19 began to spread around the world, SIDS were caught in a bind as they depend on international travel for many essential services and expertise, including COVID-19 testing. The Government of India, through the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, came forward with urgently needed resources to strengthen health-care capacity by supporting the procurement of testing kits, personal protective equipment and other required medical equipment. This support, for example, has allowed Palau to remain COVID-free until now. India's ambitious goal to support SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs is a bold statement of intent that is greatly welcomed and much needed in these challenging times.

The Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in January 2022 will be a crucial moment for global solidarity for the more than 1 billion people who reside in LDCs. Many of these vulnerable nations are in the Global South and therefore, strong South-South partnerships will be critical for these nations to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to keep the promise of leaving no one behind. I am pleased to work together with India in advancing sustainable solutions in countries of the Global South and through the work of my office, fostering opportunities for South-South partnerships.



**H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid,**

*President of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly*

The India-UN Development Partnership Fund puts into practice many of the principles, approaches and recommendations that the United Nations General Assembly debates. The Fund fosters technical cooperation among countries of the South as an instrument for promoting the exchange of successful experiences among peoples that share similar historical realities and challenges, yielding significant sustainable development results. Partnerships such as the India-UN Development Partnership Fund are necessary in rebuilding sustainably – in achieving the promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Partnerships such as these are essential to ensure that progress achieved is not lost on the Development Agenda – a key focus of the Presidency of Hope. The engagement of the Government of India in South-South cooperation is rooted in India's own development path as well as its leadership in strengthening solidarity and mutual support across peoples. For this reason, the Fund facilitates collaboration among countries while always underscoring the principles of national ownership and leadership and non-conditionality. All projects are demand-driven, country-owned, concrete initiatives that focus on the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals. I congratulate India for its leadership and solidarity.

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