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From the Director's Office



Dear colleagues,

With almost one third of the year behind us, this bulletin should help you follow the progress we have made in the establishment of the Regional Centre. This month we hosted the first Regional Centre Board meeting under the leadership of Rebeca Grynspan, and with participation of RCs, one CD as well as leaders of BOM, BDP and BCPR. The event was a first stock taking of where we are and I will share the minutes of the meeting with you in a few days.

In late May we will start the roll out of the Service Tracker tool which will provide you with an online tool to register your service requests including post service evaluation. It has been time consuming to establish the different Regional initiatives that we will support under the leadership of the Cluster leaders (the process of Prodoc, PAC, DEX authorization etc. remains a very labor intensive). Most Regional Projects have the Country Office and activities at CO level as their centre piece and we expect that the strengthening of practice networks will result in greater appropriation and participation of all in Regional initiatives. We are working on some very interesting regional initiatives including an effort to help systematize and then share validated country experiences, as we want to play a role in documenting and sharing experiences that are relevant for all COs. We continue to incorporate new staff and over the next months all of the Cluster leader positions will be filled (the ones missing are Gender and CPR) and with a full team, our Centre should be in a position to take on the challenges we have established in our work plan.

Over the last weeks I have seen many visitors from COs to Panama. Please encourage your staff when visiting Panama to make appointments with personnel in the thematic Clusters to strengthen the relationship between the COs and the Centre.

Again, let me encourage you to assure that your thematic project staff participate in opportunities to engage with the different clusters with the objective of strengthening the practice networks and associated opportunities for sharing and learning. Please also continue to give us your much valued feedback particularly when requesting impressions on policy advice and other aspects of the work of the Centre.

Gender

Latin-America celebrates the 'International Women's Day'

March 8, International Women's Day. Several Country Offices in the region made an effort to celebrate this day.

Country Office in Argentina launched on March 6, along with the Argentinean Government and the civil society, their [National Campaign Against Violence Toward Women](#) under the motto "Another life is possible, we have the right for a life without violence". El Salvador, on the other hand, carried out different activities from March 9-13 along with a Leadership Workshop on March 26-27 for women of the United Nations System, while in Honduras events were organized in collaboration with UNDP, UNIFEM, the government and the civil society in order to cover key issues such as advances in gender equality and prevention of violence, beside other informal spaces dedicated to music and poetry, and a bicycle race for women.

Nicaragua also joined the celebration with activities that allowed to begin dialogue between the government and the civil society about the promotion of women human rights.

The United Nations System in Panama decided to commemorate International Women's Day by honoring the long and hard fight for women's rights and gender equality through the organization of a series of discussions, reflections, and fun activities during the week of March 8-13.



These activities allowed staff to share amongst ourselves our opinions and self-reflections, as well as to offer possible solutions to eliminate the inequalities in our lives, workplaces, and other contexts.

The week also was an opportunity for people to learn more about the work the United Nations does related to gender issues, and to show what work still remains to be done and the challenges that lie ahead.



The Gender Cluster in UNDP Regional Centre invited colleagues from other clusters and thematic areas in the Centre (HIV/AIDS, Capacity Development, Communications, Security, Knowledge Management, etc.) as well as from other United Nations agencies and entities (UNIFEM, UNDP, UNFPA, United Nations Information Centre in Panama) to participate in organizing activities for the week by taking part in the "March 8 Committee", which designed and organized all the activities.

The Committee agreed that over the course of the week activities would address key issues related to gender equality, including: political participation, discrimination, diversity, gender violence, sexual and reproductive health, etc., but that there would also be time to address personal well-being, and to celebrate with a party.

Continues on next page

Gender

Latin-America celebrates the 'International Women's Day' (continues from page 1)

The activities for the celebration of International Women's Day were all held at the United Nations Information Centre in Panama (CINUP). The Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System in Panama, José Eguren, and the Director of the Regional Centre, Beat Rohr, opened the week's activities on Monday, March 9. The theme for the day was women's political participation. In collaboration with the Forum of Political Parties and working closely with colleagues from UNDP Panama's project for Political Participation and Decentralization, panelists presented an analysis of the current state of women's political participation leading up to the May 2009 elections in Panama, and showed a preview of the video, "It's not enough to be a Woman".

and practices that persist in our society. This work is the creation of the Panamanian artist, Noris Judith Rodríguez Centeno and Mexican artist Andrade Alfonso Anaya, who, in their eagerness to address stereotypes and change attitudes, decided to use this exhibit to depict the behaviors and manifestations of the male "machismo" that still exist in many countries.



Thursday's activities revolved around the theme of saying NO to violence. This message was selected from the Secretary General's official speech on March 8 in which he said that we should all participate, saying, "*Loudly and clearly at the highest level that we will not tolerate violence against women, in any form, in any context, under any circumstances.*"



The second day was focused on discrimination. Activities included a presentation by Jorge Araya from the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, articles about the Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) distributed by UNIFEM, the

screening of a video about women and HIV/AIDS supported by the HIV/AIDS Cluster, and a panel of transsexual women (Asociación Panameña de Personas Trans) who shared their reflections and experiences about discrimination and marginalization, including violence. Many people were deeply affected by this opportunity to listen to such moving testimonies.



In accordance with this message, a team from UNIFEM presented the Secretary General's interagency campaign on gender violence, explained the initiatives that the United Nations System is implementing in Panama in this area, and presented two videos from two campaigns, one in Venezuela's Country Office ([Cuenta Tres](#)) and the other in UNDP Argentina, about gender violence linked to their just launched [National Campaign Against Violence Toward Women](#).



On Wednesday 11, UNFPA conducted a session on "Everything you want to Know but didn't dare Ask about the Sexual Health and Reproduction Law". This law is a pertinent issue in Panama and is of great importance to women and the

Panamanian society as a whole. There are many myths, lies, truths, fears and responsibilities related to this legal process, and the representative from UNFPA had the task of explaining and contextualizing this information. Also on Wednesday, the CINUP office installed an art exhibit of mannequins called, "Machitos a la Mexicana". The work, which was composed of more than ten mannequins in different poses and roles, offered a window into a set of "macho" behaviors

On Friday a party was organized, so all UN staff could take part in fun and games to celebrate the achievements made towards women's rights in our countries, and also to reaffirm our commitment to gender equality. Beat Rohr gave the closing remarks, and three musicians (Paul Castellero, Bruno Dos Santos and Carlos Mendez) as well as the two female artists who exhibited their work, Stephanie, and Marlous Alvarado shared their talent.



Further information on these activities can also be found on our Regional Centre's [web page](#).

Information and Communications Technology

Improving office capacities with new technology strategies

A central element when it comes to the implementation of the regional response to the Corporate Information Management strategy 2008 - 2011 is to ensure that all Country Offices in the LAC region meet the minimum ICT standards. By meeting these standards, Country Offices will have the ability to work in an environment with robust connectivity together with a secure and reliable infrastructure, which is essential given UNDP's increasing dependence on the Internet, including web-based corporate applications such as Atlas, e-mail and other web services needed in carrying out daily business processes and in sharing of knowledge and best practices.

In this regard, the RIO (Regional Information Officer) office has been collecting and verifying the ICT infrastructure baselines for each Country Office, and thus determined the gap that needs to be filled for each office in order to reach the corporate standard. This will be fed into a corporate dashboard, which OIST is in the process of creating, which will highlight gaps in compliance and assign an overall score to each Country Office. This information is furthermore expected to become part of the Business Score Card later this year.

Beyond this, the RIO office will be in dialogue with Country Offices in order to review how the corporate standard can be reached and assist with the formulation of action plans to this effect, with the aim of

closing the ICT infrastructure gap for the entire region by the first half of 2009.

A key priority in this necessary ICT infrastructure upgrade exercise is the migration of all Country Offices from the technically obsolete IPlanet e-mail platform to MS Exchange 2007 as UNDP's new messaging platform.

Beyond standardizing messaging across the organization entailing lower support and maintenance costs, the implementation of a standard messaging platform based on state-of-the-art technology represents a major step in terms of virtual integration by increasing calendaring and collaboration possibilities.

This will furthermore ensure that the major investments in technology and knowledge sharing made in UNDP are sustained and taken further, and upcoming regional and corporate initiatives in terms of e-documentation and office automation will fully leverage the MS Exchange 2007 platform. Regarding implementation, the LAC region is on a good footing with 40% Country Offices have completed migration as of 1st March with another 40% still in the process of migrating.

It is expected that the entire LAC region will reach complete status within the next 2 to 3 months.

On agenda

First UNDP Democratic Governance's LAC Community of Practice Meeting / Bogota, Colombia – Contact: clara.luna@undp.org

May, 18, 2009

Democratic Governance Community of Practice Regional Meeting / Bogotá, Colombia. Contact: clara.luna@undp.org

June 8, 2009

Anti-Corruption Community of Practice Regional Meeting / Bogota, Colombia. Contact: clara.luna@undp.org

June, 11, 2009

Latin-American and Caribbean V HIV/AIDS and STD Forum / Lima, Peru - National Library.

June 22, 2009

Briefs

The Center conducts its first Regional Practice Advisory Board Meeting

On April 27, was held at the Regional Centre in Panama the first Regional Practice Advisory Board Meeting. This event joined representatives from the regional board members: Rebeca Grynspan (RBLAC Director), Ali Al-Za'tari (Deputy Director BOM), Douglas Gardner (Deputy Director BDP), Stan Nkwain (Deputy Director BCPR), Nicky Fabian-cic (Deputy Director RBLAC), Michelle Gyles-McDonnough (RR Barbados), Susan McDade (RR Cuba), Antonio Molpeceres (CD Uruguay), David Mclachlan-Karr (RR Venezuela), Beat Rohr (Regional Centre Director and RBLAC



The board led by Grynspan discussed various issues concerning the Centre and Regional Programme.

Deputy Director), as well as Juan Pablo Corlazzoli, Caroline Aberg, Fabrizio Andreuzzi from the RBLAC; Lina Fernandez and Krishan Batra of the Office of Administration (BOM), leaders of the thematic clusters and administrative staff of the Regional Centre.

The event served as a framework to oversee the work and management of the Regional Service Centre - Panama, and the Regional Programme, particularly in terms of the quality and efficiency of its services and its support to Country Offices, and furthermore, the overall performance of the Regional Programme.

Democratic Governance

Adding value to Decentralization and Institutional Reform technical assistance

Since 2004, UNDP by regional advisory services, has developed tools and instruments to add value to the decentralization, de-concentration and local governance strengthening cooperation. Based on the knowledge management methodological map for Latin America and the Caribbean, the RC-LAC, through its network of associated experts and consultants, has elaborated the "Handbook. Basic Guidelines for Administrative and Fiscal Decentralization Processes" that is useful for stakeholders' awareness and conceptual homologation. Continuous efforts enabled the development of the "Decentralization Diagnostic Tools" that allow the analysis of the Intergovernmental Relations within a country, and the assessment of Local Government's Management Capacities, in both municipal and departmental/provincial levels.

These tools that have been reviewed and commented in various occasions permit the contextualization of country and regional realities and needs, monitoring the success or failure of legislative changes or local strengthening programmes that aim to distribute competences and resources, establishment of territorial typologies, as well as be the base for recognitions to local authorities for local management improvements. Based on institutional demands and the

work of other cooperation agencies, the RC-LAC has developed the "Decentralization Programming Toolkit: Tools for Strengthening Administrative, Financial and Fiscal Management of Local Governments" directed to optimize and enhance the performance of municipal administrations for its main operational functions and competences, namely in the strategic sectors of public services, emphasizing water provision and solid garbage disposal, territorial planning and land-use, and budget and financing. The use of knowledge tools on decentralization and institutional reform allows UNDP to contribute to national counterparts' development and strengthening, to expand UNDP's cooperation entrance windows with national governments, to establish a dialogue with national and sub-national actors, and at the same time be innovative complements for diverse democratic governance projects and the strengthening of potential relationships with other cooperation agencies and donors.

The services provided by the Regional Centre's Decentralization and Institutional Reform team have an important capacity development component that ensures that after the application process of any tool, the counterparts have acquired the skills to replicate its sustainable use.

Working together: Citizens' Security and Nicaragua

UNDP Nicaragua's mission is to foster inclusive participation processes through public policies that shift Human Development and the Millennium Development Goals. In this framework, the initiatives related with citizens' security and conflict prevention have as outcomes the reduction of risk factors determinant of the quality of people's life -specially for women and youth- damage, promotion of basic social guarantees for the exercise of human rights and democratic governance. The Nicaragua Country Office brings assistance to the Ministry of Government and the National Police in diverse areas of the National Citizens' Security Strategy and actually supports the countries efforts on justice, citi-

zens' security, as human rights and civic rights for prisoners. UNDP Nicaragua works in knowledge building related to the Central American Report on Human Development and Security, based on the 2007-2008 HDR.

With the contribution of the Regional Centre for LAC, the country office has availability to solid tools, methodological resources and experiences derived of diverse planning, design, implementation and based on results policy evaluation practices. To present, our support is related to the development of an Academic Programme for strengthening security capacities, the course of citizens' security policies management and the course of high management for the Police. The Regional

Centre's network of associated experts assists continuously the job of UNDP in Nicaragua.

It is remarkable the cooperation of the National Police Academy "Walter Fernandez", for the continuous capacity development of police officers and the evaluation of the high management course.

The RC has also contributed to the organization of the high management course for Police Officers for Central America and Mexico. As a result of the outcomes of the course in Nicaragua, part of the programme was replicated in El Salvador with the participation of Nicaraguan functionaries fostering south-south cooperation.

Knowledge Management

Local Governance and Children Rights: Latin-American Municipalities in action

UNICEF and UNDP subscribed in 2007 an agreement to develop systematic knowledge management tools to sustain recommendations for the formulation and implementation of local policies for children. This initiative seeks to create synergies and to build on the comparative advantages of each institution in the area of knowledge management, as well as to demonstrate the potential for interagency work. In order to develop this initiative, simple and efficient systematization formats were designed, and experiences were selected on the basis of the following characteristics: They had to be "programs, projects and/or policies implemented by stakeholders from the public, private and social sectors, and/or United Nations System agencies, within a human rights approach framework, that are locally undertaken and have fulfilled the intended goals. Additionally, they must have a certain level of formalization, social recognition, a monitoring and evaluation mechanism, and must be sustainable over time. The systematized experiences are: 1. Argentina. City of Rosario. City of Children. 2. Bolivia. Integrated Local Development Programme (PRODEL). 3. Brasil: UNICEF -Municipal Seal of Approval. 4. Colombia. Municipalities and Departments in Favour of Children Strategy. Facts and Rights. 5. Cuba. Inter-agency Local Human Development Programme (PDHL). 6.El Salvador. Local Public Policies in Favour of Children. 7. Dominican Republic. Child Friendly Municipalities Initiative (MAN). These experiences can be found in the document [Local Government and Children Rights. An Analysis of Seven Experiences](#) (in Spanish).

An experience based on a human rights approach and on democratic governance should not only consider the basic immediate ne-



cessities of a community or specific population (in this case girls, boys and adolescents), but should also propose the creation of local institutional structures that will guarantee long term well-being, face poverty and exclusion in all fronts, and mobilize all of society in order to promote a citizen's culture that supports girls, boys and adolescents, and that will turn public well-being into one of the most important indicators of a healthy society.

On the second phase of the initiative, it was presented tools for the systematization of the experiences. The first tool was the Municipal Certification resulting from the Platform [UNICEF -Municipal Seal of Approval](#) developed by UNICEF in Brazil.

This Seal is a recognition granted to municipalities that have reached improvements in the quality of life for children and adolescents. It encourages a "healthy competition" between the municipalities (to improve their social indicators) with the aim to accelerate the consolidation and integration of local policies for improving the quality of life. Also, municipalities that fall in the contest are encouraged to overcome their own challenges in a fixed term, which in Brazil is two years.

In April 7-8 a workshop will be held in Panama to review and exchange the elements for the implementation of the Seal in other Latin American countries, and to share expectations and needs among countries that wish to implement a certification program for local policies (El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Honduras and Peru) and to know some experiences from those who are currently implementing the tool. The complete initiative can be found online at www.infanciaygovernabilidad.org

Poverty Reduction

MDG Network organizes its first Regional Workshop for the LAC region



A major result from the meeting was the sharing of information, and experiences from across the region.

On March 5 and 6 the first regional workshop of UNDP's Latin-American and Caribbean MDG Network took place in Panama, organized by the Regional Centre. This initiative counted with the presence of 35 participants, which represented 19 Country Offices from the region. This network is formed mainly by UNDP national MDG and Poverty focal points, and aims at promoting the exchange of experiences between Country Offices in the area of MDGs and poverty reduction, and improving their work.

The workshop was lead by the Chief Economist of the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean (RBLAC), Luis Felipe López Calva, who opened the event with a presentation on the latest trends of the financial and economic crisis and the impact until now in the region. That was followed by the presentation and discussion of the results of a recent regional study coordinated by UNDP jointly with UNDESA and the World Bank. Enrique Ganuza, who coordinated that project for UNDP, shared the results with the participants.

Representatives of units from UN Headquarters also contributed to the workshop. Among them, Gonzalo Pizarro (Poverty Group of UNDP's Bureau of Development Policy) who shared the support lines from BDP as well as the newly launched "PolicyNet" portal as resources for national work around MDGs. The workshop included a working session dedicated to the MDG Achievement Fund, lead by Jose Antonio Gonzalez, of the Fund's Secretariat. Jordi Llopart, coordinatod of the Millennium Campaign, presented regional and national opportunities to launch advocacy and communication campaigns on MDGs. Finally, the participation by members of regional offices from other UN agencies (notably UNICEF and UNEP) greatly enriched the

debate through an interagency vision of the work on MDGs in the region.

The meeting was an opportunity to exchange freely information, views as well as worries on the work around the achievement of the MDGs in the region, and the work and role of UNDP and the UN System to do so. The MDGs were reaffirmed as the overarching mandate and frame of reference for UNDP and the UN system at the national level, signaling the fundamental role of the Resident Coordinator in making this possible. Another result from the workshop was the proposal and agreement to adopt a new common knowledge platform that will allow the members of the MDG Network to share information, documents, views and experiences, making this platform not only an interactive information portal, but also a joint planning tool for the regional work around MDGs over the next year. The documents presented and the results from the meeting have been made available online for those who were not be able to participate to the meeting.

During the month of March, the members of the Thematic Cluster on MDGs and Human Development also consolidated regional initiatives. On the one hand, progress was made with UNEP to strengthen the Poverty and Environment Initiative (PEI), an global interagency project that supports design and implementation of national initiatives that examine poverty and socio-economic impacts of environmental work. On the other hand, the Pan-American Alliance for Nutrition – an initiative that was given high priority by the Regional Directors Team – was strengthened through activities that included bilateral and interagency meetings that also allowed to highlight the opportunity offered by the MDG Fund window related to nutrition, for which eight countries in the region were selected.

On March 2nd, Stefano Pettinato joined UNDP's Panama Regional Centre taking on his new functions as Policy Advisor on MDGs and Poverty Reduction for Latin America and the Caribbean. Previously, Pettinato was programme specialist in RBLAC.

Energy and Environment

El Salvador launches a new geothermal project

The quick evolution of the global carbon market, together with the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol (CDM), offers significant opportunities for projects to reduce carbon emissions. However, the early years of implementation show that, in the international level, investment in these projects and access to funding mechanisms have been distributed unevenly. Moreover, the emission reduction projects have focused, in general, technologies that have little in dividends in terms of sustainable development.

In response, UNDP has established the Program for Carbon MDGs ([MDG Carbon Facility](#)) with the dual purpose of expanding access to finance the reduction of carbon emissions through wider participation of developing countries, and to promote emission reduction projects that contribute to achieving the MDGs with real and sustainable benefits for the environment, human development and poverty reduction.

The program represents an innovative collaboration between UNDP and Fortis Bank, which offers a comprehensive program of project development and marketing services to prospective emission reduction projects.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the program is implemented by the Energy and Environment Group of the Regional Center. In its pilot phase, the program is developing projects in four countries (Uruguay, Peru, El Salvador, and Honduras), in which UNDP has signed a Letter of Understanding with National Governments, and Country Offices have offi-

cers dedicated to carbon activities of carbon finance.

Up to this date, there are several projects in development stage, and two initiatives have recently signed a Service Agreement with UNDP.

The first project in Latin American Carbon Program MDGs in Honduras and is being developed by Renewable Energy Hondupalma (Erh), a company owned by a cooperative of 30 small Honduran farmers with a strong focus on social and environmental sustainable development.

The project will capture biogas from agricultural waste to be used to generate electricity and to replace fossil fuels. By preventing the emission of biogas into the atmosphere, the project reduces emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions and generate carbon credits under the CDM.

In El Salvador, Geo The company joined the portfolio of projects with a generation of geothermal energy resources. The project involves an optimization of Ahuachapán Geothermal plant, which will increase the capacity of renewable energy generation by 20 MW. This will diversify the energy matrix of El Salvador, exploiting the country's natural resources in a sustainable manner and free of emissions of GHGs. The incorporation of these projects to the portfolio of the MDG Carbon Program shows that the carbon market is an important source of funding to boost the achievement of the MDGs in countries of the region.

Crisis Prevention and Recovery

Fostering the REDLAC Capacities on Early Recovery

Following the 2009 REDLAC Workplan, on February 12, the Crisis Prevention and Recovery Cluster provided a Workshop on early recovery in the Regional Centre office, with the participation of several regional agencies from the United Nations System like OCHA, FAO, and WFP, and international organizations such as the International Federation of



Discussions during the workshop

Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFCR).

Early Recovery as defined by UNDP, is to restore the capacity of national institutions and communities to recover from a conflict or a national disaster, and the transition for a "better rebuild" and avoiding of relapses.

It is a multidimensional process guided by development principles that begins in a humanitarian framework, which seeks the development of humanitarian programs and to catalyze sustainable development opportunities. Its purpose is the generation and / or strengthening of solid and sustainable processes to national appropriation for recovery after a crisis. It covers the

restoration of basic services, livelihood, shelter, governance, security, state of law, and environmental and social dimensions, including the reintegration of internally displaced persons. It strengthens human security and aims to begin addressing the underlying causes of the crisis.

Taking advantage of the presence of Barbara Goedde, Programme Analyst from the Early Recovery Team in Geneva, there was a presentation and a discuss about how the early recovery is being developed at a global level.

During the workshop several issues were discussed like early recovery in the humanitarian reform and the cluster approach, the cluster-government and needs assessments for early recovery. Nevertheless, key topics like early recovery cluster and its mainstreaming and the financing of the recovery activities were the themes that attracted most interest from the attendees.

New colleagues at the RC

Joined, January - May 2009



Maribel Landau
Regional Programme
Analyst



Kristelle Getzler
Regional Programme
Analyst in charge



Neus Bernabeu
Gender Specialist



Stefano Pettinato
Poverty and MDG
Policy Adviser



César González
Regional Security
Adviser



Ana del Carmen Ulloa
Administrative Assistant
Security Advice Office



Aldo García
Regional Legal Adviser



Eleni Alevizos
Research and
Communications Intern
Capacity Development



Leandro Ragone
Capacity Development
Intern



María Gabriela Pinto
Programme Associate
Energy and
Environment



José Daniel Cornejo
ICT Assistant



Pablo Basz
Regional Communications
Adviser

Regional Centre, Port of Spain Office

United Nations and CARICOM seek to fortify their Cooperation mechanisms

The Regional Centre LAC Port of Spain Office in collaboration with the Panama office provided technical input into the V General Meeting between the United Nations (UN) System and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and its associated institutions that was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on February 9-10, 2009.

The technical input provided during this important forum, whose main purpose was to pursue cooperation between the United Nations System and CARICOM, was lead by Leida Mercado, Chief – Regional Centre LAC, Port of Spain Office.

During this meeting the unit developed and presented issue papers on five key themes relevant to the Caribbean region and CARICOM. These papers represented key inputs for the discussions surrounding the establishment of a Regional Strategic Framework for planning and monitoring collaboration between the UN System and CARICOM, with a view to ensuring that activities undertaken are aligned with the strategic objectives of the Caribbean region. These papers were also fundamental to indicating how best to ensure that the UN system resources could be deployed most efficiently to deliver measurable benefits to the region, while at the same time promoting the awareness of achievements, impact, best practices and lessons learned from the collaboration between the United Nations and CARICOM and its associated institutions over the years.

The five papers entitled during the General Meeting sessions were:

- Human and Social Development Trends and Policy Challenges in the Caribbean** (author Luis Felipe López Calva, Chief Economist, RBLAC, UNDP).
- Climate Change in the Caribbean** (author Nick Remple, Deputy Global Manager GEF-SGP Small Grants Programme).
- Key Energy Challenges and their impact on the Achievement of the MDGs in the Caribbean: Possible UNDP Role in Supporting CARICOM in addressing such Challenges** (Leida Mercado, Chief – Regional Centre LAC, POS office in collaboration with consultant Albert Binger)
- Citizen Security** (Nadine Bushell, Programme Analyst, Governance in collaboration with Gloria Manzotti, Consultant Justice and Security and Norma Peña, Consultant on Security)
- Capacity Development: A Means to Achieving the MDGs in the Caribbean.**

Capacity Development

Capacity is development: Objectives for 2009

The Capacity Development (CD) Unit of the Regional Center Panama aims to incorporate the capacity development approach into the different practices of both the UNDP and various United Nations agencies, as a strategic goal for 2009. To the extent these capacities, the cluster hopes to provide assistance and respond to the needs of country offices in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The cluster recommences its activities by contacting country offices and Regional Center clusters and understanding their CD gaps. For this year, the cluster also faces several opportunities like: the adaptation of the overall CD methodology for middle-income countries, the creation of a community of practice and identification of experts in the areas of Capacity Development and Aid Effectiveness (AE) in the region, and the continuation of communication with country offices to identify and support their needs in CD, AE, and their ongoing projects.

Also, the Regional Bureau has entrusted the Capacity Development team with the Regional Programme for South-South Cooperation, which they look forward to run with country offices to map their needs and what they can offer in different sectors to support other countries in the region.

Featured Documents



Democracia/Estado/Ciudadanía.

Author: Various authors

Date: February, 2008

Abstract: This volume of the Contributions for debate series presents a main text of Guillermo O'Donnell for reflection and chapters with contributions and inputs to enrich the debate on the region.



Financial Sustainability Scorecard for National Systems of Protected Areas

Author: Andrew Bovarnick

Date: September, 2008

Abstract: UNDP developed this scorecard to assist project teams and governments track their progress to make PA systems more financially sustainable.



Superar la desigualdad, reducir el riesgo. Gestión del riesgo de desastres con equidad de género

Author: UNDP México

Date: 2007

Abstract: This document provides conceptual and methodological elements in order to support the inclusion of gender equality in the process of disaster risk management.



Guidance note on Early Recovery

Author: Cluster Working Group on Early Recovery

Date: 2008

Abstract: This note establish some basic guiding principles and minimum standards of intervention for early recovery and provide tools and resources for practitioners working on early recovery across a range of functions.



UNDP Policy on Early Recovery

Author: UNDP

Date: 2008.

Abstract: This document states UNDP's institutional policy on early recovery and explain UNDP's roles and responsibilities, at both the country and global levels. The document also sets out the measures that UNDP will implement in order to ensure that the policy becomes an effective reality on the ground.



Políticas Públicas para el Desarrollo Humano

Author: Various authors

Date: October, 2008

Abstract: Provides 18 studies on macroeconomic simulation, that examines what possible financial strategies are feasible to achieve the results set out in the Millennium Summit, and how to make macroeconomic policies to support sustainable growth and reduce the high poverty and inequality in the region.



Ownership, Leadership and Transformation. Can we do better for Capacity Development?

Author: Carlos Lopes and Thomas Theisohn

Date: 2003

Abstract: This volume explores the operational implications, from the standpoint of capacity development, for dealing with longstanding development dilemmas. It also addresses head on some of the most problematic issues related to incentives, such as compensation schemes, and project implementation units.

Featured Documents



[Capacity for Development. New solutions to old problems](#)

Author: Various authors

Date: 2002

Abstract: A team of eminent development professionals and economists examine the achievements of technical cooperation in recent years as well as what have gone badly and how to develop a better practice. It also shows how the complex processes involved can be restructured to produce local involvement and empowerment, set out a normative framework for the input from society and describe a new paradigm of knowledge for capacity building.



[Public Oversight of the Security Sector](#)

Author: Various authors

Date: 2008

Abstract: The handbook is designed for civil society and non-governmental organizations, and provides structured guidance on the role they can play in monitoring the democratic security governance

sector.

HIV/AIDS

Peru will host the V HIV/AIDS Forum



[The Latin American and Caribbean Forum on HIV / AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases](#)

is the most important space in the region to discuss the challenges in the response to

HIV.

The forum is performed to strengthen the autonomy of the region, encouraging community involvement and showing the efforts and goals of all players against the epidemic.

From June 22-26, Peru will host the event, as official home in Lima.

Among the most important objectives of this forum is to promote public policies and regional topics such as universal access, prevention, care and treatment within the framework of human rights and

promote the exchange of experiences and visualize the progress of the HIV / AIDS response in line with international commitments taken in this respect by the countries of the region.

UNDP, through the Regional Program on HIV AIDS for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Country Offices, promotes the participation of governments and civil society in the national responses to HIV, exchanging experiences in the countries, offering useful methodologies in the response to HIV – AIDS and fostering a dialogue environment on emerging issues in the region. UNDP will participate outlining the issues of HIV that are under the responsibility of UNDP, like mainstreaming of the HIV in programs and sectors, Governance of the response, Gender and Human Rights and Sexual Minorities.

Staffing Updates

Regional Directors Team meeting in Panama



The [LAC Regional Directors Team](#) meeting was held at the UNOPS office in Panama, on February 3–2.

This assembly, lead by Rebeca Grynspan, Regional Director of RBLAC, gathered 13 agencies from the UN System (ILO, UNOCHA, OHCHR, PAHO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIFEM, WFP, ECLAC and DOCO) to discuss key points regarding the Work Plan and core budget for 2009, and the other relevant issues about the progress of the Regional Center Panama.

During the meeting, representatives of the UN agencies reaffirmed their support for important UN initiatives including the Campaign to End Violence Against Women (2008-2015) from the UN Secretary-General. An open dialogue with members of the Mexican government was also held to endorse collaboration from the UN System for the upcoming Global Conference on Youth.

Furthermore, the RDT sessions discussed over the need to continue working in the Caribbean region by providing support and interagency collaboration. On the same path, the RDT also agreed to explore in a special session, the specific needs and challenges in Haiti, in addition to planning new possibilities to strengthen the work and providing further support in this country.

Sharing successes and challenges for the benefit of the region



Discussions during the sessions.

Points Sub-Regional Meeting with representatives from Central America, Mexico, Panama, Cuba and Dominican Republic.

The objective of the meeting was to share knowledge on the subject of Human Rights, Gender and Sexual Minorities, especially on the Global Strategy for Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM), and Transgender People.

On April 24 and 23, was held at the Country Inn Hotel in Panama City, the HIV/AIDS F o c a l

It was also an opportunity to share UNDP's progress and challenges -both in Central America and at a regional level- in the field of HIV. The event was also an occasion to identify working synergies with UNAIDS and the UNAIDS Secretariat, and to detect areas of assistance that the Regional HIV Programme and the Regional Centre can offer or provide to Country Offices.

The meeting opening was lead by Beat Rohr, Director of the Regional Centre, who emphasized on the essence of this appointment as part of the services that the Regional Centre promotes. Assistance to this assembly was conformed by sub-regional HIV focal points, representatives of the Civil Society (GLBT Associations); UNAIDS Country Coordinators and UNAIDS office personnel, Regional Director's focal

points and staff of the Regional Centre's cluster teams (Gender, Democratic Governance and Knowledge Management). It also included the participation of Susana Fried (BDP/NY), who provided a training in Gender, Human Rights and Sexual Minorities.

The HIV/AIDS Focal Points Sub-Regional Meeting was of vital importance to strengthen the knowledge of the focal points on issues like HIV, Gender, Human Rights and Sexual Minorities. In addition, it served to define tools for an efficient execution in national responses to HIV/AIDS, and to establish the elements for the development of a Regional Strategy in Men Who Have Sex with Men and Transgender People. Furthermore it seeks to list the needs of the Country Offices and to support areas of the Regional Programme.

The LAC Regional Centre Panama is looking forward to share all country office's news, stories, events, initiatives, documents and projects with the region.

All stories will be gladly received by email by our Communications Assistant, Karla Jiménez (karla.jimenez@undp.org). Feel free to contact us at any time.



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