Case studies of UNOPS contributions for the most vulnerable people

1. UNOPS supports the most vulnerable people in countries in special and fragile situations, and in middle-income countries. Ten project case studies accompany the Executive Director report on 2023 implementation of the restated UNOPS strategic plan, 2022-2025. They illustrate how UNOPS activities contribute to impact for the most vulnerable people and 13 Sustainable Development Goals across four regions:

a. **In Afghanistan**, the [Community Resilience and Livelihoods Project](#), managed by UNOPS, supports vulnerable families and communities. Since 2022, it has provided employment to nearly 900,000 individuals through over 5,000 labour-intensive and cash-for-work initiatives, benefitting more than 9 million Afghans overall. The project seeks to enhance resilience, increase income, improve basic services, and safeguard community institutions. Primary contributions to Goal 1, and secondary contributions to Goals 2 and 5.

b. **In Argentina**, the [Improvement of federal infrastructure for sustainable development project](#) contributes to alleviating the housing and social infrastructure deficit, primarily impacting vulnerable people and communities. UNOPS services helped the Government improve the lives of a million people living in small and medium sized communities of Argentina and reaching 6 million indirectly. Outcomes included new or upgraded housing for more than 400 families, improved water and sanitation services for over 4,000 families and enhanced management capacities of 143 civil society organizations. Primary contributions to Goals 6 and 11, and secondary contributions to Goals 1, 5 and 8.

c. **In Costa Rica**, the [Human Development Park in Alajuelita, San Jose project](#) fosters social inclusion and human development for the 89,154 people living in the Alajuelita canton, San José, Costa Rica. This is achieved by establishing a park that offers opportunities to improve health and quality of life in a community characterized by social housing, informal settlements, elevated crime rates, and a significant migrant population. Primary contributions to Goal 11, and secondary contributions to Goals 3 and 5.

d. **In Paraguay**, the [Family agricultural value chain inclusion project](#) boosted agricultural production for 5,000 poor households in the Eastern Region. It strengthened the capacities of 776 community organizations across five departments, aiming at enhancing land use efficiency, improving crop effectiveness, and increasing resilience to climate change. Primary contributions to Goal 1, and secondary contributions to Goals 2, 5, 8 and 12.

e. **In Liberia**, the UNOPS-hosted [Cities Alliance Liberia Country Programme](#) supported the national government in developing policy frameworks, managing urbanization and improving living and working conditions for Monrovia’s urban poor and informal workers. The Programme funded 114 small infrastructure projects, benefitting 400,000 residents of informal settlements. The LCP also advanced inclusive urban development, and bolstered government capacity for affordable municipal services, contributing to Goals 6 and 11.
f. In Serbia, UNOPS implemented the European Union support to social housing and active inclusion programme that provided sustainable housing solutions and supported social inclusion of the most vulnerable people: 375 families (over 1,300 family members). Complementary measures focused on beneficiaries’ economic empowerment and strengthening the capacities of national and local institutions. Primary contributions to Goal 1, and secondary contributions to Goals 5 and 11.

g. In South Sudan, the Emergency response to humanitarian and climate crisis project, in partnership with the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA), provided crucial mine action support to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). Together with implementing partners, UNOPS facilitated the survey and release of land equivalent to 1,427 football fields. This effort restored safe access to land and livelihoods for over 588,000 community members while raising mine risk awareness among more than 300,000 people. Primary contributions to Goals 13 and 17, and secondary contributions to Goals 5 and 16.

h. In Sri Lanka, the UNOPS implemented Protecting the rights space to foster peace in Sri Lanka project aims to safeguard civil society’s rights space for peace and social cohesion. In three years, it has evolved into a leading platform with more than 275 partners across eight provinces and 17 districts, collaborating to provide protection and assistance to the most vulnerable and marginalized communities. This project has provided partners with an increasing rights space through continued capacity building, services, and financial support to civil society actors - including community based organizations, human rights defenders, journalists, and artists - the project enhances their influence and impact. Originating amidst Sri Lanka’s complex crisis, the project continues to play a pivotal role in mitigating conflict and fostering peace and social unity in the country. The project makes primary contributions to Goal 16, and secondary contributions to Goals 1, 2, 3 and 5.

i. In Ukraine, the Procurement of goods and services for restoration of Ukraine project delivers critical emergency assistance to the people of Ukraine, specifically to the most vulnerable communities in recently liberated areas and close to the contact line who suffer the most from the war. First and foremost, the project contributes to saving lives through winterization, i.e. people and systems preparedness for the winter, ensuring access to basic services, such as heating, electricity and water supply, for more than 350,000 individuals. By procuring from national suppliers, the project strengthens the capacity of the private sector, creates economic opportunities for local workers and contributes to facilitating the return of internally displaced persons and refugees. The project contributes to Goal 1.

j. In Zimbabwe, the Idai recovery project addressed the needs of the population affected by cyclone Idai. Together with complementary initiatives from the Government and eight other UN agencies, the project supported 600,000 people with health and education services or rehabilitated community infrastructure and risk mitigation interventions. Primary contributions to Goal 1, and secondary contributions to Goals 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9.
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