

2021 Results Report



unitar

United Nations Institute
for Training and Research

KNOWLEDGE TO LEAD



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Foreword

Nikhil Seth

United Nations Assistant Secretary-General
UNITAR Executive Director

I am pleased to introduce the 2021 Results Report of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), which summarizes and highlights some of our main outputs and other results from the past year.

UNITAR helps Member States and other United Nations stakeholders implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by providing modern and innovative learning services that meet internationally recognized quality standards. Our activities, and the results they produce, vary tremendously in scale and impact. Ranging from short, intensive executive-type training to medium- to and large-sized capacity development projects spanning months to years, the results of our work are both immediate, by contributing to the development of knowledge and skill sets of individual beneficiaries, as well as mid to long-term, by contributing to organizational and institutional change.

While the COVID-19 pandemic continued to disrupt the world in 2021, the year ended with a glimmer of hope.

2021 was another record-breaking year for UNITAR, with 370,139 individuals across the world benefiting from our training services and 66 per cent taking part in activities with specific learning outcomes. While COVID-19 restrictions continued to affect activities planned to be delivered in-person, UNITAR leveraged its virtual learning environment, mobile learning and other available IT tools to continue

its diverse array of learning services, with 80 per cent of events delivered online, as compared to 70 per cent in 2020 and 38 per cent in 2019. In the spirit of working to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, UNITAR also maintained a favorable female to male gender ratio of its beneficiaries for the second time in its history.

Apart from trained beneficiaries, UNITAR continued to deliver other important services, including more than 800 maps and related products to partners in various UN agencies and in more than 50 countries through the United Nations Satellite Centre, which celebrated 20 years of operations in October 2021. Our work to support efforts to promote health for all and in particular to the world's most vulnerable people and countries continued through The Defeat-NCD Partnership, with national costed action plans launched in The Gambia and Rwanda, and through partnership with the newly founded Global Surgery Foundation. Research undertaken by the Sustainable Cycles Programme Unit produced regional e-waste monitors and an extensive range of tools and resources.

We could have hardly achieved these and other results in the absence of a strong and committed partnership base. In fact, 64 per cent of our events and 78 per cent of beneficiaries resulted from partnership-based programming. The outputs and other results highlighted in this short report were delivered largely in partnership with numerous stakeholders, and we are grateful to our partners and donors for their support.



Introduction

UNITAR is a dedicated training arm of the United Nations, with a mission to develop the individual, institutional and organizational capacity of countries and other United Nations stakeholders through high-quality learning solutions and related knowledge products and services to enhance global decision-making and to support country-level for overcoming global challenges. Guided by the UNITAR Statute, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other international agreements of 2015, the 2018-2021 strategic framework structures the Institute's objectives, programming and activities under the peace, people, planet and prosperity pillars of the 2030 Agenda, in addition to crosscutting programme pillars on accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, multilateral diplomacy and optimizing the use of technologies for evidence-based decision-making. This report summarizes the Institute's major results and other achievements in 2021.

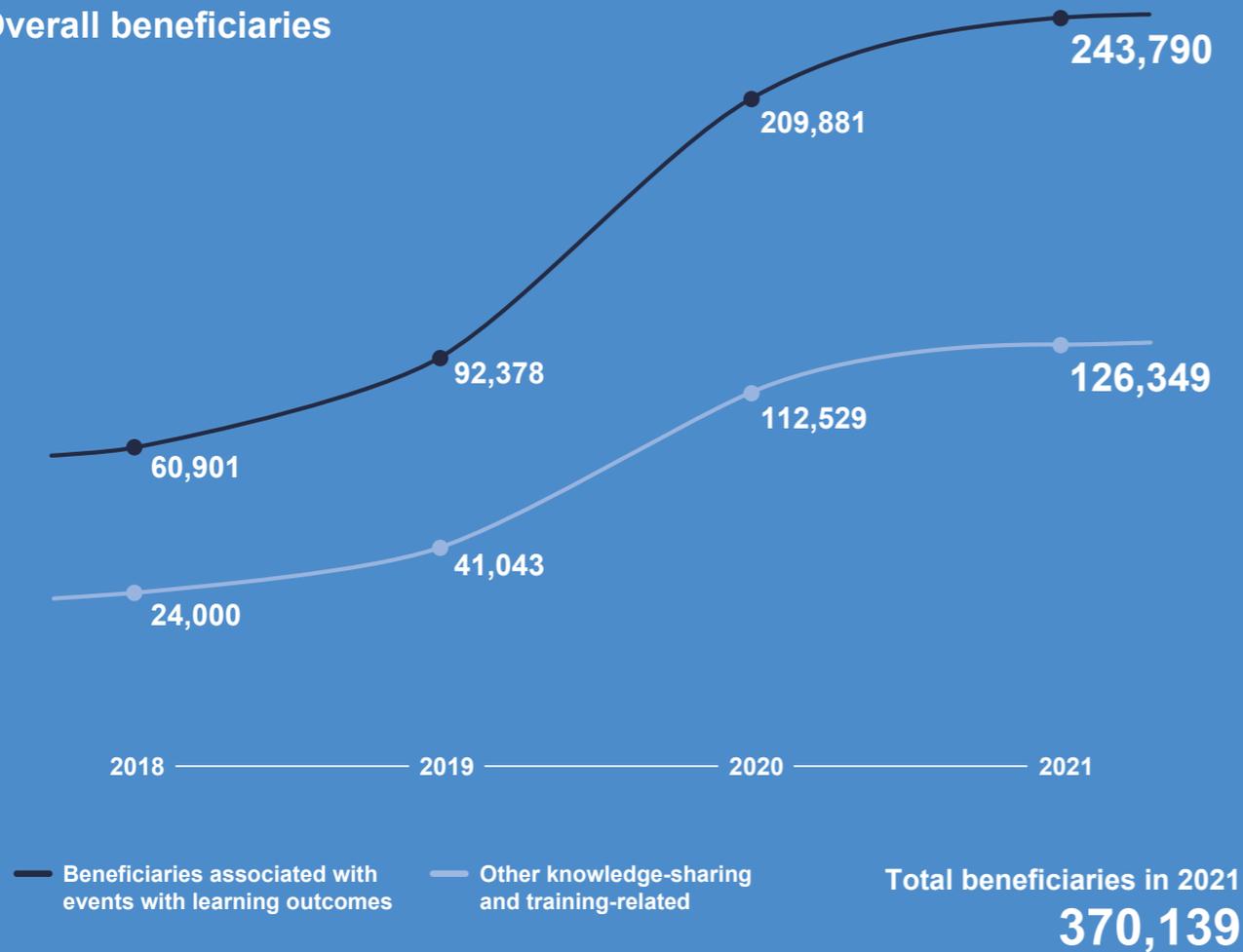


Our Primary Output

Trained Beneficiaries

UNITAR provided learning, training and knowledge-sharing services to 370,139 individuals in 2021, representing a 15 per cent increase from 2020 figures of 322,410 as shown in Chart 1.¹ The Institute's global network of affiliated International Training Centres for Authorities and Leaders (CIFAL) delivered 22 per cent of the beneficiaries and 56 per cent were delivered with the One UN Climate Change Learning Partnership (UN CC:Learn). Sixty-six per cent of UNITAR's overall beneficiaries were associated with events having specific learning outcomes. This category of beneficiaries increased by 16 per cent, from 209,881 in 2020 to 243,790² in 2021. The proportion of participants from broader knowledge-sharing and other events (e.g., conferences, public lectures, meetings) represents around one third of UNITAR's beneficiaries (34 per cent).

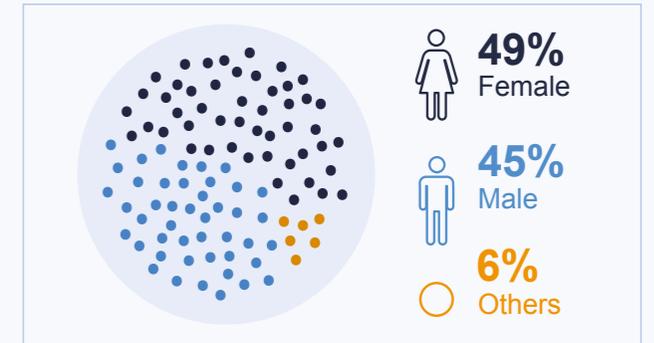
CHART 1
Overall beneficiaries



Learning-related beneficiaries by gender

The overall male to female gender ratio of beneficiaries from learning-related events for 2021 was 45 to 49 (with counting peacekeeping training beneficiaries) and “other”³ accounting for 6 per cent, as illustrated in Chart 2.

CHART 2

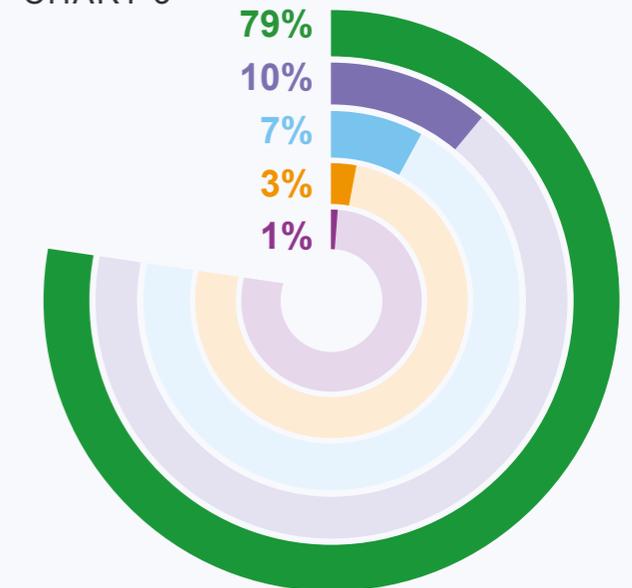


Learning-related beneficiaries by Strategic Objective (SO)

As shown in Chart 3, 96 per cent of beneficiaries were associated with programming related to the advancement of environmental sustainability and green development, people and social inclusion and peace and just inclusive societies.⁴

SO1	Peace and just and inclusive societies
SO2	People and social inclusion
SO3	Planet, environmental protection and restoration
SO4	Inclusive and sustainable economic growth
SO5	Indivisible and integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda

CHART 3



Learning-related beneficiaries by country status

As shown in Chart 4, 79 per cent of learning-related beneficiaries came from developing countries (of which 19 per cent are from countries in special situations, comprised of the least-developed countries (LDCs), the landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and the small island developing States (SIDS), with the following regional breakdowns: Latin America and Caribbean (36 per cent), Asia and Pacific (27 per cent), Africa (18 per cent), Europe (11 per cent), North America (5 per cent) and the Middle East (3 per cent).⁵

CHART 4

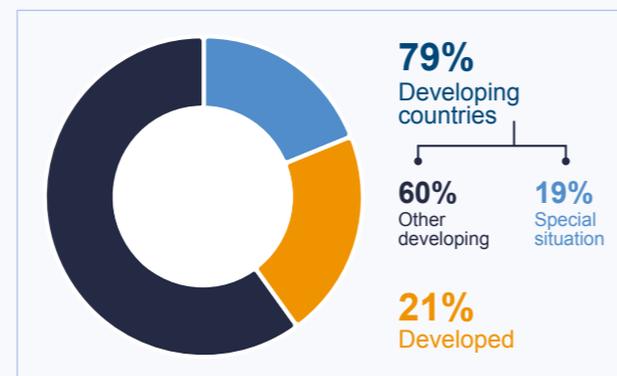
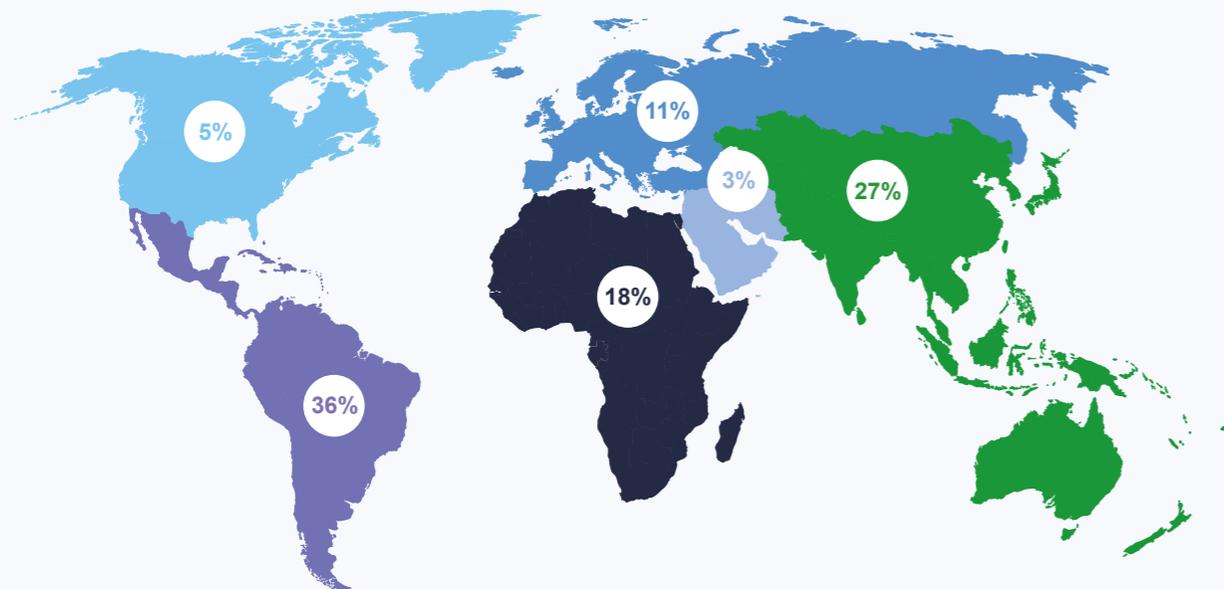


CHART 5

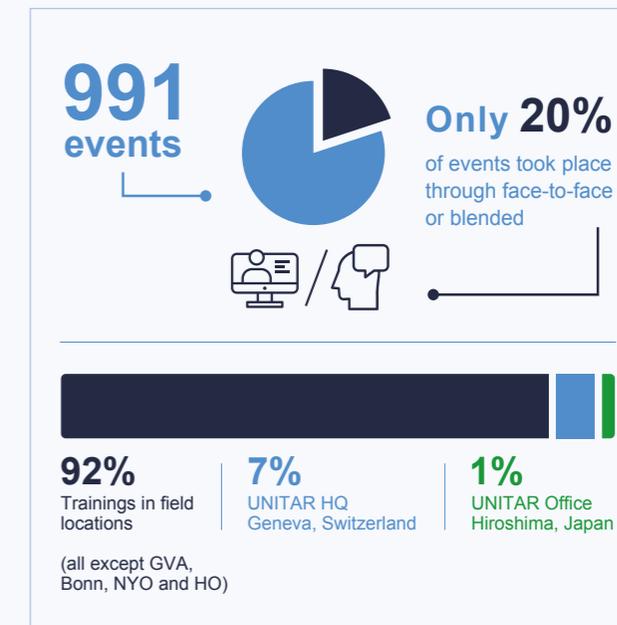
Regional breakdown of learning-related beneficiaries



Location of face-to-face events

UNITAR's overall beneficiaries were produced through the delivery of 991 events (equivalent to some 11,176 event days over the calendar year).⁶ Only 26 per cent of events took place through face-to-face or blended, residential training activities, the majority of which took place in the field, as shown in Chart 6.

CHART 6

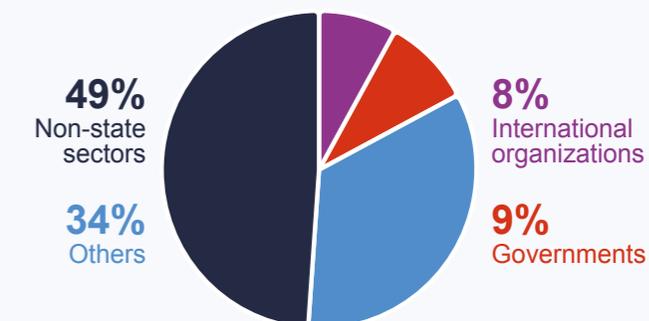


Learning-related beneficiaries by affiliation

UNITAR serves a wide spectrum of constituencies, with 49 per cent of its learning-related beneficiaries coming from non-state sectors, including NGOs, academia and the businesses; 9 per cent from government (national, state and local); 8 per cent from the United Nations and other international and regional organizations; and 34 per cent from other sectors.

UNITAR issued 62,492 **certificates** of participation and completion for 2021 learning-related events which have objective assessment of learning. The male to female gender ratio of the distribution of certificates (47 to 49 and 4 per cent accounting for "other") is marginally more balanced than in 2020 (51 to 47 and 2 per cent accounting for "other").

CHART 7





Beneficiary reaction to learning services

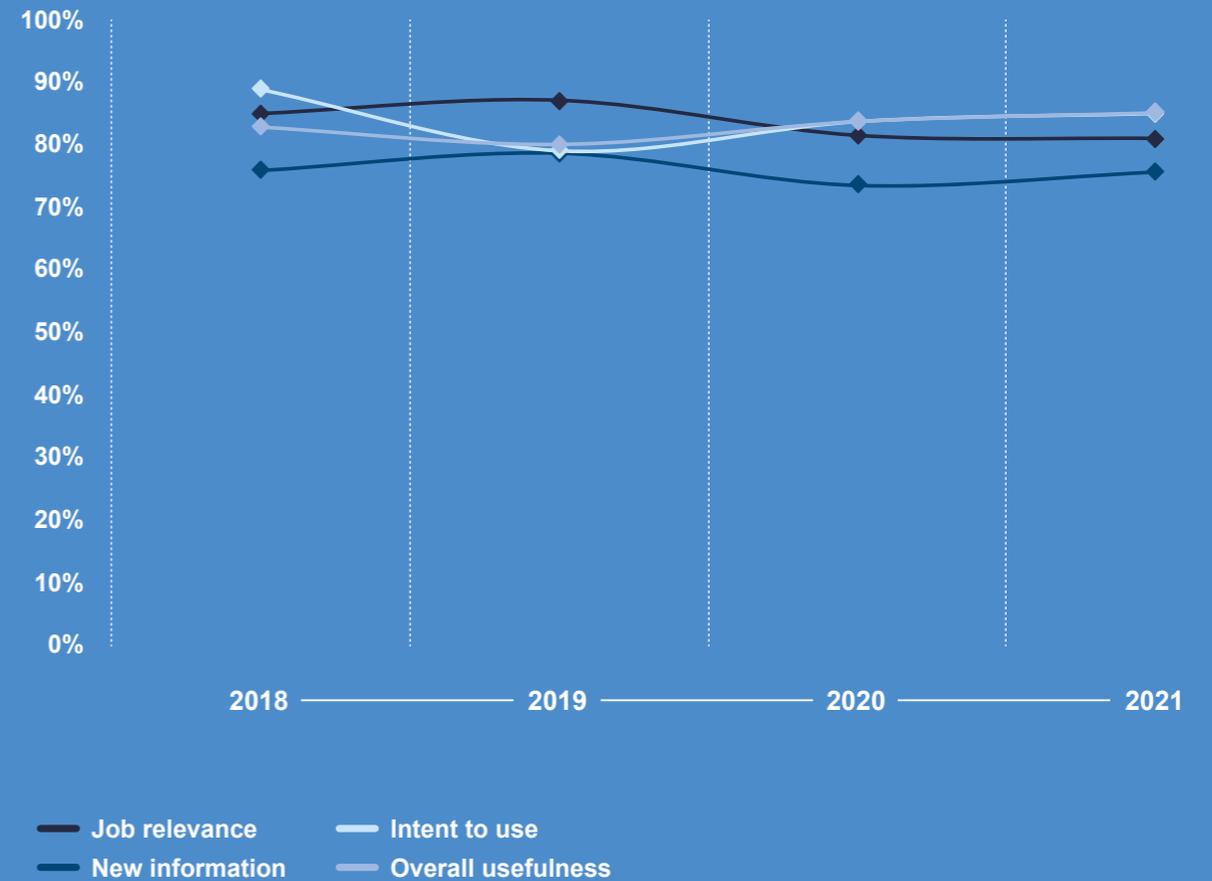
As illustrated in Chart 8, feedback from learners remains stable and positive, with 81 per cent of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing that training was job relevant, 76 per cent agreeing or strongly agreeing that information was new, 85 per cent confirming their intention to use the information, and 85 per cent confirming that the training was overall useful.⁷ The Institute monitors feedback parameters regularly as part of its activity and project monitoring, with values remaining relatively constant over the past four years.

In addition to measuring the achievement of learning objectives and beneficiary reaction to training, the Institute regularly tracks the transfer and application of acquired knowledge and skills through periodic post-training questionnaires. **In 2021, 80 per cent of respondents⁸ confirm having been able to apply knowledge and skills acquired from the event they attended.** Disaggregating by gender, application is higher amongst male participants compared to the other gender groups (women and other genders). Frequency of application of knowledge and skills follows the same pattern for all groups, with around 60 per cent applying knowledge and skills frequently and often.

Attribution of application of knowledge or skills directly to the UNITAR course and confidence to apply the knowledge and skills was lower for women and other genders compared to men and the average for the

overall sample (48 per cent of respondents attribute at least 50 per cent of the application of knowledge to the UNITAR training and 89 per cent feel confident or very confident to apply knowledge and skills).

CHART 8





Leaving No One Behind Highlights

In accordance with the 2030 Agenda principles of leaving no one behind and reaching the furthest behind first, UNITAR continues to focus attention on developing the capacities of some 93 countries in special situations.

Comparison with previous year: Slightly higher proportion and higher absolute numbers

In 2021, 19 per cent of learning beneficiaries came from countries in special situations (16 per cent in 2020). In total, 40,903 (2020: 29,900) participants came from countries in special situations.

Despite a slight increase in the ratio in 2021 compared to 2020, given the overall increase of UNITAR beneficiaries, the rate of participants from countries in special situations continues to decrease in comparison to the numbers prior to 2020 (2019: 23 per cent).

Gender breakdown: Learning beneficiaries from countries in special situations are mostly male

The gender breakdown of learners from countries in special situations is unbalanced, accounting for 63 per cent male and 34 per cent female participants and 2 per cent other genders, while the breakdown of all participants is more balanced. When looking at overall beneficiaries from countries in special situations, the ratio is reversed with 50 per cent male, 49 per cent female participants and 1 per cent are represented as other genders.

Affiliation: Participants from countries in special situations mostly work for non-state sectors and government

Forty-two per cent of learners from countries in special situations work for non-state sectors (versus 49 per cent for overall beneficiaries), 31 per cent for governments (versus 9 per cent for overall beneficiaries), 5 per cent for the United Nations and other international organizations (versus 8 per cent for overall beneficiaries) and 22 per cent for other sectors (versus 34 per cent for overall beneficiaries). This is due largely to the fact that beneficiaries from military and police contingents are recorded as government.

Fourteen per cent of UNITAR's certificates are awarded to participants from countries in special situations

UNITAR issued a total of 62,492 certificates of participation and completion for 2021 learning-related events with an objective assessment of learning, of which 8,658 or 14 per cent were awarded to beneficiaries from countries in special situations. This rate decreased in comparison to the 2020 numbers (20 per cent). The proportion of beneficiaries from countries in special situations who received a certificate was also lower in 2021 (28 per cent) in relation to the previous year (2020: 81 per cent), Chart 9 shows the certification rate of learning beneficiaries from countries in special situations in 2021.

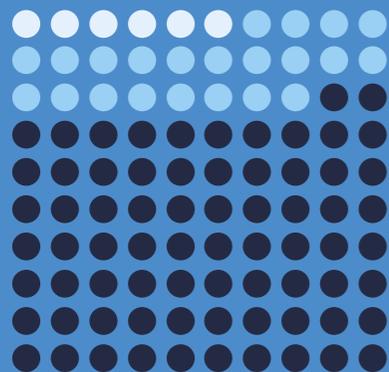
CHART 9

Certification rate of learning beneficiaries from countries in special situation

72%
No certificate

21%
Certificate of completion

19%
Certificate of participation



The people and planet pillars account for most participants from countries in special situations while people and prosperity pillars have the highest proportion of beneficiaries coming from countries in special situations.

Eighty-four per cent of 2021 beneficiaries from countries in special situations fall under people and planet pillars of UNITAR programming, as illustrated in Chart 10. Under the people, prosperity, cross-fertilizing knowledge and peace pillars, over 40 per cent of all beneficiaries under each pillar are from this grouping of countries respectively, as shown in Chart 11.

CHART 10

Learning-related beneficiaries from countries in special situation by pillar

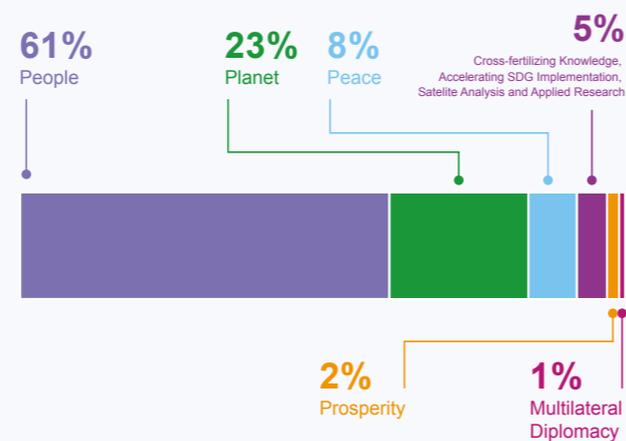
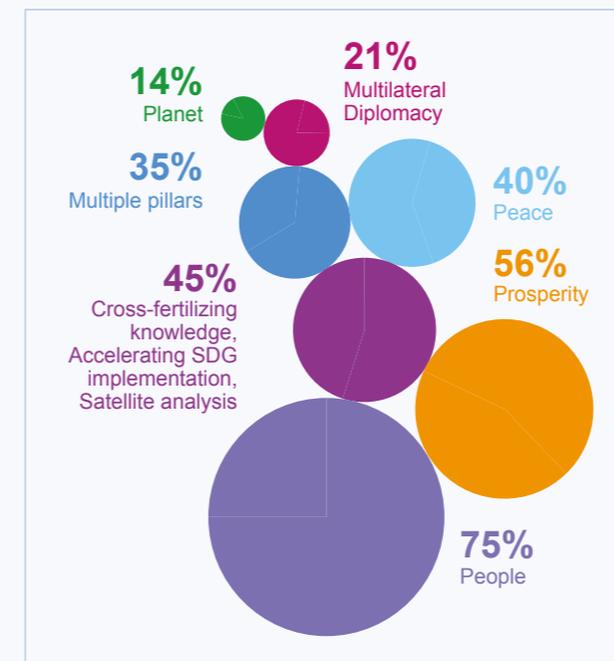


CHART 11

Proportion of beneficiaries from countries in special situation under each pillar



SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs: Most learning beneficiaries come from LLDCs

Forty-seven per cent of learning beneficiaries from countries in special situation come from LLDCs, 29 per cent from LDCs and 24 per cent from SIDS. Eighty-five per cent of all learning beneficiaries coming from SIDS took part in programming falling under the planet pillar, while for LDCs and LLDCs the participants are broken down more equally between the planet and peace pillars.

Country focus: UNITAR mostly reached participants from countries in special situations from the African continent

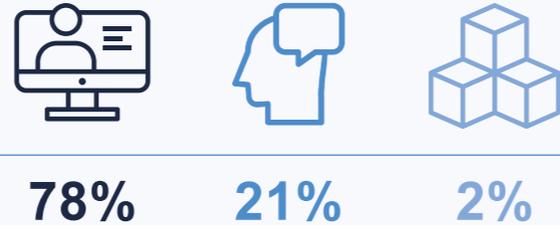
Fifty-seven per cent of learning beneficiaries from countries in special situation are from the African continent. The countries in special situations with larger proportion of beneficiaries are Mali, Chad, Bangladesh and Burkina Faso. Other countries with more than 1,000 learners each include Benin, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Niger, Rwanda and Tanzania.





Participants from countries in special situation mostly attended e-learning

Seventy-eight per cent of the beneficiaries from countries in special situation attended e-learning courses, while 21 per cent attended face-to-face events and 2 per cent other type of events.



Higher application of knowledge and skills

The application rate of knowledge and skills of learners from countries in special situations is 88 per cent, which is higher than that for other countries and the overall average of 80 per cent. Participants coming from countries in special situations are also more confident in applying the knowledge and skills from the course (94 per cent) than their counterparts (87 per cent) and the average for the sample (89 per cent).

Disability: Three per cent indicate having a disability

In 2021, 5,935 learners (or 2.4 per cent of all learners) attested to having a disability (2020: 2 per cent).

Partnerships

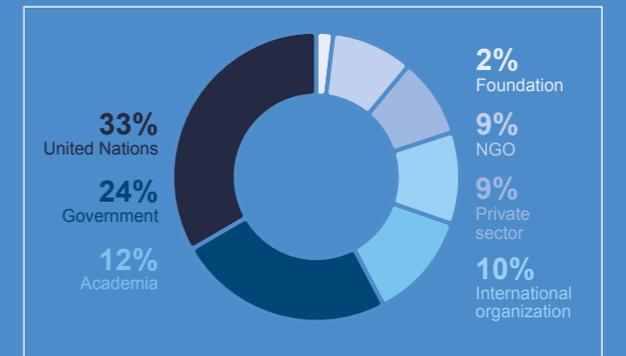
A Key Pillar to Programming

A strong partnership strategy continues to be an integral part of UNITAR's approach to achieving effective and efficient results by combining the substantive expertise of UN and other partners with UNITAR's internal expertise in programming, adult learning and instructional design. As shown in Charts 12 and 13, 78 per cent of 2021 beneficiaries were trained through events implemented in partnership (and 97 per cent for learning-related beneficiaries). Partners include organizations as diverse as UN entities (representing 33 per cent of all partners), governments (24 per cent), universities (12 per cent), other international organizations (10 per cent), the private sector (9 per cent), NGOs (9 per cent), and foundations (2 per cent). The UN CC:Learn Partnership, with UNITAR hosting the secretariat of a platform for 36 agencies; the Partnership for Action on the Green Economy, a joint initiative involving the International Labor Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and UNITAR; and the CIFAL Global Network continue to be instrumental in delivering results.

CHART 12
Beneficiaries by partnership



CHART 13
Partners by type





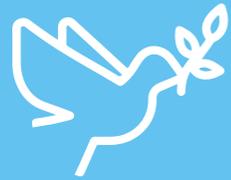
Peace

Promote peaceful, just, and inclusive societies.

Support institutions and individuals to contribute meaningfully to sustainable peace.



Highlights



269
events

24,874
beneficiaries

208
learning events

16,572
learners

900
certificates⁹

Strengthening key capacities in conflict prevention and peacemaking

In 2021, high-level exchanges between Member States, regional organizations and the United Nations remained a priority and were reinforced through the facilitation of two high-level intensive training programmes. Forty-six Fellows deepened their peacemaking capacities and shared their best practices on conflict analysis, negotiation and mediation during the annual international flagship Fellowship Programme in Peacemaking and Preventive Diplomacy (29th edition).

In addition, 39 senior and mid-level officials and representatives completed the Regional Training Programme, delivered in English, to enhance Conflict Prevention and Peacemaking in Africa. Forty-four per cent of the participating Fellows and officials trained were women.

Preparing and training personnel to be deployed in UN Peace operations

Trained 11,609 uniformed personnel prior to their deployment in UN Peace operations.

Strengthened military and police medical and para-medical personnel capacities in 8 African countries and provided 15 members of the personnel of the Psychiatric Unit of the Malian Armed Forces with the psychiatric knowledge to identify mental and behavioural disorders.

Fifty-nine women corrections officers in Dakar, Senegal, improved their skills thanks to an outreach exercise aiming at strengthening the quality of deployed Government-Provided Personnel, in line with actions and targets of the Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy 2018-2028.

Strengthened crisis management capacities of the Malian National Police, Gendarmerie and National Guard in view of supporting fair elections in Mali in 2022. Twenty Master trainers delivered training to 60 trainers responsible for the roll-out of the sessions at the tactical level. Twelve Individual Police Officers (IPOs) from MINUSMA were also sensitized on the training programme.

Fostering youth, gender equality and women empowerment



Six young Liberians participating in a training of trainers programme amplified the voices of youth as key custodians of peace by bringing the Imp!act for Peace format to 30 new participants in Gbarnga City.

Launched the Women's Leadership for Peace Programme to support the advancement of more women into leadership positions. Practitioners in the peace and security field received a set of leadership tools during the seven-day virtual course Senior Leadership for Peace.

Reinforced the role of women in mediation processes through the delivery of a series of virtual training for 245 female beneficiaries, in close cooperation with the Fem-Wise network Africa. Undertook consultations and designed a dedicated course to help the 110 African Youth Charter Hustlers in the creation of their national action plans.

More than 900 young women and girls participated in a training aiming to develop leadership skills as part of the Premier League Changemakers initiative to promote gender equality in sports.

Online master's degrees and courses



Six-hundred and twenty-one new students were enrolled in four fully accredited master's degrees designed to enhance the knowledge and skills development in conflict, peace and security in partnership with renowned universities.

Four-hundred and forty-three UN Volunteers gained key professional competencies in conflict, peace and security completing an online training among 12 proposed courses.

Enhancing recovery and resilience



Delivered five trainings on effective weapons and ammunition management in the framework of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration training group. An important work through the delivery of seven trainings also supported Libya's stabilization efforts at the community level.

Peace and reconciliation in Colombia



Two-hundred and ninety-five educational professionals and youth leaders reinforced their knowledge and skills as trainers as part of a project to foster the peace process in Colombia, through which 18 training of trainer sessions were delivered. Fifty multiplication trainings reached 2,360 participants in 30 municipalities. Furthermore,

10,897 people attended the virtual panel discussion “Weaving stories of reconciliation” based on sharing narratives for a sustainable peace.

Promoting rule of law in Mali



In collaboration with the *Institut National de Formation Judiciaire*, launched the second phase of a project to strengthen rule of law in Mali with a colloquium on electoral litigation and with training targeting 459 participants.

Sharing expertise on sustainable energy in displacement settings



Two-thousand three-hundred and twenty-one beneficiaries increased their knowledge and capacities on sustainable energy in displacement settings with their participation in 12 workshops and six webinars hosted by the Global Action Plan.



Beneficiary Highlight



Photo credit | Courtesy of Ricardo Neves

Protecting and Promoting Civic Space: Vital Contributions to Human Rights and Peaceful, Resilient Societies

“The Fellowship Programme was an amazing experience and truly the best training programme of my entire life. The effort and excellence of facilitators and experts ensured a high quality, cheerful and engaging course, and the careful selection of participants ensured a unique learning experience. My work includes a great deal of preventive diplomacy, and the course allowed me to pick up a number of useful tools on how to successfully engage in difficult bilateral or multilateral dialogues, as well as to receive feedback on my approaches to negotiation and mediation.”

Ricardo Neves, a human rights lawyer who specializes in the protection of civic space, currently serves as a Human Rights Officer with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Honduras, where he coordinates the Civic Space Unit that focuses on the protection of public participation, especially that of human rights defenders, journalists and demonstrators.

In his work with UN field presences first in Mexico, then Honduras, and prior to that with a number of NGOs, Ricardo carefully weighs the use of his time. He applied to the UNITAR Fellowship Programme in Peacemaking and Preventive Diplomacy as he saw it as a unique opportunity to strengthen key competences in contexts of human rights advocacy and conflict prevention. *“I wanted to enhance my ability to engage in potential conflicts with a preventive approach, especially with the needed skills to thoroughly analyze all parties and their interests. Through our monitoring work, OHCHR contributes to defusing situations that could lead to conflicts related to a number of issues. The ability to successfully develop conflict analysis and interest-*

Ricardo Neves

Title

Human Rights Officer and Coordinator of the Civic Space Unit, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Training

UNITAR Fellowship Programme in Peacemaking and Preventive Diplomacy

based negotiation and mediation approaches is a key aspect of our work."

The annual Fellowship Programme in Peacemaking and Preventive Diplomacy, which has to date trained 1,050 female and male Fellows, invites the nomination of mid and senior level staff from key departments and Offices of the United Nations and its peace missions and field presences, representatives from regional organizations, and diplomats from around the world who work together during the intensive two week programme engaging with senior resource persons to deepen knowledge and strengthen skills in conflict analysis, negotiation and mediation. The importance of addressing root causes, rather than symptoms of conflict, and of deep listening to understand the concerns, needs, fears and aspirations of all of the parties is also emphasized. *"The programme really strengthened my awareness on the need to try to listen and understand motivations behind the positions of different parties, and actually analyze their interests before labeling situations or proposing solutions."* Fellows engage in interest-based, problem-solving negotiation and mediation processes with the purpose of creating space for understanding, practicing constructive dialogue skills, and developing mutually beneficial options.

"Often my work entails facilitating decision-making processes that include simultaneously authorities from different institutions, human rights defenders, and direct victims. These processes can include decisions regarding specific protection measures, legislative proposals, public policy or joint initiatives. The Fellowship Programme allowed me to learn from other professionals and how

they have developed the required sensitivity to approach similar situations." Ricardo shared some of the challenges in this work as well as how the methodology of the programme may help address them: *"When working on human rights issues it is often not easy to find mutually beneficial solutions, especially when violators may be sitting at the negotiation table. However, the ability to carry out an interest-based approach allows me to analyze situations more comprehensively and to come up with options that were not being initially considered."*

The Secretary-General in his Call to Action for Human Rights has stressed the importance of the protection of civic space and promotion of the participation in democratic processes of those who can traditionally experience marginalization including women, minorities, indigenous peoples, human rights defenders and journalists. Promotion of meaningful participation contributes to the realization of rights and to building more peaceful and resilient societies. *"According to the Secretary-General's Guidance Note on Civic Space, meaningful participation requires security for those who speak up and exercise their rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association. In Honduras we are currently conducting a comprehensive diagnosis of the functioning of the Protection Mechanism for human rights defenders and journalists, which will be the basis for a Strategic Strengthening Plan of the country's public policy to protect human rights defenders and journalists. This process entails a great deal of engagement with a wide array of stakeholders in order to build political space to strengthen capacities in terms of institutional prevention."*



"The ability to successfully develop conflict analysis and interest-based negotiation and mediation approaches is a key aspect of our work."

OHCHR mission to Tlapa with Governor of Guerrero.
Photo credit | Courtesy of Ricardo Neves

Forty-six Fellows from around the world, including 4 ambassadors, took part in the 2021 Fellowship Programme with 44% participation of female diplomats, regional organization and peace mission staff. Senior female leaders and practitioners including the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the African Union and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights shared their experience and insights on

the prevention of violent conflict and promotion of peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Excellent feedback has been received and the Institute is most grateful to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Finland and Norway for their support which made possible the holding of this much-requested programme addressing the top priorities of the UN Secretary-General – prevention and the “primacy of political solutions.”

Beneficiary Highlight



Fijian Elections Office
My Election. My Future.



Photo credit | Courtesy of Mohammed Saneem

Rediscovering Democracy: Fiji's Journey to Achieving Fair General Elections

Mohammed Saneem

Title

Supervisor of Elections

Country

Fiji

Course

Masters in Electoral Policy and Administration

No, democracy is not a perfect political system. Yet, as John Dewey stated, "the cure for the ills of democracy is more democracy." The philosopher and educational reformer knew that our world's history shows that a democratic system of government is undoubtedly the best tool to achieve equality, decrease conflict, and boost civic engagement.

How does it do that? By providing a mechanism for some form of rule by proportionate representation, with citizens empowered to bring about change through participation and persuade the powerful to act for the greater good. Democracy gives oppressed and marginalized groups, who would otherwise be excluded from politics, the ability to vote for the policies and people that they believe in.

Those from places where elections are well established – and have been for decades or centuries – may take their right to vote for granted. However, in the case of Fiji, there has been significant upheaval in the democratic functioning of the country. Fiji has had breaks in the democratic governance due to military coups and civilian uprising caused by highly fuelled racial divide.

After the 2006 coup, a team of experts was welcomed into the country in 2012 to conduct a gap analysis of Fijian elections with a view to having an election in the next few years. According to Mohammed, who had joined the Ministry of Justice after a career in the private practice of law, *"it was the first concrete step towards elections that was actually taken in the country since the military took power."*

Mohammed was tasked to provide secretariat services for this team of international experts. That was his first exposure to theoretical and practical aspects of election processes, and he was able to learn a lot about international principles for fair elections.

In 2014, Mohammed was appointed to supervise the very first general elections held in eight years. He had six months to get the entire office's legal and logistics operations ready. *"It was as if I had to build an aircraft while it was taking off. To be brutally honest, my ignorance at the time was bliss. Because I did not know what I know now, I was not worried about the things that would worry me now. All we had to do was check off the boxes to make sure all the materials were sent, used and then brought back in the most transparent manner. But it was a privilege to have voted for the first time using the ballot paper I designed."*

From 2014 onwards, Mohammed was devoted to building the elections office from scratch. *"I took a more structured approach and focused on strategic planning. I worked with about 12 electoral experts with more or less 30 years of experience each. I wanted to ensure we would build the capacity to conduct the next elections and also develop the fundamental procedures and policies required to deliver fair and credible elections. During the process, we realized that there were various things we did in 2014 that could have gone terribly wrong."*

After running much smoother general elections in 2018, Mohammed decided it was time to acquire a deeper knowledge. When he heard of a colleague that registered for UNITAR's Masters in Electoral

Policy and Administration, he decided to do the same and enrolled himself six months after, when the next call for applications opened. He could not be happier with his decision. *"I absolutely loved doing all the modules! I was so excited that I delivered most of my assignments well before the deadline. I was thrilled to be able to write about the things that I practiced on a day-to-day basis and freely discuss the theoretical aspects without any restraints, a freedom that only academia provides us."*

Writing the thesis would arguably be the most stressful task for most people. Mohammed, however, found it to be his favourite part of the programme. *"My thesis is very much practitioner based, and I got the chance to argue many things that were in my mind during the last six years of my work. It was all about building an assessment tool for the performance of the Electoral Management Body (EMB) in critical areas such as voter registration, polling, venue management and voter education."*

During his masters, Mohammed learned more about universal rights in the context of elections. *"I saw how the freedom of expression has been expanded into the right to information. That was an absolute eye opener for me because that builds on jurisprudence. It motivated me to increase the amount of information we are pushing out from the Fijian Elections Office as we prepare for our upcoming 2022 general elections."*

Mohammed's aspirations for the future include writing an essay about conflicts between the common law principles and the world of elections



and getting onto a PhD programme to research performance measurement of EMBs. *"I want to be able to come up with a calculation tool such as the one developed by Ellkhit and Reynolds. One that can be used to measure the performance of EMBs before, during and after the elections."*

We certainly expect that he achieves all his goals! And as Fiji prepares to hold new general elections very soon, we remain expectant to see the improvements he and his team manage to make in order to ensure the decision of its citizens are met through fair elections!



People



Promote people's well-being and support equitable representation of countries in global decision-making.

Promote people's well-being, including the protection and empowerment of groups that are vulnerable and marginalized.



Highlights



246
events

106,920
beneficiaries

131
learning events

20,489
learners

3,686
certificates¹⁰

25 CENTRES
AROUND
THE WORLD

Building Capacities
for Sustainable
Development



Road Safety



Trained 519 youth on risk factors causing road traffic crashes and on safe road behaviours.

One-thousand and ninety-five beneficiaries from 115 countries took part in 32 learning sessions on law enforcement approaches to reduce fatalities related to drivers using alcohol.

Equipped 4,316 beneficiaries with practical tools to conduct road assessments and undertake crash-risk mapping in targeted road networks.

By using immersive learning through virtual reality, trained 213 government officials from the Dominican Republic and South Africa on the dangers, consequences, penalties and sanctions of driving under the influence of alcohol.

Entrepreneurship



Provided online training to 3,385 policy makers from 124 countries on innovative entrepreneurship approaches that promote the socioeconomic inclusion of migrants and refugees.

The e-learning tools “*Entrepreneurship for Migrants and Refugees*”, and the “*Policymaking: Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development*” developed in close collaboration with UNCTAD are available in English, Spanish, Arabic, and French.

To help countries measure the contribution of the private sector to sustainable development, trained 383 beneficiaries from the public and private sectors on “*Core SDG Indicators for Sustainability Reporting by Companies*”, with an e-learning tool available in English, French and Spanish.

Anti-corruption



One-thousand two hundred and seventeen participants took part in the “*Anticorruption and Sustainable Development*” e-learning course. In line

with the UN disability-inclusive approach and inclusion strategy, the course included sign language video and narrative audio as part of the training materials.

Trained 793 beneficiaries on “*Anticorruption and Human Rights*”, with the aim of strengthening governments’ competences to overcome some of the challenges in combatting corruption, with a particular emphasis on development and human rights.

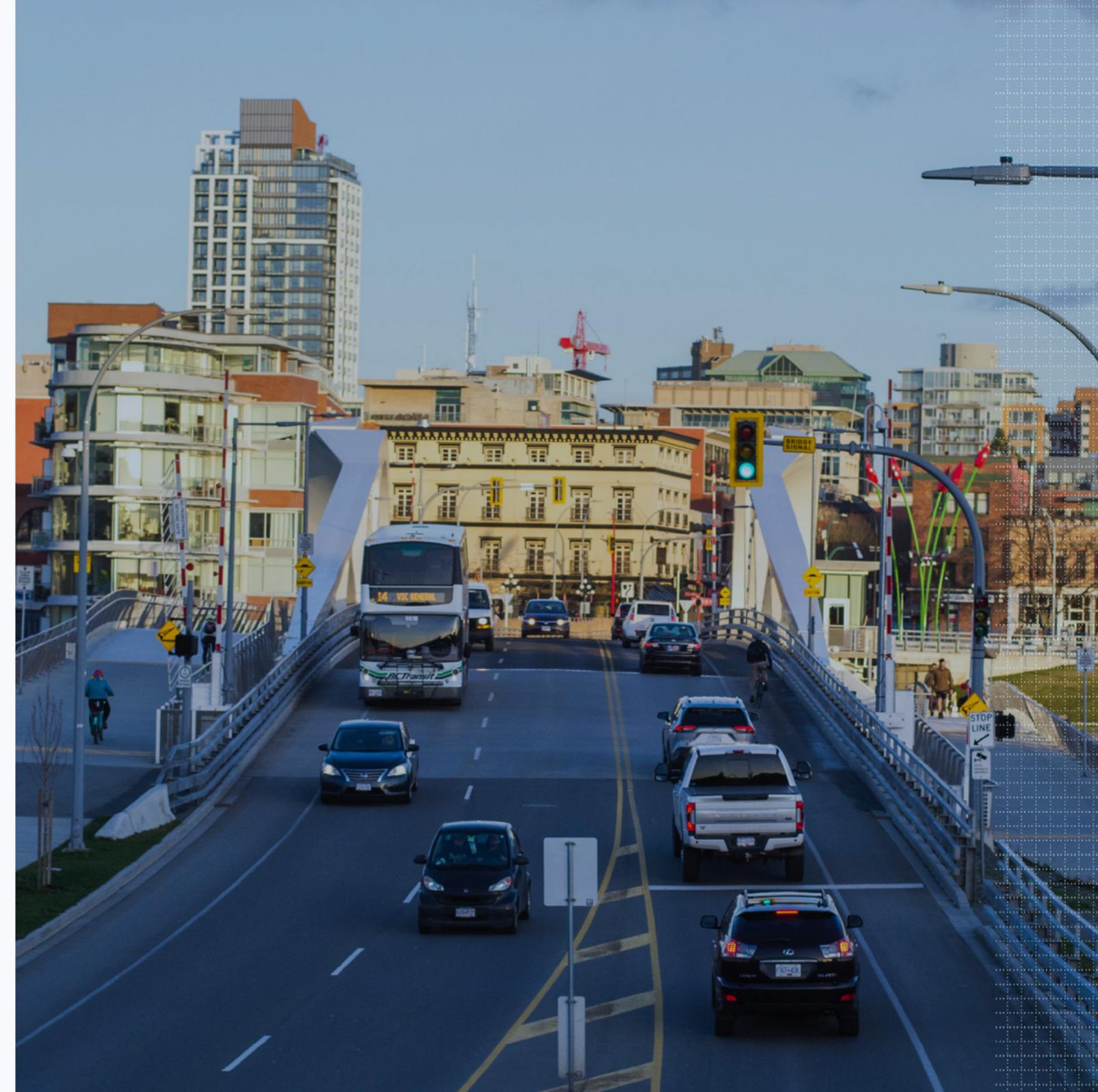
Global Surgery



Reached 1,281 beneficiaries through the delivery of focused webinars in the area of global surgery, including topics such as Breast Cancer, Cervical Cancer, Value-based Health Care and National Surgical, Obstetric and Anesthesia Plans.

Provided support to the Ministries of Health in Rwanda and Zambia to develop surgical capacity in cervical cancer, to the Ministry of Health in Rwanda to establish a Gynecologic Oncology Fellowship, to the Ministry of Health in Nepal to develop its national surgical plan, and the Ministry of Health in Pakistan to launch its national surgical plan.

Developed and launched a new “*Executive Leadership in Global Surgery Course*” in collaboration with the University of Cape Town Graduate School of Business.



Beneficiary Highlight



Photo credit | Courtesy of Benjamin Davoodi

Beyond the Rules: Promoting the Principle of Respect on the Roads

In 2002, the town of Drachten, in the Netherlands, removed nearly all traffic lights and road marks in the name of road safety. The aim was to reduce accidents and improve the town's quality. The paradoxical experiment worked, and despite increases in traffic volumes, accident numbers fell from 8.3 per year between 1994 and 2002 to an average of just one per year in 2005.

If traffic signs are supposed to make traffic flow safer, how did the experiment work? The answer lies in the difference between rules and principles. Rules serve as external mechanisms to indicate a series of appropriate behaviours and establish where the limits are to help maintain order. By complying with the rules, community members are most likely able to live harmoniously.

Principles, on the other hand, precede rules and regulations. They are the internal foundation for a chain of reasoning. When members of a community have firmly established trusted principles, then rules become secondary. People can act with total freedom because you know that their behaviour and decisions will always meet certain standards. The nearly over 45,000 Drachten inhabitants seem to have understood the principle behind the traffic rules: that they must drive carefully to avoid putting others and themselves in danger.

Benjamin Davoodi understands this difference between rules and principles very well too. Throughout the years, Benjamin has built a career in law enforcement. As a man of rules, he serves his community as an Auxiliary Police Officer within the Community Response Unit (CRU) of the Toronto Police Service, reinforcing road safety through

Benjamin Davoodi

Title

Auxiliary Police Officer

Country

Canada

Course

Management Practices for Safer Roads: Toolkit

RIDE Spot-Checks and traffic speed surveys along with delivering crime prevention education and outreach. As a man of principles, he spares no time and efforts to go beyond implementing regulations. Benjamin, who served on the Board of Directors for madd Toronto, a non-profit organization which promotes the awareness on the risks associated with impaired driving, educates others on the importance of respecting and safeguarding everyone's lives, particularly those on the road. *"I love giving back to the community and I am very passionate about Road Safety. Anything that has to do with impaired driving road safety risks and hazards."*

For Benjamin, it comes down to respecting and protecting people's lives. *"To have to go knock on the doors of family members and tell them their loved ones will not be coming back is dreadful. This really hits home; it hits the community. Sometimes what people regard as a simple stop sign can be what saves the life of the driver or someone else's. So, it is an important topic that is close to my heart. That is why I'm very passionate about it."*

Being "passionate" is no euphemism. Benjamin seats on various Road Safety Committees and provides outreach and education on the importance of doing everything possible to minimize human error and improve safety standards. He has also teamed up with various government institutions to found the Ontario Road Safety Association, a non-profit organization with the mandate to work with industry professionals and experts in order to provide free road safety education. *"We go to our community centres, schools, places of worship and everywhere else to teach basic concepts on road*

safety, whether it is related to kids, cyclists, seniors and everyone in between."

His dedication to promoting road safety awareness in his community is such that he has been awarded both the Canadian Governor Generals Medal of Sovereigns and the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario's Medal of Good Citizenship in acknowledgement of his efforts and commitment.

Benjamin not only educates others, but he is always looking for opportunities to further develop his own knowledge on the topic. So, when he came across UNITAR's online course on Management Practices for Safer Roads: Toolkit, he decided to enrol himself and see what the training course was about. *"I went through some of the reviews and material and thought 'This is good, this is very universal. This is what I'm looking for!' The fact that it was completely online was a big bonus. To be able to do it from your home, your office, wherever you are."*

But as someone so well versed in road safety principles and rules, how could Benjamin possibly benefit from this course? *"While it served as a refresher to the things I already know, it also gave me a global framework. It provided a cross-examination of international advice, which I have never seen before because my perspective on road safety has been always local. It brought the right amount of information I needed."*

More importantly, the course had a similar approach to his: going beyond the rules and into the principles. *"Even though we have traffic lights, cameras, signs and enough space for everyone, there is always an element of surprise. We can redesign things to predict those risks, but everything*

"Sometimes what people regard as a simple stop sign can be what saves the life of the driver or someone else's."



comes back to outreach and education. This course focuses on that. It will not teach you the laws but the overall foundation of road safety. For instance, how driving carelessly and having a collision affects everyone else going about their days – because what happens to the main road affects everyone. So, it lays out the foundation from both domestic and international standpoints."

Now Benjamin's wish is for an extended and more advanced continuation of the course. *"There could be a specific course for school settings, engineering settings... It could be brought to different industries, the private sector, the public sector, and branched out. It definitely would be an asset."* We could not agree more!

Planet



Support the conservation, restoration and safeguarding of our planet for present and future generations.

Strengthen capacities to foster a green, low-carbon and climate resilient transition.

Strengthen capacities to manage dangerous chemicals and wastes in a sound and sustainable manner.

Improve the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.



Highlights



175
events

213,116
beneficiaries

99
learning events

192,316
learners

53,864
certificates¹¹

2
regional
e-waste monitors

New implementation phase to strengthen climate learning



Signed a new long-term agreement with the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation with the aim to improve human and institutional capacity on climate change and increase countries' capacities for effective climate change planning and management. The new phase of the UN CC:Learn Partnership builds on four pillars: i) developing and implementing national climate change strategies; ii) supporting learning institutions; iii) youth engagement; and iv) providing learning resources to citizens and professionals.

Strengthening human capacity on the green economy at the global level



As a member of the Partnership for Action on Green Economy, UNITAR reached the milestone of 74,000 enrolments on green economy e-courses and issued more than 15,000 certificates of completion. As part of our efforts to unpack complex policy issues and present these in a clear and accessible way, the Institute has delivered nine new episodes on green jobs, sustainable finance, circular economy, social equity, and sustainable agriculture through our podcast. In total, 5,000 listeners from 80 countries joined this initiative.

Waste Management and Circular Economy course online



With the support of the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, the Institute launched in November 2021 the online course on Waste Management and Circular Economy to support countries in their efforts to improve their national waste management systems. At the end of 2021 the course had more than 300 registrations.

Regional E-waste Monitors for Commonwealth of Independent States and Arab States



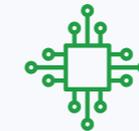
Co-published two Regional E-waste Monitors with the International Telecommunications Union, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations University. The monitors captured more than 200 online media hits in almost all countries of the regions under study and 300 different news sites worldwide.

Countering waste crime

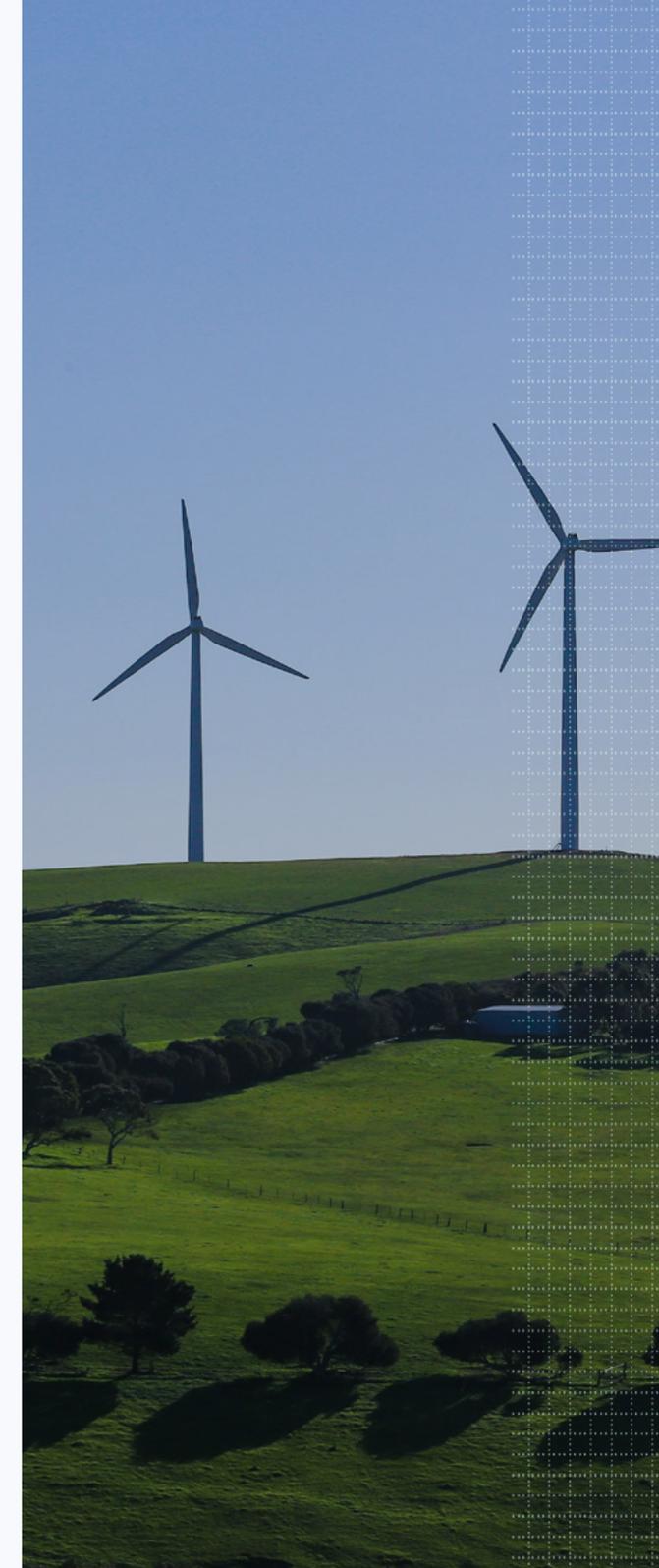


Under the EC funded WasteForce project, an extensive range of tools and resources have been specifically designed to facilitate policy-makers, regulators, inspectors, investigators and prosecutors to counter waste crime.

COVID-19 intensified the digital divide between high, middle and low income countries



In the first three quarters of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic caused a 30 per cent fall in electronic and electrical equipment sales in low- and middle-income countries but only a 5 per cent decline in high-income countries, highlighting and intensifying the digital divide between north and south, according to a new SCYCLE report.



Beneficiary Highlight



Photo credit | Courtesy of Bárbara A. Smith

From Learning to Action...At Home and Work

Bárbara A. Smith

Title

Senior Marketing Manager

Country

Argentina

Course

Climate Change: from Learning to Action

“I had a series of ‘awakenings’ throughout my life”, reveals Bárbara A. Smith straightaway. One of the most impactful was when she scuba dived for the very first time. “When we submerged, I discovered a myriad of colours in the corals, an unbelievable variety of fishes, sea turtles, and an immense peace. It was as if I found ‘another world within ours’. I cannot put in words what it feels like to discover such an environment for the very first time, but I believe it must be a very similar experience to being in outer space.” Bárbara’s account testifies to what perhaps is her most remarkable trait, the wisdom of those few who master the long-lost ability to be in awe of our planet’s wonders.

Another attribute of Bárbara is her readiness to take matters into her own hands or as she puts it: to turn her “preoccupation” into her “occupation”. *“I always had a great concern about – and love for – the environment, so I decided to study biological sciences. At that time in Argentina, however, there were not enough job opportunities in this field. As I was unable to work and study concurrently, I changed my career path to marketing.”*

Although Bárbara’s initial plans of turning her passion for the planet into her full-time occupation, she went on to become an accomplished Senior Marketing Manager with over 18 years of experience (and counting!) at arguably the most famous multinational mass media and entertainment conglomerate in the world. *“I had an interest for behavioural analysis and communication and now I am an expert in communication and brand development. I mainly work with everything related to the audience, how to capture the audience’s interest and retain it”, she explains.*

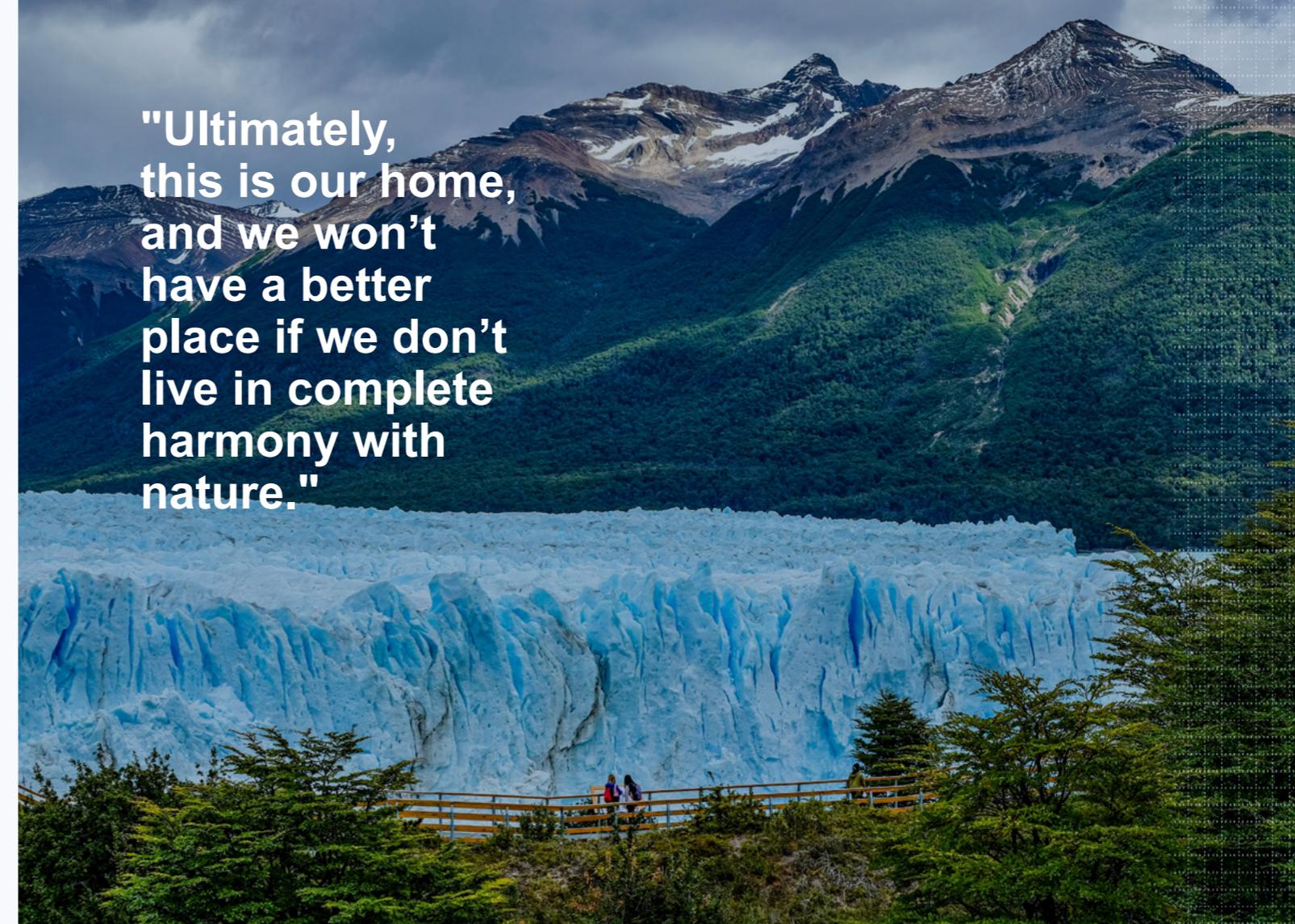
However, as time passed Bárbara felt drifting away little by little from what once was her goal: to put her love for nature at the centre of her life. *“A couple of years ago, I felt the urge to reconnect with that part of me and everything that has to do with taking care of our environment - it was another awakening I had. I am very concerned about the current climate crisis, and it gives me great anxiety to see that we are not taking concrete actions collectively and individually. So, I thought I might as well study, get knowledge and skills to make more informed decisions at home and in my community.”*

After searching online, Bárbara came across the “Climate Change: From Learning to Action” course, a six-module self-paced e-learning course created and delivered by The One UN Climate Change Learning Partnership (UN CC:Learn). The course gives learners an overview of what climate change is, how it affects us, how to adapt to and mitigate its effects, how to plan and finance action on climate change, how climate change negotiations work, and how to take real action to tackle it. *“I wanted to enrol in a course that was short and that I could understand the information”,* explains Bárbara adding that she was impressed by UN CC:Learn’s website and purpose and decided to sign up. *“I loved it! It has high-quality information, qualified speakers and contains a lot of resources such as websites and data with more in-depth info for those interested in learning more. It took me some time to*

finish it because I wanted to make the most out of each module, but even so, I truly appreciated it.”

The information shared by Miguel Naranjo, a Programme Officer with the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat and one of the course instructors, resonated with Bárbara the most. *“He explained how we can reduce our impact individually and collectively in three sectors: agriculture, energy and transportation. That helped me make more conscious decisions on my day-to-day and change habits at home with my family and my friends.”*

A while later, Bárbara also became brand lead in an international company working closely with one of the most renowned and largest non-profit scientific and educational organizations there is! “The brand in question is very connected with the concept of living with purpose and caring for the environment, so I was thrilled with the opportunity.” In this new role, Bárbara has had the chance she longed for: to turn her “preoccupation” into her “occupation” – more specifically, to raise awareness about the current climate crisis through her work. *“The content of the course has inspired me to create and plan our communication campaigns in a way that fosters a real impact. Brands carry great responsibility, and we don’t want them to ‘green wash’ their businesses. We want them to raise awareness and promote a real change in behavior and brands have the potential power to do that.”*



“Ultimately, this is our home, and we won’t have a better place if we don’t live in complete harmony with nature.”

At home and amongst friends, Bárbara has earned the affectionate name “the one that loves the planet.” Although she enjoys it, she is keen to explain that it is not a matter of merely liking it or not, but *“there is no other way to live. Many forecasts warn that the climate crisis can no longer be reverted, so I hope*

that we manage to reduce its effects. Ultimately, this is our home, and we won’t have a better place if we don’t live in complete harmony with nature.” We could not agree more and look forward to seeing the impact of Bárbara’s efforts to drive change at home and at work!

Beneficiary Highlight



Photo credit | Courtesy of Cesar Vidal Molina Gadea

Taking Stock on Mercury Emissions for Advancing Sustainable Development

Cesar Vidal Molina Gadea

Title

Renewable Natural Resources Engineer

Country

Nicaragua

Course

Minamata Initial Assessment (MIAs)

When it comes to environmental diversity, Nicaragua has it all! Beaches on both the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts, volcanoes and lakes, tropical pine forests, wetlands and savannas. Nevertheless, like in so many other places, its rich biodiversity is endangered due to human activities.

This Central American nation is aware of that and is committed to implementing more assertive strategies to protect its natural resources. One of the steps the country is taking towards this goal is tackling its mercury emissions.

Each year this quicksilver liquid metal generates a lot of damage to the environment and human beings all over the world. One of the main sources of mercury release is connected to artisanal and small-scale mining (ASGM). Artisanal miners use vast amounts of mercury for capturing gold and most of the metal is released directly into the environment. While part of the mercury used in these activities evaporates into the atmosphere, a significant portion travels downstream through rivers until reaching the oceans. The substance can easily affect us through the food chain. Usually, people only think about contaminated fish, for instance. However, grains and vegetables can also become contaminated through the use of polluted waters. The damage caused by mercury goes way beyond humans and in fact, it is extremely harmful to many other species. An estimated 3,000 tons of mercury are released annually in our planet's ecosystems through ASGM alone!

On that account, Nicaragua's Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA) has worked on a long-term project to address the issue –

and they were not left without support. Back in 2010, the country counted on UNITAR's assistance to prepare a diagnosis for their Evaluation of National Capacities on Mercury Management. The Institute gathered information from different sectors and key actors in order to provide a general description of the mercury situation, including information on existing legislation that did not specifically address mercury management, institutional arrangement needed, available capacities, gaps, use in ASGM in the country, products circulating that contained mercury, and implementation of activities for the proper management of the substance.

Since then, UNITAR has continued to provide technical expertise for the development of all mercury-related activities and other aspects associated with the Minamata Convention – signed by the country in 2013. More specifically, in the last year, MARENA and UNITAR have worked closely on taking stock of Nicaragua's mercury use and release.

Cesar Vidal Molina Gadea, a Renewable Natural Resources Engineer working for the ministry, has been involved in this task since the beginning. *"It was a challenging project. We had to really research and quantify all different categories of anthropogenic sources of emissions, such as the use of lamps with mercury, dental amalgam, ASGM, cement production, incineration of general waste, and so on. It seems simple, just entering some data and calculating it, but we had to look into other aspects that play an important role in mercury emission. For instance, for some of these categories, we had to go through data on mercury importation from the last 3 years. We also had to work closely with*

other ministries to get an accurate assessment of these importations."

Fortunately for Cesar and his colleagues, UNITAR's experts were eager to share their knowledge and skills to support the team throughout the entire stock-taking process. *"It has been a great collaboration! UNITAR's assistance has been very effective, technical, and professional. They were specialists in the topic with lots of experience. Regarding the inventory, each category we estimated, we did in close consultation with UNITAR, and they helped us adapt to international methodologies. I did not have experience with mercury inventory before, so I have learned a lot. Although we did not get the chance to have face-to-face training and consultations due to COVID-19 restrictions, we managed to do it virtually"*

The work on the inventory has been successfully completed. Nevertheless, the mission of tackling mercury emissions is just starting. Now that the government has a solid estimation of mercury usage, a follow-up health strategy focused on it has been created. On top of that, various institutions, municipalities, and organizations got together to launch a National Action Plan to reduce the use of mercury in the country. *"The idea is that this report does not become just one more document in your drawers, but a resource that is useful to our institutions and industries for decision making and development of policies that seek to advance sustainable development and environmental protection. The government is committed to improving conditions in ASGM and its health strategy is focused on this sector."* From our end, we are ready to continue supporting these national ambitions!



“The idea is that this report does not become just one more document in your drawers, but a resource that is useful to our institutions and industries for decision making...”

Prosperity



Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

Help countries to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic growth.



Highlights



72

events

4,682

beneficiaries

35

learning events

1,752

learners

960

certificates¹²

Great Ideas Space: Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship



Innovation is essential for economies to grow. Cultivating entrepreneurs and small-to-medium businesses can create needed jobs and livelihood opportunities in our communities and societies. In the 2021 rounds of Great Ideas Space programmes, over 1,780 entrepreneurs in Afghanistan, Horn of Africa, Iraq, Kenya, and South Sudan developed their skills to unlock solutions to deal with complex challenges of today: poverty, youth unemployment, social inequality, climate change, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Leadership and Inclusion

Leadership, especially of women and young people, is crucial to move the 2030 Agenda forward.

Women: Fifty-eight officials from Lebanon and Jordan learned how to implement national gender equality and women empowerment policies in government offices. Ninety-six Pacific women leaders learned about disaster risk reduction through a gender lens. Tongan alumnae could better help their communities after the January 2022 volcanic eruption.

Youth: Thirty-eight Youth Ambassadors from high schools in Hiroshima and Hong Kong pitched their community-based and SDG-driven projects to address climate change.

Diplomacy for nuclear disarmament: Thirty-five diplomats from 13 Asian countries honed their negotiation skills for international meetings on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Trade and Finance

Policy makers and other public sector officials need to know how to promote financial inclusion, harness digital technologies, and stimulate economic progress and alleviate poverty through trade.

Financial inclusion and digitalization: Over 840 participants from 122 countries participated in an annual virtual conference on digital finance. The conference is part of the new Digital Finance Initiative, which helps developing countries use digitalization for sustainable economic development.

Trade: Fifty-five officials from 19 countries and territories in the Near East and North Africa region learned how to develop and implement trade and agriculture policies that enhance food security. In Europe and Central Asia, 46 officials learned about international regulatory frameworks governing export promotion and how to help agri-food exporters access new foreign markets.

Digital Futures



Closing the digital divide is a matter of human rights. Nearly 2,200 women and young people in Afghanistan, Iraq, and the Sahel Region learned about digital technologies to use them in addressing critical needs in their communities. The programme covered programming, coding, cybersecurity and application development, as well as gender leadership.



Beneficiary Highlight



Photo credit | Courtesy of Hana Ali

Business as Unusual: A Startup that Supports Mental Health Access in Iraq

Hana Ali

Title
Entrepreneur

Country
Iraq/UK/Germany

Fellowship
UNITAR COVID-19 Response & Recovery Programme: Mobilizing Resilient Social Entrepreneurs to Address Food Insecurity and Unemployment for Youth in Iraq

“I once heard a really fantastic quote. It goes a little something like this: ‘take one small step every day, and at the end of the year you will have taken 365 steps’, says Hana Ali with smiley eyes. Based on her experience, consistency is the best advice she can give to anyone willing to join the entrepreneurial world. ‘A lot of people feel discouraged when they think about long-term goals. Many stop even before they start, but it takes tiny little steps every day to achieve something big.’” An entrepreneur herself, Hana understands the paralyzing fear that comes upon those who dare to build a business from the ground. In her case, not just any ordinary business but one that aims at bringing mental health support to Iraqis.

Hana’s launch into entrepreneurship was rather an unforeseen event than a deliberate move. After graduating from the University of Liverpool’s school of medicine, Hana was uncertain about what move to make next in her career. *“I wasn’t sure if I wanted to be a regular clinical doctor, so I decided to take a year to clear my mind. At that time, I was working remotely for a digital health startup based in Germany and an opportunity came to move to Berlin to work with them – and I’ve been living here ever since.”*

Hana ended up staying for about two years with that startup before deciding to leave to take a user experience course that opened her mind to the possibility of becoming a business owner. *“It was during that time that I came up with the idea of ‘Gaia Medical’, a website with information on health education where Iraqis could have access to easy and trustworthy health-related information. As time went on and I spoke to more people, I*

noticed a huge lack of mental health resources, especially professional mental health support for the Iraqi community. Consequently, the purpose of the website shifted to become a mental health platform that provides online therapy in Arabic and English."

The struggles that the Iraqi people endure speak to Hana's heart. When she was just two years old, Hana and her family fled from Iraq and spent about three years moving from one country to another seeking refuge until they were finally able to settle down in the United Kingdom. *"95% of my family remains in Iraq. After we settled, we would go back every year to visit our relatives. Finally, roughly 15 years ago, my parents were able to move back to Iraq. People in Iraq face many adversities, so I wanted to increase access to mental health care within that region",* she explains.

Despite not having a traditional business training background, Hana shook off the fear and started her social entrepreneurial endeavour by doing the exact thing any new entrepreneur should do: study, which proved to be trickier than she thought. *"I had to teach myself how to run a business, so I tried to do a few courses, but I never felt they added much value."* After seeing information on UNITAR's fellowship programme targeted at young Iraqi entrepreneurs on a social media group a few times, Hana decided to give it a chance and apply for the year-long programme.

Hana felt positively surprised by it, particularly with phase one. *"I started phase one as we were shifting from being just a website with general information on mental health to testing our online therapy service. I had a lot of reservations. I didn't feel like I*

knew what I was doing. But that initial phase of the programme taught me fundamental concepts that I should have known but didn't - for instance, how to create a marketing strategy. The content was so concise and easy to understand. It gave me just the right amount of information needed for kicking off our new service. It really helped fill in some big gaps in my knowledge about business launching - particularly of startups."

More importantly, the programme turned out to be very hands-on. *"Not only it was helpful because I learned the theory, but every time I had to do an assignment, I was doing it for my company. So, I would build a business model for the assignment knowing that I would use it and apply it in my company and also would benefit from the revisions and feedback."* Through her platform and a team of five therapists, Gaia Medical has provided over 200 hours of online therapy!

Now, however, Hana has taken a step back to evaluate the future of Gaia Medical due to financial constraints. *"We are now at a place where we aren't sure if we can continue because financial grants are really competitive and venture capital funding doesn't feel like the right way to go for a social enterprise."* Nonetheless, Hana knows that try and error is part of any business journey, and the heart-warming messages from thankful beneficiaries of Gaia Medical's services she receives help keep her eager to continue on the entrepreneurial path. *"I have learned so much from building up this business that I know for sure that whatever I do next, I can approach it more sustainably from a financial point of view and have better chances of making it succeed".* We have no doubt she will indeed!

"Many stop even before they start, but it takes tiny little steps every day to achieve something big."



Beneficiary Highlight



Photo credit | Courtesy of Salma Khalifa

Meet the Unstoppable Woman Contributing to Policy Research for Sufficient, Safe, and Nutritious Food for All

It is evident that women go to great lengths in order to pursue their education and professional careers. Decades of research show that women, particularly mothers, who are employed full-time end up working the equivalent of a "double shift" because they are usually in charge of most of the housework and childcare.

Salma Khalifa understands too well this reality of juggling work and family. A mother to a toddler, she is also a Product Development Manager at the Savola Group, a multinational that supplies numerous countries with edible oils, sugar, fresh dairy products, as well as restaurants serving fast foods. *"I work in the headquarters for the research and development department here in Cairo, Egypt, and I am responsible for new product developments in different countries within the MENA region, including Egypt, Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Morocco, and Algeria."* As if it were not enough, Salma is a PhD candidate at the American University in Cairo and conducts research on Global Public Health Management and Policy, specifically on food security.

One day, while researching the determining factors of physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food in developing countries, Salma unintentionally came across the FAO-UNITAR Joint e-Learning Course on Trade and Food Security. *"It was a convenient surprise because part of my job concerns the supply chain constraint of commodities and certain primary food ingredients faced in the MENA region, where the countries are big food importers. I was also interested to know certain aspects of the trading and supply chain related to food security and*

Salma Khalifa

Title

Product Development Manager, Savola Group

Country

Egypt

Course

FAO-UNITAR Joint e-Learning Course on Trade and Food Security (Arabic edition)

malnutrition, which could be of interest to my academic research.”

Salma decided to sign up for the online course and see whether it was indeed relevant to her work and PhD research. Her bet paid off. *“I learned a lot of useful things. For instance, we saw how the traffic in some countries is affecting trade and, consequently, food supply in other countries. That was very interesting because now Egypt is facing a shortage in food supply due to current conflicts between countries and the increase in fuel prices. This information came in handy at work. As per my research, it just lit a light in my head that there is a research gap in food security and nutrition related to the dynamics of food supply, and these gaps are precisely what I am tackling in my PhD.”*

Salma’s favourite aspect of the course, however, was the opportunity to exchange with other participants and build a network. *“Through the discussion platform, I have got to connect with policymakers, researchers and professionals working on the agriculture sector in different countries within the MENA region.”* Salma recalls one occasion when another participant working on agriculture policy in Algeria asked her about a particular trade policy in Egypt that she was not aware of. She then contacted a work colleague in the supply chain department to learn more about the policy and share the information with the course participant. *“It was a fortunate occasion because I gained new knowledge about one of my own country’s policies.”*

The interactions also opened Salma’s eyes to the complexities of policymaking. *“Sometimes, we would discuss and compare policies from different*

countries, and we came to the realization that, in most cases, the policies in place may be the best set of rules and procedures to address the realities and peculiarities of a certain country. Yet, they may not be as effective if applied to other countries.”

One might wonder how Salma managed to find time for yet another commitment such as this. The answer is in the course format. *“It is very accessible because all the content is available online.”*

Not too long after finishing the course, Salma had the opportunity to join FAO’s Agri-Food Fellowship Programme, something she regards as a direct outcome of her participation in the course. As a fellow, Salma has supported the FAO Regional Office for Near East and North Africa, providing analytical and policy inputs on food security and nutrition and carrying out research focused on policy pathways for transforming agrifood systems in order to promote healthy diets.

To this day, Salma is applying the knowledge gained during the course to her work and research. *“There are trade-offs when we apply healthy diet policies. One trade-off that can be affected is the relationship between trade and food subsidies. Part of the project that I am working on now with FAO, which is part of my academic research too, is about the trade-offs facing a healthy diet in developing countries, and I am actually using some of the data shared during the course.”*

After finishing her PhD, Salma wishes to continue working with international organizations and NGOs on matters related to hunger and food security issues globally. We are excited to see her contributions to helping countries achieve zero hunger!

“Through the discussion platform, I have got to connect with policymakers, researchers and professionals working on the agriculture sector...”





Multilateral Diplomacy



Promote people's well-being and support equitable representation of countries in global decision-making.

Strengthen representation of countries in special situations in institutions of global governance.¹³

- 4 QUALITY EDUCATION
- 5 GENDER EQUALITY
- 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
- 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
- 13 CLIMATE ACTION
- 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
- 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Highlights

Multilateral Diplomacy Programme Unit



129
events¹⁴

5,231
beneficiaries

103
learning events

4,221
learners

1,264
Certificates¹⁵

Training diplomats in a post-COVID world

UNITAR continued to implement most face-to-face workshops as e-workshops and online courses due to the travel restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Adjusting the format of our learning events allowed UNITAR to reach broader audiences of diplomats and government officials around the world. Many of these workshops and courses focus on equipping diplomats and government officials with skills and knowledge necessary to navigate through the multilateral arena. The 2021 online portfolio included Online Certificates and Diplomas about Essential Professional Skills; Multilateral Diplomacy; International Law in the 21st Century (Executive Level); Women's Leadership; Young Leaders; the UN Human Rights Council Training Programme; and the Executive Summer Programme on Innovations and Science Diplomacy. The latter was implemented with top Boston-based universities and partners and prepared the next generation of world leaders in the field of science diplomacy, technology and innovations, contributed to informed decision-making, and provided leadership with science-diplomacy networks that build common interests.

Partnerships



UNITAR collaborated with the Program on Negotiation at the Harvard Law School, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Massachusetts, Boston University and Swissnex in Boston with regards to the implementation of UNITAR's Executive Summer Programme on Innovation in Science Diplomacy. Leveraged our knowledge of online learning methodologies when cooperating with the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions on the creation of a course on chairing international conferences, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) by creating three courses on migration law related topics.

Master's programmes



Launched three new master's programmes: Master in International Law and Diplomacy with the University for Peace (which targets students and professionals who would like to have a deeper understanding of topics related to multilateral diplomacy and international law), a hybrid Masters on Anti-Corruption and Diplomacy with the

International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA, for professionals and aspiring professionals in the field of diplomacy and anti-corruption) and a Master's Programme in International Leadership and Negotiation in collaboration with the Universidad Europea de Valencia (for students and professionals interested in gaining the necessary skillset for leadership positions in international and multilateral working environments).

Customized online and face-to-face training programmes for Ministries of Foreign Affairs



Developed customized online training solutions for Ministries of Foreign Affairs across the world, including UAE, Bhutan, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Lebanon, Marshall Islands, Qatar, Indonesia, and Myanmar on topics such as Digital Diplomacy, Cyber Security, Environmental Diplomacy and Science Diplomacy. Designed new learning activities in the field of international law and implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Foreign Service Academy of Pakistan. Besides the online training programmes, two face-to-face training sessions were delivered for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Highlights

New York Office Programme



43
events¹⁶

7,069
beneficiaries

22
learning events

2,854
learners

209
Certificates¹⁷

Courses designed for the New York diplomatic community at the UN Headquarters

Seven-thousand and sixty-nine participants benefitted from 43 events developed by the New York Office, equivalent to 174 training days during the year.

Developed ten SDG Learning Centre sessions as a part of the High-Level Political Forum, where approximately 1,900 participants strengthened their knowledge on SDG-related matters.

As a part of our regular programming, we developed briefings for Brazil and Ghana, the New Members of the Security Council. The elected members received separate trainings, benefiting a total of 107 delegates.

In celebration of the occasion of the 76th Anniversary of the United Nations, more than 331 delegates benefitted from attending the “Briefing new delegates on the work of the 76th UN General Assembly (UNGA)”, an informative seminar organized in partnership with the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Singapore to the United Nations as Chair of the Forum of Small States.

The four-day virtual training programme entitled “Joint Swiss-UNITAR Briefing on United Nations Budgetary Matters training series”, covered the needs of the incoming delegates of the United Nations General Assembly Fifth Committee. The first two sessions directly benefitted more than 240 delegates from numerous Member States.

Additionally, UNITAR launched the PGA staff training programme for the new team of the Staff of the 76th Presidency of the General Assembly. 35 team members have received the trainings.

Music and the SDGs



Echoing the 76th President of General Assembly (PGA) mission for his Presidency, UNITAR organized the “Piano Recital: Building Resilience Through Hope”, in collaboration with the Global Foundation for the Performing Arts.

Partnerships with higher education institutions



UNITAR also continued our partnership with the Columbia Law School of Columbia University. Together, the Institute developed both Spring and Fall

diplomatic training series, which benefitted more than 957 participants accumulatively, in the fields of conflict resolution, mediation and negotiation.

The Institute also developed a pre-COP training session in partnership with Yale University with more than 154 participants.

Technology



The “UN - How to” app was updated to its fourth version and achieved more than 12,500 downloads in more than 150 countries.

Established the University Network for Sustainable Development in Latin America hosted virtually at the New York University with more than 300 students and professors registered.

Launched the Harnessing Climate and SDGs Synergies e-course with more than 250 participants registered.

Global Diplomacy Initiative



UNITAR continued hosting our flagship programme, Global Diplomacy Initiative, directly benefiting 25 students and young professionals.

Beneficiary Highlight



Photo credit | Courtesy of Larisa Schelkin

How One Woman is Helping Push Science Diplomacy Forward

Larisa Schelkin

Title

CEO/Founder of Global STEM* Education Center, Inc.

Country

The Republic of Bashkortostan, state of The Russian Federation/USA

Partnership

Fellowship in Global Diplomacy – and at least eight other of training courses

*STEM is a common abbreviation for four closely connected areas of study: science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

“I experienced a very open, diverse, collaborative, supportive, inclusive, and welcoming sense of community growing up”, recalls Larisa Schelkin. Originally from the Republic of Bashkortostan, located on the Russian border of Europe and Asia, Larisa, who is part of the Bashkirs indigenous people, spent most of her childhood abroad.

Her parents, both accomplished engineers, worked as consultants and were often seconded by Russia to support large-scale international engineering projects in different parts of the world. *“My first memory overseas is in India. We lived in different places there, and I have got to learn about its rich culture, education and how people are welcoming.”* Her parents' career also led the family to places such as Morocco and Algeria. This intercultural upbringing influenced Larisa's values. *“I observed how people from different countries would come together to collaborate on engineering and science projects. These exchanges were kitchen table discussions in our house. It taught me to treasure the differences. I do not see them as a problem but as an asset.”*

Following in the footsteps of her parents, Larisa went on to pursue a successful career in petroleum engineering and computer science before moving to the US, where she started working in academia. Since then, Larisa has become a member of advisory and governing boards, participated in think tanks and built a valuable network that includes some of the most capable professionals and reputable universities in the world!

As if it were not enough, Larisa together with her Friend Dr. Norean R. Sharpe, a renowned

mathematician and Dean of Tobin College of Business at St. John's University, decided to found the Global STEM Education Center, a non-profit organization that brings together educators, students and partners to promote science, technology, engineering and mathematics education initiatives that prepare students with the skills to succeed in diverse, international, and collaborative contexts. *"We gained a lot of professional experience and developed a solid international network throughout the years. We felt we should share it all with students and young professionals, especially those who are not as fortunate as we both were. We want to support them in finding their way to success."*

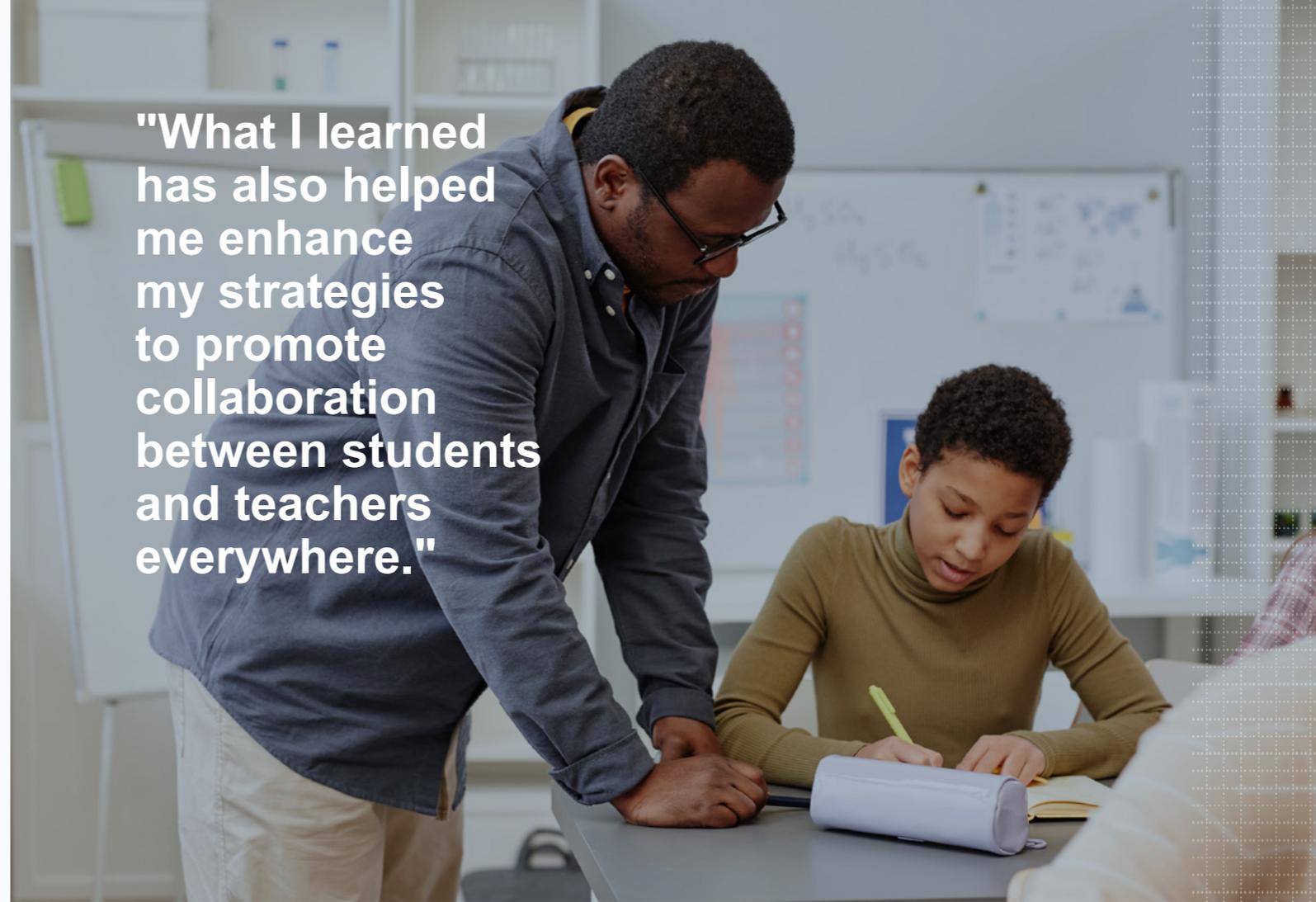
Since its creation in 2007, the Global STEM Education Center has grown remarkably! It has joined forces with distinguished partners such as US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Woods Hole Oceanography Institution (WHOI), Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Harvard University and helped numerous students and teachers across the globe. *"We have provided various professional development programmes, connected schools and universities in different countries to collaborate on projects and organized free workshops and seminars to encourage both students and educators to work together and build their networks."*

Committed to pushing the Global STEM Education Center even further to success, Larisa searched for a learning opportunity to strengthen her diplomatic skills. *"I have always been interested in diplomacy and wanted to learn what else I could do to improve international collaboration for our non-profit".* She

then came across UNITAR's Global Diplomacy Initiative Fellowship Programme and decided to apply. *"It was fantastic! Everything was unique, starting from the cohort of students. I have got to connect with colleagues from Latin America, North America, Africa, Asia, Oceania..."*

To Larisa, what makes this fellowship programme stand out is its inclusiveness quality. *"There are many great programmes on diplomacy out there that are targeted to a niche of professionals with certain degrees, work experience and even age groups. These programmes are needed, but I know that I would not be accepted because I do not meet most of their selection criteria. UNITAR's programme, on the other hand, welcomes professionals that do not necessarily have a traditional career in diplomacy but want to develop their knowledge and gain skills. Doctors, journalists, activities, artists, educators like myself, students, mid-career professionals... all have a chance to learn and contribute to the world of diplomacy".*

During the fellowship programme, Larisa got insights from a diverse group of experienced professionals, dived into the world of the UN System, connected with colleagues from all over the world and acquired a deep understanding of how diplomacy is crucial for advancing science and education. Moreover, much of what she learned turned out to be useful to students and educators around the world through her non-profit. *"At many times, while I listened to the professors and experts, I took notes of things that would be interesting to share with the educators and students at the Global STEM Education Centre. What I learned has also helped me enhance*



"What I learned has also helped me enhance my strategies to promote collaboration between students and teachers everywhere."

my strategies to promote collaboration between students and teachers everywhere."

In addition to the fellowship programme, Larisa has participated in at least eight other training courses delivered by UNITAR! As a result of her dedication and irreprehensible competence, she has now become part of the Teaching Faculty team in the

very same fellowship programme she partook in as a student. *"I am honoured to be awarded this opportunity, and I am committed to using all my expertise and international network to bring together more like-minded people to advance global diplomacy".* We cannot wait to see what Larisa will accomplish next!

Beneficiary Highlight



Photo credit | Courtesy of Esihle Makitshi

“You Can't Be What You Can't See”

Esihle Makitshi

Title

Activist and Safety Project Manager, WhatsApp

Country

South Africa/Ireland

Course

e-Workshop on Gender, Women's Leadership and Mentoring

“Growing up, I felt very privileged to have a computer at home”, recalls Esihle Makitshi. To an extent, she was, indeed. The digital divide in countries such as South Africa, where Esihle is from, is a setback for children and youth pursuing quality education and professionals trying to enter the job market. But there was yet another setback for her. One that most likely all women – let alone black women – face in life: lack of representation.

The issue with lack of representation is that, as Marian Wright Edelman brilliantly puts it, “you can't be what you can't see.” Seeing ourselves represented gives us a sense of value and belonging, a feeling Esihle did not particularly experience in her school's computing classes. “I told them I was interested in computers and wanted to learn more. I was lucky enough to be one of the few girls chosen to be a part of that class and, as far as I recall, the only person of colour as well.”

The reality was not different when she entered the university to study computer science. Nonetheless, Esihle persevered with her studies, and found an internship opportunity with the UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Austria. The experience gave her a glimpse of how things could actually be. “When I went to the UN in Vienna, I saw for the first time people who look just like me, are passionate about their roles and are confident to speak up. They have so much knowledge and fight for what they believe is right! You know, there are so many people who could have access to this if they had the chance to see themselves represented as such. And if I had seen that representation a lot sooner in my life, I would have been more confident professionally and personally.”

Unfortunately, the statistics back this up. Worldwide only 30 per cent of tech science and technology professionals are women¹⁸, and most do not occupy leadership positions. *“Men in my field are judged on their potential, whereas women by their past accomplishments. There is always so much more you have to prove as a woman to get leadership roles, participate in specific projects and be acknowledged for your contributions.”*

Esihle, fuelled with motivation to be a woman in tech that other girls and women look up to, went from providing basic support as an intern to playing a more crucial role at IAEA. Her career since then has only progressed. She has worked at the International Air Transport Association (IATA) in Canada, and in the IT department in a management consulting company subcontracted by the European Commission to work on monitoring and evaluation of projects in Belgium. Today she lives in Ireland and fills the position of safety project manager for the worldwide known instant messaging platform WhatsApp.

As time passed and she progressed in her career, Esihle’s passion for all themes related to women’s empowerment grew too. Eventually, she came across UNITAR’s e-Workshop on Gender, Women’s Leadership and Mentoring and decided to give it a chance. *“There are a lot of people who think that being a leader is being loud and aggressive, but not everyone is like this. There are people with softer voices and a quiet confidence about them. Sometimes, they are not seen as strong leaders, even though the results speak for themselves, and*

they run successful teams. So, what drew me to this e-workshop was that I wanted to discover my own leadership styles.”

Esihle did not regret her decision. *“The whole experience was fantastic! I left every single day of the e-workshop feeling empowered and inspired by all the people I spoke to.”* One of her favourite aspects of the experience was the facilitator. *“She had a contagious energy and brought all the concepts we were learning to life with real examples. Instead of saying ‘this is how you give an impactful speech’, she would give us tactical tools that we could use to implement into our daily lives. We would also break out into small groups where we had one-on-one conversations and collaborative tasks. So, it was very practical too.”*

By the end of the experience, Esihle found what she was looking for. *“I got to identify the leadership style that I liked the most, and one big part of it includes active listening.”* On top of that, Esihle connected with other participants and built a network. *“We have a chat group where we keep in touch and share resources. I get to follow these amazing women who are doing incredible things! Some of them are in conflict areas, and they are doing so much with so little.”*

Now, the young powerhouse, who likes to kayak and do Sudoku in her limited spare time, wishes to leave as much of an impact as the women she admires. *“I want to empower others because you can only climb if you lift as well.”* And she is on her way to doing so. Esihle is becoming an influential activist, and we cannot wait to see what the future holds for her!



"I want to empower others because you can only climb if you lift as well."



Accelerating the 2030 Agenda

Optimizing the use of technology
and supporting coherence for
the 2030 Agenda.

Support coherence and evidenced-
based policies of the 2030 Agenda.



Highlights



53

events¹⁹

11,035

beneficiaries

28

learning events

6,970

learners

129,775

UN SDG: learn users

1,472

certificates²⁰

Increasing the e-learning offer to address SDG training needs



Developed 5 new e-courses, with a focus on integrated recovery planning, environmental SDG indicators, infrastructure asset management for SDGs, SDG-aligned budgeting and STI for SDG Roadmaps. All of them are results of partnerships with UNDESA, UNEP, ESCAP/UNSIAP and UNDP. Thirteen course editions and 12 toolkits benefitted a total of 6,382 persons, including 2,336 women. Some of these courses are available in French and Spanish and some of the toolkits have also been translated into Russian and Arabic. Ninety-one per cent of learners have confirmed their intent to use the acquired knowledge and skills.

Building capacities of countries and providing advisory services on SDG planning and governance



Thirty-nine professionals, mostly government officials from 6 Arab countries, have been trained by UNITAR and UNDESA on integrated recovery planning. One-hundred per cent of the respondents found the approach and tools presented in the e-learning course relevant and effective in building the capacity of the national stakeholders to ensure a coherent, participatory and results-driven planning.

Additional 677 government and other experts from 44 African countries completed a regional online training programme on INFFs delivered by UNITAR, UNECA, UNDP and UNDESA. Eighty-five per cent of participants have seen an increase in their knowledge, skills and attitudes related to INFF.

Beyond training, the Institute produced an SDG governance assessment report for Cyprus under an EU-funded project. This report is expected to create a basis for fine-tuning institutional arrangements in Cyprus to better position the country on tracking and reviewing progress and implementing the SDGs. 2 additional analytical studies have been prepared through another work stream drawing on focus groups findings and showing BAU and sustainable pathways scenarios for Seychelles and Mauritius.

A new e-learning module has been developed with a focus on Leave No One Behind and added to the successful e-course on strengthening stakeholder engagement with several case studies.

Promoting evidence-based decision making by addressing data producers and data users' needs



Two-thousand four-hundred and eighty-nine participants took part in e-learning courses related to data production and use, including 1,201 women. 94 per cent of the relevant course felt they are better positioned to compile environmental SDG indicators and 88 per cent of all data courses confirmed the intent to use the acquired knowledge and skills.

Furthermore, one academic article was published in the Statistical Journal of the International Association for Official Statistics presenting the results of the

research on data competencies for policy-makers that has informed the development of a joint UNITAR-UNSD-UNECA course. The Institute also organized a side event during World Data Forum in 2021 on this topic with UNSD and on behalf of Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training where UNITAR leads a Task Team on statistical literacy.

Finally, UNITAR prepared two reports under the EU-funded [Crowd4SDG](#) project: one with a focus on the results of the survey of National Statistical Offices on the use of citizen science data for monitoring SDGs, case studies and recommendations, and another one using the Quality Assurance approach inspired by country experiences to assess the quality of citizen science datasets. The recommendations from the report were presented during a dedicated virtual panel for NSOs.

Leveraging partnerships to reach more learners and offer smart, innovative learnings services



By end of 2021, [UN SDG:Learn](#) counted 129,775 users and 60 partners from inside and outside the UN. The purpose of this initiative is making quality and comprehensive SDG learning available to many learners around the world, beyond the usual suspects among policy-makers and expert community.

The SDG competency assessment or SDG Fitness Test developed in 2021 by UNSDG:Learn partners with advice from UNESCO and Arizona State University experts has become a milestone as it aims to enable learners to self-assess their SDG competencies using real-world scenarios and get learning recommendations based on the results of their test.

Beneficiary Highlight



Photo credit | Courtesy of Pierre Fallavier

Trouble in Paradise? Not with a Cohesive Principle of Actions in Place

Mauritius and Seychelles are amongst the top paradise destinations that most people dream of visiting. These stunning islands with glorious white sand beaches and reefs bustling with exotic marine life are also known for having achieved considerable economic success. Although geographically isolated – Seychelles, for instance, with its nearest neighbours over 1,000 km away from their shores – the islands have managed to virtually eliminate extreme poverty, provide universal free access to education and primary healthcare, and sustain high levels of social welfare spending.

Unlike the paradisiacal islands from fairy tales, however, Mauritius and Seychelles are not safeguarded from the hardships of our real world. With both economies mostly based on tourism and fishing, the islands strongly felt the impact caused by the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions on travel and trade. Additionally, they figure amongst the most vulnerable nations to the ever more devastating effects of climate change.

The two Island States are well aware of these major threads and are committed to keeping their reputation as economic development success stories clean. Thus, both are devoted to developing the best strategy possible to sustainably recover from the effects of the pandemic and build resilience to cope with the current climate crises as well as any further challenges that may come their way.

The UN Resident Coordinator's Office for Mauritius and Seychelles coordinates the provision of technical assistance from a UN country team of twenty agencies to support both countries in achieving their development ambitions and

Pierre Fallavier

Title

Senior Development Coordination
Adviser, United Nations Resident
Coordinator's Office

Country

Mauritius/Seychelles

Partnership

UNITAR-UNDESA "Integrated
Recovery Planning
and Policy Coherence
Towards SDGs" Workshop

international commitments. *“Perhaps the most important thing when developing national strategies is to ensure the principle of actions is cohesive. For instance, if a policy to improve food production facilitates the use of a lot of chemical inputs, this can conflict with other policies on environmental protection. Mauritius and Seychelles are engaged in developing coherent and interlinked strategies to avoid policies that pull into opposite directions”*, explains Pierre Fallavier, the Senior Development Coordination Adviser for the UN Resident Coordinators’ Office from 2020 to 2021.

As both governments work on their strategies, UNITAR and UNDESA joined efforts to address exactly this issue. They developed a comprehensive study for each country using system thinking approach in order to assist them in identifying groups of policies that maximize synergies and reduce trade-offs across different dimensions of sustainable development and promote resilience in the face of future crises. As a first step, the studies looked into the development models implemented so far. The studies included close consultations with different government agencies and ministries through interviews and focus groups. A key outcome of the studies was a map showing interlinkages between key policy areas for each country. *“Government officials were able to see the complexity and the integrated nature of all sectors. How, for instance, a change in tourism policies affects environmental policies, food production policies and so on. It also gave insights into the positive impact of fine-tuning some policies.*

I found that to be an effective approach to communicate with policymakers rather than delivering long studies that would take them too much time to go over.”

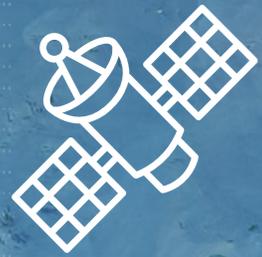
According to Pierre, the UNITAR-UNDESA study has proved relevant not only to the Governments but also to the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office itself. *“The work on policy coherence proved central to a lot of what our UN agencies aim to support both governments in achieving their national ambitions. It provided the picture of a puzzle we have been trying to assemble without knowing what it should look like. The different pieces are starting to fit in. Now we know more clearly the opportunities for collaboration amongst the different UN agencies and the countries.”*

Discussions on enhancements to Mauritius and Seychelles’ food system is one example of how the study came in handy. *“We have been working with both governments to review their food system: the challenges as well as areas and strategies for improvement. From that, they have identified their respective priorities to strengthen their food system. From our side, we are able to see what kind of technical resources the UN System can provide to support their ambitions to advance food security, food sovereignty, and good nutrition.”*

Now the expectations are for the development of national capacities and an analysis that goes further into this mapping, sector by sector. The inclusion of financial prospects is an important related topic. As for our side, we too are excited to continue collaboration on this project!

“Perhaps the most important thing when developing national strategies is to ensure the principle of actions is cohesive.”





United Nations Satellite Centre (UNOSAT)

Optimizing the use of technology,
including geospatial technologies,
for evidence-based decision-making.

Supporting coherence for the
2030 Agenda.



Highlights



872

mapping products

16

events

1,774

beneficiaries

7

learning events

255

learners

191

certificates²¹

UNOSAT is now the new United Nations Satellite Centre

The United Nations Economic and Social Council recognized UNOSAT as the United Nations Satellite Centre, shortly before UNOSAT celebrated 20 years of continuous and growing operations. Building off this success and lessons learned, UNOSAT kept a high standard of delivery for all remote activities and distance learning.

Mapping services

UNOSAT's flagship emergency mapping service delivered 872 products and services based on 315 analyses to partners in 54 countries, predominantly in Sub Saharan Africa, Northern Africa and Western Asia. Much of this was to assist disaster management authorities in assessing the impact of hazards, such as the explosion in Bata, Equatorial Guinea in March, the eruption of the Nyiarangongo volcano in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in May, or the devastating impact of Tropical Cyclone Rai-21 in the Philippines in December. UNOSAT Flood AI dashboards were developed to monitor the impact of the monsoon seasons in Mozambique and Nepal, and fully integrated in UN response mechanisms.

UNOSAT also continued supporting UN agencies and International Organizations in their work on peace and security, and human rights. This includes providing support to investigative mechanisms, or the United Nations Operational and Crisis Centre (UNOCC). A strategic cooperation agreement was also signed with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), a longstanding partner of UNOSAT. UNOSAT also provided mapping support to Vanuatu to enhance electoral registrations through our enduring partnership with UNDP. All these mapping activities contributed to the attainment of several SDGs, particularly SDG 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG 13 Climate Action and SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

Capacity development



UNOSAT also continued developing capacities of member states in the use of geospatial tools and data. Various tailored geospatial data-sharing tools were developed to support decision making with

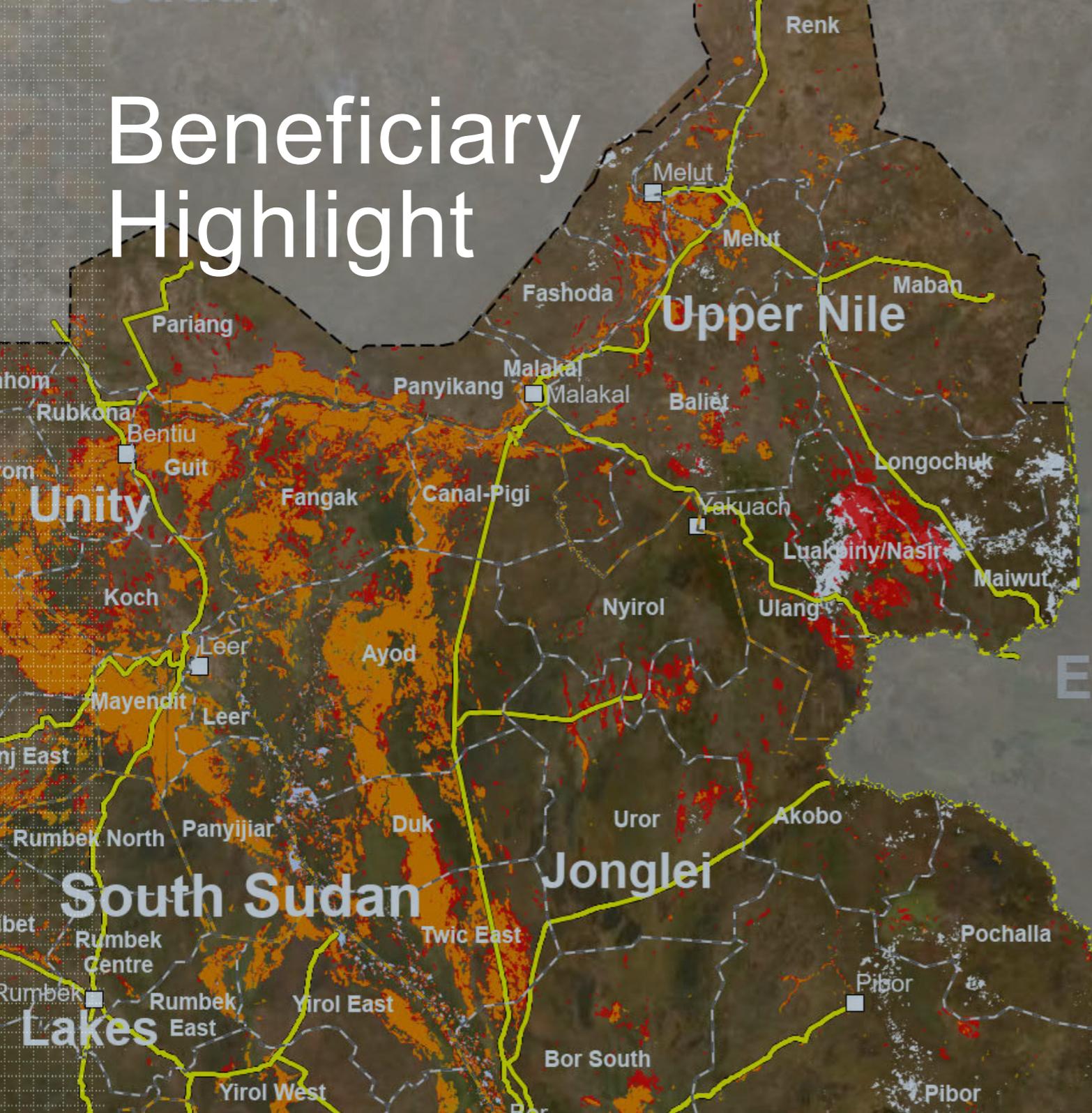
satellite imagery-derived evidence. UNOSAT also leveraged the use of distance learning solutions for training activities with use of online and blended delivery methods. Approximately 80 per cent of our events and trainings were web-based. Overall, trainings focused on strengthening participants' knowledge and skills on the use of geospatial information technologies on disaster risk reduction, climate resilience, flood forecasting, cultural heritage protection, and monitoring and evaluation. These efforts will continue in particular through the expansion of our decade-long partnership with the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation.

Awareness-raising



Finally, UNOSAT raised awareness through the participation to conferences such as the GIS for a Sustainable World conference, the Humanitarian Network Partnership Week, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Disaster Resilience Week, the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, and the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties.

Beneficiary Highlight



Satellite images and analysis to support rapid humanitarian response during floods in South Sudan

South Sudan is ranked among the five countries in the world most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. In the past years, the country has seen wet seasons becoming wetter, and dry seasons getting even drier. As a result, devastating floods are mercilessly hitting its population with increasingly destructive power each year. In 2021 alone, roughly over 650,00 individuals were reported to have their homes, farms and markets swallowed by overflowed waters. Arafat Jamal, the ad interim Humanitarian Coordinator in South Sudan until December 2021, described then the people impacted as “casual victims of the rest of the world’s carbon-fuelled prosperity”.

While these numbers are alarming, personal reflections from South Sudanese people provide an honest insight into what they experience. People who were already living in the open, under trees or in abandoned school buildings due to floods that devastated their homes in 2020, were forced to move yet again in search of higher and dry grounds. With most of their crops lost and livestock barely surviving, families waded through crocodile and snake-infested waters in search of lily bulbs to eat. “Due to the soil condition in South Sudan, whenever there is a flood the water remains for weeks, sometimes even months”, explained W.A. when working as part of teams responding to people impacted by conflict situations, flooding and other humanitarian and disaster operations. He has worked in the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Sierra Leone, Kenya and Syria before going to South Sudan, where he works in response to another severe humanitarian crisis impacting vulnerable people. “In normal circumstances, road access

W.A. Kumudu Sanjeewa

Title
Head of Communications and Information Management (CIMU), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Country
South Sudan

Partnership
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

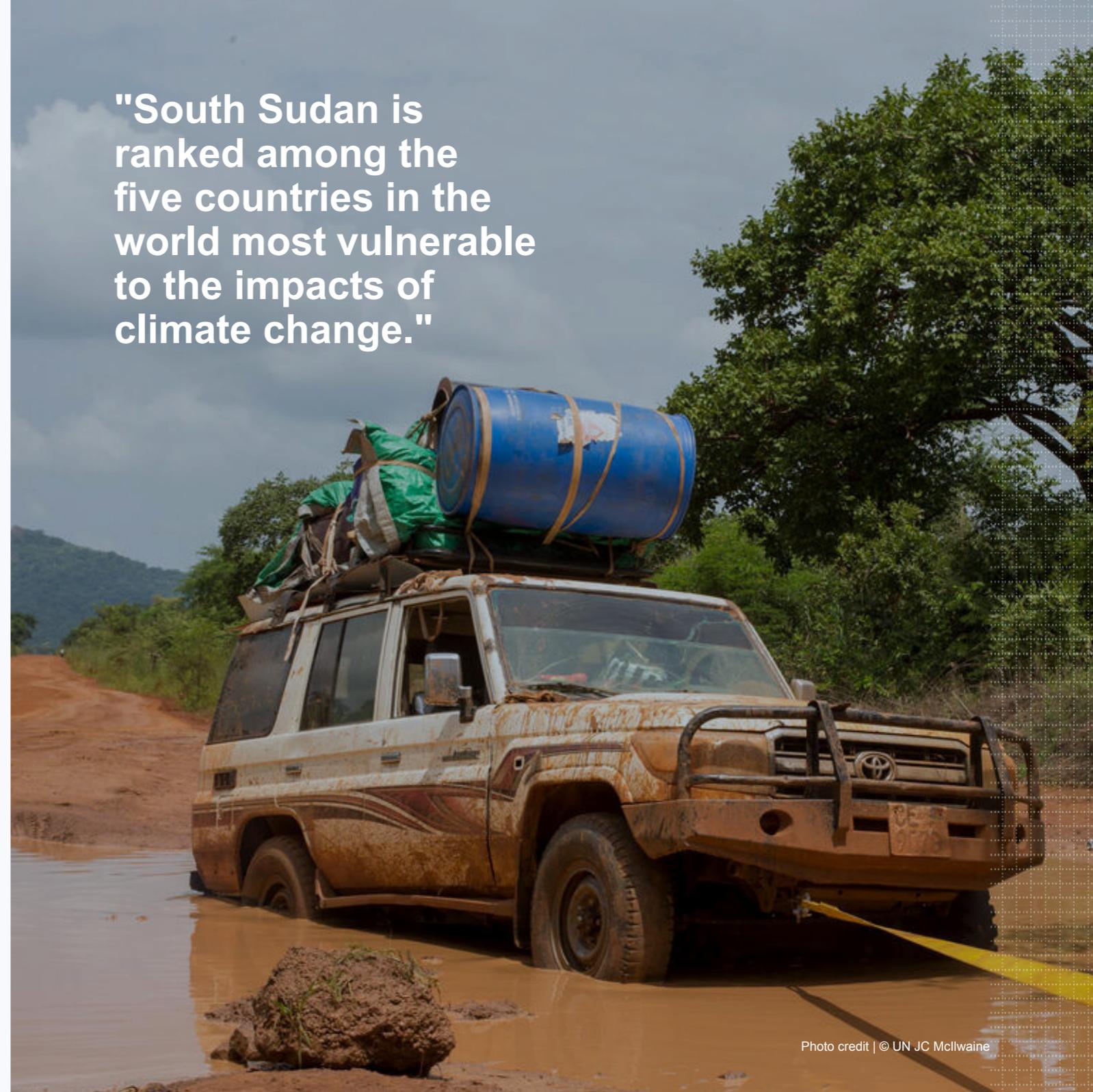
in South Sudan can be a challenge. With the flood, physical access to affected areas becomes even more challenging. Many roads are covered with water. We depend on information sent by our colleagues in field locations to get updates on people's situations. However, even with this information, it is impossible to get a detailed picture of the damage caused by flood impact and locate people that are in need of assistance. For people who lost their homes and their main source of living, every minute they suffer must feel like an eternity. So, we need to see the extent of the flood immediately to help guide how the response to their needs is undertaken. Therefore, in humanitarian disasters such as this, the first thing that we ask for are satellite images".

UNOSAT reached out to request satellite images as well as assistance from analysts. "As OCHA South Sudan, we neither have the technical capacity in house to do satellite imagery and the needed analysis nor do we have the time. UNOSAT provides this analysis that shows the number of population, areas affected, and estimated people exposed. All this gives us an amazing immediate

big picture of the real situation. Then, the inter-cluster coordination group undertakes an in-depth analysis to help shape the response. It means that the initial analysis feeds into the discussions of the decision makers", he explains adding that he values UNOSAT's work and swift action. "For me, this is an excellent collaboration, the technical as well as the managerial level went beyond expected."

With the necessary information in their possession, OCHA went on to coordinate the humanitarian response. Moving forward, W.A. believes that these maps will continue to be important should another similar disaster happen in the future. "With these products, OCHA will be able to make a comparative analysis with previous years. So, if South Sudan experience floods next year, we can look back on those and see what areas were frequently affected by floods in the past and make predictions, which will help us be better prepared to respond instead of waiting until the disaster happens to make some decisions". And should it happen, UNOSAT will be ready to support W.A. and his colleagues at OCHA to promptly assist South Sudan's people.

"South Sudan is ranked among the five countries in the world most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change."





The Defeat-NCD Partnership

A world in which there is universal health coverage for NCDs.

Enable and assist lower-income and lesser developed countries to scale-up sustained action against NCDs so that they can progress on SDG 3.²²



Highlights



11

events

1,563

beneficiaries

9

learning events

1,059

learners

5

programme countries*

*Focus on: cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases, mental health and NCD supplies.

The Defeat-NCD Partnership Essential Supplies Facility

The Defeat-NCD Partnership established and launched the services of the Defeat-NCD Partnership Essential Supplies Facility to overcome the major constraint in the global fight against noncommunicable diseases, the reliable availability and affordability of medicines, diagnostics, and equipment.

The key objectives of the Facility are:

- To create a competitive environment serving the interests of both Buyers and Suppliers.
- To ensure that the underlying technology is easily scalable at a global level.
- To provide transparency of process that helps to build mutual trust and confidence.

National NCD Capacity Building

The Defeat-NCD Partnership provided technical assistance and support, across its four pillars of work, to its existing programme countries, Rwanda and Myanmar, and initiated programming in three additional countries, The Gambia, India, and Ecuador, despite the COVID-19 pandemic which affected NCD service delivery globally and shifted the focus away from NCD programming.

"During this time of crisis, drug prices are increasing and, fortunately, I still have access to my essential supplies. However, most patients with chronic diseases don't and suffer as a result. I hope that essential aids can also reach high-conflict areas."

U Hla, 70, Myanmar

The political instability following the military coup in Myanmar in addition to the dire situation caused by the high rates of infections of COVID-19 lead to a setback in the progress achieved by the NCD country programme. The Defeat-NCD Partnership directed its efforts in Myanmar towards advocacy for the continuity of NCD services, the inclusion of NCD care in the humanitarian response and the prioritisation of NCD patients in COVID-19 vaccination.

Completed the National Multi-sectoral Strategy and Costed Action Plan in Gambia, worked closely with the Ministry of Health and other partners.

The number of NCDs patients in health facilities increased a 14.1 per cent in 2021 compared to 2020, following increased advocacy, coordination, and support to NCDs in The Gambia. This is broken down as follows: Hypertension: 7 per cent, Diabetes 22 per cent, Cancers 141 per cent, Asthma 10 per cent. Additionally, willingness to present in health facilities increased across The Gambia with a 52 per cent increase in the severe forms of NCDs admitted in health facilities in 2021 compared to 2020. Hypertension: 4 per cent, Diabetes 58 per cent, Cancers 162 per cent, while for asthma decreasing by 3 per cent.

The National Strategy and Costed Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs in Rwanda was launched in September with the presence of 80 participants in person, and many more online. Representatives from nine different ministries from the Government of Rwanda, along with national and international NGOs and development partners, media, patient groups, and advocates participated in

the launched event to pledge their commitment and support to implement the costed action plan.

All partners implementing this strategy and its costed action plan made progress in most priority areas identified under the five strategic objectives during 2021. Some achievements include the integration of NCDs and Environmental Health chapters in the training manual for School Health and Nutrition Programme of the Ministry of Education in Rwanda, finalisation of the Multisectoral National Strategic Plan for Tobacco Control in Rwanda, celebration of the World Stroke Day on 29th October in collaboration with Stroke Action Rwanda, development of a literature review report for establishing alcohol policy in Rwanda in collaboration with Manchester Metropolitan University, and the reintroduction of "Car Free Day" after a prolonged COVID-19 pandemic along with NCD community screening and awareness.

Support for implementing cervical cancer screening and HPV vaccination programmes was provided upon request in three states in India, namely Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Goa. Three state officers are embedded in relevant health directorates for the roll-out of the programmes with the implementing partner Transforming Rural India Foundation.

An MoU was signed in Ecuador during the visit of Dr Ximena Garzón Villalba, Minister of Public Health of Ecuador to Geneva, to help the scale-up of the country's NCD programme and access the support of the Defeat-NCD Partnership Essential Supplies Facility.

Beneficiary Highlight



Strengthening the Smiling Coast's Strategy to Defeat NCDs

The Gambia is Africa's smallest non-island country and one of its most densely populated. The Smiling Coast, as it is also known due to its location on the map cutting through the middle of Senegal in a position that appears like that of a smile, has a significant young population – about two-thirds is under age 30. Yet roughly 37 per cent of its people died in 2019 from NCDs – most of the mortalities occurring from cardiovascular diseases, cancers, respiratory diseases and diabetes, with major risk factors being tobacco use, alcohol consumption, physical inactivity and unhealthy diets.

During the past two years, the dire situation caused by the high rates of infections of COVID-19 put even more pressure on health systems globally, threatening progress towards addressing NCDs. For Least Developed Countries (LDCs) such as The Gambia, this was an even heavier burden to carry. *“The pandemic came at a time when most of our countries were struggling with basic health service provision, capacity gaps, infrastructural challenges, and other problems such as supply chain interruption. For instance, we faced a shortage of glucose test strips, which is essential for people suffering from diabetes”*, explains Dr Ahmadou Lamin Samateh, Minister of Health of The Gambia.

However, The Gambia decided to turn the tide and take the lead in the region to scale-up NCD services, improve access to care, and provide financial protection to its population. Accordingly, the Ministry of Health of The Gambia requested the support of The Defeat-NCD Partnership and have jointly led a collaborative, multi-sectoral approach to develop the countries' first National Multi-Sectorial Strategy and Costed Action Plan for the Prevention

Country

The Gambia

Partnership

Scaling-up the national response to non-communicable diseases to achieve the sustainable development goal 3.4; reducing by one third pre-mature mortality from NCDs by 2030

and Control of NCD in The Gambia (2022-2027), which was launched by the President of The Gambia on 6 July 2022.

“Our focus in the past was mostly on tertiary healthcare, however, people do not usually go to the health facilities because they might be far from the main road or might not have access to a vehicle or money to reach the closest facility. The new strategy and its action plan have major focus on increased access to essential NCD services across the Country”, said Dr Ahmadou Lamin Samateh, Minister of Health of The Gambia.

As the government started to review its national NCD policy it realized an all-hands-on-deck effort was much needed. *“Developing a strategy is not easy and the resources and capacities of our NCD department are limited”,* shares Omar Badjie, NCD Programme Manager and National Tobacco Control Focal Point. Following expressed interest by the government, The Defeat-NCD Partnership eagerly came on board with its technical expertise and network in order to support the development of The Gambia’s five-year National Multi-Sectoral Strategy and Costed Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs. *“The Partnership has been very useful in the development of our policy since its inception and helped us mobilize people and partners”,* adds Mr Badjie.

The work around the NCD strategy and its costed action plan places a particular focus on addressing those diseases and habits that cause the most mortalities in the country. It includes the development of the country’s tobacco control strategy, considered by Dr Samateh as *“one of*

the strongest in the region”, and a nutrition policy integrating the management of dietary risk factors related to NCDs. Cardiovascular diseases are at the core of all six strategic objectives of the policy and the plan to address diabetes and cancer is also highlighted in the plan. As a matter of fact, 25 clinics providing NCD care have been approved already to scale-up services and cover the entire country – instead of six clinics as it used to be – and public-private-people partnerships were established to provide diabetes and other NCD community screening. *“We understood that we had to change the strategy and go into the communities because our people deserve it. We started for the first time in the history of the country a community ambulance system. People now can call a toll-free number and the ambulance will drive to the patient’s doorstep, pick the patient up and drive the patient to the health facility”,* reveals Dr Samateh.

Together with the government, The Defeat-NCD Partnership also mapped current practices, stakeholders, resources, capacities, and referral channels. A national consensus for the establishment of a cancer specialized centre was also agreed upon within The Gambia’s teaching hospital.

According to Dr Samateh, the entire strategy is designed *“to set clear NCD interventions with expanded service packages to be provided by the different levels of the health system with its aim of accelerating the country’s progress to achieving the global targets.”* As a result of the first steps taken towards improving The Gambia’s approach to



"We understood that we had to change the strategy and go into the communities because our people deserve it."

tackling NCDs, the government observed already a 14.1% increase in the number of NCD patients presenting in health facilities in 2021 in comparison with the previous year.

“We are very happy with this partnership because it is based on national leadership. Rather than imposing solutions, the Defeat-NCD Partnership

team is supporting our vision and helping build our capacities, bringing their technical skills, and promoting encouragement of other partners to come on board. We want The Gambia to showcase what partnership for the good of humanity can do”, concludes Dr Samateh. We too want to see The Gambia and all our partner countries excel in defeating this common enemy!



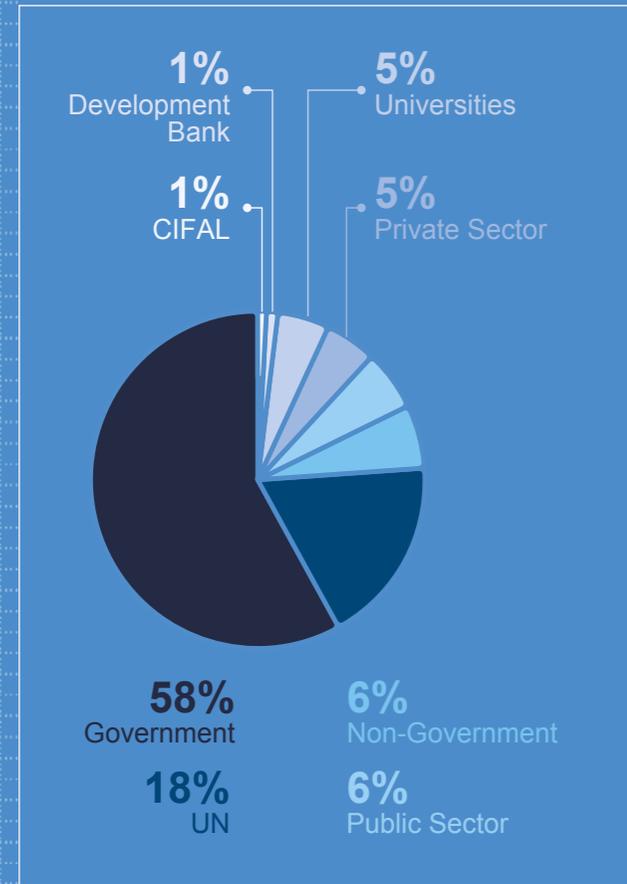
Financial Information

In 2021, the Institute delivered activities and produced results with \$38,171 million in expenditures.

UNITAR is project-based and does not receive any funds from the United Nations regular budget. UNITAR is financed entirely from voluntary contributions derived mainly from UN Member States, the business sector, other UN agencies, others such as public institutions and universities, NGOs and CIFAL centres affiliation fees as shown in Chart 14.

CHART 14

2021 Income by source



The Strategic Framework Fund is a flexible, pooled instrument to support the Institute’s strategic objectives. The Fund focuses on meeting capacity and training needs from countries in special situations as well as vulnerable groups, including women and persons with disabilities. In 2021, the Swedish International Development Agency provided a cumulative total of \$1.368 million to the Fund. Some 17 projects and activities were under implementation, with \$1,027,527 in expenditures.

The Institute is grateful to all organizations and individuals who support its work financially.

Table 1 - Contributions for the General Fund (cash basis) in USD

China	100,000
Switzerland	100,000
Japan	15,881
Liechtenstein	10,875
Turkey	10,000
Thailand	2,000

Table 2 - Contributions for the Strategic Framework Fund (cash basis) in USD

Sweden	1,298,855
Franklin University	45,343
University of Geneva	23,469

Table 3: Contributions for Programmes (cash basis) – above 100k USD

Governments		Other entities		UN Agencies	
Germany	>11 million	Helmsley Charitable Trust	2 million	UNEP	>1 million
Norway	>4 million	UK Space Agency	>1 million	UNOPS	>700,000
Switzerland	>3 million	Course fees	>800,000	UN Secretariat	>300,000
Japan	>2 million	Open University of Catalonia	>800,000	UN	>200,000
Sweden	>1 million	Impact Initiatives	>400,000	UNIDO	>200,000
USA	>700,000	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ)	>300,000	Independent Investigative Mechanism	>200,000
Belguim	>200,000	Anheuser-Busch Inbev SA	>300,000	UNESCWA	200,000
Nigeria	>100,000	World Bank Group	>300,000	UNOHCR	>100,000
Denmark	>100,000	The Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa	>200,000	UNDESA	>100,000
Saudi Arabia	>100,000	Diageo	>200,000	ITU	>100,000
Finland	>100,000	Rule of Law Anti- Corruption Centre	>200,000	UNESCAP	>100,000
		University of Stirling	>200,000	Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar	>100,000
		Takeda Pharmaceuticals International Ag.	>200,000	UNCTAD	>100,000
		Looker Education Group	>200,000	FAO	>100,000
		European Union	>100,000	UNDP	>3 million
		University for Peace	>100,000		
		University of Limerick	>100,000		
		Hamdam Bin Mohammed Smart University	>100,000		
		Loughborough University	>100,000		
		Sant Anna University	>100,000		
		WEEE Forum	>100,000		
		Pernod Ricard	>100,000		
		Total SA	>100,000		
		Harbour Education	>100,000		
		Oxford Brooks University	>100,000		
		University of Strathclyde	>100,000		

Endnotes

- 1 UNITAR calculates the number of beneficiaries based on the number of participating individuals in training and related events (as opposed to the number of unique beneficiaries), as recorded by Divisions and Programme Units in the Events Management System (EMS). The figures and breakdowns in this report are inclusive of all Divisions, Offices, the Global Network of International Training Centres of Authorities and Leaders and The Defeat-NCD Partnership. The overall figure of 370,139 reflects the number as reported in the 2021 Financial Statements (March 2022). The number of EMS-reported beneficiaries at the time of this report (June 2022) is 26 less than those reported in the Financial Statements.
- 2 Out of the 243,790 learning-related beneficiaries, 168,615 (or 69 per cent) are unique participants.
- 3 While “other” is defined as neither male nor female, it is possible that some participants registering for UNITAR events online and Programme Units recording data manually interpreted “other” differently e.g. as “not applicable”, “data not available” or “I prefer not to report”. The proportion of “other” should therefore be interpreted in this context.
- 4 Learning-related beneficiaries under strategic objective 2 include the Multilateral Diplomacy pillar.
- 5 Regional and development status breakdowns of beneficiaries are determined on the basis of the reported nationality in the EMS. The breakdowns do not include beneficiaries recorded with unreported nationalities.
- 6 The number of events reported is based on the figure in the Financial Statements. The number of events reported in the EMS at the time of this report (May 2022) is nine less than those reported in the Financial Statements.
- 7 Based on participant feedback from 567 of 619 learning-related events (or 92 per cent of the total number of learning events delivered in 2021).
- 8 The assessment is based on survey responses from a random sample of learners from 2021 learning-related events (833 responses). The survey was deployed in 4 languages: English, Spanish, French and Portuguese.
- 9 Number based on certificates of completion and participation from learning events with objective assessment of learning requirements.
- 10 Number based on certificates of completion and participation from learning events with objective assessment of learning requirements.
- 11 Number based on certificates of completion and participation from learning events with objective assessment of learning requirements.
- 12 Number based on certificates of completion and participation from learning events with objective assessment of learning requirements.
- 13 Some New York events are reported under other pillars.
- 14 Events and beneficiaries from the Multilateral Diplomacy Programme are registered under the Multilateral Diplomacy (129 events), Multiple Pillars (3 events) and Cross-fertilizing Knowledge pillars (2 events).
- 15 Number based on certificates of completion and participation from learning events with objective assessment of learning requirements.
- 16 Events and beneficiaries from the New York Office programming are registered under the prosperity (1 event), Multiple Pillars (2 events), Accelerating SDG implementation (2 events), Planet (6 events), Cross-fertilizing Knowledge (7 events), Multilateral Diplomacy (8 events) and People (17 events) pillars.
- 17 Number based on certificates of completion and participation from learning events with objective assessment of learning requirements.
- 18 [ITU: Bridging the gender divide](#)
- 19 Also includes events and beneficiaries from The Defeat-NCD Partnership, the New York Office and the Office of the Executive Director.
- 20 Number based on certificates of completion and participation from learning events with objective assessment of learning requirements.
- 21 Number based on certificates of completion and participation from learning events with objective assessment of learning requirements.
- 22 Events and beneficiaries are reported under multiple pillars and under the Accelerating SDG Implementation pillar.



2021

Results Report



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