



PROJECT INFO

United Nations Development Programme



Photo by: Tomislav Georgiev, Andrej Ginovski, Saso Ristevski

CHALLENGE

Human Development is much more than just economic growth. It is about creating an environment in which people can develop their full potential and lead productive, creative lives in accord with their needs and interests. Development is thus about expanding the choices people have to lead lives that they value. People must be free to exercise their choices and to participate in decision-making that affects their lives.

Two decades of transition have brought many changes to the region, on the one hand greatly expanding people's rights and opportunities, but on the other hand increasing levels of insecurity and rising inequality. Recent analyses point to growing inequalities and entrenched poverty levels in the country. They are a result of: (i) high unemployment; (ii) low public investment in health, education and social protection services, particularly in rural areas; (iii) the inability of the social protection system to buffer economic shocks and (iv) the lack of solid social sector data and a system for monitoring vulnerabilities. The youth have been especially exposed to the effects of the transition. The sociological, economic and cultural aspects of youth have changed significantly as a result of demographic and changes in the social environment, individual and collective behaviour, family relationships and labour market conditions. All of this makes the establishment and implementation of targeted policies and programmes very difficult.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

UNDP has initiated the process of research and analyses of human development trends with an overall objective to support national and regional poverty reduction and social inclusion advocacy efforts, and policy development. It therefore draws examples from practice and statistical evidence based on a standardized set of definitions and indicators. Following the previous editions focused on the impact of transition on the civil society (1999), social exclusion and human insecurity (2001), and local governance (2004), the new National Human Development Report (NHDR) is centered on social inclusion and youth. More importantly it examines in detail the effects of transition on young women and young Roma, as the most disadvantaged groups exposed to multiple exclusion in society.

The project aims to explore the issues related to social inclusion/exclusion on national and regional level and develop a common analytical approach to social inclusion. It also aims to analyze policy impacts and options, providing evidence based advice to policymakers on successful inclusive policy choices in the economic, social and cultural spheres, with a focus on those related to poverty reduction, anti-discrimination and human rights.

RESULTS

NHDRs have been used throughout the world as an effective advocacy tool for policy makers, civil society organisations, citizens, political representatives and academics in their joint effort to advance human development. With a degree of editorial independence, it opens the door to new thinking and policy perspectives, essential for facing the challenges of human development and poverty eradication. To date, UNDP CO has produced three NHDRs, with the aim of stimulating dialogue on the key human development issues in the country, by providing evidences and in-depth analysis on the respective topics.

The NHDR produced in 2001, explored and analyzed the human insecurity deriving from the high levels of unemployment, social exclusion of the rural population, environmental threats, inter-ethnic relations, lack of judicial protection, legal insecurity, etc., as well as the main forms of exclusion that accompany these circumstances. It has initiated broad and lively public debate on the above issues, mobilizing policy-makers to seek for and develop ways and mechanisms to improve these situations.

NHDR 2004 Report concentrated on local governance and the main challenges associated with decentralization, and in particular fiscal decentralization. Beside the issues related to ensuring effective delivery of local public services, it also explored the social dimensions, such as education and health. This Report suggested a set of approaches and recommendations regarding then freshly initiated decentralization and local governance reform, setting the basis for many future analysis and actions at central and local level.

PROJECT TITLE: Comprehensive Policy Support for the Development Agenda of FYR Macedonia

PARTNERS: Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Culture, the Agency of Youth and Sports

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