Sustaining and Deepening Poverty-Environment Action Impact after 2022

Committee of Permanent Representatives
7 July 2022
Poverty-Environment Action’s Journey

Country Projects:
Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nepal and Rwanda

Technical Assistance:
Indonesia, South Africa, Tanzania, Regional and Global

Next Exit: Mainstreaming

Poverty-Environment Initiative 2005-2017

Poverty-Environment Action 2018-2022

Implementing Partners:
ADB, GGKP, GIZ, UNITAR, UNRISD and UN Women

Donors:
Austria, Belgium, Norway, Sweden and the European Union

Country Projects:
Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nepal and Rwanda

Technical Assistance:
Indonesia, South Africa, Tanzania, Regional and Global

Next Exit: Mainstreaming

Poverty-Environment Initiative 2005-2017

Poverty-Environment Action 2018-2022

Implementing Partners:
ADB, GGKP, GIZ, UNITAR, UNRISD and UN Women

Donors:
Austria, Belgium, Norway, Sweden and the European Union
Eradicating multidimensional poverty is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development

“Eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development” – UNCSD 2012

• One in five people in developing regions lives on less than $1.90 per day
• Economic growth is not reducing the social and economic costs of unsustainable use of natural resources and environmental externalities
• Income inequality increased by 11% in developing countries between 1990 and 2010
• Poorer people are disproportionately dependent on natural resources
• Poverty falls disproportionately on women and children
  – COVID-19 pandemic threw an estimate additional 490 million people back into multidimensional poverty globally (UNDP and OPHI, 2020)
  – Of the 1.2 billion people across the world who live in hunger, 7 out of 10 are women and girls
  – Half of global multidimensionally poor people are children (Oxford Multidimensional Poverty Initiative and UNDP 2021)
Poverty-environment mainstreaming helps eradicate poverty and reduce inequality – as well as combat environmental degradation.

Five interlinked key objectives covered by poverty-environment integration or ‘mainstreaming’:

- Sustainable use of natural resources
- Adaptation to climate change
- Poverty reduction
- Equity, especially for marginalized groups (including women & indigenous peoples)
- Inclusive green growth

Sustained, international, regional & national institutions should embrace & embed poverty-environment integration in their own systems, procedures & practices.
UNDP–UNEP
Poverty-Environment Initiative / Poverty-Environment Action supports governments to:

• Include sustainable environment and natural resource sustainability & climate resilience core objectives in development planning & implementation
  – Appropriately designed, enhanced sustainability and resilience significantly contribute to development objectives such as economic growth, poverty reduction and food security

• PEI/PEA have been highly successful
  – applying integrated environmental-economic-social assessments that demonstrate how sustainability and resilience can support poverty reduction and other development objectives
  – supporting the integration of sustainability in national development plans, a range of sector plans and in selected districts
  – developing and proving an operational approach for supporting implementation of the environmental pillar of the SDGs
  – Support to Indonesian Ministry of Finance study on Gender responsive climate budgeting

• Moderately successful influencing budget processes and allocations
• Not sufficiently successful in influencing private sector investments
Improving ENR & resilience is a powerful way of increasing economic growth, eradicating poverty & reducing inequality.

- PEI/PEA developed and operationalised a successful poverty-environment mainstreaming model to improve sustainability & resilience in a way that contributes to key development objectives such as poverty reduction, economic growth & food security.

- PEI/PEA economic analysis provides clear evidence:
  - In Mozambique, unsustainable & inefficient use of Natural Resources estimated to cost 17% of GDP annually; investing 4% of GDP would be sufficient to end this cost.
  - In Malawi, unsustainable use of Nature Resources estimated to reduce GDP by 5.3%; substantive investments in sustainability would increase GDP & generate a positive net economic return.
  - PEI/PEA calculated that substantively reducing soil erosion in Malawi would have lifted 1.88m people out of poverty between 2005 & 2015 through improved agricultural productivity.
  - In Rwanda, a PEI/PEA supported cost-benefit analysis of a pilot green village calculated that investing in 30 sustainable rural villages would add 0.8% of GDP and lead to 0.71% decrease in the extreme poverty rate of 16.3% (in 2015) while generating 8.9% rate of return.
  - The Rwandan Government has invested in over 40 green villages.
The PEI/PEA programmatic approach is a model for joint programming at the country level so that UNEP can achieve substantive results and a model for the integrated socio-economic-environmental approach necessary to implement the Sustainable Development Goals.

If PEI/PEA lessons are applied broadly across UNEP, UNEP would be more likely to more effectively achieve its mandate:

- Outcome 2B
- Nature Action
- Finance and economic transformations
Sustaining and Deepening Poverty-Environment Action Impact after 2022

• **Partnerships building on Poverty-Environment Action will continue**
  — Asian Development Bank, UNDP, UNEP BlueImpact financing mechanism being developed in Asia Pacific to support SMEs in a blue economy

• **Capacity building on Poverty-Environment mainstreaming & integration for UNEP, UNDP and partners institutions**
  — Capacity building to ‘Leave No One Behind’ for UN Resident Coordinators

• **Continued engagement with countries through UNEP Regional Offices and UNDP Regional Hubs**
  — Bangladesh has requested another 4-year project that builds on the PEA project
  — UNDP is now preparing this and will use core resources as well as seek additional funds

• **Expected Results**
  — Poverty-Environment-Climate mainstreaming applied more broadly within and beyond Poverty-Environment Action target countries
  — Successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Least Developed Countries