

United Nations University

Annual Report
2017



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY

United Nations University

Annual Report 2017

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#SDGExplorer

United Nations University

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About the United Nations University

For the past four decades, the United Nations University (UNU) has been a go-to think tank for impartial research on the pressing global problems of human survival, development, and welfare. With more than 400 researchers worldwide, we bring together world-renowned experts to develop realistic solutions to these complex challenges.

UNU – which operates as a global network of institutes and programmes, each with its own specialised area(s) of expertise – fulfils three related identities, functioning as:

- a network for solutions-focused research
- a think tank for the United Nations system
- an academic institution for postgraduate training and capacity development

UNU is, first and foremost, a network for solutions-focused research. Our core mission is to generate research that makes a difference on the big issues and encourages the rethinking of existing policies and perspectives. We are a global network of research institutes that work together to more effectively respond to the complex, multi-faceted challenges faced by the UN and its Member States. As evidenced by this report, our research portfolio supports each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The UNU Charter ensures our academic freedom and autonomy within the framework of the United Nations. Our research is insulated from outside influences, thus enabling us to focus our efforts where we perceive the needs are greatest.

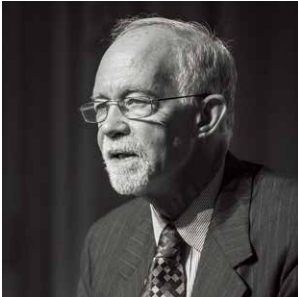
UNU functions as a think tank for the UN system. We use our research to inform policymaking and promote positive global change. Our position and mandate in the UN system gives us a unique entry point to global debates and enables us to provide impartial advice on sensitive issues. We bridge the gap between the UN and academia to deliver innovative products to the policy reform table. And by actively engaging decision makers and other key players in the research process, we help to ensure that our research contributes to tangible policy change.

Headed by a Rector, who holds the rank of UN Under-Secretary-General, and staffed by policy experts, we have direct access to UN senior officials and can contribute substantially to high-level policy processes. Additionally, the Rector's participation in the UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination facilitates advice to, and dialogue with, the Secretary-General and the Executive Heads of the UN system, and affords us a strategic opportunity to identify emerging policy trends.

UNU is an immersive postgraduate training and capacity development institution. We offer unique educational opportunities that equip tomorrow's leaders with the academic foundations they will need to solve global challenges.

We award postgraduate degrees (through stand-alone programmes and joint programmes in cooperation with leading universities), and provide a range of specialised non-degree training opportunities, some of which enable students to earn credit towards a degree at a partner university.

Rector's Welcome



Welcome to the 2017 annual report of the United Nations University.

This was a year of significant accomplishment for UNU, and one that sets the stage for our continued contributions as the “go-to” think tank for the United Nations system.

The work of UNU has always focused on finding solutions for the pressing global problems of human survival, development, and welfare. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that our research agenda aligns with, and encompasses, the full range of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015, the SDGs unite global action to overcome the world’s related challenges, from hunger and poverty to equality and peace. The synergies between the SDGs and our research agenda are numerous and significant.

The aim of this year’s annual report is to communicate, clearly and comprehensively, the extent to which UNU’s 2017 research and capacity development activities contributed to supporting the monitoring and implementation of the SDG targets. It also offers an offline complement to the UNU Sustainable Development (SD) Explorer. Launched in January 2018, the online SD Explorer features a sampling of UNU’s work – 51 projects, 34 experts, 34 publications, and 52 expert articles – as it relates to each of the 17 SDGs.

This work – combined with our collaborative relationships with the UN system and scientific communities in the global North and South – enables UNU to bring fresh thinking and outside perspectives to the policy reform table.

UNU was elected as the 2017 Chair of the Global Migration Group (GMG), an inter-agency body that brings together the heads of 22 UN system entities to encourage the adoption of more coherent, comprehensive, and better coordinated approaches to the issue of international migration. This provided a number of opportunities for UNU, and for me personally, to make ourselves useful to UN Member States, to various constituent parts of the UN system, to stakeholders beyond the UN’s formal boundaries, and to scholars interested in migration-related issues. Our excellent, if modestly scaled, research institute in Barcelona, whose work focuses on migration and related issues, played a key role in anchoring our work throughout 2017 on behalf of the GMG.

With the support of the UNU Council, the UNU Conference of Directors, and my colleagues in UNU Centre and throughout the global UNU system, we will make every effort to ensure that our research continues to maintain the highest level of quality and relevance, and that it has meaningful influence on UN policy processes.

On a more personal note, 2017 marked the final full year of my first term as UNU Rector. I’m honoured to have been asked by the UN Secretary-General to stay on and lead UNU for a second five-year term.

In closing, I would like to thank our host governments and donors, and our collaborators within the UN system and among academic and research communities worldwide, for their continuing cooperation and support. Only by working closely together can we achieve the SDG aspiration of “ensuring that no one is left behind”.

David M. Malone

Rector of the United Nations University
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations



Features

At UNU, we take an interdisciplinary, cross-cutting approach to research on pressing global problems. The knowledge we generate encourages an evidence-based rethinking of policies and approaches. It provides decision makers with fresh perspectives on today's issues, proactive analyses of emergent concerns, and sound policy alternatives.

To better highlight our people, approach, and products, the following features offer a few examples of our work on three selected issues: natural resource management, migration, and peace and security.



FEATURE

Paddy to Policy

Promoting Local Knowledge for Sustainable Development

Kazunori Nagashima

Nearly 95 per cent of Japan's population lives in urban areas with the benefits of development at arm's reach. But this modernisation comes with its own challenges. As Japan increasingly grapples with rural depopulation and an ageing society, solutions to some of the country's challenges – like food security, biodiversity loss, and climate change – risk being lost in the fading communities and practices of the countryside.

To help ensure that these solutions are not lost, the UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) has dedicated more than a decade of research to understanding the traditional agro-ecological systems of rural communities in Japan and throughout the world. UNU has approached much of this work through the lens of *satoyama* and *satoumi* – contemporary Japanese terms derived from the words for village

(*sato*), mountain (*yama*), and sea (*umi*). The terms characterise mosaic-like land-use systems and environments shaped by culture and livelihoods which developed through centuries of sustainable agriculture, forestry, and fishing activities.

One such UNU-IAS effort is a long-running research collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to enhance international recognition and conservation of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) and their associated biodiversity, landscapes, and knowledge. A comprehensive new UNU-IAS publication explores ten years of the institute's partnership with local communities in Japan and East Asia to document, understand, and promote conservation of traditional agricultural systems for sustainable development and policy impact.

The benefits of traditional agriculture

The FAO launched the GIAHS initiative in 2002 to give recognition to the planet's significant traditional agricultural systems, including forestry and fisheries. This framework advocates for the dynamic conservation of agricultural heritage to safeguard the provision of each system's goods and services (social, cultural, economic, and environmental) to family farmers, smallholders, indigenous peoples, and local communities. The aim is to ensure food and livelihood security now, and for future generations, through an integrated approach combining sustainable agriculture and rural development.

"GIAHS designation is not just a rubber stamp exercise. It serves to safeguard landscapes, culture, biodiversity, and traditional practices to create living libraries of resilience. It also serves to put centuries of earned knowledge to work in solving today's problems", says UNU-IAS researcher Evonne Yiu.

UNU has worked closely with the FAO and other stakeholders since the inception of the GIAHS initiative through worldwide research on agrodiversity and evidence-based policy recommendations, particularly in East Asia. UNU's work in this area has been most instrumental in Japan, helping a diverse group of stakeholders to establish Japan's 11 GIAHS sites (of the 35 in Asia and 51 worldwide).

From the tea farms of Shizouka and the *ume* (Japanese apricot) orchards of Minabe-Tanabe to the fisheries of the Nagara River System, the new UNU bilingual volume (English and Japanese) shares images and stories of GIAHS progress, the setbacks along the way, and the possibilities for the future of Japan's rural ecosystems and culture, as well as for other traditional agricultural systems around the world.

But it is also a story of how local development partnerships can shape the way communities organise themselves and influence how they think about their livelihoods and goals. These community experiences constitute an important, overlooked evidence base for policymaking.

Momentum for understanding

In 2011, following two years of guidance and support from UNU, Sado Island in Niigata Prefecture, and the Noto Peninsula in Ishikawa Prefecture, were designated as the first GIAHS sites in Japan.

Sado Island is distinct in how it has paired rejuvenation of traditional *satoyama* practices with efforts to conserve the endangered Japanese crested ibis. This has resulted in a dramatic recovery of the ibis population, which has been promoted through a rice certification initiative and "eco-label", called *toki-to-kurasu-sato* (villages coexisting with the Japanese crested ibis).

Mr Takayuki Nishimaki currently leads the Satoyama Promotion Team in Sado City's Agricultural Policy Division. He reflects on Sado's GIAHS process emphasising how UNU's help was essential to "generate momentum for the designation" and how this strengthened community collaboration in the run-up to the International Forum on GIAHS held in Beijing in 2011, where Sado was designated as a GIAHS site.

Other stakeholders interested in obtaining GIAHS recognition have turned to Mr Nishimaki to inquire about the benefits on Sado Island from increased tourism and agricultural product sales. While there have been some benefits in this regard, he believes that "GIAHS is

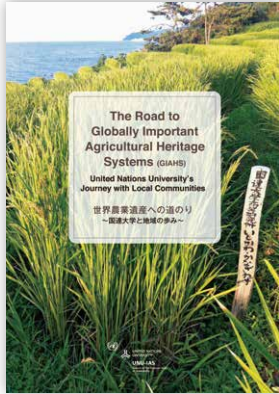
Ayu (sweetfish) of the Nagara River System

"With guidance from UNU experts, we worked towards GIAHS designation of the Nagara River under the concept of *satokawa* – an environmentally-sound, sustainable agriculture-forestry-fishery system. Together with local stakeholders, we will continue to ensure the Nagara River is a prosperous ecosystem."

Jiro Shirataki

Fisher and Advisor to Gujo Fishery Cooperative





supposed to represent a 'heritage of wisdom'. What do we mean by effectively using GIAHS? Does it only mean selling your crops at higher prices or attracting more tourists?"

All the communities considering GIAHS recognition have had to face these questions. UNU has played a crucial role in helping to answer them through efforts to research

and understand community practices and connect this local knowledge to policy.

While working on a GIAHS application with tea farmers in Shizuoka, Professor Hidehiro Inagaki of Shizuoka University commented that "quite a few farmers doubted whether their 'ordinary' childhood landscape could be of any value... It was the UNU team, well-versed in other GIAHS cases, who created the momentum" for them to recognise the "true value" of their unique tea farming practice.

Living libraries of resilience

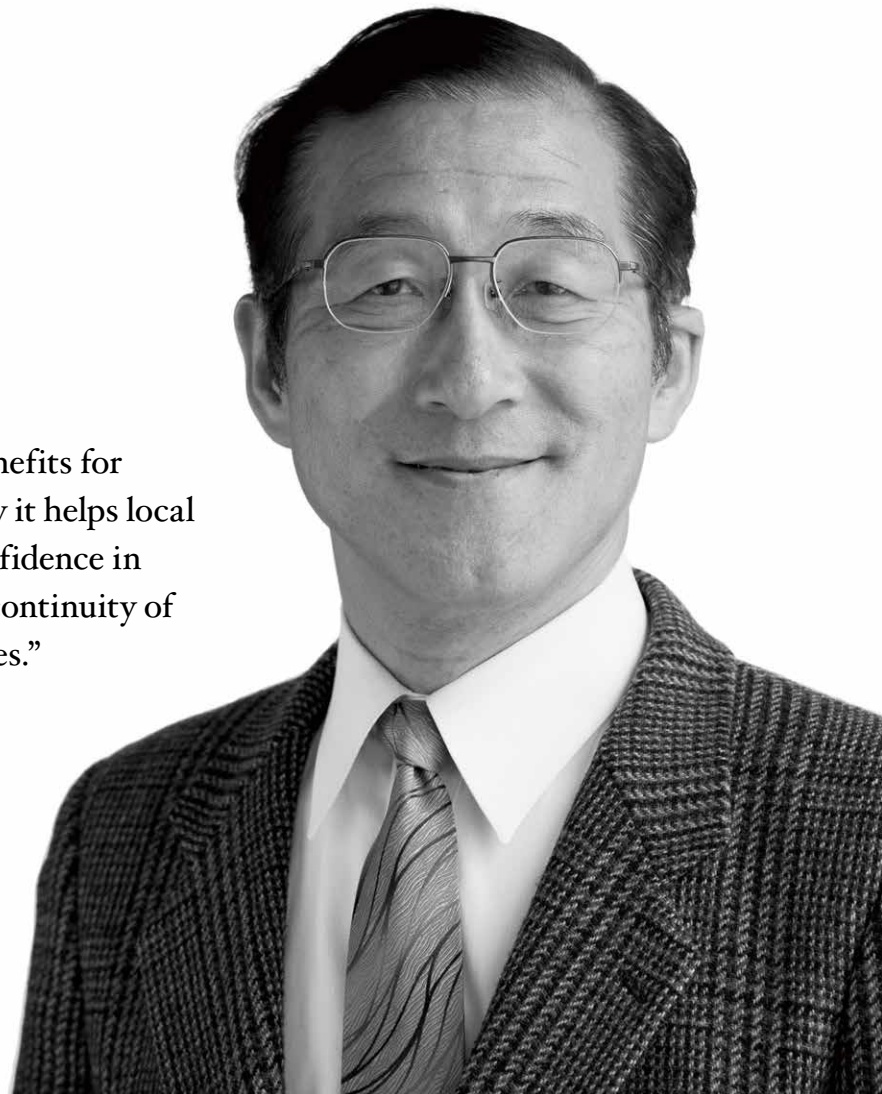
As a universal call to action, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) require the commitment of actors at all levels, ranging from governments and the private sector to research institutions and civil society groups. But policy and action must be informed by strong partnerships with local communities.

UNU's pioneering research throughout the Asia-Pacific will continue to provide insights to help rural communities find the "true value" of their livelihoods as they endeavour to build collective resilience. This work will be a vital component of Japan's action on SDGs such as zero hunger, responsible production and consumption, life on land, life below water, and climate action, and will serve as a foundation of evidence that promotes inclusion of local knowledge into long-term strategies to achieve sustainable development.

"While GIAHS brings economic benefits for rural revitalisation, most importantly it helps local communities to regain pride and confidence in their homeland that will ensure the continuity of these traditional agricultural practices."

Akira Nagata

UNU-IAS Senior Programme Advisor





Michele Bravos

Connecting Evidence to Policy for Global Migration Governance

Migration is a global reality. Yet international migrants – who numbered 258 million in 2017 – face growing discrimination, xenophobia, and human rights abuses. The United Nations Special Representative for International Migration, Louise Arbour, asserted that this rising intolerance and rejection of migrants is the result of the “erroneous perception of an increased influx of irregular migration, combined with a lack of trust in state capacities to deal with such influxes”.

The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, adopted by all 193 UN Member States in September 2016, is unprecedented recognition of the need to create an inclusive approach to human mobility and improved cooperation at the

global level. A core action of the Declaration is the development by UN Member States of a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Success in this endeavor, according to Ms Arbour, “will rest in large part on sustained engagement, in word and deed, to changing the optic by which we view migration”.

Throughout 2017, the United Nations University devoted significant work to migration policy reform. In its role as the 2017 Chair of the Global Migration Group (GMG; the UN inter-agency migration coordination group), and drawing on the research competence of the UNU Migration Network, the University directly supported efforts to establish the Global Compact.

Positioned for policy input

The Global Compact is intended to set out “principles, commitments and understandings among Member States regarding international migration in all its dimensions”. But for a development issue as geographically and culturally diverse as migration, creating policy that considers “all dimensions” demands access to a vast library of current thinking.

To accomplish this, States decided to divide preparation of the Global Compact into three phases. The first phase included six thematic consultations from April to November 2017, covering issues ranging from the drivers of migration and the human rights of migrants to international governance and human trafficking.

The consultations aimed to create debate with and among Member States and to draw ideas from a mix of stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, academia, and UN entities. UNU drew on wide-ranging migration expertise within its ranks to feed into these consultations in a variety of ways.

As the 2017 Chair of the GMG, UNU was at the helm of efforts to marshal collective inputs of 22 UN agencies and bodies that work on different aspects of international migration. These GMG contributions were provided as elements for the formulation of UN system-wide issue briefs – evidenced-based overviews of the contemporary realities of migration – that the UN Office of the Special Representative was mandated to provide to Member States for each thematic session.

Working closely with relevant UN entities, UNU helped to coordinate and edit the briefs, distilling UN system perspectives on operational, policy, and structural migration challenges into recommendations for actionable Compact proposals.

Addressing xenophobia

Taking place against the backdrop of an increasingly toxic narrative which demonised migrants, the consultations provided a space in which Member States and myriad stakeholders could debate the issues with a view to better understanding each other’s perspectives. One group, however, was missing from the discussions: the international media.

The media play a critical role in shaping and responding to the challenges and opportunities offered by migration and diversity. By filtering news stories and determining how they should be told, they create narratives that shape public opinion, determine

the realm of the possible, and even impact electoral outcomes. The 2015 European “migrant crisis” is a case in point. The choices of media outlets shaped the attitudes of European citizens and had pivotal influence on national-level politics, public debate, and xenophobic rhetoric.

To help bring media voices into policy debates at the United Nations, UNU led two efforts in its role as GMG Chair. First, the UNU Institute for Globalization, Culture and Mobility (UNU-GCM) commissioned the report “Addressing Xenophobia: Representations of Migration and the Role of the Media” to explore how the media disseminates and shapes perceptions of migration, the rules and norms that currently frame media reporting on migration, and what can still be done to ensure the inclusion of all migrants through media practices.

Second, the report laid the foundation for discussions at an October workshop organised by UNU-GCM in Bellagio, Italy, which brought together representatives from international news media networks, the UN, and academia to discuss the role of the media in shaping public opinion on migration. The workshop offered rare insight into how UN agencies working on migration view the responsibilities of mainstream news journalists regarding reporting on migration, and how journalists and media organisations see their own responsibilities in this sphere.

Following the workshop, the report is being revised and refined. It is due to be published jointly by UNU-GCM and the UNU Centre for Policy Research in April 2018.

Elevating evidence

In parallel with the Compact consultations, UNU led a “Panel Series on Academic Thinking on Migration”. Convened at UN Headquarters by the UNU Office at the UN in New York (UNU-ONY) and the UNU Migration Network, this five-part series connected leading researchers in the field of migration from around the world to examine current scholarly perspectives on migration-related topics and provide recommendations for the architects of the Global Compact. The panel series offered diplomats and officials in New York engaged in Compact consultations an opportunity to connect directly with researchers and academics, and to explore key themes in more detail.

Through panel topics ranging from the linkages between climate change and migration to promoting women’s human rights in migration governance, it became clear that the Compact needs to digest and balance a daunting body of emerging migration



research. But as one participant commented, the sessions were invaluable in that every panellist provided guidance that was “evidence-based and data-driven – precisely the type of inputs that are needed for the Global Compact process”.

Panellist advice, however, noted that one of the biggest challenges for creating healthy migration policy is that evidence alone will not counter toxic social narratives and anti-migrant xenophobia. The persistence of harmful discourse is not due to a lack of academic evidence that supports a positive narrative, but because of non-acceptance of this evidence. Research demonstrates that migrants’ contributions are generally positive. Yet, attacks against migrants are on the rise.

“Migration enables individuals to contribute to the development of their home communities through remittances and so-called ‘social remittances’ – notably, knowledge and social capital – as well as to their new homes”, says Julia Blocher, Project Manager at UNU-ONY, and co-convenor of the UNU panel series. “The evidence overwhelmingly confirms that migrants contribute significantly to the economic growth of their destination communities, contributing to entrepreneurship, social programmes, and growing economies – in many cases, even more than native-born individuals.”

Recent research shows that tolerance towards migrants and integration of migrants is most successful in contexts where economic successes and hardships are more evenly shared among the populace.

Conversely, xenophobia and xenophobic or nativist nationalist movements find fertile ground in contexts that don’t embrace multiculturalism, and where migrants can become scapegoats to serve political agendas.

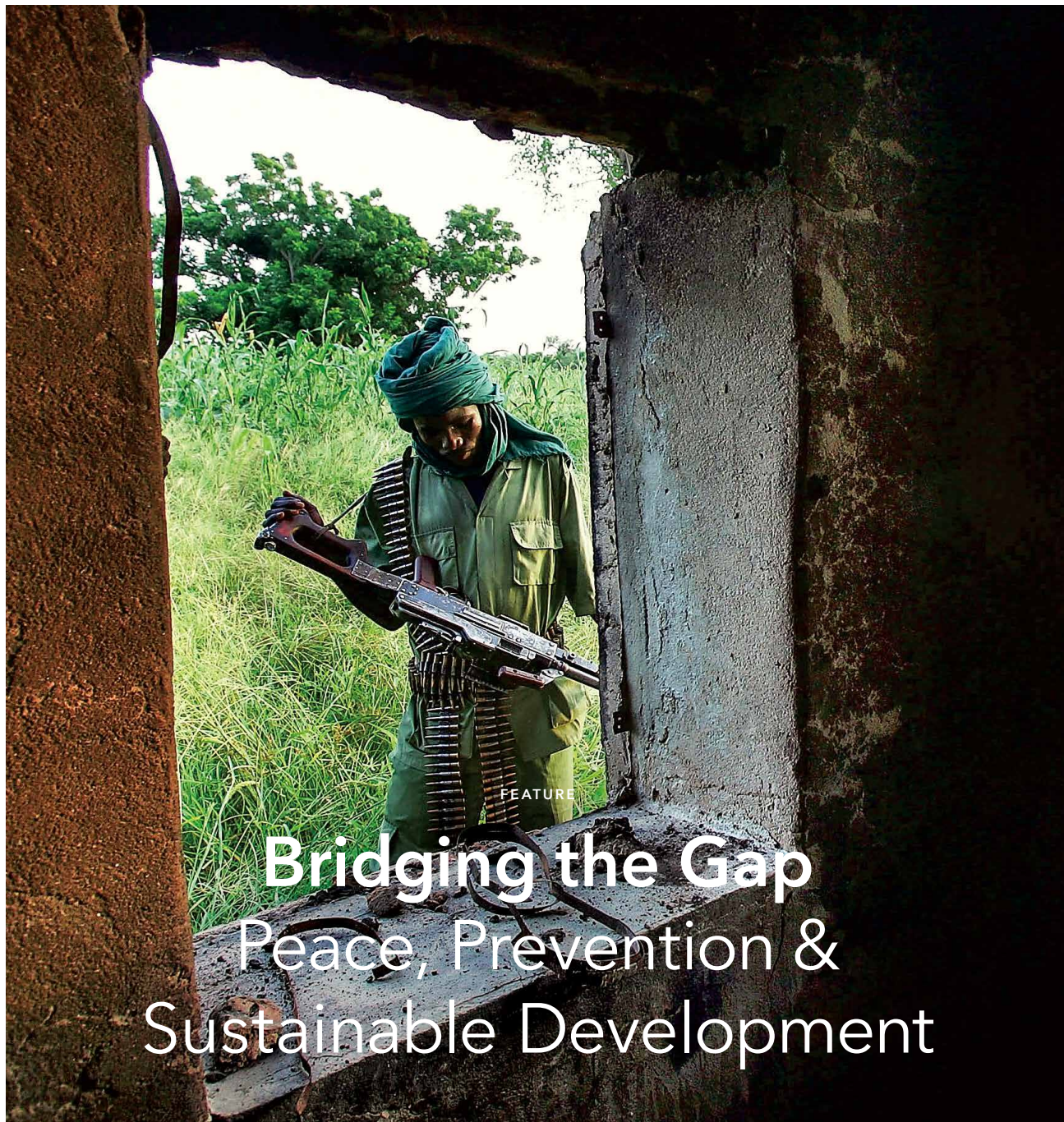
To elevate these social realities into migration policy requires policymakers at all levels to understand root causes of migrant discrimination and to separate violent prejudice, xenophobia, and racism from the legitimate concerns and criticisms of citizens.

Untangling facts from myths

Importantly, UNU’s work throughout 2017 spotlighted the realities of how migration must be addressed, not only for the sake of the Global Compact intergovernmental negotiations taking place in 2018, but also to ensure the success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Although migration is not the focus of a specific Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), the proposed Compact is framed around SDG Target 10.7 – “facilitate orderly, safe, and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies”.

Effective migration governance is a transversal issue across a majority of the SDGs, including health and well-being, gender equality and women’s economic empowerment, decent work and economic growth, sustainable cities, and many more. Migration research at UNU points clearly to the fact that migrants make valuable contributions towards achieving the SDGs. They are the backbone of vital economic sectors and part of the fabric of vibrant, resilient communities. Their financial contributions to international development alone – through, for instance, nearly US\$600 billion in remittances each year – support crucial local efforts to achieve the SDGs. Examples include improved housing, poverty reduction, and access to healthcare and education.

By elevating this evidence and creating spaces for open debate, UNU is helping to untangle migration facts from myths. Only then can global development policy “change the optic” by which we view migration to recognise and reinforce the contributions of migrants to sustainable development.



Bridging the Gap Peace, Prevention & Sustainable Development

Scott Nelson

In 2017, the United Nations began a system-wide effort to help achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – a global action framework to boost universal prosperity by 2030. This is a tall task. The impacts of violence, conflict, and crime drive billions of dollars away from development efforts each year. With around half the world's poor living in fragile or conflict-affected countries, and 80% of the world's humanitarian needs caused by conflict, achieving sustainable development will demand new approaches to conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

Recognising this, UN Secretary-General António Guterres placed conflict prevention at the top of this agenda. He initiated a set of institutional reform efforts to boost the UN's ability to prevent mass human suffering in general, and conflict more specifically. With its deep expertise on conflict trends and UN operations in fragile contexts, the United Nations University Centre for Policy Research (UNU-CPR) launched two research projects in 2017 to support the UN's broader efforts.

Building on success - when does preventive diplomacy work?

While most agree that the UN should be more prevention-focused, the Organisation has been slow to develop an evidence and knowledge base of what really works in this area. Much attention has been given to its prevention failures in places like Rwanda, Syria, and Sri Lanka – and for good reason. As a result, the recurrent pathologies, and structural shortcomings and constraints, of UN preventive action are well understood.

What is less understood is where UN preventive action has worked, and what can be learned from these positive experiences. The UN has helped numerous conflict-prone countries avoid a descent into serious violence. Learning lessons from these successes and applying them across the UN would help realise its prevention promise and buttress global development efforts.

To more systematically record, evaluate, and draw lessons from the UN's diverse experiences in preventive diplomacy, UNU-CPR – in partnership with the UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA) and renowned experts – is leading a project to assess the impact of UN preventive diplomacy in Lebanon, Yemen, Malawi, Nigeria, Sudan/South Sudan, and Guinea. Drawing on the empirical evidence of these case studies, UNU-CPR is synthesising key “success factors” for preventive diplomacy, along with policy recommendations for future interventions. In doing so, the hope is to correct

the misperception of limited success in the UN's preventive diplomacy track record, and help build cumulative knowledge and best practices.

Based on the findings of this study, UNU-CPR is also developing an assessment framework to help the UN improve the way it evaluates, assesses, and learns from its preventive diplomacy interventions.

Enabling prevention on the ground

In most cases, UN preventive diplomacy is conducted by high-level envoys or the heads of UN peace operations to deal with imminent or ongoing crises. But more “upstream” prevention that aims to address societal conflict in fragile countries – before it reaches a boiling point – is equally as important. This type of prevention is generally not conducted by high-level envoys but instead by UN development agencies, headed by a Resident Coordinator (RC). They are expected to contribute to the UN's prevention agenda through “conflict sensitive” development initiatives, institution-building, and the promotion of human rights, inclusive governance, and dialogue.

Such settings – where UN preventive action relies on UN Resident Coordinators rather than on envoys or peace operations – are widely recognised as the frontline of conflict prevention. But they are also where the UN faces the most acute challenges in making prevention work.

From 2013 to 2016, Fabrizio Hochschild was the UN Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator, and Resident Representative of the UN Development Programme in Colombia. Hochschild played an active role in supporting the peace process with the Government of Colombia and the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia).

UN Photo / Herve Sereffio



Resident Coordinators lack an explicit mandate from Member States to “do prevention”, and they face severe resource constraints. But some politically astute and entrepreneurial RCs have managed to overcome those constraints to become effective prevention actors. Their experiences are invaluable to better understand how upstream prevention can be more successful, but thus far there have been few efforts to record or examine them.

To fill this gap, a second UNU-CPR project is extracting good practices and lessons from 10 country cases where RCs played an effective prevention role. It is hoped that the case studies will serve as inspiration and provide ideas to prevention-minded RCs deployed in conflict-prone or peacebuilding settings. The project’s broader findings and recommendations will also inform ongoing efforts at UN Headquarters to strengthen the Organisation’s prevention performance.

Further Reading

More on the changing nature of conflict at cpr.unu.edu:

Diplomacy and Good Offices in the Prevention of Conflict

Preventing Violent Urban Conflict

UN Sanctions and the Prevention of Conflict

Conflict Prevention: A Case Study of Nepal

“The nature of conflict is changing and these changes are challenging the existing conflict prevention toolbox of the United Nations. Our research aims to help the UN find ways to adapt its tools to more effectively address contemporary conflicts.”

Cale Salih

UNU-CPR Research Officer

Informing policy for peace

Without question, there can be no sustainable development without peace. But the rise in conflict and violence over the past decade requires the UN to holistically review how it can become more effective in preventing conflict in the first place, while also advancing development along the way. With the support of UNU-CPR’s prevention research, the UN has a crucial opportunity to distil good practices and lessons that will inform policy interventions and ensure conflict-prone countries are better equipped to prevent violent conflict. This will, in turn, help achieve the broader goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.





Our Work on the Global Goals

The aim of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is to align global action to overcome the world's related challenges, from hunger and poverty to equality and peace. Governments, businesses, civil society, and the UN system are working together to achieve the SDGs by 2030, thereby improving the lives of people everywhere.

In 2017, some 400 UNU researchers were engaged in nearly 200 research projects worldwide, generating knowledge to develop solutions to monitor and achieve the SDGs. The following section highlights how our work and activities aligned with, and contributed to, all 17 goals.

#SDGExplorer
unu.edu/explore

GOAL 1

No Poverty

Despite significant progress in reducing extreme poverty, more than 700 million people continue to live on less than US\$1.90 a day. But ending global poverty by 2030 will require more than closing an income gap – it will rely on institutions and opportunities that promote equality in all its forms, including access to resources, employment, housing, and health regardless of gender, ethnicity, or culture.

UNU research brings fresh perspectives to the challenge of poverty reduction. This includes examining the socio-economic drivers and consequences for households on the move to find solutions to poverty at both ends of the migration path, as well as developing sustainable benefit models to guide countries as they create social protection systems based on domestic tax revenues.

PROJECT

Measuring the Economic Impacts of Refugees

For two decades, Congolese refugees have escaped insecurity in their country by settling in Rwanda. A UNU-MERIT project is studying the lives of these refugees, examining how their protracted presence affects the economic lives of Rwandan citizens. The aim is to better understand the long-term economic consequences of the presence of refugee populations on host communities, and to create concrete policy advice on how to mitigate the potential negative effects of refugee presence on the economic lives of host-country citizens. *The Economic Impacts of Congolese Refugees in Rwanda: Labour Markets, Social Infrastructure and Aid Effectiveness*

PROJECT

Helping Low-Income Communities Manage Climate Risk

Developing countries in disaster-prone regions such as the Caribbean are hard hit by the effects of climate change. A project by the UNU-EHS-hosted Munich Climate Insurance Initiative addresses climate change adaptation and vulnerability by promoting climate risk insurance as an instrument to manage and transfer risk. The project has successfully designed and launched two index-based insurance products, including a Livelihood Protection Policy (LPP) for low-income people who are particularly vulnerable to extreme weather events, such as heavy rains and strong winds. LPP received the UNFCCC's 2017 Momentum for Change Award for its efforts to bring key actors together to address climate risks and poverty. *Climate Risk Adaptation and Insurance in the Caribbean*



EXPERT

“Understanding how taxes and social benefits affect people is vital for reaching the Sustainable Development Goals. Developing simulation models together with partners in the developing world helps us understand which policies perform better in reducing poverty and inequality.”

Pia Rattenhuber

UNU-WIDER Research Fellow



PROJECT

Reducing Poverty in Africa

Poverty in Africa continues to be high; the continent has the lowest responsiveness of poverty to per capita income growth of any of the world's developing regions. A five-year research project by UNU-WIDER seeks to fill the knowledge gap on why Africans are "working hard but working poor". By deepening our understanding of the linkages between structural transformation, employment creation, and poverty reduction, the project will provide practical guidance on the policies needed to sustain inclusive growth and accelerate Africa's progress in reducing poverty. *Jobs, Poverty, and Structural Change in Africa*

PROJECT

Using Taxes for Development

Understanding the relationship between taxation, household incomes, and inequality is key to addressing poverty and promoting economic growth. A four-year project by UNU-WIDER is building simulation models that will enable policymakers in developing countries to test the effects of changing tax or benefit policies on their citizens' livelihoods. The project adapts the widely used tax-benefit model for European countries (EUROMOD) to develop microsimulation models for selected developing countries in Africa and elsewhere. *SOUTHMOD - Simulating Tax and Benefit Policies for Development*

ARTICLE

"The economic growth of developing nations is a necessary condition for poverty reduction, but it has never been sufficient. If correctly designed and complemented, cash transfers... can effectively and efficiently smooth consumption, foster social mobility — and, possibly, eradicate global poverty."

Excerpt from "Yes, Giving Money to Very Poor People Will Make Their Lives Better – Just Ask Ecuador"; published in *The Conversation*. Author: Andrés Mideros Mora, UNU-MERIT PhD Fellow

PROJECT

Improving Livelihoods through Fisheries



Small-scale fisheries are critical to the livelihoods and food security of millions in Africa. In vulnerable communities, there is often vast potential to improve the economic value, nutritional quality, and food safety derived from small-scale fisheries. A UNU-FTP project is addressing this potential by establishing a comprehensive portfolio of research and capacity-development activities in Africa's low-income, coastal states. *Initiative on Livelihoods and Food Security in African Coastal States*

BOOK

Measuring Poverty

How best to measure poverty remains a complex and controversial topic. UNU-WIDER has published a book that enhances the transparency, replicability, and comparability of existing practices – and by doing so, helps analysts from developing countries to conduct their own rigorous poverty assessments. *Measuring Poverty and Wellbeing in Developing Countries*; edited by UNU-WIDER Director Finn Tarp and former Senior Research Fellow Channing Arndt

GOAL 2

Zero Hunger

Nearly 800 million people worldwide experience extreme hunger and malnutrition, snaring them in a cycle of low productivity and disease that creates a major barrier to human progress and sustainable development. Ending hunger by 2030 is not just a matter of providing food to populations in need; it will require significant investments in rural and urban food systems to expand sustainable agriculture, strengthen livelihoods, improve health support, and build durable distribution networks. UNU takes an integrated approach to research on food security, helping to secure livelihoods, enhance socio-economic status, and improve rural economies.

PROJECT

Boosting Food Security in Africa

There is a growing trend in sub-Saharan Africa to use land to produce non-food crops for bioenergy, fibre, and other industrial processes. Such land conversions, often financed through direct foreign investment, are justified as an engine of economic growth. However, this allocation often happens in countries that are barely food self-sufficient. A three-year UNU-IAS project is examining how these non-food crops compete with food crops for land, and how this competition may affect regional food security. This project will provide the scientific evidence needed to develop more sustainable land-use and food policies in Africa and beyond. *Food Security Impacts of Industrial Crop Expansion in Sub-Saharan Africa*

PROJECT

Fostering Climate Resilience in Ghana

The negative impacts of climate change deeply affect Northern Ghana. Smallholder farmers in the region are experiencing reduced crop yields and limited availability of animal feed due to inadequate rainfall and decreasing soil quality. UNU-INRA conducted research in five villages in Ghana to evaluate how cassava, cereal, and legumes can be integrated with feed crops to increase and sustain crop production, improve climate resilience, and boost water- and nutrient-use efficiency. The findings will enable smallholder farmers to achieve higher year-round farm yields at lower cost. *Integrating Food and Feed Crops to Improve Livelihoods and Resilience to Climate Change*



EXPERT

“How we use soil and water determines how well we can feed and water our communities. I am passionate about improving land, soil, and water resources to boost food production for a growing world.”

Kai Schwärzel

UNU-FLORES Officer-In-Charge



ARTICLE

“Japan’s potato chip fans recently went on a panicked buying spree as the country’s snack food companies were forced to partially halt production of the favourite crisps. But while this episode of food scarcity is not a food crisis, its cause — an unprecedented series of typhoons that destroyed domestic potato crops — is an attention-grabbing indicator of the need to improve food system resilience in the face of increasing climate change. UNU’s research on agrodiversity is finding that traditional wisdom offers vital solutions.”

Excerpt from “Potato Chip Panic: Why Japan’s Future Food Security Depends on Solutions from Its Past”; published in *The Japan Times*. Author: Evonne Yiu, UNU-IAS Researcher

PROJECT

Putting Recycled Wastewater to Good Use

Despite water shortages worldwide, more than 80% of the wastewater generated by society flows back into the ecosystem without being treated or reused. In a world where vital resources are increasingly limited, wastewater can provide a valuable source of energy, irrigation, and fertilisation. UNU-FLORES is examining best-practice wastewater use examples from Latin America, Africa, and Asia to identify knowledge gaps where more study is needed. Outcomes of the project will help to increase standards for water reuse in agriculture. *Safe Use of Wastewater in Agriculture: Dissemination of Good Practice Examples and Setting the Research Agenda*

RESEARCH BRIEF

Ensuring Adequate Rice Production in Asia

Climate change is exacerbating dramatic swings in rainfall levels in Asia – from near-drought conditions one month to monsoons and flooding the next. This shift is threatening the production of rice, a staple crop necessary to feed Asia’s growing population. In a research brief, UNU-INWEH outlines steps that governments and farmers can take to adapt to these changes and ensure regional food security well into the future. *“Impacts of Temperature and Rainfall Variation on Rice Productivity in Major Ecosystems of Bangladesh”*

GOAL 3

Good Health & Well-Being

Although significant progress has been made to improve the health of billions of people, major hurdles remain – particularly in developing countries, where women and children are most vulnerable. UNU’s health-related research untangles the growing social, economic, and environmental complexity that threatens to outpace the ability of governments and communities to manage the well-being of their citizens. Our work focuses on health governance to stem the rise of non-communicable diseases, respond to the emergence of global pathogens, and diminish the human health toll of natural disasters. It also assesses key elements of healthy development – such as safe water and sanitation – to ensure that they are reinforced by health policy.

PROJECT

Improving the Health of City Dwellers

More and more people are moving to cities. With this global wave of urbanisation come many health challenges, including exposure to outdoor pollution and infectious diseases, stress, dietary changes, and sedentary lifestyles. The “urban poor”, including most residents of slums and informal settlements, face additional challenges such as inadequate housing, poor sanitation, water and food insecurity, indoor pollution, substance abuse, and lack of social support and health care. A UNU-IIGH project is exploring how local, national, regional, and global governance processes, institutions, and policies can work together to improve human health and well-being. The project addresses two key areas – the complex governance challenges of urban health, and the spread of HIV/AIDS in African prisons – to develop policy-oriented recommendations. *Governance for Health in Developing Countries*

PROJECT

Planning Healthier Cities

Major processes of planetary change – including climate change, urbanisation, and globalisation – are dramatically shifting the ways in which we interact with each other, and with the environment. Cities offer new challenges and new opportunities, but their growing complexity threatens to outpace the ability of governments and communities to manage the well-being of their citizens. This is strongly evidenced by the growth of such intractable problems as an obesity epidemic, the rising human and economic tolls of natural disasters, and the increasing pace of the emergence and spread of pathogens and microbial resistance. A UNU-IIGH project is focusing on the complex problems at the intersection of public health and urban planning. It links policy goals on environment, health, and development with local priorities for access to health resources, self-reliance, and equity through innovative partnerships at multiple levels of implementation. *Planetary Change and Sustainable Urban Health*



EXPERT

“Access to safe and sustainable drinking water and sanitation is fundamental to good health. My research seeks to improve water management practices to reduce negative health impacts of tropical diseases and natural chemical contaminants.”

Praem Mehta

UNU-INWEH Researcher

PROJECT

Boosting Access to Safe Water

Inadequate access to water, sanitation, and hygiene – and poor water quality in general – poses significant health risks to millions of people around the world. These conditions cause outbreaks and the spread of disease, and contribute to poor health, especially in times of disaster and crisis. A UNU-INWEH project is focusing on actions to prevent the spread of water-related disease, improve human health, and expand water treatment options. It also assesses the trade-offs between building resilience in health care facilities and addressing current needs. The project will develop an evidence-based guide for policymaking on water access, sanitation, and hygiene, particularly during humanitarian crises. *Managing Water-related Health Risks*

CONFERENCE

Addressing the Obesity Crisis

Non-communicable diseases – mainly cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases, and diabetes – are the leading causes of death worldwide. In 2016, the World Health Organization made six key policy recommendations to help solve this issue. In May 2017, UNU-IIGH convened a two-day international conference to explore these policy recommendations from diverse and multidisciplinary perspectives. The conference resulted in a policy brief detailing how the WHO recommendations can best be implemented. *Obesity Crisis in Southeast Asia: Issues, Challenges and Policy Pathways*

ARTICLE

“An estimated 2.4 billion people still do not have access to proper sanitation, of which about 1 billion still defecate in the open.... We must ensure that sanitation legislation advances uptake of technologies that safeguard human and environmental health, so that we do not solve a problem today only to create a much more complex disaster in the near future.”

Excerpt from “Sanitation Wins Must Not Become Safe Water Losses”;
published in *Our World*. Authors: Rushva Parihar and Dorcas Mbuvi, UNU-MERIT



Asian Development Bank / CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

Quality Education & Decent Work

Education creates greater capacity both to learn and to educate others. Quality education also enables individuals to acquire the practical and critical thinking skills needed to attain robust livelihoods. As an academic institution, UNU focuses on creating equitable and accessible learning opportunities; we offer postgraduate training to help young scholars and scientists increase their capability to contribute to the extension, application, and diffusion of knowledge. Our research helps countries navigate the changing economic and technological landscape, while supporting growth that includes disadvantaged and vulnerable populations through capacity building, job creation, and targeted social support.

PROJECT

Ensuring Equal Access to Good Jobs

Ensuring that decent jobs are available to impoverished people is an important topic in international development policy. A UNU-MERIT project seeks to advance our understanding of the relationship between innovation and the provision of productive and decent jobs by investigating the economic structure in sub-Saharan Africa. *Decent/ Productive Employment Impacts of Innovation in Sub-Saharan Africa*

PROJECT

Strengthening Higher Education in Africa

UNU-EHS is part of a multi-partner initiative with the Pan African University Institute of Water and Energy Sciences (PAUWES). Now in its second phase, the initiative provides targeted support for teaching, establishing institutional links, and strengthening the exchange of staff and students between PAUWES and the consortium partners. *Higher Education Cooperation with PAUWES*

PROJECT

Supporting Education for Sustainable Development

Sustainable development begins with education and capacity building. UNU-IAS manages a series of capacity development and leadership training programmes for policymakers, young professionals, youth, and other stakeholders. The aim is to accelerate the development of local and regional solutions to sustainability issues, re-orient higher education towards education focused on sustainable development, and increase relevant capacity building activities. *Education for Sustainable Development*



EXPERT

“Education plays a vital role in building capacity to achieve sustainable development; but most school systems focus on teaching us to know, not to act. My research aims to equip students and citizens with the best tools to make their lives and societies more sustainable.”

Philip Vaughter

UNU-IAS Research Fellow

PROJECT

Reframing Migration for Female Empowerment

The feminisation of migration is one of the most significant social patterns to have emerged during the last century. But too often, female migrants occupy vulnerable positions in their host societies, engaging in domestic work, sex work, or labour in other unregulated sectors, and face established patterns of exploitation. Research by UNU-GCM suggests alternative narratives: instead of more tales of victimhood, vulnerability, and exploitation, it highlights the opportunities that migration can offer for female empowerment. *Female Agency, Mobility and Socio-cultural Change*

REPORT

Using Online Teaching for Water Education

A report from UNU-INWEH examines the current and future roles of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) in the water and sanitation sector. It considers the advantages and disadvantages of this mode of education and training, and offers recommendations on mechanisms for using MOOCs to advance capacity development activities in the sector. *"Capacity Development in the Water Sector: The Case of Massive Open On-line Courses"*

BOOK

Achieving Growth through E-Governance

A UNU-EGOV book investigates how effective e-governance could spur economic growth by reducing the number of economic activities not included in GDP estimates, thus increasing the reliability of official estimates, strengthening the effectiveness of economic policies, and boosting the economy. *e-Government and the Shadow Economy: Evidence from Across the Globe*; by UNU-EGOV Adjunct Associate Professor Linda Veiga and Research Fellow Ibrahim Rohman

TRAINING

Training Young Professionals from Developing Countries

UNU's four programmes in Iceland offer fellowships to young professionals from developing countries for annual five- and six-month postgraduate training sessions on fisheries (UNU-FTP), gender equality (UNU-GEST), geothermal energy (UNU-GTP), and land restoration (UNU-LRT). The programmes also organise a variety of specialised short courses geared to local needs.

TRAINING

Building Expertise in Biotechnology

UNU-BIOLAC offers a variety of training opportunities for young researchers and practitioners in specific areas of biotechnology – short courses, workshops, fellowships – to increase expertise in the Latin America and the Caribbean region and build strong research networks. In 2017, UNU-BIOLAC supported 23 courses on topics such as genetic diagnosis of plant diseases and food productivity; diagnosis and treatment of emergent and neglected diseases; genes, environment, and microbial communities; and bio-industrial research.

WORKSHOP

Ending Modern Slavery

The Alliance 8.7 Action Group on Conflict & Humanitarian Settings – a multi-stakeholder group of UN entities (including UNU-ONY), UN Member States, and civil society actors – organised a workshop on "Reaching SDG 8.7 in Conflict and Humanitarian Settings". Participants discussed actions to eradicate modern slavery, human trafficking, and forced and child labour in conflict and humanitarian settings.

GOAL 5

Gender Equality

Progress to achieve gender equality depends on embracing healthy, respectful relationships; ensuring that institutions promote gender parity in daily life and in the workplace; and ending cultural practices that demean women and girls, or prevent them from achieving their full potential. UNU's commitment to gender equality permeates everything we do. Our core gender research focuses on generating knowledge to support development policies that eliminate barriers for women and girls in health, education, employment, and access to resources. Our work gives voice to the unique experiences of women and girls, exposing their neglected rights and empowering them to be leaders in education, science, and technology.

PROJECT

Advancing Women's Role in Peace and Security

A UNU-GEST project aims to help women become active and equal participants at the community level in answering questions about peace and security in Mozambique, and to ensure that national peace and security processes contribute to gender equality and the empowerment of women. *Promoting Women's and Girls' Effective Participation in Peace, Security and Recovery in Mozambique*

PROJECT

Closing the Digital Gender Gap

While the digital revolution presents many opportunities for women and girls, the digital gender gap is widening. The EQUALS Research Group – led by UNU-CS – works across academia, industry, government, and civil society to identify gaps in knowledge, highlight good practices, and generate momentum for closing the digital gender gap. *Advancing Research for Gender Equality in the Digital Age*

PROJECT

Ending Child Marriage

In South Asia, four in ten girls are married before they turn 18. In collaboration with UNICEF, UNU-MERIT is exploring the key drivers of child marriage in Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan – from both micro- and macro-perspectives – and proposing possible interventions and programmes to end child marriage in South Asia and beyond. *UNICEF Study on Key Drivers of Changing Prevalence of Child Marriage in South Asia*

PROJECT

Creating High-Impact Research on Gender

Although there has been progress achieving gender equality and women's empowerment in recent decades, key gaps – in both opportunity and capability – persist between males and females. UNU-WIDER is generating an evidence base on core issues in gender and development that can contribute to the formulation and implementation of effective policies targeted towards achieving gender equity. *Gender and Development*



EXPERT

“There is a long way to go to close the digital gender gap. Around the world, women have less access to information technology and are underrepresented in tech industry leadership. I want to close this digital divide and encourage women and men alike to pursue education and careers in science and technology.”

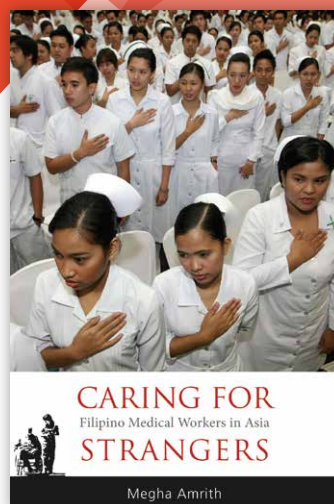
Araba Sey

UNU-CS Principal Research Fellow

BOOK

Examining the Lives of Expatriate Filipino Medical Workers

A UNU-GCM book offers anthropological insights into the lives and expectations of Filipino medical workers (primarily women) who care for strangers in other Asian countries. It locates their stories within wider debates on gender, migration, foreign labour, and citizenship. *Caring For Strangers*; author: Megha Amrith, UNU-GCM Research Fellow



JOURNAL ARTICLE

“Overall we find that women who do not feel treated with respect and dignity in their country have a stronger intention to move out. Perceived gender discrimination hence positively affects the size of potential female migration.”

Excerpt from “Female Migration: A Way out of Discrimination?”; published in the *Journal of Development Economics*.
Co-author: Sara Salomone, UNU-CRIS Project Researcher

PROJECT

Teaching Gender Mainstreaming

The first step in ensuring gender equity in the workplace is to educate those who can make the needed changes within an organisation. UNU-GEST is training managers at the UN’s World Food Programme (WFP). Framed within capacity development activities on gender that are being implemented across WFP, the effort supports implementation of the WFP Gender Policy and the WFP Strategic Plan 2017–2021 through innovative training provided via smart phones and game-based learning methods. *Smart Gender Mainstreaming at the World Food Programme*

PROJECT

Transitional Justice and Violent Extremism

New description: An ongoing UNU-CPR research project explores how states apply leniency and accountability measures toward individuals accused of association with jihadist groups. This project has an important gender component, considering, *inter alia*: the roles women and girls play in association with jihadist groups; the sometimes coercive conditions under which they may develop such associations; and the extent to which female relatives of men connected with jihadist groups are penalised for their indirect association. *The Limits of Punishment*

GOAL 6

Clean Water & Sanitation

Access to clean water and sanitation is a basic human need. Yet more than 25% of the global population lacks convenient access to proper toilet facilities or uncontaminated water supplies, leading to hundreds of thousands of unnecessary deaths annually. UNU views water quality and scarcity as core components of sustainable development, inherently linked with livelihoods, ecosystems, populations, and infrastructure. We seek to help governments make use of existing and emerging data to support effective policymaking and planning. Our research covers water, sanitation, and hygiene as well as wastewater management and reuse; it bridges science, policy, and practice to pair innovative solutions with communities in need.

PROJECT

Reducing Water Stress in Africa's Savannas

Savannas are among Africa's most productive landscapes, but droughts and erratic rainfall patterns across large parts of Africa are resulting in water-limited environments that are sensitive to climatic conditions, environmental changes, and unsustainable land management practices. A UNU-FLORES project is developing a modelling framework to quantify water use/stress in African savannas, and investigating the spatial distribution and effects of invasive species on water resources. *TIGER - Remote Sensing of Water Use and Water Stress in African Savanna Ecosystem from Local to Regional Scale*

PROJECT

Re-Using Wastewater

Improving global re-use and recycling of wastewater is vital to achieving sustainable development. A UNU-FLORES project is developing, pilot testing, and validating a monitoring methodology for SDG target 6.3 (improvement of water quality). The resulting tool, which recognises the interconnections between a range of sectors and environmental resources, will provide scientific results useful for policymaking at all levels. *Wastewater Reuse Effectiveness Index*

REPORT

Understanding the Global Water Crisis

A UNU-INWEH report highlights six inter-related contexts of the world's looming water crises: water scarcity and insecurity; water-related disasters; water, sanitation, and health; water infrastructure deterioration and destruction; unsustainable development; and ecosystem degradation. *"Global Water Crisis: The Facts"*



EXPERT

"Water is a necessary element to achieve social, environmental, and economic interests across the globe. My research aims to support the sustainable management of water to ensure healthy communities and ecosystems."

Lisa Guppy

UNU-INWEH Senior Researcher



ARTICLE

“The proportion of wastewater that undergoes treatment before being discharged is woeful, ranging from 70% in the wealthiest countries to only 8% in low-income countries. This is even more alarming given that two million tons of human waste are disposed of in water courses every day.”

Excerpt from “A Starting Point to Solve the Global Water Crisis”; published in *Our World*.
Author: Lisa Guppy, UNU-INWEH Senior Researcher

PROJECT

Achieving the Water-Related SDGs

Unsustainable development practices are placing pressure on our limited water resources. A UNU-INWEH project seeks to contribute to planning, policymaking, and the implementation of SDG 6 and other water-related SDG targets by providing tools, processes, and support to help accelerate the progress of national governments. It aligns with other agencies’ efforts to monitor and track progress towards achieving the interlinked water-related SDG goals and targets. *Water-related Sustainable Development Goals*

PROJECT

Improving Wastewater Management

A UNU-FLORES project is co-designing sustainable wastewater treatment and management systems for three pilot areas, with a particular emphasis on understanding the social aspects of the pilot sites. In addition to helping the local populations, the project will develop a blueprint of good practice for creating tailor-made wastewater treatment and management systems for small to medium-size cities *Resource Recovery from Wastewater in the Americas - Assessing the Water-Soil-Waste Nexus*

GOAL 7

Affordable & Clean Energy

Our demand for energy continues to grow. Satisfying that demand while also contributing to efforts to reduce climate change is not an easy task. With more than 1.2 billion people still without access to electricity, and even more relying on biomass or coal for cooking, connecting households to modern sustainable energy is vital to realise the SDGs. UNU focuses on the efficient use of natural resources and on boosting sustainable energy sector expertise through targeted training and capacity development. Our research seeks to determine how integrated practices can improve energy efficiency and resource recycling, thus making modern energy production cleaner and more affordable.

PROJECT

Boosting Energy Security in Africa

Climate change poses many challenges to Africa's key sectors, including water and energy. UNU-EHS is working with a consortium of academic partners to support the Pan African University Institute of Water and Energy Sciences, hosted at the University of Tlemcen in Algeria. This project trains African researchers to implement innovative scientific research methods that will generate solutions to ensure water and energy security on the continent. *Water and Energy Security for Africa*

TRAINING

Providing Training in Geothermal Energy

UNU-GTP has conducted training and research on the utilisation of geothermal energy since 1979. In the four decades since, the programme has trained 670 fellows – primarily geoscientists and engineering professionals from developing countries. In addition to its annual six-month Geothermal Training Programme, UNU-GTP offered two SDG Short Courses in 2017: in Kenya on “Geothermal Exploration”, and in El Salvador in connection with a five-month “Geothermal Diploma Course” for aspiring and early-career geothermal professionals in Latin America.



EXPERT

“Access to energy is key to development. With the growing threats of climate change, clean energy is becoming increasingly important. My work at UNU aims to train professionals in developing countries so they can utilise indigenous clean energy for inclusive growth.”

Málfríður Ómarsdóttir
UNU-GTP Scientist



EXPERT

“Global problems need local solutions. My work is guided by a vision of an Africa managed by its citizens and acting as a dynamic force in the international arena – including on matters of affordable, sustainable energy. I am passionate about promoting higher education, science, and technology in Africa to achieve this vision.”

Erick Gankam Tambo
UNU-EHS Researcher

WORKSHOP

Focusing on Female Entrepreneurship in Sustainable Energy

Women entrepreneurs have a critical role to play in Africa's efforts to scale up energy access, conserve the environment, and mitigate climate change. But female entrepreneurs face many hurdles when it comes to accessing resources, including funding, basic information, and education. UNU-GEST co-organised an event in Gabon convening some 100 delegates from 20 countries, which resulted in a 13-point plan to spur action by governments in Africa to assist women working in the field of sustainable energy. *Women Entrepreneurs and Sustainable Energy Workshop*

BOOK

Studying the Economic Effects of the Paris Agreement

In December 2015, 196 countries agreed to undertake efforts to decrease domestic emissions to mitigate global climate change (the Paris Agreement). A book from UNU-WIDER examines the economic ramifications of these broad-scale policy shifts in both developed and developing countries. It offers a compendium of what has been learned from recent (primarily country-level) initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. *The Political Economy of Clean Energy Transitions*

ARTICLE

“Wastewater is rich in carbon and nutrients and — if collected and treated properly — it could provide new water, fertiliser, and energy.... But more than 80% of all wastewater still currently flows into natural ecosystems, polluting the environment and taking valuable nutrients and other recoverable materials with it.”

Excerpt from “How Recycled Water Could Revolutionise Sustainable Development”; published in *Our World*.
Author: Tamara Avellan, UNU-FLORES Researcher



Sarah Craig, Faces of Fracking / CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

Sustainable Industry & Responsible Consumption

Robust infrastructure is a fundamental requirement for the industrial and technological progress and innovation needed to drive sustainable development. But changing our current unsustainable production and consumption practices will require adjustments in human behaviour – something that rests on technological advances as much as on education, understanding, and legislation. UNU research focuses on strengthening the development linkages that catalyse innovation, foster equal resource benefits, and build resilient urban systems – as well as on the processes, practices, and governance of sustainable product cycles and value chains.

PROJECT

Assessing the Digital Transformation

The world is undergoing a massive digital transformation, affecting all aspects of society including governance and policy. A UNU-EGOV project is exploring how technologies – such as blockchain, the Internet of Things, big data, and artificial intelligence – can transform the public sector, service delivery, and decision-making, and support sustainable development. It focuses in particular on the opportunities, benefits, potential weaknesses, and risks associated with new technologies and concepts in innovation and digital transformation. *Digital Transformation and Emerging Technologies*

PROJECT

Reducing Global E-Waste

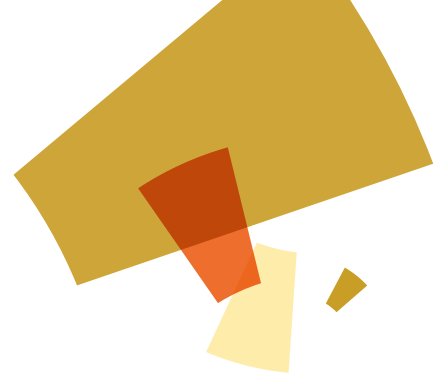
Our computers, cell phones, and anything else with a plug or battery will eventually become electronic waste. Each year, we throw away roughly 47 million metric tonnes of this toxic garbage globally – the same weight as the Pyramid of Giza, 10 Titanics, 50 Empire State Buildings, and 50 Burj Khalifas combined. The UNU-VIE-hosted SCYCLE programme is leading a collaborative effort by more than 60 organisations to solve the growing global e-waste dilemma. The initiative aims to dramatically reduce e-waste through policy change, product re-design, re-use, recycling, and capacity building. *Solving the E-waste Problem (StEP) Initiative*



EXPERT

“Technological innovations can improve efficiency and productivity, but they can also increase inequality, disrupt labour markets, and displace workers.... My research aims to ensure that technology innovations are inclusive.”

Francisco Cos Montiel
UNU-GCM Senior Research Officer



PROJECT

Mining for Development

From the iron ore mines in Brazil to Chile's copper reserves, Latin America's mining sector has the potential to become an engine of dynamic and sustainable development. A UNU-MERIT project is outlining the ways in which proper policies can maximise innovation and trigger positive structural change to transform the region's mining industry as a driver for development. *Mining Global Value Chains and Innovation in Latin America*

PROJECT

Supporting Development in Myanmar

Myanmar is currently undergoing a challenging structural transformation and development process. To support this, a UNU-WIDER project is establishing a rigorous system for monitoring the nation's industrial small and medium enterprise sector. By improving information and knowledge about economic policy issues in Myanmar, the project will help strengthen the government's capacity to appropriately address key development challenges. *Towards Inclusive Development in Myanmar*

WORKSHOPS

Training on Innovation Policy

UNU-MERIT held workshop sessions in Peru, India, and Côte d'Ivoire on the theory and practice of innovation policy, policy design, and policy implementation; the measurement and monitoring of innovative performance; and the evaluation of the outcomes of innovation policies. The workshop focused on the growing demand from developing countries for support in analysing the latest technological developments and designing appropriate responses and policies tailored to the local contexts. *Design and Evaluation of Innovation Policies workshop series*

REPORT

Monitoring the Production of E-Waste

To help tackle the issue of e-waste, a UNU-VIE-SCYCLE co-published report provides a comprehensive and detailed overview of global e-waste statistics and summarises the magnitude of the e-waste problem in different regions. The report includes up-to-date information on the amounts of e-waste generated and recycled, makes predictions for the next four years, and provides information on progress in developing e-waste legislation. *"Global E-waste Monitor 2017"*



GOAL 10

Reduced Inequalities

While major progress has been made on poverty reduction, income inequality continues to grow – both within and between countries. Meanwhile, other economic and social inequalities, such as those based on disability, race, ethnicity, or religion, also persist, preventing millions from reaching their full potential. UNU research seeks to establish a clear baseline on the current state of global disparities, thereby helping to inform policymakers and governments on where, why, and to what extent inequalities exist. Our work is uncovering the social and political dynamics that drive inequality, so that policy and social support systems can respond to persistent and emerging trends.

PROJECT

Improving Migration Governance

There are an estimated one billion (internal and international) migrants in the world today. Demographic imbalances, economic inequality, increased globalisation, political instability, and climatic change will all contribute to increasing large-scale migration in the coming decades, disproportionately affecting the Global South. A UNU-CRIS project is analysing the root causes of migration, future trends, the effectiveness of current policy actions, and the scope for additional forms of cooperation, with the intent to strengthen governance capacity for dealing with increased migration pressure, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. *African Migration: Root Causes and Regulatory Dynamics*

PROJECT

Understanding Forced Migration

Due to unprecedented mass displacement, migrants and refugees are now at the centre of international discourse. Whereas traditional research examines the root causes of forced migration in terms of conflict and natural disasters, UNU-GCM is examining the crises caused by migration, border, and integration policies that – all too often – fail to adequately protect the human rights and dignity of migrants. The project focuses on the human costs of these crises, the new instabilities and vulnerabilities (including increasing prejudice and discrimination) that are introduced, and the roles that state and non-state actors can and should play in addressing the challenges faced by migrants and refugees. *Migration and Crises*



EXPERT

“Inequality matters. It’s not only a question of justice and fairness, but also of links to other global goals such as poverty and peace. In my work on ethnic inequality, I consider how inequality and diversity intersect around the world, the implications for governance and development, and how greater equality can be achieved.”

Rachel Gisselquist

UNU-WIDER Research Fellow

PROJECT

Understanding World Inequality

Reducing inequality is not just the goal of SDG 10 – it is central to achieving all other SDGs. To help policymakers better understand the status of inequality across the globe, UNU-WIDER is developing a World Income Database, the most comprehensive and complete database on inequality indicators. The project includes a study on the drivers of within-country inequality to provide analytically robust and policy-relevant information that can help developing countries strengthen their capacity to address inequality. *World Inequality*

PROJECT

Understanding the Dynamics of Inequality in Large Economies

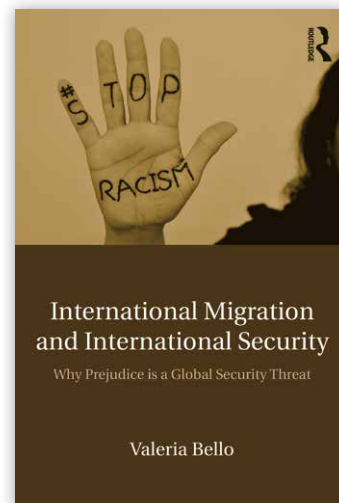
While global inequality has been falling in the last quarter century, this trend appears to have been driven entirely by convergence in GDP per capita across nations. Inequality within countries remained roughly constant in the 1990s, and has been rising since 2000. UNU-WIDER is studying inequality in India, South Africa, and Mexico as part of a broader international project that seeks to shed light on a set of new questions regarding between-country and within-country inequalities. The project, which is generating integrated datasets, applies a consistent methodology to investigate the determinants of inequality dynamics in 10 of the world's largest economies. *Inequality in the Giants*

BOOK

Understanding How Migration Affects Security

A UNU-GCM book provides a crosscutting analysis of the current socio-political crisis of international migration. It examines how transnational dynamics have increased extremism, prejudiced attitudes towards others, and heightened international xenophobia.

International Migration and International Security: Why Prejudice is a Global Security Threat. Author: Valeria Bello, Senior Research Fellow



PANELS

Thinking About Migration

To help diplomatic communities better engage with the latest academic research on relevant migration policy issues, UNU-ONY and the UNU Migration Network co-convened a panel series at UN Headquarters on “Academic Thinking on Migration”. The series covered such topics as the rise of xenophobic nationalism, climate change and displacement, urban inclusion, women’s rights, and alternative ways of thinking about migration and development.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT

Chairing the Global Migration Group

In 2017, UNU – represented by Rector David M. Malone – served as Chair of the Global Migration Group (GMG), an inter-agency body that brings together the heads of 22 UN system entities. The aim of the GMG is to promote the wider application of the relevant international and regional instruments and norms relating to migration, and to encourage the adoption of more coherent, comprehensive, and better coordinated approaches to the issue of international migration. UNU coordinated the inputs of GMG members to six issue briefs presented in 2017 by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration.

GOAL 11

Sustainable Cities & Communities

By 2030, 60% of the world's population will reside in cities; it is thus crucial that we create inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable urban communities. Sustainable urbanisation is an issue that interlinks with many of UNU's focus areas, ranging from governance, migration, water, waste, and health to economic development, climate change, and vulnerability to natural hazards. Our research eschews the past tendency to treat these issues as discrete problems. We undertake interdisciplinary, policy-relevant analyses to find feasible options by which urban populations can solve their communities' interconnected challenges.

PROJECT

Boosting Clean Water Access

Developing countries in Asia face a paradox: they have both too much water, and not enough. Weather patterns often flood the region with too much water while also threatening the limited supply of clean drinking water. This UNU-IAS project seeks to reduce the number of city dwellers without access to an improved source of drinking water and sanitation facilities by providing policy tools and an information platform that can assist developing countries in planning and implementing environmental policies. More broadly, the project addresses the challenge of how cities, towns, and villages are planned and managed for sustainable development. *Water and Urban Initiative*

PROJECT

Ensuring Critical Post-Disaster Services

To survive and thrive, society requires basic services such as electricity, transportation, water, healthcare, and telecommunications. But these services are often unavailable after disaster strikes. To better inform disaster

preparedness plans, this UNU-EHS project seeks to determine what levels of critical services societies need to survive in the aftermath of natural hazards. A particular focus is on understanding variances in the minimum supply requirements of different social groups and other infrastructure elements (e.g., hospitals and fire stations). The results will inform the development of minimum supply standards. *Critical Infrastructures Resilience as a Minimum Supply Concept*

POLICY BRIEF

Responding to Urban Water Issues

Urban water security in Asia presents a huge challenge because of deteriorating infrastructure, rising demands for water and sanitation, persistent water pollution, floods, and ineffective decision-making. A UNU-IAS policy brief considers a variety of science-based concepts and frameworks that could be applied to improve responses to Asian urban water issues. *Enhancing Urban Water Resilience: Science-based Approaches and Strategies for Asian Megacities*



EXPERT

“With more people moving to cities, more slums are created every day. These housing conditions make people sick, stunt economic growth, and reduce our quality of life. I’m passionate about making cities ‘work’. Cities should be places of equal opportunity, where everyone can live in security, peace, and dignity.”

Ngozi Stewart-Unuigbe

UNU-INRA Environmental Policy Fellow

TRAINING

Teaching Resilience

Africa is urbanising and expanding at an unparalleled pace: the population living in cities doubled between 1995 and 2015. To deal with the pressing challenges facing African cities – including rapid urbanisation, climate change, terrorism, and increased risks from natural hazards – the next generation of African researchers must be equipped with the training and knowledge to help develop effective resilience strategies. UNU-INRA is training this next generation of researchers through a partnership of higher education and research institutions. The aim is to bring together Pan-African experts to share knowledge, learn from each other, and reach a shared understanding of the complexities facing the future of the continent. *African Research College on Sustainable Cities*

DATA VISUALISATION

Gauging Urban Fragility

As the population of the world's cities continues to expand, so too do the problems facing city-dwellers – including conflict, income inequality, unemployment, homicide rates, and air pollution. UNU-CPR has worked with partners to develop a framework and methodology to assess city fragility. This work provided the basis for a one-of-a-kind data visualisation platform to track fragility in more than 2,100 cities, offering city planners, researchers, the private sector, and civil society access to a centralised hub of data on 11 indicators of fragility at the city scale. The interactive tool, representing one of the world's largest publicly available repositories of data on cities, was launched at the 2017 World Economic Forum in Davos. *Resilience and the Fragile City*



GOAL 13

Climate Change

Climate change contributes to a range of global threats, including higher average temperatures, rising sea levels, and the increasing severity and frequency of extreme weather events. UNU research focuses on the people and communities most impacted by climate change to improve their adaptation and resilience. Our work is contributing to insurance safety nets so that households can more easily recover from future climate-related disasters. And by advancing strategies to reduce carbon emissions through international cooperation, our research is helping democratise access to leading low-carbon technologies for developing countries.

PROJECT

Promoting Low-Carbon Technology

The future success of the global economy, and the health of our planet and its people, are dependent on the global proliferation of clean, low-carbon technologies. These technologies can transform a country's energy, manufacturing, transport, and building sectors while also reducing the emissions that contribute to climate change. But due to financial and other resource issues, low-carbon technologies are disproportionately confined to developed countries. A UNU-IAS project is advancing strategies and partnerships for international cooperation on low-carbon technologies – specifically, how such technologies can be effectively transferred to developing countries. *Low-Carbon Technology Transfer*

POLICY BRIEF

Mitigating the Effect of Climate Variability on Maize Crops

A UNU-INRA policy brief cautions that continuous reliance on rain-fed agriculture increases the vulnerability of maize production to climate variability, and recommends measures to mitigate the impact of climate change on maize grain yields. *"Climate Change Adaptation Options: Importance of Drought Tolerant Maize Seeds"*

WORKSHOP

Enabling Clean Technologies in Ghana

UNU-INRA co-organised a workshop on what can be done to address policy barriers and gaps in the climate and clean technology sector in Ghana. The workshop, which brought together some 40 Ghanaian experts, policymakers, and stakeholders, developed recommendations that have helped inform new policies for scaling up Ghana's climate and clean technologies. *Creating an Enabling Environment for Scaling up Climate and Clean Technologies in Ghana*



EXPERT

"To strengthen resilience to climate change, we need proactive risk management practices. My research focuses on climate risk insurance as a means to provide a safety net to vulnerable populations. I am passionate about helping people minimise climatic shocks by integrating these solutions into adaptation plans."

Sönke Kreft

UNU-EHS Associate Academic Officer

TRAINING

Developing Climate Change Solutions

Action is needed to improve Ghana’s ability to adapt and thrive amidst the increasing effects of climate change, action is needed at all levels of society. UNU-INRA has launched a business incubator that supports entrepreneurs developing locally appropriate solutions to the country’s climate-related problems. It provides a country-driven approach to addressing climate, energy, and resource challenges, including support for job creation. *Ghana Climate Innovation Center*

REPORT

Examining Climate Change Policymaking in the Pacific

A UNU-EHS policy report examines the process of implementing international environmental law in the Pacific Islands region. It considers how the potentially conflicting perspectives of two legal systems – custom or traditional law (derived from indigenous communities), and national or state law (introduced by colonial powers) – could hinder the implementation of international standards, and offers several policy recommendations. *“Migration and Human Rights in the Wake of Climate Change: A Policy Perspective Over the Pacific”*

REPORT

Reviewing How Insurance Can Enhance Resilience

A UNU-EHS report reviews evidence and lessons learned regarding how insurance can enhance resilience to disasters (in terms of public finance, economic growth, and good governance) and contribute to risk prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. The report also covers the factors that influence the provision and uptake of such insurance. *“The Role of Insurance in Integrated Disaster and Climate Risk Management”*

REPORT

Assessing Efforts to Implement Climate Risk Insurance

A UNU-EHS/MCII research report provides the first bottom-up assessment of countries’ articulated demands regarding climate risk insurance in their climate policy pledges as part of the Paris Agreement. It elaborates on what climate risk insurance means for resilience, analyses climate risk insurance alternatives, and offers recommendations to policymakers. *“Climate Risk Insurance for Resilience: Assessing Countries’ Implementation Plans”*

ARTICLE

“Recent failures to offer protection to people affected by climate change all over the world, including in the Pacific region, show a regrettable lack of international legal safeguards ... for the human rights of those seeking refuge”

Excerpt from “Pacific Countries Advance Regional Policy Towards Migration and Climate Change”; published in *The Conversation*.
Author: Cosmin Corendea, UNU-EHS Associate Academic Officer



Life Below Water & on Land

Oceans, freshwater systems, agricultural land, and forests provide the essential food supplies and ecosystem services that sustain all life. But excessive exploitation, pollution, and neglect of our oceans and terrestrial ecosystems now threaten our natural resources, the planet's vital biodiversity, and the health and livelihoods of billions. UNU research examines both human-ocean and human-terrestrial ecosystem relationships to help ensure mutual welfare. Our work blends the latest scientific and technical knowledge with an understanding of traditional management practices to support healthy natural ecosystems and to foster the sustainable use of our planet's resources.

PROJECT

Building Harmony Between People and Land

Satoyama is a Japanese concept that describes areas where people and the land have a harmonious, symbiotic relationship, with each depending on the other to thrive. UNU-IAS is leading a global effort to promote this concept of biodiversity and human well-being through the maintenance and rebuilding of socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes (SEPLS). This includes not just sustaining existing SEPLS around the world, but also contributing to the rebuilding and recovery of damaged landscapes and seascapes. *International Satoyama Initiative*

PROJECT

Supporting Responsible Fishing

Although 20% of fish caught by the European fleet is obtained from outside EU waters, there has been little discussion on how to make unregulated fishing in international seas more sustainable. To address this issue, UNU-FTP is partnering with 20 organisations to develop knowledge, tools, and methods to support

responsible, sustainable, and profitable fisheries by European fleets in non-EU waters. *FarFish: Capacity Development for EU Sustainable Fisheries in Distant Waters*

PROJECT

Boosting Habitat Resilience

Human activity, rapid population growth, and climate change are having a dramatic effect on coastal habitats, fisheries, and freshwater ecosystems. If we are to achieve SDG 14, these effects must be mitigated and reversed. A project by UNU-INWEH involved multiple activities that demonstrated how governments, civil society, businesses, and communities are addressing Goal 14 and its targets. Key activities included an effort to integrate water, land, and ecosystem management in Caribbean small island developing states; assessing coastal vulnerabilities in Mozambique; and analysing water infrastructure in the United Arab Emirates. *Integrated Ecosystem Management*



EXPERT

“Land provides us with essential goods like food, energy, and clean air. Overexploitation of land has degraded these goods — but we can change this situation. By providing quality education on land restoration for professionals working in the field, we inspire sustainable solutions for the future.”

Berglind Orradóttir
UNU-LRT Deputy Director



TRAINING

Training on Land Management and Restoration

UNU-LRT offers an annual six-month Land Restoration Training Programme in Iceland, as well as specialised short courses in partner countries for environmental officers. UNU-LRT organised a nine-day course in Kasese, Uganda, on “Sustainable Land Management, Land Restoration, and the Linkages with Climate Change”. UNU also contributed to the creation and launch of an online course on “Landscape Restoration for Sustainable Development: A Business Approach”. The course is open to anyone with an interest in business-driven landscape restoration.

PROJECT

Maintaining Livelihoods in River Deltas

River deltas are fertile and highly populated landscapes, home to some 360 million people worldwide. However, due to changes in river flow, increasing population pressure and use of natural resources, and the manifold impacts of climate change, they are also at risk – a reality that deeply affects the lives of their

inhabitants, such as rice and shrimp farmers in Viet Nam’s Mekong and Red River Deltas. A UNU-EHS project is analysing the environmental and social changes occurring in delta ecosystems, to help those farmers adapt their farming practices and maintain their livelihoods. *Sustainable Adaptation of Coastal Agro-ecosystems to Increased Salinity Intrusion (DeltAdapt)*

BOOK

Learning From Chinese Land-Use Policy

China produces food for 20% of the world’s population with only 7% of the world’s arable land, most of it situated in the dryland region in the north. A UNU-FLORES book presents the state-of-the-art in forest management and land use policy in the Loess Plateau region in China. It highlights problems and imbalances in current land policy in the dryland area of China, and provides new concepts for land policy reform and more sustainable land use systems. *Multifunctional Land-Use Systems for Managing the Nexus of Environmental Resources*

GOAL 16

Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions

Sustainable development is impossible without peace and justice for all. UNU research offers guidance to demonstrate how efforts to maintain peace and create sustainable development can work together. Our work on the changing nature of global violence provides insights into how humanitarian, development, and security actors need to adapt to reduce violence and its impact on society in the context of, for example, organised crime, terrorism, criminal violence, and rapid urbanisation. And our work on the drivers and impacts of migration helps policymakers to target weak legal protections for migrants and their families and to ensure their safety, dignity, and economic prosperity.

PROJECT

Limiting the Impact of Crime and Conflict

Organised crime is a major factor that can exacerbate violence, complicate peace negotiations, and corrupt transitions from war to peace. But international organisations, governments, and bilateral agencies (including the UN) are ill-equipped to handle this challenge because of weak analytical capacities, inadequate operational tools, and an insufficient understanding of what works and what doesn't. To address this gap, UNU-CPR drew lessons from a series of case studies and identified recommendations to limit the impact of organised crime on conflict, peace negotiations, and political transitions. *The Crime-Conflict Nexus*

PROJECT

Improving Peacekeeping through Technology

UN Peacekeepers continue to stretch and strain under a growing demand for their services, the expansion of their mandate, and shifts in global security realities. They are increasingly being asked to do more with less, and in more complicated contexts. Peacekeeping efforts often are also hindered by insufficient access to (or use of) information and communication technologies. This UNU-CS project seeks to enhance collaborative learning and innovation capacities across UN peace operations through a three-phase initiative of baseline studies among peacekeeping missions, research on specific ICT innovations, and programming and knowledge transfer activities. *Digital Peacekeeping*



EXPERT

“Work on migration feeds directly into SDG 16. My research on migration — with a focus on policy coherence and corruption — strengthens institutions and shows how migrants can fight corruption in their countries of origin by transferring knowledge and values to those who stay behind.”

Melissa Siegel
UNU-MERIT Senior Researcher

PROJECT

Strengthening Preventive Diplomacy

Preventive diplomacy is one of the most important, but least understood, tools in the UN's global efforts to prevent conflict. A UNU-CPR project is telling stories of where UN preventive diplomacy has worked, with the aim of providing guidance for future crises and supporting the UN's system-wide reform efforts. *Strengthening the UN's Preventive Diplomacy and Mediation Efforts in Fragile and Conflict-affected States*

PROJECT

Preventing Child Soldiers

Tens of thousands of children are thought to be involved with armed groups in conflicts around the world. A UNU-ONY project is filling key knowledge gaps about the recruitment and use of children by non-state armed groups in contemporary armed conflicts. It also seeks to better understand the factors that impede child release from such groups and hinder a child's reintegration prospects. Project findings will inform programmatic guidance for actors in the field working to prevent the recruitment and use of children by armed groups and effectively disengage children from such groups. *Children and Extreme Violence Project*

PROJECT

Exploring Migration and Technology

Each year four million people migrate across national boundaries, with an estimated total migrant population of more than 240 million worldwide. A UNU-CS project, presently focusing on migrant communities in the Greater Mekong sub-region, seeks to better understand the role that information and communication technologies and devices, such as mobile phones, currently (and potentially could) play to aid migrants and first responders in vulnerable situations and enhance the conditions faced by labour migrants. *Exploring the Use of ICTs to Enhance the Agency of Labour Migrants in Vulnerable Situations*

PROJECT

Improving Conflict Prevention

To make conflict prevention a reality in non-mission settings, UN Resident Coordinators (RCs) need to act as preventive diplomats and crisis managers capable of leveraging the UN's development presence towards prevention objectives. A UNU-CPR project is analysing ten case studies where RCs have managed to overcome challenges to become effective prevention actors. It extracts good practices and lessons that can inform and inspire RCs deployed in countries that are experiencing crisis or political tension. *Sharpening the Resident Coordinator's Prevention Toolkit*

CONFERENCE

Exploring the Role of Non-State Actors in Conflict

At the April Ditchley Conference on "Non-State Actors and the Changing Nature of Conflict", UNU Rector David Malone chaired a diverse group of current and former soldiers, national security specialists, journalists, conflict resolution experts, and academics. Conference participants explored the limits of force and the levels of violence necessary to achieve decisive victories against non-state groups, with particular reference to conflicts in the Middle East and Africa.

TRAINING

Building Capacity Among Migration Workers

The Migration Management Diploma Programme offered by UNU-MERIT is an annual three-month course to build capacity among practitioners and civil servants working in the field of migration and/or asylum. The 2017 programme was attended by 14 students.

GOAL 17

Partnerships for the Goals

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, is a shared, global call to action to ensure that no one is left behind. Partnership – collaboration and mutual support – is a necessary foundation for comprehensive understanding and effective action to achieve equitable and universal sustainable development. UNU, through its global network of research institutes and programmes, actively partners worldwide with universities, research organisations, international agencies, government ministries, civil society, and the private sector. Our expertise across the entire range of the SDGs enables us to work as a convener of development stakeholders and to facilitate the transfer of knowledge across sectors.

PROJECT

Building a Tax Revenue Dataset

Ensuring the flow of taxes into government treasuries is central to efforts to finance and achieve the SDGs. A UNU-WIDER project seeks to boost the quality and transparency of revenue data, and to encourage more reliable and comparable cross-country tax research. The most recent version of the dataset was released in November 2017. *Government Revenue Dataset*

CONFERENCE

Building Knowledge Societies

The theme of the 2017 International Conference on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance (ICEGOV2017), held in New Delhi in March, was “Building Knowledge Societies – From Digital Government to Digital Empowerment”. This annual conference is coordinated by UNU-EGOV to promote interaction and cooperation between universities, research centres, governments, industries, and non-governmental organisations.

CONFERENCE

Advancing the Sustainable Development Agenda

The biennial Dresden Nexus Conference series, co-organised by UNU-FLORES, focuses on integrated resource management. The nexus approach is based on the understanding that environmental resources are inextricably linked; it is necessary to consider their mutual dependencies in environmental management so as to increase overall resource efficiency and ensure equitable benefit-sharing. Reducing waste, and recycling and reusing resources, are at the core of this approach. The 2017 conference was attended by some 400 participants: representatives of UN entities, governmental ministries and agencies, civil society, the private sector, and individual researchers.



EXPERT

“To achieve the SDGs, we must step out of our silos and work together across disciplines. My work at UNU bridges the divide between science and policy. Strong research can, and should, inform decision-making at all levels.”

Mathew Kurian
UNU-FLORES Academic Officer



ARTICLE

“Implementing international norms into the domestic law typically follows a top-bottom approach, emanating from the legislative or executive level to the community. The existence of a second system of law at local level could dramatically impact such an approach.... What people in communities understand about new laws could sometimes change completely the initial purpose or expected results of these laws.”

Excerpt from “Pacific Countries Advance Regional Policy Towards Migration and Climate Change”; published in *The Conversation*.
Author: Cosmin Corendea, UNU-EHS Associate Academic Officer

PROJECT


Identifying Policy Frameworks for Sustainable Development

The SDGs cannot be achieved without effective policies in place to support them. A UNU-IAS project is contributing to global and sub-global discussions on the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs in the short term by proposing policies and frameworks for a long-term transformation in human behaviour towards achieving a sustainable society. The project will help to identify the institutional forms that are required to realise sustainable development. *Governance for Sustainable Development*

PROJECT

Developing New ICT to Support Governance

A UNU-EGOV project is developing information and communication technologies (ICT) to support governance – including new methods for mapping research priorities, new curricula for teaching at pre-graduate, postgraduate, and company executive levels, and new approaches for fostering entrepreneurship. The project’s envisaged impact relates to the establishment of Government 3.0 as a vivid scientific domain that encompasses electronic government, ICT-enabled governance, and policy modelling and support. *Scientific Foundations Training and Entrepreneurship Activities in the Domain of ICT-enabled Governance*



Organisational Review

Beyond its research and think-tank role, UNU offers unique educational and training opportunities across its global system. We also focus on gender mainstreaming, partnerships, and strong leadership and governance as keys to our success.

In this final section, we take a look behind the research to detail who we are, where we are, and how we work - both internally across the UNU system, and externally with a broad network of stakeholders.

Education

While we operate primarily as a research-oriented think tank, UNU also offers a variety of postgraduate training and capacity development opportunities. These range from accredited postgraduate degree programmes to in-depth, specialised training via custom-designed courses and workshops. Our aim is to help our students (postgraduate-level scholars and early- and mid-career professionals) to better understand real-world problems and their potential solutions by assimilating knowledge from across diverse academic disciplines, contexts, and cultures. In particular, we seek to help our students enhance their aptitude for self-sustained learning, and empower them to contribute to efforts to resolve global challenges.

Fulfilling the needs of students from developing countries – and enabling them to return home and contribute to the continuing growth of vigorous academic and scientific communities in their home countries – is a particular focus of UNU's educational efforts.

Postgraduate degree programmes

UNU currently offers three MSc degree and three PhD degree programmes:

- a joint Master of Science in Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security Programme, by **UNU-EHS** and the University of Bonn Department of Geography (in Bonn)
- a double Master of Science in Public Policy and Human Development Programme, by **UNU-MERIT** and Maastricht University (in Maastricht)
- a Master of Science in Sustainability Programme, by **UNU-IAS** (in Tokyo)
- a joint PhD Programme in Integrated Management of Water, Soil and Waste, by **UNU-FLORES** and Technische Universität Dresden (in Dresden)
- a PhD Programme in Sustainability Science, by **UNU-IAS** (in Tokyo)
- a PhD Programme on Innovation, Economics and Governance for Development, by **UNU-MERIT** (in Maastricht)

As of year-end 2017, 335 students (230 MSc degree students and 105 PhD degree students) from more than 80 countries were enrolled in these six programmes.

Non-degree programmes and courses

We offer specialised non-degree educational opportunities for young scholars, researchers, and professionals, ranging in duration from six months to just a few days. Some of these enable students to earn credit towards a degree at a partner university, while others provide a UNU certificate upon completion.

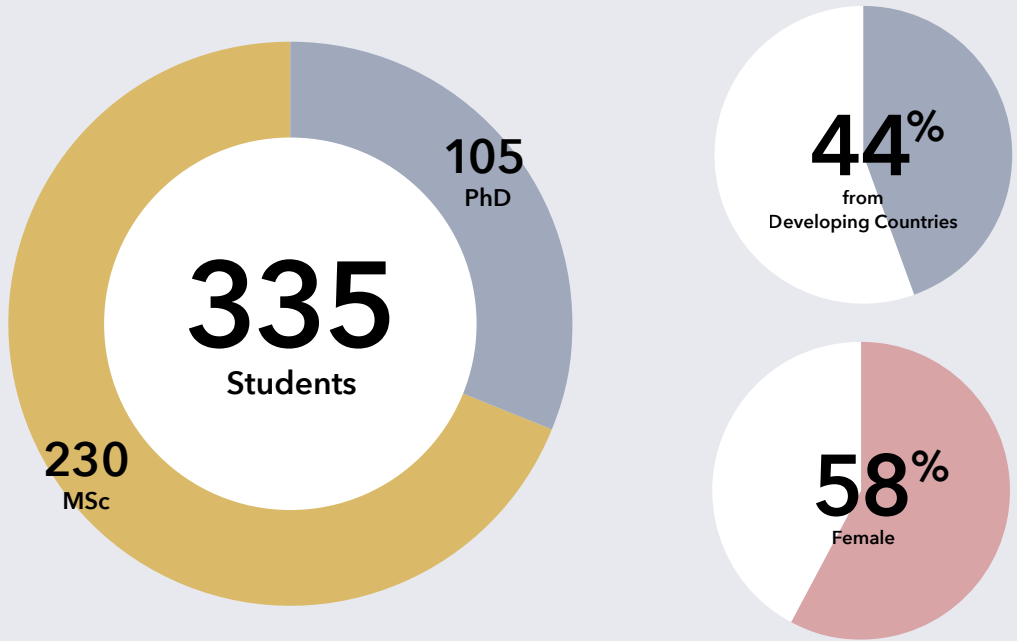
In 2017, UNU organised 136 training opportunities (programmes, courses, schools, and workshops), 63% of which were held in developing countries. These were attended by more than 3,600 students.

Research-based capacity development

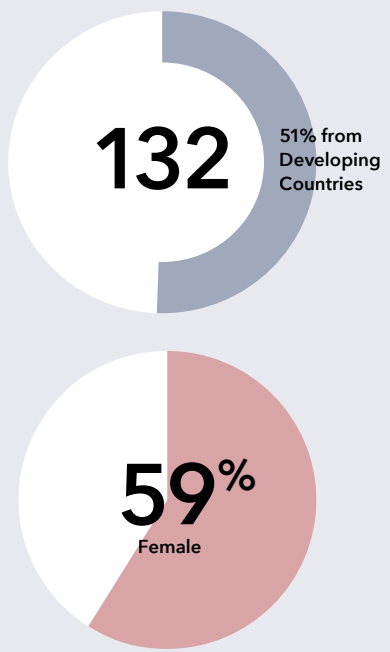
In addition to the formal study opportunities mentioned above, we also provide opportunities for young scholars and researchers to enhance their skills and knowledge by working alongside UNU staff. Among the almost 200 projects implemented by UNU in 2017, approximately two-thirds incorporated a capacity development component.

Other opportunities for collaboration with UNU staff in 2017 included an Early Career Climate Fellowship Programme (offered jointly with UNFCCC), the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)–UNU Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme, as well as PhD Internship/Fellowship programmes, Postdoctoral Fellowship programmes, Research Internship/Fellowship programmes, and Visiting Scholar opportunities offered by some of UNU's institutes.

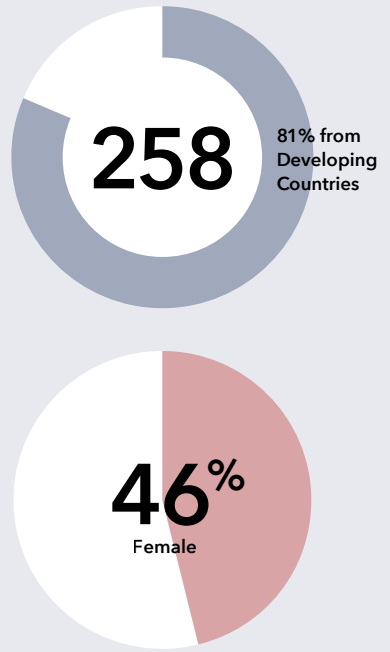
Postgraduate Programmes, 2017



Interns, 2017



Fellowship Recipients, 2017



Gender

2017 was a dynamic year for the Sustainable Development Goals, as a wave of SDG campaigns and initiatives inspired global action and collaboration. Early assessments, however, have cautioned that the pace of progress in many areas is too slow if we are to achieve the SDGs by 2030. At the heart of this critique is the topic of gender. Increased scrutiny of gender relations has demonstrated how deeply entrenched gender inequality is, the consequences for society and sustainable development, and the challenges ahead to eliminate it.

In his inaugural address, in December 2016, UN Secretary-General António Guterres emphasised that “We need a clear road map with benchmarks and time frames to achieve [gender] parity across the system, well before the target year of 2030.” This Declaration was matched by the September 2017 release of the UN System-wide Strategy on Gender Parity – an overview of gender targets, challenges, accountability, and tools to empower and guide staff to transform the Organisation’s culture so it can reach its full potential.

We at UNU have made it a priority to work toward gender parity and gender equality in all that we do. The UN efforts dovetail with our work to formulate a comprehensive gender strategy. This work culminated in April 2017 with the UNU Council’s adoption of the UNU Policy on Gender Equality, which formalises our continued promotion of gender parity at all levels of employment, defines our actions and timeline to enhance gender mainstreaming, and establishes a framework for regular monitoring and accountability.

Strengthening our perspective through parity

To do the best work possible, UNU depends on balanced perspectives with equal representation of women and men. At the core of the UNU Gender Action Plan is an ambitious commitment to achieving gender balance throughout the University. Notably, UNU’s timeline for achieving gender parity at the professional level (P3 and above) is five years earlier than the 2026 goal set for the UN system.

Among UNU’s global personnel, gender parity steadily improved in 2017, to 48.2% female versus 51.8% male. The most significant progress was among the University’s female leadership, which increased by 23% as six women joined our senior management in 2017: three new directors (at UNU-IIGH, UNU-CRIS, and UNU-EGOV) as well as a new Chief of Staff, Head of Communications, and Chief of Human Resources.

Mainstreaming gender in our workplace

We are committed to implementing UN policies on gender mainstreaming, and we are an active participant in the UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP). As of the January 2017 UN-SWAP report, UNU had achieved 60% of the performance indicators – not only a substantial increase (from 47%) since the beginning of UNU’s reporting in 2015, but also well above the 44% average for UN system training institutes.

Based on our 2017 progress towards gender parity, and the implementation of new actions and policies (such as an expanded parental leave programme), it is expected that UNU’s next UN-SWAP report in January 2018 will meet even more performance indicators.

From strategic management and organisational culture to human and financial resources, the UNU Action Plan on Gender Equality lays out steps and accountabilities to ensure progress.

A network of UNU gender focal points continues to coordinate institute-level activities that build awareness of Action Plan targets, implementation requirements, and progress reporting. The focal points also connect colleagues with a growing collection of UNU online gender resources and capacity building opportunities on the topic of gender mainstreaming.

Mainstreaming gender in our research

We have made significant efforts to incorporate gender considerations in our research and capacity building activities; 84% of ongoing projects, including 86% of new projects launched in 2017, consider gender in some aspect of their design and implementation.

In designing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating our research projects and other activities, we strive to ensure that appropriate consideration is given to:

- the concerns, capacities, contributions, and needs of both women and men
- practices that facilitate gender mainstreaming and equitable participation by women and men
- the probable impact on gender equality
- gender-relevant lessons learned

The most common focus is on ensuring equality of participation, not only among project researchers, partners, and participants, but also in the selection of participants for training programmes and capacity building activities. Raising community awareness of gender issues is another critical feature of UNU projects.

Monitoring progress and looking ahead

UNU's future progress in meeting its gender equality and parity targets depends on clear data to understand success and shortfalls across a diverse field of institutes, units, programmes, and projects. Ongoing assessment of UNU's global activities and workforce is producing a thorough collection of benchmarks and indicators. These include, for example, gender parity among staff and students; gender balance at events, including both participants and experts; the percentage of research projects in which gender has been mainstreamed; the collection of sex-disaggregated data; and the number of gender-related research outputs.



Several upcoming director-level recruitments offer further opportunities to close the gender gap at leadership levels, and new initiatives in outreach as well as targeted recruitment efforts should strengthen the pool of female candidates. The standardisation of UNU's gender-sensitive recruitment practices should also improve gender balance in new appointments beyond the leadership level.

The UNU Rectorate remains committed to ensuring that the membership of advisory boards and committees is gender balanced. Also, these advisory boards and committees will continue to refine and monitor gender-specific goals and achievements at the institute and programme levels.

Collaboration

The globalised context of the UNU research agenda makes collaborative networking critical to much of our work. We strive to be open to different disciplines, cultures, regions, and management styles, and to be proactive in working cooperatively with leading institutions – research organisations, universities, professional associations, non-governmental organisations, government agencies, and private sector companies – as well as with individual researchers, scholars, and practitioners worldwide. This collaborative approach enables us to focus on our strengths, provides additional means by which to broadcast UNU research outputs further than we could on our own, and helps to involve larger numbers of highly regarded researchers and academics in our work.

Among the hundreds of cooperative relationships (both formal and informal) maintained throughout the global UNU system, those with other UN entities are of particular importance. In 2017, UNU worked with more than 40 UN system partners – agencies, programmes, commissions, funds, and convention secretariats – as well as with the Permanent Missions of several UN Member States.

The following is a sampling of policy-relevant research and activities undertaken by UNU in collaboration with other UN entities in 2017:

In support of the UN Secretary-General's prevention agenda, **UNU-CPR** raised funding from the UK government for three research projects to identify good practices in UN and Member State conflict prevention interventions. The projects were undertaken in close consultation with several UN Secretariat entities, UN Country Teams, and field missions.

In response to a request by the UN Secretary-General, UNU initiated a programme of work to consider global policy frameworks for "frontier technologies", such as cyberspace, artificial intelligence, and genome editing technologies. In this context, **UNU-ONY** prepared a discussion paper for the UN High-Level Committee on Programmes and provided informal advice and support to senior UN leadership on a number of reform processes.

UNU-EGOV research on the impact of digital transformation and emerging technologies on the public sector feeds directly into efforts by some UN Member States and international organisations to formulate more effective electronic governance policies.

UNU-GCM's long-term engagement in the inter-agency Global Migration Group (GMG), including research input and technical advice, paved the way for the selection of UNU as Chair of the GMG for 2017. UNU-GCM and UNU-ONY coordinated inputs by GMG members to prepare six issue briefs presented by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration ahead of consultation sessions that fed into the initial draft of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

UNU-IAS engaged with several key policymakers of the UN system to produce a research-action framework on linkages between SDG targets.

UNU-IIGH worked closely with UNICEF and WHO to develop pathways by which WHO member states can implement the recommendations of the WHO Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity. The institute also was an active member of the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases.



UNU-INWEH engaged with several UN-Water task forces and supported the work of the High-Level Panel on Water. The institute was a major contributor to the “World Water Development Report” series and to the “SDG 6 Synthesis Report”.

UNU-MERIT’s research on drivers of child marriage in South Asia informs crucial policy discussions within UNICEF and UNFPA. And the institute’s research on the effects of the interplay between cash transfers and food assistance in Kenyan refugee camps is expected to inform WFP’s efforts to model the most effective and efficient mix of those two forms of aid.

UNU-ONY worked with several UN Member States, ILO, and IOM to develop a research platform on effective policies to tackle modern slavery and human trafficking. The results of this work informed drafting of the UN Secretary-General’s report on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2331 and is referenced in a forthcoming UNODC “Guidance Note”.

UNU-WIDER collaborated with the National Treasury of South Africa to enhance professional interaction and engagement between governmental institutions and within the research community in the greater Southern African region, leading to improved data access and enhanced policy research capability in the region.

UNU System

The United Nations University was established by the UN General Assembly (resolution 3081 (XXVIII), 1973) as “an international community of scholars, engaged in research, post-graduate training and dissemination of knowledge in furtherance of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations”.

UNU operates as a global network of academic units – institutes, programmes, and operating units – each with its own particular area(s) of expertise.

UNU Centre

UNU Centre is the coordination hub of the global UNU system. It encompasses UNU Centre in Tokyo (which houses the Office of the Rector and several administrative, academic services, and technical services units), the UNU Vice-Rectorate in Europe in Bonn (UNU-VIE, which also hosts the Sustainable Cycles (SCYCLE) Programme), and an adjunct administrative services unit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Institutes

- The **UNU Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS)** in Bonn, Germany, focuses on risks and adaptation related to environmental hazards and global change, taking into account the interplay between environmental and societal factors.
- The **UNU Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources (UNU-FLORES)** in Dresden, Germany, investigates problems in the sustainable use and integrated management of environmental resources, particularly water, soil, and waste.
- The **UNU Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (UNU-INRA)** in Accra, Ghana, focuses on the sustainable development of Africa’s resources in a way that preserves the natural environment, mitigates the effects of climate change, and realises a better quality of life.
- The **UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)** in Tokyo, Japan, focuses on sustainability and the integration of its social, economic, and environmental dimensions.
- The **UNU Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH)** in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, investigates pressing water challenges as they impinge on poverty reduction and issues related to improved human well-being, environmental sustainability and growth, and gender equity.
- The **UNU Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS)** in Bruges, Belgium, studies the provision of global and regional public goods, and the processes and consequences of intra- and inter-regional integration (including governance and cooperation).
- The **UNU Institute on Computing and Society (UNU-CS)** in Macau SAR, China, seeks solutions for the key challenges faced by developing societies through high-impact innovations in computing and communication technologies.
- The **UNU Institute on Globalization, Culture, and Mobility (UNU-GCM)** in Barcelona, Spain, investigates the socio-cultural aspects of migration in the context of globalisation, including intercultural dialogue, statelessness, gender, and urban-centred diasporas.
- The **UNU International Institute for Global Health (UNU-IIGH)** in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, focuses on development and strengthening of health policies (especially for people in developing countries) to support implementation of preventive approaches to human health.
- The **UNU Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT)** in Maastricht, Netherlands, explores the social, political, and economic factors that drive technological innovation, with a focus on creation, diffusion, and access to knowledge.
- The **UNU World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER)** in Helsinki, Finland, investigates issues that affect the living conditions of the world’s poorest people, and the developing world more generally, in relation to human survival, peace, economic development, and social welfare.



Programmes and other academic units

- The **UNU Biotechnology Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNU-BIOLAC)** in Caracas, Venezuela, focuses on solving priority problems and topics of the Latin America and the Caribbean region through the application of biotechnology.
- The **UNU Centre for Policy Research (UNU-CPR)** in Tokyo, Japan, focuses on major policy processes in the area of international peace and security, global development, and humanitarian affairs.
- The **UNU Office at the United Nations (UNU-ONY)** in New York, NY, USA, helps the global UNU system to connect and engage with UN Member States, intergovernmental processes, and UN bodies, provides strategic intelligence to UNU institute directors, and undertakes specialised policy research.
- The **UNU Operating Unit on Policy-Driven Electronic Governance (UNU-EGOV)** in Guimarães, Portugal, focuses on the mechanisms of governance and the building of effective governance capabilities through strategic applications of digital technologies in support of sustainable development.

UNU's four programmes based in Reykjavik, Iceland, offer annual five- or six-month training programmes as well as specialised short courses. They are the:

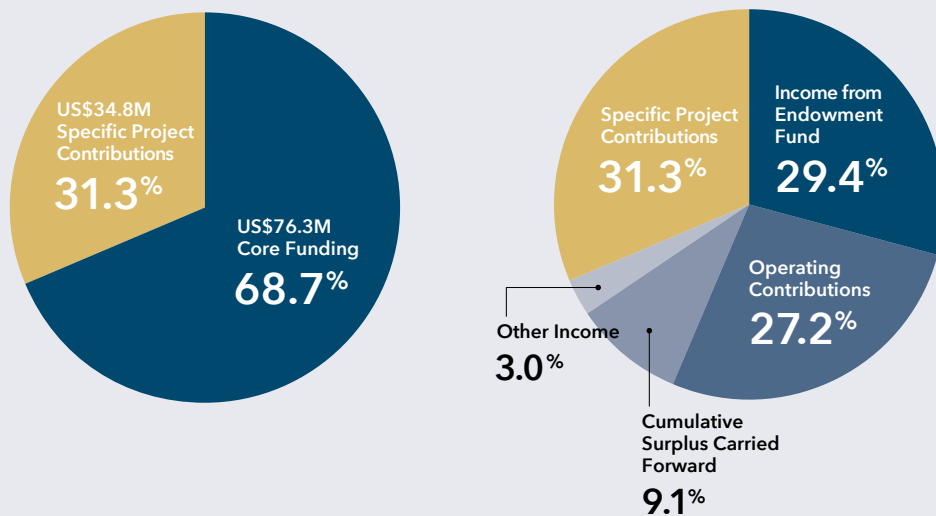
- **UNU Fisheries Training Programme (UNU-FTP)**
- **UNU Geothermal Training Programme (UNU-GTP)**
- **UNU Gender Equality Studies and Training Programme (UNU-GEST)**
- **UNU Land Restoration Training Programme (UNU-LRT)**

Financial & Human Resources

Budget

The UNU academic programme budget for the 2016-2017 biennium was US\$111.1 million. UNU receives no funds from the regular UN budget. We are financed solely by voluntary contributions – from governments (particularly the host governments of our institutes), foundations, agencies, international organisations, and other sources – and by investment income derived from the UNU Endowment Fund.

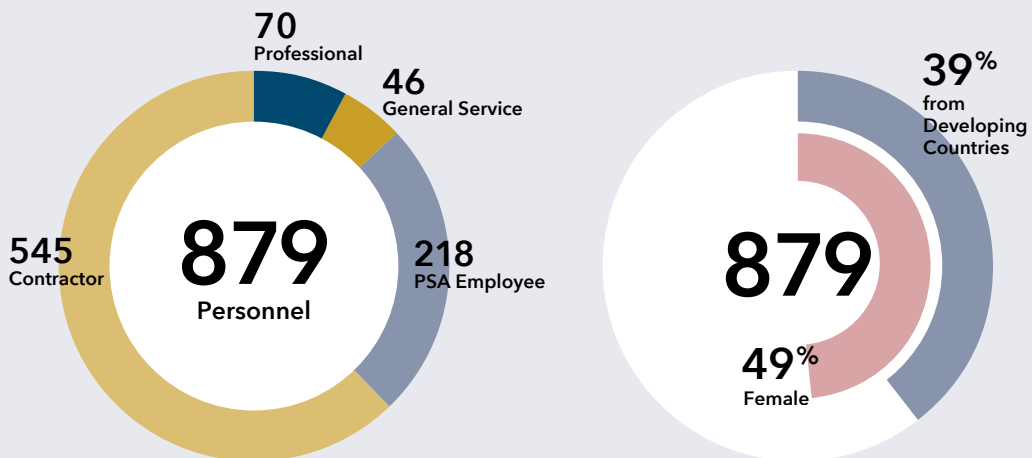
In 2017, UNU received contributions of US\$31.9 million from 17 governments and 69 other contributors. (See the Contributions Received table.)



Personnel

UNU comprises an exceptional, multicultural blend of talented people, including researchers whose expertise spans a wide range of vital issues. As of year-end 2017, the global UNU system had a personnel complement of 879.

In hiring, we strive to maintain a gender balance (51.4% male, 48.6% female in 2017) and to ensure that developing countries are properly represented (39.5% in 2017).



Contributions Received

1 January - 31 December 2017

MEMBER STATES	US Dollars*
Belgium	736,063
Canada	1,468,429
European Union (European Commission)	802,949
Finland	2,666,466
Germany	4,518,704
Japan	5,998,380
Korea, Republic of	47,471
Liechtenstein, Principality of	34,482
Macau SAR, China	376,132
Myanmar	208,710
Netherlands	1,049,846
Norway	592,066
South Africa	142,248
Spain	1,288,204
Sweden	904,979
Switzerland	523,912
United Kingdom	2,877,145
Subtotal	24,236,184
OTHER CONTRIBUTORS	
African Development Bank Group	450,000
Alexander von Humboldt Foundation	32,993
Asian Development Bank (Metro Manila, Philippines)	131,215
AXA	55,458
Cardiff University	46,627
Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD)	50,588
Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft	89,303
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	286,773
Deutsches Zentrum für Luft-und Raumfahrt e.v. (DLR)	309,952
Edmonton Power Corporation Water Services, Inc.	73,855
European Electronics Recyclers Association	33,884
Farmer's Market Association	204,388
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)	417,271
International Development Research Centre (IDRC)	57,596
International Labour Organization (ILO)	35,000
International Telecommunications Union	65,236
Ishikawa Prefecture	223,439
Japan Educational Exchanges and Services (JEES)	26,916
Japan Foundation for the United Nation University (JFUNU)	288,606
Japan Science and Technology Agency (JSTA)	83,769
Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)	60,414
Kanagawa International Foundation (KIF)	34,259
Kanazawa City	224,811
Keio University (Keio Research Institute at SFC)	179,361
Kirin Holdings Company, Ltd.	35,849
Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)	87,000
Maastricht City Council	311,616
Maastricht Graduate School of Governance	600,238
McMaster University	46,950
Munich Climate Insurance Initiative	668,646
Munich Re Foundation	170,395
Munich Re Insurance (Münchener Rückversicherungsgesellschaft AG)	26,681
New Partnership for Africa's Development, Planning and Coordinating Agency	44,960
Stichting Maastricht Economic Research Institute on Innovation and Technology	526,677
TMI Associates	52,025
Trade & Industrial Policy Strategies TIPS	218,818
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)	80,000
United Nations Economic & Social Commission for Asia & the Pacific (UNESCAP)	51,584
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)	110,945
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	74,500
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	21,345
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	216,487
Universiteit Gent	72,590
Universitetet i Tromsø - Norges Arktiske Universitet	103,939
University of Hannover	22,719
University of Tokyo	257,105
Vrije Universiteit Brussel	142,180
WASTE	70,755
(21 other donors with individual contributions of less than US\$20,000)	165,879
Subtotal	7,641,598
Total	31,877,782

Contribution figures are converted to US dollar equivalents and rounded to the nearest dollar; subtotals may reflect rounding errors.

Governance & Leadership

UNU is governed by a 16-member Council. The UNU Council comprises 12 appointed members, who serve six-year terms in an individual capacity, not as representatives of their countries; three *ex officio* members (the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Director-General of UNESCO, and the Executive Director of UNITAR); and the UNU Rector.

In 2017, UNU Council convened on 19-20 June in New York (67th session) and on 4-5 December in Tokyo (68th session).



UNU Council appointed members, 2017

- Dr **Radha Kumar** (India) (UNU Council Chair), Policy Analyst; formerly co-founder and Director General, Delhi Policy Group
- Professor **Ernest Aryeetey** (Ghana), Secretary-General, African Research Universities Alliance
- Professor **Simon Chesterman** (Australia), Dean, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore
- Ambassador **Elizabeth Cousens** (USA), Deputy Chief Executive Officer, United Nations Foundation
- Professor **Carlos Henrique de Brito Cruz** (Brazil), Scientific Director, São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP); Professor, Gleb Wataghin Physics Institute, State University of Campinas
- Dr **Bassma Kodmani** (Syria), Executive Director, Arab Reform Initiative
- Professor **Irena Lipowicz** (Poland), Professor, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw
- Ms **Isabel Guerrero Pulgar** (Chile), Director, IMAGO Global Grassroots; Lecturer at Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Ms **Angela Kane** (Germany), Senior Fellow, Vienna Center for Disarmament and NonProliferation; Professor, Sciences Po
- Dr **Segenet Kelemu** (Ethiopia), Director General and CEO, International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology
- Professor **Tsuneo Nishida** (Japan), Director, Institute for Peace Science, Hiroshima University
- Professor **Lan Xue** (China), Dean, School of Public Policy and Management, Tsinghua University; Director, China Institute for S&T Policy

The Rector, who holds the rank of UN Under-Secretary-General, is the chief academic and administrative officer of UNU. Dr **David M. Malone** has served as UNU Rector since March 2013, and was appointed to a second five-year term (2018-2023).

The Rector is supported by the Office of the Rector, and is advised by a Management Group that includes Senior Vice-Rector **Taikan Oki**, Vice-Rector in Europe **Jakob Rhyner**, Director of Administration **François d'Artagnan**, and Executive Officer **David Passarelli**.

Each institute and programme of the UNU system is headed by a Director, who is advised by an international institute Advisory Board or programme Advisory Committee. The directors comprise the Conference of Directors (CONDIR), which meets annually to discuss matters of policy and coordination. The 49th session of CONDIR was convened at UNU Centre in Tokyo on 3 December.



UNU CONDIR members, 2017

Institute Directors:

- UNU-CRIS Director **Madeleine Hosli** (from June)
- UNU-CS Director **Michael Best**
- UNU-EHS Director **Jakob Rhyner**
- UNU-FLORES Director **Reza Ardakanian** (through Oct.); Officer-in-Charge **Kai Schwaerzel** (from Nov.)
- UNU-GCM Director **Parvati Nair**
- UNU-IAS Director **Kazuhiko Takemoto**
- UNU-IIGH Acting Director **Obijiofor Aginam** (through Aug.); Director **Pascale Allotey** (from Sept.)
- UNU-INRA Director **Elias Ayuk**
- UNU-INWEH Director **Vladimir Smakhtin**
- UNU-MERIT Director **Bart Verspagen**
- UNU-WIDER Director **Finn Tarp**

Programme/Other Unit Leaders:

- UNU-BIOLAC Programme Director **Ivan Galindo-Castro**
- UNU-CPR Director **Sebastian Einsiedel**
- UNU-EGOV Head ad-interim **Luís Soares Barbosa** (through Aug.); Head **Delfina Sá Soares** (from Sept.)
- UNU-FTP Programme Director **Tumi Tómasson**
- UNU-GEST Programme Director **Irma Erlingsdóttir**
- UNU-GTP Programme Director **Ludvik Georgsson**
- UNU-LRT Programme Director **Hafdis Hanna Aegisdottir**
- UNU-ONY Head **James Cockayne**