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Implementation of projects financed from the Development Account: thirteenth progress report

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The Development Account is a capacity development programme of the United Nations Secretariat aimed at enhancing capacities of developing countries in the priority areas of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [56/237](#) and provides information on the implementation of projects funded from the Development Account since the submission of the twelfth progress report ([A/76/87](#)), as well as updates on the management of the Development Account. The report should be read in conjunction with the proposed programme budget for 2024 (see [A/78/6](#) (Sect. 35)).

* [A/78/50](#).



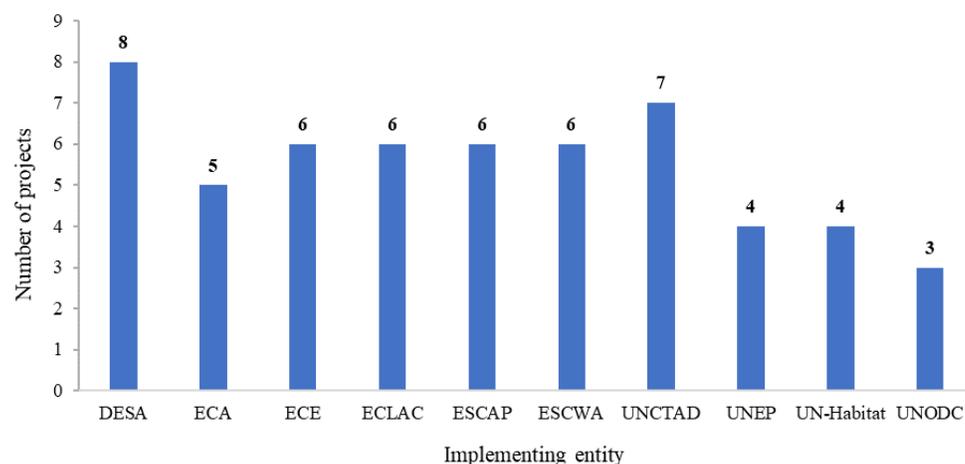
1. The present report provides an update on the performance and management of the Development Account since the issuance of the twelfth progress report (A/76/87). The mandate of the report is contained in General Assembly resolution 56/237 and in the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions that the report be submitted in the context of the presentation of the proposed programme budget (see A/57/7/Add.5 and A/58/7/Add.1–30). All previous progress reports, as well as information on individual projects, budget fascicles and further information on mandates, are available at the Development Account website (www.un.org/development/desa/da). A summary of all Development Account tranches can be found in annex I to the present report. An update on the implementation status of the ongoing twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth tranche projects is provided in annex II.

I. Review of the closed eleventh tranche

A. Overview

2. The eleventh tranche comprised 55 projects, which were implemented by the 10 Development Account entities (see figure I). The projects are the latest projects financed from the Development Account to close. They were delivered under challenging circumstances owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which struck midway through their four-year implementation cycle.

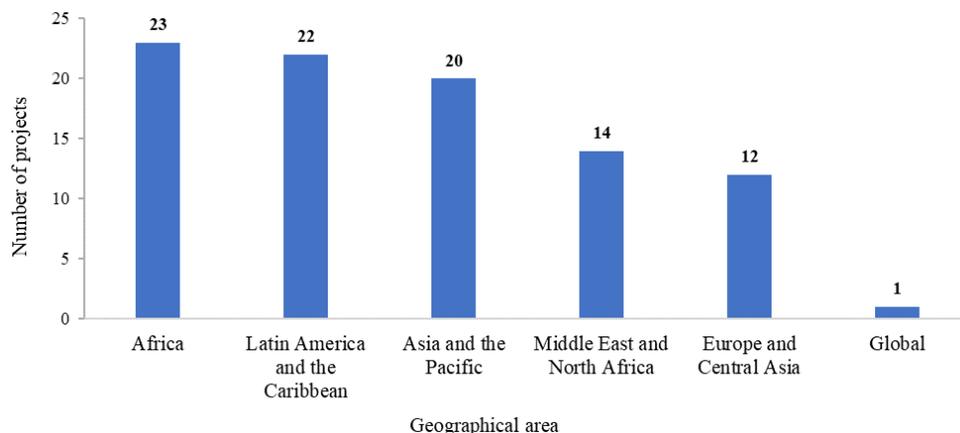
Figure I
Projects by implementing entity



Abbreviations: DESA, Department of Economic and Social Affairs; ECA, Economic Commission for Africa; ECE, Economic Commission for Europe; ECLAC, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; ESCAP, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; ESCWA, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia; UNCTAD, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; UNEP, United Nations Environment Programme; UN-Habitat, United Nations Human Settlements Programme; UNODC, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

3. All in all, 113 developing countries and 14 economies in transition received capacity development assistance. Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia and the Pacific were the regions that received the most support (see figure II).

Figure II
Regional distribution of projects

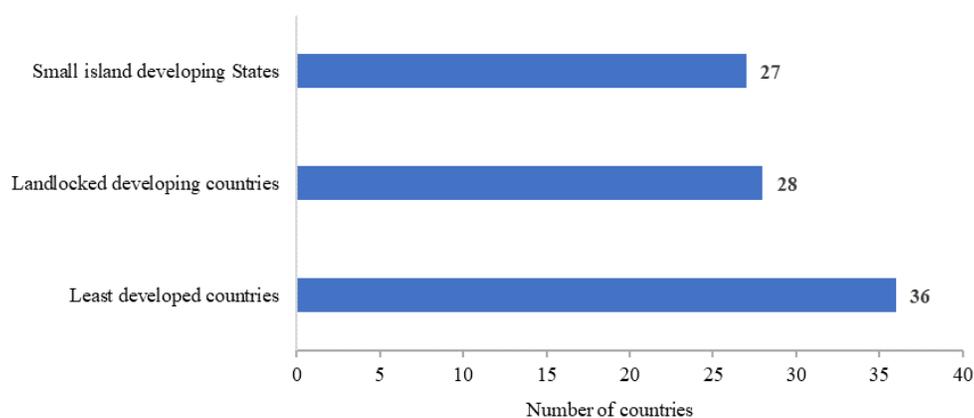


Note: Several projects supported countries in multiple regions.

B. Support provided to vulnerable countries

4. The tranche included strong support for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, with more than 80 per cent of the projects providing support to countries from at least one of these categories. All in all, 36 of the 46 least developed countries, 28 of the 32 landlocked developing countries and 27 of the 38 small island developing States benefited from Development Account support (see figure III).

Figure III
Support provided to vulnerable countries, by category



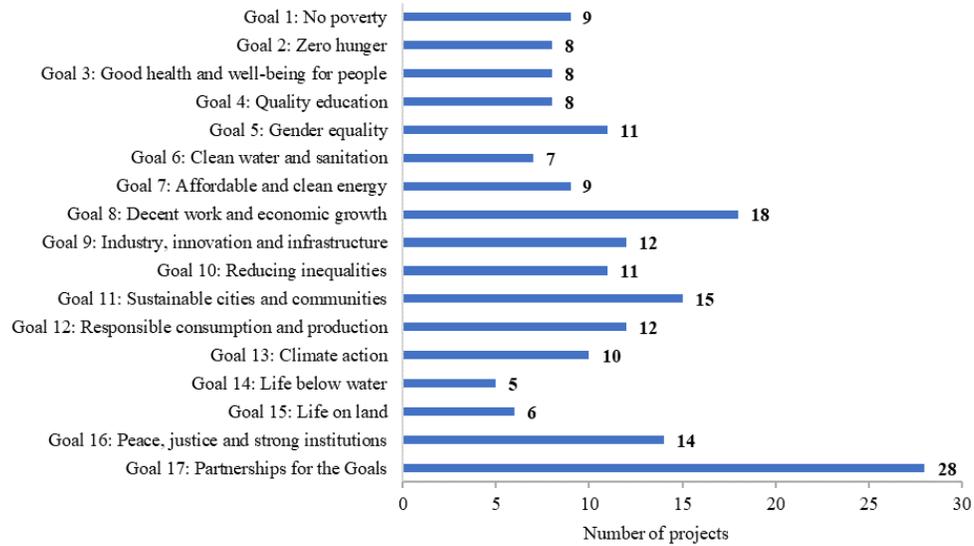
Note: Many projects provided support to countries in different groups.

C. Supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

5. All projects supported target countries' efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The projects supported the advancement of multiple Goals, with the most frequently supported Goals being Goal 17, Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development; Goal 8, Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and

productive employment and decent work for all; and Goal 11, Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (see figure IV).

Figure IV
Projects by Sustainable Development Goal(s) supported

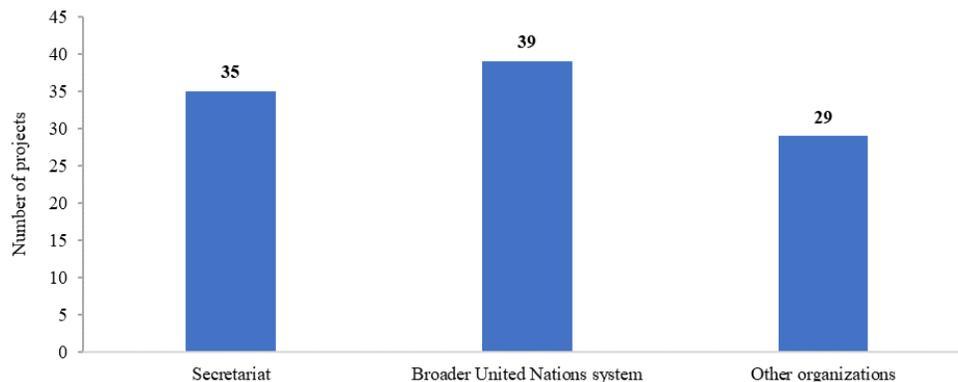


Note: Several projects supported more than one Sustainable Development Goal.

D. Partnerships

6. As is evident from the importance attached to Goal 17 in the projects, collaboration is an essential feature of all projects. Implementing entities are encouraged to build and deliver projects in partnership with other entities from within and beyond the United Nations system. Partnerships are aimed at creating synergies, avoiding duplication of effort, and ensuring the efficient and effective use of project resources. Most projects were delivered through partnerships among the Development Account implementing entities of the Secretariat and/or entities in the broader United Nations system. More than half of the projects also involved partnerships with external organizations beyond the United Nations system (see figure V).

Figure V
Projects by partnership category

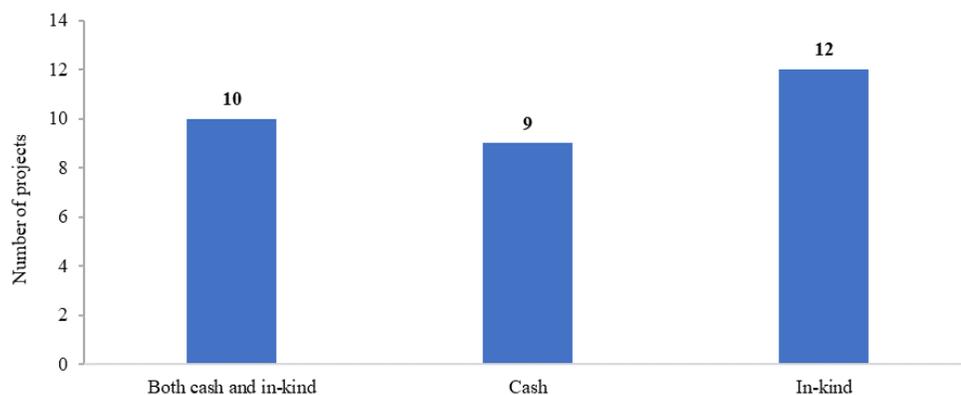


Note: Several projects entailed more than one category of partnership.

E. Financial and in-kind support

7. Through partnerships, the projects were able to draw on the expertise and resources of the collaborating entities. More than half of the projects received financial and/or in-kind support to supplement their funding. In-kind support included the provision of meeting venues and the payment of related expenses, and the provision of staff, logistics, training materials and e-learning content (see figure VI).

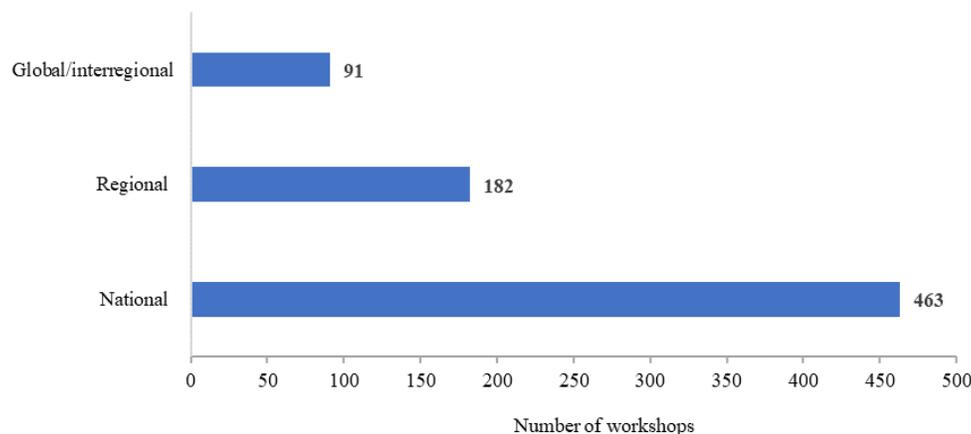
Figure VI
Projects provided with cash and in-kind support



F. Deliverables

8. A total of 736 workshops were organized, with close to 39,000 participants. Approximately 18,000 participants took part in national workshops, 12,000 in regional workshops and around 9,000 in workshops implemented at the global/interregional level (see figure VII).

Figure VII
National, regional and global/interregional workshops



9. In 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic struck, and travel and in-person meetings were no longer possible, projects had to be adapted to the new realities so that capacity development support could continue to be delivered. Approximately half of the workshops were delivered through digital modalities, either virtually or through hybrid means (see box).

Hybrid and virtual delivery of projects

E-learning, the dissemination of knowledge, and engagement with target audiences through digital modalities such as virtual or hybrid workshops, communities of practice and digital self-paced courses, complemented the in-person delivery of eleventh tranche projects. The projects incorporated e-learning approaches for capacity-building using various modalities, the most common being virtual and hybrid workshops. At the start of the pandemic, workshops were fully virtual. As travel and social-distancing restrictions were eased, workshops often moved towards a hybrid format.

E-learning has been effective in mitigating the challenges posed by the pandemic and has several advantages, particularly improved accessibility in the face of social distancing, as well as disability, geographical or other restrictions. E-learning has further facilitated access to knowledge products, databases and training courses, including webinars that have reached a greater number of beneficiaries than planned. Furthermore, remote learning can reduce the costs associated with on-site training, transportation and accommodation, with digital modalities resulting in savings related to workshops and study tours, and staff travel. As a result, e-learning resources have often been used in national training sessions and other technical cooperation activities after project completion (replicability), with web platforms and other information remaining accessible following the completion of project activities.

Despite these advantages, the quality of Internet services and access to computers is uneven, with those with poorer access, in particular women, young people and vulnerable groups in rural areas, facing disadvantages in terms of the benefits of virtual training. Digital gaps across geographical areas and population groups, therefore, constitute a challenge in terms of making participation in e-learning activities more inclusive.

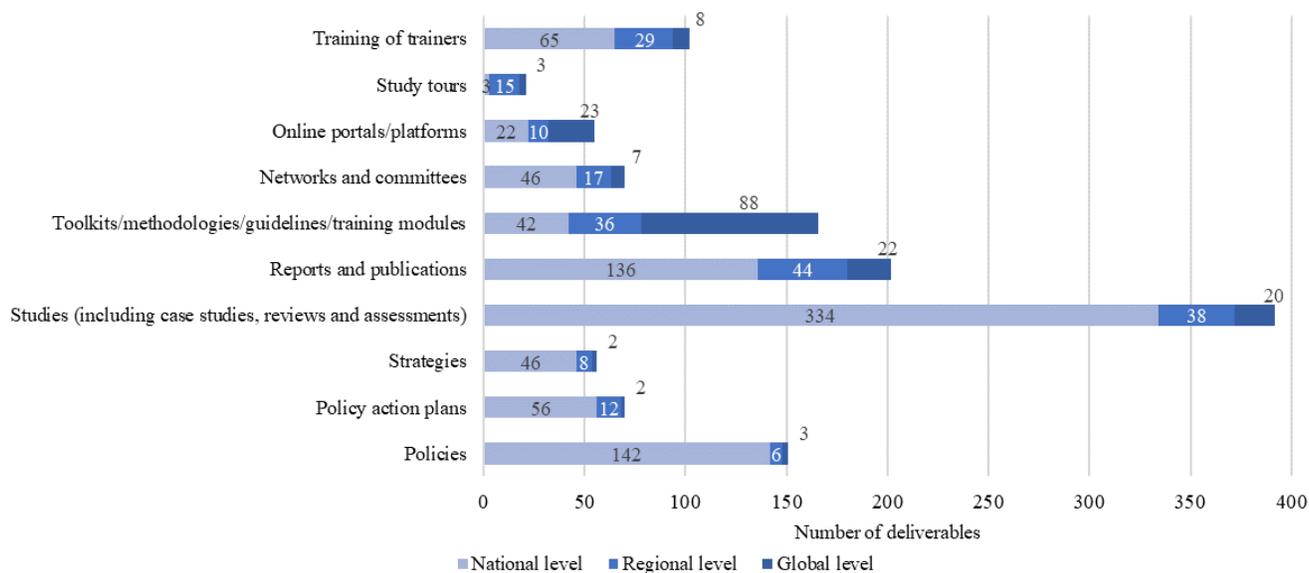
Among the other challenges to utilizing e-learning activities for capacity development are communication difficulties between participants and trainers; translation software; and keeping participants engaged during online training. To ensure that participants are effectively engaged, the duration of virtual and hybrid meetings should be kept short. Because of this limitation, content cannot always be treated in the same depth as during in-person meetings. Last, if the participants are in multiple time zones, time differences constitute a considerable challenge in organizing multiregional workshops, e-meetings and trainings. In view of these limitations, virtual events should be viewed as a complement to and not a complete substitute for in-person events.

Designing, compiling and launching self-paced digital courses requires careful planning and a range of technical abilities, including information and communications technology skills, and specialized thematic knowledge. Hybrid workshops are considered even more labour-intensive as they involve two completely disparate preparation processes simultaneously. The financial resources required for the long-term maintenance, updating and operation of self-paced digital courses need to be carefully considered. Last, the completion rate for certain self-paced courses is lower than for other forms of training, resulting in increased observation and coaching requirements. Reliance on e-learning tools requires direct observation and coaching most appropriately delivered in a tailored manner.

E-learning has become one of the key modalities for delivering projects financed from the Development Account. The identification of lessons learned will help to achieve the continuous goal of enhancing the design and formulation of new projects while responding to the needs of Member States. Throughout the period in which pandemic-related restrictions were imposed, the adoption of digital solutions increased the capacity and willingness of stakeholders to engage in digital activities, and substantially improved the digital tools used to conduct educational activities. In the post-pandemic world, digital delivery tools that complement in-person training and capacity building will remain an integral part of the capacity development delivery strategy. Starting with the fifteenth tranche, all projects have been required to include an e-learning component in order to be approved for implementation. Specific e-learning guidelines have been developed and disseminated through the Development Account website for this purpose (see www.un.org/development/desa/da).

10. In addition to the workshops, 143 policies, 63 policy action plans and 46 strategies were developed to support Member States in their policymaking efforts. Various analytical products were further developed, comprising 359 studies, 163 reports and publications, and 122 toolkits, methodologies, guidelines and training modules. Further to the analytical products, 52 networks and committees, and 47 online portals/platforms were established. To promote South-South and triangular cooperation and learning, 21 study tours were conducted. Last, 101 training-of-trainer sessions were organized to support Member States (see figure VIII).

Figure VIII
Project deliverables



II. Highlights of eleventh tranche by entity

11. In line with the theme for the eleventh tranche, projects were geared towards supporting Member States in strengthening evidence-based policy coherence, integration and participatory implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development at all levels. An overview of one project for each of the 10 implementing entities is provided below.

A. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Addressing the challenges of the forcibly displaced and their host communities in the region of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

12. One of the consequences of conflict is a high number of internally displaced persons and refugees. In 2016, there were 13 million refugees from Arab countries, in addition to 16 million internally displaced persons. Forcibly displaced persons and their host communities face enormous socioeconomic hardships, in addition to environmental, political and security challenges. This project was launched in four countries in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) region that are affected by high levels of forced displacement, with the aim of strengthening the capacity of public institutions to develop and deploy long-term development policies for the forcibly displaced and their host communities. Among its many achievements, the project identified long-term development challenges arising from the forced displacement crisis and developed public policy options to minimize the deterioration of the human capital of refugees. The project also identified COVID-19 policy responses in multiple countries and developed methods and tools to analyse their effectiveness using big data sources. On the basis of its analysis and findings, ESCWA organized a training workshop for participants from 12 countries in the region on leveraging big data sources for policy evaluation and analysis in crisis settings. The project also utilized savings on travel expenses during the COVID-19 pandemic to conduct a pilot assessment of ways in which new data sources and analytical approaches could shed light on the living conditions of refugees and host communities in one of the project countries. In partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the national Government, ESCWA utilized call records from mobile phone operators in the country and formulated an approach to leverage big data sources for policy evaluation and analysis in crisis settings. The pilot analysis, recommendations and methodology were presented to other countries in the ESCWA region and the Government involved in the pilot project won the World Summit on the Information Society prize in the ethical dimensions category in May 2021. To ensure that the handling of issues related to big data reflected and promoted core ethical principles, several Council for the Orientation of Development and Ethics meetings took place with the participation of UNHCR, other United Nations entities and relevant ministries of the project countries.

B. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Safety governance approach in urban environments for safe, inclusive and resilient communities

13. There is increased recognition that inclusive, safe and resilient societies are key to people's well-being and essential for securing sustainable development as envisioned in the 2030 Agenda. To better equip local authorities and national counterparts with the ability to identify, prevent and respond to crime, corruption and health risks and to measure progress towards achieving resilience and good governance, two urban safety governance assessment guides were developed under this project. The initial guide provides general and practical guidance on conducting safety governance assessments in urban areas. The guide was adapted and revised for emergency contexts following the COVID-19 pandemic. Using the guides, four assessments were conducted in partner

cities across three continents. As part of the assessment in one Latin American city, a campaign was launched to counteract the spread of the COVID-19 virus and to encourage the adoption of special measures for groups that could not stay at home owing to the nature of their economic activities, including health workers, police officers and law enforcement officials, as well as those involved in the informal economy. The campaign drew directly on the findings of the safety governance assessment and aimed to lower the occurrence of domestic violence and gender-based violence against women and girls. The project not only focused on encouraging the adoption of measures to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, but also shed light on a shadow pandemic in which the mobility restrictions imposed to contain the health crisis left many victims of domestic violence trapped at home with their abusers, limiting their ability to seek help or access to justice.

C. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Technological transformations in Latin America: promoting productive jobs and confronting the challenge of new forms of informal employment

14. Old and new forms of labour informality, linked to the structural heterogeneity of the Latin American productive structure and emerging types of labour relations based on new technologies, present an obstacle to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Seven Latin American countries had established these issues as central to their development agendas with a view to identifying policy options for reducing labour informality and preparing for the challenges that new technologies present for the future of work. This project provided those countries with key policy instruments for leaving no one behind. More specifically, the project strengthened the capacity of the seven countries to design public policies aimed at reducing existing and emerging forms of labour market informality while taking advantage of the potential of new technologies to create decent work. Owing to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the original in-person activities were redesigned to enable them to be delivered virtually. In total, 1,117 people participated in the project activities, which included regional seminars, national workshops, training sessions and a study tour. In one project country, the document containing analysis and recommendations on digital work was used in the national debate on a new policy draft; in 2022, that country approved a new national policy that regulated working conditions for digital platform workers for the first time. Project analysis and recommendations were also used as input for the debate on new regulations in two other countries. In one project country, three innovative methodologies were developed for using data from the first occupational survey in the region to measure gaps in terms of the skills required, to link skills and competencies needed for different occupations with education and training provided in the country and to measure digital skills in order to assess how well prepared workers were for the future of work. In a second project country, the assistance provided resulted in the systematization of data in the public registry of informal workers, the analysis of information and the provision of policy recommendations. In another project country, a study was undertaken using a methodology for estimating the risk of informality at the subnational level, including social protection issues for informal workers and new forms of informal work related to the COVID-19 pandemic. A research paper on the impact of artificial intelligence on the labour market was also produced, which provides concrete examples of ways in which new technologies can interact with humans in order to avoid job elimination and improve productivity. The paper introduces and promotes a new subject for policy debate in the region. Knowledge management was another important component of the project; a total of 23 documents were published online, which were downloaded over 55,400 times, and a bilingual web page was created to serve as a permanent repository for the project's outputs and

activities, including recordings of online presentations, which covered such topics as the methodology to estimate labour informality, and key messages from policy documents that can be used for dissemination and further training.

D. Economic Commission for Europe

Increased policy coherence and sustainability of national production and consumption patterns in North-South and South-South agricultural trade

15. Billions of tons of food are wasted every year due to systemic and structural challenges in the food supply chain, such as poor storage and transport techniques, as well as stringent export requirements. The result is production and post-harvest loss, degradation or discarding. The COVID-19 pandemic also had acute and lasting impacts on food systems. Border closures and import restrictions in many countries resulted in an under-availability of food and basic ingredients, and that imbalance led in turn to a heightened focus on agricultural markets and trade. The implications for food security highlighted the importance of lasting food quality and the need for a more comprehensive food systems approach. This project was launched in response to interest from several countries in four regions, and aimed to reduce food loss in the supply chain, particularly in the pre-shipment phase, by expediting the clearance of perishable goods. Through the project, hundreds of policymakers, experts and other stakeholders around the world have been trained on better quality production and trade; best practices for measuring, preventing and reducing food loss and waste; and linkages with the overall food system. The project provided access to new assessment and analytical materials, training guides and action plans for building back better in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. Ninety per cent of participants in the project's capacity-building activities for Central Asia stressed that the training had resulted in improved quality of produce and in greater competitiveness for small and medium-sized enterprises. The training also led to improved access to domestic and international markets for local producers, the expansion of their businesses, higher revenues and, above all, the creation of formal employment opportunities for vulnerable groups – women and youth. Some small-scale production and processing companies even doubled their production volumes. The project resulted in effective partnerships and created synergies with ongoing work, as well as with the regular intergovernmental work of the Economic Commission for Europe. Former workshop participants have become trainers, and workshops are held at the local level with local funding. The international best practices disseminated through the project will have a lasting impact beyond the project's life cycle.

E. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Leapfrogging skills development in e-commerce in South-East Asia within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

16. E-commerce has the potential to be a powerful driver of economic growth, inclusive trade and job creation throughout the developing world. It also has the potential to accelerate progress towards all the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 8 on decent work and economic growth. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the shift towards a more digital world, with long-lasting effects. Lockdown measures led to a surge in e-commerce, as consumers looked for alternatives to in-person shopping. The pandemic also revealed wide gaps in digital readiness, especially in the most vulnerable economies. Many least developed countries faced challenges in responding to the fast transition needed. This project focused on promoting best practices and evidence-based policies on e-commerce by delivering capacity-building

activities at two levels: sharing best practices in e-commerce, and strengthening capacities in relation to digital identity. In response to demand from South-East Asian countries, the Training Development in the Field of International Trade (TrainForTrade) programme of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), in partnership with the World Bank, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), developed two online courses, one on sharing best practices in e-commerce, and another on strengthening capacities in relation to digital identity. Each course was delivered twice. As part of the project, two regional in-person workshops, one hybrid workshop and three interactive online sessions were organized, and two publications and one policy brief were released. A total of 1,114 participants from 36 different countries benefited from the training provided under this project, and 48 per cent of all project participants were women. Participants reported a very high overall satisfaction rate (93 per cent) for all project activities. Following the delivery of the first online course and regional workshops, two publications were produced and issued: a report on e-commerce practices in South-East Asia, and *Digital Identity for Trade and Development*, the first UNCTAD publication on that topic. On the basis of the lessons learned from this project, UNCTAD developed a policy brief on digital identity, entitled “Why robust digital identity systems are essential in fostering trade and development” (UNCTAD policy brief No. 96), which examines why digital identity systems are key to promoting trade and development in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and provides recommendations and guidelines to support national and regional priorities in the inclusive and sustainable development of digital identities as an integral part of a broader e-commerce framework.

F. Economic Commission for Africa

Measuring, monitoring and improving performance in regional integration within the regions of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

17. In a rapidly evolving trade landscape, deeper regional integration is a key priority for many developing countries as a means of achieving economic diversification, industrialization and structural transformation. In bringing countries together around common rules and institutions, regional integration is widely perceived as a powerful vehicle for promoting growth, stability and development while facilitating integration into the global trading system. This project focused on strengthening the capacity of select developing countries to measure, monitor and improve their performance in regional integration in the Africa, Western Asia and Asia-Pacific regions. Substantial achievements under the project include producing a second edition of the Africa Regional Integration Index (ARII 2019), training 27 African member States to use Index for policy analysis and development, and creating and disseminating a dedicated ARII 2019 web platform for the Index (<https://arii.uneca.org/>). In addition, 28 African countries were supported in the development of national datasets and country profiles on their digital trade integration performance, and a web platform was developed (<https://dtri.uneca.org/>). The information collected is expected to help States members of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) negotiate and subsequently implement a protocol on digital trade under the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area. National and regional strategies for implementing the Agreement, with action plans and road maps, were also developed under this project. An assessment of the impact of the ongoing health crisis on the economic performance of Arab countries, *COVID-19 and Its Impact on Arab Economic Integration*, which illustrates the best ways to use the System of Indices to Monitor Arab Economic Integration, was

prepared and shared with member States in Western Asia. A new tool, an Arab economy-wide trade simulator interface, was also developed, which can be used to evaluate the impact of trade reforms and external shocks on the economies of 18 Arab countries. In addition, the Arab Trade Gateway, which hosts the System of Indices, the trade simulator interface and other tools for assessing and monitoring member States' economic integration, was launched. In the Asia-Pacific region, the Digital and Sustainable Regional Integration Index (DigiSRII) was built to measure regional integration performance in seven areas (trade, finance, value-chains, infrastructure, migration, regulatory cooperation and digital integration). The Digital and Sustainable Regional Integration Index was used to provide technical assistance and to conduct national studies to identify challenges and opportunities in connection with enhancing regional and sustainable digital trade integration. In addition, an interactive tool, the Regional Integration Analyzer (<https://riva.negotiatetrade.org>), was built using the data behind the Digital and Sustainable Regional Integration Index for policy analysts to evaluate progress towards regional integration in the Asia-Pacific region through the lens of sustainable development. As part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, 21 Asia-Pacific economies were supported in the development of national datasets and in the analysis of national regulatory challenges in relation to digital trade integration with other Asia-Pacific economies.

G. United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Strengthening urban resilience in South-East Africa

18. The south-eastern part of the African continent is highly vulnerable to transboundary extreme climate-related events, in particular floods, droughts and cyclones. It is also part of one of the world's fastest urbanizing regions, sub-Saharan Africa, where the share of the population living in urban areas is projected to increase to 60 per cent from the current 40 per cent by 2050. This trend is driven by increasing rural-urban migration combined with a sustained rapid population growth rate. This project focused on strengthening capacities and establishing conditions within four South-East African countries to build resilience and adapt to the adverse effects of climate change in vulnerable cities and towns. The project supported and worked closely with local and national governments in the four countries to reinforce their capacity and knowledge of disaster risk management and urban climate resilience, as well as to strengthen the development of policies, urban plans, knowledge-exchange activities and resource mobilization for urban risk reduction and resilience initiatives. Through these activities, multi-level governance relations between local and national governments were strengthened and trust and community ownership were built. The activities carried out as part of the project led to significant financing opportunities to scale up the urban resilience portfolio of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in Africa. Most notably, the project established the evidence base needed for the formulation and development of the \$14 million project entitled "Building urban climate resilience in south-eastern Africa", the largest ongoing UN-Habitat project. The development and successful financing of this project stems directly from the activities executed with the support of the Development Account. Overall, the Development Account project unlocked around \$15 million in additional funding for further urban resilience-building interventions in the four project countries.

H. Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Municipal asset management for sustainable development in selected least developed countries in Africa and Asia

19. Realizing sustainable development on the ground is not possible without strong buy-in and leadership from local governments, such as district and municipal authorities, which provide essential public services. To ensure the reliability and sustainability of those services, local governments must commit human, financial and material resources over the long term to upgrade and maintain underlying infrastructure, such as roads, water and sanitation services, energy grids and waste management facilities. The growing risks and challenges stemming from urbanization, climate change, public health crises and advances in digital technology make the case for effective asset management as compelling as ever. This project focused on strengthening the capacity of local government officials in selected least developed countries in Africa and Asia to manage infrastructure assets more effectively and sustainably. Over 90 per cent of training participants reported increased knowledge of local infrastructure asset management in post-workshop surveys. Significant progress was made in strengthening the national policy, regulatory and institutional environments for asset management, with three out of four beneficiary countries in the process of developing, reviewing and adopting national asset management policies that will provide clear guidance to both national agencies and local governments on more inclusive, resilient and sustainable infrastructure asset management. In addition, the project was successful in leveraging additional resources within the United Nations system, as well as from multilateral donors, and in extending diagnostic assessments and training to additional municipalities beyond those originally foreseen. Following strong demand, the training curriculum and good practices on asset management that emerged from the project were captured in a United Nations handbook, *Managing Infrastructure Assets for Sustainable Development: A Handbook for Local and National Governments*. The handbook was launched in early 2021 in a series of regional interactive virtual workshops, which were focused on asset management basics, data and crisis resilience, and has been translated into 10 different languages, including all six official United Nations languages. Over 2,400 local and central government officials from developing countries were trained through the workshops. In one of the project's beneficiary countries, the largest national university recently launched a new master's degree programme on infrastructure asset management based on the handbook, thus imparting those tools and insights on sustainable infrastructure asset management to new generations of public sector officials. The project also led to collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and Columbia University on a massive open online course that covers the entire handbook and gives local and central governments around the world access to comprehensive and self-paced training on a wide range of infrastructure asset management tools and techniques that support sustainable development. The massive open online course, for which over 1,000 students have registered thus far, provides a significant opportunity to increase the scale and long-term sustainability of United Nations work on infrastructure asset management.

I. United Nations Environment Programme

Towards a coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals

20. The 2030 Agenda charts a new path of balance for humanity and the planet. The Sustainable Development Goals are integral to the functioning of the biosphere, which is vital for human livelihoods, well-being and resilience. A healthy

environment is a precondition for achieving all the Goals. Countries need to be well equipped to understand the environmental dimensions of the Goals and their links with other commitments. They also need to be able to translate this understanding into concrete measures in order to achieve environmental objectives, which in turn depends on accurate and reliable environmental data. In response to resolution 2/5 adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly and expressions of interest from project countries, this project involved partnering with Governments in Africa, Asia and Latin America on the coherent and integrated implementation and monitoring of the environmental dimension of the Goals. Each of the four project countries opted for an accelerated pathway or target to strengthen sustainable development, such as water, poverty and health. The partnerships strengthened the capacity of national institutions to implement and monitor the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda in a coherent and integrated manner. As part of the project, a tool was tested that made it possible to analyse and identify the most important interactions among the Goals and related targets at the national and subnational level. The results of the analysis were presented in July 2018 in New York during a workshop at the margins of the high-level political forum on sustainable development. Besides the testing and application of this tool, the project also involved launching guidelines on environmental responsibilities of municipalities. The environmental consequences of the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and changing trends were further analysed. The project also resulted in enhanced environmental statistics, access to accurate information and knowledge, cross-sectoral collaboration and coordination both within and across institutions, as well as more inclusive mechanisms and reporting. This improved countries' environmental reporting in the voluntary national reviews. In addition, through its global mandate for monitoring the environment as a custodian agency for the 25 environment-related Sustainable Development Goal indicators, the United Nations Environment Programme promoted policy coherence with regard to indicator 17.14.1 and a coherent delivery of the environmental dimension of all 17 Goals.

J. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Strengthening statistical capacity to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 14 on oceans in member countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

21. The ocean is a vital source of livelihoods, employment, nutrition and economic growth in Asia and the Pacific. Healthy ocean and marine ecosystems contribute to inclusive development and poverty reduction, regulate the climate and are essential for a more sustainable future. Although substantial information exists on the ocean and its resources, the countries with the greatest need have the least capacity to access or apply such information in their policy decisions and the information is fragmented, being dispersed among numerous institutions at the international, regional and national level. This project was launched to strengthen the capacity of selected developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region on ocean data and statistics in order to improve the sustainable management of ocean and marine resources. More specifically, the project aimed to enhance partnerships among international, regional and national stakeholders, with a focus on developing guidance for standardized ocean-related statistics, and to enhance the technical capacity of beneficiary countries to produce a coherent set of priority ocean accounts on a regular basis. The project resulted in the establishment of the first global partnership on ocean accounts; the production of a guidance document, training materials and research studies on ocean data, statistics, accounts and governance; and the strengthening of national capacity thanks to pilot studies on ocean accounts. Through the project, five pilot countries were successful in establishing or strengthening existing interdepartmental working

groups for the assessment of national ocean priorities, governance mechanisms and data availability. All countries achieved more integrated ocean-related statistics and produced new data outputs addressing national concerns with respect to oceans by the end of the project. Countries focused on data production in such areas as harmonized ecosystem maps and carbon stock assessments; examination of food security risk under climate variability and changes in ecosystems; and better understanding of the linkages between tourism income, natural resource use, land-based pollution and ecosystem impacts.

III. Management of the Development Account

A. Coordination with United Nations entities and programmes

22. In September 2022, the programme management team of the Development Account circulated a survey to all implementing entities on their coordination with United Nations entities and programmes for the delivery of projects based on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. Projects are expected to include cooperation with the resident coordinator system in project target countries and the survey responses confirmed that country-level activities are typically coordinated with them throughout project implementation. Projects are often formulated in response to requests from resident coordinators on behalf of Governments in the target countries. Moreover, implementing entities are expected to consult with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and review possible collaboration, if relevant, when preparing project documents and implementing projects. The survey responses showed that several implementing entities had worked with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and in a few instances had also collaborated where relevant with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa on projects funded by the Development Account.

23. The survey results also showed that the linkages between the Development Account and the regular programme of technical cooperation differed between implementing entities, but that there is an integrated approach at the management level in all implementing entities to consider coherence between the two programmes. Implementing entities use the medium-term support provided through the Development Account and shorter-term support provided through the regular programme of technical cooperation in a complementary way to maximize impact. Through the identification of synergies and areas of cooperation, coordination between the two programmes is ensured.

B. Strengthening the management of the Development Account through evaluation

24. The evaluation function of the Development Account, guided by the incumbent of the temporary position of Evaluation Officer (P-4) under this section, continued to support the strengthening of Development Account management. As indicated in the proposed programme budget for 2024 for section 35 ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 35\)](#)), given the criticality and long-term nature of the evaluation function in supporting the continuous improvements to the management of the Development Account and the implementation of projects, the temporary position is proposed to be converted to an

established post under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2024.

25. Since the previous report, a standard evaluation report template, incorporating the requirements established by the new administrative instruction on evaluation in the United Nations Secretariat ([ST/AI/2021/3](#)), was issued and piloted with eleventh tranche project evaluations. Optional mid-term reviews of the lists of twelfth and thirteenth tranche projects selected for evaluation were conducted, following which several entities revised selected projects with a view to aligning the evaluations with their strategic priorities. A guidance note on twelfth tranche project evaluations has been issued, along with the updated evaluation report template, which aims to promote the application of the Development Account project evaluation guidelines while also providing clarification and necessary adjustments.

26. At the programme level, the evaluation of the tenth tranche Programme on Statistics and Data, implemented jointly by all 10 entities, was completed in September 2022. The evaluation found that the Programme was highly relevant and that its national-level activities were effective in increasing the number of Sustainable Development Goal indicators that participating countries reported on. The management response to the evaluation, including an action plan for implementing its programme-level recommendations, was endorsed by the Development Account Steering Committee at its meeting of 2 March 2023. Implementation of actions aimed at improving the design, monitoring and evaluation of Development Account-funded projects is already under way, in line with the action plan. A new web page dedicated to evaluation was launched as part of the Development Account website (www.un.org/development/desa/da/evaluation), where the reports of the completed eleventh tranche project evaluations, COVID-19 response joint project evaluations and the programme-level evaluation have been published to promote accountability and facilitate the dissemination of lessons learned.

IV. Recommendation

27. **The General Assembly may wish to take note of the present report.**

Annex I

Summary of Development Account tranches as at 30 April 2023

<i>Biennium/year</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Tranche</i>	<i>Approved (thousands of United States dollars)</i>	<i>General Assembly resolution</i>	<i>Total number of projects</i>	<i>Number of active projects</i>	<i>Implementation period</i>	<i>Status/ percentage of approved budget spent as at 30 April 2023</i>
1998–1999	Support for the implementation of global conferences	1	13 065.0	53/220 A	7	–	–	Closed
2000–2001	Networking and regional and subregional expertise	2	13 065.0	54/249	16	–	–	Closed
2002–2003	Capacity-building for managing globalization	3	13 065.0	56/254 A	20	–	–	Closed
2004–2005	Capacity-building for Millennium Development Goals through partnerships, knowledge management and taking advantage of information and communications technologies	4	13 065.0	58/270	23	–	–	Closed
2006–2007	Supporting progress towards the internationally agreed development goals, through knowledge management, networking and partnerships	5	13 065.0	60/247	24	–	–	Closed
		5A	3 415.9	60/246 and 61/252	6	–	–	Closed
		5B	5 071.0	62/235	10	–	–	Closed
2008–2009	Supporting progress towards achieving internationally agreed development goals, through innovation, networking and knowledge management	6	16 480.9	62/237	27	–	–	Closed
		6A	2 170.4	62/236, 62/237 and 62/238	5	–	–	Closed
		6B	7 500.0	64/242 A	15	–	–	Closed
2010–2011	Support for addressing key global development challenges to further the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, through collaboration at the global, regional and national levels	7	18 651.3	64/244 A	28	–	–	Closed
		7A	4 000.0	Residual balances from tranches 1–4	12	–	–	Closed
		7B	5 000.0	64/243 and 64/244	11	–	–	Closed
2012–2013	Supporting Member States in accelerating progress towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in the context of the multiple and interrelated development challenges	8	23 651.3	66/248 A	40	–	–	Closed
		8A	5 591.9	66/246	12	–	–	Closed
2014–2015	Supporting Member States in designing and implementing strategies and policies towards sustainable, equitable and inclusive development	9	28 398.8	68/248 A	46	–	–	Closed
		9A	7 113.0	Residual balances from tranches 5–6	13	–	–	Closed
2016–2017	Supporting Member States in implementing the post-2015 development agenda: strengthening statistics and data, evidence-based policies and accountability	10	28 398.8	70/249	33	–	–	Closed
		10A	5 657.4	Residual balances from tranche 7	10	–	–	Closed

<i>Biennium/year</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Tranche</i>	<i>Approved (thousands of United States dollars)</i>	<i>General Assembly resolution</i>	<i>Total number of projects</i>	<i>Number of active projects</i>	<i>Implementation period</i>	<i>Status/ percentage of approved budget spent as at 30 April 2023</i>
2018–2019	Supporting Member States in strengthening evidence-based policy coherence, integration and participatory implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels	11	27 856.4	72/253 A–B	45	45	2018–2021	Closed
		11A	6 305.1	Residual balances from tranche 8	10	10	2018–2021	Closed
2020	Supporting Member States in strengthening coherent policies and approaches to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at local, national and regional levels	12	14 199.4	74/264 A–C	22	22	2020–2023	79
		12A	17 448.5	Joint COVID-19 projects	5	5	2020–2023	97
2021	Supporting Member States in utilizing innovative and catalytic approaches to accelerate progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals	13	15 199.4	75/254 A–C	21	21	2021–2024	52
2022	Recovering better from COVID-19: for greener, resilient, inclusive and equal post-pandemic societies that leave no one behind	14	16 199.4	76/247 A–C	21	21	2022–2025	21
2023	Supporting Member States to address the risk of widening inequality in the post-pandemic recovery through inclusive, resilient and green policy support that leaves no one behind	15	16 491.3	77/264 A–C	22	22	2023–2026	–
Total approved			323 633.9		504	91		
2024	Supporting Member States in developing and implementing policies for accelerating the Sustainable Development Goals for transformational change, resilience and just transitions addressing the economic and social aftermath of ongoing crises and shocks while ensuring that no one is left behind	16	16 286.7	Proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect. 35))	28	–	2024–2027	–
Grand total			339 920.6		534	91		

Annex II

Update on the status of the twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth tranche projects: implementation rates

Table 1

Projects funded from section 35, Development Account, of the programme budget for 2020 (twelfth tranche) as at 30 April 2023

	<i>Project title</i>	<i>Implementing entity</i>	<i>Project budget (A)</i>	<i>Expenditures (B)</i>	<i>Implementation rate (percentage)</i>
			<i>(Thousands of United States dollars)</i>		<i>[(B)/(A)]*100</i>
A	Time-use data for better policies in African, Western Asian and Latin American countries	DESA	732.1	258.9	35
B	Environmental-economic accounting for evidence-based policy in Africa and Asia	DESA	504.5	336.8	67
C	Inclusive development for Indigenous Peoples in Africa and Latin America	DESA	598.0	345.2	58
D	Data and statistics for more gender-responsive trade policies in Africa, the Caucasus and Central Asia	UNCTAD	602.4	388.4	64
E	Coherent strategies for productive capacity development in African least developed countries	UNCTAD	531.1	372.2	70
F	Investment incentives for local production of essential antibiotics in East Africa	UNCTAD	441.0	294.6	67
G	Green trade for sustainable development in Pacific small island developing States of the Melanesian Spearhead Group	UNCTAD	519.2	333.3	64
H	Inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable development in urban areas hosting Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and Türkiye	UNEP	485.1	459.9	95
I	Investing in walking and cycling policies in African cities	UNEP	559.6	416.0	74
J	Mainstreaming “leaving no one behind” in national urban policies and programmes in South Asia	UN-Habitat	485.1	302.1	62
K	Statistics and data for measuring illicit financial flows in the Asia-Pacific region	UNODC	824.2	761.6	92
L	Migration statistics and skills recognition in Africa for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration	ECA	793.8	708.9	89
M	Regional and national natural resource-based industrialization policies for inclusive and sustainable development in Southern Africa	ECA	503.7	481.0	96
N	Strengthened innovation policies of landlocked Central Asian countries in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	ECE	435.0	245.2	56
O	Smart sustainable cities for the New Urban Agenda in the ECE region	ECE	465.0	451.5	97
P	Interregional cooperation for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda	ECLAC	1 500.0	1 294.0	86
Q	Relevant climate change and disasters indicators for Caribbean small island developing States	ECLAC	610.5	569.0	93
R	Harnessing the contribution of intraregional migration to socioeconomic development in Latin American and Caribbean countries	ECLAC	607.6	462.6	76
S	Operationalizing disaster risk reduction and resilience-building in Asia and the Pacific	ESCAP	610.5	597.2	98

	Project title	Implementing entity	Project budget (A)	Expenditures (B)	Implementation rate (percentage)
			(Thousands of United States dollars)		$[(B)/(A)] * 100$
T	Promoting a shift towards sustainable freight transport in the Asia-Pacific region	ESCAP	588.0	487.1	83
U	Social Expenditure Monitor: An Integrated Framework for Supporting Macro-Fiscal Policies and the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab region	ESCWA	493.6	489.8	99
V	Including persons with disabilities in the Arab labour market	ESCWA	457.9	380.9	83
W	Global Initiative towards post-COVID-19 resurgence of the micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises sector	UNCTAD, DESA ESCWA, ESCAP, ECE, ECLAC, ECA	4 572.3	4 430.4	97
X	Transport and trade connectivity in the age of pandemics	UNCTAD, ECE, ECA, ECLAC; ESCAP, ESCWA, UN-Habitat	5 363.8	5 252.5	98
Y	Strengthening social protection for pandemic response	UNCTAD, ECLAC, ESCAP	1 115.3	1 060.8	95
Z	Response and recovery: mobilizing financial resources for development in the time of COVID-19	ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP, ECE, ESCWA	2 673.0	2 489.7	93
AA	Building urban economic resilience during and after COVID-19	ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA, ECA, UN-Habitat	2 164.0	2 130.8	98

Abbreviations: DESA, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat; ECA, Economic Commission for Africa; ECE, Economic Commission for Europe; ECLAC, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; ESCAP, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; ESCWA, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia; UNCTAD, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; UNEP, United Nations Environment Programme; UN-Habitat, United Nations Human Settlements Programme; UNODC, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Table 2
Projects funded from section 35, Development Account, of the programme budget for 2021 (thirteenth tranche) as at 30 April 2023

<i>Project title</i>	<i>Implementing entity</i>	<i>Approved (A)</i>	<i>Expenditures (B)</i>	<i>Implementation rate (percentage) [(B)/(A)]*100</i>
		<i>(Thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
A Joint project on financing for development	DESA, UNCTAD, ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA	2 321.0	678.0	29
B Frontier technology policy experimentation and regulatory sandboxes in Asia and the Pacific	DESA	648.0	283.1	44
C Administrative data for disaggregated Sustainable Development Goals indicators	DESA	624.0	237.1	38
D Technology assessment in the energy and agricultural sectors in Africa to accelerate progress on science, technology and innovation	UNCTAD	590.0	241.8	41
E Mobilizing resources for a green new deal: partnerships and action with Asia	UNCTAD	624.0	258.2	41
F Trade policies and frameworks to foster regional integration and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in selected conflict and post-conflict Arab countries	UNCTAD	488.0	350.6	72
G Supporting coherent policy implementation to catalyse food and livelihood security in Africa	UNEP	549.0	501.2	91
H Using environmental health data and tools to advance the Sustainable Development Goals in the ASEAN region	UNEP	528.0	396.7	75
I Disaggregated land indicators for policies and actions that leave no one behind in Africa	UN-Habitat	528.0	298.0	56
J Safe and accessible public spaces for enhanced social and economic inclusion of migrants in Latin America and Western Asia	UN-Habitat	549.0	313.4	57
K Responding to cases of trafficking in persons for the purpose of forced labour in Latin America	UNODC	524.0	265.7	51
L Public-private partnerships to catalyse innovative financing and infrastructure development in support of industrialization in Africa	ECA	624.0	360.5	58
M Innovative approaches in entrepreneurship and private sector development to promote trade and inclusive industrialization in Southern Africa	ECA	649.0	436.1	67
N Accelerating the transition to a circular economy within the ECE region	ECE	549.0	225.1	41
O Sustainable mobility and smart connectivity (trade and transport nexus) in Central Asia, the Caucasus and the Western Balkans	ECE	528.0	228.0	43
P Enhancing access to information, public participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean	ECLAC	649.0	289.1	45
Q Innovative approaches for examining inequality through integration of different data sources in Latin America and the Caribbean	ECLAC	624.0	308.2	49
R Strengthening national capacities for identifying those left the furthest behind in Asia and the Pacific	ESCAP	624.0	485.3	78
S Navigating policy with data to leave no one behind in the Asia-Pacific region	ESCAP	649.0	173.8	27

<i>Project title</i>		<i>Implementing entity</i>	<i>Approved (A)</i> <i>(Thousands of United States dollars)</i>	<i>Expenditures (B)</i>	<i>Implementation rate (percentage)</i> <i>[(B)/(A)]*100</i>
T	Improving the performance of small and medium-sized enterprises in the Arab region	ESCWA	470.0	421.3	90
U	Expanding the science-policy nexus in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Arab region	ESCWA	549.0	397.7	72

Abbreviations: ASEAN, Association of Southeast Asian Nations; DESA, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat; ECA, Economic Commission for Africa; ECE, Economic Commission for Europe; ECLAC, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; ESCAP, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; ESCWA, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia; UNCTAD, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; UNEP, United Nations Environment Programme; UN-Habitat, United Nations Human Settlements Programme; UNODC, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Table 3
Projects funded from section 35, Development Account, of the programme budget for 2022 (fourteenth tranche) as at 30 April 2023

<i>Project title</i>		<i>Implementing entity</i>	<i>Approved (A)</i> <i>(Thousands of United States dollars)</i>	<i>Expenditures (B)</i>	<i>Implementation rate (percentage)</i> <i>[(B)/(A)]*100</i>
A	Resilient and agile national statistical systems to meet post-COVID-19 data needs to recover better	DESA, ECA, ECE, ESCAP, ECLAC, ESCWA, UNDP, UNODC	1 500.0	165.0	11
B	Smooth transition beyond graduation for least developed countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific in a post-COVID-19 environment	DESA	500.0	213.6	43
C	Strengthened resilience of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in Africa and Asia	DESA	500.0	46.3	9
D	Mobilizing external financial resources beyond COVID-19 for greener, more equal and sustainable development in selected vulnerable small island developing States in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean	UNCTAD	700.0	–	–
E	Sustainable smart ports for African countries, including small island developing States, to “recover better” from COVID-19	UNCTAD	600.0	34.7	6
F	TrainForTrade blended learning strategy to boost the digital economy in small island developing States of Africa, the Caribbean and Asia and the Pacific	UNCTAD	600.0	165.6	28
G	Nature-based solutions for enhanced resilience to COVID-19 and urban air pollution in the Western Balkans and Central Asia	UNEP	430.0	70.7	16
H	Leveraging sustainable public procurement for COVID-19 recovery in the small island developing States of the Caribbean	UNEP	430.0	–	–
I	Strengthened capacities of African, Caribbean and Pacific small island developing States for green, resilient and pro-poor pandemic recovery	UN-Habitat	570.0	85.4	15
J	Voluntary local reviews: evidence for greener, resilient and sustainable urban recovery in Eastern European and Central Asian countries in transition	UN-Habitat	570.0	164.7	29
K	Gender-responsive land governance in Africa as a pathway for enhancing women’s resilience in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic	ECA	500.0	126.6	25
L	Catalysing the post-pandemic resurgence of the tourism industry in East Africa	ECA	500.0	116.3	23
M	Food-water-energy nexus support to post-COVID-19 recovery in Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa	ECE	700.0	103.1	15
N	Enhanced capacities of selected countries in the ECE region for pandemic-resilient and sustainable cross-border trade and transport	ECE	430.0	35.1	8
O	Resilient and inclusive public management systems for sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean	ECLAC	500.0	128.3	26
P	Building back better in tourism-dependent Caribbean economies post-COVID-19	ECLAC	500.0	204.7	41

	<i>Project title</i>	<i>Implementing entity</i>	<i>Approved (A)</i> <i>(Thousands of United States dollars)</i>	<i>Expenditures (B)</i>	<i>Implementation</i> <i>rate (percentage)</i> <i>[(B)/(A)]*100</i>
Q	Strengthening energy policies of countries with special needs to build back better from COVID-19	ESCAP	700.0	302.4	43
R	Digital and transport connectivity for the socioeconomic resilience of rural communities post-COVID-19 in Asia-Pacific countries	ESCAP	500.0	191.9	38
S	Sustainable debt financing strategies to enhance fiscal space and financing for the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab region	ESCWA	370.0	137.7	37
T	Improved water security in Arab States	ESCWA	370.0	113.8	31
U	Blockchains for facilitating trade and enhancing competitiveness	ESCWA	663.0	95.8	14

Abbreviations: DESA, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat; ECA, Economic Commission for Africa; ECE, Economic Commission for Europe; ECLAC, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; ESCAP, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; ESCWA, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia; UNCTAD, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; UNEP, United Nations Environment Programme; UN-Habitat, United Nations Human Settlements Programme; UNODC, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Table 4
Projects funded from section 35, Development Account, of the programme budget for 2023 (fifteenth tranche) as at 30 April 2023

	<i>Project title</i>	<i>Implementing entity</i>	<i>Approved (A)</i>	<i>Expenditures (B)</i>	<i>Implementation rate (percentage)</i>
			<i>(Thousands of United States dollars)</i>		<i>[(B)/(A)]*100</i>
A	Inclusive and sustainable economic growth in a society for all ages in the post-COVID-19 era in Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean	DESA, ECLAC, ESCAP	880.0	–	–
B	Integrated and coherent national recovery strategies promoting social inclusion, macroeconomic stability, effective governance and protection of the environment for selected small island developing States	DESA	700.0	17.5	3
C	Turning the tide on deforestation: building partnerships to combat intensifying impacts of climate change, forest fires and zoonotic diseases	DESA	600.0	–	–
D	Quantifying South-South cooperation to mobilize funds for the Sustainable Development Goals	UNCTAD	800.0	–	–
E	Supporting structural economic progress towards and beyond graduation from least developed country status by the pre-qualified African and Asian countries	UNCTAD, ECA	900.0	–	–
F	Automated System for Relief Emergency Consignments for innovative coordination and facilitation of relief consignments in times of disaster in the Pacific region	UNCTAD	650.0	–	–
G	Financing nature-based solutions for a green and inclusive recovery in Latin America	UNEP	500.0	–	–
H	Environmentally sounder and safer waste management frameworks in Africa	UNEP	500.0	–	–
I	Harnessing urbanization for a more resilient, inclusive and green recovery in francophone least developed countries	UN-Habitat	500.0	–	–
J	Building back safe, sustainable and resilient transport and urban mobility systems in Western Balkan and Central Asian landlocked developing regions	UN-Habitat, UNEP, ECE	940.0	–	–
K	Innovative biodiversity monitoring and impact assessment to support payments for ecosystem services with better economic deals for Indigenous communities in the Amazon rainforest	UNODC	300.0	–	–
L	Expanded and resilient urban fiscal space for an inclusive and resilient COVID-19 recovery in Africa	ECA, UN-Habitat	940.0	–	–
M	Measuring and curbing illicit financial flows	ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA	1 500.0	–	–
N	Circular forest product value chains and nature-based solutions in Central Asia and the Caucasus	ECE	500.0	–	–
O	Equitable access to water and sanitation services for all and in all settings and strengthened climate resilience in the water and sanitation sector	ECE	500.0	–	–
P	Regional network and observatory for inclusive and sustainable water management	ECLAC	730.0	–	–
Q	Resilient health systems with universal health coverage in Latin America and the Caribbean	ECLAC	567.6	2.0	–
R	Regional integration and cooperation to promote affordable and equitable access to vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics in Asia and the Pacific	ESCAP	650.0	10.0	2

	<i>Project title</i>	<i>Implementing entity</i>	<i>Approved (A)</i> <i>(Thousands of United States dollars)</i>	<i>Expenditures (B)</i>	<i>Implementation</i> <i>rate (percentage)</i> <i>[(B)/(A)]*100</i>
S	Enhancing investments for equitable and accelerated climate action in the post-COVID-19 recovery	ESCAP	650.0	–	–
T	Expanding the potential of small and medium-sized enterprises in the Arab region	ESCWA	350.0	–	–
U	Dynamic simulators to address ranking deficiencies of international indices platforms in the Arab region	ESCWA	350.0	–	–
V	Use of forecasting and analysis of megatrends to support decision-making for the Sustainable Development Goals in the ESCWA region	ESCWA	350.0	–	–

Abbreviations: DESA, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat; ECA, Economic Commission for Africa; ECE, Economic Commission for Europe; ECLAC, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; ESCAP, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; ESCWA, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia; UNCTAD, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; UNEP, United Nations Environment Programme; UN-Habitat, United Nations Human Settlements Programme; UNODC, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.