### Country: PANAMA

### **RESUMEN DEL RENDIMIENTO DEL PROGRAMA DE PAIS**

### Período del Reporte: 2012-2015

Panamá has positioned itself as a country of high human development riding on the wave of one of the highest rates of economic growth in the world during the last decade (8.4% average annual GDP growth between 2004-2013)[[1]](#footnote-1). Its HDI of 0.765 places it 65th among 187 countries. Its economic activity continues to be strong (+ 7.0% GDP, 2014) with a model centered in services, infrastructure provision and construction. Economic growth led to significant reductions in the poverty level (25.8% in 2013, from 33.4% in 2009) and in extreme poverty (10.6% in 2013 vs. 15.3% in 2009)[[2]](#footnote-2). However, targeted interventions are still needed to address this central development challenge, tackling socio-economic exclusion of vulnerable groups manifested through shortfalls in productive employment and dignified livelihoods

During the 2012-2015 Programme Cycle, the CO has supported the areas of a) Support to MDG achievement, b) Strengthening of Democracy, c) Citizen Security and d) Environment and Climate Change. During this period UNDP support has led to significant development advances.[[3]](#footnote-3) Citizen security policies took on a prevention approach, with measures such as formation of a National Committee Against Violence to Women and reduction of prevalent repressive measures. Facilitation of State-society dialogues, such as the sensitive process of the National Roundtable for Indigenous Peoples, helped build trust. Technical support for the transition between Administrations after the 2014 elections, led to higher capacities in strategic planning and programme implementation in various ministries.

In this period UNDP Panama has successfully led the preparation of the first National Development Plan for indigenous people developed through a wide and comprehensive consultation process in 12 indigenous territories, 96 communities with the participation of 10,000 people. This programme targets 420,000 people historically excluded from public policies and programmme. The observatory of Citizen Security was also important during this period developing key statistics on homicides incorporated in agenda of the new government. In the same line, UNDP Panama conducted a successful awareness campaign to make more visible violence against women, supporting the law that classify type of crime against women. In 2014 UNDP launched with the Government of Panama the fourth National MDG Progress Report considered as a substantive input for the social policy of the new government.

In 2015 UNDP was also very supportive in facilitating dialogue on sensitive issues such as the conflict with indigenous communities due to the impact of a Hydro electrical dam and the dialogue on the Health reform.

Through the RBLAC’s SIGOB regional programme methodology, UNDP assisted the incoming Administration with the writing of papers that analyzed the electoral plan, ongoing initiatives and opportunities for the incorporation of human development on the agendas of different ministries and key institutions. The impact of this support is reflected today in a government plan that has incorporated the concept of human development and has allowed the identification of an ambitious set of reforms in several key ministries such as the MINGOB (reforms in 11 areas of work ) Foreign Ministry (creation of the deputy minister of international organizations), and the use of dialogue as a tool for building consensus in the social sphere (where UNDP is supporting: i) the Ministry of Health in facilitating a dialogue aimed at reforming the public health system; and ii) the Vice-president and Minister of Foreign Affairs in the peaceful resolution of the on-going dispute with indigenous communities around the Barro Blanco hydroelectric project).

Lessons learned in the past cycle, incorporated into the design of the proposed programme, indicate the need to increase programmatic focus, unlock potential synergies among interventions, and make better use of monitoring and evaluation as technical and policy advocacy tool for the office. For instance, interventions to benefit youth, ranging from participatory processes towards a youth development agenda to specific on-the-ground actions with local networks and community leaders, did not clearly articulate a policy outcome for this important population segment, and results remained isolated. A National Human Development Report (NHDR) on Youth and Early Childhood was not used sufficiently as an advocacy tool. The new 2016-2020 CPD for Panama addresses this issue with the multidimensional approach developed during the alignment process and which is reflected the proposed programme of the new programme.

### **II: Resumen del Rendimiento del Programa de País**

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| **Información de País** |  | | |
| **País: PANAMA** | | | |
| **Período del Programa: 2012-2015** | | | |
| **Efectos** | **Gasto**  **Total** | **Indicadores Clave de Efecto (1-4 por efecto)** | **Progreso respecto al indicador** |
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| **Communication channels promote government accountability and transparency through e-governance, independent journalism, and access to information policies** | $19,174,337 | * *% de Población Escolar con acceso a tecnología en las escuelas primarias (laboratorios).* * *Número de Nuevas Iniciativas Gubernamentales que impulsan el uso de la tecnología para aumentar eficiencia y transparencia* | * *63% de la población escolar de primaria cuenta con acceso a computadora e internet al 2014.* * *Panamá se encuentra elaborando el 2do Plan de Acción 2015-2017 para la plataforma de Open Goverment Partnership a través de la Autoridad de Transparencia y acceso a la información.* |
| **UNDP Contribution**  Progress has been made in modernizating the governmental communication system. The 311 platform has been launched to attend citizens' requests regarding public services. Although, it is in an inception phase, up to date, seven public institutions has joint the service.  On the other hand, it has been launched a National Internet Net service aiming at providing free wifi all accross the country and covering roughly 80% of the population in 651 access points distributed in 22 cities. By mid year, the net counted 43.000 registered users. Up to 4,500 users access the service on a daily basis | | | |
| **National, regional and local levels of governance expand their capacities to reduce conflict and manage the equitable delivery of public services** | $44,090,542 | * *Numero de Políticas Públicas que se sustentan sobre la base de los aportes realizados a través de informe del PNUD* * *Leyes y procesos que facilitan la descentralización aprobadas* | * *1 Política Pública de Salud Materna* * *Se contribuyó a la reformulación de la Ley 37. Aún en proceso de revisión por el Gobierno.* |
| An important contribution was made towards equitable delivery of health services by accompanying the Ministry of Health in implementing a scheme where medical and health services were delivered in situ, in remote areas of the country  Project 14281 and 60235 had an important impact in women´s access to health services in rural areas, with particular focus in indigenous territories, particularly in the Ngobe Bugle and Kuna yala Indigenous territories. A health services plan and its coverage reached more than 430 thousand people in the poorest regions of the country. It that plan, women had access to specialized medical services and pre-birth control as well as dietary supplements during pregnancy. Children and newborns were also specific target population. In the Ngobe Bugle Indigenous territory, 121,160 people had access and benefited from medical services, and in Kuna Yala, 15,601 people benefited from the medical services.  UNDP assisted the incoming Administration with the writing of papers that analyzed the electoral plan, ongoing initiatives and opportunities for the incorporation of human development on the agendas of different ministries and key institutions. The impact of this support is reflected today in a government plan that has incorporated the concept of human development and has allowed the identification of an ambitious set of reforms in several key ministries such as the MINGOB (reforms in 11 areas of work ) Foreign Ministry (creation of the deputy minister of international organizations), and the use of dialogue as a tool for building consensus in the social sphere (where UNDP is supporting: i) the Ministry of Health in facilitating a dialogue aimed at reforming the public health system; and ii) the Vice-president and Minister of Foreign Affairs in the peaceful resolution of the on-going dispute with indigenous communities around the Barro Blanco hydroelectric project). | | | |

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| **Effective, responsive, accessible and fair justice systems promote the rule of law, including both formal and informal processes, with due consideration on the rights of the poor, women and vulnerable groups.** | | $1,454,004 | * *Propuesta de Reforma al sistema de justicia formulada* | * *El sistema penal acusatorio ha sido implementado en 4 de las 10 provincias y el paquete de reformas de justicia comunitaria fue enviado a la Asamblea el pasado en abril del 2015.* |
| **UNDP Contribution**  In 2010, UNDP launched a new initiative to support the Supreme Court of Justice in advancing towards the justice reform by preparing the implementation on the accusatory system in Panama.  Based on this Plan, the government has taken an unprecedented action to advance the agenda of the indigenous people, particularly through the establishment of a Ministry of Indigenous Affairs, through the approval of the Integrated Development Plan for Indigenous Peoples, and the establishment of an appropriate financial mechanism to fund it. Also the government’s commitment to establish capitals with de-concentrated administrative powers in the Indigenous *Comarcas,* as well as the approval of ILO’s 169 Convention have made and extraordinary progress to address exclusion, poverty and inequality with indigenous population.  UNDP Panama has successfully led the elaboration of the first National Development Plan for indigenous people developed through a wide and comprehensive consultation process in 12 indigenous territories, 96 communities with the participation of 10,000 people. This programme targets 420,000 people historically excluded from public policies and programmme. | | | | |
| **Policies, institutions and programs for environmental sustainability and energy that are pro-poor and gender sensitive developed, funded and implemented through national development plans and systems** | $6,000,141 | | * Cantidad de pobres que obtienen títulos de propiedad a través de programas y políticas del estado * Estrategia para la reducción de riesgos, actualizada y aprobada * Nuevos Acuerdos Internacionales sobre Sostenibilidad Ambiental / Cambio Climático a los cuales el país da cumplimientos | * 4,960 personas tituladas en los corregimientos de El Cacao, Cigrí Grande, Cigrí de los Santos, y Trinidad. * Se contribuyó con el Marco Nacional de Recuperación y Gestión de Riesgos. La estrategía aún no ha sido elaborada. * Acuerdos de la COP 19 y COP 20 (Cumbre de Naciones Unidas sobre cambio Climático)   Acuerdos de la COP MOP 24, 25, y 26 (Protocolo de Montreal)  Acuerdos COP 11 y 12 (CBD) |
| **UNDP Contribution**  Progress towards environmental sustainability has been slowed down in the last year mainly due to a high turnover rate at the highest post of governmental institutions such as the Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente (equivalent to Ministry of Environment) and the Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos (Fisheries Authority). These frequent changes in UNDP counter parts has delayed processes affecting both ongoing projects and future initiatives. Nevertheless, two projects have been incorporated to the environmental portfolio, addressing critical issues: Climate Change and REDD and mainstreaming biodiversity in fisheries and tourism sector.  On 17 September 2014, UNDP launched with the Government of Panama the fourth National MDG Progress Report, the Country Office is currently supporting key dialogues on the Health reform and the conflict with indigenous people due to the impact of a Hydro electrical dam. | | | | |

**II. Recursos del Programa de País**

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| **Year** | **Programme Delivery (USD m) including TRAC** | **Core/Regular (USD)** | **Non-Core/Other (USD m)** | **Core/Non-core ratio (%)** |
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| 2011 | 38,364,083 | 334,262 | 38,029,821 | 0.88% |
| 2012 | 28,399,150 | 350,000 | 28,049,150 | 1.25% |
| 2013 | 30,286,398 | 537,816 | 29,748,582 | 1.81% |
| 2014 | 14,336,886 | 378,535 | 13,958,351 | 2.71% |
| **Total** | **111,386,517** | **1,610,613** |  |  |

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| **Fuente: ROAR** |
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1. IV MDG Report Panama (2014) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Government Strategic Plan (PEG) 2015-2019. December 2014 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Final Evaluation Report-CPD Panama 2012-2015 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)