

- improvements to many systems including those involved with planning and management, information and new technologies, and reporting and accountability.

There are several areas in *economic and financial management* that are important for achieving sustainable human development. These are macroeconomic policies, the external sector (covering trade, aid, debt and investment), market regulation, privatisation, social safety nets and resource management. The UNDP recognises that the Bretton Woods institutions and several bilateral donors have more resources than it does to support programs in these areas. However, it has considerable experience and provided support in the areas of,

- a) aid coordination and management,
- b) engaging the civil society and private sector in policy development and the management of development resources, and
- c) building capacity in economic policy analysis, formulation and management, budgeting, debt management, regulatory frameworks and national accounting.

It has also assisted governments to introduce economic and financial policies that empower women, the poor and other marginalised groups in society.

The UNDP has promoted the *decentralisation of governments* and supported many public management reform programs which focussed on decentralisation and strengthening local institutions. It has supported projects at the country, regional and global levels to build capacities for decentralised governance. These include,

- institutional analysis and the formulation of decentralisation policy;
- strengthening local authorities;
- direct support to civil society organisations concerned with local governance issues;
- support to rural institutions and their management;
- implementing pilot projects at the local government level; and
- evaluating, documenting and disseminating the decentralisation experiences.

*Civil Society Organisations* that are involved in development can complement the role of the down sized and restructured state. The UNDP's traditional partner has been the government but its interaction and support to these organisations is increasing. It has assisted countries to identify an appropriate role for them and improve their relationship with the government. These organisations are weak in many developing countries. In view of this, the UNDP has provided direct assistance to develop their capacities to plan, manage and implement projects effectively and accountably. They can also be assisted to research, advocate and monitor issues critical for sustainable human