UNDP’s work on poverty reduction is governed by several internationally agreed frameworks such as the Millennium Declaration, the MDGs, and the International Development Goals. Our core services focus on three main areas: Strategies and Policies for Poverty Reduction, Inclusive Globalization, and Support for MDG-Aligned National Development Strategies. In addition, UNDP’s work is reinforced by the International Poverty Centre, a joint project between UNDP and the Brazilian Government that promotes South-South Cooperation on applied poverty research, and by its network of over 166 country offices.

Latin America and the Caribbean is a region marked by great social inequalities. Out of a population of approximately 222 million, 10% of the region’s inhabitants receive 48% of all income, while the poorest segment of the population has access to a mere 2% of total earnings. Although the overall macroeconomic situation in the region has improved following six consecutive years of positive economic performance and stability, it is expected that the global economic crisis will affect growth in the region.

In this context, UNDP gives priority to the following activities:

- Developing and implementing national poverty reduction strategies
- Measuring and monitoring poverty and inequality
- Assessing progress towards the Millennium Development Goals
- Promoting knowledge and institutional strengthening

With regard to the issue of HIV/AIDS in the region UNDP:

- Advocates for placing HIV/AIDS at the centre of national planning and budgets
- Helps build national capacity to manage initiatives that include people and institutions not usually involved with public health
- Promotes decentralized responses that support community-level action

To confront the current global economic crisis, UNDP is working with governments in Latin
America and the Caribbean to help countries adjust their national planning, continue their track towards long-term development and to protect the most vulnerable, taking into account the particular situation in that country.

In Suriname the UNDP is focused on the assessment of the country’s progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. Current efforts are focused on the production of the MDG Report for Suriname, which has been launched on the 23rd of April, 2010, and supporting the national efforts to achieve the goals in 2015.