



# The partnership between the UN and the EU

The United Nations and the European Commission  
working together in Development and  
Humanitarian Cooperation

United Nations







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Special thanks to Ms Nicola Harrington, Deputy Director (policy), and Mr Marco Stella, UN Coordination Officer, who have coordinated and led the effort.

# Foreword

The European Union is an essential partner of the United Nations in development, human rights, and peace and security. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – the world's targets for halving world poverty by 2015 – are at the heart of the "European Consensus for Development" which guides EU action.

It therefore gives me great pleasure to present the first-ever report on the results of the United Nations-European Union partnership in development and humanitarian cooperation. The report focuses on the results achieved through the joint efforts of the UN and the European Commission in a relationship that combines policy and programmatic collaboration in almost 90 countries throughout the developing world.

Through their partnership, the UN and the European Commission have been able to support local partners in making a tangible difference in the lives of millions of people, expanding the range of choices they have, and promoting their safety and their rights.

The UN team in Brussels launched this exercise to make these vital results of the partnership visible to policymakers and citizens of European Union member states. We do this to reinforce our public accountability to those who helped make this partnership possible and, in the process, to pave the way for an expanded collaboration into the future.

I would like to thank the European Union for their support. We can draw many useful lessons from our shared experiences thus far. I look forward to making the most of the lessons learned as we seek to bring our respective strengths to bear in reducing poverty throughout the world.



Kemal Derviş  
Chairman

United Nations Development Group



We would like to welcome this report from the UN on the results of the EU-UN partnership. We are delighted that the UN has taken this initiative and are sure that it will lead to a better understanding of the many ways in which our organisations work together and of the real benefits that the partnership brings to the lives of people around the world.

This partnership has grown significantly over the last few years. The Commission has a stated commitment to working with multilateral partners to help it achieve its objectives. This firm choice has been strengthened by the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement, signed in 2003, which has facilitated our contractual relations.

The scaling up of aid in line with our international commitments, and the need to ensure that this aid is effective, make it all the more important for this partnership with the UN to flourish. Working with international organisations, particularly in multi-donor arrangements and trust funds, is an effective way to achieve donor co-ordination and to take advantage of economies of scale which reduces transaction costs for partner countries. Most importantly in terms of delivery, it helps us to learn together from best practice and focus on results.

Our UN partnership is important in financial terms, and by working with those organisations the Commission can complement its own thematic and field networks with the UN's specialist expertise and develop a common approach in relation to key areas.

We are determined to pursue the objectives of the European Consensus, and we need co-operation on a global scale to support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. We are also strongly committed to supporting the UN's key role in the humanitarian sphere, both in the concrete delivery of aid through its specialised agencies and in coordinating international relief in crisis zones. We need to continually improve the work we do together with the UN and ensure that it results in the greatest possible sustainable impact on the lives of poor and crisis-hit people throughout the world.



Koos Richelle

Director General of EuropeAid Cooperation Office  
European Commission



Antonio Cavaco

Director General of Humanitarian Aid Department  
European Commission



## List of Acronyms

<b>AIDCO</b>	EuropeAid Co-Operation Office
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization
<b>DDRR</b>	Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation and Reintegration
<b>EC</b>	European Commission
<b>ECHO</b>	European Commission Humanitarian Office
<b>EP</b>	European Parliament
<b>FAFA</b>	Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organisation
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organisation
<b>MDGs</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>NGO</b>	Non Governmental Organisation
<b>OCHA</b>	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
<b>ODA</b>	Official Development Assistance
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNAIDS</b>	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
<b>UN-HABITAT</b>	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children Fund
<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>UNRWA</b>	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization



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# The partnership between the UN and the EU

## The United Nations and the European Commission working together in Development and Humanitarian Cooperation

### Introduction

The European Union<sup>[2]</sup> (EU) and the United Nations (UN) are natural partners. They are united by the core values laid out in the 1945 Charter of the United Nations<sup>[3]</sup> and the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.<sup>[4]</sup> Their partnership in development is guided by the international policy agenda encapsulated in the UN Millennium Declaration of 2000 and the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The MDGs are the world's targets for dramatically reducing extreme poverty in its many dimensions by 2015 - income poverty, hunger, disease, exclusion, lack of infrastructure and shelter - while promoting education, health and environmental stability. The goals also recall basic human rights, such as the rights of each person to health, education, shelter and security, as pledged in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Millennium Declaration. Also highlighted is the crucial importance of gender equality and empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable. "The Millennium Development Goals are the most broadly supported, comprehensive, and specific poverty reduction targets the world has ever established, so their importance is manifold."<sup>[5]</sup>

"We reaffirm our commitment to eradicate poverty and promote sustained economic growth, sustainable development and global prosperity for all... we underline the need for urgent action on all sides..."  
(2005 World Summit).<sup>[1]</sup>

- [1] Resolution adopted by the General Assembly: 60/1: 2005 World Summit Outcome – A/RES/60/1.
- [2] The European Union is a supranational and intergovernmental union of 27 democratic member states of Europe. The European Commission (formally the Commission of the European Communities) is the executive body of the European Union. Alongside the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union, it is one of the three main institutions governing the Union.
- [3] The Charter of the United Nations was signed on 26 June 1945 by the representatives of the 50 UN countries.
- [4] The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1948.
- [5] <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/documents/overviewEng1-23LowRes.pdf>

## The Millennium Development Goals

### 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

- Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than one U.S. dollar a day.
- Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

### 2. Achieve universal primary education

- Ensure all girls and boys complete primary schooling.
- Accompany increased enrolment by efforts to ensure children remain in school and receive high-quality education.

### 3. Promote gender equality and empower women

- Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015.

### 4. Reduce child mortality

- Reduce the mortality rate among children under five by two thirds.

### 5. Improve maternal health

- Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio.

### 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

- Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.
- Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.

### 7. Ensure environmental sustainability

- Integrate sustainable development principles into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources.
- Reduce by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water.
- Achieve significant improvement in lives for at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020.

### 8. Develop a global partnership for development

- Further develop an open trading and financial system.
- Enhance debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries and more generous Official Development Assistance (ODA) for countries committed to poverty reduction.
- Address the special needs of landlocked and small island developing States
- Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt problems through national and international measures to make debt sustainable in the long term In cooperation with developing countries, develop decent productive work for youth.
- In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries.
- In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies – especially information and communications technologies.

The European Union is actively engaged in shaping and implementing the global development agenda. It had a key role in the elaboration and implementation of UN instruments such as the Kyoto Protocol on climate change (Kyoto, 1997), and in ensuring the success of international conferences on Financing for Development (Monterrey, 2002), the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002), and the UN World Summit in September 2005. The EU has also demonstrated international leadership in promoting the achievement of the MDGs through its collective commitment to reach the UN target for official development assistance (ODA) of 0.7 percent of gross national income by 2015<sup>[6]</sup>, and through its efforts to improve the quality of aid in the negotiation and follow-up to the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (see Box on page 8). This Declaration prioritises countries' ownership of their own development, which represents a long-standing principle for UN

assistance. In this context, it deepened the global dialogue on harmonization, alignment, managing for development results, and mutual accountability, setting out indicators and targets to accelerate progress in these areas.

The international agenda is central to Europe's first-ever joint policy on development between the European Commission, Council and Parliament, "The European Consensus for Development", approved in 2005.<sup>[7]</sup> The Consensus puts achievement of the MDGs at the centre of EC and EU Member State development policy, through development strategies that are owned and led by developing countries themselves. The EU Strategy for Africa similarly highlights the centrality of the MDGs for the achievement of development through competitiveness, peace, security, good governance and social development in the region.<sup>[8]</sup>

[6] *Millennium Development Goals: EU Contribution to the review of the MDGs at the UN 2005 High Level Event*, Council Conclusions, 24 May 2005, Council Document 9266/05.

[7] European Parliament, Council, and Commission, *The European Consensus on Development*, Official Journal of the European Union, 24/2/2006.

[8] *The EU and Africa: Towards a Strategic Partnership*, approved by the European Council on 15-16 December 2005 (15961/05).

## Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness <sup>[9]</sup>

*To enhance the effectiveness of aid, donor and partner countries resolved to take far-reaching and monitorable actions to reform the way they deliver aid, by strengthening:*

### **Ownership:**

*Partner countries exercise leadership over their development policies and strategies, and coordinate development actions.*

### **Alignment:**

*Donors base their overall support on partner countries' national development strategies, institutions and procedures.*

### **Harmonization:**

*Donors' actions are more harmonized, transparent and collectively effective.*

### **Managing for results:**

*Managing resources and improving decision-making for results.*

### **Mutual accountability:**

*Donors and partners are accountable for development results.*

## The European Union and the United Nations

The European Union is a major partner of the United Nations. Member States of the Union support all three pillars of the UN's work, namely peace and security, human rights and development. EU Member States together are the largest financial contributor to the UN system, paying 38 percent of the UN's regular budget, more than two fifths of UN peace-keeping operations and around half of all UN Member States' contributions to voluntarily funded UN funds and programmes.<sup>[10]</sup> A total of more than 1 billion euros was approved by the EC to be channeled to the UN in 2005 for the implementation of projects and programmes. Europe

plays an active role in both shaping and implementing international standards for human rights, the environment and health amongst other areas.

The EU commitment to multilateralism lies at the heart of the EU external policy, with effective multilateralism a central pillar of the European Security Strategy. In 2003, the Communication from the Commission to the Council and European Parliament, "The European Union and the United Nations: The choice for multilateralism", called for a comprehensive strengthening and mainstreaming of EU-UN relations. This was to be done through systematic policy dialogue, greater cooperation in the field, better crisis management and prevention, and strategic partnerships between the Commission and UN organisations.<sup>[11]</sup> Since the publication of the Communication and the UN Secretary-General's response to it, the dialogue has been strengthened at all levels, including:

- Political engagement at the highest level: contacts between the institutions of the EU and the UN Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General;
- Exchanges on country-level policies: regular reviews between the Commission and Council and UN departments of political affairs and peace-keeping operations respectively;
- Furthering policy dialogue and cooperation with a number of agencies in the field of development and humanitarian affairs: formal strategic partnerships have been signed or correspondence initiated with over 10 agencies, aimed at furthering policy dialogue and strengthening cooperation;<sup>[12]</sup>
- Regular exchange of draft documents between the Commission and UN team in Brussels for the purpose of mutually contributing to policy formulation;
- Regular exchanges with the European Parliament (EP) at the invitation of relevant committees and the EU-UN working group;
- Cooperation between country delegations and UN country teams in defining development cooperation strategies on the ground, as well as in the programmatic portfolio that is the principal subject of this report.

[9] [http://www.undg.org/documents/5639-Paris\\_declaration\\_on\\_aid\\_effectiveness\\_-\\_English.pdf](http://www.undg.org/documents/5639-Paris_declaration_on_aid_effectiveness_-_English.pdf)

[10] UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP do not receive funding from the assessed budget of the United Nations.

[11] European Commission, *The European Union and the United Nations: The choice for multilateralism*, COM(2003), 526 final.

[12] To date, six strategic partnership agreements have been signed, with the UNDP, WHO, ILO and FAO (2004), UNHCR and WFP (2005). UNEP signed a MoU in 2004, while conventions have existed between the European Community and UNRWA since 1971, the latest convention covering 2002-2005.

To facilitate programmatic cooperation between the EC and the UN, an updated Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA) was agreed in 2003.<sup>[13]</sup> This applies to all contribution-specific agreements signed between both organisations after that date and provides the legal, financial and administrative procedures for cooperation on contracting. The updated FAFA made cooperation more efficient, permitting faster start-up of activities and ensuring administrative consistency across operations.

## The partnership between the European Commission and the United Nations

The European Commission (EC) is a major partner of the UN on the ground in developing countries.

The Commission has a relationship with the UN that spans more than 80 countries. Cooperation ranges from disarmament to electoral assistance, from capacity-building in the health sector to protection of the environment, from support to child enrolment in school, as well as assistance for refugees and stateless people.

The EC and the UN agree on the importance of communicating the results of their partnership to beneficiaries and

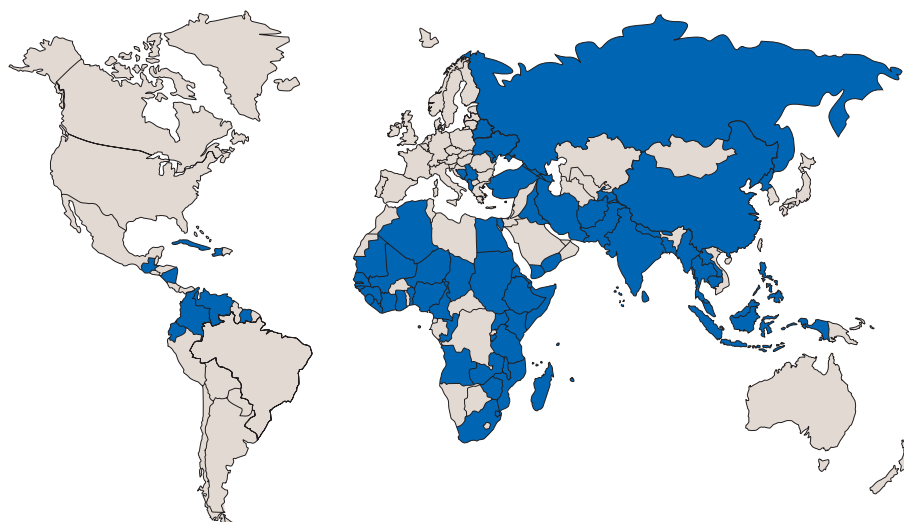
other stakeholders. Both organisations have an obligation to be transparent about the use of public funds, and they share an interest in reinforcing global solidarity.<sup>[14]</sup>

## The aim of the report

This report seeks to capture the results of the EC's partnership with the UN in 2005, the latest period for which final financial data were available at the time of preparation of the report. For the most part, it focuses on results achieved in the development and humanitarian fields, made possible by UN expenditure of over 700 million Euro of EC contributions in that year. Therefore the report does not give full coverage to the extensive political relationship, including peace-keeping, that exists between the EU and the UN.

While this report concentrates on programmatic results obtained in the field thanks to the EC contribution to the UN system, they constitute only one part of the picture of the EC's relationship with the UN. Some of the most significant results of the collaboration between the UN and the EC are also the hardest to capture in a report such as this, where the absence of coverage of specific country context inhibits reflections on the overall impact the partnership has had. Many important results are derived from mutual

### Map of countries where the EC and the UN have joint projects/programmes<sup>[15]</sup>



[13] *Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement between the European Community, represented by the Commission of the European Communities, and the United Nations*, signed on 29 April 2003 by UN Deputy Secretary-General Louise Fréchette and European Commissioner Poul Nielson. It replaces the 9 August 1999 "agreement between the United Nations and the European Community on the principles applying to the financing or co-financing by the Community of programmes and projects administered by the United Nations", which however continued to govern the contracts signed between 9 August 1999 and 29 April 2003.

[14] Joint UN-EC Action Plan on Visibility, signed 22 September 2006.

[15] The map refers to the year 2005 and does not include countries where only regional projects were implemented.

## Important policy results of the UN-EC partnership

### **The Paris Agenda on Aid Effectiveness: Piloting new financing instruments**

- As a principal contributor to UN-managed Multi-donor Trust Funds<sup>[16]</sup> for elections and post-conflict situations in Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq and Nigeria, the Commission encouraged donor cohesion and new ways of doing business by the international community. This led to reduced transaction costs for both donor and partner countries.

### **Post-conflict transition: Piloting new assessment techniques**

- The UN, World Bank, EC and other donors conducted joint assessments of needs in the aftermath of crises. These assessments enabled a swift and coordinated approach in identifying the most pressing needs of people on the ground, as well as of the root causes of crises, thereby providing the basis for fast and coherent responses by the international community in developing future assistance programmes.

### **Elections: Making support more efficient**

- The EC developed guidelines for cooperation with the UN on electoral assistance. This allowed more effective delivery and better quality assistance to

countries, through the streamlining of procedures, staff training and developing shared knowledge products that reflect lessons learned.

### **Health: Shaping international standards**

- The EC was an active participant in the UN-led updating of the International Health Regulations to reflect today's challenges, including Avian Flu, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), and possible deliberate outbreaks of disease. The EC is also a crucial actor in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

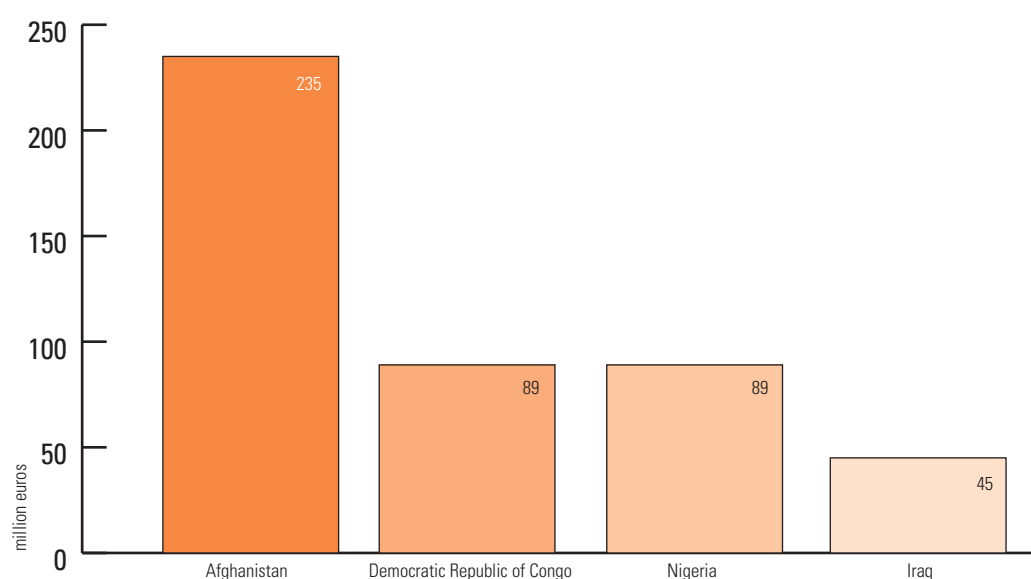
### **Child protection: European strategies to meet international conventions**

- The UN supported the EC in developing its strategy for child protection and strengthening its capacity to implement EU guidelines on children in armed conflict and in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

### **Asylum: Strengthening internal EU capacities**

- The UN helped build the capacities of governments and civil societies to receive, protect and integrate refugees in EU Member States, candidate countries and third countries by providing legislative support and training, in line with international obligations.

**European Commission contributions to main UN Trust Funds in 2005**



[16] A UN-managed Multi-donor Trust Fund is an arrangement whereby the UN manages funds on behalf of multiple donors. In the case of Afghanistan and Iraq it constituted a UN administered window of an international donor Trust Fund.



## **In 2005 the UN with EC support:**

### **Protected people**

- Provided seven million refugees, internally displaced and stateless people in 70 countries with protection and assistance. Birth certificates for refugee children were often released, thereby providing them with a crucial tool for attaining rights (from enrolling in school to obtaining credit) and for preventing child labour, under-age military service, and forced marriage for girls.

### **Reinforced democracy and human rights**

- Gave 50 million citizens the possibility to vote as a result of support for democratic elections in 10 countries, from Burundi to Suriname.
- Trained 320 judges and prosecutors from Central Asian and African countries on extradition, mutual legal assistance, confiscation and money-laundering policies. Legislative frameworks were improved and legal cooperation supported.
- Prevented 50,000 children from entering armed groups in Africa and Asia by providing education, recreation and health care.

### **Helped communities recover from war and disaster**

- Provided food assistance to 22 million people, mostly in countries affected by natural and man-made disasters ranging from Indonesia to Sudan, as well as in neglected crises such as refugees in Western Sahara.
- Helped four million Afghan refugees return home and begin rebuilding their lives, after the fall of the Taliban government.
- Repaired 1,244 km and de-mined 600 km of road in Sudan, leading to a 60 percent reduction in transport costs. This resulted in a halving of the price of cereals in areas with road access, year-round access

to communities in Kenya and Uganda, and refugee return along safe corridors.

- Provided agricultural inputs to 60,000 households affected by the October 2005 earthquake in Pakistan, thereby preparing them for the first planting season post-crisis and helping them move away from dependency on food aid.
- Provided food aid throughout the winter to 745,000 people stranded by snow and landslides or forced to remain with their livestock in Pakistan due to the earthquake.
- Provided the humanitarian and donor community with timely and accurate information on crises around the world through information management tools, such as Reliefweb, a website that was viewed by 3.8 million people and received 30 million hits.

### **Improved health and education**

- Immunized 400 million children in 49 countries, from Chad to Indonesia, and administered 2.2 billion doses of oral polio vaccine around the world.
- Assisted 25,000 Haitians with health care and awareness campaigns to prevent HIV/AIDS transmission. Some 2,240 pregnant women were tested for the disease, 1,650 of whom also received food support.

### **Helped build sustainable livelihoods**

- Preserved tens of thousands of jobs through a fisheries quality programme that helped secure the lifting of the ban on exports of shrimps from Benin to the EU. This provided revenue for 100,000 people.
- Assisted 23 countries in Africa and Asia in preserving forest resources and improving livelihoods of forest people. 100,000 forest-dependent people benefited from the conservation of the great ape as a flagship species in Africa.

shaping of policy, in a constant drive to enhance the impact of development interventions for the poor. For instance, the EC works to ensure that international standards and norms endorsed by the UN are implemented in areas of its competence and are reflected in those interventions it supports outside Europe. Moreover the UN has a capacity-building role, together with the EC, in areas such as health and refugee protection. On the ground, the Commission has a crucial role in coordinating the EU development response and in harmonising EU support to the MDGs. Together, the EC and the UN are major actors in supporting governments' national poverty reduction strategies. These policy roles are not discussed in this report but certainly should not be forgotten or their importance underestimated.

Produced by the UN in Brussels, this report is divided into six chapters, excluding this introduction that reviews the international agenda the partnership delivers upon. Each chapter deals with thematic areas of significant UN-EC collaboration. The themes are: (I) governance and human rights; (II) rural development, trade and market access; (III) education, water and sanitation, and health; (IV) crisis prevention, recovery and reconstruction; and (V) emergency relief. The report concludes with some considerations on the future partnership between the UN and the EU, specifically the European Commission, in the fields of development and humanitarian cooperation (VI), as both parties strive for increasingly effective development assistance in support of the world's poor.

Because of the highly decentralized nature of development cooperation between the Commission and many parts of the UN, data on programme results were collected in a “bottom-up” manner, i.e. country-by-country and project-by-project. Any attempt at aggregation of results across countries and projects could be misleading, given the importance of different country contexts. Results of the UN partnership with the Commission invariably come from the collaboration among numerous stakeholders (i.e. governments, NGOs, civil society, etc.). The results cited should be attributed and they belong, first and foremost, to the governments and societies of developing countries themselves. They are the drivers of development.

A review of the UN's programmatic portfolio with the Commission suggests the EC has partnered with the UN predominantly (i) on sensitive issues that require the legitimacy and impartiality of the UN; (ii) in fragile country situations where consistent field presence and combined UN mandates facilitate transition out of crises; (iii) where donor coordination is at a premium (the Commission estimates that some three quarters of its interventions with international organisations (IOs), including the UN, involve a range of partners); and (iv) in thematic areas where the UN has particular expertise.

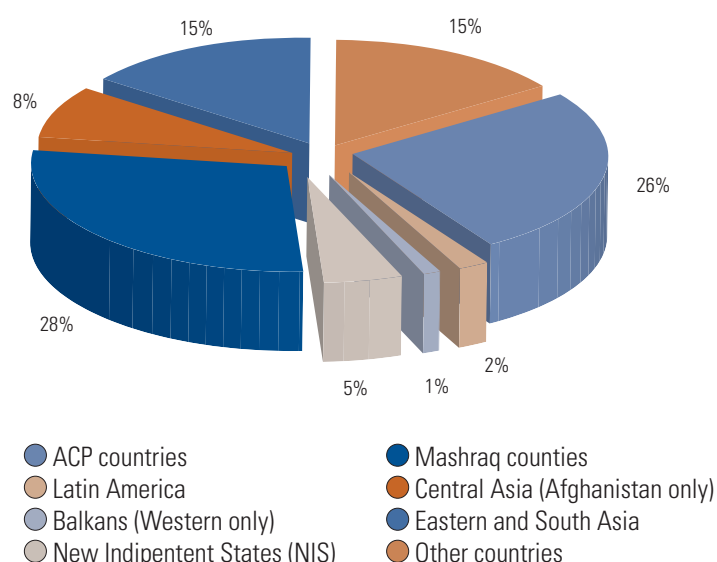
A study commissioned by the EuropeAid Cooperation Office (AIDCO) in 2006<sup>[17]</sup> concluded that the principal reasons for

the EC's cooperation with international organisations are:

- The ability of international organisations to mobilize expertise and redeploy aid towards emerging global concerns;
- The potential offered by the IOs to further the international agenda to harmonize and align aid behind national development strategies (see box on the Paris Declaration);
- The emphasis placed by the IOs on capacity-building and on a strong policy agenda;
- The potential for the Commission through collaboration with IOs to influence policy at a broader level;
- The ability for the EC to work with organisations that are leaders in their field.

In addition to the Directorates-General for External Relations, for Development, for Humanitarian Aid, and the EuropeAid Cooperation Office (AIDCO), the United Nations maintains important partnerships with the Directorates-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, for Justice, Freedom and Security, for Employment and Social Affairs, for Enlargement, for Environment, for Health and Consumer Protection, for Research, for Trade, for Transport and Energy, and for Education and Culture.

### Geographical share of EuropeAid Financial Contributions to UN activities in 2005



**ACP Countries:** includes 79 member states (48 countries from Sub-Saharan Africa, 16 from Caribbean and 15 from the Pacific).

**Balkans (Western only):** Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, FYROM, Serbia Montenegro.

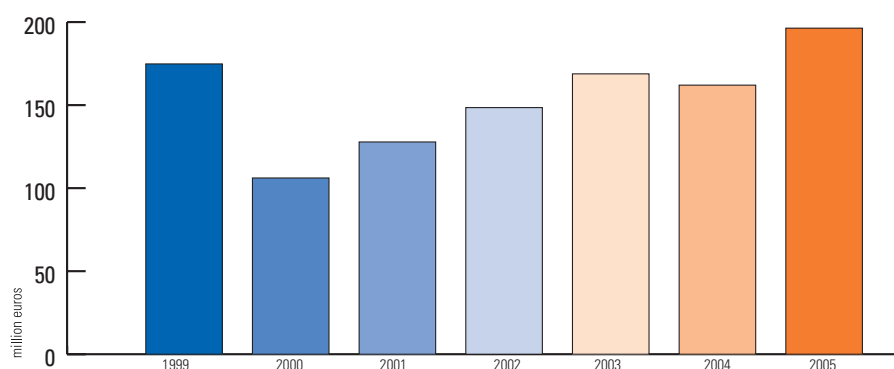
**Mashraq countries:** Egypt, Iran, Iraq, West Bank and Gaza, Israel, Jordan, Yemen, Syria, Lebanon.

**NIS:** Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

[17] EuropeAid Co-operation Office, *Overview of implementation by International Organizations*, European Commission, August 2006.



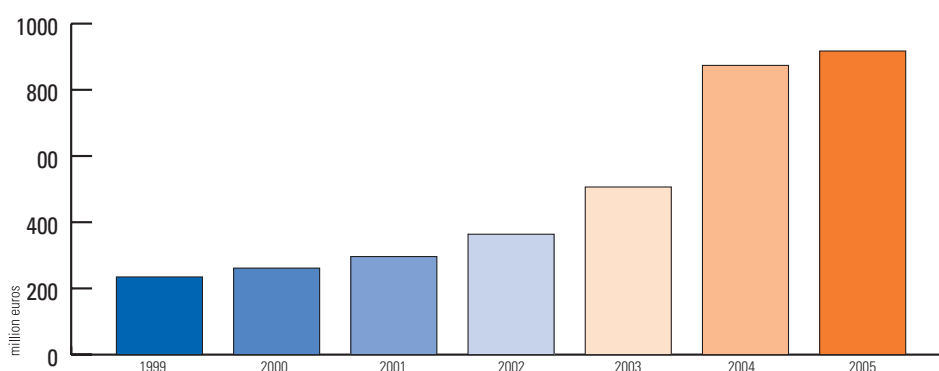
### ECHO financial contributions to the UN (1999-2005)\*



\* Figures refer to financial agreements signed.

**Source:** European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Department

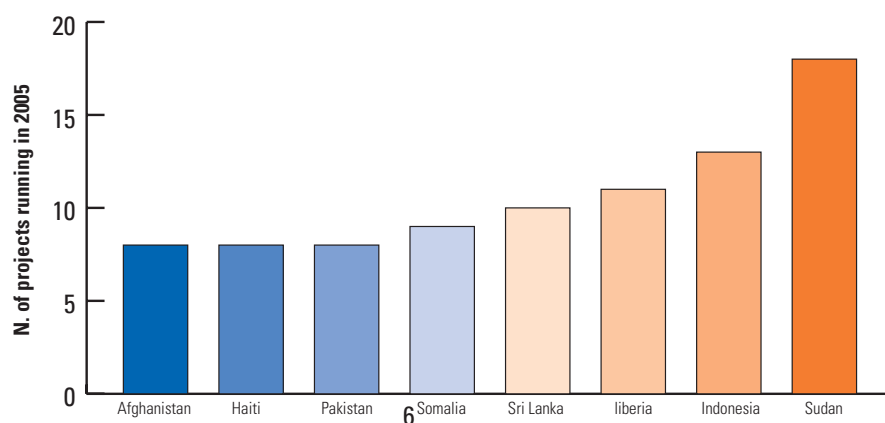
### EuropeAid Financial Contributions to UN (1999-2005)\*



\* Figures refer to financial agreements signed.

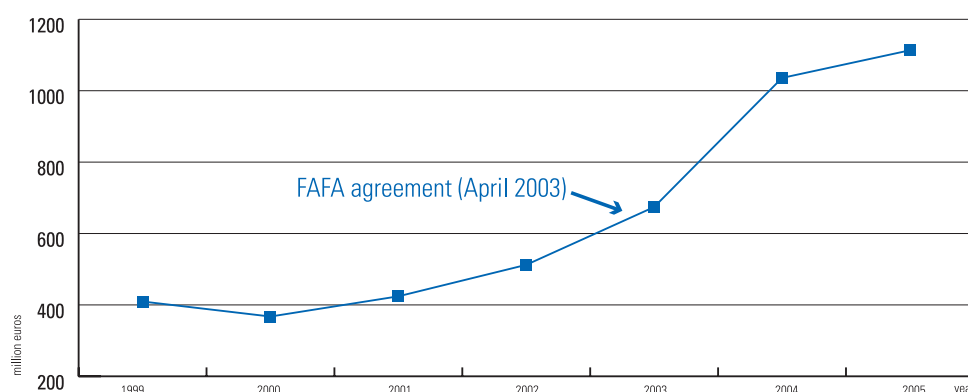
**Source:** EuropeAid Cooperation Office

### Countries with the highest concentration of UN-EC projects in 2005\*



\* Including FAO, ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, WFP and WHO.

### Evolution of EC financial contributions to the UN\*



\* Figures refer to financial agreements signed in the corresponding years with EuropeAid and ECHO

# GOVERNANCE and HUMAN RIGHTS

In 2005, the UN with EC support:

- **Reinforced democracy**

Helped ensure 50 million people could vote in democratic elections in Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry and Liberia; Iraq and the Palestinian Territories; Haiti and Suriname; and East Timor.

- **Supported governments' development**

Assisted Haiti and Nigeria in finalizing their national Census, thereby providing these governments with important information for a broad variety of purposes, such as planning for schools, roads and hospitals, and other essential development programmes.

- **Strengthened rule of law**

Supported judicial reform in Somalia and Mozambique; Afghanistan and Georgia; Bosnia and Ukraine; and Haiti.

- **Protected the environment**

Enabled Afghanistan to formulate and approve its first-ever legislation to protect the natural resources and environment in the aftermath of war.

- **Promoted international standards for migrants**

Supported countries in the European Neighbourhood (from Morocco to Belarus) to develop laws and practices to manage migration challenges while ensuring appropriate protection of refugees.

- **Reduced illicit trafficking**

Assisted Central Asian countries in combating illicit trafficking of people, nuclear and radioactive materials, arms and drugs, while facilitating legal flows of people and goods.

- **Catalyzed partnerships for development**

Mobilized groups at the global and national level around the MDGs, including 1,400 local African NGOs, which partnered with the UN in its food assistance programme in pursuit of a Millennium free from hunger.

The Millennium Declaration in 2000 represented a breakthrough in international acceptance of the importance of governance for poverty reduction. The Communication on governance issued by the European Commission in 2006 states that *"poverty reduction and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will not be achieved without decisive progress in the areas of economic, social, environmental and political governance."*<sup>[18]</sup> Governance failures frequently lie at the core of poverty, sometimes due to insufficient political will on the part of leaders but in many cases because states lack the resources and capacities to govern effectively.

The UN and EC each prioritize support to the development of democratic institutions. They seek to support those processes through which citizens articulate their interests, exercise their rights, meet their obligations and mediate their differences. With this aim, in 2005 they worked together in 35 developing countries in support of electoral assistance, in strengthening parliaments, in the empowerment of civil society organisations, in reforming the judicial and security sector and in protecting human rights. This partnership on human rights is particularly strategic for the European Union, considering the importance that the EU attaches to the signature, ratification and application of international human rights instruments by countries it has partnerships with. Moreover the EC provided financial support centrally to the UN's role in the promotion and protection of the rights established in the Charter of the United Nations and in international human rights laws and treaties.

The extent of EC support to UN governance and human rights interventions confirms the UN's critical role and value in this field, not least because of the politically sensitive nature of governance reforms. This role is derived in part from the UN's international normative and standard-setting role, and from its global legitimacy and hence its impartiality to work on such issues, as well as from the thematic expertise it possesses in a range of areas.

[18] European Commission, *"Governance in the European Consensus on Development. Towards a Harmonized Approach within the European Union"*, COM(2006), 421 Final.

## Enabling the electorate to vote

Electoral support accounted for almost 60 percent of UN-EC cooperation in the area of governance. This collaboration builds on the UN's unique role in the field of electoral assistance, resulting from its dual political role and developmental expertise, when requested by developing-country governments. Elections have been a vital part of democratic transitions, including in the aftermath of UN-supported peace agreements ending civil wars around the globe. Many, though not all, of the elections supported through the EC partnership were in countries in transition from conflict. In addition to overcoming political sensitivities, the UN has been an important partner for donor assistance, including from the Commission, in difficult country situations where the logistical challenges of staging elections were further complicated by practical and security challenges on the ground. Most electoral support operations involved multiple donors, and the UN coordination role in-country contributed significantly to the efficiency and impact of electoral support operations.

In Iraq, the EC provided financial contribution to the UN in support of the role assigned it by Security Council Resolution 1546 to reassert Iraq's full sovereignty. With support from the Commission and other donors, the UN assisted the creation of an Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq (IECI). The EC was the principal donor to the constitutional referendum in October 2005 and elections in December 2005, through the UN-managed window of the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq (see chapter V). Because the referendum and the election were held just months apart, they had to be organised in parallel and IECI personnel needed intensive training. EC funding helped ensure 160,000 polling officials were trained and key logistical support was in place for delivery of three million kilos of election materials and 21 million ballot papers for both events. Training of observer groups meant 300,000 observers were available to monitor the elections, while training for 50 Iraqi journalists secured professional media coverage. As a result, nine million Iraqi citizens were able to vote in the referendum and the election respectively.



*Democratic Republic of Congo - Election workers in Bunia, Ituri*



## **The Peace Process in Burundi**

*In Burundi, the peace process was supported by the United Nations and the European Commission, amongst others. An ambitious electoral timetable began with a constitutional referendum in February 2005, followed by elections for the National Assembly in July and communal elections in September 2005, all of which were supported by the UN with contributions from the EC and other donors.*

*The partnership allowed 30,000 electoral officers to be trained and ballot boxes to be delivered to all 6,000 registration centres in the country. Voter education supported by civil society increased the population's confidence in the process. Voter turnout was estimated at more than 80%, and 30% of elected positions were filled by women.*

*The success of the elections led to the return of many Burundians to their villages of origin. With EC support, the UN was able to help thousands of former refugees and internally displaced people rebuild their lives. Eighty thousand school children were provided with food, while food aid was also distributed to vulnerable populations in Northern provinces with food shortages. More than 250 classrooms were re-opened and equipped; 11 health centres were rehabilitated and 2,000 women benefited from installation of referral systems in two provinces where obstetrical emergency care was improved.*

*Approximately 1.7 million Burundians received help from the UN in 2005 thanks to the support of the EC.*

In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), a country emerging in 2003 from several years of civil war, the UN coordinated donor assistance and provided technical support to the referendum on the constitution held in December 2005. The logistical challenges were substantial in a country 80 times the size of Belgium, and where geographical remoteness was exacerbated by destruction of infrastructure during the earlier war. Extensive EC support facilitated distribution of voter registration kits to 10,000 centres throughout the country, enabling the registration

of 25 million Congolese citizens as well as the training and equipping of 30,000 police officers to supervise voting operations. The referendum took place without serious security incidents. A new constitution was approved, paving the way for the first multiparty elections in 46 years (held in 2006 also with UN and EC support).

Through the UN-EC partnership, not only national referenda or elections, but also local elections have been supported. In Guinea Conakry for example, in December 2005, 5.7 million people were able to cast their vote to select local representatives, facilitated by UN-EC support.

## **Strengthening the accountability of governments**

For fledgling democracies and countries recovering from crises, elections are often a beginning – a critical but nonetheless preliminary step in the transition to democratic governance. Realizing the promise of elections requires investment in long-term democratic development. This includes consolidation of governing institutions such as parliaments and the judiciary, as well as support to civil society to ensure it plays its vital role in national development strategies. The UN-EC partnership supported the deepening of the democratic processes in a number of countries, through assistance to parliaments, judiciaries and civil society.

## **Making parliaments work**

Working together, in 2005 the EC and UN supported parliaments or equivalent institutions in Afghanistan, Georgia, Ethiopia and Laos. With the goal of strengthening these institutions' fundamental representative, legislative and oversight roles, UN-EC support was aimed at strengthening capacities for policy and decision-making, building technical capacities in key areas such as budgeting (including "gender budgeting") for the Millennium Development Goals, and securing the resources required for parliaments to conduct business. Also important was the advice provided on structural and constitutional issues, to ensure the necessary independence of parliaments to effectively carry out their oversight functions.

## Rebuilding Afghanistan

### Parliament

*In a multi-donor effort coordinated by the UN, the EC contributed to strengthening the representative, legislative and oversight roles of the Afghan National Assembly. This included advice on the appropriate legislative framework for the National Assembly to play its role within the Afghan constitutional framework and extensive training for 250 members of the Secretariat. The joint inauguration of both lower and upper houses took place on 19 December 2005.*

### Government (environment)

*In 2005, with assistance from the EC and other donors, the UN helped the Afghan government to develop laws to protect natural resources and the environment. The framework legislation - the first of its kind in the country - aims to secure the sustainable use of natural resources and rehabilitation of an environment that had been severely damaged by conflict, military activities and refugee movements.*

### Security sector

*Rebuilding the national civilian police force is crucial to the return of law and order across the country, which will in turn promote national, regional and global security. In addition to training, the UN-EC partnership contributed to the rehabilitation and equipment of police department facilities, such as 1,100 radio-equipped police vehicles and 490 Codan communication systems supplied to Kabul and provincial stations. It assisted in the supply of computers and other office equipment to headquarters in 11 provinces, helped construct nine new provincial headquarters and rehabilitated police stations in different areas of the country, and it contributed to the establishment of 69 highway police check points on the Turkham-Kabul-Herat highway.*

## Modernizing judicial and security sectors

The EC and UN worked together in 2005 to support the consolidation of accountable, equitable and effective justice and security sector services in a number of countries in

*Kyrgyzstan - Women weaving traditional carpets*



Africa, Central Asia, Eastern Europe and the Caribbean. In line with the UN concern to bolster the judiciaries as part of the institutionality of fledgling democracies, UN-EC support focused on helping countries to ensure the independence, impartiality and fairness of judges within their system. Of equal importance was the issue of access of the poor: the UN considers lack of access to justice a defining characteristic of human poverty, and seeks to combat it consistently. In Somalia, the judicial reform programme conducted an in-depth review of the existing legislation, particularly as it related to vulnerable groups, and helped train personnel in the justice sector. In 2005 alone, new legislation on the rights of children was approved, the Penal Code was reviewed and 150 lawyers were trained. Through EC-funded programmes, the UN trained prosecutors and judges in a variety of fields. In 2005, 70 prosecutors, investigators and judges from 19 southern African countries were trained in national drug legislation aimed at improving legal cooperation in the region.

In the case of the security sector, strengthening governance through civilian accountability of national systems is another key policy instrument of democratic transition. In 2005, the UN, with EC support, helped governments in Central Asia and Eastern Europe reform their security sectors. Interventions were supported in Afghanistan, Armenia, Belarus, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Support efforts included the reduction of illicit trafficking in the region and facilitating the legal flow of people and goods. In 2005, more than 250 judges and prosecutors were trained

on extradition, mutual legal assistance, confiscation and money-laundering policies. 900 border guards in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan were trained in border-management issues, while Belarusian guards were trained on combatting the trafficking of radioactive and nuclear material.

## Decentralization and participation

Achievement of the MDGs requires the active engagement of a broad range of constituencies. Goal 3 for instance stresses the crucial importance of women in society and the need to make gender equality a reality, not only because it is a moral imperative, but because it is a way to promote prosperity and well-being for all. While gender equity is mainstreamed through all the UN programmes, it was also

the principal subject of many interventions in the field. In Egypt, Lebanon and Tunisia, the UN and the EC worked together to provide women in difficult circumstances with the necessary information to obtain financial and legal support from the government and social service institutions. In Tunisia, 110 officers from different ministries and 30 family judges were trained on gender issues. Media and NGOs were involved and became an important channel to disseminate sensitive information and make the population aware of gender issues.

International conferences, especially the World Summit on Sustainable Development, have recognized the crucial role of local governments in shaping national poverty-reduction strategies, as well as in the design and delivery of local initiatives. The Summit gave priority to the role of civil

### *Behind the scenes of the DR Congo elections*

*"Number 1192 ... 1192 where are you?"*

*Eventually, a man rises from the crowd. His face is serious and focused, as if he were carrying the fate of a nation - which in a sense, he is.*

*No. 1192 is one of the 12,000 polling centre supervisors for the Congolese Independent Electoral Commission. It is his responsibility, along with his peers, to assure that ballots, polling screens, boxes and other essential supplies for the elections reach all fifty thousand local polling stations across the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).*

*It is a hard task since DRC has few roads. Even in Kinshasa, the capital, the few remaining stretches of paved streets are in terrible condition. Venturing even a short distance outside the capital requires trucks or jeeps that can handle dirt tracks. Boats, rafts and canoes are other possibilities, as long as the journey sticks to the Congo River and its many branches. For long-distance travel, in this country which is the size of a continent, flying is the only option available, but there are few airports to be found. Often the polling centre supervisors have to rely on a combination of various modes of transportation to get to their respective destinations....at considerable risk, especially in provinces where there is still ongoing unrest and violence.*

*Delivering the ballots for the elections scheduled for July 30, 2005 - so that 25 million registered Congolese voters*

*can have their say on the future of this war-torn country - is thus nothing short of heroic. It is a task radiant with civic duty. What will happen if a truck goes missing, a boat sinks, or a driver simply cannot make it in time? Voters will wait, the police will grow weary, and rumours will start to fly: election fraud!*

*With extensive support of the European Commission, the United Nations is helping the Congolese government in its complex task of ensuring that everything is in place for the first multiparty elections after 46 years. The UN provides essential technical and logistical support to the Congolese Independent Electoral Commission, such as paying the wages of electoral agents, keeping the voters safe and setting up systems to allow reporting back on the results in a reliable and timely way. All the polling centre supervisors, No. 1192 included, are being trained.*

*Once at their destinations, the polling centre supervisors will in turn train local staff in the basics of free and fair elections. How does one mark the ballot, ensure privacy for voters, or return the final tally? The ballot papers themselves are enormous. In certain districts they are printed in A1-size in order to fit the pictures and symbols of the many candidates, who nationwide number close to 10,000 for Parliament and 33 for president. Names alone will not suffice, since in a country where adult literacy remains at 60%, it is anticipated that the many voters will not be able to read.*

*No. 1192 is ready to leave. He has to make it in time to the next polling station.*



society both in developed and developing countries, seeing it as crucially important to the success of MDG-oriented development processes. Examples of decentralization and local governance programmes funded by the EC through the UN can be found in almost every region of the world. In Nicaragua, the UN supported local governments in improving infrastructure, including housing in the poorest areas of Managua. In Somalia, a pool of more than 35 Somali trainers was created to improve local governance in major cities of Somaliland and Puntland. In India, a community-based disaster risk-management framework was established in the state of Arunachal Pradesh to strengthen local administration and community capacities for the mitigation, preparedness and response to natural disasters. This framework secured mechanisms for rapid help in emergencies affecting the rural population. A similar project was implemented in the Andean region of Ecuador, where 15,000 people benefited from support in local-level risk-management practices.

Civil society organisations (CSOs) around the world both supported and were assisted by the UN-EC partnership. International and national non-governmental organisations (NGOs) were crucial partners to the UN on the ground, as deliverers of services at the community level. Structurally, the UN worked with hundreds of national NGOs to build their capacities through training and encouragement of their role in public awareness-raising. Much was done to engage CSOs in discussion on policy, including through the promotion of dialogue with government on key development and human

## Support to human rights in Nepal

*The EC and the UN prioritize strengthened mechanisms for the protection of human rights, in particular through enhancing the capacity of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to effectively monitor and investigate human rights violations across Nepal. Through the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), the EC has supported NHRC, the Nepal Bar Association (NBA) and local NGOs.*

*In April 2005, the UN established a specific office in Nepal to monitor the situation of human rights and observance of international humanitarian law, including investigation and verification through the deployment of international human rights officers throughout the country as required under an initial two-year mandate. The EC assisted the UN in implementing these activities, thereby contributing to ensuring an impartial and effective monitoring of the human rights situation, as well as a reinforcement of the capacity building of national institutions and other stakeholders.*

*Afghanistan - Loss of vegetation cover has caused serious soil erosion across the country such as in this village near Mazar-e-Sharif*



*Somalia - Garbage collection in Mogadishu*



rights issues such as poverty-reduction strategies, natural disaster risk reduction and refugee protection. In Latin America, the support went further, fostering consolidation of a regional network of over 200 politicians, academics and civil society actors in support of democratic development in the region. This initiative was backed up through the development by this group of a theoretical framework for understanding Latin American democracies and a statistical database incorporating opinions representative of 400 million people.

In the Balkans, where social inclusion is a cornerstone of sustainable peace and development, the UN, in partnership with the EC, launched a volunteer exchange programme in South Eastern Europe, with the aim of developing regional confidence and facilitating linkages between the populations and governments. The programme helped build East-to-East volunteer exchanges, promoted volunteerism and proactive citizenship, and established regional cooperation between civil initiatives. The capacity of 14 civil society organisations was strengthened to provide effective volunteer management and opportunities for youth within and outside their countries. Sixty young volunteers have so far participated. Exchange of volunteers between Serbia and the UN-administered territory of Kosovo exemplifies the UN-EC support for social inclusion and reconciliation.

## Protecting children's rights

Joint UN-EC efforts often focus on the most vulnerable populations. For the UN, this focus on the most vulnerable is part of its human rights-based approach. The EC and the UN work in partnership in several areas to increase awareness and protection of children's rights. In Iran, where children's rights served as a platform accepted by the government, the UN and the EC implemented a project focused on improving respect for the rights of women and girls. In Turkey, an EC-funded project focused on enhancing the protective environment for children in contact with the law. It did this in particular by improving the care and protection of children deprived of their liberty as per EU standards and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, by strengthening the skills and knowledge on juvenile justice standards, by reinforcing mechanisms (international and EU legislation) and through psychosocial care and protection. In Eastern Europe, the UN helped develop extensive NGO networks to increase awareness and political commitment to children's rights. In this way, the ability of civil society to advocate for children's rights and to promote rights-based development and child-focused policy was strengthened by organising conferences, developing guidance notes, establishing national country advisory groups in eight countries and developing country-specific training manuals. Moreover, child rights were institutionalised into centres of learning for service providers such as teachers, health workers, social workers, lawyers and the media.



# 2.

## AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, TRADE and MARKET ACCESS

**In 2005, the UN with EC support:**

- **Helped make food security a reality**

Provided 60,000 households affected by the Pakistani earthquake with agricultural inputs for the first planting season, thereby helping them to take their first steps away from dependence on food aid. In Indonesia, it supported more than 50,000 people, including some 563 farmer groups, to restore their livelihoods after the tsunami.

- **Provided agricultural inputs**

Donated seeds and tools to 117,000 conflict-affected households in Uganda, mainly headed by women and the elderly, enabling them to cover 25 percent of their own food needs.

- **Boosted the local and regional commodity market**

Purchased one million tons of food aid on African markets, thereby promoting competition, raising business standards and improving the quality of food supplied by traders.

- **Created employment**

Preserved tens of thousands of jobs through a fisheries-quality programme that helped secure the lifting of the ban on exports of shrimps from Benin to the European Union, providing revenue for 100,000 people.

- **Improved trade and market access**

Supported Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo in raising the quality of their cotton for export, contributing to improved living standards in the region.

- **Provided support against animal-related disease outbreaks**

Provided 2.5 million doses of vaccine to prevent the entry of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease into the EU.

### Boosting trade and market access

Sustainable development cannot be achieved if large parts of societies are left far behind in the world economy. Improved trade and market access are a key goal, to ensure that each person has the essential means to a productive life. There is widespread agreement that policy and regulatory constraints to market access have to be addressed urgently. In this context, the partnership between the UN and the EC promotes the participation of sub-regions in international trade. While focusing on capacity-building of governments for trade negotiations, the UN's efforts have also been directed towards the development of national capacities for production. This includes targeted quality improvement activities to facilitate exports.

In 2005, the EC and UN collaborated closely in West Africa in support of the "West African Economic and Monetary Union" (WAEMU). Key results of the partnership included the establishment of a regional system for accreditation, standardization and quality promotion for enterprises in the sub-region. Specifically, 70 enterprises introduced quality systems and more than 30 were certified as meeting international standards certification; 60 professionals were trained in certification, while 150 chief executive officers of enterprises were exposed to the system through training, study tours and so on. The governments of the eight WAEMU countries benefited from: legislative harmonization, the establishment of quality infrastructure, laws protecting consumers, national quality awards and quality awareness campaigns, and the establishment of regional technical structures on standards and regulations. Consumers benefited from harmonized legislation, the strengthening of 70 consumer associations in the field of standardization and quality promotion, the training of 32 journalists in



*Benin - Women employed in the local fish industry*

consumerism and product quality, and the strengthening of testing capabilities of 50 laboratories, with emphasis on the food and fish sectors. In Benin the quality programme directed to the fishery sector helped secure the lifting of the ban on exports of shrimps from Benin to the EU, providing revenue for 100,000 people and saving tens of thousand of jobs.

### Supporting agricultural development and food security

The EC and the UN helped developing countries modernize and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices. While responding to these challenges, the UN-EC partnership also paid particular attention to the development of local food markets. For instance, the UN shared the aim of the EC Food Security Policy, favouring local and regional purchases of food aid. Thanks to cash donors like the EC, the UN was able to purchase one million tonnes of food in Africa for emergency food assistance, thereby impacting positively on markets by promoting competition, raising business standards and improving the quality of food supplied by traders.

UN programmes to improve food security through better production and commercialization of diversified seed were funded by the EC in Afghanistan, Myanmar and Honduras, countries where the local population did not have the capacity to resume normal farming activities due to a lack of assets, inputs or land. In Afghanistan, emphasis was put on vulnerable groups such as landless poor and women-headed households. Thousands of farmers there were helped in re-starting production by distributing more than 15 tonnes of breeder seed and 322 tonnes of foundation seeds of wheat for further multiplication. Moreover, 500 rain-fed varieties and more than 1,000 advanced breeding lines of irrigated wheat were screened against diseases. In Myanmar, 49,000 families, mainly returnees from Bangladesh, were supported in introducing appropriate cropping systems and crop species and trained in seed multiplication and boosting backyard poultry production. In Honduras, UN-EC support focused on the production of 10 crops (i.e. corn, bean, rice and plantain) that would withstand climatic changes, as part of an effort to diversify the output of family farms. In 2005, more than 400 families in 47 communities were assisted in producing 64 tonnes of seed that were used to establish 4,000 hectares of seed fields on small farms. In



*Nepal - Food aid is still crucial for many women heads of household in Nepal*



addition, local farmers were trained in crop establishment and evaluation as well as the business, management and evaluation aspects of crop production.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, cassava mosaic disease had devastated cassava production since the early 1990s. UN studies indicated that in the case of the DRC, this was seriously exacerbating the existing food deficits, given that cassava is a staple food for 70 percent of the population. In 2005 the UN-EC partnership established 800 hectares of cassava multiplication plots, potentially providing some 33,000 households with disease-free cuttings for the production of cassava, thereby strengthening food security.

At the regional level, the EC supported the UN in the Western African region which, from June to December 2004, had been invaded by desert locusts. This invasion had serious consequences on the food security situation of more than eight million people in the Sahel region. The EC supported the UN in treating 13.2 million hectares against locusts with over 13 million litres of pesticides, in more than 20 African countries - mainly in the Sahel and the Maghreb. Moreover, local people were trained in safe application techniques; safe storage of any leftover chemicals was also arranged.

*Democratic Republic of Congo - Cassava Farmers*



### ***Helping Haiti's rural poor***

*In northern Haiti, the UN-EC partnership has helped those affected by a 2004 tropical storm that killed over 2 000 people and wiped out the only way rural Haitians could make a living: livestock raising and farming. More than just replacing what was lost, the project hired local people to reconstruct and reinforce irrigation canals and river banks to withstand future floods.*

*An EC Officer, who worked closely with UN on the project, says: "We've been lucky in Haiti that the UN has an emergency unit to work with," adding that he feels the two organisations should continue working together on disaster preparedness. "We're trying to blur the lines between response and preparedness. In the Caribbean, it's the same organisations involved in both."*

# 3.

## EDUCATION, CHILD PROTECTION, WATER & SANITATION, and HEALTH

In 2005, the UN with EC support:

- **Got more children into school**  
Supported 900,000 children below the age of 14, mainly in post-conflict countries, in accessing primary education, mainly in post-conflict countries.
- **Delivered learning materials**  
Distributed 9 million textbooks and other learning materials to 7 million children in Africa and the Arab States.
- **Fed children in school**  
Provided 2 million African children with school meals, thereby reducing absenteeism, relieving short-term hunger, increasing concentration in class and boosting girls' enrolment in school.
- **Protected children from disease**  
Immunized 400 million children and administered 2.2 billion doses of oral polio vaccine in 49 countries from Senegal to Indonesia.
- **Provided children with therapeutic feeding**  
Provided 4.6 million children with therapeutic and supplementary feeding in UN programmes supported by the EC, in countries like Burundi, Colombia, Ethiopia, North Korea, Mali, Niger and Sudan.
- **Delivered preventive health services to mothers and babies**  
Assisted 700,000 women with sexual and reproductive health care and HIV/AIDS prevention services, including 102,000 Palestinian pregnant women and nursing mothers, who were also provided with food aid to prevent nutritional deficiencies.
- **Given young children a chance to grow and thrive**  
Provided 240,000 children below 3 years of age with close medical supervision and monitoring, including immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases and treatment of anaemia among children 6-24 months of age.
- **Protected vulnerable children**  
Supported 82,000 orphans and vulnerable children with educational, nutritional and protective services.
- **Provided services to refugees**  
Provided over four million Palestine refugees in the West Bank and Gaza, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon with elementary and preparatory education, primary health care, social services and emergency relief, including food aid, job creation programmes, rebuilding and rehabilitation of destroyed or damaged shelters, as well as psycho-social support for traumatized children.

The cooperation between the European Commission and the UN in the sectors of education, water and sanitation, and health is an essential component of their overall partnership in support of the MDG's. For instance, if these global goals were to be met, 350 million more people would be living with safe drinking water and 650 million more people would be living with basic sanitation.

### Providing access to education

Educated children are often healthier and more capable of active and insightful, social and political participation. Education spans a wide range of areas including economic development, social stability, increasing income and productivity. Girls' education, in particular, promotes some of the highest returns of all development investments, yielding private and social benefits to individuals and families, as well as society at large. There is evidence that educating girls helps lower child and maternal mortality rates, creates intergenerational educational benefits, protects against HIV/AIDS infection and increases women's participation in the labour force.<sup>[19]</sup>

Providing the largest possible number of children with access to school also combats child exploitation. Children gain both the life skills and core employment skills they need to find work. By working with governments to improve access to schools, the UN helps build the capacity of governments to comply with interested conventions, prohibiting the worst forms of child labour while at the same time helping the EU meet its commitment to the implementation of international labour standards.

The EC's collaboration with the UN in education focused on providing access to education. This took place in countries where the educational system was in need of further support and development, but also especially in difficult circumstances (such as conflict, transition and post-conflict) and harder-to-reach groups (including orphans and vulnerable children as well as refugee and asylum-seeking children). The UN's long experience in conflicts and disasters had demonstrated that returning children to school as quickly as possible is one of the most valuable of emergency interventions. Education is

[19] UN Millennium Project (2005), *Towards Universal Primary Education: Investments, Incentives and Institutions*, Earthscan, London.

key to children's long-term opportunities and must not be interrupted. In addition, schools provide children with a sense of normality, which is crucial to their psychological well-being. In 2005, more than 900,000 children below the age of 14 were supported in accessing primary education, mainly in post-conflict countries, including 485,000 pupils in the Near East, which includes Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Moreover, free access to preparatory schools was provided to some 116,500 Palestine refugee children. It is worth noting that UN-EC cooperation in the Near East, which started back in 1971, assisted four million Palestinian refugees in 2005 with education, social services, healthcare and where necessary, humanitarian emergency aid focused on the provision of food, emergency job creation, environmental health and psycho-social care for children.

UN-EC projects were implemented in Burundi, Chad, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Ethiopia, Iraq, Liberia, Mali, Russia, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Turkey, Uganda, West Bank and Zimbabwe as well in Eastern Europe and in the Middle East region. Moreover, the EC supported more than a fifth of the 10 million African children who benefited from UN school meals, which had a direct impact in reducing absenteeism, relieving short-term hunger and increasing concentration in class as well as girls' enrolment.

In Chad, which is hosting many thousands of Sudanese refugees as a result of the conflict in Darfur, the UN managed, with EC funding, to vaccinate against polio and measles 100 percent of new arrivals. Supplementary feeding was provided to children under the age of five showing signs of malnutrition, while more than 50,000 children between six and 14 years-old were enrolled in primary schools in refugee camps. For children aged between one and five, 30 child-friendly spaces were provided and equipped in refugee camps in Eastern Chad, hosting an average of 27,000 children per week; this gave the children a chance to enjoy some normality in their lives, by getting together and playing. In conflict situations, such spaces are also particularly useful for monitoring children's emotional states after their arrival. In the Treguine camp, 46 semi-permanent classrooms were constructed before the beginning of the rainy season. In Tanzania, the UN was able to provide education and child protection services to over 120,000 children in refugee camps using EC funds.

In Liberia, which was transitioning from conflict, the provision of education and vocational training prevented the recruitment of children into armed groups. A reintegration programme supported almost 50,000 people, mainly children, thereby promoting peace, security and reintegration into their local communities. Between May and December



*Russian Federation - School feeding in Chechnya*



Laos - Medical screening at a mobile outreach session in Sekong



Guinea Conakry - Blind young people raising awareness on HIV-AIDS



Indonesia - Water testing kit

## Back to School in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Amal leads the morning parade at Shatie Elementary School. Dressed in her brown uniform and beret, she leads the way, with a thousand Gazan schoolchildren lined up behind her neatly in rows, clapping and chanting. After the parade, she is in charge of ensuring they all file back quickly into their classrooms.

This daily ritual is representative of the kind of order that school brings to the lives of children living in Gaza. Amal is eleven years old. The camps in which she and most other students live are crowded, amongst the most densely populated places on earth, with many families having nine or ten children. The constant threat of violence that hangs over Gaza, even since the Israeli disengagement, pervades the camps. This threat, coupled with the lack of open spaces, means that the opportunity to play and interact freely with other children is a luxury.

"I wake up happy in the morning because I am going to school," Amal says, as she weaves her way through the

throng of children, looking for her younger sister Yasmin, who is six, and has just begun her first year of school. Yasmin eagerly agrees, as Amal heaves her onto her lap: "School is much better than home. I have lots of friends here and I'm learning reading, writing and songs."

Shatie School is one of 180 UN schools in the Gaza Strip. The UN covers all of the schools' costs, including maintenance, salaries, books and the expense of support materials needed to teach the classes offered in Arabic, English, science, maths, religion, computing and sport. Its students, aged from six to twelve, are from the nearby Beach Camp, just outside Gaza City.

The key to students' success is the happy atmosphere in the school. Twelve year-old Najah lives with the violence around her home at the Beach Camp. Since her brother was killed in the neighbouring streets, she has not dared to play outside. "I feel safe at school," she says. "They teach non-violence, that's why I like it. I'm afraid outside, but at school I'm not scared anymore."

2005 a total of 30,000 children were enrolled in educational programmes and provided with books and study materials.

In Burundi, classrooms were equipped for 60,000 students. In Somalia, the UN-EC intervention increased access to education and ensured quality education for 360,000 children. In Northern Uganda alone, up to 380,000 school children in IDP camps and those in refugee settlements were encouraged to attend school. In Chechnya, 129,000 primary schoolchildren were supported.

## Protecting children

Children and youth can be articulate, passionate and active contributors to development if given the chance, but they can also be among the most vulnerable sectors of the population. With the support of the EC, the UN provided services to a range of the most vulnerable children, such as orphans as well as girls and boys who suffered sexual abuse.

In Swaziland, a country where life expectancy at birth is below 40 years-old, 32,000 orphans and vulnerable children, mainly between 0-10 years-old, were assisted, protected and provided with care through a newly established system of neighbourhood care points. In Uganda, Tanzania, and Sudan, the UN provided care and protection and often also educational services to children in camps. For example, in Tanzania the UN provided education and child protection services to over 120,000 children in refugee camps using EC funds.

Support to children in difficult circumstances also took the form of needed psychosocial support, such as in Burundi, to child victims of sexual and gender-based violence. In the Palestinian Territories, assistance was given to 45,000 children directly affected by violence, with a focus on those living in the neighbourhoods affected by incursions, house demolitions and proximity of the barrier or settlements. In both cases, the EC-funded projects helped build the capacity and awareness of professional carers and the local community to ensure the continuity of efforts to provide long-term care.

Finally, several EC-funded UN projects focused on raising awareness of child-protection issues, such as the awareness-raising campaigns in the Europe and Central Asia region on violence and sexual abuse and exploitation of children.

## Improving water & sanitation

Improving education requires not only better access to schools but also improvements in the quality of the educational infrastructure and teaching. Providing access to schools that are of marginal quality will not keep children in school. To achieve MDG 2 (universal primary education), the UN-EC partnership is focusing on strengthening the overall quality of education and service delivery at all levels. For instance, lack of water and sanitation facilities in school jeopardises the health and education of millions of children. This basic deprivation affects school attendance, hampering children's capacity to learn and denying them a critical opportunity to build their knowledge of basic hygiene skills such as hand washing.

The UN-EC partnership worked intensely to provide schoolchildren with these services in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (Albania, Bulgaria, Georgia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan), in South-East Asia (India, the Maldives, Sri Lanka and Indonesia), in the Arab Region (Iraq, the Near East and Yemen) and in Africa (the Comoros, Malawi, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe). Approximately 2,000 schools have been built or rehabilitated in the above countries, including more than 600 schools rehabilitated in tsunami-affected areas alone.

In Zimbabwe, the EC supported the UN in providing almost 50,000 orphans and vulnerable children with safe drinking water and sanitation facilities, as well as health and hygiene education to protect themselves from HIV infections.

In Tajikistan, where most schools have seen facilities deteriorate progressively since independence due to a lack of proper maintenance or destruction during the recent civil war, the UN-EC partnership provided 36 schools with water and sanitation facilities. Approximately 25,000 school children and 12,000 community members living near the schools benefited from these rehabilitation activities, mainly in rural districts, where only half of the schools have access to safe water and thousands of children still suffer from waterborne diseases.

Water and sanitation facilities are needed not only in schools but also in the neighbourhoods where children live. UN-EC supported community programmes aimed at improving the socio-sanitary conditions of the local population in Albania, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Cuba, Kyrgyz Republic, Serbia,



Sri Lanka, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. In 2005, for instance, the UN, supported by the EC, improved the livelihood of the Kukes Region in Albania by rehabilitating or reconstructing nine water systems and six health centres in the region. This was done through local social mobilization, to ensure sustainability of the works and contribute to lasting social cohesion. Almost 3,000 families had improved access to clean water and to health centres, an important result in a region where infant mortality is five times higher than the EU average. Moreover, 5,000 children below 18 years of age benefited from the rehabilitation of five schools, especially in rural areas where the secondary school attendance rate is only 27 percent.

In Uzbekistan, 50 local communities saw improvements in their living standards thanks to the construction of four water systems and 300 metres of water pipelines distributing clean water to almost 8,000 people. Moreover, three health centres were established or rehabilitated, giving at least 3,600 people access to health services.

## Improving health

The clear focus of the UN-EC partnership in health is prevention, especially on maternal health (to ensure healthy delivery and healthy newborns) and on vaccinating young children.

The UN-EC partnership has given MDG5 (reducing maternal mortality by three quarters) high priority in its agenda, especially in Africa (Burkina Faso, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Niger, Rwanda, Tanzania and Sudan), in Latin America (Haiti, Jamaica and Suriname) and in the Arab region (Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank) through a variety of interventions to improve women's sexual and reproductive health. Some 5,000 health workers in these regions were trained specifically in emergency obstetric care, pre/post-maternal consultation, HIV/AIDS prevention and care for victims of sexual violence. More than 300 health centres were rehabilitated and supplied with midwifery kits and other medical equipment specifically for maternal health. In total, approximately 700,000 women benefited from sexual and reproductive health care and HIV/AIDS prevention services, including 102,000 pregnant women and nursing mothers from the Near East, who were also provided with food aid in order to prevent nutritional deficiencies. In Haiti, more than 24,000 people, including some 2,440 pregnant women, were provided with health assistance with particular attention to HIV/AIDS prevention. In particular, around 2,240 women were HIV/AIDS tested and 165 women in need (including some 115 women affected with HIV/AIDS) were provided with food support. In Jamaica, 792,000 condoms were made available to the National Family Planning Board, since young people find it difficult to obtain them and stigma is attached to their purchase from local stores.



*Child washed by his aunt in Dhaka*



The theme of prevention carries through to the UN's work on epidemics. These are best prevented through the kinds of massive immunization programmes the UN organised with EC funding. But where epidemics cannot be prevented, the UN has acted quickly with the support of EC funding to stop their spread. In the Near East, the EC supported the UN in providing close medical supervision and monitoring to more than 240,000 children below three years of age, including immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases and treatment of anaemia among children aged 6 to 24 months. One of the major successes in terms of child mortality eradication is the Polio Eradication Programme, which in 2005 conducted polio eradication activities in 49 countries. This resulted in more than 400 million children being immunized and the administration of 2.2 billion doses of oral polio vaccine (OPV). Overall, the polio epidemic has been stopped in 13 countries, and poliovirus transmission successfully interrupted in Egypt and Niger, thereby reducing the number of polio-endemic countries to just four, the lowest in history.<sup>[20]</sup> In West and Central Africa, emergency efforts to stop the epidemic were launched, with UN-EC support, under the auspices of the African Union, through a series of mass, synchronized immunization campaigns across 23 countries, from Senegal to Somalia, reaching as many as 100 million children.

In Iraq, one of the countries that maintained a polio-free status in 2005, the UN-EC's support to the Iraqi Ministry

of Health ensured dramatic reductions in reported cases of measles (from 9,180 in 2004 to 820 in 2005) and mumps (from 15,130 in 2004 to 2,160 in 2005). As a result of quick-impact projects begun in September 2005, Iraq also continued to be cholera-free, and there was a continued decline in malaria (only 47 cases in 2005) and leishmania (reduction by 40 percent).

The UN plays a crucial role in addressing health needs in emergencies. In Darfur, for example, working with the EC the UN supported 84 fixed health centres while equipping and improving access to 36 mobile centres. This support represented coverage of 1.5 million Sudanese, mainly internally displaced persons. Moreover three general hospitals were rehabilitated as well as five rural hospitals, in addition to other clinics rehabilitated by NGO partners. In total, 75 percent of all accessible hospitals in the area have been rehabilitated. Necessary services, such as local HIV/AIDS and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) counsellors, were made available, as well as equipment and refurbishing facilities for emergency obstetrics, paediatrics and trauma surgery. Almost 1,200 health workers were trained in basic nursing skills, pre/post-natal care, infection control, emergency treatment, and war surgery. In the Near East region, the UN maintained a system of active surveillance of communicable diseases, including vaccine-preventable diseases, and provided special care to approximately 135,000 patients suffering from chronic conditions, such as diabetes mellitus and hypertension.

## Sexual education in Sri Lanka

*Melfort is one of the larger tea plantations in Sri Lanka. Adults usually work in the field the whole day, in order to make a better life for themselves and their families. After finishing their schooling, many boys often go to work in the nearby towns or capital city, mostly as shop assistants or garment factory workers. Girls are therefore often left alone in the village, while their parents and brothers are in the field.*

*According to one of the UN-EC project's master counsellors, 42 year-old Kanthi Jayawardena, this situation creates many opportunities for love affairs, for consensual sexual relations, in some cases with married men, as well as for sexual coercion, sometimes by family members. Thus, unwanted pregnancies used to be quite common in this estate.*

*He says: "Once a mother came to me with her 12 year-old daughter, who reported that she had not had her period for seven months. When I inquired further, the girl told me that immediately after she became "a big girl" (reached puberty), a married man from a neighbouring village had raped her during the absence of her parents and other family members. Neither she nor her mother knew that she was pregnant. I sent her to a doctor who confirmed the pregnancy. Since her family did not want to raise an illegitimate child, I arranged for the adoption of the baby by a married couple who was seeking my advice about infertility."*

*To prevent this situation from being repeated, the UN-EC is focusing on behavioural changes, health counselling and widening access to services.*

[20] Polio-endemic countries are those that have never interrupted the transmission of indigenous wild poliovirus.

# 4.

## CRISIS PREVENTION, RECOVERY and RECONSTRUCTION

**In 2005, the UN with EC support:**

- **Restored services**

Restored much-needed power supply to 15,000 people hit by the Tsunami in the North Maluku region in Indonesia, rehabilitating 100 km of electrical networks and strengthening the capacity of the state-owned electricity company to operate and maintain them.

- **Cleared land mines**

Supported communities in post-conflict zones of Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe to restart their livelihoods by clearing mines from approximately 18 million square meters of land. In Mozambique, the UN destroyed 45,000 unexploded ordnances, directly benefiting more than 1 million people in surrounding rural areas. In Sri Lanka, it reduced the number of casualties due to land mines and unexploded ordnances from 20 to less than 3 per month through mine education programmes that reached 540,000 people.

- **Supported reintegration of soldiers**

Provided 50,000 combatants in Liberia with education and vocational training and assisted the rebuilding of social-service infrastructure needed to reintegrate ex-soldiers into their communities.

- **Helped prevent recruitment of child soldiers**

Secured enrolment of 30,000 children into educational programmes in Liberia, helping prevent them from being recruited into armed groups.

- **Facilitated cross-regional cooperation**

Eighteen Presidents, Vice-Presidents and Prime Ministers, some 60 ministers and nearly 2,000 delegates, civil society representatives and journalists from 114 countries gathered in Mauritius to discuss the stakes faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the aftermath of the Tsunami.

As seen in earlier chapters of this report, a major component of the UN-EC partnership involves helping countries recover from armed conflict and natural disasters.

An estimated 80 percent of the world's 20 poorest countries have suffered war in the past 15 years. The relationship between conflict and development is complex: for there can be no development without peace or peace without development. Violent conflict has the potential to destroy the human, social, physical and institutional capital that is the very foundation for sustainable development. At the same time, development assistance can create incentives for peace. This powerful relationship, rightly stressed by many world leaders in recent years, presents itself in different ways: poor countries are more likely to have weak governments, while resource scarcity can result in displacement that sparks violence and creates further vulnerabilities. The human and economic losses of natural disasters are almost invariably highest in poor areas of the world.

Against this background, it is essential to mitigate the effects of crises and address their root causes in order to help countries attain the Millennium Development Goals. In turn, the MDGs not only reflect global justice and human rights, but are vital to international and national security and stability. Investing in development is especially important to reduce the probability of conflict. It also contributes to controlling the negative effects of natural disasters on populations. Both the UN and the EC are strong advocates of long-term development policies and programmes that are sensitive to crisis and build in opportunities for disaster reduction and conflict prevention.

The UN's work in prevention is generally less visible than its extensive work in humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and recovery. This prevention work is, however, arguably more important. Europe was a strong supporter of the UN Hyogo Declaration<sup>[21]</sup> in 2005, which recognized disaster risk management as an important element of sustainable development.

The integrated nature of the UN response and related EC

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[21] World Conference on Disaster Reduction, 18-22 January 2005, Kobe-Hyogo, Japan.

support to crises is deliberately reflected in this report, through the continual references throughout its different chapters to shared UN-EC activities in countries in, or transitioning from, crises. Crisis and conflict prevention are major components of governance-related activities, including the integration of preventive measures into long-term development agendas, capacity-building for resolution of problems through constructive dialogue, strengthening human rights and transitional justice arrangements, and the sequencing and prioritization of state-building measures for countries in transition. Chapter I of this report refers to electoral support, constitutional-making processes, capacity-building of the judiciary and the security sector, as well as increased participation of civil society, among others, all of which are building blocks of peace. Equally important is the extensive support that the EC and the UN provide to countries recovering from conflict or natural disaster, through humanitarian assistance, food aid and other basic services to help restore security, livelihoods, health and education. The depth and scope of the joint recovery assistance is already well covered in the report.

However, the UN-EC partnership in this area goes far beyond individual programmatic interventions. Less visible in this report are the efforts between the institutions to ensure that:

- a) The dialogue on conflict prevention and recovery between the EC and the UN brings together those institutions or organisations with a development and security mandate;
- b) There is joint assessment and analysis of the risks and recovery needs on the ground, and support for national recovery frameworks that guide UN-EC support;
- c) There is as seamless as possible a transition between the stages of humanitarian relief, early recovery, reconstruction and development in countries;
- d) The global community continues to focus its efforts on crisis prevention;
- e) The UN and EC join efforts with as many other partners as possible in the prevention of or recovery from crises.

The EC and the UN have established regular dialogues to review the situation of politically sensitive countries, including those facing or recovering from conflict. In 2005, these dialogues assessed the situation of various countries in different regions of the world and ensured that the EC participation in UN missions was regularly reviewed. The

*Afghanistan - A refugee and his son, who returned from Pakistan, rebuild their home destroyed in the war*



political dialogue has subsequently been broadened to consider related humanitarian and development dimensions - the subject of this report.

Important progress has been made in the development of joint tools for assessment, analysis and planning in post-crisis situations. The EC has been a major partner of the UN, World Bank and other donors in the development of joint needs assessments and coordinated programmes of assistance for post-conflict countries such as Iraq, Sudan, and tsunami-affected areas. A shared challenge of the UN and the EC has been to ensure continuity in the support provided to countries as they progress through the "emergency-to-development continuum" (i.e. from immediate emergency needs towards rehabilitation and recovery). This required tighter coordination between the UN and EC's respective departments mandated to intervene in subsequent stages post-crisis.

At least two elements appear to be central to the EC's choice to partner with the UN in this important area. First and foremost is the UN's mandate and the legitimacy it provides for critical issues that arise in crisis situations. Secondly, the UN's consistent presence on the ground throughout crises helps facilitate transition activities. It also offers opportunities to play a convening role and to support donor coordination both in-country and often at the international



*Angola - A young man demonstrating the method involved to deactivate a mine*



level. Virtually all UN activities financed by the EC in this field represented cooperation within broader multi-donor supported efforts.

## Convening for peace

In 2005, the UN and the EC jointly provided technical assistance to the preparation for and conduct of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, attended by Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. The EC and the UN together facilitated the organisation of seven meetings, where 10 protocols and 32 project documents were drafted as part of the "Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region" agreed upon at the Conference. The Pact represented a critical opportunity for the millions of people who remain extremely vulnerable as a result of a decade-long conflict and crisis situations in the region.

## Clearing landmines

The UN received extensive support from the EC to address one of the major obstacles to social and economic activity and long-term development in many post-conflict countries, namely landmine contamination. Landmine clearance has a direct impact on local economies, freeing up land for cultivation and enabling greater mobility and access to basic services.

In 2005, the EC supported the UN's clearance of 18 million

### ***Kitchen gardening - new opportunity for women in refugee camps***

*The UN-EC partnership encourages self-reliance efforts for the refugees. One such activity is the kitchen gardening project run by a local NGO, REDESO, at Ngara refugee camp in Tanzania.*

*In 2005, 75 women took part in the project and were trained in organic farming. The project gave vulnerable refugees a chance to grow their own food in the camp. One of the project participants, Steria Sinzinkayo, a solitary elderly woman from Burundi says: "REDESO gave us tools, seeds, fencing materials and a 15m x 30m plot here*

*in the refugee camp. They trained us to cultivate the land and grow vegetables." She continues: "We haven't been able to work because of the restriction of movement of refugees outside the four-kilometre zone. Now we have an opportunity to do something for ourselves. Making compost without manure was probably the most important difference from the way we farmed before. We've also learnt different ways of preventing pests that attack the vegetables. Today, this means that we are eating vegetables every day and then, when we hopefully return to Burundi, we will be able to increase the harvest in our own land!"*

square metres of land in Albania, Angola, Armenia, Cyprus, Iraq, Mozambique, Sudan and Sri Lanka. In southern Sudan for example, the mine clearance and repair of more than 600 km of roads led to a 50 percent reduction in transport costs, thereby halving the price of cereals in areas with road access. This enabled year-round access to Kenya and Uganda, and supported the return of refugees along safe corridors. In Iraq, the UN-EC partnership provided assistance in the handling, storage and destruction of landmine stockpiles. In addition, the equivalent of 1,000 km of roads was cleared.

Where landmines are not yet or cannot be cleared, the UN-EC partnership focused on educating the population on the dangers of unexploded landmines and strategies to avoid harm. In Sri Lanka, education and awareness-raising efforts of the government and local non-governmental organisations, supported by the EC and the UN, alerted 540,000 people to the risks of landmines. As a result, the number of casualties due to landmines and unexploded ordnances was reduced from 20 to less than three per month. The programme used formal and non-formal education systems, supported by

mass media campaigns and communication tools (such as video shows, drama, music, peer education and festivals) to target adults and children for awareness-raising activities. As a result of the partnership, 11 million square metres of land were cleared and handed over to the owners, while some 750 land mine survivors accessed rehabilitation services to help them cope with their disabilities.

In the Russian provinces of Chechnya and Ingushetia, mine risk education activities reached 100,000 people, including children and their care-givers. EC funds were used to establish six recreation centres to provide children in mine risk areas with a place to play safely.

## Reintegrating ex-combatants

A critical component of UN-EC support for post-conflict transition and peace-building has been the effort to disarm, demobilize and reintegrate former combatants into their communities, including through special programmes



*Sudan - Former child soldiers handing in their weapons*



## Children demobilisation in Liberia

*In mid-2004, the UN and NGO partners realised that children in the border counties between Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire faced the real threat of recruitment to the fighting forces in Côte d'Ivoire. At highest risk were the estimated 2,000 children formerly associated with the fighting forces, children who had already entered the official disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration process. With few exceptions, these children had already received the US\$300 paid at the end of the demobilisation process, thus ending a strong incentive for the children to stay at home.*

*With the simmering tensions in neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire, these former child soldiers were at serious risk of being re-recruited. This situation was exacerbated by the fact that so few options were available to children in the border areas. There was an urgent need to provide sufficient educational and community support, to ensure that the children stayed at home and regained normal childhoods.*

*The EC provided the funding required to respond to the urgent need to establish recreation, sporting and educational alternatives. Former child soldiers thus benefited from healthy activities such as football, kickball and dance while also learning about team-work, fair play and coping skills. Numerous football and kickball tournaments were held involving children and youth in 40 communities along the Liberia-Côte d'Ivoire border.*

*War-affected Liberian children consistently repeated their desire to learn. The provision of educational alternatives acted and is acting as a powerful counter-force to the threat of recruitment. EC funds also helped launch the Accelerated Learning Programme. Through this, over 27,000 demobilised children, together with other children in their communities, benefited from a chance to re-start their education with teachers trained to better provide for the learning and emotional needs of demobilised and other war-affected children and from learning materials distributed to schools across the country.*



*Near East - Soldiers search for mines*

designed to help former child combatants and other children associated with armed groups and armed conflict. For example, the EC supported the UN's programmes with ex-combatants in Côte D'Ivoire and Liberia, where a total of 57,000 former fighters, mainly children and adolescents, were provided with formal education, vocational and skills training opportunities, books and study materials. Youth groups, child welfare committees, trained border monitors, social workers, and community programmes established with EC funding all supported the efforts to protect and successfully reintegrate children and adults into host communities that had been severely affected by war. While the focus of this effort was on ex-combatants, UN-EC support also extended to related populations, including women who had been forced to act as sex workers for combatants as well as children coerced into bearing arms.

As noted in chapter III, support for child soldiers takes various forms, including cross-cutting collaboration as well as in-country education and other programmes. A pilot project on data collection on the impact of armed conflict on children in Angola, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sri Lanka was completed in March 2005. This helped with the mapping of the impact of armed conflict on children, with a special focus on recruitment and displacement. The project, which covered improved and expanded methodologies and tools for data collection, helped governments, international organisations and nongovernmental organisations engaged in data collection on child recruitment in armed conflicts to develop better networks, better tools and better data between them. It therefore enhanced their collaboration on war-affected children.

## Reducing the risk of natural disasters

In 2005, the EC helped the UN in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean region to identify causal factors of disasters, to research new risk patterns (such as those related to weather and climate change), and to support governments in the development of national disaster-reduction strategies.

The International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) held in Mauritius in 2005 is a concrete example of such cooperation. A number of SIDS were among the countries most affected both by the tsunami in Asia in December 2004, as well as by previous hurricanes in the Caribbean. With the support of the EC, in January 2005 the UN brought together 2,000 delegates including heads of

state, ministers, civil society representatives and journalists from 114 countries. Through the "Mauritius Declaration", the assembled group made a political commitment to building resilience to natural disasters in SIDS through technology transfer, capacity-building and human resource development.

The priorities of the EC's cooperation with the UN in the field of natural disasters included facilitation of regional knowledge exchange and the establishment of regional and international standards. This was combined with country-level capacity-building of governments and non-governmental institutions for disaster management.

The way in which disaster relief is delivered after a natural disaster – the subject of chapter V – is also crucial in enhancing the capacity of local communities to manage future disasters. In Cuba, for instance, some 1,300 house roofs previously made of metal were substituted with wooden ones (for climatic reasons) and covered with around 282,200 square metres of zinc, for greater resistance. Local people were recruited and local suppliers used to ensure that recovery efforts were reliant on local resources and that affected communities would be better equipped to respond to future events. In the Maldives, the 2005 UN-EC reconstruction programmes generated 10,000 working days, mainly in construction activities. In Indonesia, the electrical system in the Maluku region was rehabilitated, thereby benefiting around 15,000 people, while the capacity of the state-owned electric company (PT PLN) was rebuilt to ensure future operation and maintenance in support of local economic opportunities.

# 5.

## EMERGENCY RELIEF and HUMANITARIAN ACTION

In 2005, the UN with EC support:

- **Protected people**

Assisted and protected millions of refugees, internally displaced and stateless people in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Middle East and the Caribbean. In particular, 2.7 million people in Darfur and 1.8 million people in the West Bank and Gaza were provided with food aid.

- **Resettled refugees**

Helped 3.5 million Afghan refugees to return home and begin rebuilding their lives. More than 300,000 African refugees were also assisted to return to their home countries in Angola, Burundi and Liberia, as well as in many other African states.

- **Assisted people with food aid**

Provided some 40 million people with food aid, including 26 million children below 18 years of age. In the Tsunami, at the height of the operation, in May 2005, the UN was supplying food to 2.24 million people.

- **Tackled forgotten crises**

Tackled forgotten or “silent” humanitarian crises around the globe, from Myanmar to Colombia, from Northern Uganda to Nepal. In Tanzania, 350,000 refugees, mainly of Burundian and Congolese origin, were assisted with humanitarian aid.

- **Coped with natural disasters**

Helped affected populations immediately after two of the biggest natural disasters in history: the Tsunami, which struck at the end of 2004, and the massive earthquake in South Asia. In Pakistan, the partnership provided an invaluable lifeline with the supply of shelter and medical assistance to some 3 million people and food to 745,000 people stranded by snow and landslides.

- **Coordinated humanitarian emergency responses**

Established appropriate response mechanisms at the onset of major emergencies within 6 to 24 hours. For instance, immediately after the Indian Ocean Earthquake and the Tsunami, the response system allowed for the rapid deployment of staff and assets. Over 35 countries, including the EU and the EC, dedicated 75 helicopters, 41 ships, 43 fixed-wing aircrafts and more than 30,000 troops (including medical teams, engineers, air traffic controllers and many other assets) to that relief effort.

Successive disasters around the world have concentrated international attention on governments’ capacity to alleviate the suffering of people affected by avoidable catastrophes. Humanitarian aid is a vital tool in helping governments to fulfil their tasks in crisis situations. Its core purpose is to protect civilian victims, minimize their suffering during times of crisis or conflict, and provide them with the opportunity to rebuild their lives thereafter. International law places particular emphasis on protection of vulnerable groups, including women, children and refugees.

### Strengthening capacity to promote international standards

The European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO) is one of the main UN’s interlocutors in the humanitarian sphere. A significant part of the UN partnership with the EC lies in its work within the Union and third countries, including in capacity-building, to ensure that international standards are met, for example in relation to refugee populations, as well as in the coordination and delivery of humanitarian assistance.

In this context, the UN worked with the EC and with governments of several EU Member States to strengthen the protection capacity of states to receive and protect refugees. This included enhancing refugees’ own self-reliance and expanding opportunities for lasting solutions – whether voluntary repatriation, settlement in the first country of asylum or resettlement in another country. The project, launched in Benin and Burkina Faso, Kenya and Tanzania, was a collaborative effort undertaken with governmental and nongovernmental partners to identify gaps in refugee protection. The project then moved on to make significant headway in filling these gaps, for instance by training partners in refugee status determination and in the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence. It also trained them in the use of new information technology for the registration of refugees, providing legal aid, and developing information materials for asylum-seekers. The methodology used to identify protection gaps in this project has now been adopted in many places around the world.



With reference to humanitarian action following major natural disasters, the UN and the EC have started working together to apply common standards for disasters assessment and coordination teams operating in parallel in the field, as well as applying guidelines on the use of military, civil-defence and civil protection assets.

## Responding to emergencies

The number and magnitude of natural disasters in 2005 serve as a stark reminder that people everywhere are vulnerable to sudden and life-threatening crises. People faced devastation in almost every corner of the globe: the massive Indian Ocean tsunami, the drought and locust infestation in Africa, the earthquake destruction in Pakistan and India, the hurricanes that battered Central America and the Caribbean, and floods across Europe and Asia. Hundreds of thousands of people lost their lives, millions their livelihoods, and many more are still traumatized by their experiences. The examples below highlight just some of the humanitarian interventions the UN-EC undertook jointly in 2005.

Whether in Lebanon or Sri Lanka, in the Central African Republic or East Timor, the European Commission's ability to provide emergency funding within days enabled UN staff to be on the spot immediately, providing life-saving assistance. In 2005 alone, approximately 40 million persons were provided with food aid as a result of the UN-EC partnership, including 26 million children below 18 years of age.

## Helping people affected by natural disasters

When the massive tsunami hit South-East Asia on 26 December 2004, killing 200,000 people and leaving immense destruction in its wake, the UN and the EU were first among the major actors to deal with this disaster. On 7 January 2005, at the exceptional meeting of EU Foreign Ministers, both the UN and the EC cooperated in fine-tuning the EU Action Plan on the response to the tsunami, ensuring coherence and complementarities of action to deliver effective and timely humanitarian action to the affected populations. At the height of the operation, in May 2005, the UN was providing food supplies for 2.24 million people.



*Tanzania - A child from Burundi receiving assistance in a refugee camp*



*Uganda - A woman transporting seeds back to her village*

Malnutrition and potential outbreaks of diseases were successfully averted among the surviving communities in the region, thanks to extensive and complex logistical deployment of 75 helicopters, 41 ships, 43 fixed-wing aircraft and more than 30,000 troops on the ground. They jointly moved 4,900 tonnes of relief cargo and provided 48,400 passenger trips for aid workers, governments and international donors. The number of people benefiting from free food distribution was halved from 1.2 million by December 2005.

In Indonesia, the EC-funded assistance supported initial needs assessments, bringing together staff to oversee coordination of donor contributions (with a view to establishing local networks and partnerships with local NGOs) and to set up training in vital areas such as boat building and aquaculture. The UN was able to immediately deploy its staff and distribute food to nearly 1.2 million people who had lost their homes and livelihoods as a result of the tsunami or the later earthquake off the northwest coast of Sumatra in March 2005.

It is worth noting that in Indonesia almost all UN food aid was purchased locally. This both supported the local economy and resulted in shorter delivery times, as well as generating substantial savings by avoiding regional and international freight costs. Moreover, support aimed at reducing dependency on food aid and restoring the livelihoods of more than 50,000 beneficiaries (including some 563 farmer groups) was also provided. In terms of public health measures, the UN-EC partnership made a significant contribution to preventing the spread of communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS. It also helped to reduce risks to environmental health, through the implementation of a clinical waste management programme, which targeted one million beneficiaries in 15 districts of northern Sumatra.

In Sri Lanka, over 260,000 survivors, mostly vulnerable people – such as the elderly, children separated from their families and women – were provided with emergency shelters and household items. Moreover, 2,000 fishermen were provided with boats, engines and fishnets, and 10,000 farmers had access to fertilizer and seeds, while some 1,600 families were provided with micro credit to resume their livelihoods. The institutional sustainability of these activities was ensured by a network of community-based organisations, through which most of the activities were implemented. In the Maldives, the UN provided water services and helped prevent disease by restoring the vaccine supply chain damaged during the floods.



Recovery efforts started as early as possible and often alongside the delivery of humanitarian assistance. In the course of 2005, alongside the provision of humanitarian aid targeting the most vulnerable members of the affected population, these programmes promoted the rehabilitation of livelihood and community infrastructure as people moved towards rebuilding their homes and villages.

To help extend the UN capabilities for effective emergency response, the EC supported the UN through general thematic funding in the areas of emergency needs assessment capacity, health and child protection in emergencies, protection to refugees, and humanitarian assistance coordination and information systems. For instance, for several years the EC has provided the UN with strong support to bolster its capacity to respond to emergencies. EC contributions have gone towards improving the UN's emergency management training course.

The EC and the UN have also joined forces in a number of other ways, including the UN Humanitarian Air Service which provides a common inter-agency air transport service to meet the transport needs of the humanitarian community as well as delivering critical assistance to populations affected by crises. The partnership is able to provide life-saving assistance, thanks to the combined strengths of the UN's capacity to dispatch and coordinate emergency teams in the field within six to 24 hours and the EC's ability to provide emergency funding within days.

This shared comparative advantage was evident in the response to the earthquake that devastated the Kashmir

region in October 2005, killing 70,000 people and leaving 2.5 million homeless, many in remote mountain villages. Air operations played a vital role in reaching the victims, alongside multiple other means, from four-wheel drive vehicles to pack mules. The EC partnership provided an invaluable lifeline to 745,000 people in Pakistan stranded by snow and landslides or forced to remain with their livestock. Sixty-five mobile storage tents were set up in the affected areas to ensure humanitarian relief delivery throughout the winter. One hundred and fifteen thousand plastic sheets and 21,600 tents, blankets and quilts, mattresses, kerosene stoves and fuel were delivered to people in impromptu settlements and in isolated areas, in the face of the harsh Himalayan winter. Sixty thousand households also received the inputs they needed (seeds, fertilizers and animal feed) to be ready for the following planting season, in order to take their first steps away from dependence on food aid.

The UN-EC partnership was also vital for the establishment of an information platform, from which an operational plan was devised and logistical capabilities (particularly air assets) were made available to the entire humanitarian community. This enabled delivery of critical items such as food, tents, seeds and tools, kitchen sets, winter clothing, blankets and tools to people desperately in need.

## Coping with man-made disasters

One of the most important contributions of the EC to the UN's work was in Sudan, where continued large-scale humanitarian assistance was essential to consolidate the

### ***After the Tsunami: rebuilding quickly and better***

*When the December 2004 tsunami crashed ashore, it destroyed not only lives but also livelihoods, mostly in rice and cattle farming and in aquaculture. Two UN-EC projects have supported more than 60,000 farmer and fisher families in countries affected by the wave as well as on nearby Nias Island.*

*Jamil Yahya, 37, lost six cattle and his barn to the tsunami, while his rice field was ruined by salt water. He and hundreds of fellow farmers received cows and buffalo, farming*

*supplies and training in improved animal husbandry from one of the projects. "I didn't expect this at all," he says. "I am very thankful to the project and hope to improve my income now."*

*The projects helped people to re-cultivate their land with improved seed and fertilizer; rehabilitate veterinary services; return to the seas with high-quality fishing boats and equipment; restart aquaculture activities in recovered fish ponds; and rehabilitate coastal areas with mangrove.*

January 2005 peace agreement. The agreement brought an end to decades of war in southern Sudan, responding to the dramatic crisis in Darfur in the west of the country and addressing vulnerability and food insecurity among populations in the north.

EC support made it possible for UN agencies to ensure that peace dividends could reach populations in southern Sudan, while sustaining the lifeline of humanitarian assistance in Darfur, where food assistance and other non-food items were delivered to 2.75 million people. A food security and nutrition assessment in Darfur in September 2005 confirmed significant improvements in the nutritional status of beneficiaries. The crude mortality rate dropped from 0.75 to 0.46 deaths per 10,000 people per day, while acute malnutrition among children under five decreased from 21.8 percent to 11.9 percent. These improvements were due directly to humanitarian assistance, in a year that began with a poor harvest and widespread predictions of famine. The health situation of the local population was constantly monitored, thanks to the establishment of reporting units for Early Warning and Alert Response Surveillance (EWARS) system in Greater Darfur, covering approximately 1.5 million people. Moreover 75 percent of all accessible hospitals, including 84 fixed health centres and 36 mobile centres, were rehabilitated and made able to provide primary health care.

In Northern Sudan, the UN delivered health, nutrition and water and sanitation services to 300,000 conflict-affected populations of mostly women and children, including internally displaced, refugees and host communities. Moreover 19,000 vulnerable households received assorted vegetable seeds, while gardening tools were distributed to 8,200 households and veterinary services (including vitamins, feed, veterinary drugs and salt licks) were provided to 29,000 donkey-owning households.

In 2005, Niger suffered a severe food crisis. This was aggravated by drought and locust invasions, although it originated from deep-rooted structural problems that had long eroded peoples' livelihoods. The EC supported UN food-assistance programmes that helped 2.4 million highly vulnerable people. A nutritional survey indicated that 15.3 percent of Nigerian children suffer from global acute malnutrition, reaching nearly 18 percent in some areas of the country, widely surpassing the emergency threshold of 10 percent defined by the World Health Organisation. Priority was therefore given to selective feeding in supplementary and therapeutic centres for malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women. This feeding complemented the general food distributions, as part of a twin-track approach to tackling food insecurity and malnutrition. The programme reached some 433,700 children and 86,700

## Starting over in Afghanistan

*Not long ago, the Tangi Cluster was desolate and barren. Today, thanks to EC-UN support, life is flourishing in this small patch of desert located 10 kilometres from Jalalabad, in eastern Afghanistan.*

*This is a hard-won victory for a community of more than 280 former refugee families who defied nature with their tireless determination. The government closure of 30 refugee camps in Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Area (FATA) in September 2006 left these returnees and more than 100,000 others ill-prepared to return to Afghanistan. After more than 25 years in exile, most had lost social networks and support systems as well as land and homes.*

*Concerned about their needs and the onset of Afghanistan's harsh winter, the UN met with the group soon after their*

*arrival to assess the situation. The UN provided shelter materials, water points and relief items, purchased with financing from the European Commission along with other donors. The men found work in Jalalabad or nearby villages and the whole community came together to develop what is now a proper township with rows of well-constructed houses, trees growing everywhere and a new mosque. Alemullah, who is 20 years-old, takes great pride as he looks out on his growing community. "In a refugee camp, you feel like a worthless person, but at home you are a worthy citizen," he says.*

*In total, more than 4.6 million Afghans have returned from exile since UNHCR began assisting voluntary repatriation in 2002. The European Commission has supported this process from the very start.*



*Indonesia - An aerial view of the vast destruction of the Indonesian coast in Banda Aceh*



*Indonesia - Fishermen from Banda Aceh repairing their boats after the Tsunami*



### *Sri Lanka - Humanitarian aid for the internally displaced*



women in 2005. The UN-EC partnership also supported the local government in developing a project that gathered and analyzed statistical and pertinent nutritional information, allowing developers and policy-makers to make better-informed decisions on how to design projects that will improve childhood nutrition and household income. This project has the potential to improve the food security and nutrition of almost 200,000 agro-pastoralists.

As noted at the beginning of this report, the EC and the UN work together in a number of difficult political contexts. This includes the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), where in 2005 the UN-EC partnership helped 4.6 million North Koreans, most of them children and women. The partnership enabled production of some 58,400 tonnes of blended foods through 19 local food production factories. This aid was targeted at children, who represented more than 56 percent of the final beneficiaries. EC-funded UN support also ensured that women and children nationwide received prompt treatment from uninterrupted supply and on-time delivery of medicines, medical materials, equipment and food supplementation, such as the 40,000 severely malnourished children in rehabilitation centres nationwide who benefited from the regular and uninterrupted supply of therapeutic milk. Children attending childcare institutions, children admitted to hospitals, and pregnant/lactating mothers received micronutrient fortified food. More than 73,000 families (including 21,000 under-five children and 5,200 pregnant women) had access to preventive and basic curative health care services including ante-natal care and post-natal care.

In addition, the training component improved the quality of care to pregnant women and neonates, as well as the quality of laboratory diagnostic services. Improved access to quality essential health services at the community level was achieved through the rehabilitation, upgrading and the provision of equipment to 12 hospitals, three laboratories and three blood banks.

### ***A forgotten crisis: Bhutan and Nepal***

*In 2005, more than 30 percent of EC Humanitarian Aid's budget channelled through the UN was devoted to 'forgotten crises', which received little media attention. Nepal is one such crisis – along with others, such as Myanmar, the Northern Caucasus, Colombia and the Western Saharan refugees. UN-EC humanitarian aid is based on the principles of neutrality, impartiality and non-discrimination, signalling international support and commitment to populations for the resolution of prolonged refugee situations and helping victims of forgotten crises.*

*Food assistance to Bhutanese refugees in Nepal reached*

*103,610 people over the year, which is 98 percent of the registered refugees. Whenever possible, the UN-EC partnership aimed at integrating humanitarian aid into longer-term development programmes. While the national policy prohibiting refugees to officially engage in economic activities outside the camps was maintained, the UN managed to implement some capacity building programmes for the refugees. A total of 25,126 beneficiaries including 138 local people benefited from life skills training in activities such as gardening, loan schemes, auxiliary nursing and midwifery and other vocational training.*

# CONCLUSIONS

**“The true measure of the success for the United Nations is not how much we promise, but how much we deliver for those who need us most.”**

(United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon)<sup>[23]</sup>

This report is the first-ever effort to capture the global results of the UN’s partnership with the EU, and specifically with the European Commission, in the fields of development and humanitarian cooperation. Until now, there has been no picture of the overall results obtained through the partnership. While the results captured in this report represent only a sample of what has been achieved by the EC and UN working together, they nevertheless convey the breadth and depth of the UN-EC portfolio. For the first time, the partners and their stakeholders can have a view of the partnership in the field. This is of crucial importance for both partners, since normally the results achieved with EC financing are periodically communicated by each UN agency, usually at the level of individual programmes.

## **An evolving relationship based on added value**

The report provides ample evidence of a rich collaboration that has grown considerably in recent years. This has been aided by the de-concentration process within the Commission, a process that has facilitated closer institutional cooperation at the country level, and by the revised Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA) that made the cooperation more efficient. All the available evidence points to two sets of institutions that know each other better than ever before, and are thus able to get the best from their partnership in support of development outcomes for the poor.

The evidence from the ground suggests there are good reasons for this partnership and that each party benefited from the strengths of the other. The EC collaborated extensively with the UN in areas where the presence of

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[23] Excerpt from Mr. Ban Ki-moon’s address on his appointment as Secretary-General of the United Nations, on 13 October 2006

UN agencies was vital for delivery of assistance. This collaboration proved particularly fruitful for instance in certain sensitive situations, where the impartiality of the UN brought a particular added value, and in situations where the UN had leading expertise.

As the report shows, time and again the EC proved an indispensable partner to the UN when carrying out its mandated tasks as requested by EU governments. EC emergency funding helped ensure immediate responses to needs, while the political support and the scale of EC financing to interventions, for example in post-conflict environments or in elections, helped secure action and large-scale programmes on the ground.

### **Taking the discussion forward**

The UN Brussels team undertook this reporting exercise to make the results of the partnership visible to policy-makers and the public in Europe. The team's intention was both to reinforce the UN's public accountability, as well as to provide material upon which to further engage in and develop the relationship. In using this report for the latter purpose, one should recall that the credit for these development outcomes are to be attributed first and foremost to the action of developing country governments and countries supported by the partnership, and that the EC and UN frequently cooperated within multi-stakeholder efforts. A full understanding of the results of the UN-EC partnership requires knowledge of the country contexts from which they derive. To make the most of the material collected for this exercise, it could be useful to revisit the cooperation in particular countries and to extract general lessons from the experience of the collaboration.

### **The agenda ahead**

In looking ahead, a number of areas are likely to guide the further evolution of the partnership between the EU and the UN:

Achieving the MDGs: The UN and EU partnership is clearly oriented towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, with EC-supported UN interventions covering all major areas of the 2015 targets. As numerous reports indicate, there is considerable urgency to act and mobilize non-traditional partners, including those from the private sector, if the Goals set in 2000 are to be achieved.

The UN and the EU have particular responsibilities as multilateral institutions to further this agenda globally, as well as to help individual countries deliver on the MDGs.

Delivering development outcomes effectively: The EU and the UN are already highly committed to improving development effectiveness, in line with the Paris Agenda (referred to in the introduction to this report). Their partnership has already helped further this agenda, including through promoting country ownership of their own development agendas, through enhanced coordination mechanisms globally and in the field, and through the piloting of innovative financial coordination mechanisms that drastically reduce transaction costs. The EC and UN are natural partners in this agenda and should seek additional ways of deepening their cooperation specifically in this area.

The UN "Delivering as One": As the internal UN reform intensifies, the UN development and humanitarian organisations will be working intensively to enhance programmatic coherence and reduce institutional fragmentation in the field, with the aim of delivering through one national development programme. The UN anticipates, and welcomes, the institutions of the European Union, as a major partner in its endeavours to pilot new approaches in the context of the UN reform agenda.

### **Making a difference**

Through their partnership in the field, the UN and the European Commission, working with their developing country and donor partners, have made a tangible difference in the lives of millions of people. In so doing, they have translated into practice and actions on the ground the universal values and essential human rights that unite them as partners. Continued promotion of these values has never been more important than in today's complex world.

The United Nations remains highly appreciative of the extensive support received from the European Union, its institutions, and the citizens of Europe.











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