



# Improving Lives

Results from the partnership  
of the United Nations and the  
European Commission in 2006

United Nations



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## Foreword by United Nations Deputy Secretary-General



It gives me great pleasure to present this second annual report on the significant and concrete results of the partnership between the United Nations and the European Commission. Our partnership covers more than 100 countries around the world, in a broad range of areas that are central to human development. These include upholding human rights and international standards; protecting people in humanitarian crises; recovery from crises and natural disasters; investing in health, education, water and sanitation; and strengthening governance and national capacities.

Prepared by the UN team in Brussels, the report aims to make the results of our partnership visible to policymakers and citizens of Europe. In this way, we can reinforce our public accountability to those who helped make this effective partnership possible.

The United Nations and the European Commission are united by common values and principles - by a shared commitment to the essential rights and freedoms outlined in the Charter of the United Nations. We pursue common objectives such as the Millennium Development Goals, and have a shared responsibility for ensuring that we work to reach them in the most effective way.

Our institutions are also accountable to similar constituencies: to the Governments and societies we serve; and to the Governments and, ultimately, the citizens, whose taxes fund our work. The citizens of Europe have demonstrated exceptional solidarity with the world's poor, and steadfast support for the agenda of the United Nations. Ultimately, it is to these people, and to those who represent them and shape the policy of Europe, that this report is directed. I express particular thanks to the leaders of the European Commission, whose extensive cooperation with the UN family has helped translate our goals into reality for many millions of people.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Asha-Rose Migiro". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro  
Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

## Foreword by European Commissioners Benita Ferrero-Waldner and Louis Michel



We warmly welcome this report produced by the UN team in Brussels portraying achievements of the extensive cooperation between the European Commission and UN agencies, funds, and programmes in many different parts of the world.

The Commission has a broad and multifaceted relationship with the United Nations family. Our commitment to the UN is based on shared values and strongly convergent objectives in many areas and translates into an active partnership with the UN in operational, normative, and policy work, backed up by strong financial support.

The country-level cooperation, which is the focus of this report, represents a very important component of our partnership with the UN as it is the one that has the most direct and tangible impact on the lives of people in need. With around Euros 1.3 billion of Commission's support for joint or delegated activities, the UN is today a key partner for the Commission in the implementation of the EU external assistance. Together, the Commission and the UN have addressed crises and humanitarian emergencies, cooperated in difficult conflict and post-conflict situations, and helped many developing countries to tackle their development challenges. Together our actions are improving and saving lives all over the world.

Beyond this close operational relationship, our partnership also extends to valuable policy dialogue and technical cooperation in a broad range of areas, such as security and peace-building, development, humanitarian aid, environmental sustainability, human rights, health and labour issues, the fight against drugs and crime, terrorism, transport, and nuclear energy. The EU is deeply committed to building a strong UN. In this context, it is supportive of the process of reform underway in the UN to develop greater coherence in the delivery of development and humanitarian assistance.

Together with our UN counterparts and our partner countries, we are determined to go further in our cooperation to increase effectiveness and also to ensure greater visibility. This report is a valuable contribution to that objective.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Ferrero-Waldner'.

Benita Ferrero-Waldner  
Commissioner for External Relations  
and European Neighbourhood Policy

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Michel'.

Louis Michel  
Commissioner for Development and  
Humanitarian Aid

## Introduction from the Director of the United Nations in Brussels



The UN Team in Brussels is convinced that the partnership between the United Nations and the European Commission deserves to be more visible to citizens and policy makers, especially those of the European Union, who may not be fully informed of the joint work on the ground, aiming at improving the lives of millions of human beings in over 100 countries.

This report attempts to go some way in that direction, exposing the results of that partnership in 2006, in the domains of humanitarian and development assistance, conflict prevention and post-conflict recovery, on the basis of evidence collected in each of the countries where the joint work has been applied. Frequently, the results were achieved in collaboration with other partners and with civil society organizations. In all cases, the achievements were made possible first and foremost through the efforts of the governments and citizens of the countries concerned. What was achieved rightly belongs to those governments and their societies.

The European Commission's support of the multilateral agenda and of the work of the United Nations has become increasingly vibrant and essential. Both institutions strive to deepen and improve their cooperation even further. The significant findings of this report constitute, in my opinion, a clear encouragement to do so.

Antonio Vigilante  
Director

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# Overview of the partnership





## Overview of the partnership

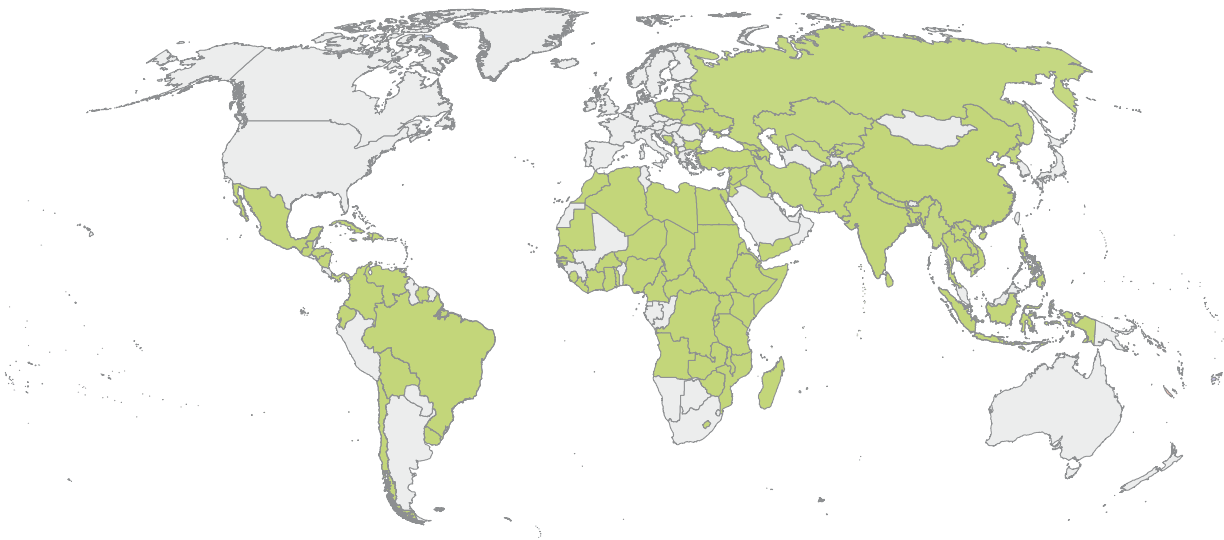
The European Union (EU) is a crucial and highly valued partner of the United Nations (UN). The EU shares and promotes the values that the UN stands for, and together the EU member states and the European Commission channel significant resources to support the UN's work. A deep commitment to multilateralism and to a strong UN lies at the heart of the EU's policies.

In 2000, at the UN Millennium Summit, the world's leaders made a wide-ranging set of commitments in the Millennium Declaration\*. Building on the UN Charter\*, they committed to act for the achievement of peace, security and disarmament; development and poverty eradication; protection of our common environment; human rights, democracy and good governance; protection of the vulnerable; and meeting the special needs of Africa.

The European Union<sup>1</sup> has been a key partner to the United Nations in each of these critical domains. The relationship with the EU is indispensable to the UN's work and to the achievement of the objectives set out in the Millennium Declaration.

This report is the second produced by the UN team in Brussels<sup>2</sup>. It focuses on a vital component of the partnership between the United Nations and the European Union, namely the cooperation which exists between the UN family and the European Commission in the fields of humanitarian and development assistance and crisis prevention. It seeks to convey the many results that, in working together, the Commission and the United Nations helped governments and their societies achieve in 2006<sup>3</sup>.

Countries where the European Commission funds United Nations Programmes<sup>4</sup>



source: United Nations Office Brussels 2006

The UN Commission partnership spans all regions of the world. In 2006, the Commission approved more than Euros 1.3 billion for the implementation of its programmes in 105 countries, including least-developed, middle-income and transition countries where EC country delegations cooperate directly with the UN country teams. The partnership also includes policy dialogue and cooperation at the global level as well as around issues internal to the European Union, such as asylum, health, and decent work.

\* Throughout the text, endnotes are used to refer to relevant documents - UN conventions, Commission communications, policies and tools. These can be found at the end of this report.

- 1 The European Union is a supranational and intergovernmental union of 27 democratic member states of Europe. The European Commission 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.
- 2 The first report on 2005 results - 'The partnership between the UN and the EU: The United Nations and the European Commission working together in Development and Humanitarian Cooperation' - was launched in Strasbourg and Brussels in March, 2007.
- 3 References in the report to the United Nations (UN) refer to 23 specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the UN that received funds from the European Commission in 2006, listed on the back cover of this publication.
- 4 The map refers to year 2006 and does not include regional programmes.

The chapters that follow convey the results of the UN cooperation with the European Commission on a broad range of areas that are central to human development. These include (chapter 2) Upholding human rights and international standards, which are integrated into all UN-Commission cooperation; (3) Saving lives and protecting people in emergency and humanitarian crises; (4) Prevention of- and recovery from conflict and natural disasters; (5) Investing in health, education, water and sanitation; (6) Promoting sustainable livelihoods and food security through rural and enterprise development and trade; (7) and Strengthening governance and state capacities to respond to the rights and needs of their populations. The report concludes with suggested ways in which to deepen the United Nations-European Commission partnership. The results cited illustrate the range of the cooperation without claiming to exhaustively capture all the results that were achieved. More than Euros 750 million of Commission funding was disbursed in 2006 in support of these results.

To contextualize these results, it is worth reflecting on the inter-institutional and policy context within which this programmatic cooperation takes place. The following paragraphs look at why the cooperation exists, considering the motivations behind the partnership; how it functions, including means through which cooperation has been fostered; what the partnership consists of in its broadest sense; and with whom the UN works.

### Why: Motivations for the partnership between the United Nations and European Commission

The UN and the Commission are united by shared values, shared objectives and shared responsibilities. The partnership between them is founded first and foremost on shared aspirations and common objectives.

#### Shared values

Critical to both parties is the commitment to promote and mainstream the universal values outlined in the

Universal Declaration of Human Rights and developed in subsequent international conventions\*. Through the Millennium Declaration in 2000, world leaders confirmed the values essential to international relations in the 21st century:

- **Freedom:** the right to live in dignity, free from hunger, fear of violence, oppression or injustice;
- **Equality:** the opportunity for individuals and nations to benefit from development, with equal rights and opportunities between men and women;
- **Solidarity:** management of global challenges according to the principles of equity and social justice;
- **Tolerance:** respect for diversity of belief, culture and language as a precious asset of humanity;
- **Respect for nature:** managing natural resources according to the precepts of sustainable development;
- **Shared responsibility:** for worldwide economic and social development, international peace and security.

These values have motivated and shaped the extensive partnership that exists today between the UN and the member states and institutions of the European Union. The core values of the United Nations were at the heart of the European integration project from its inception. The 1957 Treaty of Rome that established the European Community clearly stated Europe's commitment to the objectives of the United Nations\*. The EU has made it clear that democracy and human rights are universal values, inextricably linked to poverty alleviation, and vital for conflict prevention and recovery.

#### Shared objectives in development

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were derived from the Millennium Summit Declaration and constitute the world's targets for dramatically reducing extreme poverty by 2015. Together with commitments agreed at the main UN Summits, the MDGs represent a cornerstone of the EU's relationship with the United Nations in the domains of humanitarian assistance, development cooperation and conflict prevention. They are also a guiding framework for the cooperation between the European Commission and the UN in the field, which is the principal focus of this report.

**The Millennium Development Goals** 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 recall basic human rights, such as the rights of each person to health, education, shelter and security, pledged in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They highlight the crucial importance of gender equality and empowerment of women to combat poverty, hunger and disease and stimulate development that is truly sustainable.

### 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 the maternal mortality ratio by three-quarters.
- Achieve universal access to reproductive health.

### 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 the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water by half.
- Achieve significant improvement in lives for at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.

### 8. Develop a global partnership for development

- Develop further 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.

Two pillars of the European Union's external policy serve to demonstrate the convergence in fundamental objectives of the EU and UN: the European Common Foreign and Security Policy and the European Consensus for Development\*.

The European Common Foreign and Security Policy is the second pillar of the European Union. Its five fundamental principles include the willingness to 'safeguard the common values, fundamental interests, independence and integrity of the Union in conformity with the principle of the United Nations Charter' and to 'preserve peace and strengthen international security, in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter'. Effective multilateralism is a strategic objective of the European Security Strategy, which states that 'the fundamental framework for international relations is the UN Charter. Strengthening the UN, equipping it to fulfil its responsibilities and to act effectively, must be a European priority'\*

The European Consensus for Development provides a common vision for the EU member states and institutions on development cooperation. It underlines the central role of the MDGs and poverty alleviation as core objectives of development cooperation. The Consensus reflects a shared understanding with the UN that development solutions are about much more than economic growth which, while necessary, cannot replace the essential investment in people to build their capabilities to live their lives according to their needs and interests.

There is further convergence between the European Union and the United Nations around the EU commitment to policy coherence for development, for example, ensuring that other policies are supportive of development policy objectives, particularly those with potential to accelerate progress towards the MDGs, inter alia trade, agriculture, energy and the environment, social dimensions of globalization, security and migration\*.

The European Union, including the Commission, has been an active supporter of the UN internal reform process, demonstrated by the Commission's Communication 'The 2005 UN Summit – Addressing the global challenges and making a success of the reformed UN\*'. 'In November 2006, the UN Secretary-General made public the Report of the High-Level Panel on UN system-wide coherence in the area of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment\*, the recommendations of which aim at increasing the coherence and thus impact of the UN's work. The Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid participated in the Panel in his personal capacity, alongside UN member state representatives. The panel recommendations are being debated inter-governmentally. Eight developing-

country governments chose to act as pilots for reform of the UN at country level: the Commission has engaged with this country-level reform process alongside other partners.

### Shared responsibilities for aid effectiveness

The UN and the European Commission share a commitment to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness\*. The Declaration constitutes a roadmap to improve the quality and impact of aid, and improve accountability. Both donors and recipients of aid are mutually accountable for publicly monitored commitments around: (a) ownership - partner countries exercise leadership over their own development; (b) alignment - donors base their support on partner countries' national development strategies, institutions and procedures; (c) harmonization - donors' actions are more harmonised, transparent and collectively effective; (d) results - all partners manage resources for results; and (e) mutual accountability.

As can be seen in following chapters, the UN's partnership with the European Commission contributes directly to commitments under the Paris Declaration. The UN and the Commission routinely conduct joint field missions, including those to assess needs in post-crisis settings and to formulate and monitor programmes. They have developed joint tools in areas ranging from crop assessments to electoral support, and they regularly exchange analyses and best practice. In 2006, the Commission estimated that three-quarters of the interventions it conducted with international organizations such as the UN involved a range of partners, utilizing the organizations' potential for donor coordination, promoting harmonized approaches and dramatically reducing transaction costs for the host government in many cases.

### How: Instruments that have fostered the UN's partnership with the European Union

EU Communications in 2001 on 'Building an effective partnership with the UN in the fields of development and humanitarian affairs' and 2003 on 'The European Union and the United Nations: The choice for multilateralism'\* provided a basis for developing more structured relations with the UN. Notable examples include identifying multilateralism as a basic principle of the EU's foreign policy and calling for a comprehensive strengthening and mainstreaming of EU-UN relations, through systematic policy dialogue, greater cooperation in the field, better crisis management and prevention, and strategic partnerships between the Commission and

selected UN organizations.

The Communications paved the way for a more systematic and in-depth cooperation at all levels. There is now a well-established regular dialogue at the highest levels between the Offices of the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General and the European Council and Commission, bi-annual meetings of the EU-UN Steering Committee on crisis management and strategic partnership arrangements as well as other cooperation agreements with several specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the UN, aimed at strengthening cooperation at all levels<sup>5</sup>. The Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA), agreed in 2003 between the UN and the European Commission\*, provides a single shared legal, financial and administrative framework for all programmatic cooperation between the Commission and the UN.

### Who: The UN's partners in the EU

The European Union, through its member states and its institutions, participates in all areas of activity of the UN, including the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and bodies such as the new Peacebuilding Commission\* and the Human Rights Council\*. The European Commission cooperates *inter alia* with the Departments of Political Affairs, Peace Keeping and Economic and Social Affairs of the UN Secretariat, and with the programmes, funds and specialised agencies. A key component of its cooperation lies at field level, with the UN country teams in more than one hundred countries.

### European Parliament

The European Parliament (EP) has an active role in the work of the United Nations, including through annual visits to the General Assembly and interaction with the UN through its committees. In 2006, at the Parliament's request, the UN engaged with its committees on civil liberties, justice and home affairs, development, employment and social affairs, environment, public health and food safety, foreign affairs, international trade, and women's rights and gender equality; the subcommittees on human rights and security and defence; the EU-UN working group, and geographical groups. In the same year, the close working relationship between the UN and the Presidency and Secretary-General of the Parliament resulted in the signature of an agreement for a training exchange of staff between the Parliament and UN field representations working on national parliamentary reform programmes.

### European Council

In 2006, there was close and continuous cooperation

between the UN and the Council of the European Union. This included cooperation with the office of the High Representative and Secretary-General; with the Directorate units responsible for enlargement, development and the ACP, food aid, the UN, human rights and counter-terrorism, defence, civilian crisis management and coordination; with geographical divisions, such as desk-to-desk dialogues on conflict prevention; and with committees of member states at their request. Moreover UN senior staff provided updates to member states on ongoing or planned joint EU-UN peacekeeping operations.

### European Commission

Cooperation, including financial cooperation, is particularly developed between the UN and the Commission. This relates to the European Union's external relations with partner countries in the developing world, EU neighbourhood, and candidate and potential candidate countries for EU accession.

Analysis of 2006 activities reveals some core characteristics of the programmatic cooperation between the UN and the European Commission, regarding collaboration in development and humanitarian assistance. As in previous years, within an overall framework of poverty alleviation, cooperation focused on four areas: (a) sensitive development issues associated with strengthening democracy – electoral assistance, reform of the judiciary, cross-border capacity building – that benefit from and in several cases require the legitimacy and impartiality of the UN; (b) fragile country situations – where the partnership leveraged the combined institutional presence and the UN's humanitarian and development mandates to facilitate countries' transition out of crises; (c) themes such as health, education, food security, decent work, human rights, peace-building and conflict prevention – themes where the UN has mandates for global action as well as recognized expertise; and (d) issues requiring coordination across a large group of partners. In this context, the Commission frequently supported the UN's role in donor coordination in support of host country governments. Table 1 provides an illustration of the extensive partnership established with those parts of the Commission most directly engaged in external cooperation, namely the Directorates General for Development, Enlargement, External Relations, and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), Trade and the EuropeAid Co-operation Office, which compose the RELEX Family.

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<sup>5</sup> To date, six strategic partnership agreements have been signed, with the UNDP, WHO, ILO and FAO (2004), UNHCR and WFP (2005). UNEP signed an MoU in 2004, while conventions have existed between the European Community and UNRWA since 1971.

**Table 1**

**Cooperation between the United Nations<sup>6</sup> and the External Relations family of the European Commission in 2006**

- Policy and programming dialogue on key aspects of human development and trade-related assistance in the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific countries, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Middle East, Southern Mediterranean, and Latin America
- Programming in all major humanitarian situations, including Commission support to UN response capacity
- Desk-to-desk dialogues with country teams
- Engagement on a wide range of policy areas, including: food security, agricultural development, health, education, social cohesion, decent work, trade, investment, competition, regional integration, intellectual property rights, migration and asylum, child protection, human rights, governance, electoral processes, peace-building, conflict prevention and crisis management, control of small arms and light weapons, drug and crime strategies, environment-security linkages, post-crisis demobilization, reintegration, rehabilitation and recovery, humanitarian coordination for immediate response, disaster prevention and mitigation
- Implementation of external assistance programmes, joint monitoring and evaluation of programmes
- Joint training, lessons learned and knowledge networking
- Link between UN and EU Export Helpdesk to facilitate access of developing countries to EU markets
- UN guidance on application of core labour standards by EU partner countries in EU trade policies

While much of the cooperation between the UN and the Commission lies in the field of external policy and cooperation in third countries, collaboration with the UN is present in many other areas of the Commission's work. Crucial synergies exist between the United Nations' responsibility for the setting, promotion and upholding of international standards and the role of the European Union and the Commission in formulating those standards as well as ensuring their implementation at EU lev-

el. Moreover, the nature of today's challenges, for example in the fields of the environment, migration, health and globalization, has blurred distinctions between what might be considered purely internal affairs of the Community and areas covered by the UN. While these aspects are largely beyond the scope of this report, Table 2 illustrates the type of cooperation that takes place with at least 15 Directorate-Generals and services of the Commission outside the External affairs family.

**Key results of the partnership**

The following chapters focus principally on the results that the United Nations-Commission partnership delivered on the ground in 2006, in developing countries and countries in transition. Contributions made by the partnership affected the lives of many millions of people, in the following ways:

**Saved lives**

In 2006, the Commission worked with the United Nations in humanitarian emergencies and crises across the world. Thanks in part to the Commission's swift provision of emergency funding, the UN was able to dispatch emergency teams within six to 24 hours of emergencies occurring. In the same year, the UN humanitarian air service transported 26,000 metric tons of urgent humanitarian supplies and 135,000 humanitarian workers. Some 43 million people received food aid, including 25.5

million children, reducing the risk of malnutrition: acute malnutrition rates in Niger fell from 15.3% in November 2005 to 10.3% in November 2006, partially as a result of food aid and delivery of seeds to promote food security. Outbreaks of communicable diseases were contained by immediate action to secure clean water supplies and emergency immunization. In Angola, 100,000 cholera-affected people were treated while the delivery of 13,000 metric tons of medical supplies helped reduce mortality rates from 6% in June 2006 to 2.6% in December of the same year. Nearly 1.8 million people in Burkina Faso were vaccinated in response to an outbreak of meningococcal disease. The UN and Commission jointly developed needs assessment and early-warning tools, carried out 17 comprehensive food-security and vulnerability analyses, and supported national early-warning systems, thereby helping national and international actors to be better informed, prepared, and able to target their interventions based on accurate assessments of needs.

<sup>6</sup> Includes the UN specialized agencies, funds and programmes.

## Protected people

The UN and the Commission made it a priority to promote and protect the rights of people, particularly those prone to vulnerability including women, refugees and children. In 2006, they helped build refugee protection capacity in third countries and strengthen the protection of rights of internally displaced people. Thanks to Commission and other donor assistance, the UN directly supported over 33 million refugees, internally displaced and stateless people. Some 150,000 refugees benefited from new registration software, now rolled out globally, that facilitated their access to identification documents and essential services. Nearly 29,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and 139,000 refugees from Afghanistan were assisted in their repatriation and resettlement in their home communities. Children, often at their most vulnerable in crisis situations, were identified as priorities for protection. A registration database helped strengthen the care that children received in crisis situations and reunite them with their families where possible. In Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia, the Commission worked with the UN to help more than 2,000 children, formerly used by armed forces, to reintegrate and recover their lives. The Commission contributed to UN monitoring of grave violations of children's rights, and supported a worldwide UN study highlighting violence against children and facilitating the voice of children themselves to be heard.

## Helped accelerate the return to normality after crises

UN and Commission joint action helped strengthen the early recovery of countries from conflict in ways that also reduced the likelihood of their return to violence. Across the world, some 49 million square metres of land were cleared of mines, freeing up this land for resettlement and for agricultural development. Clearance of 13,000 square metres of land in Sudan reduced the number of victims of unexploded mines by 84% in 2006 compared with previous years. In the Western Balkans, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons was curbed and controlled by tighter regional cooperation. In Liberia, rehabilitation of over 1,660 km of roads provided access to remote areas hitherto blocked, while the planting of some 4,035 hectares of rice and vegetables helped people recover their livelihoods. Together, the Commission and the UN helped jumpstart economic recovery after natural disasters. In Sri Lanka, around 4,460 people contributed to and benefited from rehabilitation of community infrastructure. With cash support from the Commission and other donors, in 2006 the UN purchased nearly 780,000 metric tons of food on African markets, boosting local production.

## Invested in people's development, their environment and their livelihoods

Together, the UN and the Commission focused on help-

ing people develop their capabilities. Access to quality education was improved through training of some 500 teachers in Somalia, improving school curricula there and in Comoros, and rehabilitating schools, including over 80 in Iraq. School meals for some five million children helped keep them in school and improve their learning abilities. For many thousands of refugee children, UN-Commission support for schooling provided them with some semblance of normality.

Crises offered a window of opportunity to increase participation in education including that of girls: in post-earthquake Pakistan, the restoration and improvement of education services resulted in enrolment of an additional 30% of children. In Iraq, 4.5 million pupils in 14,000 primary schools received learning materials, while 21,000 adolescents accessed life-skills education and training in trades. Regarding health, the UN and Commission helped over 50 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries to improve the availability, affordability, safety and rational use of medicines. Together with other partners, they helped mobilize US\$ 1.9 bn for avian and human influenza, and they supported priority countries with integrated disease surveillance systems to control and respond to any outbreaks of the disease.

The UN-Commission partnership delivered 2.1 billion doses of oral polio vaccine to some 375 million children. It supported all African countries in developing a roadmap to deliver universal access to sexual and reproductive health services by 2015. Together, the Commission and the UN secured access to safe drinking water for some 2.5 million people in Southern Sudan, and around 65,000 people in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Environmentally sustainable development was promoted in the Carpathians, with support to the Carpathian Convention that provided a regional framework for cooperation in local and regional development. UN-Commission support for raising the quality of the fisheries industry to international standards enabled Bangladesh to access international markets again.

## Promoted international human rights and democracy

The UN and the Commission worked hand in hand to promote and mainstream the rights of women, refugees, children and workers into European policy and practice, Europe's relations with third countries, and the policies of pre-accession countries, as well as through capacity building of developing countries and countries in transition. The partnership supported the establishment of national human-rights institutions in Georgia, Mexico and Morocco, and the issuance by the government of Bangladesh of some 63 million birth certificates.

The partnership did much to contribute to the deepening of democracy and good governance in third countries. In 2006, with the support of the Commission and other partners, the UN helped around 41 million people to cast their vote in national and local elections, and

consolidated capacities of electoral institutions in ten countries. It supported parliaments to exercise their role in overseeing government and representing the voice of the people. Physical security was supported in Afghanistan through the payment of some 63,600 police officers in all 34 provinces. Training of some 600 officers in central Asian republics on land border-management issues helped the detection of illegal trafficking, while in Ukraine training of border guards incorporated rights-based approaches to HIV/AIDS. The partnership helped promote access and build the capacities for civil society to participate in development policy and peace-building. Over 275 civil-society entities in Afghanistan were supported as agents of conflict prevention. In Indonesia, a new broadcast media centre raised professional standards across the country.

4 Strengthening their technical capacities through sharing knowledge and good practices, joint training of staff and partners, and secondments and exchange of staff.

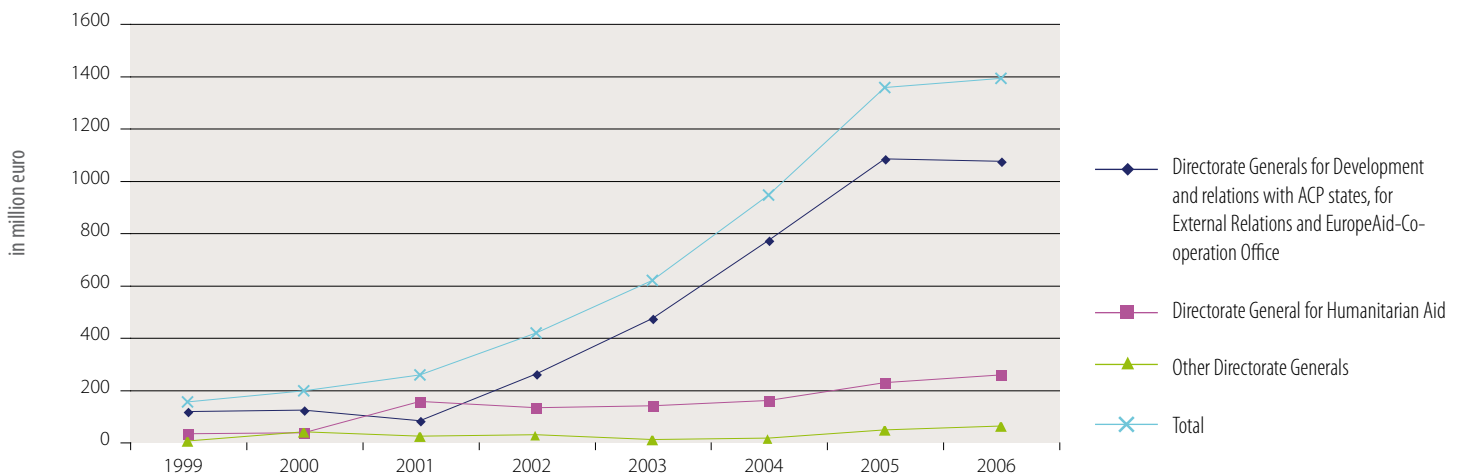
Many results that the partnership achieved in individual countries relied on a regional approach. This was particularly the case, for example, in capacity building for border control on heroin routes in Central Asia, promotion of social cohesion in Latin America, demobilization of child soldiers in the Mano River area, nutritional surveys in Africa, and access to environmental information in Europe. The UN believes there are both good reasons and considerable scope for expanding its interaction with the Commission at the regional and sub-regional levels.

Some core elements run across the UN and Commission cooperation, including:

- 1 Support to the capacity development of partner country governments and civil society, including strengthening governments' ability to coordinate the actions of all partners in line with their national development strategies;
- 2 Promoting, raising awareness of and building capacities for the implementation of international conventions, norms and standards;
- 3 Increasing the efficiency and impact of their shared cooperation through common operating mechanisms and standards, development of common tools, sharing of analyses, and undertaking joint country missions and joint monitoring and evaluation;

In virtually all the 2006 interventions that the UN and the European Commission supported, the leadership of national governments and local authorities was paramount, as was the development of their capacities and those of local civil societies. The UN and the Commission cooperated with many partners from the international donor community and the non-governmental (NGO) sector, notably though far from exclusively in the humanitarian field, where NGOs had a vital role to play in delivering assistance. The growing complexity in the range of humanitarian and development actors at country level only serves to underline the continued critical importance of the Paris Declaration and its objectives to hold ourselves mutually accountable for supporting governments in leading, coordinating and harmonizing aid efforts, to achieve the results that help people.

Financial contributions from the European Commission to the activities of the United Nations 1999 to 2006



source: European Commission



**Table 2**

**Cooperation between the United Nations<sup>7</sup> and non-External Relations parts of the European Commission in 2006**

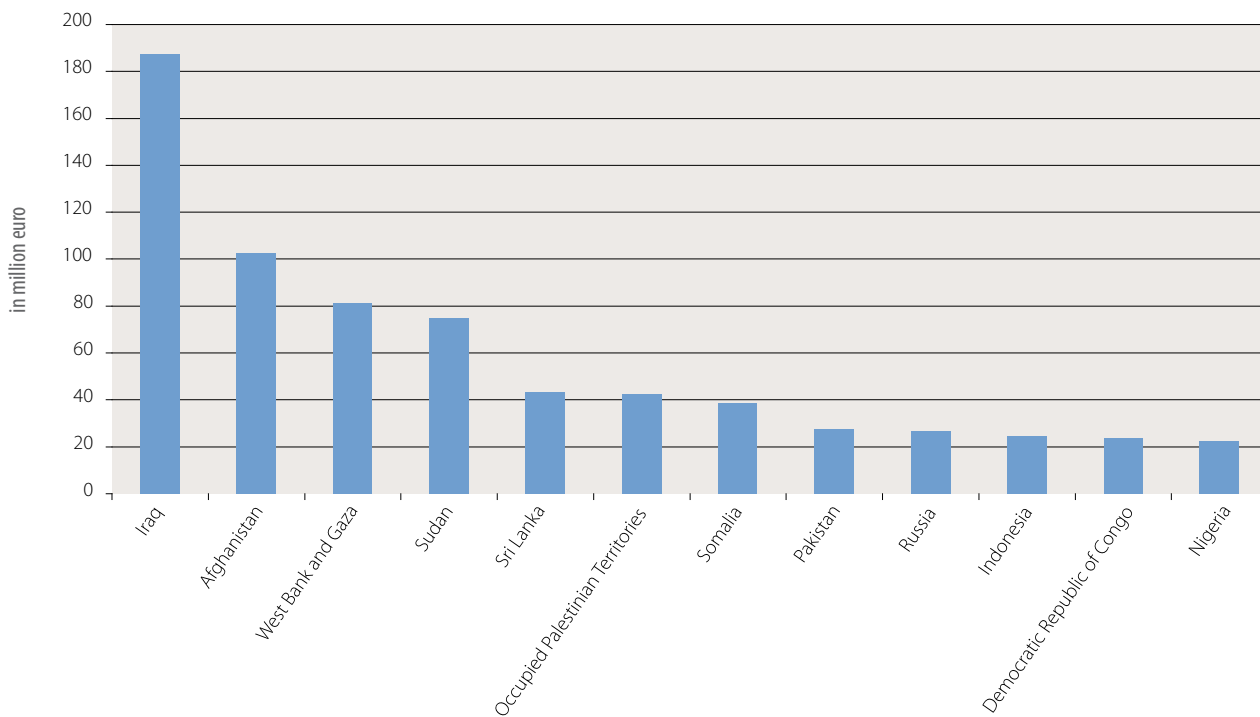
Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exchange of experience and best practices, including staff exchange, and internal management and administration – planning, budget, human resources, internal controls, audit and ethics</li> <li>• Cooperation in anti-fraud investigations and activities including sharing of experience, participation in investigators’ conferences, and detachment of staff.</li> </ul>
Agriculture and Rural Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shaping and implementation of international standards</li> </ul>
Education and Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of cultural-heritage international conventions, including protection and promotion of diversity and cultural expressions</li> <li>• Promoting social dialogue and industrial relations in member states that recently joined the EU and candidate countries</li> </ul>
Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shaping UN conventions related to labour and their implementation in third countries</li> <li>• Promoting social dialogue and industrial relations in member states that recently joined the EU and candidate countries.</li> </ul>
Enterprise and Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programmes for quality infrastructure to increase third-country export of manufactured products</li> <li>• Programmes for development of small- and medium-sized enterprises</li> <li>• Implementation of multilateral environment agreements</li> <li>• Implementation of cleaner production</li> <li>• Consultation on energy efficiency</li> <li>• Introduction of corporate social responsibility (CSR) principles</li> </ul>
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dialogue on major global environmental issues, notably climate change, biodiversity, international sustainable consumption and production, implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, and integration of environmental issues. Examples include collaboration in setting up an International Panel on sustainable use of natural resources, global management of chemicals, water and sanitation projects in Africa, and the UN contribution to EU Green Weeks</li> <li>• Collaboration on civil protection under disaster response, including common methodologies and standardized operating procedures, regular exchange of information, and joint training</li> </ul>
Statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EC participation in UN-led global efforts to improve coordination among international organizations in economic statistics and to reconcile international standards inter alia in national accounts, price statistics, integrated economic statistics and tourism</li> </ul>
Fisheries and Maritime Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EC support to capacity building for the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission</li> </ul>

<sup>7</sup> Includes UN Secretariat and other bodies of the UN as well as specialised agencies, funds and programmes.



<p>Health and Consumer Protection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EC contribution to global health security, including formulation and updating of international health regulations</li> <li>• EC membership of UN-led efforts on public health, innovation and intellectual property</li> <li>• UN support to EU Health in All Policies initiative</li> <li>• Technical collaboration with European Centre for Disease Control and Prevention</li> <li>• Cooperation in the fight against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria</li> <li>• Technical collaboration on blood safety</li> <li>• Cooperation on Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)</li> <li>• EC financial and technical support to Global Health Workforce alliance</li> </ul>
<p>Information Society and Media</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint efforts to enhance freedom to receive and access information via Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)</li> <li>• Investments in ICT for development, including electronic communications in Africa</li> <li>• ICT Research and Development within the EU's Framework Research Programme</li> <li>• EC financial support and participation in the UN-led Internet governance forum as a follow-up to the World Summit on Information Society.</li> </ul>
<p>Justice, Freedom and Security</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dialogue on policy related to the Common European Asylum System and asylum aspects of EU border strategies</li> <li>• Policy dialogue and best practice exchange on management of labour migration and on migration and development</li> <li>• UN participation in high-level discussions between EU and African states, on asylum and protection issues</li> <li>• UN information contribution to EU asylum decision makers on protection needs and conditions on the ground, to aid accurate and fair decision-making</li> <li>• UN input into assessment of member states' implementation of EU asylum laws</li> </ul>
<p>Research</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EC participation in expert-level working groups of the UN, including on science and society</li> <li>• Cooperation on the Global Forum on Bioethics in Research and on the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, as well as in Group on Earth Observations</li> <li>• Joint efforts on early-warning systems for food security and crop and food security/supply assessments</li> <li>• EC support to UN assessment of renewable energies</li> <li>• EC contribution to UN global forest resources assessment and world conservation monitoring for evaluation of protected areas</li> <li>• EC participation in UN-facilitated efforts to provide access to reliable and authoritative environmental information through a portal of portals</li> <li>• Collaboration on methodological guidelines and reference data aimed at ensuring consistency between European and international standards</li> <li>• Support to international efforts to combat illicit trafficking of nuclear and radiological materials</li> <li>• Cooperation on UN spatial data infrastructure</li> </ul>
<p>Transport and Energy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integration of international meteorological components into the European Air Traffic Management (ATM) system</li> <li>• Environmental impact of aviation</li> </ul>

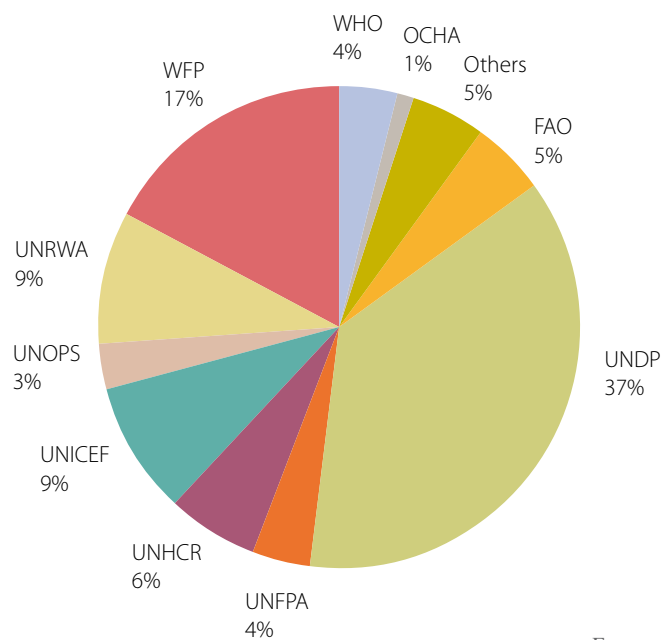
## Financial contributions from the European Commission to United Nations activities, 2006



source: European Commission

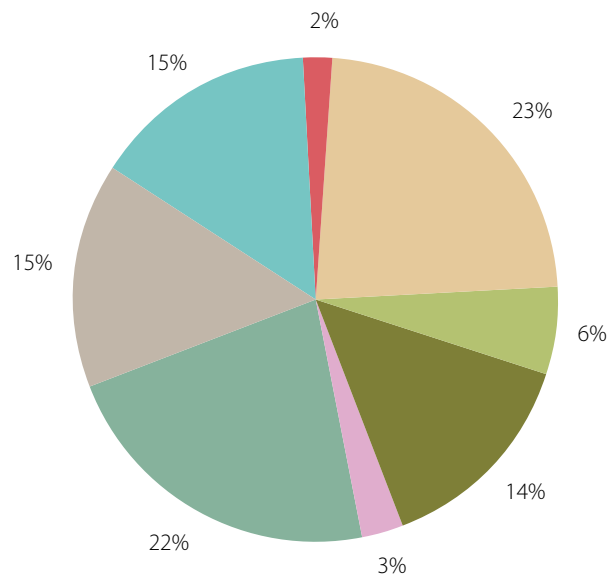
United Nation country programmes receiving more than Euros 20million from the European Commission

## Contributions from the European Commission to United Nations agencies, 2006



source: European Commission

Thematic breakdown of European Commission contributions to United Nations activities, 2006



- Upholding human rights and international standards
- Saving lives and protecting people: Emergency relief and humanitarian assistance
- Preventing and overcoming crises: Crisis prevention reintegraton rehabilitation and recovery
- Investing in human development: Education, health, water and sanitation
- Promoting sustainable livelihoods: Food security, rural development, trade and small enterprise development
- Strenghtening Governance: Democracy, rule of law, sustainable management of cultural heritage and of the environment
- General
- Multisector aid

source: United Nations Brussels Office  
derived from European Commission



Chad - Women receiving wheat flour (WFP/M. Prior)

“

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

*(Article 1, Universal Declaration of Human Rights)*

”

## Highlights of the UN-Commission partnership in 2006:

- ▶ **Built capacities to uphold human rights:** strengthened national human rights institutions in Georgia, Iran, Mexico and Morocco.
- ▶ **Helped combat child trafficking and child labour:** supported the governments of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia to set up coherent anti-trafficking legislation and trained officials from Moldova, Ukraine, Romania and Poland in monitoring private worker recruitment agencies.
- ▶ **Facilitated regional cooperation to prevent violence against children:** supported the regional declaration 'Act Now on Violence against Children' among 52 countries in Europe and Central Asia, calling for urgent action to combat the global scourge and care for its young victims.
- ▶ **Promoted the rights of refugees and asylum seekers:** provided officials with training in international refugee law and status determination in the Central Asian Republics, Panama and Tanzania, and built capacities to register hundreds of thousands of refugees and asylum seekers in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The universal principles of liberty, respect for the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms have defined and shaped the work of the United Nations and the European Union since their respective creation. The importance of human rights in poverty reduction was clearly reaffirmed by the Millennium Declaration in 2000. The Declaration places the range of human rights – civil, political, economic, social and cultural – at the centre of poverty reduction, including the right to development.

Realizing the aspirations of all people to these inalienable rights is a core goal that is shared by the United Nations and the European Commission. In working through and with the United Nations, the Commission benefits from the UN's unique dual role in setting international standards and norms at the global level, while assisting countries in their ability to implement said norms at the country level. For the UN, the Commission is a vital partner at each of these levels. It contributes to international standard setting and, in some cases, to their achievement by the EU, often calling upon the UN's normative expertise when developing the EU's own human rights standards – notably on asylum, children and labour. The Commission also plays an active role with the UN in advocating for international norms and helping to build the capacity of third countries for their implementation. This combination of the promotion and advocacy of international standards on the one hand, and support to capacity building of third countries to meet these standards on the other, constitutes a core characteristic of the UN-Commission partnership. Drawing upon their shared commitment to the most vulnerable in society, in 2006 the UN and the Commission worked closely in the areas of rights of women, children, refugees and workers. Collaboration spanned

the global level, including improvement of international standards and guidelines; mutual institutional support including Commission support to the development of UN tools and UN technical advice and information to the Commission; joint support to EU accession and candidate countries aiming to reach the requirements of the *acquis communautaire* (entire body of European laws) and implementing UN conventions; and shared efforts for the capacity building of developing countries.

## Building national capacities for human rights

A vital area where the European Commission provided support through the UN was in the establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions and civil society capacities to promote and implement the core international human-rights conventions.\* National institutions were supported in countries such as Georgia, Mexico, Morocco and Uganda. The Commission supported the UN initiatives to strengthen the national capacities of human rights in Togo and Colombia. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, human-rights training was provided to more than 5,000 people, including 4,000 students (see Box 2).

In Iran, the Commission-UN support helped empower human-rights centres and civil society organizations in promoting freedom of thought and expression, crucial to the country's compliance with international human-rights standards. The partnership supported the establishment of a Right to Development Unit at the University of Tehran, enabling the academic community to better equip itself on the subject of right to development as a human right. A human-rights library and centre for human-rights documentation, equipped

with some 670 human-rights titles and 32 international human-rights journals, was opened at Mofid University in Qom. Lastly, the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, which provides legal and psychological counselling to women in need, was inaugurated at the Raha Consulting Center.

Protecting women and girls' rights is a key concern of both the European Commission and the UN. In 2006, the UN supported Commission field delegations and their partner organizations in 27 countries, from all continents, in training and programme guidance on mainstreaming gender into development interventions. Women's rights were the subject of extensive country cooperation, both as an essential cross-cutting issue and as the subject of specific interventions.

In partnership with the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood and other local actors, the Commission and the UN worked together in Egypt to advocate abandonment of the common practice of female genital mutilation (FGM). In 2006, awareness of the issue was raised in more than 120 villages, 400 village doctors were trained, and some 100 doctors came together to make public declarations against the practice of FGM. Some 50 media representatives and 60 local judges were trained on FGM from a children's rights perspective and 8,400 secondary school students were made aware of the issue. Family health units set up served some 30,000 people in villages. Extensive media campaigns reinforced the impact. As a result of all these initiatives, the Al-Azhar Supreme Council of Islamic Research issued a statement explaining that FGM has no basis in core Islamic sharia and is indeed a harmful practice that should be avoided.

### Promoting the rights of children

The Commission and the UN share a commitment to ensuring that all children are afforded the rights and protections set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child\*. At the international level, the Commission contributed to strengthening the monitoring of grave violations of children's rights in situations of armed conflict under the terms of Security Council Resolution 1612 (2005)\*. It also lent important support to the UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children,\* which highlighted the prevalence of this critical problem. The Commission's support included regional preparations for the study in Central and Eastern Europe, with the active participation of children themselves. The study led to a regional declaration among 52 countries to 'Act Now on Violence against Children'. At the EU level, in 2006, for the first time, the Commission adopted a Communication on children's rights\* that covers children both within the EU and in third countries. The Communication is grounded in the international convention, and the UN contributed its normative expertise in helping the EU develop its policy. At the same time, the Commission supported regional and

country work on children's rights. In Central and Eastern Europe, the focus of the partnership was the 'Leave No Child Out' project, which emphasises civil society capacity to advocate for and promote children's rights, and capacity building for service providers to build a child rights approach into their work. At the country level, the Commission provided support to the UN to promote children's rights in Moldova, Turkey, Iran, the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), and Bangladesh.

In Moldova, the UN worked with the government to strengthen legislation, policy and institutional capacities to provide services to vulnerable families and children at risk, including by developing appropriate standards for delivering social services. Birth registration is an important right under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, because it is an official recognition of a child's identity. In Bangladesh, only 7 to 10% of births were registered. With support from the UN and the Commission, a new Birth Registration Act came into force in 2006, and the Government of Bangladesh was given assistance to set up a new birth-registration process. The results of this can be seen already: over 63 million birth certificates, 31,000 register books, 80,000 copies of administrative circulars and 10,000 copies of the new Birth Registration Act have been printed and distributed. Some 200,000 government officials at national and sub-national level have been trained in birth registration, and 207 NGO workers received training to address hard-to-reach children.

### Promoting decent work and core labour standards

In the area of labour rights, following Europe's active encouragement of the formal incorporation of decent work into Goal 8 of the 'MDGs Plus', agreed at the World Summit in 2005\*, the Commission and the UN worked hand in hand to mainstream decent work into other areas of European policy and into Europe's relations with third countries. Decent work is based on an integrated approach covering employment, social protection, social dialogue, rights at work and gender mainstreaming. EU support, including funding, contributed to the maritime labour conference that adopted the consolidated maritime labour convention in February 2006 and to a project to facilitate initial implementation of the convention in the EU and third countries.

The Commission actively participated in UN campaigns against child labour in the framework of its internal and external policies and programmes. In Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, coherent anti-trafficking legislation was established and national coordination structures and operational tools were developed. In Moldova, the Ukraine, Romania and Poland, 400 government and other officials were trained in monitoring private worker recruitment agencies. In Zambia, the Commission and the UN supported research that determined the scale and patterns of child trafficking for child labour; this laid



the basis for a national strategy and mechanisms for the elimination of child exploitation and abuse. The UN and the Commission also cooperated with European member states and governments in the Latin American region to strengthen social cohesion there, and on training and awareness-raising on decent work issues for Commission Delegations in Asia.

Several joint initiatives focused on the rights of migrant workers. An African-European inter-regional dialogue supported by the UN concluded in April 2006 with a framework for enhanced cooperation and a roadmap for follow-up action between governments and other stakeholders in the Maghreb, East Africa, West Africa and Europe. A separate intervention with employers and trade unions developed guidelines and practical instruments for better integration of migrant workers in European workplaces and societies, including a toolkit for employers.

### Upholding international protection for refugees

The European Commission has an important role in upholding the system of international protection for refugees, both through its work to build a Common European Asylum System and its support for refugee protection in third countries. The Commission is also actively engaged in discussion with the UN on how to strengthen protection of the rights of internally displaced people (IDPs).

In 2006, the UN contributed to the Commission's monitoring of the implementation of EU asylum legislation.

It worked closely with the Commission, Council and Parliament to ensure that European migration and border-management strategies took full account of refugee protection concerns and international norms. This work was complemented by support to key transit countries in North Africa, the Middle East and Southern Africa to develop their capacity to handle the challenges posed by mixed flows.

The Commission supported the UN in building refugee-protection capacity in third countries. It helped the UN launch pilot regional protection programmes in Tanzania and Belarus, Moldova and the Ukraine. With Commission support, the UN was able to provide training in international refugee law and status determination to officials in countries as diverse as the Central Asian Republics, Panama and Tanzania, and to register hundreds of thousands of refugees and asylum seekers in Asia, Africa and Latin America. In Colombia, the Commission helped the UN and local authorities to ensure that internally displaced people received national identity cards, without which they could not access essential services.

The emphasis in the Commission's partnership with the UN on the promotion of rights, and rights-based approaches to assistance, can be seen throughout all areas of the partnership – which are described in this report's following chapters. In the partnership, the UN and the Commission have been guided by the universal rights of people, and the international standards that translate these rights into policy and practice. Mainstreaming international standards has been a cornerstone of their partnership in each of the fields of cooperation.

Colombia - Children playing at IDP centre in Bogota (UNHCR/B. Heger)



“

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

*(Article 3, Universal Declaration of Human Rights)*

”



## Emergency relief and humanitarian assistance

### Highlights of the UN-Commission partnership in 2006:

- ▶ **Reacted rapidly to emergencies:** Provided life-saving assistance, dispatching emergency teams within six to 24 hours;
- ▶ **Addressed humanitarian needs:** tackled crises all over the world, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Darfur region of Sudan;
- ▶ **Protected people:** assisted over 33 million refugees, internally displaced and stateless people, and provided protection to some 19 million people;
- ▶ **Delivered food aid:** provided over 43 million people with food aid, including approximately 25.5 million children. In Sudan, food was supplied to over six million people nationwide, including monthly rations to some three million people in camps and villages in Darfur;
- ▶ **Assisted refugee children:** Ensured primary education for 75% of refugee children and secondary education for some 34%. In Tanzania, some 85,860 refugee children, mainly from Burundi, attended primary school while approximately 325 (around 40% of whom were girls) children with disabilities were enrolled in special education classes; school attendance among the pupils was maintained at an average of 97%.

The most basic human right is that of survival. Humanitarian aid provides an immediate, often life-saving response in situations of crisis. Its core purpose is to meet at least the most basic needs of the civilian population including food and water, shelter and protection, to minimize their suffering in times of disaster or conflict, and to bridge the gap until recovery mechanisms are established and communities are able to regain a degree of self-reliance. In some cases, prolonged conflict and repeated cycles of violence or natural disasters can delay recovery, resulting in prolonged need for humanitarian assistance.

The European Commission is one of the world's largest providers of humanitarian aid, and is consistently a central partner to UN-led efforts in this domain. In 2006, the Commission cooperated with the UN in a wide range of humanitarian interventions, including large-scale emergency response to natural disasters, assistance for and protection of populations affected by conflict, and help for people made more vulnerable when donor and media attention had shifted elsewhere.

In virtually all cases, the UN and the Commission were cooperating within the context of multi-donor and multi-actor efforts, including non-governmental organizations. Such efforts require extensive coordination among all actors involved. Previous analyses of the functioning of the humanitarian system had identified fragmentation among stakeholders and lack of coher-

ence in interventions as key weaknesses. Responding to this, in 2006 the UN introduced a 'cluster approach' to delivery of assistance. This approach aimed at systematic and predictable interagency cooperation, based on clearly defined accountabilities within the UN and an equal partnership with civil society. The latter aspect is the chief focus of the Global Humanitarian Platform\*, created to agree on principles governing the equal partnership of the UN, Red Cross/Red Crescent movement and non-governmental organizations. In parallel, in 2006 the Commission continued to work towards greater coherence among its services and with European member states. Analysis with partners, including the UN in 2006, led to the Commission's preparation in 2007 of a Communication on Humanitarian Aid\*.

A major challenge for both the UN and the Commission lies in the linking of relief to recovery and development. The complexity is not so much in the concept as in the fact that this linking requires highly coordinated action on the part of numerous actors involved in the security, humanitarian and development sectors. In 2006, the Commission and the UN each renewed their efforts to integrate humanitarian assistance within broader frameworks permitting early recovery and leading to long-term development. The first inter-agency strategic programming dialogue between the Commission and six agencies of the UN held in November 2006 provided an important opportunity to integrate early recovery into the humanitarian dialogue between the partners.

## Bolstering the UN's capacity to respond

The Commission actively supports the UN in bolstering its own capacity to respond to emergencies and to ensure that international standards of protection and assistance are consistently met. In 2006, the Commission supported the UN and its partners in emergency needs assessments, refugee protection, protection of children and women in humanitarian emergencies, and delivery of health in emergency situations. Strengthening of capacities for emergency needs assessment resulted in improved tools, to assess the impact of crises and food aid on markets and to better estimate population figures and household needs. This enhanced preparedness by making pre-crisis information widely available, and led to better targeted action through more rigorous and comprehensive evaluations of needs\*.

The Commission's institutional support to the UN also permitted the development and rollout of registration software for refugees, used initially to register 150,000 refugees and subsequently rolled out globally. The application enabled more systematic collection of data about individuals, which resulted in the building of individual profiles and thus facilitated case management, better and more secure identification, the highlighting of vulnerabilities, and issuance of documents.

The Commission provided support for the UN in strengthening its ability to carry out its protection tasks in emergencies – with a 'child protection in emergencies' training package, staff exchange for experts, and a 'how to' toolkit. A partner coalition including the Commission developed guidance on psychosocial support to children\* and addressed the needs of unaccompanied and separated children. This was done with production of an inter-agency database for registration, care, protection, and reunification of separated children as well as a guide to prevent separation and to care for children once separation has occurred\*. Commission support also enabled the UN to keep stockpiles of relief material and essential health supplies, ready for deployment at short notice to crisis areas. In 2006, with Commission support, the UN deployed staff for a total of some 17,500 mission days to refugee emergencies in Africa, Asia and Central America.

## Responding to man-made disasters

In 2006, both new and pre-existing conflicts caused large-scale displacement all over the world. The Occupied Palestinian Territories, Chad, Lebanon, Niger, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, and the Côte d'Ivoire were home to some of the most significant and challenging humanitarian operations tackled together by the Commission and UN. In each case, the approach incorporated actions to help affected popu-

lations regain some self-reliance in the shortest possible time, with a view to aiding their transition towards recovery. Emergency responses also included components for preventing sexual abuse and exploitation of women and children.

In Chad, the UN and the Commission assisted a quarter of a million refugees from the Darfur region of Sudan and from the Central African Republic. They required basic assistance, including food, water, shelter, medicines and kits for primary health care. In an effort to limit the environmental damage caused by the refugees, the Commission supported UN efforts to ensure the rational collection and conservation of water and of firewood and the introduction of alternative sources of energies in and around the camps. Programmes to plant new trees and raise awareness among the population of issues linked to environmental sustainability were also introduced.

In Sri Lanka, where the humanitarian situation deteriorated dramatically as a result of renewed fighting between the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the number of displaced people increased to about 600,000. The UN, supported by the Commission, worked to prevent further displacement by providing local people affected by the conflict with basic commodities, infrastructure and material needs such as shelter material, food/non-food relief items and agricultural tools. In order to help reduce community friction, vulnerable communities absorbing internally displaced people were provided with over half a million non-food relief items.

The intense conflict in Lebanon required a regional response in the face of large-scale displacement of people. Within days of the start of hostilities in southern Lebanon, a humanitarian crisis developed as nearly one million people were displaced by the conflict. Even before the August 2006 ceasefire, initial needs assessments and local purchases allowed the UN and its NGO and local government partners, thanks to their physical presence there, to distribute relief items to some 290,000 people. In total, approximately 824,000 people were helped in Lebanon and Syria.

The UN on behalf of the humanitarian community transported more than 25,000 metric tons of relief items to Lebanon. In addition to 13,000 metric tons of food, the UN transported water supplies, fuel, shelter materials and hygiene and medical equipment. Over 155,000 blankets and 20,300 kitchen sets were distributed, some 170 tons of medicines and medical supplies were delivered to doctors and hospitals, and training was given to 120 health professionals on emergency mental health, for 900 health professionals on reproductive health in emergencies, and for 450 health professionals on early-warning and response systems, to cope with refugee and internally displaced peoples' needs. At first, priority



was given to assisting displaced people and those cut off by the conflict. Following the end of hostilities and the large-scale return movements, the UN and its partners adjusted their focus to support the needs of all people affected by the conflict. Early recovery assistance began immediately after the ceasefire, allowing the partners' withdrawal from humanitarian operations. The flexibility of Commission funding through the UN provided clear added value in enabling the UN to adjust swiftly to fast-changing needs on the ground.

The humanitarian crisis escalated in 2006 in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The international response to the January 2006 elections limited the OPT government's capacity to run its social welfare system, led to a freezing of government tax revenues and resulted in a 15-week strike by unpaid government employees in the West Bank, including health workers. The continued destruction of land and assets during military operations in Gaza, the tight land and sea blockade and a 40% increase in restrictions on movement, further escalated vulnerabilities. The outbreak of avian influenza in Gaza in March necessitated the culling of one fifth of Gaza's chickens and had a heavy impact on farmers and on the nutritional status of vulnerable groups. The political situation dramatically changed the humanitarian and donor environment. As a result, many capacity-building components of UN programmes supported by the Commission were frozen and the UN concentrated on responding to relief needs of the population. More than one million people benefited from food assistance, which made it possible to maintain macro-food security levels under control despite the serious deterioration in incomes and access to means of survival.

### Tackling food crises

In Niger, the 2005 food crisis severely eroded the capacity of households to survive further shocks. By May 2006, some 3.9 million people were assessed as severely or moderately food insecure and 62% of families were burdened by indebtedness, including many among the pastoral population who had lost all or part of their herds. In 2006, a major effort was undertaken by the government and donors to mainstream humanitarian concerns into development planning. Support included promoting rural development, strengthening disease surveillance and outbreak response especially for cholera, improving the quality of health care services, strengthening the coping capacities of affected populations, and reinforcing government emergency structures. These efforts were complemented by continued emergency assistance, including supplementary feeding and food rations for around 2.1 million children. Overall acute malnutrition fell by 5% in just one year, representing an important achievement for the government and its UN, Commission and NGO partners.

In 2006, the majority of countries in Southern Africa experienced improved food availability at a national level, according to Southern African Development Community vulnerability assessments. Despite this, food access remained a persistent problem for households suffering a devastating combination of poverty, chronic and recurrent food insecurity, erratic weather and HIV/AIDS. In Zimbabwe, the wretched situation was exacerbated by a crippling political and economic crisis that deprived many families of the means to purchase essential commodities and caused a large outflow of migrants to neighbouring countries. With the support of the Commission, working in Lesotho, Malawi, Zambia and Zim-



babwe, the UN reached nearly 10 million people with food assistance, targeted at people infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS including the chronically ill and orphaned children.

## Overcoming the effects of natural disasters

Although 2006 fortunately saw fewer large-scale natural disasters, nevertheless emergency response was required in almost every region of the world. The UN and the Commission joined forces to respond to the consequences of the October 2005 earthquake in Pakistan (see Box 3), India and Afghanistan. In February 2006, floods in the Sahrawi refugee camps in south-western Algeria destroyed refugee shelters and caused large-scale loss of property. The Horn of Africa (Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia) faced drought and then flooding. Angola faced heavy rains, resulting in a massive cholera outbreak. In May, a major earthquake struck the area surrounding Yogyakarta in Indonesia, while serious floods occurred in Bolivia, Ecuador and Guatemala. The UN and the Commission responded comprehensively to each of these disasters.

When an earthquake measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale struck the Indonesian provinces of Yogyakarta and Central Java in May 2006, over 80,000 houses were destroyed and 300,000 damaged; 650,000 people were made homeless and many suffered physical injuries and mental trauma. The Commission and the UN, working in close collaboration with national and local government structures, ensured a coordinated, harmonized and evidence-based response to health issues. They jointly provided regular (daily) information to all stakeholders, opened information centres at provincial and district levels, and provided equipment to several hospitals and universities that helped them gather and analyse critical information, and shape response. A mass immunization campaign for tetanus and measles was conducted, followed by immunisation targeted at relevant age groups.

In the East and Horn of Africa, by early 2006, after five consecutive poor rainy seasons, the livelihoods of marginal farming households and pastoralists were severely stressed. As conditions worsened in the first half of the year, the United Nations identified more than eight million people in need of immediate humanitarian assistance. In Kenya alone, some 3.6 million people were affected by the drought, around 560,000 of them school-children. Paradoxically, in early October torrential rains over most of the Horn of Africa caused flooding and affected many of the same people who had previously suffered from the drought. The flooding caused further crop and livestock losses and cut road access to many of the worst-affected areas, significantly increasing food insecurity. In north-eastern Kenya, refugee camps were also devastated by the floods.

With support from the Commission, UN food assistance contributed to a reduction in forced sales of livestock and other assets, and the retention of children in school.

Nutrition surveys indicated that acute malnutrition rates in 2006 fell or stabilized in some districts, though they remained above the 10% emergency threshold in the most-affected pastoral districts. Results of government/multi-agency food-security assessments showed that the provision of fortified food for these populations, combined with non-food interventions, helped to contain mortality rates.

In Kenya, the drought coincided with a bumper maize crop in the western region, but it was unprofitable for traders to move the maize to the north east of the country due to transport costs and lack of purchasing power among the affected population. The cash contribution of the Commission enabled the UN to work with the government of Kenya to purchase maize on the market and transport it to drought- and flood-stricken areas for distribution.

Communicable diseases such as cholera and meningitis are endemic in certain areas of the world, their effects often exacerbated by conflict, nutritional deficiencies, poverty, lack of sanitation and poor hygiene. Displacement also creates additional risk factors, as people may find themselves in crowded and unsanitary shelters, poorly protected from disease vectors, and without access to basic preventive and curative health care. The Commission funded UN efforts to reduce the morbidity and mortality linked to disease outbreaks, including in Sudan for the yellow fever outbreak. In Angola, more than 100,000 cholera-affected people were treated and 13 metric tons of medical supplies against cholera and

diarrhoea were provided to eight provinces, decreasing the mortality rate from 6% in June to 2.6% in December. In Burkina Faso, almost 1.8 million people were vaccinated in 11 epidemic districts as a response to meningococcal disease outbreak

Proven means of reducing and preventing avoidable deaths and illness amongst vulnerable populations include the establishment of systems for early alert and response to disease outbreaks, as well as monitoring of disease trends. The UN-Commission partnership facilitated development of new applications of satellite technologies and other ancillary data to help African countries improve the management of their natural resources, by providing them with appropriate information on their environment using state-of-the-art technologies, including earth observation and satellite meteorology.

In parallel with much-needed emergency food, protection and other forms of assistance, through their partnership the Commission and the UN worked to break cycles of chronic food insecurity by enhancing the capacity of people to cope with poor seasons by building resilience and supporting alternative livelihoods. Significant challenges remain not just for the UN and the Commission but indeed all partners in the critical field of emergency assistance, both to effectively coordinate their actions to maximize efficiency and impact in the delivery of emergency assistance, and to link effectively their efforts to provide relief with support to early recovery from the crisis.

## UN Humanitarian Air Service: delivering humanitarian aid

The European Commission and the UN have joined forces in the Humanitarian Air Service to provide the humanitarian community with safe and reliable passage for cargo and personnel particularly to areas where travel overland becomes impossible due to insecurity or absence of roads.

In Darfur, the road network remains extremely dangerous as a result of the volatile security situation, with a notable increase in carjacking and armed robberies targeting aid workers. The provision of helicopters here provided an essential means for delivery of humanitarian assistance by hundreds of humanitarian workers.

In Pakistan, following the 2005 earthquake, badly damaged infrastructure, roads blocked by the continuous monsoon rains, floods and landslides affected the response, hampering delivery of relief items to the affected population. Air lift of relief goods was crucial to the effectiveness of the UN and NGO response.

The Air Service also supported humanitarian actions in Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.

**In 2006, the Commission partnership with the UN was instrumental in allowing the delivery of more than 16,000 metric tons of urgent humanitarian cargo, sustained the movement of humanitarian actors with transportation of more than 168,000 passengers, and the medical evacuation of 98 people.**

In parallel with much-needed emergency food, protection and other forms of assistance, through their partnership the Commission and the UN worked to break cycles of chronic food insecurity by enhancing the capacity of people to cope with poor seasons by building resilience and supporting alternative livelihoods. Significant challenges remain not just for the UN and the

Commission but indeed all partners in the critical field of emergency assistance, both to effectively coordinate their actions to maximize efficiency and impact in the delivery of emergency assistance, and to link effectively their efforts to provide relief with support to early recovery from the crisis.

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Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country. Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy ... asylum from persecution.

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*(extracts from Articles 13 and 14, Universal Declaration of Human Rights)*



## Crisis prevention, reintegration, rehabilitation and recovery

### Highlights of the UN-Commission partnership in 2006:

- ▶ **Cleared land mines:** supported communities in conflict-affected zones in Africa, Eastern Europe, Asia and Latin America to restart their livelihoods by clearing mines from approximately 48 million square metres of land; reduced the victims of mines in Sudan by almost 84% compared to the previous year.
- ▶ **Restored services:** provided some 10,000 people with access to telephone lines in the Fergana Valley in Kyrgyzstan, and restored the electricity supply to around 560 households and three schools.
- ▶ **Helped refugees to return home:** enabled 75,000 people in Tanzanian refugee camps to repatriate voluntarily in safety and with dignity; provided special assistance to unaccompanied minors prior to and during repatriation.
- ▶ **Controlled arms and weapons:** destroyed more than 630,000 small arms, explosive devices and ammunitions in Africa; registered 3,500 weapons in Hargeisa, Somalia.
- ▶ **Helped reduce the risk of damage from natural disasters:** in India, trained some 10,000 people in disaster-management techniques and 430 engineers in disaster-management and disaster-resistance technologies in Tamil Nadu, one of the areas most hit by the December 2004 tsunami. Moreover around 9,000 handbooks on sea-safety issues were printed and disseminated amongst schools in the region.

Peace and security are vital to the fulfilment of individuals' human rights. Violent conflict destroys the human, social, physical and institutional capital that constitutes the very foundations of sustainable development. Complex and inter-linking factors that can propel progress on the MDGs – including good governance, rule of law and human rights – can also play a significant role in mitigating crises and reducing the likelihood of conflict. The report in 2000 from the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations, the 'Brahimi report',\* proved a milestone in understanding the role of development in conflict prevention and peace-building, by highlighting the need for a holistic and integrated approach to conflict prevention, peace-keeping and peace-building activities, and their link to development.

In its 2004 conclusions on the effectiveness of EU external action, the European Council emphasized that "peace, security and stability as well as human rights, democracy and good governance, are essential elements for sustainable economic growth and poverty eradication". The 2005 European Consensus on Development states that the Community will develop a comprehensive prevention approach to state fragility, conflict, natural disasters and other types of crises. Complementary treatment of security and development agendas is a priority of the EU's policy coherence for development. In line with the EU's commitment to promote an effective

multilateral system with the United Nations at its core, the EU supports all efforts to better organize and coordinate the engagement of the international community in conflict- and post-conflict situations. Direct assistance for peace-building is one of the responsibilities of the international community that also addresses issues of weapons proliferation and disarmament, the criminal interests that often draw the spoils of conflict, and regional cooperation for law enforcement. While these areas are not the subject of this report, they nevertheless represent core areas of collaboration between the UN and the EU including the European Commission.

In 2006, efforts continued within the UN and the EU to increase intra- and inter-institutional coherence in addressing crisis situations. The EU continued to promote an integrated approach to conflict prevention and crisis management, recognizing that each needs to be tackled by a combination of development and security instruments. For the UN, a number of institutional and policy developments took place. These included the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission to address the institutional gap between the end of armed conflict and resumption of sustainable development activities, and its associated Fund to support early peace-building and post-conflict stabilization efforts.

The European Commission, along with several EU mem-

ber states, was actively involved in the work of the Peacebuilding Commission from its initiation in June last year. In 2006, the UN launched guidelines giving recognition to the integration in some peace-keeping missions of multi-disciplinary peace support operations. With support from the European Commission and other partners, the UN adopted an 'Operational Guide to the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards', enabling the UN and its partners to design integrated interventions including those for prevention of recruitment and demobilization and reintegration of former child soldiers.

In 2006, collaboration between the UN and the Commission was extensive in conflict prevention and crisis management. In addition to regular informal exchanges, the Steering Committee on EU-UN cooperation in crisis management, bringing together the UN, Council and Commission, met twice. Two desk-to-desk dialogues on conflict prevention between services of the two organizations were also held. The Commission was actively involved in revising the principles on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups – principles that reflect the highest standards and technical guidance to prevent recruitment, protect children, support their release from armed forces or groups and reintegrate them into civilian life. The joint concept paper of the European Commission and Council on Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) of former combatants in third countries of 2006 also refers to child ex-combatants.

At country level, in 2006 the UN-Commission partnership responded to the challenges of mine action, armed-violence reduction, security-sector reform, demobilization and reintegration of soldiers into society, refugees and internally displaced people, early recovery, conflict prevention and disaster-risk reduction.

### Clearing mines, controlling arms and restoring livelihoods

In addition to being a huge cause of human suffering for victims, mines are a major impediment to economic activity and long-term development in many post-conflict areas. In 2006, the UN received Commission support to address landmine contamination in Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Chile, Eritrea, Jordan, Kosovo, the Russian Federation (Chechnya), Somalia, Sudan and Sri Lanka. Activities included mine detection and clearance, mine-risk education, the destruction of stockpiles, assistance to victims, and capacity-building in all of these areas.

The data tell a powerful story. In Afghanistan, Sudan and Albania, some 48,860,000 square metres of minefields were cleared of mines and unexploded ordnance. In the Kassala and Red Sea States of Sudan, around 1,722,000 people benefited from mine clearance of 13,000 square metres, and there was an 83.5% reduction of victims in the region (19 in 2006 compared with 131 per year in the previous three years). In Jordan, some 1.5 million

square metres of farmland were returned to production and the risk to some 50,000 people of mine accidents was significantly reduced, putting the country on track to meet its obligation under the Ottawa Convention to clear all suspected hazardous areas by May 2009. Angola received support to identify and destroy stockpiled anti-personnel landmines, to comply with Article 4 of the Ottawa Convention, in force in the country since December 2002. In Albania, Azerbaijan, Chechnya and Sri Lanka, mine-risk education campaigns reached some 786,000 people, with similar campaigns undertaken in a further six countries. In Albania, the UN and the Commission supported medical care, physical rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration of some 240 mine victims and procured equipment to secure their health treatment for two years.

Proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) is a major source of insecurity in many post-conflict settings. In 2006, the Commission financed the EU Western Balkans SALW control support plan, implemented with UN support by the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC). The objective was to provide a framework for analysis of regional and national needs and develop practical responses. As a result of the support, by 2006 SALW control strategies and national action plans existed in each country, a school curriculum on the risks and hazards of SALW was under implementation, reporting on arms had been improved, and regional cooperation had been greatly enhanced. In Congo Brazzaville, the UN and the Commission supported the government in small arms control, and communities in weapons collection. In 2006 over 1,300 small arms, 2,430 explosive devices and 626,500 ammunitions were destroyed there, while 2,020 people surrendered firearms and ammunitions in exchange for tools and equipment.

### Resettlement and reintegration of displaced people

Forced displacement is often a by-product – in some cases a multiplier – of conflict, as mass population movements can upset the ethnic or political balance of host areas, and threaten already fragile livelihoods. On the other hand, voluntary return in safety and dignity can be either an element of stabilization or an element of instability, depending on the circumstances. A key role of the UN is to help forcibly displaced people reintegrate peacefully in their home communities, through programmes that provide basic necessities, expand access to livelihoods, encourage conflict resolution and strengthen local capacities to deliver justice. The Commission has been an important partner of the UN in this field, including in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where it supported UN-led efforts to repatriate and resettle refugees (see Box 2). In Afghanistan, the return of large numbers of refugees was straining the absorption capacity of local services and challenging the fragile ethnic balances in many areas. In 2006, the UN and Commission helped some 139,000 Afghans from neighbouring countries and 9,000 internally dis-

placed people to return to their communities. In addition to providing material support, they promoted local peace committees in order to strengthen capacities for conflict resolution and peace-building. Over 20,000 individuals received legal advice enabling them to recover property, and in Kabul some 50,000 people in 40 neighbourhoods received targeted assistance including shelter support.

The reintegration of children associated with or abused by armed groups represented a further dimension of the Commission partnership with the UN. With the Commission's support, the UN helped to demobilize and reintegrate child soldiers and other children affected by war in countries such as Afghanistan, Burundi, Columbia, Côte d'Ivoire, and Sudan. Within the countries of the Mano River Union (Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea) and Cote d'Ivoire, the capacity of child protection networks was strengthened. This included the improvement of awareness and skills among experts on how information management can contribute to more effective programming; the dissemination of best practices and lessons learned on psychosocial support and mental health; and building on prevention and response mechanisms for gender-based violence within the sub-region. In Liberia, 1,295 (855 male and 440 female) war-affected children enrolled in a reintegration programme that taught life skills such as basic literacy and psycho-social counselling, as well as trades such as poultry farming and mechanics. In Côte d'Ivoire, the reintegration of over 840 war-affected children was supported, including through awareness campaigns for local populations.

## Reforming the security sector

As noted in Chapter Seven below, the UN works with many governments to reform their security sectors, including strengthening their capacities to operate effectively in newly democratizing environments. In 2006, under the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC), the Commission and the UN collaborated in the production of an Implementation Framework for Security Sector Reform\*. At country level, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the engagement of all relevant public and private-sector actors, they supported production of a code of conduct and client guidelines for private-security companies in Sarajevo, designed to develop and support enforcement of national regulations and drive improved standards. The documents are based on international best practice, drawing on the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights\*, UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials\*, and the UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials .

## Jumpstarting early recovery

In cases of both conflict and natural disaster, the UN, supported by the Commission, increasingly focused on jumpstarting early recovery – the aim being to re-

store services, infrastructure, livelihood opportunities and governance capacity, and foster self-reliance of the affected population, from the earliest possible stages after a crisis. The Commission is now consistently a partner of the UN in early-needs assessments for planning and mobilizing funds for recovery in the aftermath of crises.

In 2006, the Commission supported the UN's work in Afghanistan, Djibouti, the Near East, Pakistan, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, and Sri Lanka (see also Box 3 on Pakistan). By way of example, in Djibouti some 150 houses destroyed by conflict were restored, providing shelter to around 1,000 displaced people, and returnees were trained in trades, generating almost 500 jobs. In Liberia, UN food-for-work projects supported by the Commission helped returning refugees, internally displaced people and host communities to rebuild rural schools and health facilities, rehabilitate farm-to-market roads, and increase income-generation activities through the sale of agricultural produce. In 2006, more than 4,035 ha of rice and vegetables were planted and some 1,660 km of tertiary roads were rehabilitated, providing access to remote areas of the country hitherto blocked by the poor condition of roads and bridges. In Sri Lanka, in ex-conflict districts also affected by the 2004 tsunami, some 4,130 people benefited from revitalization of traditionally productive sectors, 8,090 people were engaged in alternative income generating activities, and 4,460 people benefited from the reconstruction of community infrastructure.

## Preventing crises and building capacities for disaster management

The UN-Commission cooperation in crisis prevention and disaster-risk reduction is, by its very nature, generally less visible than its extensive work in humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and recovery. Nevertheless, this cooperation has become an increasingly important component both of the governance and poverty-reduction interventions cited elsewhere in this report, and specific interventions in this domain. In Peru, the Commission and the UN supported three districts affected by recurrent conflict, training newly elected regional and municipal government authorities in conflict and violence prevention.

The EU is a strong supporter of the UN Hyogo Declaration of 2005, which recognized disaster-risk management as an important element of sustainable development . In 2006, the Commission collaborated closely with the UN to develop methods for better rapid mapping in case of complex and natural emergencies, which were then applied in specific emergencies. Both organizations implemented protocols to make their data widely available to partners.

In Bangladesh, Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, India and Nepal, the Commission and UN supported the mainstreaming of disaster management in national and local

development efforts, and strengthening of institutional mechanisms to expand preparedness and professionalise disaster-management efforts. In Bangladesh, some 460 people were trained in risk-reduction measures. In India, state governments were supported to reduce vulnerability, through the equipping of an emergency operation centre and training of around 10,000 people, including 3,000 teachers, in disaster-management techniques; some 430 engineers in disaster management and disaster-resistance technologies; and some 2,800 people in first aid. In Nepal, a strategy to promote disaster risk reduction was formulated through support to the government and its coordination with major civil-society actors, and awareness was raised among the general public.

In terms of disaster management, to anticipate the effects of food aid on local markets, with Commission support the UN developed market profiles of crisis-prone countries such as Bangladesh, Burundi, Mauritania, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Sri Lanka. These profiles are used to help determine whether food or non-food responses

are most appropriate in a given market situation, and the right duration for food assistance depending on the prognosis for market recovery.

While lack of progress towards meeting the MDGs has rarely been the immediate cause of crises, it is considered to contribute to, exacerbate and sustain conflicts by creating conditions, needs and grievances. Achieving the MDGs, on the other hand, offers the prospect of a more secure, just and prosperous world for all: investing in development that is rights-based and inclusive of the groups that are often marginalized from the development process – women, refugees and IDPs in particular – can help reduce the probability of conflict. The partnership between the UN and the Commission in conflict prevention has incorporated important investments in the core capacities of people and their opportunities to build sustainable livelihoods, underscoring the vital importance of long-term development to prevent conflicts, improve security, and sustain post-conflict recovery.

Balkans - Destruction of small arms and light weapons (UNDP)



## Box 1

### Nepal:

#### From political instability to peace and the development of new economic opportunities

Nepal is characterized by considerable diversity of culture, ethnicity and topography. These influence peoples' livelihoods and the status of their food security. Situated in one of the world's most mountainous areas, Nepal has an extreme climate. Kanchan Kalan is the country's lowest point, and Mount Everest situated at 8,850 metres above sea level is the highest. The various microclimates of Nepal reflect the country's diverse landscape. In the summer months, flooding and landslides are common causes of death and of destruction of crucial infrastructure; during the winter, the temperature can fall well below zero and leave entire districts isolated for months. Combined with environmental problems stemming from human activity – such as deforestation due to overuse of wood for fuel and a lack of alternatives, and water contaminated with human and animal waste – these severe conditions permanently undermine people's chances of sustainable livelihoods and food security. Whereas the recent history of the country has been one of political unrest and conflict, 2006 saw the end of conflict and hopes of a new beginning for the Nepalese people.

In 2006, the Commission and the UN supported Nepal in increasing its resilience to future disasters. In consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, the partnership assisted the Nepalese government in the development of a National Strategy on Disaster Risk Management in line with Nepal's commitment to the Hyogo Framework for Action – a global framework signed in 2005 that commits governments to incorporate disaster-risk management into their national development programmes. The partnership helped generate awareness of disaster-risk management through different mass media, particularly in communities most vulnerable to natural hazards, highlighting actions to reduce the risk of disasters and mitigate against their effects.

In the winter of 2006, however, Nepal witnessed the lowest rainfall in its recorded history. The drastic decrease in rainfall had an adverse effect on winter crop production. Moreover, in the far west and mid-western hills, the 2006 summer rains started later than usual. In contrast, devastating floods and one of the worst landslides on record seriously affected four districts in the far-western region. This sequence of events culminated in food shortages affecting more than 200,000 people living in remote mountainous districts. Working together with national partners, in 2006 the Commission and the UN:

- Supplied food to some 114,000 people affected by drought, including 87,000 children. While the programme mainly concentrated on meeting the basic nutritional requirements of the affected population through food-for-work and targeted supplementary feeding programmes, Commission support was vital in contributing to the local economy through local purchase of food commodities.
- Supported some 184,000 persons in the volatile security and political environment with food and the means for sustainable livelihoods. The Commission was particularly instrumental in supporting the most-affected populations with infrastructure such as the construction of some 610 km of mule and foot trails, irrigation of around 1,220 hectares of land through micro-irrigation schemes, the creation of some 60 water harvest tanks – each with a 50,000 litre capacity, and rehabilitation of over 235 schools and some 50 health posts. It also gave over 325 training courses, including on kitchen gardening, livestock management, and health and sanitation.
- Provided food and shelter to more than 100,000 Bhutanese refugees registered in camps in Nepal. Some 22,670 vulnerable households participated in a gardening programme to improve their nutritional intake. Vocational training and micro-credit schemes were offered, aimed at increasing refugees' access to food and resources. Women's participation was encouraged, including in the camp-management committees where they represented over half of the membership.

The year 2006 did not only bring natural disaster and emergencies to Nepal. On the positive side, it also brought improved political conditions. In November, the government of Nepal and Maoist guerrillas signed an historic peace accord, declaring a formal end to an insurgency that lasted more than a decade. Rebels joined a transitional government and gave up their weapons in April 2007. At the request of the Nepalese government, the UN oversaw and monitored the handing in of over 2,850 weapons by ex-combatants.

The improved political and security situation represents an important opportunity to boost Nepal's economic development, by revitalizing its international trade and particularly its tourist industry. Tourism has a proven potential in Nepal to contribute to economic development, job creation and thus poverty reduction. Environmental protection is key there. In 2006, the UN and the Commission supported the government Tourism Board in the promotion of sustainable tourism by providing training to 30 tourism companies on how to improve the sustainability of their products – with the aim of expanding business opportunities for tourism entrepreneurs in Nepal to tap into the international tourist market.

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Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family... Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance.

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*(Article 25, Universal Declaration of Human Rights)*

## Education, health, water and sanitation

### Highlights of the UN-Commission partnership in 2006:

- ▶ **Delivered learning materials:** distributed textbooks to some 4.5 million pupils in more than 14,000 primary schools.
- ▶ **Provided people with access to water:** provided safe drinking water for more than three million people in Africa and Central Asia.
- ▶ **Protected children from diseases:** immunized over 375 million children and administered 2.1 billion doses of oral polio vaccine in Africa, South-east Asia, the Western Pacific and Eastern Mediterranean.
- ▶ **Protected vulnerable children:** supported 300,000 orphans and vulnerable children with health, education, nutrition and care in Africa and Asia.
- ▶ **Provided services to refugees:** Provided some 8.8 million outpatient medical consultations to refugee patients in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.
- ▶ **Ensured better access to essential medicines:** made an in-depth assessment of medicine regulatory authorities in 26 ACP countries, with the objective of helping to strengthen the regulation, local production, procurement, supply and pricing of medicines.

The true test of good governance is the degree to which it delivers on the promise of human rights, such as the right to health, adequate housing, sufficient food, quality education, fair justice and personal security. Human development lies at the heart of the UN mandate and it is also a central thrust of the European Consensus on Development. The UN and the Commission share the perspective that it is essential to invest in people, in order to build their capabilities to participate actively in society and enlarge their choices. The Commission is a major partner of the UN in the core areas of social development, namely education, health (including provision of reproductive health services), water and sanitation, and child protection.

### Promoting and providing access to quality education

The Commission and the UN share a strong common commitment to education, given its fundamental role in reducing poverty. The right to education as a binding international human rights standard is reaffirmed in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The MDGs set two targets in education: MDG 2 sets the goal of giving all boys and girls full primary education by 2015 and MDG 3 commits states to eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and for all levels of education by 2015 at the latest. The 2006 MDG Report shows that universal primary education is in sight, though sub-Saharan Africa lags behind. Educating all children

presents a significant challenge due to geographic constraints, as large numbers of children live in remote areas, and economic constraints, as high rates of poverty limit educational opportunities because of demands for child labour, low levels of parental education and lack of access to quality schooling.

Building on their commitment to MDGs 2 and 3, the Commission and the UN worked together in 2006 to focus on improving access to basic services in education and reaching larger numbers of out-of-school children, and on ensuring access to child-friendly, quality primary education in regions across the developing world from Russia and Central Asia to the Near East and Africa. Over 500,000 children were provided with access to education across a range of settings from refugee camps to established schools. In Côte d'Ivoire a successful awareness-raising campaign on the benefits of education saw a drastic increase in school enrolment.

Access to education is important but keeping children in school can depend on the quality of education and supplementary services. Improvements in quality were supported by upgrading facilities and ensuring safe learning environments, developing child-friendly schools and joyful learning spaces such as in Ingushetia and Somalia, improving teaching quality through the training of over 50,000 teachers in Somalia, and improving the school curriculum in Comoros.

School feeding programmes can attract and keep children in school and improve children's attention span

and learning ability. In 2006, the UN through collaboration with the Commission and other donors delivered school meals to over five million children throughout the developing world and Russia, particularly to school children in Africa with significant deliveries in Zimbabwe, Somalia, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Kenya and Uganda. Over 218,000 children received take-home rations to share with their family.

MDG 3 specifically targets the gender gap in education. Globally, the gender gap in education is closing but not at an even pace throughout the world: more than one in five girls of primary-school age are not in school, compared to one in six boys. Of particular concern is the wide gender gap in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia, where almost 80% of the world's out-of-school children live. Commission-funded UN projects responded to this need with a clear focus on getting girls into school, including in refugee camps, through education projects in Comoros, Somalia, Chad, Pakistan and the Côte d'Ivoire.

Neither the UN nor the Commission accept that education for the majority of children does not satisfy international commitments; international commitments are to education for all\*. Countries must have the capacity to identify who is currently excluded from education and develop appropriate responses based on that evidence. Building capacity for data collection and analysis was an important component of educational projects delivered in a variety of settings – from emergencies and post-crisis in Sudan, where the government officials were trained and supported to carry out much-needed educational surveys, and in Pakistan to non-emergencies in Somalia and Indonesia where school management was strengthened.

Last year marked the solidifying of a strategic shift in education policy, namely a growing recognition of the importance of providing education in short-term and long-term emergency and post-crisis situations and in fragile states, helping to restore a sense of normality for children. With Commission support, the UN delivered pre-school education to over 25,500 children in Ingushetia and Sudan, plus primary and secondary education services to over 156,000 children refugees or internally displaced children in Pakistan and Sudan. Paradoxically, emergencies can provide a window of opportunity for marginalised children to participate in education, as demonstrated in post-earthquake Pakistan with the enrolment of an additional 30% of children as a result of re-establishing basic school services. In Liberia, UN school feeding rations were crucial in stabilizing the enrolment and attendance rates of school children, reaching some 2,075 schools and more than half a million children, and sustained by training workshops for parent-teacher associations.

In Iraq, a schools restoration programme helped to stem school closures and growing drop-out rates. In 2006, with the Commission's support, the UN rehabilitated over 80 schools and undertook comprehensive

rehabilitation of a further 95 schools. A total of 430,000 beneficiaries there will have improved access to water and sanitation facilities once the rehabilitation process is complete. Essential learning materials were delivered to some 4.5 million pupils in more than 14,000 primary schools, while playgrounds were constructed in over 60 schools and some 16,000 Iraqi schools received recreational kits. The cooperation also focused on improving critical aspects of the educational system, including improving the quality of Iraqi textbooks and improving the quality of teachers through a teacher-training programme that in 2006 trained 440 teachers, who in turn trained 34,000 teachers.



Côte d'Ivoire - Children back to school  
(UNICEF/B. Brioni)

Achieving education for all requires adapting to the specific needs of groups excluded from mainstream education as well as extending education to all ages. The Commission supported UN provision in multiple countries across Asia and the Caribbean of non-formal education to marginalised youth exposed to drug misuse, to improve their skills so they can achieve sustainable livelihoods. In 2006, over 21,000 adolescents and young adults accessed continuous life skills education, training and income-generation opportunities, while preventive information on topics such as violence, human trafficking, alcohol, gender inequity, socio-economic vulnerability was distributed to over 166,000 people from marginalised communities.

In Haiti, the UN, with Commission support, strengthened professional capacities to deliver adult education and purchased materials for adult students. In Iraq, 20,000 pupils aged 12 to 18 enrolled in literacy programmes, with a 75% success rate in exams. Campus facilities for a regional Central African post-university programme were improved, including the installation of two scientific laboratories, and an additional 1,000 square metres for offices, laboratories, classrooms and dormitories. Support was provided for doctoral students from Central Africa. In Somalia, the integrated programme for strengthening secondary education supported the training in 10 subjects of some 500 secondary school teachers, re-writing of the Somaliland curriculum, and sponsorship of 12 Somaliland students to study in the East African region. The UN was able to



help a wide range of students capitalize on new technology for learning with Commission support, for example through the Avicenna Virtual Campus linking the EU Mediterranean countries with their North African neighbours. The project trained approximately 1,000 teachers and tutors in online course production methodology, produced over 200 online modules and succeeded in enrolling 140,000 students.

Education on sexual and reproductive health for youth in and out of school is key to preventing unwanted pregnancies for adolescents, promoting healthy and responsible lifestyles for young people, and preventing sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS. The Commission and the UN supported mainstreaming of these issues in national curricula through a regional approach, supported by specific country-tailored interventions in Laos, Vietnam, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

### Promoting global, regional and country action in support of health

Three Millennium Development Goals relate to improving the health of people including reducing child mortality (MDG 4), improving maternal health (MDG 5) and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases (MDG 6). Estimates at the end of 2005 indicate that some 10.1 million children still die before their fifth birthday, mostly from preventable causes, and that although infant and child mortality rates declined globally, the pace of progress is uneven across regions. While a number of middle-income countries made progress on reducing maternal deaths, nevertheless maternal mortality levels remain unacceptably high across the developing world. Similarly, while HIV prevalence levelled off in the developing world, by the end of 2006 an estimated 39.5 million people worldwide were living with HIV (in the hardest hit areas more than half of those were women), and treatment and prevention rates were failing to keep up with the spread of disease. All three MDGs require particular emphasis on sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia, and received particular attention in the combined efforts of the UN and the Commission. The UN-Commission cooperation in health in 2006 ranged from joint efforts for the mobilization of global public goods to combat and prevent diseases, to improving the international regulatory framework, supporting the scaling up and efficient use of funding for the health MDGs (including coordinating stakeholder interventions), mainstreaming health within national poverty-reduction strategies, and delivering support including in emergency settings.

The Commission was a key partner in intergovernmental work on public health, innovation and intellectual property, drawing up a global strategy on essential health research relevant to diseases that disproportionately affect developing countries. The EU plays a key role, as funder of health-oriented research, a partner in clinical trials, and through cooperation with the UN in over 50 ACP countries to increase the availability, af-

fordability, safety and more rational use of medicines. In 2006, the Commission collaborated with the UN on four regional consultations in Africa to formulate a strategy to strengthen the regulation, local production, procurement, supply and pricing of medicines. In 26 ACP countries, an in-depth assessment was made of medicines regulatory authorities, accompanied by training.

Health security and communicable diseases are a crucial area of cooperation, with the Commission contributing extensively to a revision of the International Health Regulations finalised in 2006. These entered into force in 2007\*. Europe's own early-warning and response system is crucial to UN-led global efforts to identify and communicate potential public-health emergencies of international concern. The UN has a mutually supportive technical engagement with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, including joint field missions and the long-term secondment of UN staff. In 2006, the Commission co-hosted an international pledging conference on avian and human influenza in Beijing. Joint technical missions were conducted to Turkey to investigate the outbreak of avian flu, while in countries representing a major challenge to health security, such as Burkina Faso and Kenya, country action plans were supported to reinforce integrated disease surveillance systems and control programmes to respond to eventual outbreaks.

In 2006, the Commission continued to play a major role in supporting the UN-led global polio eradication initiative. In that year, Egypt and Niger were officially removed from the list of polio-endemic countries. Of the 26 countries re-infected since 2003, only nine continued to have active transmission of polio. In 2006, a total of some 2.1 billion doses of oral polio vaccine were administered to around 375 million children under five years of age during almost 190 rounds of supplementary immunisation activity conducted in the African, South-east Asian, Western Pacific and Eastern Mediterranean regions. In Nigeria, a newly launched 'immunisation plus days' strategy offered both the polio vaccination and other vaccinations and vitamins, reducing the proportion of children in northern states who had never been immunized from an average of 50% at end-2005 to 20% at end-2006. The UN, with Commission support, acted quickly to stop other epidemics in several countries, including in Angola, where some 4,000 victims of cholera were supported and the epidemic was curbed, in eleven districts of Burkina Faso, where some 1.7 million people were vaccinated against meningococcal disease, and in Sudan where approximately 820,000 people were vaccinated against yellow fever.

In 2006, the UN and Commission together identified eight ACP countries for particular focus to enhance national capacity for the formulation and implementation of health policies. In Angola and Burkina Faso, they facilitated joint planning efforts with the ministries of finance, planning and health to promote the scaling up of funding for the health MDGs. Two sub-regional consultations in Burkina Faso and in Tanzania addressed the

critical issue of political support for human resources for health development to tackle HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria and accelerate progress towards the MDGs in Africa.

In 2006, a comprehensive plan of action was drawn up between the EU, the UN and the African Union in the field of reproductive health, namely the Maputo Plan of Action 2007-2010.\* This is a roadmap for access to sexual and reproductive health services across the region. These objectives were supported in 2006 through programmes in Africa (Kenya, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, Burkina Faso, Niger, Tanzania) and in Asia (Pakistan, Cambodia), with interventions to make pregnancy safer and improve women's sexual and reproductive health. In Malawi, some 256,000 condoms were distributed to young people as part of awareness-raising campaigns on HIV/AIDS. In Zimbabwe, training ensured that schoolteachers were in a position to deliver participatory methodologies for HIV/AIDS prevention.

A policy of both the UN and the Commission has been to mainstream the tackling of HIV/AIDS into non-health related programmes to the extent possible, for example Ukraine, where safe sexual behaviour among the uniformed services was promoted (see Box 4). The HIV/AIDS pandemic not only threatens the physical health and survival of millions of people, it also deprives children of parental love, care and protection. They are often forced to assume the burden of caring for and financially supporting sick parents or younger siblings.

With Commission support, the UN provided services to over 78,000 children in Zimbabwe and Swaziland. In Zimbabwe, children were provided with information, life skills and support to protect themselves from HIV/AIDS infections and trained as peer counsellors to support each other. In Swaziland, the UN provided support to neighbourhood care points that provided critical protection, care and support to orphans and vulnerable children. In HIV/AIDS, the Commission continued to support the UN's internal capacity to respond to the pandemic. Deliverables under the partnership included UN guidelines for programming, training packages on providing care and support to rape survivors that emphasized non-medical response to sexual violence, and building of capacities to respond to gender-based violence. With Commission support, the UN produced an awareness-raising film on standards of conduct for UN staff and related personnel, including the obligation to act to prevent and respond to acts of sexual exploitation and abuse, in line with international human rights and standards.

Health has become a vital part of the Commission's partnership with the UN in many emergency settings. In Sudan some 700,000 conflict-affected people were assisted through primary health care kits, including some 160,000 women provided with midwifery kits, and almost 220,000 people were vaccinated as an emergency

response to a meningitis outbreak. Liberia benefited from the rehabilitation of a provincial hospital laboratory, and training and support to community action to stem outbreaks of Lassa fever. Outpatient consultations were provided to some 8.8 million refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Some 92,000 pregnant women benefited from expanded maternal health services, and around 116,000 women of reproductive age were provided with family-planning services. In addition, more than 100,000 refugee women benefited from a supplementary feeding programme. In Iraq, with the support of the Commission, the UN was able to implement a mother-and-child health strategy in 2006. This resulted in some 900 doctors and nurses benefiting from cascade training in emergency obstetric care, the rehabilitation of over 40 primary health care centres benefiting a million people, and distribution of vegetable oil to over 400,000 pregnant women and Malnourished children receive vegetable oil through a network of over 930 UN-supported primary health care centres and community child care facilities.



Sudan - Meningitis campaign in Kassala (WHO)

Strengthening existing local health services – or establishing them where none existed – is crucial in situations of forced displacement. Access to basic preventative medical care and treatment is particularly important where crowded living conditions facilitate the spread of disease. In Sudan, some 65 health facilities received supplies to provide proper case management of yellow fever, and communities in affected areas were covered by vector control. The UN seeks to ensure that vaccinations, primary medical care, and obstetric, maternal and child care are available in refugee camps. In Tanzania, over 95% of the refugee population received basic care in camp facilities. In Iran, the UN with the support of the Commission provided medical assistance to some 9,000 Afghan refugees. In Sudan, over 3,000 elderly and vulnerable members of the internally displaced community were operated on for cataracts, glaucoma and trachoma and around 5,250 emergency obstetric care interventions were carried out.



## Securing safe water and sanitation services

Safe drinking water and hygienic sanitation facilities are preconditions for health and for success in the fight against poverty, hunger, child deaths and gender inequality. More than 2.6 billion people worldwide lack basic sanitation facilities, and over one billion do not have access to safe water. The Millennium Development Goal 7 committed world leaders to reducing by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015. The world is on track to meet the target of reducing the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water, though it is struggling to keep pace with population growth and ever-accelerating urbanization. The target on sanitation will not be met unless progress is greatly accelerated, thereby risking leaving some 2.4 billion people without access to basic sanitation.

In 2006, the UN and Commission cooperated in 16 countries to improve access to safe water and sanitation facilities. The three principal areas of focus were guaranteeing water supplies in emergency situations and improving disaster preparedness, for example in Nepal; rehabilitating water systems to improve access of under-served populations; and building local government and community capacities for the sustainable management of water resources. Cooperation in this critical field is now expanding under the ACP-EU water facility.

Providing access to safe drinking water was a potentially life-saving service in Southern Sudan: approximately 2.5 million people in rural and semi-rural areas, including half a million internally displaced people, were provided with disinfected water, thereby drastically reducing the risk of new outbreaks of cholera, diarrhoea and other diseases. In Darfur, the drilling and installation of hand pumps increased access to safe water for tens of thou-

sands of people. In Grozny in Chechnya, the UN with Commission support distributed an average daily capacity of 781,000 litres of safe drinking water through 253 water-distribution points, thus reducing the rate of water-borne diseases. Capacity building of local authorities prepared the way for a gradual hand-over of water purification and distribution to the authorities there.

The link between health and clean water is obvious when cholera epidemics strike. The Commission and UN worked together in Angola to distribute household supplies for the treatment and storage of water to some 225,000 people in areas identified as being at high risk of cholera. In particular, 45,000 jerry cans and 250,000 water purification tablets, as well as some 182,000 bars of soap were distributed in affected areas.

Sustainable service delivery frequently depends on decentralized authority, a combination of public and private sector resources and expertise, and the empowerment of communities to make well-informed choices about technical, management and financial options. Projects in Russia, Côte d'Ivoire, Somalia and Tajikistan reinforced the capacities of local authorities and communities to manage water, sanitation and waste-management services. In Somalia, the Commission-UN partnership helped the government put in place sustainable water supply and solid waste-management structures in urban areas and collect, analyse and use water, sanitation and waste-management data for urban planning purposes. In Somalia, Tajikistan and Russia, interventions focused on behavioural change to improve hygiene and awareness-raising on the importance of safe drinking water.

Lack of basic water and hygiene services in schools can be a deterrent to school attendance: girls in particular

may be deterred by lack of separate or appropriate hygiene facilities, or may have to spend time collecting water rather than attending school. School can also serve as an important venue for conveying basic behaviour change messages that are important to improving hygiene and ultimately improving health outcomes for school children. In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the UN rehabilitated water and sanitation facilities in more than 20 child care institutions, providing access to improved sanitary facilities to an estimated

10,000 children; it also rehabilitated water supply services, given to a further 65,000 people. In Tajikistan, over 35 schools benefited from new or rehabilitated water and sanitation facilities, while approximately 25,000 school children and 12,000 community members gained knowledge on hygiene practices. In Cambodia, schools participating in the child-friendly school programme that promotes health and hygiene education benefited from improved water supply for around 13,000 children and improved sanitation facilities for some 16,000.



Everyone has the right to education...  
Education shall be directed at the  
full development of the human  
personality and to the strengthening  
of respect for human rights and  
fundamental freedoms.



*(Article 26, Universal Declaration of Human Rights)*

## Box 2

### Democratic Republic of Congo:

#### From conflict and misrule to peace, reconstruction, and the restoration of democracy

The contemporary history of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is a paradox. Though one of the wealthiest countries in the world with valuable natural resources, its development has been thwarted by mis-governance and a brutal civil conflict. A peace deal in 2003 paved the way for a new beginning, marked by relative peace, stability and reconstruction. At the centre of the challenges confronting the country lies the disarmament, rehabilitation and re-integration of combatants, return and re-integration of refugees and massive numbers of internally displaced, reviving the social and economic infrastructure, and restoring democratic governance and the rule of law.

A comprehensive partnership between the UN and the European Commission that cuts across humanitarian to development interventions to underpin and reinforce the relative socio-political stability and the restoration of hope.

In 2006, as in the previous year, the UN-Commission partnership on electoral assistance, along with other donors, was a flagship of the international support for the country. Building on support for a complex voter-registration exercise that enabled 25 million citizens to be registered in 2005, the support provided in 2006 was fundamental to the success of what was by every measure a politically and logistically complex election. With Commission support, the UN:

- delivered in excess of 117 million ballot papers to more than 50,000 polling stations
- trained at least one million polling agents
- trained 98,000 police officers and equipped them with the requisite hardware to ensure security of the ballot, and that of the election more broadly
- undertook an extensive voter-awareness campaign, during which 21 TV and radio programmes were broadcast on nine different TV stations and 15 radio stations.

These interventions were crucial in ensuring high voter turnout in both the July Presidential and Parliamentary elections, as well as in the October Provincial and Presidential run-off election. In each instance, over two-thirds of registered voters cast their vote.

While the principle of their political choice and political expression is important, equally important to fundamental freedoms is the rule of law and the promotion and protection of human rights. The partnership invested in building the capacity of government and civil society on human rights. This involved providing expertise on key human-rights issues, training to a wide range of people, and fellowships and scholarships to build specialised knowledge. Some 5,060 people benefited from training programmes, including 4,000 students from Eastern DRC.

The return and rehabilitation of refugees and internally displaced people, enhancing social service delivery, and generation of economic opportunities for the vulnerable remain crucial to the consolidation of peace and social cohesion. Extensive cooperation between the UN and the Commission, with other partners, was pivotal in facilitating return and re-integration of large numbers of refugees and internally displaced people in 2006. During that year:

- 1,664,000 Congolese received food assistance, including some 314,600 children via emergency school feeding activities in 550 schools and more than 23,000 returnees via resettlement food packages.
- 29,000 Congolese refugees from neighbouring countries were repatriated, and assistance was given to 12,000 others who repatriated on their own.
- The partnership supported some 20 health care centres and hospitals, built a hospital, a dispensary and six health posts in South Kivu. Over 1.6 million people were vaccinated against polio.
- Household materials were distributed to 29,000 returnees and over 2,200 IDPs, while shelter was provided to 650 especially vulnerable families.
- More than 380 teachers were trained in the national curriculum and supported with teaching material. Equipment and school uniforms were provided to institutions to strengthen absorption capacity.
- In the Kivu region, 38,000 households, including some 25,000 families with malnourished children, were supported with vocational training programmes, provision of seeds and agricultural tools and seed-protection food rations.
- Over 5,000 families benefited from income-generating activities, while thousands of returnees received start-up kits to assist with the setting up of small businesses, and micro-credit schemes for people with special needs.
- 9,500 humanitarian workers were able to access isolated areas and to deliver 55 metric tons of cargo relief through the UN Humanitarian Air Service.

The Commission is working through the UN to preserve forest resources and enhance livelihoods in conservation zones where great apes are flagship species. Local awareness-raising has helped in conserving the gorillas and their habitats, while livestock schemes provided local people with alternative opportunities for sustenance other than forest exploitation.

“

Everyone has the  
right to work...

”

*(Article 23, Universal Declaration of Human Rights)*

## Food security, rural development, trade and small enterprise development

### Highlights of the UN-Commission partnership in 2006:

#### In 2006, the UN with support from the Commission:

- ▶ **Restored rural infrastructures:** renovated some 42 km of farm irrigation in Kyrgyzstan, thereby increasing the water supply by around 25% and agricultural production by 10%.
- ▶ **Helped make food security a reality:** supported production of over 11,000 kilograms of fortified food and distributed some 2.5 million rations of food to children and pregnant women in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.
- ▶ **Boosted the local and regional commodity market:** purchased some 780,000 metric tons of food aid, thereby impacting positively on markets and trade capacities by promoting competition, raising business standards and improving the quality of food supplied by traders.
- ▶ **Built the capacity of small enterprises:** supported the development of more than 1,000 small and medium enterprises in Asia and Africa for private-sector development and trading capacity.
- ▶ **Provided support against animal-related disease outbreak:** helped the Turkish authorities conduct vaccinations, track animal-immunity levels and monitor for avian influenza in the country's strategic Thrace region, Asia's gateway to Europe.

Three-quarters of the world's more than one billion extremely poor people live in rural areas of developing countries. The majority depend on agriculture and related small industries and services for their livelihood. That means that fighting poverty, including hunger, and tackling many of the root causes of conflicts requires a transformation in the quality of rural lives and livelihoods. Fostering a country's integration into the world economy is recognized as having an enormous potential to contribute to poverty alleviation: the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document\* emphasized trade expansion and diversification as key to the attainment of the MDGs in Africa. Sustainable livelihoods, trade and market access are closely linked to achievement of: MDG 1, to halve world poverty and reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger by 2015; MDG 3 on gender equality and women's empowerment, since women are responsible for 60 to 80% of food production in developing countries; MDG 7, to ensure environmental sustainability; and MDG 8, namely the global partnership for development, including fair globalization. The Commission's partnership with the UN contributed directly to food security and the promotion of sustainable livelihoods, market access and small and medium-sized enterprise development.

### Promoting food security and rural development

Food security is a major area of cooperation between the Commission and the UN. The UN acts as the principal channel for food aid from the Commission in humanitarian crises (see chapter 3), and the partners work

at global and country levels to improve the capacity for managing food insecurity. The Commission is a major contributor of data to the global information and early-warning system of the UN, the purpose of which is to provide timely information and objective assessments of food-aid requirements. In 2006, the Commission provided input into improved guidelines for UN-led crop and food-supply assessment missions, and acted as EU observer in some ten UN-facilitated crop, food supply and emergency food-security assessment missions. This global cooperation was complemented in 2006 by joint Commission-UN support to country systems and capacity building for support to food-security information systems to understand better the nature, causes and even geographical location of hunger.

In 2006, the Commission and UN worked together in 18 countries in Africa, the Middle East, the Caucasus and Asia, to encourage use of food-security data for more effective policy and programming. In Armenia, the first national early-warning system workstation, a web-based mapping tool for managing national food security data, was launched, responding to one of the country's most pressing needs – namely a reliable means for managing and exchanging food-security information across decentralized centres. In Cambodia, Laos and Kenya, national capacities were built to estimate food-deprivation data and analyse and assess the impact of weather on crop production.

Supported by the Commission, the UN also worked with the intergovernmental authority on development (a sub-regional organization comprising seven

countries in East Africa, created for development and drought control in East Africa) to give it a bigger role in achieving sustainable food security by strengthening capacities to formulate and implement policies, and compiling regional data on food security and poverty to inform policy design. The Commission also facilitated UN support to 17 comprehensive food-security and vulnerability analyses, ranging from sub-Saharan Africa to the Near East and Timor Leste, and 13 food-security monitoring missions. The latter were key to reinforcing the work of the Comité Permanent Inter-états de Lutte Contre la Sécheresse in the Sahel in promoting a sub-regional approach to food security.

Improvement of rural livelihoods was an important element of the partnership between the Commission and the UN all over the world. In Sudan, some 7,900 households received crop seeds and farming tools, around 4,000 livestock holders received treatment and vaccination of their animals and some 2,000 households benefited from grinding mills. In Kyrgyzstan, small farmers benefited from the renovation of more than 40 km of farm-irrigation systems, thereby increasing by 25% the water supply available to some 2,800 hectares of irrigated area and boosting agricultural production by between 10 and 15%; and the drainage of over 10,480 km of waterlogged area, reducing the water level of the garden plots of some 1,515 households and enabling around 195 hectares of drained land to be used for agricultural production.

In Myanmar, the household production of some 55,000 low-income families improved further to provision of around 200 metric tons of improved rice seeds and chemical fertilizers, over 10 metric tons of mustard seeds and 11,400 fruit tree saplings, vaccinations for some 270,000 chickens, and the distribution of around 5,000 chickens and 720 kg of feed to selected farmers to support backyard poultry production. Food gaps of poor households previously involved in cultivation of poppies were covered by support to alternative sustainable livelihoods, from which some 380,000 people benefited.

In Timor Leste, the Commission and the UN supported the capacity building of the ministry of agriculture and forestry and secretariat for labour and solidarity to restore community infrastructure, increasing job opportunities, and improving livelihood capacities and self-sufficiency in food production in rural areas. Some 2,370 people benefited from vocational and on-the-job training as well as micro-credit support. In Oecussi, the poorest region of the country, sustainable livelihood opportunities were stimulated through community development funds, support to skills development, and access to technologies to enhance food security and generate income. As a result, in 2006, over 520 households adopted improved varieties of food crops, increasing productivity of maize by 25%, of lowland rice by 27% and of upland rice by 26%; and some 1,940 heads of households were engaged in agricultural income-generating activities.

## Boosting trade

A core thrust of the Commission-UN cooperation is in the field of trade. Fair globalization, including through implementation of core international standards in human and labour rights and the environment, is a component of MDG 8 and the global partnership for development. Europe's new generalized tariff preferences, which became operational in 2006, encourage adoption of international standards by granting preferential access to European markets for third countries that ratify and implement core UN conventions.

In 2006, the Commission supported the UN's development of an impact assessment of trade liberalisation, which included a test setting of indicators for decent work. In Albania, with Commission support, the UN trained some 200 civil servants from the ministries of agriculture and the economy on issues related to European integration, trade in goods and services, intellectual property and dispute mechanisms. In Kosovo, with Commission support, the UN assisted the authorities in assessing existing trade-related legislation to identify potential issues for future WTO adherence. In Azerbaijan, the Commission-UN partnership supported the upgrading of customs legislation to conform to the EU customs code, creation of a computerized network of customs points, and training of some 340 customs officers in trade legislation and information technology. In the critical area of intellectual property, including patents, trade marks and copyright, the Commission and the UN assisted Pakistan in establishing an intellectual property rights organisation and in modernising its intellectual property rights system, to achieve more coherent policies, improved services to users of the system, effective enforcement of rights, and informed participation by Pakistan in international negotiations on IP issues (see Box 3).

The Commission's position as the single largest donor to the UN's food aid programme, for commodities provided locally and regionally, enabled it together with the UN to provide an important boost to markets. In 2006, the UN was the largest purchaser of food aid in Africa, and bought nearly 780,000 metric tons, impacting positively on markets and trade capacities by promoting competition, raising business standards and improving the quality of food supplied by traders. In Uganda, for instance, the local procurement programme worked with small farmer groups to strengthen their ability to market maize and other commodities directly. In 2006, over 2,000 group representatives were trained in post-harvest handling, quality control, business management and marketing, and the UN purchased nearly 9,000 metric tons of maize and beans from some 25 small farmer groups.

In recognition of the fact that liberalization of investment and trade regimes alone do not guarantee the participation of developing countries in global markets. In 2006, the UN-Commission partnership helped countries tackle some of the supply-side constraints faced.





As noted in Box 3, the partnership supported Pakistan in strengthening its national capacities to comply with international standards and thus supporting exports. In Bangladesh, a quality support programme assisted the government in raising quality standards and their management to international levels, including through awareness-raising among the business community. Again, the fisheries sector was supported, with emphasis on inspection capacities to meet international food-safety standards. In the textile sector, support was provided at the national level, for more effective policy-making and coordination; and within the industry itself, to facilitate market access through enhanced information services, technical and marketing training, and support to new product development. Over 330 experts were trained in technical issues related to accreditation, standards and testing, while more than 570 people attended awareness-raising events on quality and environmental management systems and social standards.

Small and medium-sized enterprises have significant

potential to contribute to poverty alleviation, often providing the only opportunity in developing countries for millions of poor people, including women entrepreneurs, to be employed and earn an income. In Senegal, the sector occupies 90% of the economy and is the principal source of employment. With Commission support, the UN helped develop a network and clusters of subsistence for micro-businesses and small enterprises. Almost 110 business groupings were assisted, involving over 2,730 people, 52% of whom were women. As a result of the support, 60% of the business groupings were formalized. In other words, they secured a legal status allowing them access to credit, technology and training. In the Southeast Anatolia Region of Turkey, some 600 small and medium-sized enterprises were supported on management issues, internationalisation, productivity, marketing and financial management which, together with the establishment of links between the exporters' association in Istanbul and a local business association, resulted in an increase of 20% in production volumes of local manufacturers and a 15% increase in jobs.

## Box 3

### Pakistan:

#### Working together to overcome the effects of a natural disaster and build the capacity of governmental and non-governmental institutions

Pakistan is still recovering from the major earthquake of October 2005, which killed 70,000 people and left 3.3 million homeless. Population displacement continued in Pakistan throughout 2006 due to landslides and aftershocks, aggravated by heavy rains.

The Commission and the UN, with the humanitarian community, provided basic shelter, food and health care to displaced communities. The Commission supported the UN in providing logistical air services to the aid community to ensure relief goods and humanitarian workers reach remote locations. The facility was used by more than 21,000 people from 125 different to provide relief and support to the local population. UN helicopters ensured delivery of 15,000 metric tons of food and non-food items.

Particular attention was paid to health. Health units established by the partnership, provided:

- 328,200 consultations on emergency obstetric care and reproductive health;
- 210,000 hygiene kits to girls and women;
- safe delivery of babies to 5,375 women in the Mauzaffarabad and Mansehra districts;
- an early-warning system on communicable diseases.

The UN-Commission support focused on bringing back a sense of normality to the lives of people. More than 100 communities in 25 locations and over 90 union councils in seven districts were provided with agricultural inputs, animal feed, tools and training. In particular:

- 128 metric tons of quality maize seed and 515 tons of fertilizers were distributed to some 10,280 households, while 29,120 households received 1,460 tonnes of fertilizer;
- 745 tonnes of quality wheat seed and 1,490 tonnes of fertilizer were distributed to 29,800 households;
- 600 farmers were trained in crop-sowing techniques as part of a revival of the agricultural sector;
- 197 tonnes of urea molasses blocks and 590 tonnes of compound animal feed were distributed among 1,970 households;
- 200 farmers were trained in the use of supplementary cattle feed and 355 farmers in plant management;
- 100 hectares of forest were planted by community organizations to help revive the forestry sector and 100 infrastructure schemes (water harvesting, paths and sanitation works) were built or rehabilitated with a 40% contribution from communities.

A 'back to school campaign' was successfully launched, establishing tented schools that were maintained in the emergency and sustained during the transition to recovery. The schools were supplied with notebooks, mats, blackboards, School-in-a-Box (SIB), and recreational kits delivered by partner organizations.

Following the 2005 census, in 2006, registration of Afghan citizens living in Pakistan was initiated. Of an estimated Afghan population of 2.4 million, 90% were registered and received Proof of Registration cards. The Commission further supported the UN in its provision of education and legal aid to Afghan refugees to promote their voluntary return home. Over 118,700 Afghan refugees were repatriated from Pakistan in 2006.

Despite the humanitarian crisis, in 2006 the Pakistan economy grew by 7%. To help strengthen the country's integration into the world economy the Commission and UN supported national capacity building for trade-related services in the fields of intellectual property rights, standards setting and accreditation.

Results to date include:

- Support to the establishment of the Pakistan Intellectual Property Rights Organization;
- Improved awareness about World Trade Organization issues among Pakistani officials, the business sector and civil-society organisations;
- Strengthened accreditation and conformity infrastructure through capacity building of the Pakistan National Accreditation Council;
- Strengthened capacity of the Pakistan Standard Quality Control Authority to set standards and assure quality of exports.

The latter was crucial in creating employment opportunities in the country. In 2005, Pakistan had voluntarily suspended its fish exports to the EU, following an inspection by the European Commission Food and Veterinary Office. The Commission and the UN assisted national authorities in addressing the deficiencies raised by the inspectors. The Marine Fisheries Department (MFD) was strengthened. More than 250 fishing boats were upgraded to meet quality and hygiene requirements. The landing site and auction halls were improved as per designs provided by the UN. In total, over 780 operators were trained in Standard Operating Procedures, Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point and in traceability. Traceability equipment was also provided to eleven fish-processing plants in Karachi.

“Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.”

*(Article 27, Universal Declaration of Human Rights)*

“

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

”

*(Article 6, Universal Declaration of Human Rights)*

# Democracy, the rule of law and the sustainable management of cultural heritage and the environment

## Highlights of the UN-Commission partnership in 2006:

### In 2006, the UN with support from the Commission:

- ▶ **Reinforced democracy:** helped more than 45 million people to cast their vote in democratic elections in Benin, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gambia, Guyana, Madagascar, Mauritania, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Zambia and the Indonesian Province of Aceh.
- ▶ **Strengthened rule of law:** trained some 29,800 officers on security issues, including 600 border officers in the Central Asian region, who were trained on drug and explosive detection and trafficking of human beings.
- ▶ **Protected the environment:** supported people in Central Asia to restore their natural resources and protect diversity. In Pakistan, some 265,500 forest plants were distributed and planted through community organization members.
- ▶ **Improved quality of statistics for social policy:** 800,000 enumerators trained in Nigeria to conduct a census covering more than 120 million people.

The importance of good governance in poverty reduction and in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals was clearly reaffirmed by the Millennium Declaration in 2000. The Brahimi Report (see chapter 4) similarly stressed its centrality for the achievement of sustainable peace and security. The Communication from the European Commission on 'Governance in the European Consensus on Development', issued in 2006, aimed at a common European approach to promoting all aspects of democratic governance – including support for democratic processes, the rule of law, human security, effective institutions, access to basic social services, sustainable management of the environment, and the promotion of sustainable economic growth and social cohesion. The UN and the Commission are united by this broad definition of what constitutes good governance, and by their understanding of governance as essentially a process of long-term change based on universal values and principles. In their respective work, the UN and the Commission attach great importance to development outcomes and to the development process per se, including the participation of all stakeholders to ensure their interests and rights are taken into account.

The importance attached to governance and human rights by the Commission and the UN institutions is reflected in the breadth of their partnership in this domain. It reflects the particular value of the UN's neutrality and impartiality and its expertise in what are typically sensitive areas of development. In 2006, the UN and the Commission worked together in 52 countries in all regions to deepen democracy and reform institutions, thereby improving states' capacity to deliver services to their citizens and protect and uphold their rights. The partnership extended to environmental governance,

including strengthening the management of natural resources and mainstreaming the international environmental standards in development planning.

## Deepening democracy to enhance political accountability

Democratic development, enhanced citizens' participation in policy-making processes and the achievement of the MDGs are mutually reinforcing. This helps explain the premium the UN and the Commission place on strengthening democratic practices and processes to underpin poverty reduction and enhance overall human development. While elections are important, increasingly the real challenge lies in consolidating democracy, entrenching good governance values and practices, and developing popular institutions to enhance participation. It is for this reason that the Commission and the UN are actively working together to deepen democracy in third countries through (1) supporting electoral assistance, including building the capacity of election-management bodies; (2) assisting constitutional reforms; (3) strengthening the capacity of parliaments; (4) enhancing consciousness and appreciation among the citizenry of democratic principles, values and culture through a permanent and systematic national civic-education activities, including by strengthening the involvement of non-state actors; and (5) facilitating access to public information.

In 2006, the UN and the Commission provided significant support to a number of elections and electoral systems worldwide, including Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Indonesia, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania, Madagascar, the Occupied Palestine Territories

and Timor Leste. The focus included expanding participation particularly of women and marginalized groups in the electoral process, including through voter education and awareness-raising; strengthening the independence and capacity of institutions responsible for the conduct of elections; and supporting efforts aimed at increasing security and stability during electoral periods.

While it is true that elections are not necessarily sufficient to secure democracy, the act of freely casting a secret vote remains an enduring symbol of democratic life. The UN and the Commission want to achieve a balance between supporting the 'act' of voting as exemplified by short-term, event-specific electoral assistance and supporting the longer term electoral systems and processes that help to sustain democratic principles throughout societies and their institutions, thereby enhancing the integrity and accountability of the process, supporting sound electoral management practices, and promoting efficient use of national resources. To this end, in 2006, the Commission and the UN worked together in ten countries in Africa, the Near East, Asia and Latin America to promote sustainable and transparent electoral processes and institutions that allow all citizens to elect their representatives freely and hold them accountable for commitments and results.

In 2006, the partnership on electoral assistance was most prominent in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where the extensive support provided was fundamental to the success of what was by every measure a complex election (see Box 2). The Commission was also a major partner in the UN's support to stabilize the Indonesian province of Aceh, where in December 2006 elections

were held, following the 2005 peace agreement signed by the government and the separatists. Approximately two million people cast their vote in some 9,000 polling stations across the island. Extensive voter education contributed to the record voter turnout of 80% registered in the polls, the highest ever registered in any Indonesian province. In Mauritania, where the Presidential term limit had become a contentious issue, the Commission and UN worked with national stakeholders to bring about constitutional reforms backed by a referendum that placed a two-term limit on the Presidency, and a maximum presidential age of 75. The successful referendum paved the way for legislative and municipal elections at the end of 2006. More than one million people cast their vote in the referendum as well as in the legislative elections, in a secure and stable environment supervised by some 7,000 police officers and 9,500 polling centre staff trained by the UN with the Commission's support. In 2006, electoral assistance also extended to the local-level elections. In Timor Leste, for instance, some 620 women were supported with training on electoral and transformational leadership, of whom more than half were elected to Village Councils.

The UN-Commission partnership in electoral assistance was strengthened and consolidated with the signature in 2006 of joint United Nations-European Commission Operational Guidelines on Electoral Assistance, the aim of which was to streamline operational processes and harmonise approaches to enhance efficiency and impact of joint cooperation in this domain. The Guidelines extended inter-institutional collaboration beyond individual projects to the development of methodological guides, joint training of staff to ensure good practice is shared and applied, and the establishment of a practi-

DRC - Election officers getting up early to prepare a polling station (UN/M. Perret)



tioners' network with a view to creating a global electoral knowledge network dedicated to the promotion of more professional, effective and sustainable electoral administration.

Parliaments represent the linchpin for democracy and the rule of law, as they help to exercise oversight over the work of the national executive, ensure transparent and accountable economic management, agree legislation, and above all represent the interests of the people. Parliamentary strengthening represents a major pillar in the UN's ongoing efforts to deepen democracy.

There was increased interest in 2006 on the part of the Commission to work in this area with the UN, particularly in Africa, the Arab States, Asia and Central America, to ensure that parliaments have the capacity, resources and the requisite independence to effectively carry out their core functions. Technical and policy support was provided on constitutional issues, in legislative drafting skills, and to enhance the analytic skills of national parliamentary committees in areas such as budget analysis and interpretation, gender-sensitive budgeting and strategic communication, as well as targeted support to enhance gender equality and the political advancement of women.

In Malawi, the UN-Commission partnership supported the Parliament in eliminating discrepancies and inconsistencies that exist in the country's Constitution. The output of the exercise will inform upcoming amendments aimed at making the nation's Constitution more robust. In Afghanistan, the UN helped the first elected National Assembly in three decades with training to inform and orient the nation to the demands of its legislative position. Parliamentarians were trained in budget analysis, and mainstreaming the Millennium Development Goals in the national policy frameworks, including the overarching Afghanistan National Development Strategy. This was complemented by physical infrastructural improvements, including a modern security system, Information Communication Technology (ICT) equipment and crèche facilities to meet the needs of women in Parliament. Media representatives were also trained on parliamentary issues, while outreach to citizens on the role and work of their parliament went beyond capacity enhancement of the legislature to build up public trust. Evidence exists that the general public's confidence in the ability of the legislature to effectively discharge its responsibilities has markedly increased.

A strongly functioning civil society and media are critical to fostering a broader national ownership of development agendas and enhancing accountability of governments, and key to deepening democracy. Extensive support was provided by the Commission and the UN to strengthen a range of actors such as cooperatives, trade unions, community-based organizations, indigenous peoples' organizations, youth and women's organisations, academic institutions, policy and research networks, local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the media. In Afghanistan, over 275 mainly cultural

entities in civil society were supported as agents for conflict prevention and the broader democratization efforts.

In Central America, the capacity of NGOs, labour unions, universities, and umbrella organizations in the private sector were enhanced to enable these constituencies to better contribute to the process of regional integration. In Indonesia, a Broadcast Media Centre was established to raise professional standards through quality training and certification. More than 340 media practitioners from across the country, including 100 women, were trained in radio and TV journalism in partnership with the Centre – which is increasing self-sustaining and providing training to international standards. In Rwanda, the Commission and the UN collaborated to support the establishment of the first university community radio station (Radio Salus) in partnership with the National University of Rwanda. In less than one year of operation, Radio Salus was ranked the third-most popular station in the country, with coverage extending to 70% of both the Rwandan territory and population. In 2006, the station trained over 50 people including student interns, whose skills were then available to other local community radio stations. Similar interventions were supported in all the countries of the Western Balkans.

## Strengthening the rule of law

The Commission and the UN worked together to enhance judicial independence, and promote access to justice through partnerships on legal literacy, support to strengthen legal aid and the enactment of pro-poor laws, as well as greater civic participation in the legal and judicial systems, particularly in Africa and Eastern Europe. In Mozambique, government efforts to improve people's access to justice, citizens' safety, social reintegration of offenders, and the overall performance of the judiciary were supported, thereby training some 160 police officers and 19 investigators on criminal investigation, and some 300 prison guards on human rights in order to strengthen human rights practices within the prison service. The partnership helped strengthen administration of the penal justice system through greater coordination across the organisations involved.

In Nigeria, the observance and application of the rule of law was strengthened through training and equipment support at both the national and sub-national level. Enhanced capacity of the judiciary and greater integrity in the justice system contributed to the country being removed in June 2006 from the intergovernmental Financial Action Task Force<sup>8</sup> list of non-cooperative states in the fight against money-laundering.

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8 The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body whose purpose is the development and promotion of national and international policies to combat money laundering and terrorist funding.

In Afghanistan, two of the most pressing challenges have been weak institutional capacities, including in the judiciary, and physical security. The UN and the Commission partnered to assess the effectiveness of the justice institutions through a needs assessment conducted in six provinces and 10 pilot districts; it paid special attention to gender discrimination. On physical security, the partnership contributed directly to the creation of Afghanistan's first national police force and sustainable police presence, by contributing to the payment of the salaries of over 63,600 police officers in all 34 provinces, training approximately 160 female police officers, and establishing a gender unit at the Ministry of Interior.

The partnership also extended to the building of capacities to carry out effective border controls appropriately, in accordance with international standards, including refugee-protection norms, while also addressing international crime. Capacity-building interventions designed to combat illicit drug trafficking were carried out in the Central Asian Republics, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. More than 600 officers were trained in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, on land-border management issues, such as the detection of drugs and explosives, and human trafficking. In Belarus, a comprehensive package of interventions was implemented in the areas of drug and explosives detection, falsification of documents, as well as the training of security and judicial officials on matters of extradition and freezing of assets derived from illegal activities. As a consequence of these interventions, important amendments were made in 2006 to national drug law to stem use and trade in illicit drugs. Similar interventions were implemented in Moldova and Armenia, including the establishment of national drug observatories in both countries. These observatories spearhead the collection and analysis of drug-related epidemiological information and statistics, as well as knowledge dissemination and knowledge transfer.

## Data for development

Data and statistics are the foundation for sound policy formulation and monitoring and key inputs to national development strategies. As such, they are key to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, enabling countries to identify the current status, develop appropriate responses based on evidence, monitor progress and evaluate impact. Data are also an essential tool of transparent government, providing a means for people to assess what governments do and helping them to participate directly in the development process. The existence of the MDGs has done much to engender greater demand for statistics, and for the capacity to generate and use statistical data.

At the global level, the UN and the Commission have shared objectives and complementary mandates in the international effort to coordinate standards and improve both the quality of statistics and the capacity of member countries to produce and use statistical information.

UN-Commission cooperation in 2006 focused inter alia on the harmonization of international standards for updating the system on national accounts, improving coordination among international organizations engaged in economic statistics gathering, and technical collaboration on international standards for price statistics and statistics on tourism.

The Commission also cooperated closely with the UN at a sectoral level. With support from the Commission, the UN led a multi-country project on Education Management Information Systems, spanning Central America, Asia and Africa, with a similar project in Iraq that reinforces national statistical capacity to follow national progress on the 'Education for All' project, aimed at meeting the learning needs of all children, youth and adults by 2015. Capacity building in knowledge management and its application to policy is important not only at the national level, as in the projects described above, but down to the local level. Building capacity for data collection and analysis and the application of that knowledge to school management by education ministries down to local communities was an important component of Commission-funded UN projects in education in 2006, referred to in chapter 5 of this report.

In Nigeria, through its partnership with the Commission, the UN provided technical support for the 2006 Nigerian Census carried out by the National Population Commission (NPopC). The cooperation served to strengthen the technical competencies of the NPopC staff in data analysis, while deployment of UN monitors across the country enhanced the transparency and accountability of the census. More than 800,000 people were trained as enumerators in order for the NPopC to be able to submit preliminary results to the government of Nigeria by end-December 2006. Data from the Census were used to plan and organize the 2007 elections and constitutes a vital support to government planning. In Kosovo, the Commission and the UN interim administration mission cooperated on the principles and recommendations for population and housing censuses, including the conduct of a pilot census in November 2006 to test the quality of preparations for conducting a full census.

In Cote d'Ivoire, Commission funding supported a multiple indicators cluster survey that enabled the UN to collect recent and relevant data of the population disaggregated by sex and by region. A total of some 54,650 people of around 7,600 households were surveyed, including around 12,880 women and 8,630 children. The survey has helped promote an evidenced-based approach to policy-making and project planning, helping the government, development partners, NGOs and decentralised entities to better reflect the needs of women and children in their interventions.

## Protecting and safeguarding cultural heritage and promoting cultural diversity

The UN and the Commission recognize the importance



of cultural diversity for sustainable development, including safeguarding cultural diversity and encouraging dialogue among cultures and civilisations, and preserving and promoting the common heritage of humanity as an ethical imperative towards future generations. The respectful discovery of cultures and peoples brings an undeniable promise of development, while sustainable tourism can combine cultural dialogue and economic development for the benefit of poverty alleviation.

In 2006, the Commission partnership with the UN contributed to the restoration of several significant heritage sites. One example was the redevelopment of the world heritage property Forts and Castle, located in Old Accra, Ghana, a project that is cited in Ghana's poverty-reduction strategy as a pilot to foster cultural tourism and community development. The UN-Commission support rehabilitated the Bastion and the old police station, renovated the electrical works, created a museum and trained staff. The UN-Commission partnership also assisted the government of Syria in improving its institutional and legal framework for the management of cultural-heritage sites, and in building the capacities of site managers and tourist guides from the ministries of tourism and culture. The world heritage site of Palmyra was chosen as a pilot for developing and applying techniques for managing the flow of tourists and avoiding risks of overcrowding. Technical assistance was provided to the municipality of Nablus in the Occupied Palestine Territories for the conservation and rehabilitation of the historic building Khan al-Wakala in its Old City, achieved through on-the-job training of some 50 workers and 20 technicians. The Commission and the UN are also actively involved in developing software that can guarantee the accessibility of digital data on world-heritage sites and biosphere reserves when data formats and software change. This is in the framework of a research project on the cultural, artistic and scientific knowledge for preservation, access and retrieval.

## Sustainable management of the environment

The UN and the Commission recognize the crucial importance of sustainable use of the environment and natural resources as an instrument for development, livelihoods, peace and stability. They are united around efforts to achieve Millennium Development Goal 7, namely to ensure environmental sustainability, including integrating sustainable development principles into policies and programmes and contributing to a reversal in the loss of environmental resources. The Commission is a key proponent of the need to strengthen international environmental governance through establishment of a specialized UN agency for the environment.

As contracting partner to a number of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) negotiated under UN auspices, the Commission has a prominent role in delivering Europe's contribution to international commitments. The year 2006 put the EU firmly at the global

forefront in implementation of the Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol, when the Commission prepared the most ambitious goals of reducing CO2 emissions worldwide. In the area of chemical management, the Commission demonstrated leadership in implementation of the Basel\* and Rotterdam Conventions\* on the control of international trade and transboundary movements of hazardous chemicals and waste to protect human health and the environment, mirroring UN-led efforts to develop a legal framework.



Afghanistan - Identifying waterflow from the dry surface of the wetland (UNEP/C. Shank)

The Commission not only led by example, but also supported the UN in a broad range of its activities. On climate change, the Commission was among the main contributors to the organization of the UN climate change conference in Nairobi in November 2006\*. The Commission was also one of the key contributors to setting up the institutional infrastructure to implement the Kyoto Protocol's Joint Implementation and Clean Development Mechanisms and supported the work on technology.\* Furthermore the cooperation included the need to increase the sustainability around the issue of changing consumption and production patterns in the context of the 'Marrakech Process'<sup>9</sup>, and jointly sponsored roundtable discussions in China and India aimed at increasing commitment to sustainable consumption and production goals. Normative cooperation and advocacy in 2006 was matched by increasing collaboration at the technical level, where the Commission worked closely with the UN on tackling global mercury emissions and actively supports the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)\*.

Cooperation at the centre was complemented by support to countries' mainstreaming of desertification and other environmental conventions into their national development strategies, and joint capacity-building projects both at the regional and country level. In 2006, the Commission and UN supported the five countries bordering the Caspian sea - Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and

<sup>9</sup> The Marrakech Process is a global effort to promote progress on the implementation of Sustainable Consumption and Production and the elaboration of a 10-Year Framework of Programmes on this issue.

Turkmenistan – through the Caspian Environment Programme, which is focused on biodiversity, pollution and programmes to achieve a Trans-boundary Diagnostic Analysis, National Caspian Action Plans, and a Strategic Action Programme. In the Carpathian region, the Commission and UN had for some time been supporting the sustainable development of the Carpathians, based on the potential of the area's rich natural and cultural heritage.

The year 2006 saw the entry into force of the Carpathian Convention and its ratification by six countries, which provides a framework for cooperation and joint sustainable local and regional development, and for informing and connecting stakeholders\*. In Africa, the management of water resources and provision of water-supply services was tackled through the UN-EU support of the African Ministers' Council on Water, in terms of logistical and publication support. The Commission and the UN cooperated closely to enhance environmental mainstreaming and capacity building at national and community levels in Lebanon, where the Ministry for the Environment was supported in establishing an integrated waste-management system for the olive oil pressing industries.

Cooperation at the community level also extended to the restoration of natural resources and the protection of diversity. In Thailand, a system of small grants gave traditional forest people the incentive to organize themselves to maintain, reintroduce or develop traditional and novel ways of sustainable tropical forest use. Around 50 Community Forest networks were functioning by end-2006, helping to expand good community forests practices and thereby improving community food security, increasing areas of community forestland and enhancing job security in 300 villages of 35 provinces. In Pakistan, a community-level programme aimed at strengthening forest conservation and sustainable livelihoods benefited more than 12,000 households in 150 villages and communities by securing the conservation of 25,000 ha of forest and the planting of a further 5,000 ha of forest. In Kazakhstan, to reduce pressures on biodiversity, alternative income-generating activities, particularly eco-tourism, were promoted through training, awareness campaigns and a small grant facility. In 2006, over 20 training courses reached some 120 initiative groups; and projects to develop five pilot villages for ecological tourism development had begun, contributing already to the establishment of seven small businesses and employment of over 50 local citizens.



Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community.



*(Article 27, Universal Declaration of Human Rights)*

## Box 4

### Ukraine:

#### HIV/AIDS prevention among uniformed services in Ukraine

Ukraine has seen a complex socio-political and economic transition. Since its independence in 1991, the country has been working to establish the institutions and practices of democracy, while adjusting structurally to achieve a well-functioning market economy.

While recent years have seen economic growth, Ukraine remains one of the poorest countries in the region and poverty is widespread. Demographic and health indicators reveal that the situation has deteriorated. Since 1995, Ukraine has had one of the fastest growing HIV/AIDS epidemics in the world, and it is estimated that the disease now affects 1.4% of the adult population.

The UN and the Commission are working together to help the government of Ukraine tackle its multiple challenges. In terms of the growing health crises, cooperation in 2006 aimed to significantly reduce incidences of HIV and other health risks such as drug abuse among the uniformed services. Behavioural studies conducted earlier had shown that the level of awareness of HIV/AIDS among the uniformed services and their knowledge of prevention methods were low. The UN, with Commission support, promoted safe sexual behaviour by training:

- 135 psychologists and 100 doctors to deliver voluntary counseling and treatment;
- 50 middle-ranking officers from different ministries in HIV/AIDS awareness and rights-based approaches;
- 20 drug law enforcement, judges and prosecutors in appropriate legal measures based on international best practice.

Non-governmental organizations were involved in this work with the uniformed services, as well as in awareness and education campaigns including training of mass media.

With the enlargement of the EU, Ukraine is now at the external border of the EU. Border management issues have therefore taken on an increasing importance for Europe. The Ukrainian government, with its neighbour, Moldova, has underlined its willingness to improve the quality and transparency of controls on common borders. The UN and the Commission established a pilot regional protection programme in Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova to strengthen refugee protection capacity. As in the previous year, they provided assistance to border control by enhancing the professional capacity of Moldovan and Ukrainian border guards and customs officials and increasing cooperation between them, and building knowledge of EU standards and international best practices, through:

- Establishing an Investigation Advisory Unit
- Rationalizing 7 border crossing points, to make best use of resources
- Upgrading border crossing points to international status
- Conducting on-the-job training to enhance skills and institutional capacity of border guard/customs services including their knowledge of the appropriate standards for border management in accordance with international standards.

In 2006, the UN, with support from the Commission, helped Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova tackle illicit drug trafficking by providing border guards with drug tests, drug detectors, video endoscopes, search tools, customs mirrors, investigator kits, document verification equipment and radio transceivers. Capacity building interventions included training of:

- over 45 Ukrainian state customs officials, border guard officers and security services on drug abuse and drug trafficking;
- 110 customs and border guard officers on land-border management;
- over 30 police officers and 35 law-enforcement officers.

## Concluding remarks

The main objective of this publication is to highlight the results of country-level cooperation between the European Commission and the United Nations. The report is intended for a range of UN and Commission stakeholders, including the developing country governments and societies they have supported through this partnership, their member states and civil society.

The report is also intended as a contribution to the Commission and the UN's own reflection upon their cooperation. The evidence points to institutions that know each other better than ever before. The results in the field suggest the partnership clearly added value and that each party benefited from the strengths of the other. Time and again, the Commission has been an indispensable partner to the UN in carrying out its mandated tasks. Through their coordinated efforts, the UN and the Commission frequently reduced transaction costs for governments and enhanced results. In short, working together, the United Nations and the European Commission achieved results that would not have been possible working separately.

While the UN and the Commission have made progress individually and together, much can still be done to improve coordination of their policies and operations for greater impact. Today's challenges - sustainable development, migration and the control of contagious diseases, to name but a few - require concerted global, regional and local action. Important also are the linkages between issues, including peace-building and conflict prevention, humanitarian assistance and early recovery, and disaster-prevention and preparedness. The report provides many examples of the different ways in which the UN and the Commission cooperate. Both partners recognize they can do more to enhance their joint effectiveness, maximizing each others' strengths and entry points.

In addition to corporate-level dialogues, a number of UN country teams at country level indicate a more systematic and strategic engagement with the Commission is taking place, in some cases stimulated by the publication of last year's report. Such mechanisms for joint strategic reflection are crucial to both partners seeking to get the best from their partnership in support of development outcomes for the poor.

...

Through their partnership, the UN and the Commission have made a tangible difference in the lives of millions of people. Working with recipient country governments, donor and NGO partners, the UN and the Commission have translated into action and results the universal values and the essential human rights that lie at the heart of the UN. Their continued alliance to promote these values and rights in all regions has never been more important than in today's complex world.

The United Nations wishes to express its sincere appreciation for the considerable support of the European Commission and for the generosity of the citizens of Europe for the work of the United Nations towards a united, better world for all.

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Peacebuilding Commission

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Human Rights Council

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For more information on the European Union please see General site on EU in the World [http://ec.europa.eu/world/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/world/index_en.htm) and on EU external cooperation [http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/frontoffice/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/frontoffice/index_en.htm)

Specific site on the EU at the UN [http://www.europa-eu-un.org/index\\_en.htm](http://www.europa-eu-un.org/index_en.htm) and [http://ec.europa.eu/external\\_relations/un/index.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/un/index.htm)

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## List of Acronyms

- ACP** African, Caribbean and Pacific
- AIDCO** Europe-Aid Cooperation Office
- CSO** Civil Society Organization
- DG DEV** Directorate-General for Development
- DG ELARG** Directorate-General for Enlargement
- DG RELEX** Directorate-General for External Relations
- ECHO** European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office
- EU** European Union
- FAFA** Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement
- MDGs** Millennium Development Goals
- MS** Member States
- NGO** Non-Governmental Organization
- ODA** Official Development Assistance
- UN** United Nations



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