



# Improving Lives

Results of the partnership between the United Nations and the European Union in 2009



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United Nations  
Brussels

## Foreword by the UN Secretary General



This report portrays the increasingly dynamic and concrete partnership of the United Nations and the European Union in our efforts to improve the lives of millions of people around the globe.

The UN and the EU are natural partners. We share the same values and objectives: respect for human rights and the rule of law; equal access to development opportunities for all; the peaceful resolution of disputes. We are engaged across the international agenda, from peace and security to democratization, from humanitarian assistance to environmental protection. While the partnership adds value at the policy level, our overarching intent is to translate these norms into practical realities – above all for the poorest and most vulnerable members of the human family.

The interwoven global threats and challenges facing us in the twenty-first century demand a renewed multilateralism that provides effective collective responses to issues that no one nation or regional grouping can tackle in isolation. Today's growing UN-EU cooperation on peace and security is the necessary complement to our longstanding joint work on development and humanitarian assistance. Critically, this cooperation has expanded beyond crisis management to include conflict prevention and peacebuilding as well.

In September 2010, I will convene a summit to review progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and, in particular, to formulate an agenda for action to accelerate progress towards reaching the goals by the agreed deadline of 2015. I am pleased to note that the Lisbon Treaty embraces the reduction and long-term eradication of poverty as a primary objective of the development cooperation policy of the European Union.

This report highlights an array of results achieved by the UN and the EU in more than 100 countries. To cite just three examples, in 2009, the partnership made it possible to support the education of 2.2 million children, immunize over 8 million children and help 8 countries to hold free and fair elections – around 88 million valid votes were cast in these elections. I am grateful for the EU support that made these achievements and the many others recounted in this publication possible, and I look forward to continued cooperation in the years to come.

**Ban Ki-moon**  
**UN Secretary-General**

## Foreword by the President of the European Commission



The European Union and the United Nations are natural partners for promoting peace, development and human rights, as well as for tackling new global challenges.

I welcome this fifth report on the achievements of the growing partnership with the United Nations which is of primary importance for the European Union. A core objective of the EU's external action is the promotion of an effective multilateral system, in which the UN plays a central role.

This report focuses on our collaboration and illustrates how our political commitment is being transformed into concrete actions. Together we work to make a difference on the ground in helping those affected by hunger, conflict and lack of opportunities.

The EU remains the largest official donor of humanitarian aid. It continues to support the central coordinating role of the UN and its agencies, funds and programmes working together with other humanitarian organisations to save lives and prevent suffering, as well as to help strengthen community preparedness in order to reduce the impact of frequent natural disasters.

As regards development co-operation, we worked closely together on the key political issues which were debated in the UN. Moreover, we were able to make a real difference to people's lives, for example helping those affected by the food crisis by delivering the €1 billion food facility approved by the EU. This report demonstrates there are many other areas in which the partnership has had a real effect in supporting those hardest hit by the impacts of current multiple crises through our joint efforts to rebuild lives in their aftermath, and through our ongoing work on areas such as health, education and capacity strengthening.

Across the world, the EU continues to support the UN in bringing sustainable development to communities threatened by conflict and natural disasters. Climate change can worsen existing situations of fragility and insecurity. In this work it is also vital that we have now established firm cooperation on the ground in promoting preparedness and prevention of crises.

While the world is progressively recovering from the global economic crises that have affected virtually all countries, it is crucial that the poorest countries are not left behind. This is a deep conviction Europe shares with the UN. The partnership between the EU and the UN is an essential component in our efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

2010 is a critical year for development at the global level. With only five years remaining before the agreed 2015 deadline for reaching the MDGs, there is now an urgent need to strengthen political commitment and take concrete action. I am convinced that with the right policies, strong political commitment, adequate levels and quality of investment and broad international support, the MDGs are achievable. The EU is determined to play a constructive role for the success of the UN MDG Summit in September 2010.

Our world is profoundly interdependent and we have to recognise that true progress can only be achieved if there are real opportunities for all.

With the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty in December 2009, you will gradually see the EU taking on new responsibilities and playing an even stronger role in external relations. I am confident that this will ensure that relations with the United Nations will continue to grow and deepen.

**José Manuel Barroso**  
**President of the European Commission**

## Introduction from the UN Director in Brussels



The UN team in Brussels has prepared this fifth annual report on the partnership between the United Nations and the European Union to illustrate the contribution that both institutions, working together, have made to improve the lives of millions of people around the globe in 2009. Such contributions strengthen the significant national efforts by governments and civil societies in 105 developing countries in their quest to increase human development.

The collaboration between the two institutions encompasses all the core areas of the United Nations' work and is emblematic of the necessary unity in the world's efforts towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. More than a billion of our fellow men, women and children are still subjected to conditions of extreme poverty and hunger, an unacceptable situation which must and can be changed. The MDGs are far from being a statistical curiosity or magical numbers. Reaching them makes the difference between life and death, between dignity and alienation for scores of human beings. Falling short of the Goals would be like passing by a sinking boat and not rescuing the survivors. Even in times of financial and economic crisis, of fiscal constraints, sidelining the resolve, slowing the international commitment to overcome the unacceptable conditions in which an important share of humanity still lives should not be an option.

The UN team in Brussels wishes to acknowledge the spirit of partnership which characterizes the relationship between the United Nations and European Union institutions. It is very grateful for the dedicated work of hundreds of EU officials in Europe and in the countries where joint activities take place, and with whom it constantly interacts at policy, advocacy and programming levels. The results mentioned in this report, even if far from representing an exhaustive compilation, are an energizing motivation and an incentive to keep nurturing and developing our cooperation.

**Antonio Vigilante**  
UN Director

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A girl in Turkmenistan participates in the celebrations for 'The Rights of Children'. (UNICEF/Pirozzi).

## 1. Introduction and summary of results in 2009

*The United Nations (UN)<sup>1</sup> team in Brussels is pleased to present its fifth annual report on the achievements of its partnership with the European Union (EU)<sup>2</sup> in 2009. This report describes what the UN and the EU achieved together, while highlighting the distinctive features of the partnership and why it is of mutual benefit for both the EU and the UN.*

Peace and security, human rights, and development and humanitarian action are the three core pillars of the United Nations. While the UN Charter (1945) is the

foundation of international peace, security, law and justice, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) promises every human being a core set of human rights. Development and humanitarian responses have been at the core of the United Nations' work since its foundation. The adoption in 2000 of the Millennium Declaration and consequently the Millennium Development Goals strengthened the world's focus on poverty reduction and renewed efforts to achieve human development for all. Progress of the MDGs will be reviewed by the UN General Assembly in September 2010, along with actions to accelerate their achievement.

### MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs)

Agreed by 189 countries at the Millennium Summit at the turn of the century, the Millennium Declaration placed good governance at the centre of poverty reduction and highlighted its importance to peace and development. The MDGs constitute eight quantifiable and time-bound targets to halve world poverty by 2015. The goals recall basic human rights of each person to education, food, health, security and shelter; highlight the crucial importance of empowerment of women to combat poverty, hunger and disease and stimulate development that is truly sustainable; and recognize that eradicating poverty worldwide can only be achieved through international partnership.

### UNITED NATIONS MILLENNIUM DECLARATION

We, heads of State and Government, have gathered at the United Nations Headquarters in New York...to reaffirm our faith in the Organization and its Charter as indispensable foundations of a more peaceful, prosperous and just world. We recognize that, in addition to our separate responsibilities to our individual societies, we have a collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level. We consider certain fundamental values to be essential to international relations in the twenty-first century.

These include:

- **Freedom;** Men and women have the right to live...in dignity, free from hunger and from the fear of violence, oppression or injustice. Democratic and participatory governance...best assures these rights.
- **Equality;** No individual and no nation must be denied the opportunity to benefit from development. The equal rights and opportunities of women and men must be assured.
- **Solidarity;** Global challenges must be managed in a way that distributes the costs and burdens fairly in accordance with basic principles of equity and social justice. Those who suffer or who benefit least deserve help from those who benefit most.
- **Tolerance;** Human beings must respect one other, in all their diversity of belief, culture and language...A culture of peace and dialogue among all civilizations should be actively promoted.
- **Respect for nature;** Prudence must be shown in the management of all living species and natural resources, in accordance with the precepts of sustainable development.
- **Shared responsibility;** Responsibility for managing worldwide economic and social development, as well as threats to international peace and security, must be shared among the nations of the world and should be exercised multilaterally. As the most universal and most representative organization in the world, the United Nations must play the central role.

*Extract from Millennium Declaration, General Assembly Resolution 55/2, 8 September, 2000*

1. The UN team in Brussels comprises: 23 specialised agencies, funds and programmes covering a wide range of UN humanitarian and development mandates; the regional information centre; the UN university in Bruges. It is coordinated by the UN director who is the representative of the UN Secretary General to the EU institutions.  
2. In this report, the European Union and EU refers to EU institutions but excludes EU Member States unless specifically stated.

## The scope of the UN-EU partnership

The partnership between the UN and the EU is largely guided by the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Millennium Declaration. They also provide the basis for the EU's own policies. For example, the European Consensus on Development (2005) reflects the EU's commitment to eradicating poverty and building a more stable and equitable world. The Consensus identifies shared values, goals and principles that guide the European Commission and EU Member States, including: reducing poverty (with a focus on the MDGs); respecting human rights, democracy, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law; good governance; gender equality; solidarity; social justice; and effective multilateral action, particularly through the UN.

The European Consensus on Development also emphasises that developing countries themselves are responsible for their development, on the basis of national strategies developed in collaboration with non-state actors (and often with the support of international organizations) and financed through domestic resources in addition to international aid. Through the European Consensus, the EU aims to align its development assistance with national strategies and procedures. A key guiding principle for the UN-EU partnership is the building of national capacities so that countries can lead their own development.

Aligning external assistance to national priorities is also in line with the aid effectiveness agenda, as laid out in the Paris

Declaration adopted in 2005, and the Accra Agenda for Action agreed in 2008. The UN and the EU have a shared interest in enhancing effectiveness of aid to make the most of the funds spent on development and improve the quality and impact of development assistance.

The UN and the EU are clearly natural partners, sharing the same values and objectives for advancing peace and security, human rights and development. Moreover, the EU has a stated policy objective of supporting effective multilateralism with a strong United Nations at its core. While the partnership undoubtedly adds value at the level of international policy and norms, most importantly, it translates these into practical realities on the ground to improve lives. This holistic approach to the partnership, spanning norms and values to practical responses makes the UN-EU relationship particularly relevant.

The value-added to the EU of working with the United Nations was highlighted by an independent evaluation on the UN-Commission partnership in 2008.

As the UN-EU partnership continues to deepen and broaden, it is important to continue to draw lessons. While there is ample evidence of results achieved on the ground, neither the UN nor the EU is complacent about the challenges. Their engagement entails constant self- and joint reflection on what has or has not worked and why, and how to engender improvements.

### INDEPENDENT EVALUATION CONFIRMS THE VALUE OF THE UN-COMMISSION PARTNERSHIP

In 2008, an independent evaluation on the value to the European Commission of channeling development cooperation funds through the United Nations\* provided an external perspective on the partnership. It concluded that there has been positive impact from most European Commission funding through the United Nations. The partnership made delivery of Commission development cooperation aid possible in cases where this would otherwise have been difficult or impossible. Most fundamentally, the evaluation team concluded that by working together, both partners were able to achieve more on the ground than each could have done if working alone.

**As demonstrated by the evaluation, the United Nations adds value to the work of the Commission through the:**

- **Impartiality and legitimacy of the United Nations:** the very nature of the UN as an intergovernmental body with 192 member states gives it unique international standing and a relationship of trust with governments. Working through the UN, the European Commission can tackle sensitive issues it would find hard to address alone, for example support to consensus building and consolidation of peace agreements, elections in post-conflict environments, and the rule of law;
- **Unique UN global mandates to tackle global problems** including the UN's responsibility for developing and promoting internationally-binding norms and supporting their implementation in countries. In refugee protection for example, the UN has a mandate to ensure international standards are applied and to offer protection. The European Commission supports the UN to fulfill its role to protect refugees and build capacities of national and local actors to meet the international norms. Another example is the UN's special mandate for Palestinian refugees;

\* Evaluation of European Commission's external cooperation with partner countries through the organizations of the UN family 1999-2006, May 2008.

- **UN technical and thematic expertise:** the UN mobilises expertise and offers policy and practical advice as part of its core capacity building function. An example is in health pandemics where UN experts are swiftly mobilised to stem outbreaks and following restoration of normality advise on the management and prevention of future outbreaks. UN expertise is also made available to the European Commission and member states, examples being in the area of child protection and avian flu;

- **A worldwide UN operating capacity, including where the international community has no infrastructure:** the UN is on the ground in nearly 170 countries. Its physical presence coupled with its privileged relationship with national counterparts gives it continued access, political and practical, including during and after crises. The Commission frequently works with the UN in places where the international community has no real or extensive presence of its own, such as Somalia and Iraq;

- **A broader platform that increases impact and efficiency:** the independent evaluation noted that by working with the UN, the Commission benefited from the UN privileged policy dialogue with governments, enhancing Europe's own participation in policy dialogue with partner countries.

**As the external evaluation also demonstrated, the European Commission helps the United Nations deliver on its mandates by:**

- **Support to UN global coordination:** the Commission's commitment to assessing where the UN can add most value and investing in capacity gaps in the international system including within the UN, makes an important contribution to bolstering UN capacity to respond, notably to emergency and post-crisis needs;

- **Channeling Commission funding through multi-donor efforts coordinated by the UN:** such efforts can dramatically reduce transaction costs and improve efficiency for partner countries;

- **Maintaining the commitment to "forgotten crises":** the Commission helps the UN sustain its support to countries long after international media attention has moved on, but where recovery may be slow and critical humanitarian needs persist;

- **Leveraging European expertise:** increasingly, the Commission works with the UN on behalf of EU member states to develop policies and practical tools. Notable examples are the post-conflict and post-disaster needs assessments where a tripartite effort between the UN, Commission and the World Bank provided a platform for the international community to intervene after a crisis;

- **Developing innovative financial instruments:** for example the Commission's Instrument for Stability provides valuable and much-needed flexibility to fund a range of transition activities that support peace-making, peace-building and recovery – thus effectively bridging the three pillars of the United Nations, namely peacekeeping, human rights and development.

### COOPERATION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF CFSP AND CSDP

The three pillars of the UN (peace and security, human rights, development and humanitarian action) are interlinked, and the UN and the EU cooperate closely in each of them.

With regard to human rights, the EU is a vital partner to the UN as a strong advocate for international norms and standards. The EU actively supports the UN in building capacities of governments in developing and transition countries to meet their obligations, and in supporting citizens to know and claim their rights. The promotion of international standards

on the one hand, and support to capacity building to meet these standards on the other, constitutes a core characteristic of the partnership between the UN and the EU.

Cooperation with the UN is a cornerstone of the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) that involves the 27 EU member states and the EU institutions. The EU contribution to the UN peace and security agenda covers the whole conflict cycle, ranging from conflict prevention, mediation and the fight against impunity; to civilian and military crisis management,

and assistance to peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction. All this takes place with the active participation of the European Commission and is complementary to many of the aspects of the partnership that are more directly addressed in this report. Against the background of the Lisbon Treaty and the forthcoming establishment of the European External Action Service, the close working relations between the Commission and the Secretariat of the Council have been further reinforced throughout 2009.

#### EU-UN cooperation in crisis management

The European Commission Communication to the Council and European Parliament "The European Union and the United Nations: The choice of multilateralism" of 2003 strongly recommended the EU become more engaged in peace and security in the context of its cooperation with the UN. The UN, confronted with the changing nature of peacekeeping, sought increased support from regional actors. Concrete cooperation on the ground through the EU-led operation ARTEMIS, carried out in 2003 in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1484, in Bunia in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, led to better knowledge of each other's working methods and set the stage for a joint declaration for cooperation in 2003. The declaration identified areas for further cooperation and established an inter-institutional steering committee as a consultative mechanism to enhance coordination between the UN departments of peace keeping and political affairs and the EU, represented by the Council Secretariat and the Commission.

This declaration was built upon in 2007 with a Joint Statement. Such cooperation remains important and has been further strengthened, particularly in operations where both the EU and the UN are involved, notably **Somalia, Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea Bissau and Kosovo.**

Following the successful transfer of authority between EUFOR Chad/Central African Republic and the UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) in March 2009, the UN Security Council commended the EU for the successful deployment of EUFOR Chad/CAR, the support to UN activities in eastern Chad and the north-eastern Central African Republic, and its contribution to the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance and security and stability in its area of operation. Around 2,000 troops from European countries who served under EUFOR continued under MINURCAT, underlining European support to UN peacekeeping operations. Europe is also an important partner supplying troops to the United Nations Interim Force in **Lebanon** (UNIFIL).

Globally, as of March 2010, the UN had 89,000 troops and 13,000 police officers on the ground, in addition to 22,000 civilians. Of this total, the EU contributed 8 per cent of troops and police officers and 40 per cent of funding. The EU strong-

ly supports the New Horizon initiative launched by the UN Secretariat that calls for a renewed global partnership for UN peacekeeping. The Council Secretariat and the Commission have jointly identified areas where the EU can contribute to this process.

#### The EU at the UN General Assembly: The responsibility to protect

The EU member states coordinate their positions to the UN General Assembly. They issue joint EU-statements and meet with non-EU countries to advance the core goals and values of the EU on the UN agenda. In 2009, the "responsibility to protect" was a major priority of the EU at the UN. Adopted at the 2005 UN World Summit, this stipulates that a state has a responsibility to "protect its population from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity". Should a state fail to do so, the responsibility to provide protection devolves to the international community, acting through the Security Council and on a case-by-case basis, "to take collective action, in a timely and decisive manner". Emphasis is on assistance to states to fulfil their roles.

In 2009, publication of the report of the UN Secretary General on implementation of the responsibility to protect led to intensive discussions in the General Assembly. The EU and its member states carried out intensive and targeted outreach efforts to advocate with the wider UN membership the need to adopt and clarify the concrete steps to implement the concept.

#### COOPERATION WITH THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The UN relationship with the European Parliament has deepened significantly in recent years in recognition of its vital role in representing the citizens of Europe. Cooperation takes place at the highest levels of the Presidency and offices of the Secretary-General of both institutions and with Parliamentary Committees. The EU-UN working group of the Parliament makes annual visits to the UN General Assembly. The UN Deputy-Secretary General and heads of UN entities regularly address the Parliament. Parliamentarians and officials frequently call upon the UN Brussels team as a source of impartial advice. An agreement for reciprocal short-term exchanges of staff between the Parliament and UN country representations has helped build mutual understanding as well as offering an opportunity for staff development.

#### HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUES

There is now a well-established EU ministerial ("Troika") dialogue with the UN Secretary-General, as well as other regular dialogues between the UN and the highest levels of the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission. Desk-to-desk dialogues take place

on a six-monthly basis between the UN and the Council and Commission to review specific country situations with a view to strengthening cooperation. The Council and the Commission cooperate inter alia with the UN departments of political affairs, peace keeping and economic and social affairs, as well as with the UN funds, programmes and specialised agencies. The Commission also sits on the UN Peacebuilding Commission as an important donor.

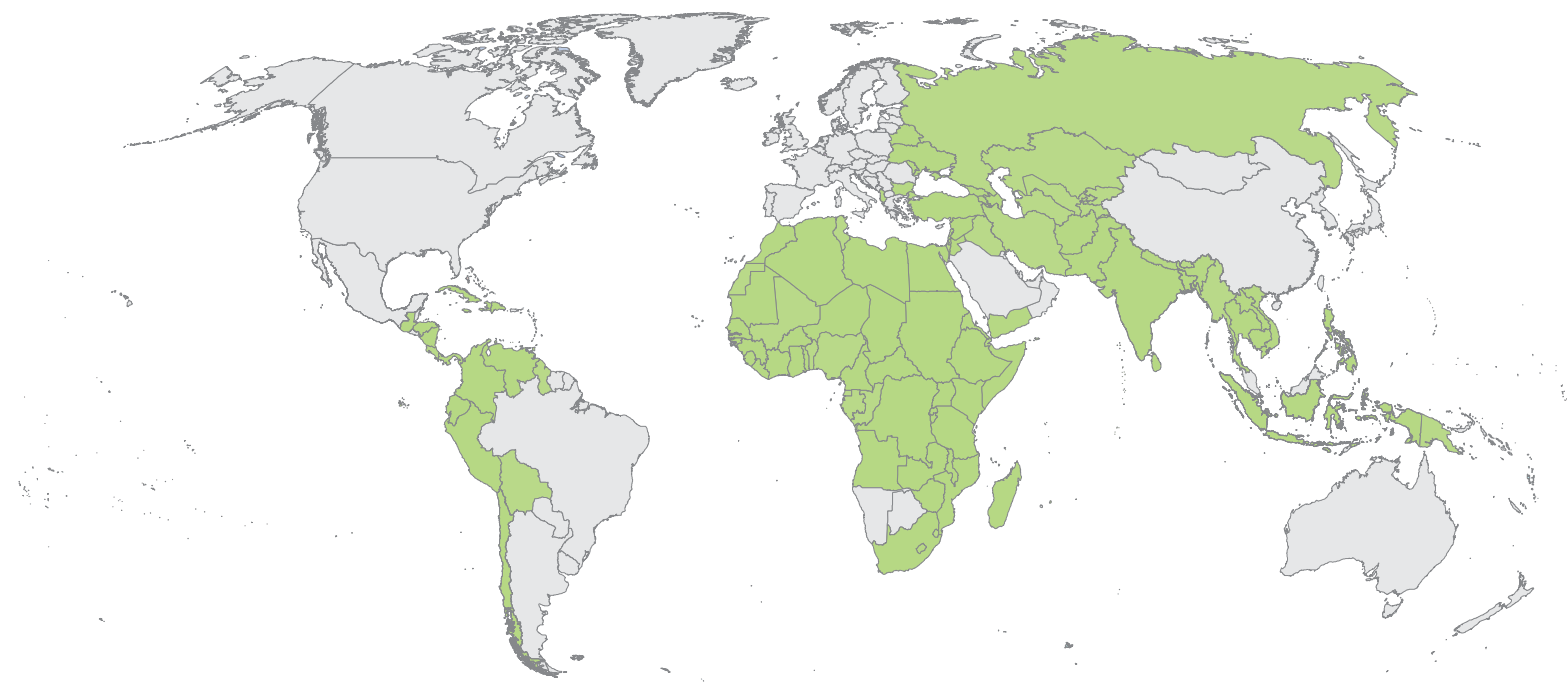
#### UN-EU COOPERATION IN STATISTICS AND ADMINISTRATION

The revised Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA) signed in 2003 between the United Nations and the European Community as represented by the European Commission, provides a single shared legal, financial and administrative framework for all programmatic cooperation between the Commission and the UN. A cooperation framework between the UN and the Commission signed in 2006 facilitates regular exchange of best practices on administrative and reform issues, and in 2009 included the first senior field level joint training on climate change and development. In the area of statistics, collaboration in the UN of the EU and other national statistical bodies led to a global statistical system and the development of international meth-

ods and standards, including for national accounts, population and housing censuses, methodological guidelines for sectoral statistics and revised international standard industrial classification for all economic activities, energy and international trade and services.

## Results achieved in 2009

While peace and security receives a lot of attention, it is the development and humanitarian work that is the face of the partnership to the vast majority of the world's poor and the focus of this report. The results described here are mainly the fruit of the partnership between the UN and the European Commission. In 2009, the European Commission and UN funds, programme and specialised agencies cooperated in development and humanitarian work in over 100 countries across all regions of the world. New agreements signed in the same year amounted to approximately 1.2 billion Euro provided by the European Commission through the UN system.



In 2009, the UN and the EU worked together in over 100 countries.  
(The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.)

While it is not possible to capture all the results achieved through the partnership within this report, nevertheless what follows gives evidence of the breadth and depth of the cooperation. The results belong first and foremost to the governments and citizens of the countries as they were achieved principally through their leadership and action. In the majority of cases, UN-EU efforts also involved other international partners and non-governmental organizations, the latter being particularly crucial in humanitarian situations.

### IN 2009, THE UN AND THE EU PARTNERSHIP SUPPORTED COUNTRIES AND COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD TO:

**• Respond to emergencies and provide humanitarian assistance:** People in over 60 countries suffering from natural disasters or conflict benefited from life-saving interventions such as provision of food, shelter, water, emergency health, education and protection. Registration and protection of refugees and internally displaced people was improved in 44 countries. In Gaza, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, 900,000 people received emergency food, and 46,000 families were given essential items such as blankets, mattresses and hygiene kits. In the forgotten crisis of the Sahrawi refugees, the partnership supported 90,000 vulnerable people living in refugee camps. The EU also invested in the UN's capacity to coordinate humanitarian interventions, directly supporting UN humanitarian coordination in 7 countries.

**• Recover from conflict and natural disasters:** The safety of people and communities was increased by removal of landmines, unexploded bombs and small arms and light weapons. Over 150 million square meters of land was cleared from mines, and 4,000 tonnes of small arms and light weapons were destroyed. Post-crisis needs assessments were carried out jointly in 6 countries on behalf of the international community, and infrastructure - roads, bridges, housing, and water systems - were rehabilitated or reconstructed in several countries. The reconstruction of schools ensured over 100,000 children could go back to school. Basic services were restored while national capacities were strengthened to resume responsibility for delivery of these services. Rule of law and security were restored in several countries and victims of human rights violations were helped. In Iraq, over 2,150 victims of torture received care and rehabilitation.

**• Prepare for and prevent crises:** Over 20 countries and their communities were supported to prepare and respond to natural disasters and mitigate the suffering that disasters might cause. This was achieved by training, awareness raising and building disaster-resilient infrastructure. In Bangladesh, a network of 60,000 volunteers was trained in search and rescue and in first aid to respond to earthquakes in urban settings. Countries recovering from conflict were supported to build capacities and foster social cohesion to prevent a relapse into conflict.

**• Tackle hunger, under-nutrition and food insecurity:** Almost 14 million people in over 50 countries were supported with food. In Zimbabwe, 5 million vulnerable people received assistance. Under-nourished children and pregnant and breastfeeding women benefited from supplementary feeding in 19 countries. In Somalia, 285,000 children under the age of five and pregnant or breastfeeding women received supplementary nutritious food. Tools, seeds, seedlings, fertilisers and pesticides supplied to farmers - including to 50,000 families in Bangladesh - resulted in extra food and income. To protect livestock against disease, over half a million animals were vaccinated in Sudan. Many countries were supported with sustainable development of their agriculture.

**• Provide essential social services and protection:** Clean drinking water was provided to people in 13 countries. Only in Darfur, Sudan, 1.5 million people had regular access to drinking water. Over 8 million children were vaccinated against measles, meningitis and other preventable diseases. In addition, the EU remained an important partner of the global polio eradication initiative, which in 2009 immunised 360 million children. Countries were also supported to be better prepared to deal with health epidemics, and training of health personnel such as doctors, nurses and midwives ensured better quality care in several countries. For example, health services were provided to 4.7 million Palestine refugees - in 2009 alone, nearly 10 million consultations were provided. Support to education ensured that 2.2 million children were provided with education, including in emergency settings. The partnership worked with 12 countries to support them in eliminating child labour and provided psychosocial support to children suffering from trauma in crisis and post-crisis countries.

**• Build democratic and just societies:** Countries' capacities were strengthened to ensure democratic and just societies, striving for a development that respects human rights and gender equality. Electoral cycles of 22 countries were strengthened, and 88 million valid votes were cast in 8 countries for elections taking place between December 2008 and December 2009. Parliaments were supported with capacities to carry out their tasks and to improve dialogue with citizens and media. Rule of law, including juvenile justice, was strengthened and human rights better respected through awareness building, training and legislative support to courts, police, judges and prisons. To ensure citizens participation and voice, countries were supported with decentralisation processes. To enhance gender sensitive development, gender responsive budgeting was supported in over 10 countries. The partnership also continued the fight against production and trafficking of drugs, smuggling and trafficking of people through regional and country-based programmes.

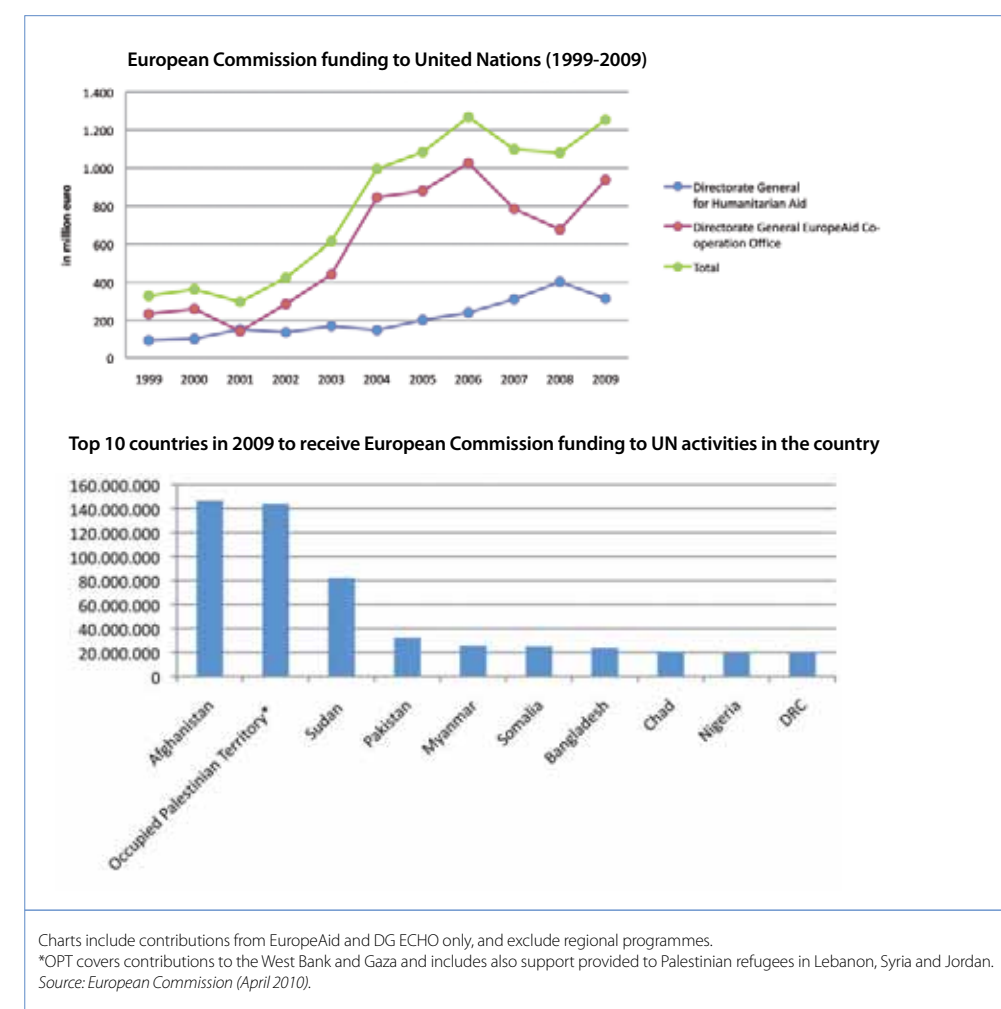
**• Make development more sustainable:** Understanding the relationship between poverty and environment is a key step to achieving more sustainable use of natural resources;

therefore 22 countries were supported to integrate poverty and environment linkages into planning and development strategies. 11 countries were supported to improve governance of forests through technical assistance for reviewing and, if necessary, modifying national forest policy, legislative or regulatory systems. Further, communities were supported to fight desertification.

**• Foster economic opportunities and decent work:** The UN and the EU cooperated on both international policy and on the ground to foster economic opportunities and decent work. They improved the governance of labour migration and the protection of migrant workers against exploitation. To foster the link between migration and development, civil society in 16 countries was supported to link up with small-scale actors and local authorities in the European Union and

in 16 countries in the developing world. Technical and occupational training was provided to vulnerable people, especially women, to improve their chances of finding work. For example, in Timor Leste 30,000 unemployed people were supported with training and skills on how to set up a business. Strengthening the capacity of developing countries to participate in global trade is critical for their future economic growth. The UN and the EU supported some 20 countries to increase their competitiveness on the international market by building their capacity to conform with the norms and standards of international trade. For example, Thailand was supported to comply with the new European chemicals legislation, REACH, and to enhance the competitiveness of the Thai food industry by strengthening the capacity of food testing laboratories.

### THE UN-COMMISSION PARTNERSHIP: SOME FIGURES







Internally displaced people arrive by truck with their few possessions at the Zamzam camp in Sudan. (UN Photo/Olivier Chassot).

## 2. Operating in crisis and post-crisis situations

*Every year people in different parts of the world become victims of armed conflicts, droughts, floods, storms and earthquakes. In the midst of the crisis, the needs are acute and people often need to rely on humanitarian actors to access the most basic things for survival. In the aftermath of crises, the challenges can be vast. Particularly after violent conflict, continuing physical insecurity often prevents people from taking care of even their most basic needs. Many countries require strong support from the international community to return as swiftly as possible to the path of peace, dignity and human development.*

While humanitarian and recovery efforts occur in parallel, their objectives are different. Humanitarian assistance seeks to protect life and health, prevent and relieve suffering and ensure that people are treated with dignity in accordance with humanitarian principles. The right to receive humanitarian assistance and the right to offer it are fundamental principles underpinned by international humanitarian law. Recovery focuses on restoring the capacity of institutions and communities in the country so they can once again provide services. It also aims to rebuild national institutional and physical infrastructures, thus improving the opportunities for people to rebuild their lives.

As the UN is present in countries before, during and after crisis, its support spans humanitarian, recovery and development interventions. Therefore, the UN can ensure continuous support to people affected by crises. The EU is a major partner of UN efforts in crisis and post-crisis situations. By working together, the UN and the EU reach even the most remote and forgotten people. In 2009, the UN and the EU worked together in more than 60 countries that were in either an emergency or protracted crisis.

The EU recognises the mandated role of the UN in overall humanitarian coordination, a role which is especially important in complex humanitarian situations. In 2009, the EU supported the UN to coordinate humanitarian efforts in **Afghanistan, Iraq, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Somalia, Sudan and Sri Lanka**. This ensured an effective coordination system for all main humanitarian actors and a more favourable environment to deliver humanitarian assistance and protection of civilians. It also improved the use of resources based on accurate and timely needs identification, and contributed to improved emergency preparedness and response in the countries.

### Responding to crises – humanitarian assistance

In more than 40 countries around the world, there are some 42 million survivors of conflict of whom 16 million are refugees and asylum seekers and 26 million are internally displaced people. In 2009 alone, the world saw 245 natural disasters which affected 58 million people.

The EU is the world's largest provider of humanitarian aid, and a vital partner for the United Nations. The close partnership in humanitarian assistance helps foster a coordinated response and thus effective delivery of assistance to affected populations. Support provided by the EU helps the UN fulfil its legal protection and humanitarian mandate, and clearly demonstrates the EU commitment to supporting the international community to become more responsive and efficient in saving lives and protecting people.

In 2009, support included providing basic services such as food, water, shelter and emergency health. The partnership also provided education in emergencies, ensured that children had access to psychosocial support and help to reunite with their families, and offered protection to vulnerable groups such as refugees and internally displaced people.

The EU strongly supports international norms and standards that uphold and promote the fundamental principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence enshrined in International Humanitarian Law. The European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid sets out the values, guiding principles and policy scope of EU humanitarian aid, which is a "fundamental expression of the universal value of solidarity between people and a moral imperative". The Consensus recognises the central and overall coordinating role of the UN in promoting a coherent international response.

#### EU SUPPORT TO UN CAPACITY TO DELIVER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

The increasing complexity of humanitarian interventions as well as lessons learned prompted the international community to change the focus of humanitarian aid and the way it is delivered. The international humanitarian reform effort, led by the UN in cooperation with other governmental and non-governmental actors, aims to dramatically improve humanitarian response capacity, predictability, accountability and partnership. The goal is a system that



The town of Santa Cruz Laguna in the Philippines was hit hard by the floods of 2009. (WFP/Veejay Villafranca).

## SUPPORT TO CYCLONE VICTIMS IN MYANMAR CARRIES ON

Across Myanmar, the effects of the 2008 cyclone Nargis are still being felt by many of the 13 million people who were affected. A notable feature of the recovery has been the way cyclone survivors assist each other. "Yes, in the community, we help each other" said Ban Yi, one of the leaders in her village, and the sole survivor in her immediate family. She explains: "I walked from dawn until afternoon to reach the village and when I arrived, I didn't recognise anything." She went directly to one of few houses still standing belonging to Uhn Nyunt, the leader of the community. "We shared soaked rice that we had dried after the storm" recounts Mr. Nyunt.

This is a story not uncommon among the storm-hit communities in the Delta. Some communities received no help for 10 days so they banded together to support, feed and care for one another. With emergency funding from the EU and other donors, the UN reached almost a million people in the Delta and Yangon areas with food. In 2009, the EU continued supporting UN food assistance to marginal farmers and landless people, benefitting 450,000 people. In addition, 40,000 farmer families (155,200 people) secured livelihood assets through food-for-work. 74,100 children aged under five and pregnant and breastfeeding women received supplementary feeding to prevent nutritional deterioration.

## INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

The right to receive humanitarian assistance – and the right to offer it – is a fundamental humanitarian principle underpinned by international law. The four Geneva Conventions (1949) and their Additional Protocols are the cornerstones of international humanitarian law (IHL). They embody the most important rules limiting the barbarity of war. In 2009, the 60th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions was celebrated: these treaties continue to provide the best available framework for protecting civilians and those no longer participating in combat. All parties to an armed conflict – whether states or non-state actors – are bound by IHL. It also regulates the means and methods of warfare to avoid unnecessary suffering and destruction. One of the basic rules of IHL is that parties to a conflict shall at all times distinguish between the civilian population and combatants and apply the principle of proportionality.

### EU and IHL

In 2005, the EU Council adopted the **EU Guidelines on Promoting Compliance with International Humanitarian Law**. They provide operational tools for the EU to promote compliance with IHL by third countries and also by non-state actors, including political dialogue, public statements, demarches, training, restrictive measures (sanctions) and crisis management operations. The EU also cooperates closely with other international bodies, notably the **International Committee on the Red Cross (ICRC)**, which plays a key role in promoting compliance with IHL.

### European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid

Adopted in 2007, the Consensus reaffirms Europe's commitment to humanitarian principles and laws and recognises the central coordinating role of the UN. Particular focus is placed on the principle of neutrality and the division of tasks for a more effective delivery of aid. The Consensus is an important EU initiative to improve efficiency and address the numerous challenges posed by humanitarian crises worldwide.

reaches more people at the right time with the right type of support.

The EU commitment to improving UN and global humanitarian preparedness and response is demonstrated by its support to the "cluster approach", introduced by the humanitarian community in 2006 to ensure better partnering among actors during emergencies. In practice, different UN agencies and NGOs cooperate on the ground in sectoral clusters under the lead of a specific agency.

With EU support, the UN developed a unified system for registering refugees in more than 20 asylum countries. This basic protection act provides documentation and identity to uprooted people, allowing the UN to identify and protect those at risk more effectively, as well as to register volunteers for repatriation where possible. EU support also helped the UN better assess and respond to the protection of children in emergencies. This enabled the UN and its partners to negotiate the release, demobilisation and reintegration of more than 8,000 children unlawfully exploited as child soldiers by

armed forces in Darfur and Southern Sudan. The partnership helped improve the protection of refugee and other children through the implementation and strengthening of child protection systems to prevent, detect and respond to protection risks. For example, children separated from their families were supported by family tracing interventions and reunited with their families.

Furthermore, the UN with EU support established five warehouses in different parts of the world where emergency stocks such as tents and medicines are pre-positioned. Essential supplies can thus be moved more quickly and economically to beneficiaries. In health, EU support improved the UN capacity to respond in crises, ensuring the "cluster approach" in health and in water and sanitation is applied when feasible. It improved information sharing, increased the knowledge base on health issues for humanitarian decision-making, and increased the surge capacity to obtain additional human resources when necessary, through joint efforts with partners.

## Recovering from conflict and natural disaster

When a crisis, be it caused by conflict or natural disaster, comes to an end, a country is often still very vulnerable. The frequent recurrence of crises testifies to this. But the aftermath of a crisis can also be an opportunity to boost human rights, development and human security. The recovery process can provide important scope to build back better, going beyond restoring what existed prior to the crisis. Rebuilding livelihoods, planning and reconstructing physical and socio-economic structures can be done in ways that build community resilience and reduce vulnerability to future risk. Improving physical infrastructure and governance institutions can ensure the needs of the most vulnerable people are heard and met, and can correct inequalities that existed before the crisis. The human rights based approach that underpins all UN work can be a strong component of building back better and stronger communities.

The UN and the EU share the conviction that lasting peace and sustainable development are rooted in universal values – respect for human rights and the rule of law, and equal access to development opportunities for all. As the 2009 UN-European Commission partnership report *"Renewing Hope, Rebuilding Lives"* demonstrated, country situations vary considerably and there is no one solution that fits all countries and communities on their road to recovery. Nevertheless, the UN and EU partnership give evidence of results in core recurring themes that are vital to sustainable recovery:

- **Re-establishing safety and security to communities** by removing unexploded landmines, explosive remnants of war and controlling the circulation of weapons, facilitating the return of refugees and internally displaced people;
- **Restoring basic services** such as food and nutrition, health, water and sanitation and education while strengthening state and community capacities to resume delivery of these services;
- **Jumpstarting livelihoods** by rehabilitating and rebuilding infrastructure, reviving economies, recovering agricultural productivity and restoring environmental assets, also generating opportunities for decent work;
- **Transforming institutions** by restoring legitimacy of institutions across all arms of the state (parliaments, the judiciary and the executive) including local authorities so they can perform their core functions and address human development needs;
- **Building resilient societies** by learning from the past, strengthening communities and institutions to withstand future shocks without reverting to crises, building capacity for dialogue across institutions and civil society and integrating disaster planning into national and local development plans.

## LAND MINES, UNEXPLODED WEAPONS, SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

**M**ine action represents an essential part of the UN-EU cooperation. This includes removing landmines from the ground, teaching people how to protect themselves from danger in mine-affected environments, and advocating a mine-free world. In many countries, unexploded ordnances – bombs, mortars, grenades, missiles or other devices that failed to detonate on impact – remain active and can kill if touched or moved. They endanger lives of generations of civilians, especially children who out of curiosity may pick up unexploded weapons or play in mine-infested fields. In addition to being a cause of human suffering for their victims, mines are a major hindrance to economic activity by restricting access to fertile land.

Landmines or explosive remnants of war affect some 78 countries around the world and killed one million people in the last 30 years. The UN and the EU worked together in 17 countries in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America to prevent casualties caused by mines and support the rehabilitation of victims. Only in 2009, some 150 million square meters of land was cleared of mines, and Albania was declared mine-free [see box on page 21]. Awareness-raising and mine-risk education helped millions of returning refugees, children and parents to understand the risks and know what to do if they found an unexploded mine or weapon. This approach significantly reduced the number of casualties due to land mines and unexploded weapons. Victims of mines and unexploded weapons were also supported with rehabilitation.

The large number of small arms and light weapons is also a major source of insecurity that needs to be tackled. There are more than 875 million small arms in circulation worldwide, over three quarters in civilian hands. The UN and the EU joined efforts with governments to control small arms and light weapons through strategies combining control of weapons, secure management and the destruction of stockpiles. In parallel, the partnership supported development of legal and policy frameworks and engaged civil society in dialogue and awareness-raising.

### RULE OF LAW

**F**ocusing on security and justice immediately after conflict and restoring people's human rights and dignity – sometimes after generations of chaos and brutality – is essential to sustainable peace and development. The very idea that justice is possible, that the rule of law might be re-established, and that brutality will be punished creates hope. They motivate people to abandon violence in favour of a future of peace and prosperity.

### SOME RESULTS FROM THE UN-EU PARTNERSHIP IN 2009 IN THE AREA OF LANDMINES AND SMALL ARMS & LIGHT WEAPONS:

**Albania:** The country was declared mine free in 2009 [see box on page 21]

**Ethiopia:** During 2007-2009, 1 million people benefitted from mine clearance. During the operations, 3,911 anti-personnel landmines, 824 anti-vehicle mines, and 34,797 items of unexploded ordnances (UXO) were found and destroyed. A total of over 22 million square meters of previously landmine-infested land was successfully released and is now being used for farming and grazing, improving food security. Local inhabitants returned home and infrastructure projects such as construction of schools, water wells, electric power grids and an airport are in progress.

In **Lebanon**, 92.5 million square meters of land was cleared from mines and unexploded ordnances, and 22.3 million square meters of land was cleared from cluster bombs. To date, 500,000 people benefitted from mine risk education, training of demining teams (2,292 people) and support and rehabilitation of victims.

In **Bosnia & Herzegovina**, the authorities revised and implemented a national strategy for small arms and light weapons. 4,000 tonnes of ammunition were destroyed and the infrastructure to dispose of explosive remnants of war upgraded and improved in line with EU regulations and NATO standards. The legislation on small arms and light weapons is being harmonised and aligned with EU directives.

The partnership supported the government in **Nepal** to effectively coordinate mine action activities. In **Sri Lanka**, 14,000 teachers and educators were trained on the risks of mines and 100,000 people had mine risk education.

### ALBANIA DECLARED FREE FROM MINES IN 2009

More than a decade after the 1999 Kosovo conflict left a trail of mines and unexploded ordnances along Albania's northern border, the country has been declared officially mine-free. "This area is no longer a place of sorrow, but a place of peace and harmony," said Rama Basha, a representative of Shishtavec Commune in Kukes, a district in northern Albania where many of the mines lay buried. "Now this area is free." Ownership by the Albanian government, and joint efforts of the UN, the EU and other international partners were important factors leading to this success.

As a result of the UN-led programme, over 16 million square metres of land in northeastern Albania were cleared of mines and unexploded ordnances, which are weapons like bombs and bullets that did not explode when they were initially used and still pose a threat to anyone who might stumble onto them. Altogether, the programme led to the clearance of over 12,000 anti-personnel and 152 anti-tank mines while almost 5,000 unexploded ordnances were found and destroyed. "We would like to thank the de-miners for the work they have done" said Rujmene Begiraj from the village of Borja. "Now our children can play freely, we can make use of our land and graze our sheep without fear that they will be injured".

Along with financial and technical support and policy advice to government institutions charged with clearing the mines, mine risk education in affected communities effectively eliminated mine accidents. To support the 238 people injured by mines, the national prosthetic-orthotic centre was established in a regional hospital in northern Albania, staffed with two medical specialists, a physiotherapist, a neurologist and a prostheses repair technician. 30 nurses from affected communities were trained to support the rehabilitation of mine survivors.

Izet Ademaj lost a leg after stepping on a mine in 1999. He worked as a policeman and was patrolling the border. "After nine months, I was given my first prosthesis at the regional hospital in Kukes" he said. "I am able to walk freely, to dance, to play football and I'm really very happy for this. Ademaj, along with other survivors, also benefitted from technical occupational training organized for mine survivors and their family members. Over 80 families established animal husbandry businesses after receiving technical advice and microcredit while another 95 completed occupational training courses. Subsequently, many opened their own businesses.

Demining in Sudan. (UN Photo/Tim McKulka).



## ASSISTING VICTIMS OF TORTURE IN IRAQ

In Iraq, thousands of detainees continue to be held outside the existing legal framework. This is partly because the Iraqi courts do not have the capacity to give a ruling on the high number of existing cases. It is also widely recognized that Iraqi prison facilities do not always conform to minimum international standards, such as separating adults from juveniles or convicts of petty crime from those of serious crime. The location of prisons leaves many prisoners far from home and family. Pre-trial detainees are routinely housed with convicted prisoners. Personnel in correctional facilities are not always familiar with international minimum standards. Torture victims are still in need of psychological and medical support.

In 2009, with EU support, the UN worked with national authorities to assist victims of torture and improve respect for human rights in 11 detention centres, identified together with the responsible Iraqi ministries. Government staff was trained on public relations and media, and promotion of human rights. To build the capacity on human rights issues of prison staff, workshops were held. To strengthen the protection of detainees' human rights and their access to human rights and justice, twenty legal defence centres were established supported by human rights lawyers. 110 cases of human rights issues were handled at the centres. Victims of torture were supported with medical and psychosocial rehabilitation: 803 primary and secondary torture victims were treated by the Bahjat Al Foad Rehabilitation Centre in Basra during 2009. The partnership provided support to the Kirkuk Centre for Torture Victims where departments for men, women and children are now operational. In 2009, 1,354 clients were treated by the centre.

In 2009, with EU support, the UN continued to support Iraqi judicial institutions such as the ministry of Justice, building long-term sustainable capacity to enhance the administration of justice. Support also focuses on the establishment of pilot courts in Erbil and Bara.

## UN-EU COLLABORATION ON WOMEN AND CONFLICT

The UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 and 1889 (2009) on women, peace and security aim at women's equal and full participation in conflict prevention and resolution, peace negotiations and peace-keeping (1325 and 1889) and protection of women from sexual violence used as a tactic of war, recognising this as a security issue requiring a security response (1820 and 1888). The UN-EU partnership has supported development of key EU policies including:

- "EU human rights guidelines on violence against women and girls and all forms of discrimination against them" adopted by the Council in 2008;
- "Implementation of UNSCR 1325 as reinforced by UNSCR 1820 in the context of ESDP", a key policy document mainstreaming gender into all stages of EU military, police and civilian operations, 2008;
- "Comprehensive approach to the EU implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on women, peace and security", an action framework for the Council and the Commission emphasizing the need for the EU to cooperate with UN entities with regard to women, peace and security related issues.

In support to these policies, the UN-EU partnership undertook four country studies in **Democratic Republic of Congo, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, and Indonesia** to analyze the extent to which commitments on women's security and peacebuilding needs, as reflected in the Security Council resolutions, are financed in post conflict situations. Results of the four studies will be available in May 2010.



A Bhutanese refugee girl in Nepal. (WFP/Anne Poulsen).

## PROTECTION OF REFUGEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE

Being forced to flee one's home does not just mean losing a roof but also connections to family, to a steady livelihood and to networks of people to whom one would normally turn when in need of help. Normally governments guarantee the basic human rights and physical and legal security of their citizens and other residents. But when people become refugees, this can signify the loss of protection from a government, and vulnerability to human rights violations and abuses. After escaping situations of immediate danger, refugees and internally displaced people may still experience discrimination and abuse and can be in a highly vulnerable situation. They frequently depend on the protection of the UN and humanitarian assistance.

In the case of refugees and asylum seekers, a long-standing international legal framework addresses the basic rights of people who, fleeing persecution, seek protection abroad. The 1951 Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees establishes the absolute right not to be forcibly returned to the country of persecution and sets minimum standards of treatment in the country of asylum, including the rights to education and work. Refugees and asylum seekers also benefit from protection offered under regional instruments. Internally displaced people do not have recourse to a specific international legal framework due to the overriding reach of national sovereignty (though in 2009, the African Union adopted a Convention on IDPs). However, by international human rights law, internally displaced people are entitled to

the full range of rights afforded to citizens and nationals of their country.

In 2009, the EU supported the UN to assist and protect refugees and internally displaced people in 44 countries. This included legal and physical protection to refugees, and minimizing the threat of violence, including sexual assault to which many refugees were subject even in countries of asylum. The partnership provided shelter, food, water, education and medical care in the immediate aftermath of a refugee exodus, taking into account the specific needs of women, children, the elderly and the disabled. In the case of internal displacement, the EU supported the UN "cluster approach" that sought to provide coordinated assistance through the efforts of states, local governments, NGOs and organizations of the displaced themselves.

In **Tanzania**, the EU supported the UN work for refugees since 2004. The partnership contributed to the repatriation of 350,000 Burundian refugees and 66,640 Congolese refugees. The recent naturalization of 162,256 Burundian refugees who fled their country in 1972 was a major accomplishment, and local integration projects are now underway. The 59,000 Congolese and 36,000 Burundian refugees living in the last two remaining refugee camps in North-western Tanzania continue to receive assistance. Moreover, the development of the national asylum system was improved in 2009 with UN expertise.

## KEEPING HOPE ALIVE IN THE WORLD'S LARGEST REFUGEE CAMP

Mire is 23 years old and the only home he knows is the small plot in Dagahaley, one of the three refugee camps in Dadaab, northern Kenya. He fled Somalia with his mother when he was only six years old, and arrived in Dadaab when he was eight. "Life here is not easy, but it is better than back home" he says. Kenya hosts 303,000 refugees, mainly from Somalia and Sudan, in Dadaab and Kakuma camps. The Dadaab camp was designed for 90,000 people and has become the largest and most congested refugee camp in the world, hosting a staggering 280,000 refugees. The refugee population has been dependent on UN food assistance since 1991. While the repatriation of Sudanese refugees is expected to continue, events in Somalia resulted in 92,000 new asylum seekers between January 2007 and February 2009 and the number is expected to grow.

The EU supports the UN assistance to the refugees in Kenya. In 2009, food rations were provided to 280,000 refugees twice a month. 20,500 undernourished children under five, pregnant and lactating women and other vulnerable people living in the refugee camps were supported with supplementary feeding and hospital feeding. By providing food to close to 40,000 children in camp schools, more children including girls attended school.

The communities hosting the camps are themselves often vulnerable. The EU continued supporting the UN "food for assets" programme which enabled 10,716 people in host communities to build infrastructure for water, agriculture and the environment, increase food security, mitigate negative environmental impacts of the camps and reduce tension with refugees.

## SOME RESULTS OF THE UN-EU PARTNERSHIP IN SUPPORTING REFUGEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE IN 2009:

**Chad:** Assistance was provided to refugees from Sudan and the Central African Republic as well as to internally displaced people. 576,500 people benefited from food assistance, food-for-work, supplementary feeding for children and pregnant and breastfeeding women, and school meals.

**Uganda:** Internally displaced people were protected. Issues of forced return were addressed in various ways: people facing land disputes had legal assistance; local courts were trained; people with specific needs were identified and assisted with shelter and essential items; and community infrastructure was rehabilitated or constructed.

**Occupied Palestine Territory:** Over 300,000 refugees received food support and basic cash assistance on a quarterly basis in 2009. Community-based social services promoted self-reliance of vulnerable members of the refugee community (women, children, youth, people with disabilities and elderly). Over 76,000 refugee women were supported in strengthening their role and participation in the community; 42,266 people with disabilities accessed rehabilitation services; 71,524 children participated in educational, cultural and recreational activities. A web-based refugee registration information system rolled out in Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the West Bank ensured the maintenance, updating and preserving of registered refugee records.

**Burundi:** 4,000 people reintegrated to their homes in the hills in the Makamba province. 6,000 children returnees, deportees and displaced people were supported in reintegrating into school for the year 2008-2009.

**Sudan:** Internally displaced and other conflict affected people were assisted with emergency shelter, 93,000 jerry cans, 80,000 plastic sheets and 124,000 blankets.

**Kosovo:** the return and reintegration of refugees and internally displaced people was supported in four municipalities, where 180 families are expected to return. 80 new houses were completed and over 100 houses are under construction to support returning families to restart their lives.

**Central African Republic:** 90 percent of internally displaced people and returnees received essential supplies within 7 to 14 days of their displacement. Access to safe drinking water was secured for 132,000 internally displaced people, refugees and other vulnerable populations in conflict-affected areas in north of the country.

## POST-CRISIS NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

A Joint Declaration on post-crisis needs assessments and recovery planning was signed by the European Commission, the World Bank and the United Nations Development Group in 2008. This was an important step in strengthening the instruments used by national and international actors to jointly assess, plan and mobilise recovery support for countries and populations affected by conflict and natural disasters. It was especially welcome as a concrete manifestation of the Accra Agenda for Action endorsed by developing and donor countries that same year.

The partnership resulted in concrete cooperation in the field, including joint rolling out of post-crisis needs assessments in-country, which in turn provided valuable feedback on the methodologies. In 2009, through its Instrument for Stability, the EU provided funding for post-conflict and post-disaster needs assessments in **Burkina Faso, Indonesia, Namibia, Pakistan, the Philippines and Senegal.**

## INFRASTRUCTURE REHABILITATION

Often one of the most visible aspects of damage brought about by armed conflict is the destruction of infrastructure such as houses, bridges and roads. To gain strategic advantage, warring parties often target ports, telecommunications and electricity infrastructure, energy plants and other economically important physical facilities. The loss of safe drinking water, sanitation and power impose serious hardships on civilians. Similarly, infrastructure can be destroyed or heavily damaged as a result of natural disasters. Economic recovery may be severely restricted by the loss of these physical assets. Rehabilitation of basic infrastructure such as roads facilitates renewed access to services, particularly in rural areas, and supports economic activity through easier access to markets and services. It can also aid smooth repatriation of refugees.

Moreover, infrastructure rehabilitation in itself provides opportunities for immediate employment, opportunities that are otherwise scarce, especially for vulnerable groups. In post-crisis situations, employment is vital to self-reliance, short-term stability, reintegration, economic growth and sustainable peace. Employment and self-employment enable men and women affected by conflict to make a living, reducing violent and illegal activities. In short, they are essential peace building tools.

## ROAD REHABILITATION CONTRIBUTE TO BETTER LIVES IN DRC

In the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, the UN and the EU supported the rehabilitation of a national road which runs between Kisangani and Lubutu for a total of 252 km. After a decade of curtailed communication because of the war, people and commodities now flow easily between the city of Kisangani and the fertile and productive Eastern zones of the country. As Kisangani is in turn linked with the capital Kinshasa and the Western part of the country by the Congo river, the restored road access helped Kisangani regain its strategic place as a transportation hub linking the West and East of the DRC.

As part of the reconstruction, 9 bridges were rehabilitated and reinforced, creating 200,000 people/day jobs for the local population. An estimated 1 million people should benefit from improved access to commerce, goods and basic social services, thus creating a path for better lives.

Ongoing earthworks on a National Road in DRC. (UNOPS/DRC).



## SOME RESULTS FROM THE UN-EU PARTNERSHIP IN INFRASTRUCTURE REHABILITATION IN 2009:

**Sri Lanka:** Roads were rehabilitated, and small sanitation infrastructure was developed and rehabilitated to improve ground water quality. A total of 70,000 people-days of work were created.

**Iraq:** 200 schools were rehabilitated, benefitting 100,500 students, 62% of whom were girls.

**Haiti:** After the floods, 16,000 unemployed people participated in communal food-for-work activities repairing and cleaning schools so children could go back to a partly normal life. They also rehabilitated agricultural land, roads and canals to restart agricultural production.

**Occupied Palestinian Territory:** 30,562 shelters were repaired in Gaza.

## Preparing for and preventing crises

### CONFLICT PREVENTION

Without exception, the human and financial costs of preventing crises, addressing root causes and avoiding conflict, is far lower than the cost of recovering from crises. The EU supports the UN's three-pronged approach to conflict prevention: integrating conflict prevention into development programmes; building national processes and institutions for conflict management; and consensus through dialogue. The UN helps address structural causes of violent conflict through development interventions that promote participation, dispute resolution and gender equality. EU action in security sector reform takes place in close cooperation with the UN and aims at effective democratic reform of entire security systems in partner countries to prevent violence and ensure rule of law and judicial oversight as a basis for conflict prevention and development.

The EU supports the African Union and regional capacity building in various fields of crisis prevention within the framework of its peace and security partnership of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy. This complements UN work in this area.

### PREVENTING AND PREPARING FOR NATURAL DISASTERS

Prevention is equally important for natural disasters, and the international community has an important responsibility to help countries reduce their exposure and vulnerability to natural hazards. Disaster risks need to be effectively managed as integral to development. This entails understanding and

identifying risk factors that cause disasters. High-risk countries need the capacity to put in place effective measures to reduce these risks, such as early warning systems, building codes or disaster sensitive local development plans. The rush for growth can trigger haphazard urban development that increases the risk of large-scale fatalities during an earthquake. Trends such as increasing human settlement and investment in high-risk coastal areas are placing greater numbers of people and economic assets in danger of cyclones, storm surges and flooding, especially given the prospect of climate change.

### THE LINK BETWEEN NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONFLICT

A further focus for co-operation between the UN and the EU relates to natural resources and conflict. Experience highlights the importance of the effective management of natural resources for the transition to peace, demonstrating how it can help maintain and strengthen peace, and how on the other hand, a failure to manage and address natural resource management appropriately can destabilize societies recovering from conflicts and lead to renewed hostilities.

The EU is working with the UN Interagency Framework for Co-ordination on Preventive Action to develop a common policy framework on the role of the international community in contributing to conflict prevention through effective, transparent and legal management of natural resources as a key tool of peace building and security.

## TO SUPPORT DISASTER RISK PREPAREDNESS, REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT, THE UN AND THE EU COOPERATED IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES AND REGIONS IN 2009:

In **India** and in **South America**, community-based disaster preparedness helped communities increase their resilience to the adverse impacts of disasters among vulnerable populations, especially children and youth.

In **Central Asia** local communities and institutions were supported to prepare for, mitigate and respond to natural disasters. 500 schools in **Tajikistan** and **Kazakhstan** and 300 schools in **Uzbekistan** were supported in reaching out to communities with information related to disaster risk reduction and disaster preparedness.

In **Honduras**, four schools were built with earthquake-resistant techniques, enabling the wider community to acquire skills to improve traditionally built houses. The construction of hammock-bridges ensured safe crossing over rivers during the rainy season, meaning 314 families could send their children to school. 2,500 men, women and children were trained in schools in responses to natural disasters.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, a disaster risk reduction programme was piloted in 16 communities, involving 30,000 people. It included research, workshops, simulations, and the creation of rural rescue teams. Communication materials educated the population on the main types of disaster, signs of threat, prevention and preparedness, and action to take during a disaster.

In **Peru**, the conflict analysis and prevention unit of the Prime Minister's office was strengthened, reinforcing the government's capacity to prevent social conflicts by promoting social peace and stability in areas experiencing emerging crises. The support also included measures to recover after natural disasters that could otherwise threaten stability.

In **Timor Leste**, the national disaster operations centre was strengthened and awareness and coordination of information concerning disaster risks was enhanced. Disaster risk management was mainstreamed into government planning.

In **Bhutan, India, Nepal** and **Pakistan**, regional climate risk reduction was supported in the Himalayas, to reduce risks faced by mountain communities from floods caused by glacial lake outbursts and mitigate the impact of climatic hazards.

In the **Philippines, Lao PDR** and **Cambodia**, disaster risk reduction was mainstreamed into second grade subjects of the national curriculum, and teachers were trained in the curriculum modules. School buildings were made more resilient to disaster by the development and application of school construction guidelines.

In the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, the Volcanic Observatory of Goma was strengthened to monitor volcanic activity, which in case of eruption could create a humanitarian crisis affecting 1 million people. Institutional strengthening, equipment, training and exchange with international research centers were the main components of support.

Consequences of disasters can linger on for decades. More than 20 years after the nuclear catastrophe at Chernobyl, people in **Belarus** suffer its consequences. In 2009, medical specialists and scientists were supported to improve diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of patients suffering from thyroid cancer and other radioactivity-induced diseases.

A water distribution point for displaced people in Pakistan. (UNICEF/Ramonedá).



## WORKING WITH BANGLADESH FOR SAFER CITIES

For residents of the three largest cities in Bangladesh – the capital Dhaka, the port city of Chittagong and the north-eastern city of Sylhet – the potential impact of an earthquake is terrifying: nothing short of catastrophic.

As Bangladesh continues to progress, the challenges of building earthquake resilient cities grow ever harder. The continuous influx of people from rural areas, unplanned urbanisation and limitations on basic service delivery linked to increasing urban demands, are just some of the immense challenges facing the nation's growing urban centres.

Recognising the vulnerability of cities, the potential loss of life, and the enormous setbacks a major earthquake would have for hard-fought development gains, the UN and EU have been working with the Government of Bangladesh and city municipalities to prepare for potential earthquakes through the development of earthquake mapping. For the first time in Bangladesh, this enables simulations that accurately identify vulnerable areas.

Building the capacity of first responders is essential. 12 agencies operating within the three cities received extensive training and support. In addition, search and rescue, including fire fighting equipment was been provided to the fire service and civil defence.

Training is also planned for public and private sector stakeholders, highlighting best practices in building construction and demonstrating retrofitting techniques for example in schools and hospitals, to prepare for and reduce the impact of future earthquakes. Tapping social capital is fundamental in responding to large-scale urban disasters. An urban network of 60,000 volunteers has been established and trained on search and rescue and first aid. Awareness building has taken place to empower communities to understand and as far as possible manage the risks and potential impacts they face in case a major earthquake takes place.

## FORGOTTEN CRISIS OF THE SAHARAWI REFUGEES

Located in a harsh desert region of Algeria (40 to 180 kilometres southwest of Tindouf), the Sahrawi refugee camps were established over thirty years ago in the wake of the conflict between the Polisario Front (the Saharawi liberation movement) and Morocco in 1976. Today, the situation of the Sahrawi refugees remains precarious and they remain heavily dependent on international humanitarian aid. Population estimates range between 90,000 and 150,000 people.

Options for livelihoods are extremely limited in the desert. Working conditions are also difficult for humanitarian agencies that face multiple constraints. The health status in the camps is fragile and health systems lack basic preventive and curative care capabilities. There is insufficient technology to produce food, water quality is inadequate, and sanitation and waste management unsafe.

The UN has assisted the Government of Algeria in meeting the basic food needs of the refugees since 1986. The EU has been providing assistance through the UN and others since 1993, as the largest funder for many years. With EU support, the UN provides a general food package to the most vulnerable. In 2009, the UN and the EU helped improve the lives of 90,000 Sahrawi refugees in camps near Tindouf with improved access to water, food and essential items. 125,000 food rations per month were provided. Because of the harsh environment, the nutritional situation of vulnerable groups remains fragile and is monitored closely. To ensure the adequate nutrition of children and pregnant or breastfeeding mothers, the UN and the EU provided supplementary feeding rations to 10,000 mothers and under-nourished children under 5 years of age. Children up to 18 years old are routinely vaccinated through support provided by the EU.

People living in the camps also receive humanitarian assistance from a number of bilateral donors, non-governmental organisations, as well as from the Government of Algeria.

## Keeping values of humanity, solidarity and dignity alive in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

**For the last six decades, the United Nations has been providing substantial humanitarian and human development assistance to 4.67 million Palestine refugees in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (West Bank and Gaza Strip), Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. For the last four decades, the EU has been supporting the work of the UN in the region.**

Importantly, the EU-UN partnership restores hope for many Palestinian refugees and promotes the fundamental values of humanity, solidarity, tolerance and dignity. It spans humanitarian action for those living in extremely difficult conditions to support for human development through delivery of education and health services. In improving lives for the Palestine refugees, the support of the EU has been crucial in achieving impressive results such as 100 per cent immunisation rate of children and a drop in child mortality from 160 per 1,000 births (1960s) to 22 today. Each year, half a million children receive primary education, over half of them girls. 140,000 microloans have been awarded supporting the industriousness and creativity of the people. In 2009 the European Commission and member states combined funded around 28% of the UN appeal.

Nevertheless, much remains to be done. The crisis continues to be characterized by the erosion of livelihoods, economic recession, growing poverty, and the continued denial of basic human rights such as free movement, basic services, employment, self-determination and food-security. The ability of the UN to respond has been severely hampered by Israel's continued restrictions on entry of materials into Gaza.

*Dera'a camp - Palestinian refugees rehabilitation project. (EC/ECHO/Robert Watkins).*



Some results of the UN-EU partnership in 2009 include:

- 60,000 vulnerable Palestinian refugee families were targeted for food aid and 30,000 for cash assistance in the West Bank. Over 570,000 individuals from destitute and vulnerable groups (Gaza Strip and West Bank) received food aid. In the West Bank, 50,000 children benefited from a reduction of short-term hunger programme.
- Following the Israeli military offensive against Gaza, nearly 900,000 people in Gaza received general food assistance, school feeding and one-off emergency distributions. Responding to the unprecedented shelter crisis – 15% of all refugee housing in Gaza was damaged or destroyed – items such as blankets, mattresses, hygiene kits, etc. were provided to 46,000 families and €573,000 were distributed to 672 families to carry out minor repairs to their shelters. The partnership provided support and advice on human rights fact-finding and investigations methodology to international investigation missions to Gaza.
- The emergency job creation programme in the West Bank provided job opportunities for 33,000 refugees who in turn could support 167,300 dependants.
- Community mental health projects run by 16 psychological teams in the West Bank and Gaza Strip aimed to restore the psychological well-being of children in the most conflict affected area. In the West Bank, 40 safe-play and recreation areas were created for children, and in Gaza 30 family centres were developed.
- Support to improve institutional capacity in education resulted in the establishment of a Commission for Developing the Teaching Profession; the drafting of the core National Professional Standards for Teachers, the review of the teacher Education database and the award of 18 PhD scholarships in education fields.
- Support to expansion of the Palestinian Civil Police included trainings, construction of support infrastructure, buildings and training spaces to support the planned influx of recruited officers.



Farmer in Afghanistan. (FAO/Giulia Napolitano).

### 3. Tackling hunger, under-nutrition and food insecurity

**There are over 1 billion hungry people in the world today, meaning one in six people do not get enough food to be healthy and lead an active life. The key causes are poverty, natural disaster, conflict, poor agricultural infrastructure and over-exploitation of the environment. The financial and economic crisis pushed more people into hunger, exacerbating the continued effects of high food prices in 2008.**

Of the Millennium Development Goals, halving the proportion of hungry people in the world remains a major lag indicator. Hunger is an indication of inadequate food consumed, and consequently, lack of nutrients. A poor-nutrient diet has a detrimental effect on multiple levels. A serious lack of micronutrients weakens the immune system and renders people, in particular young children, vulnerable to infection, damaging physical and mental development, reducing productivity, and increasing the risk of early death. Hunger not only affects the individual, it also imposes a crushing economic burden on countries in the developing world. Losses in productivity and thus increased expenditures on food imports may undermine the path to development and overall growth.

While little progress has been made in reducing hunger globally, experiences from countries that have achieved the MDG1 target suggest certain conditions that are helpful in the eradication of hunger and poverty. These conditions include safety nets for the poor; an environment that reduces structural constraints; sustainable development planning; and investments in rural areas and areas of small-scale agriculture.

#### ENSURING ACCESS TO FOOD AND ADEQUATE NUTRITION IN HUMANITARIAN CRISES

In humanitarian crises, ensuring access to safe, nutritious food is a major priority. During emergencies adequate nutrition is highly compromised and under-nutrition can

develop rapidly and eventually increase deaths. Even after the immediate emergency has passed, food production may be undermined. With public institutions often weak or absent, people must fend for themselves. Vital infrastructure such as roads and irrigation systems may need to be rebuilt. After a flood or a drought, it can take years for crops to grow again. For those dependent on pastoral livelihoods, recovery of live-stock herds can take even longer. After conflict, landmines may prevent farmers from working the land.

Food assistance can give people breathing space as they re-build their lives. The UN and the EU, which is one of the major donors of humanitarian food assistance, deploy a variety of tools to provide the most adequate response. These include distributing food to people suffering from acute food insecurity such as refugees, internally displaced people, and people recovering from natural disasters or conflict; and targeted food aid and nutrition support for under-nourished or at-risk pregnant and breastfeeding women and children under the age of five. In 2009, almost 14 million people in 50 countries were supported with food assistance through the UN-EU partnership.

Increasingly, and in line with its evolving policy for food assistance, the EU prioritises assistance in the form of cash and vouchers, whether free, targeted, or in exchange for work. Where markets are functioning and can meet demand, cash and vouchers allow people to purchase the food of their choice, enhancing dignity and at the same time benefitting to local farmers whose produce is purchased. The UN and the EU also increasingly support livelihoods in emergencies, protecting vulnerable households' productive assets that might otherwise be sold off in times of extreme stress and facilitating disaster-affected populations' access to livelihood inputs such as seeds and tools so they can quickly recover their self-reliance.

Logistics are vital to food assistance, and the UN relies on a range of methods to ensure the food reaches people in need. When areas are not accessible by road, rail or river, an emer-

Tea plantation in Indonesia. (Mark Edwards/Still Pictures).





gency may require a cargo drop from aircraft or a helicopter airlift; other options include loading animals such as elephants, donkeys and camels. The UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) works on behalf of the humanitarian community and in addition to transporting food also transports humanitarian aid workers involved in assessments and food distributions. It also provides medical and security evacuations. In 2009, the EU supported UNHAS in **Chad, Sudan and Liberia** to deliver humanitarian aid to Sudanese refugees, internally displaced people and host communities in Chad, and people in need in Darfur and the **West Africa** coastal region.

## POVERTY ERADICATION AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SECURITY

**S**trengthening the agricultural sector can improve regular access to nutritious food. In addition, since 75 percent of the poor in developing countries live in rural areas, strengthening agriculture can contribute more than any other sector to reduce rural poverty. Public investments in agriculture such as agricultural research, rural infrastructure and institutions, and conservation of natural resources are both a means to increase the accessibility and affordability of food for more people, and a key way to improve rural livelihoods so the poor can become self-reliant. The UN estimates that investments in agriculture in developing countries would need to increase by about 50 percent over current levels to meet the projected food demand in 2050, and even more to halve hunger by 2015.

Achieving food and nutrition security for all and ensuring people have regular access to high-quality food is at the heart of UN efforts and a pillar of the EU approach to poverty reduction. The partnership fosters global food security and safety, and helps promote sustainable rural development and natural resources management. In 2009, the capacity for policy making on food security was supported in over 20 countries

in **Africa**, the **Middle East**, the **Caucasus** and **Central and Southeast Asia**. To build the resilience of small-scale farmers, the partnership improved their access to high-quality seeds, fertilizers and farming tools and equipments. Realising that women play an important role in agriculture production, particularly in the production of non-commercialised staple foods, the partnership supported empowerment of women.

In 2009, the EU, UN and other partners agreed to advance implementation of a Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security. The aim was to scale up support to improve rural livelihoods and food security by raising agricultural productivity, linking farmers to markets, reducing risk and vulnerability and improving non-farm rural livelihoods. The joint UN-EU response to the food price crisis including through the Food Facility was an important step in strengthened UN-EU dialogue, collaboration and coordination.

While important to ensure farmers can produce sufficient quantities of food, the quality and safety of the food is also important. The UN and the EU approach this through the whole food chain, fostering international trade while safeguarding quality. In 2009 the partnership supported several countries to improve food safety, quality and food control (see also chapter 7).

Livestock are important for livelihoods throughout the developing world. Disease affecting livestock can have a devastating impact on animal productivity and production, on trade in live animals, meat and other animal products, on human health and thus on the overall process of economic development. In several countries, the UN and the EU helped people protect their livestock. In **Sudan**, long-standing support for community-based animal health services and mass vaccinations in the south is credited with having helped eradicate the cattle plague rinderpest, which was a major constraint to economic growth.

Farmer harvesting cassava. (FAO/Giulia Napolitano).



## SOME RESULTS FROM THE UN-EU PARTNERSHIP IN 2009 IN TACKLING HUNGER AND UNDER-NUTRITION AND SUPPORTING FOOD SECURITY:

In 2009, the partnership worked in the following countries to tackle hunger, under-nutrition and food insecurity: **Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Burundi Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Congo Brazzaville, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Georgia, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe** and through regional programmes for the **Africa, Caribbean and Pacific** regions and the **Mekong** sub-region.

### Some results:

**Afghanistan:** The government was supported in developing an agricultural statistics and market information system collecting agricultural price data on a daily, weekly and monthly basis for all major commodities, and producing monthly price bulletins and information for the regions, provinces and districts.

**Cameroon:** 350 granaries with a capacity of 15-20 tonnes were built in 2009 and benefit over 1 million people, a majority of them women, and helps strengthen the self-reliance of the poorest farmers.

**Lesotho:** 22,551 vulnerable farm households obtained 715 metric tonnes of seeds, 542 metric tonnes of fertilizer and 6,000 tools, boosting agricultural productivity.

**Gabon:** the epidemiological surveillance system on avian flu was activated and made fully functional, as part of the national plan for the prevention and fight against avian flu. Poultry farmers and officers throughout the country were trained to secure an active epidemiological surveillance. The epidemiological network leaders and the national veterinary laboratory were provided with technical equipment and cold chain materials.

**Haiti:** General food distribution took place for 1.2 million people. After the floods in 2009, this was expanded to affected populations bringing the total to over 2 million people. Health centres were used to distribute family rations and 90,000 people living with HIV/AIDS or tuberculosis received food and nutritional support. 100,000 under-nourished children and pregnant and breastfeeding mothers accessed food aid and supplementary feeding. 180,000 people received food-for-work and hundreds of families received agricultural inputs and technical assistance, increasing their ability to cope with hazards.

**Honduras:** Vulnerable people affected by drought and rising food prices, including several thousand children and mothers, benefitted from food rations, food baskets and training on preparation of F-100 therapeutic milk and hygiene and feeding practices.

**Liberia:** 1,215 metric tonnes of food were procured for 8,700 children under five and 13,500 pregnant and breastfeeding mothers. As a preventive measure against severe acute under-nutrition, ready-to-use therapeutic foods were placed in Monrovia. An assessment of the effects of the rise in food prices was conducted, helping to guide policies and programmes to address under-nutrition.

**Madagascar:** 156 metric tonnes of rice seeds were prepositioned in disaster prone areas to improve food security of the most vulnerable farming families. 3,000 households received agricultural hand tools enabling them to cultivate their land after the cyclone.

**Myanmar:** Between August 2008 and March 2009, 115,800 beneficiaries were reached with food assistance in the North Rakhine State. To harvest water, two dams were constructed and small-scale irrigation systems developed. Workshops for farmers on cultivating major crops were organised.

**Nepal:** 64,000 people affected by floods were provided with a complete food basket of rice, salt, pulses, vegetable oil and 40,000 people participated in food-for-work activities. Recovery actions started in April 2009. Around 30,000 returnees and internally displaced people continue to receive food assistance.

**Philippines:** 600,000 people internally displaced by the country's conflict received food assistance in 2009.

Food distribution by helicopter. (UNICEF/Sokol).



**Sri Lanka:** 400,000 people, including internally displaced people and other conflict-affected people received food. 280,000 displaced Vanni people who arrived and settled after the 26-year war ended in the north were supported. UN food allocations to NGOs meant they could carry out communal cooking.

**Somalia:** 285,000 children under five and breastfeeding and pregnant women received nutritious food. 50,000 cartons of ready-to-use therapeutic foods treated under-nourished children. Emergency food rations consisting of 177,430 metric tonnes of assorted food commodities were provided to 2 million vulnerable Somalis.

**Sudan:** To protect livestock against disease, 530,000 animals were vaccinated. 185,021 animals were treated and over 2,700 farmers, community animal health workers and veterinarians were trained in prevention and management of livestock diseases. In **Darfur**, 82,655 metric tonnes of food assistance reached 2.3 million people. A total of 475 metric tonnes food under the supplementary feeding programme targeting under-nourished women and children reached an average of 17,500 beneficiaries each month.

Under-nourished children were treated with supplementary feeding in **Togo** (39,000 children), **Eritrea** (30,000 children) and **Niger** (361,000 children).

**Zambia:** 4,000 farmers received vouchers for buying tools, seeds, fertilizers and pesticides in the market place or dedicated shops. Dealers in agricultural produce welcomed this approach as improving their business as well as offering better services to farmers.

**Zimbabwe:** 5 million vulnerable people were given food assistance.

In the greater Mekong Sub region (**Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar**) countries developed national and regional structures to monitor, analyse and report on food staple prices and other relevant market data on a regular basis, linking them directly to the ongoing regional and international food market information.

## EU FOOD FACILITY

The global food crisis, stemming from soaring food prices in 2007 and 2008, was a wake-up call to the international community to get agriculture back on track in the fight against hunger. In 2009, the European Union mobilised massive support for global food security through its €1 billion Food Facility. Faced with the urgency of the needs, the EU activated channels as quickly as possible, strengthening cooperation with the UN. Programming, identification and implementation were managed in a record time thanks to innovative collaboration, existing frameworks for policy dialogue, and scaling up of ongoing assistance.

The Food Facility centres on improving farmers' access to quality inputs and services; boosting agricultural production through micro-credit schemes; improved rural infrastructure and support for farmers' organisations; and providing safety nets to vulnerable groups. These efforts are embedded within government strategies for food security and poverty reduction, and in line with government programmes to address the food price crisis.

Action on the ground started in 2009. While still early to see results, promising progress is already seen in many target countries. Examples include:

In **Zambia**, the UN worked with farmers using the conservation agriculture method. This aims to achieve sustainable and profitable agriculture and to improve livelihoods. The project enabled 4,000 farmers to see the effect on their own farms of the use of hybrid seed, proper fertilizer use and efficient weed control through the use of herbicides. Their crops were markedly superior to crops grown using conventional agricultural methods. As an example, average maize yields are expected to almost double. This will provide improved nutrition and the possibility of increased income from crop sales.

In **Nicaragua**, several factors hampered agricultural productivity, including farmers' limited access to quality inputs and credit, inadequate infrastructure and marketing services, and unpredictable weather. The UN and the EU supported the government in distributing certified seeds and fertilizers to 5,500 small-scale farming families to boost production of maize, beans and rice, staples in the Nicaraguan diet. The partnership also strengthened local farmers' associations. Metallic silos are being distributed, storage centres created and best practices for improving farmers' individual and collective storage capacity shared.

In **Mozambique**, as part of a multi-pronged strategy to improve food security and generate income for farmers, the Food Facility allowed the start-up of projects involving 30,000 Mozambican farmers in poor rural communities. In 2009, the provision of seeds, tools, fertilizers and pesticides helped jumpstart local production of basic seeds such as maize, rice, wheat, soybeans and sunflower. 1,050 metric tonnes of fertilizers, 37.5 metric tonnes of maize base seed and 98 metric tonnes of basic rice seed were bought and distributed.

In **Pakistan**, the Food Facility helped address the negative impact of rising food prices on vulnerable households. 100,000 households in 272 villages received wheat, vegetable and lentil seeds and fertilizers.

(see also example of Bangladesh on page 38)

## AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES IN CHECHNYA AND INGUSHETIA PROVIDE INCOME AND HOPE

For most Chechens, despite the end of the conflict, survival is still a daily struggle. Displaced people came back to find houses reduced to rubble, fields ruined and industry destroyed. In post-conflict Chechnya unemployment and low-incomes are widespread and many households survive on small-scale farming. Traditionally, vegetables like beans, peas, cucumbers and tomatoes were cultivated in greenhouses. They were high value crops that were easy to grow and sold well at the market. But much of the infrastructure was destroyed in the fighting.

In 2009 the UN, with funding from the EU, continued a pilot income-generating project in Chechnya and Ingushetia to establish agricultural cooperatives to generate basic income. 200 families received greenhouses and 50 families were supported with beekeeping and honey production kits, while households were trained in sound farming practices. The families consisted of the most vulnerable – the poorest, unemployed, female-headed households and those who might soon be homeless. Training in construction gave women the skills to build their greenhouses, while they were given seeds

and fertilisers and introduced to agricultural and marketing techniques.

In addition to the economic gains, these efforts were highly valued for their social and psychological effect as they gave people hope for future prosperity. Evidence suggests the future success of small-scale farmers will largely depend on the success of cooperatives that bring together individual farmers.

"Cultivating tomatoes kept us alive during the war" recalls Zura. "Now things are slowly getting better. Yesterday I went to the market and sold a box and a half of tomatoes. Of course, it isn't enough to restore the house, which was badly damaged during the war. But it keeps the seven of us going. We can eat at our table and sleep in our beds. Sometimes, I can even buy meat for my children. Compared to others, we feel very rich".

In 2009, all the families participating in this pilot effort had additional income through the sale of their produce, and 90% received sufficient income to support the basic needs of their households.

### IMPROVED STORAGE OF CROPS LEAD TO BETTER INCOME IN MOZAMBIQUE

Food security can still be a problem in areas that are capable of producing a surplus. In Nampula province in **Mozambique** farmers produce surpluses, yet poor post-harvest handling techniques and inadequate storage facilities keep the region at risk of food shortages. Lack of storage means farmers sell their produce immediately after the harvest when prices are low.

In Nampula, Mrs. Rosa Agostinho, mother of seven, stores the family's produce in old shirts, which are tied up into bundles and hidden in the roof rafters to avoid being stolen. Farmers like her benefit from new suitable storage and basic quality testing equipment in the Nampula Province. Farmers can store produce and wait for prices to improve. "Prices are low, as there is too much maize and beans on the market" says Mr. Silvio Mário Joaquim, a farmer in the region. "But now we can sell to the Forum in Netia and we will know we will get money this year and next year".

Assisting Mozambican farmers to produce better quality maize and beans and to sell larger food surpluses helped increase production, income and access to markets. The UN can buy part of this good quality surplus for its own food assistance operations in the country.



(UNICEF/Sokol).

### PLUMPY'NUT HELP CHILDREN RECOVER FROM UNDER-NUTRITION IN ETHIOPIA

The effects of the drought combined with rising food prices and low international availability of relief food have provoked the most severe humanitarian crisis in Ethiopia since 2003. With six major droughts in two decades, many families never have time to recover from one calamity before another befalls them, wiping out crops, animals and the few assets they managed to scrape together. Hundreds of thousands of people are on the brink of survival each year. In January 2009, the government and humanitarian actors estimated 4.9 million people would need emergency food assistance during the year.

Ikashe and her eleven-month old boy Mare live off a small plot of land, which Ikashe uses to grow maize and root crops such as sweet potato and enset, an endemic food made from the root of the 'false banana' plant. Ikashe's yield in 2008 was minimal. She has since been dependent on food assistance to feed her family. Like many mothers from the drought-affected villages of Ethiopia's Boricha district, Ikashe brings her child to be weighed and measured at the Yirba Health Centre.

Health extension workers weigh and measure the mid-upper arm circumference of the children, after which they receive a weekly ration of the ready-to-use therapeutic food Plumpy'nut.

This is only the second visit of Ikashe and Mare, but the treatment is already having a marked impact on his condition. "You can see that he likes the food very much" says Ikashe. "His appetite has improved and he is eating well." Plumpy'nut is popular with small children such as Mare because it tastes good, like a sweeter version of peanut butter. The energy-rich paste contains the right balance of proteins, fats, vitamins and minerals to treat severe under-nutrition. It can be administered at home, as long as children do not have additional medical complications or serious illness.

For baby Mare, the journey to recovery is well under way. If there are no complications, he should return to normal in about one month.

In Ethiopia, EU funding helped the UN purchase 697 tonnes of Plumpy'nut for over 70,000 children in the southern part of the country.

### REGIONAL CASSAVA INITIATIVE IN SUPPORT OF VULNERABLE SMALLHOLDERS IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN AFRICA

Cassava is a good source of dietary energy; its leaves provide micronutrients and some protein. It is adapted to a wide range of environments and tolerant to drought and acidic soils. In Africa, an estimated 70 million people obtain more than 500 kcal per day from cassava. Its ability to grow on poor soils and under difficult climatic conditions, combined with the advantage of flexible root harvesting whenever there is a need, make cassava a key crop to bridge the hunger gap, the "crop of last resort" for smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly in areas where subsistence agriculture is dominant. Cassava is produced mostly on marginal and sub-marginal lands in the humid and sub-humid tropics.

In the last decade, significant yield losses of cassava were caused by devastating viral diseases. The Great Lakes region saw a crop reduction of 15 to 25%. As the health of cassava plants is crucial for vulnerable households - who have few other coping mechanisms - the UN and the EU worked closely since 2006 to restore cassava-based production systems. The partnership put systems in place to multiply and distribute virus-free cassava planting material of improved varieties to farmers and sensitised farmers and policy makers on the impact of cassava diseases. It promoted better cassava growing, processing and conservation practices among farmers and improved early warning systems to gather disease data for better control and management of cassava-related diseases. These interventions helped governments mitigate hunger in Eastern and Central Africa.

Cassava market along the road - cassava's tuber roots, which look similar to a sweet potato, are rich in carbohydrates. (FAO/Giulia Napolitano).



## In Bangladesh, humanitarian and development activities take place in parallel

***Bangladesh is a country in which the UN-EU partnership in recent years spanned the full range of humanitarian, recovery and development efforts. It is a country where up to 45 per cent of the 150 million inhabitants are considered to live below the poverty level; furthermore it is highly vulnerable to various types of natural disasters. Most of the coastal parts of the country lie within only 1 meter from the sea level where incursion of saline water is common. This helps to explain why the tropical cyclone Sidr in late 2007 had such a devastating effect on the country, affecting close to 9 million people.***

To meet the immediate food needs of people affected by the cyclone, the UN-EU partnership ensured 1.5 million people were provided with relief food assistance. Highly targeted distribution was provided to over 600,000 of the most vulnerable people in the worst affected districts. In addition to the effects of cyclone Sidr, over the course of 2007 and 2008, the increase in prices of basic food commodities and fuel exposed the poorest segments of society to severe pressure. An additional 7.5 million people joined the ranks of the hungry, bringing the number of people who consume less than the minimum daily-recommended amount of food to 65 million, or 45% of the population.

The partnership has continued supporting the population with food assistance, and in 2009, food security was increased for the most vulnerable by provision of asset grants, stipends and training to develop income-generating activities. As part of the nutrition component of the Food Facility [see page 35], the UN engaged workers from 105,700 families in 890 projects and distributed USD 7 million in cash and 4,000 metric tonnes of food in homestead gardening activities. 50,000 households received seeds, fertilizers, saplings and other inputs, along with training, which resulted in extra income to the households. With this support, households consuming three full meals a day increased to 79 percent (compared with base level of 55 percent).

The EU Food Facility also contributed to the protection of over 100,000 hectares agricultural land from cyclones and flooding, and secured irrigation to 53,000 hectares of agricultural land. Land was also protected from intrusion of saline water. To assist fish farmers, close to 2,000 hectares of ponds were been dug for stocking fish.

The partnership worked jointly with the government to support poor female-headed households. Through a process that involved community participation, women that were asset-less, and either widowed, abandoned by their husbands, divorced or separated were selected to participate in a social safety net programme. They all represented female-headed households well below the poverty line. In 2009, 11,640 women from these households successfully managed to step out of extreme poverty. They had worked as road maintenance crew groups, repairing almost 12,000 km of earthen roads. Out of the daily wages, 30 percent was reserved for mandatory saving, serving as a buffer against future shocks. The savings that they can now withdraw will be invested in micro-enterprises and will provide a cushion to ensure basic needs security. The women will continue to receive assistance from partner NGOs on how to best invest their cumulative savings in micro-enterprises. A second batch of 12,804 women joined in May 2009 and will continue working up to 30 April 2011.

The Chittagong Hill Tracts are one of the most diverse regions in Bangladesh, home to around 1.5 million people representing 11 tribal communities. In this region, school enrolment rates have been extremely low (12 per cent in some communities) and the drop-out rates have been close to 65 per cent. The UN and the EU have engaged in the region to increase the enrolment rates and key to success in this field has been making education both relevant and accessible. Multi-lingual education materials in seven indigenous languages were developed and teachers were trained in child-centred education techniques. 150 schools – out of a total 480 supported – were targeted with multi-lingual education. The result has been a classroom environment in which children feel comfortable and willing to learn, and where they are staying in school.



*A health worker teaches women about nutrition in Bangladesh. (UNICEF/Noorani).*

In 2009, Bangladesh was also home to over 28,000 registered refugees from neighbouring Myanmar, residing in two camps. To ensure their protection, the UN with EU support, reviewed the cases of the registered refugees and ensured the resettlement of the most vulnerable. The refugees also benefitted from the work conducted against gender based violence, and a child protection network was established. Further, the partnership constructed new shelters and repaired water and sanitation facilities, improved the quality of primary education and established computer-training centres. The partnership also supported the food security of the refugees.

In the area of health, the UN support to strengthening surveillance and monitoring network of immunization (polio eradication and elimination of neonatal tetanus) supported an increase in vaccination coverage of previously unreached children by more than 56 percent when compared with 2005. This led authorities to make a firm commitment to eliminate measles in Bangladesh by 2015.



Four girls walking home from school in Bangladesh. (UNICEF/Uddin).

## 4. Providing essential social services and protection

*Promoting access to basic social services, legal and physical protection has been key to the UN's work since its establishment, and lies at the heart of the Millennium Development Goals. The economic crisis has further highlighted the crucial role of social protection in defending the most vulnerable. Globally the number of people living on USD 1.25 per day or less is expected to increase by some 64 million people by the end of 2010, compared with a situation without an economic crisis.*

The UN social protection floor is part of nine initiatives adopted by the UN Chief Executive Board in 2009 to respond to the economic crisis, which has translated into a jobs and therefore social crisis. This represents a holistic view of social protection and promotes access to essential social services and transfers. There is strong evidence that in doing this the initiative enhances economic growth by raising labour productivity and ensuring social stability. This concept is supported by the EU on both a policy and practical level, including through EU support to the work of the UN on decent employment (see chapter 7) and in provision of essential services such as health, water, education and protection. This chapter gives a non-exhaustive overview of some of the practical results the partnership has achieved in these fields.

### HEALTH

Poverty contributes to poor health, which in turn drags large populations into poverty. Achieving the inter-linked health-related Millennium Development Goals – reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases – are at the heart of the UN/EU partnership. In 2009, support ranged from preventing and responding to epidemics, delivering basic health services to strengthening the national institutions and capacities to better plan and provide health care to populations.

Every year, 536,000 women and girls die as a result of complications during pregnancy, childbirth or the six weeks following pregnancy. 99% of these deaths occur in developing countries. Maternal mortality is among the health indicators that show the greatest gap between the rich and the poor – both between countries and within them. Progress in reducing maternal mortality would have been better had HIV/AIDS not contributed to substantial increases in maternal mortality in eastern and southern Africa. With regard to child mortality, for developing regions as a whole, the under-five mortality rate dropped from 103 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 74 in

2007. Still, many countries, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia have made little or no progress in decreasing child mortality rates. On the other hand, several key child-survival interventions are expected to take greater effect over the coming years, including vitamin A supplementation, the use of insecticide treated nets to prevent malaria, exclusive breast-feeding and immunization.

While women and children benefit from health interventions aimed at wider populations, it is at the same time important to target interventions to address. In 2009, the UN and the EU engaged in **Algeria, Bangladesh, Congo Brazzaville, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Pakistan, Russia, Sudan, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe** to improve maternal and child health through immunisation campaigns, equipping maternity hospitals and clinics for newborns and increasing the number of births assisted by skilled midwives.

Immunization is one of the most powerful and cost-effective health interventions. It prevents debilitating illness and disability and saves millions of lives. It helps healthy people stay healthy. The EU has been a strong supporter of UN efforts to reach millions of children through targeted vaccination campaigns and national immunisation days. It has supported the UN in several steps, from pre-positioning of important stocks of vaccines, supporting transportation and cold-chain of vaccines, and training of health workers and volunteers. In 2009, EU support helped the UN to immunize over 8 million children. The EU is an important partner in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, which in 2009 alone immunised 30 million children.

Measles remains a leading cause of death among young children, despite the fact that a safe and effective vaccine has been available for 40 years. Measles vaccine, at less than US\$ 1 per child, is one of the most cost-effective health initiatives currently available. Routine immunization for measles continues to expand worldwide, with coverage reaching 82 percent of the world's children in 2007, resulting in measles-related deaths dropping 74 percent. Success is largely due to immunization campaigns and concentrated efforts in hard-to-reach areas. Measles vaccine campaigns have the added value of delivering other health services, including malaria bed-nets and de-worming medicine. In **Bangladesh**, the EU supported UN strengthening of the national monitoring by governments of immunization coverage, to maintain coverage and reach additional children especially those hard to reach and minority or disadvantaged populations. In 2009, the number of children not reached by immunization fell by 56% com-



A maternal and child health centre in Bouna, Côte d'Ivoire. (UNICEF/Brioni).

pared with 2005, and data of measles surveillance confirmed morbidity and mortality from measles had decreased by 90%. Bangladesh aims to be free of measles by 2015.

The EU-UN partnership helped strengthen disease surveillance capacity which helped countries to prioritise disease prevention efforts and health planning. It also helped sensitize beneficiaries, focus on evidence-based interventions and monitor trends to show impact as well as detecting issues to address. In **Liberia**, the control of epidemics improved across the country. In 2009 all suspected cases of communicable diseases were investigated within 48 hours, helping contain and control epidemics.

Overall, the MDG targets on HIV/AIDS are on track, as the number of new infections in 2008 were estimated at approximately 30% lower than at the peak in 2006 when 3.5 million infections occurred. AIDS-related deaths peaked in 2004, when 2.2 million people died of AIDS and have since declined. But 33 million people live with HIV. In HIV/AIDS, ma-

laria and tuberculosis, the EU and the UN provide normative guidance and strategic information, and mobilized leadership and civil society as well as providing financial, technical and human resources for an effective response.

In 2009, globally the UN and the EU promoted empowerment of women and girls in the context of sexual and reproductive health, violence against women and HIV/AIDS. Global consultations resulted in a set of recommendations and communication strategies to integrate gender equality dimensions of HIV/AIDS into national development planning, implementation and budgeting.

Major progress has been made in the fight against malaria due largely to increased funding and focus on control. New goals laid out in the 2008 Roll Back Malaria Global Action Plan challenge countries to implement ambitious plans. In this context, in 2009 the EU supported the UN in the **Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Niger and Mozambique** to ensure access to long-lasting insecticide treated nets.

EU-UN collaboration continued in more than 50 countries on pharmaceutical policies. It helped policy makers in **African, Caribbean and Pacific countries** deepen their knowledge and expertise about medicines. By supporting (sub-)regional work on medicines, the partnership contributed to regional harmonisation and integration.

For health improvement to operate as a poverty-reduction strategy, health services must reach poor and underserved populations. Health systems in many parts of the world are unable to do so, making the strengthening of health systems a high priority. With EU support, the UN helped **Angola,**

**Burkina Faso, Guyana, Haiti, Kenya, Malawi, Niger, Somalia, and Tanzania** to enhance health policies.

In 2009, the UN and the EU worked to protect health of individuals and society from the dangerous effects of drug use. The partnership supported several countries (Morocco, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon) to address drug use and drug addiction as a health disorder rather than only as criminal behaviour. National strategies on the linkage between HIV/AIDS and use of injected drugs in prisons were established and integrated within national aids control programme strategies.



Village women attend a child health meeting in Chad. (UNICEF/Pirozzi).

## SELECTED RESULTS FROM THE UN-EU PARTNERSHIP IN 2009 IN THE AREA OF HEALTH:

**Bangladesh:** "National Immunization Days" and surveillance activities are being sustained until the South East Asian Region is free from polio. Independent data indicated a 97.5% coverage for National Immunization Days in December 2008 and January 2009.

**Barbados, Brazil, Cambodia, Colombia, Dominican Republic, India, Trinidad and Tobago:** Civil society partners were strengthened to provide basic services including education to prevent drug use and reduce the harm caused. 36,200 people received counselling and treatment at drop-in centres. Some 132,500 people attended artistic performances aimed at distributing messages on prevention of HIV/AIDS and drug use.

**Cape Verde:** To reduce mortality and morbidity due to the first ever dengue outbreak in the country, the clinical management system was strengthened through better diagnostics, surveillance and laboratory capacities as well as through interventions to control the spread of mosquitoes.

**Guinea-Bissau:** To manage a rapid response and contain future cholera outbreaks, the partnership supported the creation of national rapid response teams – including epidemiologists, laboratorians, water and sanitation personnel – for deployment within 24 hours on the first indication of cholera in any part of the country.

**Iraq:** National guidelines and standard operating procedures for blood safety and blood transfusion were developed. A rapid assessment of emergency medical services was conducted. Procurement of bio-medical equipment and supplies for the National Blood Transfusion Centre in Baghdad and regional blood banks in Najaf, Mosul and Basrah is underway.

**Liberia:** A cost-effective community ambulance service for obstetric and medical emergencies was supported in hard to reach areas of the Lofa county. This service assisted half of all obstetric emergencies and performed around half of all Caesarean sections, reducing potential maternal and newborn deaths. Mothers and children received improved services from 12 primary health care clinics that were strengthened with medical supplies, staff and guidelines on maternal and child-related health issues. In 2009, the clinics carried out 118,000 consultations; 40% of patients were children. 5,500 children under one were fully immunised. Of 1,325 deliveries taking place, no maternal deaths were reported.

**Pakistan:** In conflict-affected populations in camps and host communities, 22 ambulances provided services in the target districts with around-the-clock availability. Health facilities in the region were strengthened as 11 hospitals received medicines, operating theatres, blood banks and laboratory equipment.

**Palestine refugees:** A wide range of health services was provided to 4.7 million refugees. In 2009, nearly 10 million consultations took place; 85,000 refugees were assisted in covering hospital costs; there was a virtually 100% coverage by the vaccination programme for ten diseases (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, TB, measles, rubella, mumps, polio, Hib and hepatitis); five mobile health teams operating in the West Bank facilitated access to health services in areas affected by closure, offering a full range of essential curative and preventive services to 13,000 patients per month in over 150 isolated locations. In 2009, mobile clinics treated 140,000 refugees.

**Papua New Guinea:** Outbreak surveillance and response systems for early effective control of influenza, cholera and shigella outbreaks were improved through training in epidemiological investigation, water and sanitation interventions such as rainwater catchment systems and latrines, and pre-positioning of emergency supplies such as jerry cans and oral rehydration salts.

In **Uzbekistan**, the implementation of national healthcare reforms was supported. Strengthened newborn care and improved quality of maternal and child health care was achieved by developing skills and capacity through the training of chief doctors and nurses in hospitals, and training primary health clinic staff on the management of childhood diseases.

In **West Africa** emergency preparedness and response capacities were strengthened to cope with major epidemics such as meningitis and yellow fever as well as outbreaks of Ebola, Marburg and plague.



*Ethnic Turkana children and women queue for a UN-supported nutrition screening in a village in Rift Valley Province. (UNICEF/Bonn).*

## NUTRITION AND MEDICAL SUPPORT TO VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN KENYA

Kenya has been suffering from droughts since 2007. Recovery is slow, and there is a need to help drought-affected populations while they build up food reserves and savings. One of the more vulnerable groups includes the nomadic Turkana people in the remote, vast and impoverished northern region of Kenya. The UN and the EU are working to alleviate the toll that drought takes on them, focusing on children.

In 2009, the UN and the EU worked with health clinics to treat children suffering from under-nutrition. In Lokichoggio, about 30 km from the Sudanese border, the partnership supported the African Inland Church Health Facility. "We admit babies who are moderately or severely under-nourished with severe medical conditions like anaemia and hypoglycemia, those who do not have appetite and those with edema" says clinic nutritionist Vicki Jerop Binott. "They have a problem with food shortages. They have medical conditions. They are starving, most of them."

Nagolol Esekon has brought her daughter Narutom to the clinic. Narutom has been vomiting and suffering from diarrhea. Medical staff diagnose her with under-nutrition and malaria and she is vaccinated, given vitamin A tablets and put on a supplementary feeding programme designed for children under the age of five who suffer from moderate under-nutrition. Narutom is just one of the more than 30,000 children and women the centre has treated since opening in 2006.

Prompt response is critical because a child's entire developmental future can suffer if he or she does not get help in time. But baby Narutom will not suffer the long-term effects of under-nutrition. After making good progress at the clinic, she is able to come home with her mother, who is delighted by the tremendous change she has seen in just a few days. Her mother has been given therapeutic porridge for Narutom, along with instructions on how to prepare it. Although she is worried about how she will continue to provide for her family from the small amount she makes selling firewood, she knows Narutom will continue to receive help from the health facility's outpatient programme.

The UN and the EU continue supporting vulnerable people in Kenya with food and nutrition and in 2009 reached 1 million people. The total food aid delivered was 70,295 metric tonnes of diverse products. An average of 50,000 children under five years and pregnant and breastfeeding mothers were supported each month with nutrition and supplementary feedings.

## MIDWIVES MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN SUDAN

In the remote village of Kurgus in Sudan, a health centre has recently been rehabilitated. Originally constructed by villagers more than 20 years ago, it was just a small health unit without equipment or trained staff. When the centre became part of the Ministry of Health, the government provided drugs and health workers. The UN helped rehabilitate the centre and offered training courses for people like Itmad Osman Ali (36), who has worked as a midwife for eight years but benefitted from advanced training. "It was difficult to work here in the past" she says. "There was not enough equipment here, and we had relatives coming inside the delivery room and disturbing us while we were working. Now the room is clean, private and relaxed; and everyone but the mother and ourselves must wait outside." Today, Itmad says she is comfortable and confident when delivering babies in the health centre. "I see all the pregnant women in the village once a month and educate them about proper hygiene and nutrition" she says. "We deliver about 15 babies a month."

In the small fishing village of Ofud in Blue Nile State, Nafisa Abdallah (18) is one of 73 women who in 2009 completed an 18-month long midwife training programme. This provided theoretical and practical training bringing the number of registered midwives in Blue Nile State to 364. "When I heard about the midwife training programme being offered by the consortium I decided to go because I wanted to help my friends and relatives with their pregnancies" says Nafiza. "I have delivered more than 12 babies since then" she says proudly, "at first with the help of others and now on my own." The course also focused on other issues such as literacy training, proper nutrition and awareness on issues such as tribal scarring and female genital mutilation. The midwives now act as advocates against these harmful practices when they return to their respective villages.

In other parts of the country, to reduce child mortality, medical supplies were distributed, and 41,000 people at-risk were vaccinated against meningitis. 1,300 health workers such as nurses, midwives and traditional birth attendants were trained. In south Sudan, early detection and disease response was strengthened with the result that all suspected and confirmed cases of outbreaks were effectively managed and the spread of outbreaks was contained.

In Darfur, 38,600 conflict-affected and displaced people accessed free, good quality health care through a referral system implemented by 80% of primary health clinics, to refer people to free hospital care. By 2009, all 11 rural hospitals supported by the partnership were able to perform major surgical operations, deliver emergency obstetrics care and perform caesarean sections (from 67% in 2007). All had the adequate essential and emergency medicines provided for free for targeted populations. Additionally, these hospitals implemented early warning and outbreak surveillance and response.

## ERADICATING THE GUINEA WORM IN GHANA

In the Northern region of Ghana, the Guinea worm is highly endemic. It is a parasitic infection largely attributable to drinking unsafe water. Growing up to a metre in length, a Guinea worm lives in the body for a year and emerges through an unbearably painful blister in the skin. The worm can be extracted only a few centimetres every day and causes intense pain for weeks. Some victims are left crippled. Communities suffer because victims cannot farm, attend school or care for families. Children under 16 are disproportionately affected. Fourteen-year-old Mbama had the parasite in her leg and was forced to miss school as she could not walk. "I was using a stick to walk, or to crawl," she says. After she was helped by the clinic in her village she could attend school again. Mbama's village now has a new borehole that provides clean water.

With EU support, since 2007 the UN has worked with partners to eradicate the Guinea worm through providing water supply systems, hygiene programmes and improved sanitation in nine districts in northern Ghana. While access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities is vital to eradicate the Guinea worm, to be effective, it must be accompanied by increasing awareness on prevention and the practice of safe hygiene.

Since 2007, over 55,700 people gained access to safe drinking water. Among other things, the drilling of a total of 97 boreholes, of which 64 were installed with handpumps, helped communities. Construction is underway for 44 more boreholes. The programme targets 40,000 children and aims to benefit 1 million people by 2011. With combined efforts of partners, cases of Guinea worm in Ghana dropped from 4,136 in 2006 to 242 in 2009.

## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Millennium Development Goal 7 committed world leaders to reduce by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015. While the world is on its way to meeting the drinking water target, still countries face enormous challenges. 884 million people worldwide still rely on unimproved water sources for their drinking, cooking, bathing and other domestic activities. Of these, 746 million live in rural areas.

Without significant improvements in water and sanitation, the MDGs related to child mortality, primary education, disease reduction, environmental sustainability and poverty eradication will not be achieved. Although 1.1 billion people in the developing world gained access to toilets, latrines and other forms of improved sanitation between 1990 and 2006, an additional 1.4 billion will require such facilities if the 2015 target is to be met. 2.5 billion people worldwide remain unserved. The biggest challenges are in Southern Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

In 2009, the UN-EU partnership continued to support delivery of water and sanitation services while focusing on the all-important capacity building of national and local administrations, communities and other stakeholders to develop and manage systems on a long-term basis. Communities were provided with water and sanitation supplies. An important element was the provision of tools and equipment for construction, repair and maintenance of mini-water supply systems and shallow wells, and water surveying and quality testing kits to ensure communities can operate the systems. To achieve better hygiene and sanitation, the UN developed training packages on hygiene and community water management, trained communities, and improved latrines.

Natural disasters and man-made conflicts almost inevitably cause disruption and destruction of basic water and sanitation services. The EU has supported the UN in several crises or protracted emergencies. A longstanding partnership has brought water to rural people in **Somalia** since 1997.



In Bangladesh, health workers distribute packets of micronutrient powder during house-to-house visits. (UNICEF/Noorani).



## PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS BRING WATER TO RURAL PEOPLE IN SOMALIA

In Somalia, only 29 per cent of the population has access to safe water due to inadequate water supply facilities and systems. Children under the age of five bear the brunt of water-borne diseases that result. To address the problem, in Berbera, the existing water system was rehabilitated and expanded. Berbera's original water supply dates back to the Ottoman Empire in the 19th century, when this gravity-induced system used the Dubar Spring as its natural source. The project included the cleaning and protection of the town's Dubar Springs water source and boreholes. The collection wells and main collection chamber for Berbera were repaired to guard against contamination.

The manager of the Water Authority in Berbera, Abderahman Artan, says the old pipes were cracked, and some were completely blocked. "One third of water from Dubar Springs nearly didn't reach the town, causing scarcity of water" he notes. "But since the replacement of old pipes, water runs smoothly to the town, and I've never had to change a pipe."

The newly rehabilitated water system is managed by a public-private partnership involving the community, the Water Authority and the private sector. The Water Management Board, established specifically for this project, represents the stakeholders and helps monitor and improve the water management system. Fatma Ali is one of the members of the Board. "I am very proud to be part of this project, and I consider it one of the largest and most important ones in this area" she said. "Thanks to clean water, I feel safe to be living in Berbera."

## SOME RESULTS FROM THE UN-EU PARTNERSHIP IN 2009 IN THE AREA OF WATER SUPPLY, SANITATION AND HYGIENE:

In 2009, the UN and the EU worked together to provide safe water, sanitation and hygiene in **Burkina Faso, Congo Brazzaville, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Iraq, Myanmar, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda.**

**Nigeria:** 78 new water points were completed providing improved sources of drinking water to 93,250 people. 2,500 people were reached with hygiene messages and 495 community-based hygiene promoters were trained. Another 495 people were trained on construction and installation of household latrines.

**Myanmar:** 32 public water points were set up servicing 33 communities, and 10 water points were constructed (9 in rural health centres and 1 in a school).

**Sudan, Darfur:** Water supply, sanitation and hygiene services were sustained for around 1.5 million people, and access was improved by rehabilitation of old facilities and provision of new ones.

**Palestine refugees:** 1.4 million refugees residing in 58 official camps were provided with water and sanitation. Nearly 100% of refugee camp shelters had safe water, and 83% had sewage facilities.

**Papua New Guinea:** Water and sanitation was provided in 9 schools, 6 health facilities, and 3 village communities. Facilities included 36 rainwater catchment systems, 108 improved latrines and 3 gravity-fed water supply systems. 5,000 children and 3,000 adults now have access to safe water and improved sanitation.

**Iraq:** Improvements in the sanitation services of 30 schools benefitted 10,000 pupils (6,000 girls) and 400 teachers. Local authorities acquired training materials on the planning, design and operations of water and sewer networks and treatment and technical assistance in the form of a water and sanitation sector survey.

**Uganda:** In rural populations of the 21 districts supported, access to latrines increased by 25%; hygiene practices (safe water chain, hand washing, food hygiene) improved, and 290,200 new users gained access to safe water.



Children in Afghanistan attending school. (UN Photo/Fardin Waez).

## EDUCATION

Promoting education is central to poverty reduction and achievement of the MDGs. Education offers children the knowledge and skills they need to be active citizens, participate successfully in the economy and fulfill themselves as individuals. It also contributes to better health and higher incomes. Encouraging progress has been made towards universal primary education with the global attainment of net enrolment at 88%. The number of out-of school children declined in recent years but at an estimated 72 million in 2007, is still high. Many of those who start school drop out without finishing primary education. There is growing evidence that children who leave school early have not acquired basic skills due to under-resourced education systems and poor quality instruction. Quality education requires appropriate educational policies and educational information systems. Huge numbers of teachers will be required if universal primary education is to be achieved by 2015.

The UN and the EU are working together to assist countries to increase enrolment levels and improve the quality of education. In 2009, the partnership supported the education of 2.2 million children in 10 countries. In **Albania**, the partnership supported institutional frameworks for education that promote inclusive education for all children, helping the ministry of education to ensure school readiness to the most marginalized children including Roma populations, and expanding community models of early childhood development.

The UN and EU continued to contribute to eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education through influencing a change in attitudes. Girls in particular face discrimination and challenges that keep them out of school or keep them from learning effectively. Girls' education has been expanding all over the world; 95 girls were enrolled in primary school for every 100 boys in 2007 compared to 91 in 1999. However progress is not fast enough to ensure a basic education for the millions of girls still out of school and it falls short of the MDG target.

An estimated 66 million primary school-aged children attend school hungry, which has serious consequences for their capacity to learn. The UN and the EU support the delivery of meals and take-home rations to school children. This provides an incentive to parents to send girls to school and contributes to addressing short-term hunger and enhancing the learning capacity of primary school children. As the foods can be fortified with micronutrients, they help improve children's nutritional status. It also helps avoid children who have enrolled in school dropping out. Ultimately, as national governments must be in the lead in school feeding, the UN and the EU assist governments in transitioning to sustainable school feeding. In addition to providing meals, the partnership helped establish gardens in schools. They function as a safety net and have positive spin-off effects that help develop the local economy, support nutrition and health education, and the provision of safe water.

Strengthening existing facilities and rehabilitating infrastructure provides "child friendly schools" meeting children's basic needs (such as school meals, health checks, safe water and sanitation) as well as skills training for teachers and students. In **Iraq**, 2009 saw the construction of over 35 schools; more than 80 schools were provided with essential teaching and learning aids.

There are many challenges to providing children with education during and after crises, yet it remains vital. More than half of the world's out of school children live in conflict-affected states. The UN and the EU worked in several countries in 2009 to ensure that internally displaced and refugee children, as well as those recently reintegrated into their home communities, received education. It also provided education to crisis-affected children.

## SOME RESULTS FROM THE UN-EU PARTNERSHIP IN 2009 IN EDUCATION:

**Lebanon:** free elementary and preparatory education was provided to half a million children, 50% of whom were girls, through 689 schools. School performance was high: pass rates in the elementary (91%) and preparatory cycles (93%) were matched with very low dropout rates. 150 additional educational facilities were constructed or renovated.

**Myanmar:** Approximately 16,800 children aged 3 to 5, in disadvantaged and hard-to-reach areas, accessed education. 1,100 pre-school teachers received training.

**Central African Republic:** Children in conflict-affected areas accessed education. Over 145,000 children enrolled in and attended school. 121 new classrooms were built and equipped.

**Chad:** 20,370 children in refugee camps in Eastern Chad had primary school education. Attendance ranged from 85 to 100% in different camps. 6,600 pre-school children were educated. 311 primary school teachers received training. 40 guards received training on maintaining a safe and secure school environment.

## PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

Millions of children worldwide are subjected to violence, exploitation and harmful practices. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which is the most widely ratified convention, imposes obligations on governments and others with responsibilities to children to protect them from a series of harms. The UN and the EU have an extensive partnership across different fields of child protection such as child labour, juvenile justice, children without parental care, children associated with armed forces, and children subject to harmful cultural practices.

It is estimated that more than 130 million women and girls alive today have undergone some form of female genital mutilation. With regard to child marriage, it is hard to know the exact number as so many are unregistered and unofficial. In 2009, the EU supported the UN in **Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Senegal, Sudan and India** to accelerate the abandonment of female genital mutilation and child marriage by working together with partners to build knowledge and understanding on why negative social norms persist and how they can be changed to improve well-being.

Millions of children around the world are growing up without one or both of their parents. Many more are at risk of separation due to poverty, disability, HIV/AIDS, natural disasters or armed conflicts. Children without parental care find themselves at a higher risk of discrimination, inadequate care, abuse and exploitation. These kinds of environment

harm children's emotional and social development and leave them vulnerable to exploitation, sexual abuse and physical violence. The UN and the EU support children through family tracing and reunification, support to communities to care for orphans, and support to institutions to provide rights-based care to children.

Child labour, which can be a consequence of poverty, has huge consequences for the individual, and it squanders a nation's human capital. Child labour damages children's health, threatens their education and leads to further exploitation and abuse. In 2004, there were 218 million children engaged in child labour, excluding domestic labour. An estimated 126 million children aged 5 to 17 are engaged in hazardous work. International labour conventions define child labourers as children younger than 12 working in any economic activity; children 12 to 14 years old engaged in more than light work; and all children engaged in the worst forms of child labour in which they are enslaved, forcibly recruited, prostituted, trafficked, forced into illegal activities or exposed to hazards.

The European Union included the international labour Convention and Convention on the minimum age for employment into the EU's strategy for protection of children's rights. The EU and the UN support national and local authorities in 12 **African, Caribbean and Pacific countries** to eliminate child labour, through effective policy formulation and capacity building for implementation.

Miraz (10) must work, picking and selling water lilies, but now he also goes to school. (UNICEF/Mia).



## SOME RESULTS FROM THE UN-EU PARTNERSHIP IN 2009 IN THE AREA OF CHILD PROTECTION:

In Northern **Uganda**, in the Acholi sub-region, NGOs were supported as lead agencies in child protection. With EU support, the UN supported 59 of 62 sub-counties in the region on training on child protection issues for community development officers, probation and social welfare officers and social workers.

In **Albania**, laws were drafted for child protection and child abuse/exploitation, the national child helpline was put into operation and the first national shelter for domestic violence victims was identified. A campaign for behavioural impact on violence against children in schools is being finalized.

In **Sri Lanka**, 637 children separated from their parents were reunited with parents and relatives or cared for in interim care institutions. With support of the UN, all these cases are being followed up. 121 temporary learning spaces allowed 46,000 displaced children to be educated. 1,764 emergency latrines were rapidly constructed in camps. Tens of thousands of hygiene kits and environmental cleaning kits were distributed.

## WATER CHANGES LIVES IN SUDAN

Sudan is the largest country on the African continent and possibly one of the most complex. It is a microcosm of humanitarian challenges: in the western region of Darfur about 2 million people (one third of the population) has been displaced by a conflict that broke out in 2003; meanwhile, South Sudan is struggling to rebuild and recover from more than two decades of civil war; and in the East chronic food insecurity, underdevelopment and sporadic conflict are major concerns. The volatile security situation means many people lack access to food and in farming areas many fields cannot be harvested. The conflict caused a breakdown of trade and markets.

The UN and EU support communities in the Red Sea State, a region where the harsh desert climate and isolation of many of its communities make development difficult. Despite the challenges, these tight knit communities have remarkable results. Before the support of the UN and the EU, the communities had already formed the Arbaat Development Association, a local organization intended to address the region's development needs.

"Before, this land was dry. We grew only enough to feed the community" says 43-year-old Aicha from one of the 37 community farms supported in the region. In her community farm, 15 women farmed the land in previous years, but crops were extremely limited due to lack of water. "After the project installed the water system we are able to have a business; we not only have food to eat but extra money to buy things like furniture for our homes" says Aicha.

The main crop cultivated by the women is abusabeen, a crop used as cattle feed. It grows easily and abundantly in Sudan, provided there is water. Many of the other community farms here also grow vegetables, yielding excellent results. Members work on the farms every morning and every evening; and transport the vegetables to the markets in Port Sudan, Atbara and sometimes even to Khartoum. "Everybody talks about the Arbaat vegetables" says one of the vegetable sellers in the Port Sudan market. "They are grown without pesticides and are fresh and assorted. Really, they are the most popular vegetables here and there is a high demand."

In another region of Sudan, the River Nile State, the UN and the EU support communities with water networks providing clean water for drinking, doing laundry, bathing and gardening. The first time the water started flowing through the pipes in the dry, remote village of Ashkoot, all that could be heard was the sound of "zaghrouta", the celebratory ululation of joy that is particular to the region. "We were so happy that day" says Fatma Al Hassan. "Before we were suffering; we had to carry water from the Nile – it's a half hour walk that we had to do five times a day, it took a lot of time and effort."

With access to water, villagers could easily maintain vegetable and flower gardens inside their homes. These days, almost every household in Ashkoot has at least a small garden with basic vegetables such as onions, cucumbers and potatoes flourishing under the sun.

"Before we had to travel to Abu Hamed to buy vegetables twice a week; but now we have all that we need in our own homes, and at no cost. What I say is the truth" says Fatma as she picks some spinach from the garden for the family dinner. "This water has changed our lives."

## CHILD GRANTS SUPPORT ORPHANED CHILDREN IN LESOTHO

Lesotho currently experiences high rates of HIV/AIDS, high unemployment and poverty, with children the most vulnerable. HIV/AIDS has devastated the productive adult population. The country has the third highest HIV prevalence in the world, estimated at 23.2% of people between 15 and 49. There are more than 180,000 orphaned children, of whom 55% lost one or both parents to AIDS-related diseases.

In 2009, the Government of Lesotho launched the Lesotho Child Grants Programme. This is a groundbreaking initiative to improve the wellbeing of children, including those orphaned or otherwise affected by HIV/AIDS and those who live in poor families where food insecurity and under-nutrition prevail. Child-headed households and poor households caring for orphans and other vulnerable children are provided with quarterly payments. 5,000 children in 1,250 households are reached initially.

Although cash transfers do not replace other forms of assistance, they are a welcome complement to investments in services. When poor households access services, they are better able to utilize the cash effectively for the child. One grandmother from Lesotho, Mampepuoa Nkane, 67, talked about the hardship of taking care of her five orphaned grandchildren and the impact of the Child Grants. "It's hard to put food on the table every day" she said. "After my son passed away I was left to raise his children alone. Now I have more hope and I will not have to worry every day."

Child grants are attracting growing interest for their role in improving human development, reducing hunger and tackling extreme poverty and vulnerability. They are increasingly recognized as an element of an overall care package for children affected by AIDS.

## PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT IN OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

The conflict in Gaza, which occurred between 27 December 2008 and 18 January 2009, took a great economic, social and psychological toll on children and families. Many witnessed the deaths of caregivers, siblings and friends. All border crossings were virtually sealed; children and their families had no refuge from the violence. Children accounted for a third of the dead and wounded due to the hostilities; 431 children were killed and 1,872 children were injured.

Some wounds from the conflict are not visible. Sarah, 12, is receiving help from the Palestinian Centre for Democracy and Conflict Resolution. "Before the invasion, we had a happy life, we used to have a garden, a very nice garden. Me and my brothers and sister used to play in it, but after the war, this garden is gone," says Sarah. "It disappeared with everything that used to be in it. It was replaced with destruction. Now, our life has turned into hell and is full of sadness."

To help children who experienced the traumas of conflict, the UN and the EU worked with local psychosocial teams to provide children and their families with counseling to enable them to manage stress while making parents and other caregivers better equipped to help their children. Counseling, along with the chance to play with her friends, is helping Sarah to come to terms with her loss. "I started to attend and found that all my friends are here. My life changed and is better than before. My friends shared my grief" she says.

Nada, aged 12, flies a kite in Gaza. (UNRWA/Shareef Sarhan).



## 5. Building democratic and just societies

*More countries than ever before are working to build democratic governance. Their challenge is to develop institutions and processes that are more responsive to the needs of ordinary citizens, including the poor. At the Millennium Summit of 2000, world leaders came to a consensus which recognized that national efforts to reduce poverty, sustain the environment, and promote human development must be supported by good governance, institutions and participative processes. This includes managing changing roles of the state and civil society in an increasingly globalised world. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes that everyone has the right to take part in the government of his or her country and everyone has the right to recognition as a person before the law, with equal protection of the law.*

The UN and the EU share many objectives in this domain. The European Consensus on Development emphasizes that sustainable development includes good governance and human rights and that EU partnership and dialogue with third countries will promote values of respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights. The promotion of gender equality is crucial in itself as well as being instrumental in achieving all the MDGs. The partnership between the UN and the EU leverages the UN's normative expertise and its unique role in setting and monitoring international norms and standards. The EU also benefits from the UN's political neutrality that engenders trust of partners to work in often-politically sensitive domains of governance and the rule of law.

As the impact of the economic crisis continues to be felt around the world, social cohesion may be put to test. Layoffs combined with poor social protection coverage and high food prices could lead to situations of despair and frustration. Terrorism, human trafficking and criminal and illicit activities could increase. Therefore, the partnership between the UN and the EU in helping countries build resilient societies is vital.

Around the world, the UN-EU partnership supports countries to build democratic and equal societies. It helps countries strengthen electoral and legislative systems, improve access to justice and public administration. It supports countries to develop greater capacity to deliver services to those most in need and to strengthen organisations of employers and workers to engage in social dialogue. Decentralization and local governance have become important areas, encompassing the reform of legislation and policies, capacity development (especially for local government planning and

management), and inclusive consultation with communities that involves women and minorities. The partnership engages in cross-border and regional efforts to help countries combat smuggling and trafficking of people and of drugs.

### DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

While elections alone do not equal democracy, the act of freely casting a secret vote remains an enduring feature of democratic life. The UN works with countries to support voting as exemplified by short-term, event-specific election assistance, but also supporting longer-term electoral cycles - systems and processes that help to sustain democratic principles throughout societies and institutions. To achieve this, it is important 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 2009, the UN and the EU supported 22 countries in building capacities for election processes so that transparent and credible elections could be held in 2009 and later. This involved strengthening national electoral bodies, reviewing electoral laws and establishing codes of conduct for political parties. Direct support was provided to the conduct of elections through procurement and logistics, voter registration, voter education, media training and elections-related security. As electoral processes often create barriers to the participation of women as candidates and to a lesser extent as voters, particular attention was given to political empowerment of women.

Further, between December 2008 and December 2009, elections were supported in 8 countries – **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Comoros, El Salvador, Guinea Bissau, Haiti, and Moldova**. Around 88 million valid votes were cast in these elections.

National parliaments are the embodiment of citizens' representation and the voice of the people. UN and EU support spanned training to enhance legislative drafting skills, sharpening capacities of parliamentarians and parliamentary staff for policy and budget analysis including gender-sensitive budgeting, and research and communication capabilities. The partnership supported parliaments in securing the resources and necessary independence to effectively carry out their functions.



A woman votes in the Afghan elections. (UN Photo/Tim Page).

## GENDER IN GOVERNANCE

Gender equality and women's empowerment are human rights that lie at the heart of development and achievement of the MDGs. Despite progress, six out of ten of world's poorest people are women and girls, and less than 16 percent of the world's parliamentarians are women. Both in times of armed conflict and behind closed doors at home, women are still subjected to violence.

The UN and the EU strive to play their part in ensuring that women have a real voice in all governance institutions, from the judiciary to the civil service, as well as in the private sector and civil society, so they can participate equally with men in public dialogue and decision-making and influence decisions that will determine the future of their families and countries.

Identifying and challenging discriminatory laws and practices is key to promoting gender equality. Equally critical is revealing and addressing the ways in which apparently neutral policies and mechanisms in practice entrench inequality – between women and men, girls and boys, and different classes and ethnic groups within societies. One mechanism is the national budget, which traditionally is the most comprehensive

statement of a government's social and economic priorities. In tracking where the money goes, budgets determine how public funds are used and who benefits. Implementing gender equality requires intentional measures to incorporate a gender perspective in planning and budgeting frameworks and concrete investments in addressing gender gaps. Gender-responsive budgeting is not about creating separate budgets for women or solely increasing spending on women's programmes. Rather it ensures that the collection and allocation of public resources is carried out in ways that contribute to advancing equality and women's empowerment.

In 2009 the UN and the EU supported research in ten countries aimed at demonstrating how gender responsive budgeting tools and strategies can ensure that aid provided in the form of general budget support and sector budget support contributes to the achievement of gender equality goals. The research was carried out in **Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Morocco, Nepal, Mozambique, Peru, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda**. Lessons learned provided guidance on how new aid modalities can be gender responsive.

## SOME RESULTS FROM THE UN-EU PARTNERSHIP IN 2009 IN THE AREA OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE:

Capacities for elections were built in **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, El Salvador, Fiji, Georgia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Haiti, Malawi, Moldova, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Zambia and Zimbabwe**.

In **El Salvador**, the UN provided support to EU electoral observation missions for both municipal and presidential elections. The mission deployed 85 observers from 22 EU Members States for both processes.

In **Tanzania**, relevant election laws were reviewed and amended. Some election laws were translated into Swahili ensuring wider comprehension of the rules.

To strengthen local democracy in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, the civil society in 14 municipalities was supported to work locally on social issues, gender, the environment, human rights and empowerment of vulnerable groups supporting communities in participating in and designing their own solutions to local challenges.

In **Albania**, the rights and voice of youth were promoted through initiatives such as the Model UN, Youth Parliaments, support to eliminate child labour, and campaigns to promote healthy lifestyles among adolescents and teenagers. Participation of women was promoted through awareness raising, promotion of networks among NGOs, monitoring for women's political participation, technical assistance to local governments to introduce gender responsive budgeting, and awareness raising to mobilize public response against domestic and gender-based violence. Participation of minorities was promoted through support to Roma communities; by establishing a network of 45 community mediators; through priority projects identified by communities, and support to 200 civil registrations of minorities. A Gender Equality Law and by-laws were adopted, along with a gender equality and domestic violence strategy. The Labour Code is being reviewed from a gender perspective.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, the constitutional reform was aided by support to law making (9 bills were improved and aligned with the constitutions and international standards); parliamentary oversight (budget transparency was improved, oversight of human rights in prisons was strengthened); gender audits; and parliamentary outreach.

In **Lao PDR** the capacity of district government officials was strengthened through a district development fund. As a result, villages in Saravane province have a new school, a better road, improved health care, improved access to energy and a

bigger market. Over 282,000 people benefitted from rehabilitated and newly built infrastructure. The capacity of the Lao National Assembly was enhanced through sectoral workshops that equipped National Assembly Members and staff with up-to-date knowledge on sectoral and policy issues, enhancing their ability to review draft laws. Public access and awareness was reinforced by live telecasting of National Assembly sessions, media print and radio broadcasts and organized visits to provinces by National Assembly members. Local constituency consultations and events involving students and communities provided opportunities for the public to interact with Members and provide feedback on the Assembly's roles.

In the **Central African Republic**, the capacity of Members of Parliament was strengthened. A practical guide was developed and circulated to all Members and officers, while a selected group were trained on the content of the guide. The capacity of the parliamentary administration was strengthened through the training of 50 executives and employees in relevant topics such as parliamentary institutions, activities of parliamentary committees, legislative services of a parliamentary administration, and principles of legislation and drafting.

In **Ukraine**, governmental authorities and social partners were supported in ensuring respect for national and international equality commitments in the workplace, progressively eliminating gender biases in employment policies, and in creating a supportive environment for women's economic empowerment and entrepreneurship.

In **Cambodia**, the UN and the EU supported the government in strengthening decentralization and democratic local governance including through discussion forums. One achievement was the new strategy for the Ministry of Women Affairs that took into consideration gender issues raised in regional forums. Similarly, an environmental problem was resolved following a district forum. To ensure best practices and lessons were captured, a national award programme was created, highlighting and promoting best practices across the country through media and local exchange programmes.

## SUPPORTING PARLIAMENT'S DIALOGUE WITH CITIZENS AND MEDIA IN TANZANIA

In Tanzania, the Parliament has defined its vision to be an "effective and responsive People's Parliament" and "to be the voice of the people". The UN and EU worked with the National Assembly to help it realise its vision, by building public awareness of the roles and responsibilities of the parliament and to improve its public image.

Through a media forum, journalists were provided an opportunity to learn about parliamentary processes, ethics and standards. The forum dealt with issues such as ethical standards in reporting; relationships between media and parliament; media law; and freedom of the press. The forum agreed a way forward to improve the relationship between the parliament and media. It also provided the media with an opportunity to discuss strategies for fighting corruption and improving service delivery.

Several seminars increased opportunities for citizens to comment on performance of their representatives and encouraged dialogue between Members of Parliament and their constituents. Participants learned more about the role and functions of the Parliament and the responsibility of their representatives. Concretely, participants wanted the government at local level to increase public awareness about the Constitution, new laws, public policies, international protocols and conventions and other issues of national interest which impact their lives.



A voter dips his finger in semi-permanent election ink. (UN Photo/Martine Perret).



Women in Uzbekistan are participating and benefiting from community building projects. (UNDP/Kyoko Postill).

## TRADITIONAL PRACTICES HELP LOCAL DEVELOPMENT IN UZBEKISTAN

As part of the decentralization process in Uzbekistan, local governments and traditional community organizations are increasingly asked by the central government to mobilize local resources to maintain basic infrastructure, a task for which they have limited capacity and experience. This can compromise basic services in rural areas. In some regions there is a risk that social, economic and gender inequalities may increase.

In Uzbekistan, the honoured practice of "hashar" calls for villagers to work voluntarily for the benefit of the whole community. Recognising the value of this tradition, with UN-EU support, national authorities were able to tap into this and mobilise local people to contribute their labour, assets and equipment to rehabilitate schools or medical centres, lay gas pipes or install water pumps. They were supported by information and resource centres that became the hub of this participatory approach, providing a forum for exchange of information and expertise, and grants and credits for collective purchasing and production. The success of the centres led to the local authorities channelling funding on a more permanent basis to communities.

As a result, 260,000 people accessed clean piped water, 2,000 people benefitted from microcredit worth US\$500,000 and 200 farmers in 11 cooperatives were trained in agricultural and food production, micro-irrigation and administration and business management.

## PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS

To make progress in development and the MDGs, every individual must be valued by society and his or her rights must be upheld. EU support to the UN work in human rights contributes to making respect for human rights a practical reality on the ground, not just a pipedream for those for whom "a life of dignity" is a far removed from daily life. The partnership raised

awareness and helped countries integrate human rights into their legal frameworks, a crucial step in ensuring that human rights are protected. It supported national human rights action plans; provided civic education; and strengthened ombudsman offices and human rights institutions at the sub-national level.

## SOME RESULTS FROM THE UN-EU PARTNERSHIP IN 2009 IN THE AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS:

Responding to situations of urgent concern, the UN fielded teams of experts to **Gabon, Honduras, Iraq, Madagascar and the occupied Palestinian territory**, and provided staff to support the International Commission of Inquiry into events in **Guinea** and the fact-finding mission on the **Gaza** conflict.

**Morocco, Tanzania, Nigeria** and Pacific countries were helped in developing national human rights action plans. A training package on the value of the human rights framework in national development planning was piloted in **Haiti and Liberia**.

In **Seychelles**, national capacity building for both state and civil society was supported, including through human rights training manuals and training.

A global campaign against discrimination was launched on Human Rights Day 2009 in **South Africa** under the slogan "Embrace Diversity, End Discrimination."

In **Madagascar**, the knowledge and capacity of 30 judges, prosecutors and government officials on the administration of justice was increased.

At the inter-governmental level, support was provided to the **Human Rights Council** Universal Periodic Review mechanism, under which the human rights situation in all 192 Member States of the United Nations is reviewed on a rolling basis. The partnership also supported the 2009 Durban Review Conference tasked with assessing implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action agreed in 2001 at the World Conference on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. The Outcome Document, supported by 182 countries, commits states to further steps to combat racism.

The EU helped strengthen **internal UN capacity**, supporting human rights mainstreaming including capacity development of UN country teams.

## CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Around 10 per cent of the world's population, or 650 million people, live with a disability. They are the world's largest minority. Eighty per cent of people with disabilities live in developing countries. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted in 2006, focuses on protecting people with disabilities from violence, abuse and exploitation and is among the newest human rights conventions. In its content, the Convention represents a significant change: it establishes disability not only as a social welfare matter but as a human rights issue and matter of law. It is also the first human rights convention to be opened for participation of regional integration organisations. Since negotiation of the Convention, the UN and the Commission have developed a productive cooperation across different bodies relevant to its application.

## RULE OF LAW, JUSTICE AND SECURITY

The poor and marginalized are too often denied the ability to seek remedies in a fair justice system. In the absence of access to justice, people are unable to make their voice heard, exercise their rights, challenge discrimination or hold decision-makers accountable. Rule of law is the foundation for both justice and security. Together, rule of law, access to justice and legal empowerment contribute to an enabling environment for achieving the MDGs. They can spur economic growth and help to create a safe and secure environment for recovery in the aftermath of conflict or disaster.

Together with the EU, the UN works with ensuring the independence, impartiality and fairness of judges; promoting legal literacy and legal aid; supporting pro-poor laws; and encouraging civic participation in legal and judicial reform.

Another area of the partnership is support of children who are in contact with law. An estimated more than 1 million children worldwide are deprived of their liberty by law enforcement officials. Children in detention often suffer severe violations of their rights. Detained children can be below the age of criminal responsibility and kept with adult prisoners. Frequently, the conditions they must survive are terrible. Some are kept in solitary confinement. Physical and sexual abuse are common. Parents are commonly denied the right to visit and often not informed of a child's whereabouts. Most children in detention are not serious criminals and many have not even committed a criminal offence. Some are jailed for reasons such as race, religion, nationality, ethnicity or political views. In 2009, the EU supported UN work on protecting the rights of children and youth that were detained or in contact with the justice system in **Bosnia, Georgia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Pakistan and Turkey**.

## SOME RESULTS FROM THE UN-EU PARTNERSHIP IN 2009 IN THE AREA OF RULE OF LAW, JUSTICE AND SECURITY:

In Kassala State in **Sudan**, access to justice and accountability of judicial institutions was promoted through: police and prison infrastructure; access to justice for vulnerable groups in particular internally displaced people and returnees; and support to civil society and community-based organisations to engender an environment conducive to sustainable peace and development based on the rule of law. In November 2009, two new police stations in Kassala State were inaugurated.

In **Kosovo**, to ensure the impartiality and fairness of judges, the partnership supported the vetting and reappointment of judges and prosecutors. A review panel was appointed, and all 891 applicants underwent ethics exams. For the Supreme Court and State Prosecutorial Office, following interviews and background checks, candidates were selected and recommended to the President. The process is ongoing for other levels of the judiciary.

**Kenya:** capacity building and logistical support was provided to the prosecution, court, police and prison services that were engaged with trials concerned with piracy off the coast of Somalia.

The EU supported the work of the International Commission Against Impunity in **Guatemala** (CICIG), established by the UN and the Guatemalan government in 2007. The CICIG's cooperation with the Guatemalan state has had significant results in the investigation of key criminal and disciplinary cases, as well as in strengthening the institutional capacity of the justice sector and formulating proposals of legal reforms. Numerous investigations have been conducted, and a map of illegal security structures in the country has been drawn up.

In **Turkey**, under the 2005 Law on Child Protection, all Turkish citizens up to 18 years of age are considered children and enjoy children's rights. However, amendments to the 2006 Anti-Terror Law mean children between fifteen and eighteen years of age can be tried as adults. Since then, the number of cases lodged against children in this age group has increased considerably.

In 2009, the EU supported the UN to work with national institutions to strengthen the rights of children in contact with the law in Turkey. 6,207 children benefitted from probation services. Over 35,000 parents attended parenting training programmes, and 2 million families at risk sought family mediation and counselling services. At the start of the school year 2008-2009, 140,000 children aged 10 to 14 had never enrolled in school. With UN and EU support, as of May 2009, 35,000 of these children had enrolled in primary school. 14 child rights committees worked with government representatives to develop a national child participation strategy.

## HELPING COUNTRIES MANAGE THEIR BORDERS

An important dimension of the partnership is support to countries to manage their borders in accordance with best practices and international norms, including combating drugs and human smuggling and trafficking. Effective management of borders can embrace regional integration, openness and commerce, which in turn contribute to economic opportunities.

In **Latin America and the Caribbean**, the UN and the EU contributed to the fight against the manufacture of drugs and drugs trafficking. Some drugs are extracted from plant sources and refined with the aid of chemicals. These precursor chemicals, critical to the production of cocaine, heroin and synthetic drugs, are produced in many countries. Many legitimate industrial chemicals are necessary in most illicitly produced drugs. Preventing the diversion of these chemicals from legitimate commerce to illicit drug manufacturing is a difficult but important job.

Smuggled migrants are vulnerable to exploitation and their lives are often at risk: thousands of smuggled migrants have suffocated in containers, perished in deserts or drowned at sea. Smugglers of migrants often conduct their activities with little or no regard for the lives of the people whose hardship has created a demand for smuggling services. In the **ECOWAS region** and in **Mauritania**, the UN and the EU helped build the capacity of the law enforcement agencies and prosecutors to better combat the smuggling of migrants in the region. Institutions were supported in the prevention, investigation and prosecution of people smuggling migrants and the protection of the rights of smuggled migrants. In **North Africa**, the partnership strengthened criminal justice systems to respond to the smuggling of migrants in **Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco** and **Tunisia** by establishing adequate legal frameworks, building capacities of law enforcement, prosecution and the judiciary, strengthening international and inter-regional cooperation and fostering prevention through raising awareness.

## SUPPORTING COUNTRIES IN CENTRAL ASIA TO MANAGE THEIR BORDERS

Following the break up of the Soviet Union in late 1991, the countries in Central Asia faced (and partly still face) several security and economic challenges. These include tens of thousands of kilometers of new international borders; the world's biggest opium and heroin producing country in the neighbourhood; instability in Afghanistan and Pakistan; and low levels of trade between countries. In addition, the transition from a conception of border management based on military-type approaches to border and drug control, has been challenging.

The UN and the EU have worked together since 2004 to support **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan** in managing their borders. The objective is to ensure the gradual adoption of modern border management methods in Central Asia, with two equally important aims: enhanced border security; and facilitation of legal trade and transit. Some of the results achieved include:

- In each country, inter-ministerial commissions and inter-agency working groups were established, helping decision-makers to become familiar with options on how integrated border management can be implemented, and initiating necessary legislative and regulatory reforms to institutionalise the integrated border management framework;
- Training centers were renovated and equipped for border agencies in all countries of Central Asia. Integrated border management components were introduced into national training curricula: a "training-of-trainers" approach that utilises European expertise and practice improved capacities in this area;
- The work of law enforcement agencies has become more efficient. Members of the new state service for combating drugs based at border crossings in Turkmenistan benefitted from capacity building;
- The Tajik Government was supported in strengthening security along the Tajik - Afghan border.

## TRAFFICKING

In human trafficking, people are lured or coerced to leave their home or country, and forced to work with no or low pay or on terms which are highly exploitative such as prostitution and forced labour. Trafficking in children is a global problem: some estimate as many as 1.2 million children are trafficked every year. Children and families are often unaware of the dangers, believing better employment and lives lie in other countries. Trafficking has many features of slavery and is illegal in most countries. The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (also referred to as the Palermo Protocol) is a protocol to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. There are 124 parties to the Protocol.

The UN and EU supported country-based anti-trafficking activities in **Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia**, leading to improved national legal and policy frameworks and highlighting the need to focus on labour exploitation as well as sexual exploitation. Trade unions from source and destination countries were mobilised to sign collaboration agreements to better protect migrant workers and assist victims of trafficking. Employers in different sectors adopted policies against trafficking and forced labour, in particular against private recruitment agencies. The UN piloted labour market based measures to reintegrate returned victims of trafficking. In 2009, the UN and EU jointly published indicators on human trafficking using the DELPHI method as a way to generate a common understanding among experts.

## SOME RESULTS FROM THE UN-EU PARTNERSHIP IN 2009 IN THE AREA OF FIGHTING DRUGS, SMUGGLING AND TRAFFICKING:

In **Thailand and the Philippines**, government authorities, trade unions and service providers were supported in the coordinated return and socio-economic reintegration of migrants that were victims of labour exploitation including trafficking.

In **Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia**, 100 judges and prosecutors were trained on legislation, policies, practices and UN legal tools concerning smuggling of migrants and trafficking in people. 15 key officials and members of competent national authorities were trained in international cooperation mechanisms and NGOs were trained on the criminal aspects of smuggling of migrants and the wider social implications of smuggling.

In **Zimbabwe**, 250 young people were trained as peer educators on the risk of irregular child migration and human trafficking. They in turn reached out to around 3,750 peers in and out of school on migration/trafficking.

In **Belarus**, trainings and conferences to prevent trafficking were held for children, parents and teachers in all regions. A hot-line which people could call or email with concerns regarding possible cases of trafficking, provided support through 309 phone calls and 58 email consultations. A shelter for victims of trafficking was opened and specialists working there were trained to offer social and rehabilitation services. A national awareness raising campaign on trafficking was conducted, and 8,000 copies of information materials were distributed promoting the hot-line and giving guidance on safety rules when travelling abroad.

## 6. Making development sustainable

*Climate change, loss of biodiversity, the overexploitation of natural resources and pollution of land and water are global issues that cannot be addressed by countries acting alone. They are acute and increasingly tangible risks to the ultimate goals of eradicating poverty and preserving our environment. The UN has a unique global mandate to tackle these challenges, and has strong support from the EU in keeping these issues high on the global agenda.*

One of the pillars of sustainable development is integrating the environmental, social and economic dimensions. Good management of the environment contributes to improved public health and living conditions, to economic development and to the social resilience of communities. Intact, functioning ecosystems provide services—such as of food, water, fuel and fibre, as well as regulation of climate—on which nations and people rely to earn income from agriculture, fishing, forestry, tourism and other activities.

Poor communities often rely directly on their environment. They are thus more vulnerable to natural disasters that

threaten livelihoods, undermine food security, and engender health risks. In this light, more sustainable management of the environment and natural resources contributes directly to poverty reduction, sustainable livelihoods and pro-poor growth. It is a necessary condition for achieving the MDGs.

Understanding the linkages between poverty and environment, and integrating these into development strategies, is key to more sustainable use of natural resources. Since 2005, the UN, EU and other partners have worked across the global supporting country-led efforts to mainstream poverty-environment linkages into national development planning. Support expanded to 22 countries in **Africa, Asia-Pacific, Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Latin America-Caribbean**. Country-specific evidence was gathered and used to raise awareness, increase understanding of poverty-environmental issues and shape development planning. In most of these countries, the inclusion of environmental sustainability in poverty reduction strategies was significantly improved. In some cases, budget allocations for poverty-environment policy measures were increased, such as in Rwanda where the budget for such action increased by 40 per cent.

### BHUTAN EMBRACES ENVIRONMENTAL MAINSTREAMING

Bhutan has the distinction of being the first country in the world with specific constitutional obligations on its people to preserve the environment. Article 5 of the Constitution emphasizes the responsibility of all Bhutanese to protect the environment, conserve its rich biodiversity and prevent ecological degradation. It stipulates that a minimum of sixty percent of land must be maintained under forest cover for all time. This far-sighted constitutional pledge is intended to ensure long term sustainable use of natural resources in a manner that not only benefits present and future Bhutanese generations, but also contributes to global environmental health. The country-led process to incorporate this into the Constitution was supported by the UN and EU.

Adult elephant in the Mikumi National Park in Tanzania. (UN Photo).



(FAO/Giulio Napolitano).



Joint UN-EU work on climate change in 2009 included training of senior country-level staff of both institutions on its implications for development. A training for Commission and UN representatives in the Arab States demonstrated the value to the EU-UN partnership of pooling visions and knowledge around one of the major development challenges of today, whilst focusing on concrete actions that could be taken in support of governments in the region.

The partnership also helped countries and regions with protection of wildlife. In **Africa**, 29 states were supported with the monitoring of illegal killing of elephants. National and site-level structures for routine monitoring of around 260,000 elephants were maintained, this representing up to 43 per cent of the total estimated number of elephants on the African continent.

Forests are vital for environmental sustainability and to help fight poverty. For millions of people, forest and tree resources provide food, fuel for cooking and heating, medicine, shelter, clothing and income. Forests help preserve biodiversity, prevent desertification, regulate freshwater flows and maintain water quality. They also help mitigate climate change: trees and plants absorb and store carbon, lowering levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. But when trees are cut down and burned, carbon dioxide is released into the air. Given the importance of forests, the rate of deforestation is alarming. 13 million hectares per year (equivalent to the land area of Bangladesh) are lost. This is partly offset by planting, landscape restoration and the natural expansion of forests, which signifi-

cantly reduced the net loss of forest area. The regions of sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean continue to account for the largest net losses of forests.

To help countries in the **Africa, Caribbean and Pacific** regions manage their forests, the UN and the EU supported improved governance of forests through reviews and if necessary, modifications to national forest policy, legislative or regulatory systems. In 2009, 15 projects were initiated to improve forest governance and law compliance in 11 countries. In **Cameroon** and the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, the UN and the EU supported the development of small and medium forest enterprises. As these enterprises specialize in products extracted from the trees, such as rubber and mangos, rather than the wood itself, their commerce helps preserve the forests and encourages planting of more seedlings, while at the same time providing income for the people.

Desertification and drought pose an increasing global threat. Human activities such as over-cultivation, over-grazing, deforestation and poor irrigation practices, along with climate change, are turning once fertile soils into unproductive and barren land. Because the poor often farm degraded land that is increasingly unable to meet their needs, desertification is both a cause and a consequence of poverty. In **Chile**, communities were supported to fight desertification through support to 55 projects in poor rural communities. They benefited 11,000 people, 70% of whom are women. For example, 2,000 solar-powered cooking equipments were constructed and used, which led to a decrease of 428,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> produced by these communities per year.

## SOME RESULTS FROM THE UN-EU PARTNERSHIP IN 2009 IN THE AREA OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES:

### **Protecting the environment in the drylands**

Rural development and poverty alleviation in the rural drylands requires action on several fronts: legislation, capacity strengthening, water management, gender issues, health provision, education and many others. There is a real challenge to ensure that policy and legislation favour people in the drylands and help end their social and economic exclusion. At the same time action is needed on the ground to help farmers and pastoralists increase their production of crops and livestock. In 2009, the UN and the EU supported rural populations in drylands in **Benin, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania and Yemen**.

In **Benin**, the support helped women generate income, for example through processing of Shea grains and grinding of cereal. Women now need less time to process cereals which means the girls who helped their mothers in these functions are now able to attend school. The income is a welcome addition for households. A feasibility study in the community of Banikora confirmed the potential to use agricultural residues to produce combustible briquettes, substituting the use of wood and charcoal and greatly reducing pressure on forests. To promote environmental protection, specific drylands issues have been introduced in the school curriculum.

In **Tanzania**, women groups were trained on indigenous poultry management, business management skills and book-keeping. 40,000 trees of different species were planted in 5 reserved areas.

### **Access to gas helps save forests**

In **Uzbekistan**, since 2005, the UN and the EU have worked with 500,000 people in 300 communities to improve access to water, gas and electricity, and rehabilitate basic infrastructure including schools, kindergartens and rural medical centres.

A participatory rural approach empowered communities to identify needs and sustainable approaches to improving their living standards. One key innovation was to share costs of the project with local communities. Local people contributed labor, equipment and skills. Now communities with access to gas no longer need to cut and burn trees as firewood for heating and cooking. Gas supplies helped increase earnings since people could start greenhouses, pottery shops and other small businesses.

### **Other:**

In **Afghanistan**, in 2009 the country published its first State of the Environment Report and developed its first National Environmental Action Plan. 12 new community-based natural resource management projects were developed. Progress was made on establishment of the Shah Foladi National Park in Bamiyan province, an important water tower in the greater Hindu Kush mountain range with excellent ecotourism potential. A national plan to adapt to impacts of climate change was developed and submitted to the UN Secretariat of the Climate Change Convention. There was notable legislative progress, such as the Forest and Rangeland Laws. An innovative conflict resolution strategy developed addressed disputes between nomadic and settled people regarding access to Afghanistan's summer rangelands in the central highlands. This in turn led to efforts to upscale community-based pasture management on a national level.

**Africa, Caribbean and Pacific:** To improve municipal wastewater management in coastal cities, 49 training courses were held on wastewater management 2007 to 2009, including 36 in Africa, 9 in the Caribbean, and 4 in the Pacific. Those trained included municipal wastewater managers, infrastructure planners, local policy-makers and representatives of public health, environmental NGOs, tourism and fisheries from 28 countries.

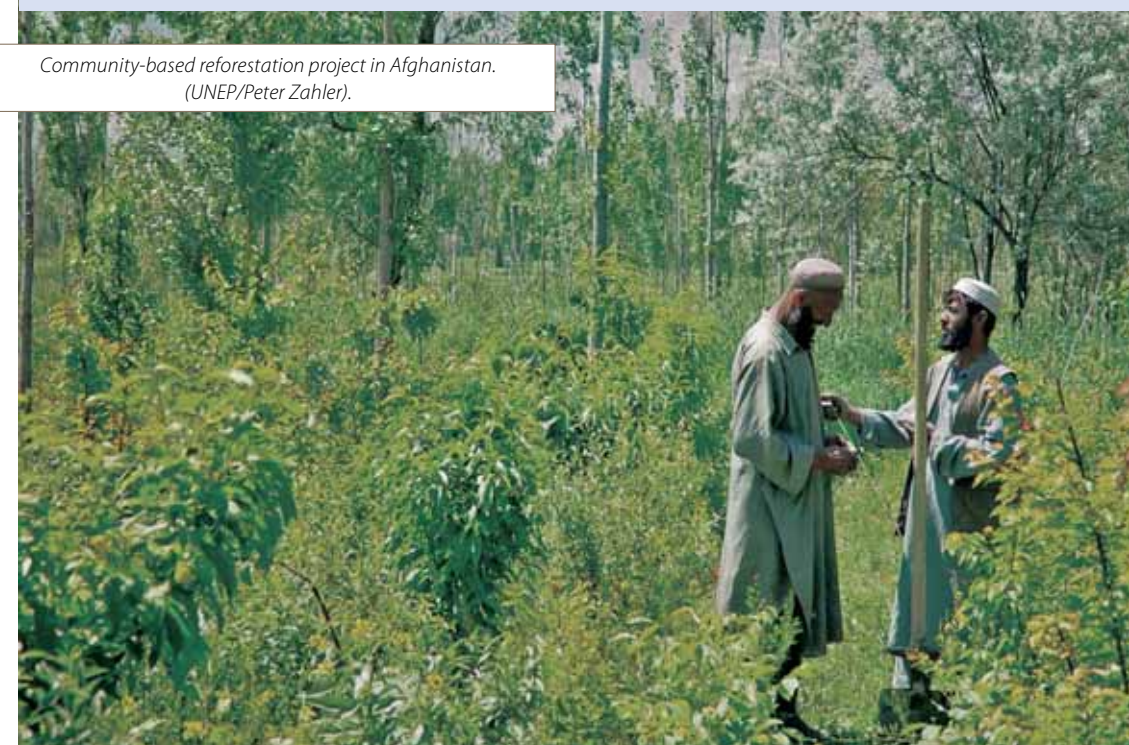
A **Global Database** is being developed to collect information on sites being assessed for pollution. It is organized primarily by region and secondarily by country. The database is used for ranking polluted sites by their effect on human health. By the end of 2009, the project had worked in 40 countries, and 380 specific sites had been visited. To date, 162 assessments have been completed and uploaded to the database.

**Mali:** Awareness was raised on the need to safeguard the Niger river's cultural and natural wealth. Investments in local and governmental capacities in water governance were made, including waste management, water treatment, access to clear water, and river banks restoration. A "water anthropology" research centre was created at Bamako University, and a cultural inventory in 40 villages along the river was carried out. Surveys and impact assessments on sand mining along 500 kilometers of the riverbed were carried out, surveying the rice growing and fishing practices along 300 kilometers of the river. 400 meters of river banks in Mopti fish harbour were rehabilitated.

In **Europe**, support was provided to the sustainable use and management of the Sava River Basin. A strategic environmental management system for planning water resources use, and a pollution prevention and control mechanism were established, enhancing quality of life and sustainable economic development in the region.

**Albania:** Benefitting from innovative technology, Albania was able to create a sustainable market for solar water heating system. The first marine protected area was designated.

Community-based reforestation project in Afghanistan.  
(UNEP/Peter Zahler).





A woman poultry farmer takes her chicken to the Oecussi Market in Timor-Leste. (UN Photo/Martine Perret).

## 7. Fostering economic opportunities and decent work

*For poor countries, the possibility of integrating into the global economy is challenged by both internal and external constraints. Internally, supply-side constraints exist such as lack of physical infrastructure, poor economic governance, little access to rule of law and to technology, and lack of a healthy and skilled labour force. Externally, the complex international rules and policies related to global trade, investment, migration, intellectual property, debt sustainability and aid policy prevent countries from benefitting from globalization. People in developing countries often lack both decent work opportunities and social protection which makes them vulnerable and decreases their opportunities for pursuing better lives.*

Economic growth and international trade can create opportunities for development where they are supported by effective policies, including strong social and economic governance. This is even more important given the current economic crisis. Only 20 per cent of the world's population has adequate social security coverage, and more than half lack any coverage at all. People face dangers in the workplace and poor or non-existent pension and health insurance coverage. Fewer than 10 per cent of workers in least-developed countries are covered by social security. In middle-income countries, coverage ranges from 20 to 60 per cent, while in most industrial nations, it is close to 100 per cent.

To foster growth and promote economic opportunities and decent work for people in developing countries, the UN and the EU cooperate on both international policy and on the ground.

### DECENT WORK AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

The proportion of the working-age population that is employed is a good indicator of the ability of an economy to generate jobs. In most countries, that proportion is between 55 and 75 per cent. Nevertheless, employment to population ratios and poverty indicators can both be high because people must work to survive, regardless of the quality of their job. This is the case in sub-Saharan Africa, where more than half those employed were among the extreme working poor, and more than three quarters of workers were engaged in vulnerable employment, which means they were not likely to benefit from safety nets that guard against income loss during economic hardship. Over 80 per cent of the female labour force in the Pacific region, sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia were in vulnerable employment in 2008.

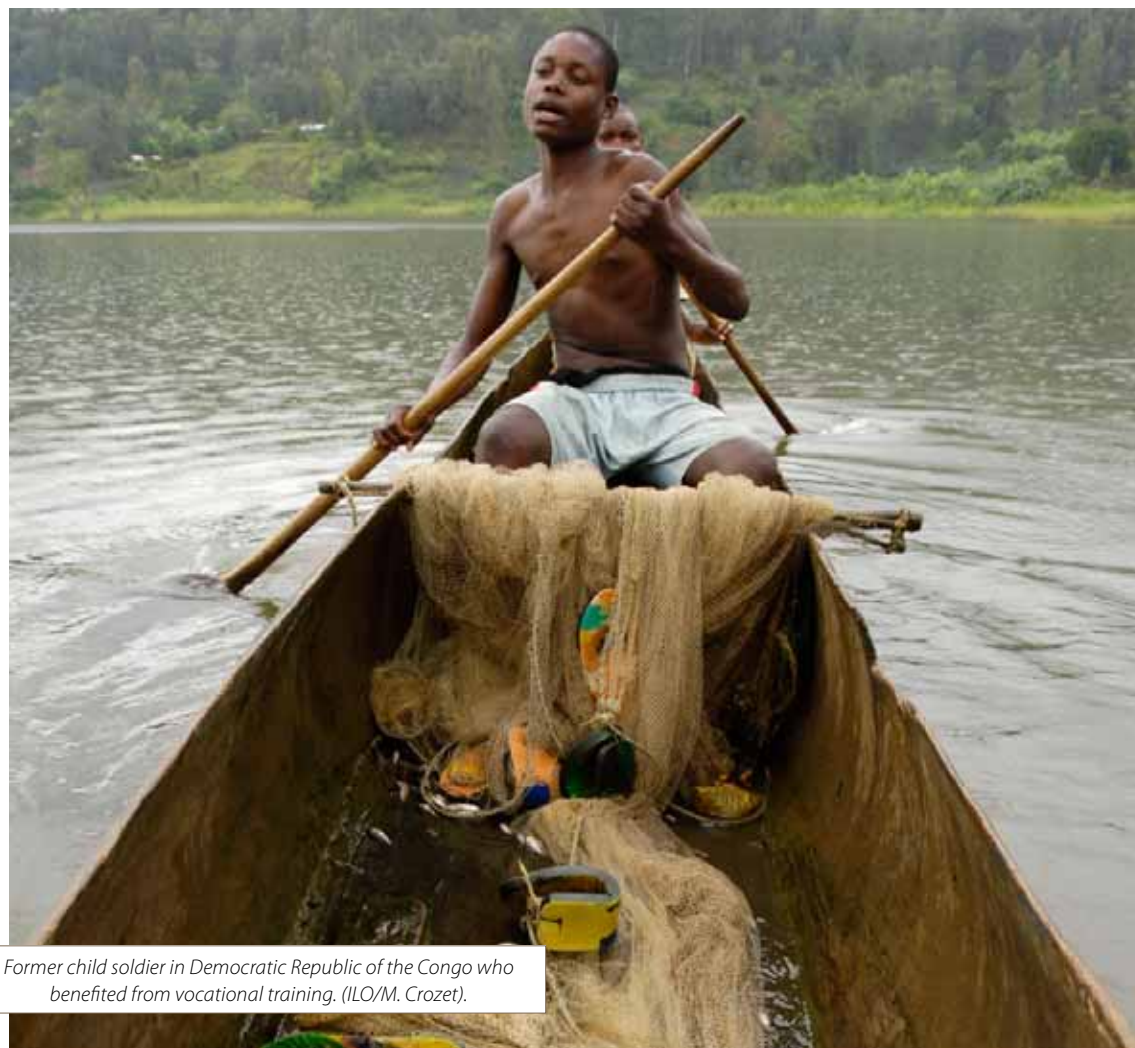
In 2008, employment and decent work became a new target for the MDG on eradicating extreme poverty and hunger. The EU works closely with the UN in fostering the internationally agreed decent work agenda and its four pillars – employment and enterprise development, social protection, rights at work and social dialogue. Gender and non-discrimination are mainstreamed across all four pillars.

There is universal agreement that decent work is particularly relevant in times of economic crisis, both for mitigating its impact and for sustainable recovery. This was highlighted in the Global Jobs Pact adopted by governments, employers and workers at the International Labour Conference in 2009. The Pact was supported as one of nine UN initiatives to address the economic and financial crisis, and the EU contribution to its adoption was key. Policy options proposed under the Pact and the European Recovery Plan proposed in November 2008 are very much aligned and provide a good basis for ongoing cooperation in analysing the impacts of the crisis.

In 2009, the UN and EU began to look at the employment and social implications of policies for a transition to a low carbon economy, as key elements of sustainable recovery. EU agreements and arrangements in this area frequently refer to decent work, international labour standards and other UN conventions.

On the ground, the UN and the EU worked together to measure decent work in ten countries (**Bangladesh, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Niger, Zambia, Peru, Brazil, Ukraine and Russia**). They measured and contributed to addressing the impact of trade on employment in **Nicaragua, Benin, Indonesia and Kenya**. The partnership contributed to better application of core labour standards, such as freedom of association and collective bargaining, combating child labour, combating forced labour and promoting non-discrimination in employment. For example, the partnership promoted application of the child labour convention in ACP countries and the ratification of the conventions on freedom of association and collective bargaining by **El Salvador**.

Skills development and technical and vocational/occupational training are closely related to fostering opportunities for decent work. The UN participates in the EU expert group "New Skills for New Jobs". Joint activities have been launched with a view to increasing the knowledge base on skills needed for a greener, low carbon economy.



Former child soldier in Democratic Republic of the Congo who benefited from vocational training. (ILO/M. Crozet).

### SOME RESULTS FROM THE UN-EU PARTNERSHIP IN 2009 IN THE AREA OF DECENT WORK AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING:

In **Senegal**, opportunities were created for urban populations to find employment and gain an income. Small urban enterprises expanded their businesses through technical and financial support.

In **Bangladesh and Niger** market-oriented and flexible technical and vocational training systems were created, responding to demands for competitive skills of the modern sector and the needs of youth and under-privileged groups.

In **Timor Leste**, 30,000 unemployed people were counselled to find jobs, and provided skills and training on how to set up and run businesses. 2,800 unemployed women received micro-credits to set up enterprises.

#### **Sudan: delivering pro-poor vocational training**

Khartoum State has seen rapid urbanisation since the 1970s, largely a result of mass rural-to-urban migration of a young population, caused by the combined impact of civil war, desertification and drought.

To support the capacity of Khartoum state to deliver vocational training services, especially to poor people, the UN and EU worked with the state to develop training facilities, ensuring a link between market-oriented skills training and entrepreneurship development. The aim is to generate employment opportunities for young women and men, ex-combatants and internally displaced people. In 2009, four new vocational training centers became operational providing the urban poor with technical and entrepreneurial training in line with market demands. The curricula in these centers has been developed and offered in line with market demand.

### PALESTINE REFUGEE WOMEN TRAIN TO BECOME KINDERGARTEN TEACHER ASSISTANTS

"As soon as we heard about this new course, we all came running to register" exclaimed Abeer Issa, an enthusiastic student of the recently launched "Child Development in Kindergarten" course. This is a three-month course which trains 25 women in their twenties to become kindergarten teacher assistants. The unique course was launched in Syria for the first time in March 2009, part of an employment and vocational education project to enhance employability and employment opportunities for Palestine refugees through employment guidance and skills training.

The first two-and-a-half months of the course consist of 12 hours of lectures a week at a crèche, covering child psychology (including courses on advice giving, adaptation, dealing with children displaying emotional or behavioral difficulties and examining the meanings of children's paintings), childcare, nutrition, first aid and classroom decoration. The last two weeks the students attend practical training in kindergartens.

Through a network of five vocational, technical and teacher training centres, 3,670 people benefitted from skills and pre-service teacher training in 2009. Of the vocational training graduates, 77% trainees were employed within one year. Vocational and technical training centres in Jordan ranked high in the nation-wide government-administered examinations. The Gaza Training Centre was awarded the "Against All Odds Award" by the Cisco Networking Academy for widening e-learning and fostering IT skills among Palestine refugees.

### MARITIME LABOUR CONVENTION 2006

The shipping industry was the world's first genuinely global industry and requires an appropriate international regulatory response i.e. global standards applicable to the entire industry. Since seafarers' working lives are spent outside the home country and working for employers also often not based in their country, effective international standards are necessary. In ships flying the flag of countries that do not exercise effective jurisdiction and control over them as required by international law, seafarers often have to work under unacceptable conditions, to the detriment of their well-being, health and safety – and the safety of the ships on which they work.

The Convention on Maritime Labour of 2006 provides a comprehensive framework for ensuring a global level playing field for the sector. This international labour Convention provides rights and protection at work for the world's more than 1.2 million seafarers. It establishes mechanisms for supervising the effective application of the Convention both by the flag and port states. The UN and the European Union worked together in helping put this international labour convention for the maritime professions in place. An EU wide social partner's agreement implemented in 2009 transposes parts of the Convention provisions into EU law.

### MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Migration and development are increasingly considered as closely interlinked. While development actions can help tackle root causes of migratory flows, migration can, in turn, contribute positively to development, social empowerment and technological progress. To some extent, migration can also be regarded as a sign of development as more people gain sufficient resources to opt to migrate.

With the support of the EU, the UN supported capacity building in **Africa, Asia, the Arab States region, Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus and Eastern Europe** to improve governance of labour migration and protection of migrant

workers, link migration and development, prevent irregular migration, and curb trafficking and exploitation of migrants.

Greater coverage of migrant workers under labour laws and social security systems was also promoted. Further, the UN assists countries in addressing migration management priorities in a manner that ensures refugee protection and fosters a more positive environment for asylum.

## SOME RESULTS FROM THE UN-EU PARTNERSHIP IN 2009 IN THE AREA OF MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

In the **East Africa, West Africa and Maghreb countries** the partnership promoted labour migration policy frameworks, social security coverage for migrant workers and institutional mechanisms for regional integration. These enhanced contributions of migration to development. Similar activities were supported at country level in **Nigeria, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka**.

In the **Commonwealth of Independent States** region, policies and programmes were supported to improve governance of labour migration. In the **Russian Federation** tools were developed to better assess labour requirements for migrant workers.

In **Kazakhstan**, trade unions developed a policy and manual for activists to reach out to migrant workers in need of protection for better employment and working conditions.

In **Albania**, the public sector was strengthened with policies to address capacity gaps in the sector. Programmes such as the Brain Gain provided incentives to increase Albanian diaspora involvement in the country's development, in both the public sector and academia.

In **Asia**, the UN promoted cooperation in addressing immense challenges of migration governance in the region, including forced labour and trafficking and wide differences in pay between foreign and native workers creating distortions in the labour market. In countries of employment, best practices to decent work and equal treatment of migrant workers were promoted and social dialogue on migration and integration issues encouraged.

*Organic coffee production as an alternative to migration in Ecuador. (UNDP Ecuador).*



*Participants in a workshop on parenting skills in Jamaica. (Richard Troupe).*

## WORKING TOGETHER ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT – STORIES FROM THE FIELD

The Joint Migration and Development Initiative brings together small-scale groups and local authorities in the European Union and in 16 countries in the developing world (**Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Moldova, Georgia, Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Mali, Senegal, Cape Verde, Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Jamaica and Ecuador**). Founded on partnerships between small-scale actors, it has helped hundreds of medium- and small-scale organisations, civil society groups and local institutions to link migration and development.

### **Organic coffee production as an alternative to migration in Ecuador**

Migration is one of the main development challenges in Ecuador. As an alternative to migration and as a potential source of income for returning migrants, people in the region of Loja are being supported in the production of organic coffee as a source of income. The majority of families in the area have family members living overseas, mainly in Spain and Italy. They are motivated to be part of this initiative as they would like to provide an alternative income for their family members abroad so that they can return home.

So far, three communities received support to improve productivity of their shade-grown coffee plants and secure internationally recognized organic certification to market the coffee regionally. Together with their partners in Spain, a mechanism to channel remittances from migrants' families in Spain to productive investment in the three communities is being developed.

### **Strengthening migrants' families 'left behind' by migration in Jamaica**

An NGO-led initiative in the inner-city communities in Kingston Jamaica focuses on 'multi-generational' families, where the main caregiver has migrated abroad, often leaving grandparents or siblings to care for their children.

A recent survey of these communities found that following migration, 56% of children were left in the care of older siblings and 44% with other family members, and most migrants were unable to make provision for their children's education or welfare before leaving. A community-based NGO working in some of the most vulnerable areas of Kingston has held parenting workshops for new caregivers. Participants describe how these improved their parenting skills and increased interactions with neighbours in the community. Local partners are also increasing access to medical and other government services, registering 500 community members at a recent health drive. The support targets 1,500 multi-generational households affected by migration and eventually should impact approximately 7,500 people, roughly one-third of people in the three communities.

## IMPROVING THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THE MEAT MARKET IN SOMALIA

In Somalia, a meat and meat product quality control system was established in line with internationally recognized food safety and quality assurance practices. It focused on export oriented commercial meat processing in Northern Somalia. The aim is to establish state-of-the-art procedures for the meat processing and export chain, develop a legal regulatory and institutional framework for meat quality and consumer safety in the domestic and the export sector, support the Somali public sector in addressing market access and consumer safety, and assist the positioning of Somali meat products in the international market. It supports shifting Somali livestock production from live animal trade toward chilled meat exports, which adds more production value in-country.

By 2009, 40,000 households and 260,000 individuals has been reached, and there had been a fundamental shift away from a system based on goodwill to quality assurance. Introduction of training on Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points - a system in which food safety is addressed through the whole chain from raw material to consumption - in principle enabled slaughterhouses to sell Somali meat as a product with country of origin labelling, at prices up to 48% higher than before. Increased value and growing meat exports will in turn increase demands for livestock in the local markets. It is expected that in the ensuing competition, the prices for live animals for slaughter will increase, benefiting all those in the marketing and production chains including pastoralists and agro-pastoralists.

## ACCESS TO GLOBAL TRADE

The marginalization of developing countries from global trade is of major concern and strengthening their capacity to participate is critical for their future economic growth. Especially after accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), technical ability to enter global production is key for successful participation in international trade.

The UN stresses that keeping the multilateral trading regime open and transparent, in line with MDG 8, is key to recovery from the current economic crisis. It is also essential to prevent protectionism, which risks aggravating the crisis, in particular for developing countries. In that regard, aid and finance for trade continue to be of the highest priority. Aid for Trade assists developing countries to build physical, human and institutional capacity to expand their trade, through aid to formulate and implement trade policies, and support to wider economic capacities for trade e.g. investing in infrastructure and productive sectors.

Strict international product standards for agricultural and manufactured goods has made it difficult for many developing countries to take full advantage of export markets, due to a shortage of human and financial resources, lack of active participation in international standard setting bodies as well as weaknesses in infrastructure. Exporters of agricultural and industrial products face barriers to trade in the form of technical regulations, and sanitary and phytosanitary standards. The use of international standards endorsed by the UN, and in the setting of which all countries have participated, helps create transparency and predictability, thereby facilitating trade and avoiding the arbitrary use of these regulations and standards.

The EU is one of the leading providers of Aid for Trade. One key aspect of the partnership has been to help countries meet the technical regulations and sanitary standards. Several countries received support in 2009. For example, **Thailand**

was supported to comply with the new European chemicals legislation, REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) and to enhance the competitiveness of the Thai food industry by strengthening the capacity of food testing laboratories.

The EU and the UN also cooperate in the context of the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), trade and development arrangements between the EU and **African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) regions**. The UN led an assessment of the industrial competitiveness of these regions at the request of the Regional Economic Communities. Regional EPA programmes on industrial modernization and competitiveness were approved by the regions in 2008 and many recommendations supported by aid for trade. EU-UN cooperation helped clarify the industrial development priorities of ACP regions and contributed to defining the content of possible EU aid for trade support.

One mechanism for the poorest countries to access aid for trade is the Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries. This mainstreams trade into national development plans, facilitates coordinated delivery of trade-related assistance and strengthens national capacities to manage the trade development agenda.

The UN and the EU are both trusted partners in support to the Integrated Framework and also the Enhanced Integrated Framework. The latter is supported by the EU for example by taking the role of donor facilitator on the ground in more than 10 LDCs and by using the Enhanced Integrated Framework programme to channel Commission trade-related assistance to LDCs. The EU also contributes financially to the UN-managed multilateral trust fund. The UN provides on-the-ground support for Enhanced Integrated Framework programme implementation in 46 LDCs.

## SOME RESULTS FROM THE UN-EU PARTNERSHIP IN 2009 THE AREA OF TRADE:

**West Africa:** To strengthen the competitiveness of companies towards conforming to international standards, the programme trained over 2,000 staff in 16 countries on normalisation, metrology, quality management, certification, analysis and inspection. 71 laboratories were assisted in the set-up of quality control systems.

In **Haiti**, the National Standards Body was established and made operational, and pilot enterprises of two sectors – fruit and textile/garment – were supported for quality improvement and compliance with international market standards.

In **Cote d'Ivoire**, to improve competitiveness and raise the income of cotton farmers, the classification of the Ivorian cotton fibre was supported.

In **Cameroon**, national capacities were assisted with the certification of industrial enterprises and accreditation of testing laboratories.

**Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Island, Tuvalu and Vanuatu plus Bhutan, Cape Verde, Comoros, Djibouti and Maldives** were supported with diagnostic studies that help prioritize the trade development needs of the beneficiary countries.

Fisherman in Sudan. (UNDP Sudan).



## 8. Concluding remarks

***This fifth annual report on the cooperation between the United Nations and institutions of the European Union clearly captures the continued deepening and broadening of the relationship. It also offers an important opportunity to take stock of the evolution of the partnership.***

The last five years have witnessed an intensified policy dialogue across a wide spectrum of issues, straddling the three pillars of the United Nations and honing in on the inter-linkages between them. That policy dialogue takes many different forms – from UN participation in hearings of the European Parliament, to EU-UN consultations around key policies of interest to the mandate of the UN, to shared reflections between respective EU and UN country delegations. Increasingly, joint EU-UN knowledge platforms have been extended to make best practices and know-how accessible to developing country partners, and the international community at large.

Yet the predominant “face” of the EU-UN partnership, particularly for those in the developing world, continues to be the extensive programmatic cooperation on the ground. As can be seen from the report, in 2009 such cooperation continued across all regions of the globe, in most core themes of the UN’s mandate. It was sustained in time and evolved in line with countries’ own situations, from humanitarian support to more sustained recovery and development interventions.

The primary aim of this report has been to capture and convey from the field, information that shows where and how the EU-UN cooperation touched and helped improve peoples’ lives. The complexity of country situations and interventions has meant success has not always been guaranteed. Countries remain fragile and people continue to face daily needs. Yet this should not cloud the evidence that advances that have been made, to alleviate suffering in the short run, and strengthen capacities of national actors to move their development processes forward.

Reflecting on lessons from the ongoing cooperation is vital to the continued evolution of the partnership and to enhancing the ability of the EU and the UN together to make a difference. 2009 again provided strong evidence of a partnership that adds clear value to both partners, enabling each to do more in support of developing countries. The report has many country examples. It is also increasingly apparent that the partnership now benefits quite directly from:

- Enhanced policy dialogue, which has helped build common visions and greater understanding of what it takes to lay the foundations for sustainable peace and development;
- The EU-UN championing of common methodologies and tools, which has fostered inter-institutional trust and enabled a quicker start-up of operations in the field at critical junctures;
- Coordination in all its forms: The partnership has clearly benefited from the “federating” role of the EU institutions in many instances, which have matched and dovetailed with the UN’s coordinating function to provide a strong joint platform upon which to bring other partners on board;
- The EU’s sustained political and financial support to UN reform: The EU-UN partnership clearly puts into practice the stated EU policy commitment to strengthen the ability and capacities of the UN to deliver on its core mandates.

### THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

When world leaders meet in September 2010 to review progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, it will be clear that all partners need to ramp up their efforts towards concrete actions if the MDGs are to be achieved. The UN and the EU must be able to respond and use the strength of their existing partnership to accelerate their contribution to the MDGs address in a concerted way. This report points to the many and varied entry points that the EU and the UN share that can be leveraged towards that goal.

The United Nations expresses its sincere appreciation for the support and collaboration of the institutions of the European Union, and for the generosity of the citizens of Europe, in furthering the goal of a better world for all.

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