

UNDP AND THE UN SYSTEM

FOCUSING ON DEVELOPMENT

The global economic crisis continues to take its toll on many countries' progress toward achieving the MDGs, making it more urgent than ever for the UN development system to effectively deliver for the world's poor and vulnerable. With the final countdown



UNDP Administrator Helen Clark addresses the UN's International Donors' Conference Toward a New Future for Haiti.

toward 2015 counterbalanced by the losses and setbacks set in motion by the economic crisis, there is an added urgency for the UN development system to bring together its numerous mandates, experiences, knowledge and resources to support the priorities of national government and civil society partners. Indeed, the UN development system must focus on increasing its impact at the country level and supporting national efforts aimed at ensuring the effects of the global crises do not reverse development gains made in past years.

UNDP plays a dual role in programme countries, both as a development partner and as manager of the Resident Coordinator system, as mandated by the UN General Assembly. In this context, the Resident Coordinator is the leader of the UN Country Team and as such plays a central role at the country level in making possible the coordination of UN operational activities for development.

In 2009, the Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams worked to position more

strategically the UN's development assistance to focus first and foremost on concerted action toward MDG achievement as part of national development plans, and on addressing the central development challenge of climate change. Resident Coordinators and UN country teams have also engaged with national partners to reposition the UN's development response when strategic challenges have required urgent attention, such as the financial crisis and deceleration in MDG achievement.

Progress in the UN development system's efforts to achieve greater coherence and effectiveness has been most visible through the eight *Delivering as One* country pilots that were launched by governments, with the UN, in January 2007: **Albania, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Pakistan, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uruguay and Viet Nam**. Since then, the UN Country Teams have been working closely with government and development partners in the pilot countries to strengthen the UN's contribution towards national development agendas, including aid effectiveness.

Preliminary indications continue to highlight that as a result of the *Delivering as One* approach, the UN's development programming is more closely and strategically aligned with national priorities and placed squarely within already established national institutions and systems. UN development funds are allocated transparently according to national priorities and through a single fund. Finally, UN organizations are required to truly act as 'one' in these eight countries, meaning that joint programming combined with a harmonized approach to business operations results in an efficient and effective country-level UN development programme.

Indeed, the government representatives of these eight pilot countries are reaffirming the effectiveness of the *Delivering as One* approach. During an intergovernmental meeting in Rwanda in October 2009, they stated there is "no going back to doing business in the manner prior to the *Delivering as One* ini-

tiative, which has allowed the UN to become a more effective development partner.”

In 2009, seven out of the eight pilot countries began to conduct country-led evaluations of the *Delivering as One* programme. Already, an increasing number of governments are taking notice of the lessons and

experiences emerging from the *Delivering as One* pilot countries, and are requesting the UN country teams in their countries to take on board some of the *One UN* approaches that *Delivering as One* can provide. An independent evaluation of the pilot country experience will be conducted in 2010-2011 as a

UPDATE ON MULTI-DONOR TRUST FUNDS

As part of the broad UN efforts to enhance UN system-wide coherence, UNDP experienced a further growth in the number and diversity of multi-donor trust funds (MDTFs) it administers. In 2009, UNDP took on the administrative agent functions for seven new funds, including five *Delivering as One* funds initiated by countries on their own, as well as for the **DRC** Recovery and Stabilization Fund. UNDP is also now serving as a fund manager for the expanded *Delivering as One* funding window, an innovative global facility set up to financially support the *Delivering as One* funds. Overall, UNDP’s fund portfolio continues to reflect a diverse mix of country-specific and global multi-donor trust funds, with donor

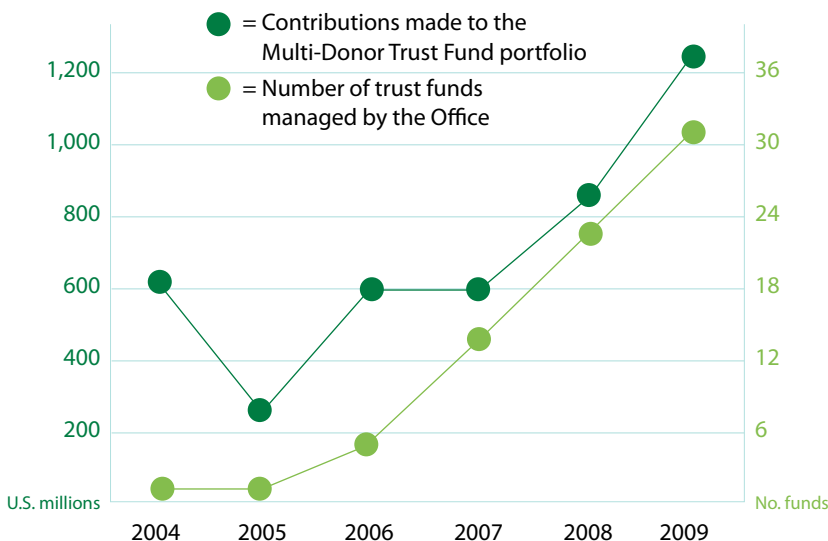
introduced new tools for management of the funds, streamlined its business processes and has achieved overall efficiency gains.

Key 2009 results included:

- Over \$1.2 billion in new donor contributions were received, bringing the total deposited contributions to \$4.2 billion for the period 2004-2009;
- \$756 million was transferred to 29 participating UN organizations;
- Separation of responsibilities between UNDP’s role as the administrative agent of the funds and UNDP’s role as a recipient of fund money was strengthened through a number of measures, including opening a new bank account to manage, track and audit fund accounts separately from UNDP accounts; and,
- The Multi-Donor Trust Fund Office Gateway was developed. The Gateway is an online application accessible by anyone that provides both up-to-date information on the different Funds as well as real-time financial data pertaining to receipts, transfers of contributions and permits, significantly streamlining reporting on programmatic and financial results. The Gateway, the first of its kind within the UN system, also provides participating UN organizations, donors and governments with easy access to programme documentation and knowledge products online.

The significant 2009 results have laid a strong foundation for further use of multi-donor trust funds as an important pooled funding mechanism that enables the UN to channel donor funding towards its strategic priorities at both the global and country level, while ensuring the highest levels of accountability and transparency.

GROWTH OF MDTFS AND ANNUAL DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS



Source: Multi-Donor Trust Fund Office/UNDP

contributions evenly spread out over funds operating in humanitarian, post-conflict/transition and development contexts.

To strengthen further the accountability and transparency, and improve the quality of fund management services as the *de facto* administrative agent of the UN system, UNDP

means to provide more concrete findings on the successes and challenges of a delivering-as-one approach.

While the *Delivering as One* experience has worked to strengthen UN coherence at the country level, the UN Member States are also engaged in discussions through the General Assembly on how the UN can become a more effective, coherent and efficient partner in supporting national governments to respond to their national development priori-

ties, including addressing the numerous challenges that exist in today's global context.

For example, in September 2009 the General Assembly passed a resolution for the creation of a new umbrella organization on gender that will incorporate all the UN's agencies that focus on this vital development issue. Once established, it will provide a more powerful voice for women and girls at the global, regional and country levels. ●

UNV: PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT THROUGH VOLUNTEERISM

The UN Volunteers (UNV) programme, administered by UNDP, promotes volunteerism for peace and development. Volunteerism is an expression of our common humanity and builds mutual respect, understanding, trust, solidarity and reciprocity. In 2009, UNV engaged more than 7,500 UNV volunteers from 160 countries. Of these, 2,700 UNV volunteers worked through UNDP to help countries achieve the MDGs, enhance South-South cooperation, promote gender equity and build national capacities. The UNV Online Volunteering Service also supported development organizations through 9,000 online volunteers.

UNV volunteers comprise 30 percent of the UN's international civilian peacekeeping personnel, and provide services ranging from staff counselling to rebuilding infrastructure in the wake of civil strife and natural disasters. For example, UNV volunteers have been serving in Haiti, both before and after the 12 January 2010 earthquake, where they are supporting the UN Stabilization Mission (MINUSTAH), UNDP and other UN agencies in civil affairs, capacity building, violence reduction and electoral support.

More than 1,000 UNV volunteers supported Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) humanitarian operations in 74 countries in 2009. In **Chad**, for example, 40 UNV volunteers provided critical health and nutrition services to 500,000 internally displaced persons and refugees, particularly mothers and children, from the **Central African Republic** and the Darfur region of **Sudan**.

UNV partners with UNDP, the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and national health institutions to enhance service delivery and access to services, reduce child and maternal mortality and combat HIV and AIDS. In 2009, about 850 UNV volunteers served in the health sector, including in **Malawi, Papua New Guinea, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago** and **Zambia**.

In cooperation with UNDP and GEF, UNV volunteers placed with the Community-Based Adaptation programme are enabling communities in pilot countries such as **Bolivia, Jamaica, Guatemala, Morocco, Namibia, Niger** and **Samoa** to develop their own solutions to the challenges of climate change.

Through the Volunteering for Our Planet campaign for International Volunteer Day on 5 December, UNV mobilized grassroots environmental action. In the two-month build-up to the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, people around the world volunteered more than 1.5 million hours via the campaign website, hosted in partnership with the UN Environment Programme. Individuals and organizations are now preparing for 2011, the 10th anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers.

The 2009/2010 period was particularly difficult for the UNV family. In October 2009, two volunteers working with UNDP's electoral support programme in **Afghanistan** were killed in an armed attack. Three UNV volunteers were lost in the devastating earthquake in **Haiti**. Their contributions to peace and development continue to inspire volunteers all over the world.

7,500

The number of volunteers working through UNV in 2009.