Improving Lives
Results of the partnership between the United Nations and the European Union in 2009
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Foreword by the UN Secretary General

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.

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 contributions 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.

Antonio Vigilante
UN Director

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 encouraging motivation and an incentive to keep nurturing and developing our cooperation.
1 Introduction and summary of results in 2009

The United Nations (UN) team in Brussels is pleased to present its fifth annual report on the achievements of its partnership with the European Union (EU) 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 goals 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.

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 empowering 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.

\[ \text{MDGs} \]

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 empowering 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.

\[ \text{UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)} \]

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

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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 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 organisations) 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 building 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 2006. 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. 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. The holistic approach to the partnership, spanning norms and values to practical responses, makes the UN-EU relationship particularly relevant.

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 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 of 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 a 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;

- UN technical and thematic expertise: the UN mobilizes 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 normativity 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.

With regard to security and conflict prevention, the EU and the UN cooperate closely in the conflict prevention, mediation and the fight against impunity, to civilian and military crisis management,
and assistance to peace-building and post-conflict recon-
construction. 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 ad-
dressed 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 multilateral-
ism” of 2003 strongly recommended the EU become more
engaged in peace and security, in the context of its coopera-
tion with the UN. The UN, confronted with the changing na-
ture of peacekeeping, sought increased support from region-
al actors. Concrete cooperation on the ground through the
EU led operation ARTENIS, 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. This declaration identified
areas for further cooperation and established an inter-institu-
tional steering committee as a consultative mechanism to en-
hance 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 State-
ment. Such cooperation remains important and has been
further strengthened, particularly in operations where both
the EU and the UN are involved, notably Somalia, Afghan-
istan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea Bissau
and Kosovo.

Following the successful transfer of authority between EU-
FOR 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 2,500 troops from European countries
who served under EUFOR continued under MINURCAT, un-
derlining 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 90,000 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 implies 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 collec-
tive action, in a timely and decisive manner.” Emphasis is on
assistance to states to fulfill their roles.

In 2009, publication of the report of the UN Secretary General
on implementation of the responsibility to protect led to in-
tensive 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. Co-
operation 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 Assem-
bly. The UN Deputy Secretary General and heads of UN en-
ti ties 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
representation 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 high-
level 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 Commis-
ion 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 Peacekeeping Commis-
sion 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 co-
operation 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 de-
velopment. In the area of statistics, collaboration in the UN of
the EU and other national statistical bodies led to a global sta-
tistical system and the development of international meth-
ods and standards, including for national accounts, popula-
tion and housing censuses, methodological guidelines for
sectoral statistics and revised international standard industrial
classification for all economic activities, energy and interna-
tional 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 major-
ity of the world’s poor and the focus of this report. The re-
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 hu-
manitarian 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.
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:

1. 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, 90,000 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 Sahel, the partnership supported 90,000 vulnerable people living in 14 countries. The EU also invested in the UN’s capacity to coordinate humanitarian interventions, directly supporting UN humanitarian coordination in 7 countries.

2. Recover from conflict and natural disasters: The safety of people and communities was increased by removal of land mines, 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 assume 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.

3. 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-resistant 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.

4. Tackle hunger, under-nutrition and food insecurity: Almost 14 million people in over 58 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, 280,000 children under the age of five and pregnant or breastfeeding women received supplementary nutritious food. Tools, seeds, seedlings, fertilizers and pesticides supplied to farmers - including 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.

5. 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 immunized 360 million children. Countries were also supported to better prepare 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.

6. 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 prison staff. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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 vocational 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 to the norms and standards of international trade. For example, Thailand was supported to comply with the new European chemical legislation, REACH, and to enhance the competitiveness of the Thai food industry by strengthening the capacity of food testing laboratories.

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- 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 prison staff. 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 vocational 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 to the norms and standards of international trade. For example, Thailand was supported to comply with the new European chemical legislation, REACH, and to enhance the competitiveness of the Thai food industry by strengthening the capacity of food testing laboratories.

Charts include contributions from EuropeAid and DG ECHO only, and exclude regional programmes.

*OFT covers contributions to the West Bank and Gaza and includes also support provided to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. Source: European Commission (April 2010).
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 either in 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.
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 increased the surge capacity to obtain additional human resources when necessary, through joint efforts with partners.

2. OPERATING IN CRISIS AND POST-CRISIS SITUATIONS

The right to receive humanitarian assistance – and the right to offer it – is a fundamental humanitarian principle enshrined 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, demands, 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.

The UN and IHL

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. At the 2009 UN-European Commission partnership report “Renewing Hope, Refounding 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.

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 Htun, a student and community leader. She explains: “I walked down from dawn until afternoon to reach the village and when I arrived, I didn’t recognise anything.” She went directly to one of five houses still standing belonging to Uohn Nyunt, the leader of the community: “We shared soaked rice that we had died after the storm recovers.” Mr. Nyunt.

This is a story not uncommon among the storm-hit communities in the Delta. Some communities received no help for 10 days to 10 days, 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 456,000 people. In addition, 40,000 farmer families (155,000 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.

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.

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- 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

Mine 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, grenates, missiles or other devices that failed to detonate on impact - remain active and can kill if touched or moved. They endanger lives 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 76 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

Focusing 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.

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 Rujmne Bregaj 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.

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 180,000 people had mine risk education.

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, 3,611 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 23.3 million square meters of land was cleared from cluster bombs. To date, 500,000 people benefitted from mine risk education, training of demining teams (2,922 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.

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2. OPERATING IN CRISIS AND POST-CRISIS SITUATIONS

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 normally turns 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. They are entitled 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 humanitarian 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 repairation of 35,000 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 Northwestern Tanzania continue to receive assistance. Moreover, the development of the national asylum system was improved in 2009 with UN expertise.

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 peacekeeping (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 (1880 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.

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 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. 118 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 at the Bahay Al Foad Rehabilitation Centre in Baquba during 2009. The partnership provided support to the Kirkuk Centre for Torture victims where departments for men, women and children are 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 Baquba.

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 peacekeeping (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 (1880 and 1888). The UN-EU partnership has supported development of key EU policies including:

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2. OPERATING IN CRISIS AND POST-CRISIS SITUATIONS

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.

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. 376,000 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 390,000 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; 42,000 people with disabilities accessed rehabilitation services; 71,554 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. 88 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 133,000 internally displaced people, refugees and other vulnerable populations in conflict-affected areas in north of the country.

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 300,000 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.
2. OPERATING IN CRISIS AND POST-CRISIS SITUATIONS

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 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.

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

In Nigeria, 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 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 Democratic Republic of Congo, the Volcanic Observatory of Goma was strengthened to monitor volcanic activity and protect people in danger of cyclones, storm surges and flooding, especially given the prospect of climate change.

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

Preventing and preparing for 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 UN 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 and integrated 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, storms 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 Intergovernmental 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.

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

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• 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 – the UN-EU partnership provided training 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.

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.

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.

Locally, 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 Palestinian refugees, the support of the EU has been crucial in achieving impressive results such as 100 per cent immunization 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 reintegration 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 freedom of 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.

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 provided to the fire service and civil defence.

As a result of the EU-UN partnership and the support of member states, the resources mobilized through the United Nations have increased substantially. As of 2009, the EU provided €773 million in human development and humanitarian aid. This includes assistance to the Palestinian refugees, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

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.

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 Palestinian 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.

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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 psycho-social service providers, were established. Awareness building took 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.

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.

For residents of the three largest cities in Bangladesh – the capital Dhaka, the port city of Chittagong and the northeastern city of Sylhet – the potential impact of an earthquake is terrifying: nothing short of catastrophic. For the last six decades, the United Nations has been providing substantial humanitarian and human development assistance to 4.67 million Palestinian 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.

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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 CRISSES

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 livestock 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 benefiting 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-
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 equipment. Realizing that women play an important role in agriculture production, particularly in the production of non-commercialized 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.

Quantities of food, the quality and safety of the food is also important. The UN and the EU approach this through the... 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.

POVERTY ERADICATION AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SECURITY

Strengthening 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 2018, 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, Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Congo Brazzaville, Cote d’Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, 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 Meleng sub-region.

Poverty eradication and sustainable food security

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 centers 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 received 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, benefited from food rations, food baskets and training on preparation of F-100 therapeutic milk and hygiene and feeding practices.

Liberia: 32,515 vulnerable farm households obtained 715 metric tonnes of seeds, 542 metric tonnes of fertilizer and 6,000 tools, boosting agricultural productivity.

Niger: The partnership worked in the following countries to tackle hunger, under-nutrition and food insecurity: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Congo Brazzaville, Cote d’Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, 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 Meleng sub-region.

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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 need, 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:

- **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.

- **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, rice, 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 farmer’s individual and collective storage capacity shared.

- **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.

- **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 INGUSHEIA 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.

“In 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 bed. 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.

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.

Ikasha and her eleven-month old boy Mare live off a small plot of land, which Ikasha uses to grow maize and root crops such as sweet potatoes and enset, an endemic food made from the root of the false banana plant. Ikasha’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, Ikasha 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 Ikasha 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 Ikasha. “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.

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.

**Regional Cassava Initiative in Support of Vulnerable Smallholders in Central and Eastern Africa**

Cassava market along the road - cassava’s tuber roots, which look similar to a sweet potato, are rich in carbohydrates. (UNICEF/Sokol)

**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. Sílvio Mário Joaquim, a farmer in the region. “But now we can sell to the Forum in Nettá 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.

**Plumpy’Nut Help Children Recover from Under-Nutrition in Ethiopia**

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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.
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 130 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 990 projects and distributed USD 7 million in cash and 4,000 metric tonnes of food in homestead gardening activities. 18,000 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 representing 11 tribal communities. In this region, school enrolment rates have been extremely low (12 per cent in some communities) and the drop-out rate has 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. 130 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.

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 benefited 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.
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 interlinked 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 immunization 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 immunization 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-
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 10% lower than at the peak in 2006 when 3.5 million infections occurred. AIDS-related deaths peaked in 2004, when 2.3 million people died of AIDS and have since declined. But 33.3 million people live with HIV. In HIV/AIDS, malaria 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. 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.

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 undervantaged 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 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, laboratories, 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. 3,500 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.

**Palestinian 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 shigellosis 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.

**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.

**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.

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 hypospigelma; those who do not have appetite and those with edema,” says clinic nutritionist Vicki Jesup 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.
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 benefited 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 Nafisa. “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 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 6% in 2007). All had the adequate essential and emergency medicines provided for free to targeted populations. Additionally, these hospitals implemented early warning and outbreak surveillance and response.

**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.

**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 unbecomingly painful blister on the skin. The worm can be extracted only by 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, it is not enough to be accompanied by increasing awareness on prevention and the practice of safe hygiene.

Since 2007, over 35,700 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 4,116 in 2006 to 262 in 2009.
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 17th century, when this gravity-induced system used the Dubar Springs as its natural source. The project included the cleaning and protection of the twowater, 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.”

**Public-Private Partnerships Bring Water to Rural People in Somalia**

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**Some Results from the UN-EU Partnership in 2009 in the Area of Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene:**

- **Nigeria:** 78 new water points were completed providing improved sources of drinking water to 92,250 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:** 33 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).
- **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 290,000 new users gained access to safe water.

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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. Those 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 labour 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.
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.

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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, Mampapepa Miane, 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.

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. With the assistance of the UN and EU the communities had already formed the Arbaat Development Association, a local organization intended to address the region's development needs.

The conflict caused a breakdown of trade and markets.

The main crop cultivated by the women is abusabean, 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 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 “zaghoud”, the celebratory shouts 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.

“All the women in our village want 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 abusabean, 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.”

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“Before we had to travel to Abu Hamad 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.”

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 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 a 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 globalized 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.

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 streamlined 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.
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 the 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 area of 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 Conacry, 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 Member 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 constitution and international standards), parliamentary oversight (budget transparency was improved, oversight of human rights in prisons was strengthened), gender audit, 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 benefited 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 organised 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 30 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 programs.

SUPPORTING PARLIAMENT’S DIALOGUE WITH CITIZENS AND MEDIA IN TANZANIA

In Tanzania, the Parliament has defined its vision to be an ‘effective and responsive 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)
5. BUILDING DEMOCRATIC AND JUST SOCIETIES

At the inter-governmental level, support was provided to the Human Rights Council’s 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.

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 channeling 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 ombudsmen 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.

- In 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.

- In Colombia, 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.

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- 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.

- 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 engage in 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.

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CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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. Many 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.

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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 new immigrants in Central Asia, where 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, enabling 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 benefited 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 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 coalition of employers 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 who 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, 210 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 hotline which people could call or email with concerns regarding possible cases of trafficking, provided support through 109 phone calls and 31 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 hotline and giving guidance on safety rules when travelling abroad.

5. BUILDING DEMOCRATIC AND JUST SOCIETIES
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 millions 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 globe 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 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.

6. MAKING DEVELOPMENT SUSTAINABLE
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, while 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, 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 significantly 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 mango, 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 CO2 produced by these communities per year.

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 390 specific sites had been visited. To date, 162 assessments have been completed and uploaded to the database.

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.

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.
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 benefiting 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 108 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 South-East 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.

A woman poultry farmer takes her chicken to the Diliussi Market in Timor-Leste (UN Photo/Martine Perret).
7. FOSTERING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND DECENT WORK

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

In Senegal, opportunities were created for urban populations to find employment and gain an income. Small urban enterprises expanded their business 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 underprivileged 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.

In 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.

In the shipping industry was the world’s first genuinely global industry and requires an appropriate international regulatory response in 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.

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 benefited from skills and pre-service teacher training in 2009. Of the vocational training graduates, 77% trainedees were employed within one year. Vocational and technical training centre 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.

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.

MARITIME LABOUR CONVENTION 2006

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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.

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 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, 16% of children were left in the care of older siblings and 44% with other family members, and most migrants are 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 130 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.
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 smallholders to sell Somali meat as a product with a country of origin labelling, at prices up to 40% 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 for preventing 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 chemical 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 aid for 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.

**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.

**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.

**Côte d’Ivoire:** to improve competitiveness and raise the income of cotton farmers, the classification of the Ivorian cotton fibre was supported.

**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)
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 knowledge 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 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.

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.

8. Concluding remarks

CREDITS

The UN in Brussels wishes to thank the following for permission to quote from their websites:

- The European Commission for permission to quote from their website (http://ec.europa.eu/echo/aid/stories/index_en.htm) for the stories in this report on Kenya refugee camp (page 24), Chechnya (page 32), and Myanmar (page 11).
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