



# Improving Lives

Results from the partnership  
of the United Nations and the  
European Commission in 2007

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**UNIVERSAL  
DECLARATION  
OF HUMAN  
RIGHTS**

Dignity and justice for all of us

# Improving Lives

Results from the partnership of the  
United Nations and the European  
Commission in 2007

United Nations



# Universal Declaration of Human Rights

United Nations



On December 10, 1948 the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights the full text of which appears in the following pages. Following this historic act the Assembly called upon all Member countries to publicize the text of the Declaration and "to cause it to be disseminated, displayed, read and expounded principally in schools and other educational institutions, without distinction based on the political status of countries or territories."

## PREAMBLE

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in co-operation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,

Now, Therefore THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY proclaims THIS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

**Article 1.** All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

**Article 2.** Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

**Article 3.** Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

**Article 4.** No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

**Article 5.** No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

**Article 6.** Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

**Article 7.** All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

**Article 8.** Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

**Article 9.** No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

**Article 10.** Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

## Article 11.

- (1) Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.
- (2) No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

**Article 12.** No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

## Article 13.

- (1) Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.
- (2) Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.



**Article 14.**

- (1) *Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.*
- (2) *This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.*

**Article 15.**

- (1) *Everyone has the right to a nationality.*
- (2) *No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.*

**Article 16.**

- (1) *Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.*
- (2) *Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.*
- (3) *The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.*

**Article 17.**

- (1) *Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.*
- (2) *No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.*

**Article 18.** *Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.*

**Article 19.** *Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.*

**Article 20.**

- (1) *Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.*
- (2) *No one may be compelled to belong to an association.*

**Article 21.**

- (1) *Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.*
- (2) *Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.*
- (3) *The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.*

**Article 22.** *Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.*

**Article 23.**

- (1) *Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.*
- (2) *Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.*
- (3) *Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.*
- (4) *Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.*

**Article 24.**

*Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.*

**Article 25.**

- (1) *Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.*
- (2) *Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.*

**Article 26.**

- (1) *Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.*
- (2) *Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.*
- (3) *Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.*

**Article 27.**

- (1) *Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.*
- (2) *Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.*

**Article 28.** *Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.*

**Article 29.**

- (1) *Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.*
- (2) *In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.*
- (3) *These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.*

**Article 30.** *Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.*

## Foreword by United Nations Deputy Secretary-General



Sixty years after the birth of the United Nations, demand for its development and humanitarian services is greater than ever. There are millions of people trapped in extreme poverty, vulnerable to disease, prone to suffer the worst effects of climate change, and dying from preventable causes. These are challenges that transcend borders and concern us all. They require our collective and persistent collaboration.

Our ambitious vision for a better world is still within reach, but we need to strengthen relations with all development partners in addressing critical challenges. It therefore gives me great pleasure to present this third annual report on the results of the partnership between the United Nations and the European Commission.

The launch of this year's Report takes on a particular significance as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In order to develop and flourish, society must be built on a strong foundation of human rights, both in law and practice. Human rights lie at the heart of the UN's Charter. Our work is driven by the belief that respect for human rights is crucial for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Today, our main challenge is not to come up with new declarations, but to give meaning to the vast body of laws that has already been promulgated. States have the primary responsibility to implement the Universal Declaration and ensure it underpins everyone's aspirations for a better future. At the same time, international development partners must maintain, or even increase, their level of support to help countries make these standards a living reality for all.

The cooperation between the United Nations and the European Commission strives to remove obstacles that hamper the fulfillment of all human rights. It strives to help countries build the necessary capacities, structures and knowledge to enable people to exercise their inalienable rights. Our greatest asset is our international agreement on what needs to be done. Human rights and the Millennium Development Goals have the common objective of promoting human dignity and well-being for all.

In 2007, the UN and the Commission worked together in over 100 countries in all regions of the world. This Report captures an impressive array of results achieved under the leadership of these countries. I wholeheartedly commend the European Commission whose extensive support to the United Nations family helps make the organization's vision a reality.

Together, we must deliver on our internationally agreed upon development and human rights goals. If we succeed - and we must - we will put in place the foundation stone of a peaceful and prosperous world.



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

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



We warmly welcome this third report produced by the UN team in Brussels portraying achievements of the extensive cooperation between the European Commission and UN Secretariat, agencies, funds and programmes throughout the world in 2007.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, whose 60th anniversary we celebrate this year, underpins the work of the UN. It also underpins the work of the EU. Respect for and the promotion of human rights, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration, is embedded in the EU's founding Treaties, reinforced by the adoption of its Charter on Fundamental Human Rights. In this anniversary year, no better theme could have been chosen as leitmotiv for this year's report on our cooperation.

The European Commission and the EU take pride in being a "front runner" in support of human rights. In 2007, we have worked in the UN framework to secure universal rights for persons with disabilities, principles on respect for cultural diversity, a consensus on the decent work agenda and an emerging consensus on a strengthened UN gender architecture. Despite immense progress in the past 60 years, there is no room for complacency. Poverty, conflict and political repression continue to undermine the enjoyment of basic human rights in far too many countries. We must mobilise a wide range of actions to influence such situations for the better.

The Commission and the UN continue to work together to improve tangibly the lives of people in such situations, with Commission support to the UN during 2007 amounting to over € 1.1 billion. As in previous years, the report emphasizes how the UN and Commission partnership can achieve concrete results in the field, designed to enhance human security and to support sustainable development. This year, it also highlights the importance we attach to working together on mainstreaming human rights into development, where we give the highest priority to the fight against poverty and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

Increasingly, the EU and UN work together in crisis management as indicated in the last chapter of the report.

Striking in this respect has been the growth in the EU's ability and willingness to intervene under UN mandate in crises, employing both military and civilian operations, working in tandem with the UN to help create the appropriate conditions for protecting human rights during and after conflict. This illustrates the multifaceted character of our relationship with the UN, as a standard bearer, as a political process, as well as being an institution which is our privileged partner in normative, technical and operational work in development, humanitarian aid, crisis management and in many other fields.

Together with our UN counterparts and partner countries, we are determined to go further to increase the effectiveness of our cooperation. We are also determined to show that "democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing" as affirmed by the 1993 Vienna Declaration. We thank the UN team for this report which makes a most valuable contribution to this objective and gives excellent visibility to our cooperation.

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

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

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

Louis Michel  
Commissioner for Development and  
Humanitarian Aid

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



The UN Team in Brussels produced this third annual report mainly on the basis of inputs received from UN country offices around the World. This publication aims at providing a comprehensive yet readable account of the global relationship between the United Nations and the European Union in 2007 and what it achieved in concrete terms. It describes real, tangible development results, reflecting the improved lives for hundreds of millions people that this cooperation has generated in over one hundred countries. Together, the United Nations and the European Commission have responded to challenges such as allowing for human survival and temporary relief to human suffering, to sustainably improving the conditions of communities and regions, to facilitating democratic and inclusive processes, and often encouraging and supporting concrete policy formulations and adoptions which have enabled partner countries to accelerate their rate of development.

At the core of the efforts that the UN and the European Commission jointly undertake are the support to national development strategies and priorities and the strengthening of national capacities. This approach is all the more important at a time when developmental issues seem to have gained in complexity, when the already significant challenge of achieving the Millenium Development Goals is having to cope with the additional burden of high food and energy prices and the need to build resilience and adaptation to the effects of climate change.

Some national leaders and development partners may at times feel like they are living out the myth of Sisyphus. But the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which will be celebrating its 60th Anniversary this year - constituting one of the most inspired and humanistic texts ever written - powerfully reminds us of the need and moral imperative of remaining focused, almost obsessively so, with the development cause and incites us to redouble efforts to ensure that the "all human rights for all" motto be progressively achieved.

The United Nations and the European Union, through their wide collaboration, constantly seek to sustain and promote the universality of human rights and strive to reduce inequalities and disparities between and within countries that all too often make the universality of these human rights so elusive. Their collaboration tries to respond to the characteristics of effectiveness, coordination and timeliness that are necessary in a multiple-challenges developmental context.

While the achievements of the UN/EU partnership in 2007 speak for themselves, we in the UN remain far from complacent and are committed to seeking new and improved ways to further widen and deepen the impact of our joint actions.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Antonio Vigilante'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Antonio' being more prominent and the last name 'Vigilante' written in a more compact, stylized manner.

Antonio Vigilante  
Director

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# Results of the Partnership

between the United Nations and the European Commission in 2007



*Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms ... ,  
without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex,  
language, religion, political or other opinion, national or  
social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore,  
no distinction shall be made on the basis of the  
political, jurisdictional or international status of the  
country or territory to which a person belongs, whether  
it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under  
any other limitation of sovereignty.*

*(extract from Art. 2, Universal Declaration of Human Rights)*



# Results of the Partnership between the United Nations and the European Commission in 2007

Publication of this third annual report on the results achieved through the partnership between the United Nations (UN) and the European Commission takes on a particular significance<sup>1</sup>. This year marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which lies at the heart of the cooperation between the UN and the Commission. Their partnership in development, humanitarian assistance, crisis prevention and recovery, which is the main subject of this report, is motivated by the shared goal of supporting the aspirations of all people to their inalienable rights.

Adopted on 10<sup>th</sup> December 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights represents a vision and a solemn commitment to the inherent dignity and equality of all human beings. Its 30 Articles, outlined in the opening pages of this report, articulate civil, cultural, economic, political, and social rights that are universal, indivisible and inter-dependent. They are the same for everyone, everywhere, regardless of creed or origin. All the work of the UN is guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights instruments and treaties.

TABLE 1

## CORE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES

- › International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (21 Dec 1965)
- › International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (16 Dec 1966)
- › International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (16 Dec 1966)
- › Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (18 Dec 1979)
- › Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (10 Dec 1984)
- › Convention on the Rights of the Child (20 Nov 1989)
- › International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (18 Dec 1990)
- › Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (13 Dec 2006)
- › International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (20 Dec 2006 - not yet in force)

Respect for human rights is also a founding principle of the European Union (EU). The 1950 European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms committed European governments to collective enforcement of certain rights in the Universal Declaration, while the Treaties founding the three European Communities in the 1950s incorporated some of its articles. Human rights are an integral part of EU external policy and assistance. The Treaty on the European Union which entered into force in November 1993 stated that one of the objectives of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy is the development and consolidation of "democracy and the rule of law, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms". The 1997 "Treaty of Amsterdam" reaffirmed that the Union is founded on the principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law.

Since 2000, the international community has been guided by the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Agreed by 189 countries at the Millennium Summit at the turn of the century,

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

<sup>1</sup> The European Commission is the executive body of the European Union (EU), which is a union of 27 democratic states of Europe. Alongside the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union, the European Commission is one of the main institutions governing the EU. Two other institutions have a vital part to play: the Court of Justice upholds the rule of European law, and the Court of Auditors checks the financing of the Union's activities.



## United Nations Millennium Declaration

We, heads of State and Government, have gathered at the United Nations Headquarters in New York... to reaffirm our faith in the Organization and its Charter as indispensable foundations of a more peaceful, prosperous and just world.

We recognize that, in addition to our separate responsibilities to our individual societies, we have a collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level...

We consider certain fundamental values to be essential to international relations in the twenty-first century. These include:

› **Freedom.** Men and women have the right to live ... in dignity, free from hunger and from the fear of violence, oppression or injustice. Democratic and participatory governance... best assures these rights.

› **Equality.** No individual and no nation must be denied the opportunity to benefit from development. The equal rights and opportunities of women and men must be assured.

› **Solidarity.** Global challenges must be managed in a way that distributes the costs and burdens fairly in accordance with basic principles of equity and social justice. Those who suffer or who benefit least deserve help from those who benefit most.

› **Tolerance.** Human beings must respect one other, in all their diversity of belief, culture and language... A culture of peace and dialogue among all civilizations should be actively promoted.

› **Respect for nature.** Prudence must be shown in the management of all living species and natural resources, in accordance with the precepts of sustainable development.

› **Shared responsibility.** Responsibility for managing worldwide economic and social development, as well as threats to international peace and security, must be shared among the nations of the world and should be exercised multilaterally. As the most universal and most representative organization in the world, the United Nations must play the central role.

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

Human rights and the MDGs are both inspired by the objective of promoting human well-being and honoring the inherent dignity of all people. The MDGs galvanize efforts to achieve social and economic rights. A human rights' perspective provides an internationally-agreed framework of norms to ensure the Goals are pursued in an equitable and sustainable manner.

Timor-Leste - Refugee children playing at IDP centre in Dili (UNHCR/N. Ng).



TABLE 3

## Some linkages between the MDGs and Universal Declaration of Human Rights

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>➤ Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger</b>   |  |
| Target 1.A Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day   | Right to adequate standard of living                       |
| Target 1.B Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people   | Right to work  |
| Target 1.C Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger  | Right to food  |
| <b>➤ Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education</b>  |  |
| Target 2.A Ensure that, by 2015, all children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling         | Right to education   |
| <b>➤ Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women</b>  |  |
| Target 3.A Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015     | Women's rights to equality                                 |
| <b>➤ Goal 4. Reduce child mortality</b>   |  |
| Target 4.A Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate   | Right to life  |
| <b>➤ Goal 5. Improve maternal health</b>  |  |
| Target 5.A Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio  | Women's right to life and health                           |
| Target 5.B Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health  | Women's right to life and health                           |
| <b>➤ Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases</b>  |  |
| Target 6.A Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS  | Right to health  |
| Target 6.B Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it   | Right to health  |
| Target 6.C Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases   | Right to health  |
| <b>➤ Goal 7. Ensure environmental sustainability</b>  |  |
| Target 7.A Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources | Right to environmental health                              |
| Target 7.B Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss  | Right to environmental health                              |
| Target 7.C Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation                          | Right to water and sanitation                              |
| Target 7.D By 2020 to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers                                    | Right to adequate housing                                  |
| <b>➤ Goal 8. Develop a global partnership for development</b>   |  |
| Targets 8.A-8.D cover aid, trade, debt, landlocked and small island States.   | Right to development. Economic, social and cultural rights |
| Target 8.E In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries                       | Right to health  |
| Target 8.F In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications       | Economic, social and cultural rights                       |

The partnership between the United Nations and the European Union is guided both by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Millennium Development Goals. The European Union strongly supports the UN in its mandate to promote and protect human rights for all. The European Commission is a vital partner for the UN. It contributes to international standard setting, advocates international norms, and within the European Union implements international standards in a number of areas. Moreover, the Commission

actively supports the UN in helping build the capacities of governments in developing and transition countries to meet their obligations, in supporting citizens to know and claim their rights and in empowering communities to manage their livelihoods. The ability to promote international standards on the one hand, and support capacity to meet these standards on the other, constitutes a core characteristic of the partnership between the UN and the Commission.

TABLE 4

## Instruments that foster the partnership between the United Nations and the European Union

› **European policy statements:** Communication 231 of 2001: 'Building an effective partnership with the United Nations in the fields of development and humanitarian affairs'; Communication 526 of 2003: 'The European Union and the United Nations: The choice for multilateralism'.

These Communications, together with the corresponding Council conclusions, represent landmarks in development of the partnership, identifying multilateralism and a strong UN as a basic principle of the foreign policy of the European Union. The Communications call for comprehensive strengthening and mainstreaming of EU-UN relations through systematic policy dialogue, greater cooperation in the field, stronger cooperation on crisis management and prevention, and strategic partnerships between the European Commission and selected UN organisations.

In the Communication on the EU's Strategic Objectives 2005-2009, echoing the 2003 European Security Strategy, the Commission reiterates the commitment to effective multilateralism seeing "the UN as the only option for tackling global problems needing global solutions".

› **Strategic partnerships and cooperation arrangements:** The Commission has some form of cooperation with many parts of the UN family. To date, strategic partnership agreements or equivalent arrangements exist with FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNEP, UN-HCR, OHCHR, UNRWA, WFP and WHO. Other cooperation agreements exist with several other specialised agencies, funds and programmes of the UN.

The Joint Declaration on UN-EU cooperation in Crisis Management of September 2003, signed by the UN Secretary-General and the EU Presidency, complemented by the Joint Statement of June

2007, sets a framework for cooperation encompassing the emerging European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP).

› **Established high-level and desk-to-desk dialogues:** There is now a well-established EU Ministerial ("Troika") dialogue with the UN Secretary General (UNSG), as well as a range of other dialogues between the Offices of the UNSG and Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, and the highest levels of the European Parliament, European Council and European Commission. Desk-to-desk dialogues take place on a six-monthly basis between the United Nations, and the European Council and the Commission to review specific country situations with a view to strengthening cooperation.

› **Cooperation on Administrative Best Practices:** A cooperation framework between the UN and the Commission allows for exchange of best practices on a range of administrative and reform issues.

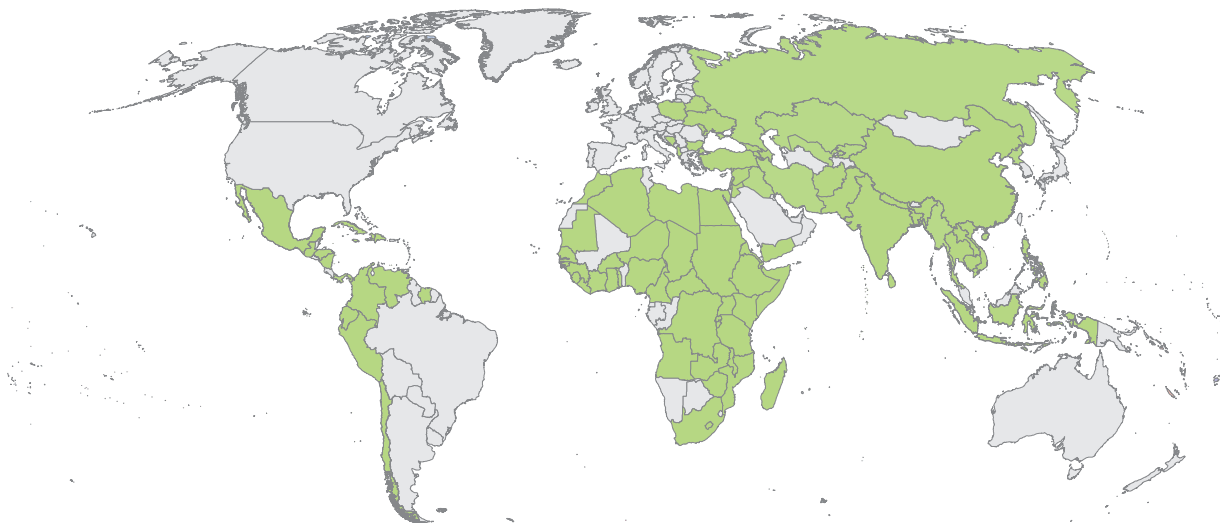
› **Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement:** The revised Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement signed in 2003 between the United Nations and the European Community as represented by the European Commission, provides a single shared legal, financial and administrative framework for all programmatic cooperation between the Commission and the UN.

› **Other policy cooperation:** The President of the European Commission is a member of the MDG Africa Steering Group of the UN Secretary-General.

The UN, particularly through its team in Brussels, regularly participates in consultations on new European Union Communications and policy related to development and humanitarian issues.

## The United Nations - European Commission Partnership in 2007

In 2007, the European Commission and specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations cooperated in development and humanitarian efforts in 102 countries across all regions of the world.



\* The above map refers to year 2007 and does not include regional programmes

What follows are just some of the results supported by the partnership, which are further elaborated in subsequent chapters. The results belong first and foremost to the governments and citizens of the countries since they were achieved principally through their leadership. In the majority of cases, these were part of broader efforts involving other international partners and non-governmental organizations, the latter being crucial particularly in humanitarian situations. More than 750 million Euros of Commission funds were spent in 2007 through UN projects.

### Promoted human rights across the world

***"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights" (Art.1)***

In 30 countries all over the world, the partnership advocated for the rights of refugees and internally displaced people and for legal and political change to bring countries in line with international standards. In Bangladesh, a change in societal attitudes was promoted towards the rights of adolescent girls, including through 1,490 community committees protecting children against abuse, exploitation and violence. In the Occupied Palestinian Territories, the partnership helped amend the Child Rights Law to comply with international standards, allowing for establishment of a national body for children.

### Deepened democracy

***"Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country..." (Art.21)***

The partnership helped 11 countries in Africa, Asia and

Central America to hold free and fair elections. In particular, the registration of some 80 million voters was supported. Polling staff, presiding officers, national election observers and the media were trained, thereby strengthening the integrity of elections. Women were empowered as voters, candidates, observers and electoral officials.

### Reinforced the rule of law and access to justice

***"All are equal before the law and are entitled... to equal protection of the law" (Art.7)***

The partnership enhanced judicial independence and supported the enactment of pro-poor laws. In Afghanistan, 30 primary courts and detention centres were rehabilitated, and 300 justice officials and community and religious leaders were trained on the rights of women and children. In Liberia and Somalia, 10,000 police officers were trained as part of new police forces in those countries. Through cross-border interventions in the Caucasus region, integrated border management was strengthened in order to better address the problem of human trafficking.



## Delivered humanitarian assistance

***"Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person" (Art.3)***

The partnership made it a priority to promote and protect the rights of people affected by humanitarian crises, particularly those prone to vulnerability such as refugees and internally displaced people. Humanitarian needs were addressed in 30 countries worldwide, arising from both man-made and natural disasters. More than 48 million people were assisted with food, including 26 million children.

## Helped people recover from crises

***"Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country" (Art.13)***

The partnership helped strengthen the early recovery of countries from conflict in ways that also reduced the likelihood of their return to violence. 50 million square meters of land was declared mine impact free and 2 million people regained access to productive land and social infrastructures as a result of mine clearance. Almost 2 million mines and unexploded ordnances were destroyed. In Croatia, 528,000 arms collected or surrendered.

## Secured access to quality education

***"Everyone has the right to education..." (Art.26)***

The partnership enabled the UN to fulfill its role even in difficult environments such as post-crisis situations, where schooling was still more important as a factor of stability in the lives of children. In Iraq, 9 million text books were delivered to some 6 million children. In Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, and Occupied Palestine Territories, education was provided to some 480,000 pupils, mainly refugees.

## Promoted agriculture and rural development

***"Everybody has the right to... food" (Art.25)***

150,000 metric tons of food aid were purchased on local markets in 21 countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America, impacting positively on local production. National capacity to formulate food security policies, strategies and programming based on vulnerability information was strengthened in 20 countries across the world, from Armenia to Zimbabwe.

## Ensured equitable access to health care

***"Everyone has the right to....medical care...Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance" (Art.25)***

The partnership supported the fight against polio in some 27 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. 2.3 billion doses of oral polio vaccine were administered to 400 million children under five years of age in 27 countries. As a result, of 27 re-infected countries since 2003, only 6 continued to report polio cases in the second half of 2007. Access to sexual and reproductive health services was improved in 8 African countries, including Angola, Kenya and Zimbabwe. In Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, more than 6,000 people were trained on sexual and reproductive health and some 1.3 million condoms were distributed.

## Promoted decent work and SME development

***"Everyone has the right to work..." (Art.25)***

Decent employment opportunities for young people were generated in Somalia, thereby benefiting some 10,000 people including dependents. More than 2,000 jobs were created in Southeastern Anatolia, Turkey's least developed region, through an entrepreneur support center created by the partnership.

In virtually all the interventions that the UN and the Commission supported, the leadership of national governments and local authorities was paramount, as was the development of their capacities and those of local civil societies. The UN and the Commission cooperated with many partners from the international donor community and the non-governmental sector. The growing complexity in the range of humanitarian and development actors at country level only serves to underline the continued critical importance of the Paris Declaration and its objectives to hold ourselves mutually accountable for supporting governments to lead, coordinate and harmonize aid efforts to achieve the results that improve lives.



Chad - School education in rural villages (UNHCR/H. Caux).

## Delivering aid more effectively

The United Nations and the European Commission share international commitments to improve the quality and impact of development assistance. The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, to which both are signatories, defines monitorable targets in this regard (see Table 5). The partnership between the UN and the Commission contributes to the objectives of the Declaration in a number of ways, including:

- **Investing in governments' capacities to lead their own development processes:** The partnership strengthens public administrations and national parliaments, both of which are key to ensuring the effective management of aid and overall accountability for development results. Ongoing joint assessment of the impact of new aid modalities on gender equality provides an important input into international policy, helping all stakeholders to deliver aid in a gender-responsive manner.
- **Supporting national governments and donors in aid coordination:** By working through the United Nations, the Commission frequently joined forces with other parts of the international community: the Commission estimates three quarters of its agreements with the UN were part of multi-donor efforts. This enabled the UN to work with governments to better align external funding behind country priorities, minimize duplication and increase the speed and efficiency of often large-scale disbursements. For governments, the UN coordination of multi-stakeholder operations meant they had a single administrative interface, which often significantly reduced their transaction costs, and enabled them to concentrate on their substantive coordination role.
- **Developing harmonized approaches and tools:** In the area of electoral assistance, institutionalised cooperation between the Commission and the UN resulted in coordinated approaches to planning, programming, evaluation and learning. In crisis preparedness, management and recovery, cooperation on needs assessment, also involving the World Bank, focused on producing joint guidelines and tools and engaging in joint missions, thereby helping promote more efficient and effective programming of assistance in post-crisis environments, while fully respecting national ownership.

TABLE 5

### Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness

To enhance the effectiveness of aid, developing and developed countries and multilateral development institutions resolved to take far-reaching and monitorable actions to reform the way they deliver aid, by strengthening:

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

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

**Harmonization:** Donor actions are more harmonized, transparent and collectively effective.

**Managing for results:** All partners manage resources and improve decision-making for results.

**Mutual accountability:** Donors and partners are accountable for development results.

## Results of external evaluation of Commission's external cooperation through United Nations 1999-2006

There has been positive impact from most of the European Commission's funding through the United Nations. It made delivery of Commission aid possible in cases where this would otherwise have been difficult and the final beneficiaries would have received less aid in the absence of the Commission-UN partnership.

The funding relationship between the UN and the Commission brought value to the Commission, UN and partner countries primarily where:

- UN provided sole means of delivering Commission aid, e.g. where Commission cooperation has been interrupted, such as for security reasons;
- International community had provided United Nations with a mandate, such as for Palestinian refugees;
- Situations were politically sensitive, such as elections;
- Commission wished to intervene in global problems requiring global solutions, such as climate change and narcotics.

The European Commission benefited from a number of characteristics specific to the United Nations, such as:

- Existence of UN-managed multi-donor interventions, which clearly benefited from UN coordination role;
- Privileged UN policy dialogue with governments, enhancing Commission participation in policy dialogue with partner countries;
- Neutrality and legitimacy of UN system;
- Experience obtained through a continued and extended UN field presence, including throughout crises;
- UN historical expertise in a number of thematic areas such as children and the environment;
- Role as a platform for tackling global problems.

For the United Nations, substantial funding from the Commission:

- Proved decisive in setting up a number of multi-donor interventions;
- Consolidated UN position and capacity to deliver its mandates;
- Reinforced its role as key interlocutor at country level.

For the partner countries, the Commission's choice of the UN as a channel for its resources enabled them to benefit:

- From Commission aid in situations where it would otherwise have been difficult for the Commission to intervene;
- Where UN bodies had more specific expertise, and experience in-country;
- From improved interaction with donors and reduced interaction costs as multi-donor interventions restricted the number of interlocutors and allowed for more harmonized approaches.

Where a political consensus to act existed at the European level to fund UN interventions, the Commission's ability to mobilize substantial funding made early achievement of a critical mass of funding possible. The Commission represented a single, strong partner for the UN. Its position also allowed better promotion of European priorities during dialogue on policy and strategy issues. Commission visibility to the different stakeholders in UN-led interventions was generally preserved at partner country level.

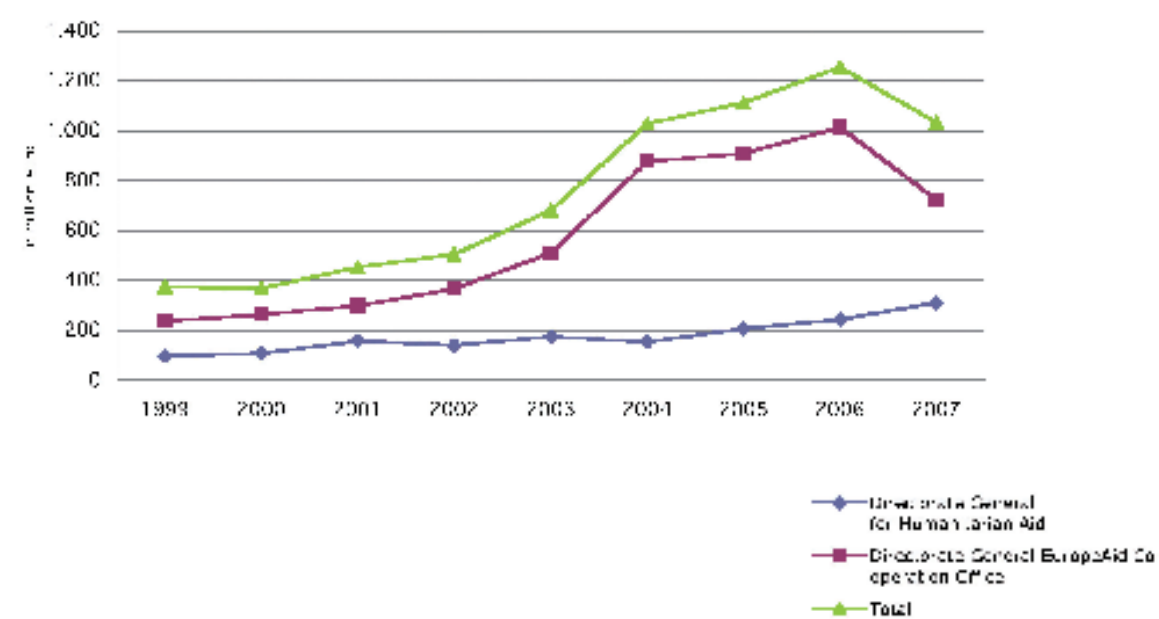
*Source: Evaluation of Commission's external cooperation with partner countries through the organizations of the UN family 1999-2006, May 2008. - . [http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/evaluation/evaluation\\_reports/2008/1252\\_docs\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/evaluation/evaluation_reports/2008/1252_docs_en.htm)*



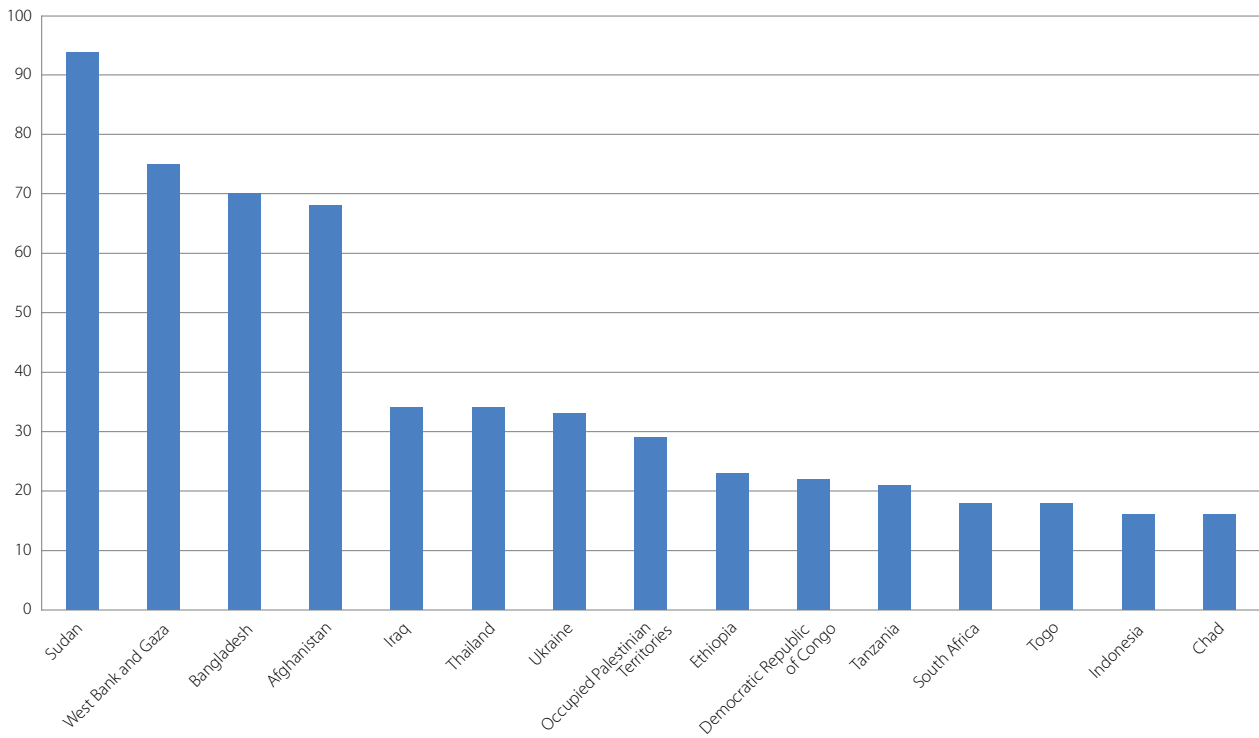


Afghanistan - International Peace Day at Hazrat-i-Ali mosque (UN Photo/H. Mulkerens).

# Financial contributions from the European Commission\* to the activities of the United Nations 1999 to 2007

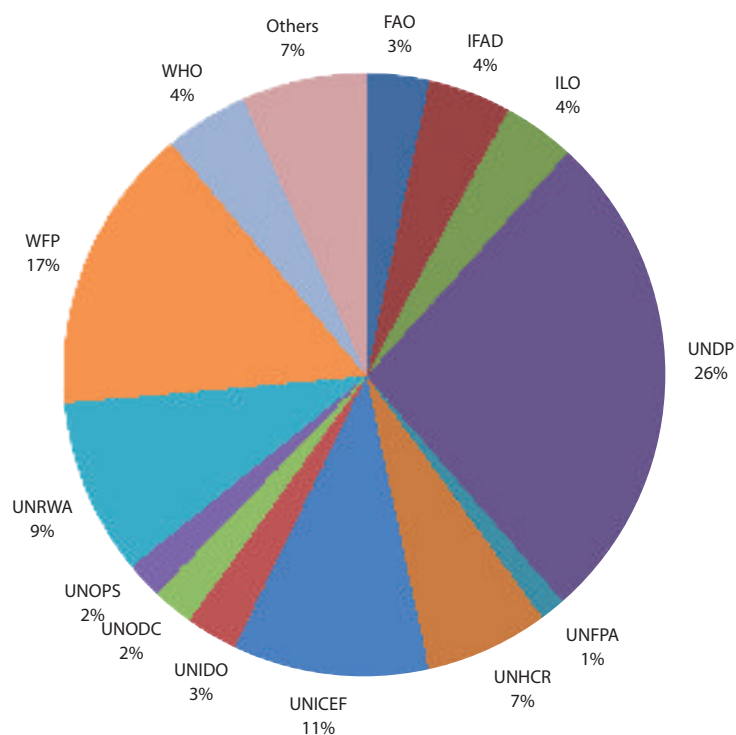


# Financial contributions from the European Commission to United Nations activities, 2007



United Nation country programmes receiving  
more than Euros 15 million from the European Commission

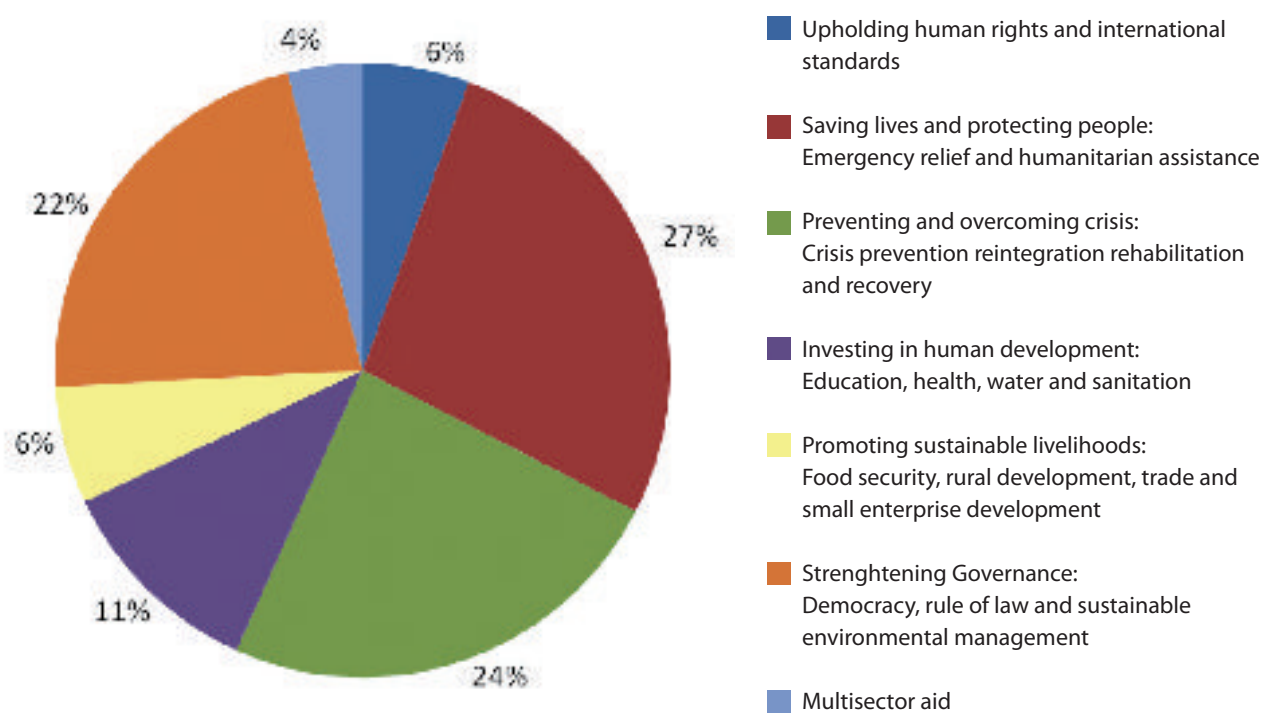
## Contributions from the European Commission\* to United Nations agencies, 2007



\* It includes financial contributions from ECHO and AIDCO only.

source: European Commission

## Thematic breakdown of European Commission\* contributions to United Nations activities, 2007



\* It includes financial contributions from ECHO and AIDCO only.

source: United Nations Brussels Office derived from European Commission



# Upholding and Promoting Human Rights

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# Upholding and Promoting Human Rights

## Some Results of the UN-European Commission Partnership in 2007

- › EU Guidelines on Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child issued, benefiting from UN expertise in the drafting and in the implementation strategy while representing an important EU contribution to implementing a recent UN Study on Violence against Children.
- › Commission/UN Partnership on Gender Equality for Development and Peace launched, contributing to increased knowledge of the impact of the aid effectiveness agenda on donor and partner government support for gender equality and women's rights. Mapping studies in 12 pilot countries prepared to inform and enhance capacities of gender equality advocates and development partners to engage in international strategic processes leading towards the Accra High Level Forum in 2008.
- › Awareness of human rights issues raised, including through such events as: commemoration of international human rights day in Tehran and the world indigenous people's day in Guatemala and Mexico; advocacy of refugee and IDP rights in 30 countries world-wide, including Liberia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Uganda; and widespread dissemination of human rights materials (over 100,000 copies of brochures and translations of human rights core documents and manuals, 10,000 posters, community-based radio broadcasts, documentaries, and some 10,000 DVDs and CDs).
- › In Bangladesh, widespread support for changing social attitudes towards the rights of adolescent girls achieved through 40,000 community meetings and campaigns; establishment of 1,490 community based committees that helped protect children against abuse, exploitation and violence; and selection of 2,132 new adolescent peer leaders by members of the new 580 adolescent centres.
- › In Iran, a code of conduct on child protection, including protection against corporal punishment, developed and implemented for teachers and health, social welfare and relief workers. A national policy on girls' education established, based on a study supported by the partnership to identify marginalized and excluded girls.
- › In the Occupied Palestinian Territories, following UN-Commission support to government and Parliament, the Child Rights Law amended in line with international standards allowing for the establishment of a national body for children.
- › In Colombia, legal and policy frameworks updated, consistent with international obligations, benefiting 235,000 Internally Displaced Persons and people at risk of displacement.
- › In Zambia, the fight against child trafficking brought firmly onto the national policy agenda, following UN- Commission supported study which established the scale and nature of child trafficking.
- › In Turkey, a national action plan to combat domestic violence against women developed and approved by government, following a UN-Commission supported awareness raising campaign on domestic violence against women, with 1142 billboards, 250,000 flyers, 55,000 brochures and 12,000 posters distributed in 81 provinces, as well as film spots produced and aired 195 times.
- › In the Maldives, appointment of the first female judges by government reflected its implementation of a recommendation made by the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers on gender discrimination in the judiciary, whose visit was supported by the partnership.

## Selected policy frameworks guiding the partnership on human rights

- **Core International Human Rights Treaties** (see Table 1) **and UN Human Rights Conventions.**
- **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women:** adopted on 18 December 1979. It is an international bill of rights for women. It defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end such discrimination.
- **Convention relating to the status of refugees:** adopted on 28 July 1951. It is an international convention that defines who is a refugee and sets out the rights of individuals who are granted asylum and the responsibilities of nations that grant asylum. The convention also sets out which people do not qualify as refugees, such as war criminals.
- **Convention relating to the status of stateless persons:** entered into force on 6 June 1960. It was completed by the Statelessness Reduction Convention in 1961.
- **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child:** adopted on 20 November 1989. It is an international human rights treaty that grants all children and young people (aged 17 and under) a comprehensive set of rights.
- **Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action:** adopted on 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2003. It reaffirms the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UN Charter.
- **The EU Human Rights Guidelines** on the death penalty, torture, children in armed conflict, children's rights, on human rights defenders and on human rights dialogues: elaborated by the Council of the EU to serve as a framework for the EU to protect and promote human rights in third countries.
- **The European Consensus on Development:** agreed by EU Member States, the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission. It emphasizes that sustainable development includes good governance and human rights, that EU partnership and dialogue with third countries will promote the common values of respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights. In particular the promotion of gender equality is crucial in itself as well as being instrumental in achieving all the MDGs.

Democratic Republic of the Congo -  
Young girl in Lake Albert (UN Photo/M. Perret).



With Commission support, the UN is working to make 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 reality, nor just a point of arcane discussion in international meetings. The partnership is delivering on these promises through awareness raising, building appropriate legal protection supported by the right policy frameworks, and working to ensure that those legal commitments are assisted by necessary institutional structures that can deliver on those rights and provide corresponding services through sustainable capacity building of government institutions and other stakeholders charged with making human rights a reality.





Colombia – Internally displaced indigenous children in Chocó rain-forest (UN Photo/M. Garten).

## Creating the enabling environment for human rights

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights promises every human being a core set of human rights. Yet millions of people around the world are unaware of the relevance of human rights to their lives. With the support of the European Commission, in 2007 the United Nations engaged in wide ranging awareness-raising efforts around the world – educating people about their human rights and the message of respect and value for each and every individual. The activities, often carried out with the support of civil society, ranged from making important human rights texts available in local languages to the commemoration of specific human rights days and national campaigns. Within the European Union, the 2007 Year of Equal Opportunities for All was promoted with UN support, and underlined the benefits of diversity in Europe.

Building a culture of respect for human rights often requires a change in behavior both on the part of the rights-holders, who need the knowledge and support to assert their rights, and on the part of those, who have duties to respect human rights. Sometimes a lack of respect for human rights results from deeply rooted cultural customs that need to be re-examined and addressed in the light of the human rights framework. This is particularly true in the context of gender discrimination which is manifested in many forms: violence against women, including female genital mutilation, employment discrimination, etc. In this context, gender considerations are included in all joint UN-Commission efforts. In 2007, special training to prevent and address sexual

and gender based violence was provided in many refugee camps to police and camp officials and to refugees themselves. Moreover, working together with the Special Rapporteur on Torture on strengthening the protection of women addressed the gender dimension of torture, while in countries such as Guatemala and Mexico, elimination of violence against women was the focus of a campaign consisting of radio spots, distribution of brochures and copies of a study on domestic violence.

“Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution”

(extract from Art. 14, Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

Commission support assisted the UN in continuing to play its global leadership role. The Commission support to the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health resulted in research on alleged human rights violations concerning sexual and reproductive health rights. In so doing, it helped to illustrate how a human rights focus can contribute to reducing maternal mortality.



## Key messages of the partnership on human rights

### › EU support to the UN's fulfillment of its human rights mandates:

The Commission contributes directly to the UN's role in developing international human rights policy, including supporting research on the ground that permits evidenced-based approaches to policy making.

### › EU benefit from UN expertise for EU policy making:

The EU actively calls upon UN human rights experts to improve its own policies and strategies, such as in the drafting of new EU human rights guidelines and the building of a common European asylum system.

### › Drawing on the UN's neutrality in challenging circumstances:

By working with the UN, the Commission is able to strengthen human rights awareness and support efforts to build national and local capacities in challenging circumstances, where actions benefit from the political neutrality and legitimacy of the UN.

## Strengthening national capacities to meet international standards

In 2007 the UN and the Commission worked extensively to make respect for human rights a reality on the ground. This included helping countries integrate human rights into their legal framework - a crucial step in ensuring that human rights are protected - and helping to consolidate those institutional structures required to make the international human rights system function. Efforts to improve implementation of conclusions and recommendations of human rights treaty bodies focused on strengthening national capacities of three main target groups: national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations and the media in Egypt, Mauritius, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan. Governments were involved in all stages, either as observers or as full participants.

Other cooperation specifically targeted governmental capacity. In the Maghreb countries, capacity building focused on whole systems for migration management in the context of the principles of asylum. In Egypt, national capacities in asylum issues were strengthened through training on refugee law and protection principles of the judiciary and academic institutions. In West Africa, capacity building on strategies to prevent and combat the smuggling of migrants was provided to law and policy makers. In Iran, protection and promotion of human rights and greater access to justice was promoted through training of a wide range of stakeholders on many human rights topics, including

women's rights, human rights reporting, collective bargaining for journalists and human rights in journalism, human rights defenders, and democracy and electoral systems.

Recognizing the important role of strong and informed civil society organizations (CSOs) in human rights monitoring, especially in challenging environments, the UN and the Commission supported CSOs in various ways, including capacity building for CSOs in Iraq to monitor prisons, and supporting CSOs in Zimbabwe to establish a national human rights institution and submit a national report to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

The UN's ability to work across borders permitted sub-regional approaches to human rights issues that have a cross-border or regional dimension. In Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia, a regional approach was adopted to reducing the trafficking in human beings, including the counseling of actual and potential victims. In countries within the EU neighborhood such as Ukraine and Moldova, policy and legal frameworks were improved to combat trafficking in people and better enable a range of national stakeholders to detect it. In Moldova, this included support to trade unions in both migration management and the prevention of human trafficking. In Azerbaijan, the first national action plan to combat human trafficking was developed.

## Ensuring the right to protection

As a corollary of the Universal Declaration's promise of the "equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family", the international human rights framework draws attention to those least likely to be able to enjoy those equal and inalienable rights - the most vulnerable and in need of protection. Numerous human rights conventions set out, at times in detail, the steps that must be taken to protect the vulnerable from specific threats. The new Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, with its focus on protecting them from violence, abuse and exploitation, is among the newest of the human rights conventions setting out specific rights to protection.

In the case of asylum seekers and refugees, the international community agreed early on to an international legal framework that would specifically address the basic rights of people who, fleeing persecution, sought protection abroad, often presenting themselves as undocumented foreigners. The 1951 Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees establishes the absolute right to not be forcibly returned to the country of persecution, and sets out minimum standards of treatment in the country of asylum, including the rights to education and to work. Asylum seekers and refugees depending on where they are may also be protected under regional instruments. Internally displaced persons (IDPs), however, do not have recourse to a specific legal framework. However they are entitled to the full range of rights afforded to citizens in their country.

The existence of a legal framework is however only one component - albeit an important one - of a protective environment. Legal standards need to be known and translated into practice. With Commission support, the UN helped countries to review and implement legal provisions for asylum seekers, refugees and IDPs, such as in Colombia where the existing legal framework was updated, to both better comply with the state's international obligations, and to reflect the 1998 Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. Institutional capacity building and adequate public policies were promoted in order to guarantee the effective enjoyment of the full range of human rights thereby benefiting some 235,000 IDPs and people at risk of displacement. In Mauritania, relevant laws on asylum were brought into conformity with international obligations with UN assistance, and in Panama the partnership assisted the reform of a law granting full residency rights - and eventually citizenship - to long-standing refugees. In Mauritania, Tanzania, Southern Africa, as well as in Maghreb and Mashreq countries, capacity building and awareness-raising activities helped governments deal with the challenge of mixed migration, strengthening the identification and protection of asylum seekers among economic migrants.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child imposes obligations on governments and others with responsibilities to children to protect them from a whole series of harms such as armed conflict, exploitation, violence, forced labour, etc. The UN and the Commission worked together to put child protection systems in place - the policies, laws and services that help prevent children falling prey to conflict, violence and exploitation and that provide restorative services where they have. They also worked to help prevent unnecessary separation of children from their families. In Azerbaijan, the UN and the Commission supported the government to develop a set of criteria and a referral system for admission of children to child care institutions focused on services and support to keep as many children with their families and out of institutions as possible. They supported the Bangladesh government to adopt a new adolescent social policy, whilst also focusing on another important form of protection - ensuring that Bangladeshi children are registered at birth.

“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.”

(Art. 1 Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

## COLOMBIA

### Protecting refugees and IDPs

Colombia continues to represent the most complex humanitarian crisis in the Americas, with a the total accumulated number of displaced population estimated to be the second largest worldwide. The internal conflict ongoing for the past four decades continues to generate waves of displacements increasing in number and complexity. In 2007 alone, some 200,000 newly displaced were registered by the Colombian Government. At the end of 2007, official government figures of registered IDPs in Colombia report an accumulated total number of more than 2.3 million, while alternative data source from NGOs report over 3,900,000 IDPs.

Despite the implementation of the Peace and Justice Law and the finalization of the paramilitary demobilization process, violence has increased in many regions, notably in the border areas with Ecuador and Venezuela and on the Pacific coast. Violations of human rights and international humanitarian law continue to be reported. Guerilla and emerging illegal armed groups continue to drive illicit crop production in different parts of Colombia, restricting many communities' movement and access to basic goods and services and obliging them to depend on coca cultivation as the only source of income. Moreover Colombia continues to be the country with the highest annual increase in mine accidents in the world, with a severe impact on the lives of Colombians in rural areas. Also, in 2007, forced recruitment has continued and 14,000 minors are estimated to be part of illegal armed groups.

From the above, it appears clear that the complexity of the humanitarian situation in the country requires a strategic coordination and effective dialogue in order to respond to the needs of the affected population, taking into account the needs of newly and previously displaced population through the appropriate instruments.

The European Commission and the United Nations have consolidated their partnership in Colombia over the years. In 2007, the Commission maintained its support to the UN in an effort to promote a comprehensive and coordinated response to the humanitarian crisis, to reinforce the protection of the rights of IDPs and populations at risk of displacement as well as to seek durable solutions, taking into account the special needs of groups disproportionately affected by the conflict. The European Commission's support to the Global Humanitarian Reform also had an impact on the effectiveness of the UN Cluster approach in Colombia.

The 2007 Campaign for the Rights of Displaced People, organised with the support of the European Commission, celebrating the 10 years since the adoption of the National Law outlining the rights of IDPs to protection and material assistance, succeeded in achieving growing political and moral support from all sectors of society to the IDPs' problems. More than 20,000 people participated in a public event of solidarity and 1,099 municipalities of Colombia displayed an exhibition of photos and testimonies on forced displacement.

Since the adoption in 2004 of a landmark Constitutional Court Judgement (T-025), the Government of Colombia with the support of the international community has made considerable efforts to address the needs of displaced populations.

In 2007, the partnership with the European Commission aimed at reducing this gap allowing the following achievements:

***Consolidation of the legal and public policy framework, strengthening of institutional capacity, and reinforcing state supervisory and compliance mechanisms***

The UN supported the Colombian authorities to further refine the legal and public policy framework governing the protection of the displaced populations, as well as to help build the insti-

tutional capacity necessary for the state to fully comply with its responsibilities, in particular at regional and local levels.

The Ombudsman's Office maintained its presence in the border areas and new officials were trained and deployed to monitor the human rights situation and the conditions of displaced/at risk communities.

The Procurator General Office effectively rolled out its monitoring and evaluation system in order to monitor compliance by local authorities with national norms.

A gender strategy was developed for Colombia aiming not only at strengthening the gender analysis of human rights violations, but also at mapping the activities of NGOs and governmental bodies in addressing such violations and using the reports of the Special Rapporteurs and recommendations from treaty monitoring bodies as part of an integrated response. Policemen and women participated in a workshop on human rights, gender discrimination and the risk factors and effects of domestic violence among IDPs.

Nine universities established legal aid centres assisting more than 5,000 people.

***Response to basic protection and assistance needs, and capacity development of IDPs and community groups***

With the support provided by the European Commission, the UN addressed the most basic needs of the displaced population and promoted their capacity to participate in the formulation of public policies, incorporating the specific needs of displaced women and indigenous groups, and facilitating their access to social programmes. Special training projects targeted women, children and youths to improve their management skills and their inclusion in public programmes.

26 Mobile Documentation Campaigns were carried out with 36,635 IDPs registered as a result. More than 733,000 IDPs benefited from improved food security, through several projects including relief assistance, school feeding, mother and child health and nutrition, food for work and food for training.

More than 10,000 demobilised children and children at risk of recruitment received psycho-social support, with more than 1,000 children and adolescents trained as community agents for psycho-social support. 12,300 adolescents were trained on non violence.

# Strengthening Governance

Democracy, the rule of law and the sustainable management of natural resources

## 2



# Strengthening Governance

Democracy, the rule of law and the sustainable management of natural resources

## Some results of the UN-European Commission partnership in 2007

### › Strengthened electoral processes to deepen democracy:

- Supported voter registration of 80 million people for democratic elections in Comoros, Gambia, Guatemala, Madagascar, Mauritania, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Timor Leste, Togo, Zambia and Yemen.
- Trained 66,000 presiding officers and 400,000 polling staff in Pakistan; over 11,000 registration staff and 36,000 polling staff in Sierra Leone and 180 domestic observers for election observation in Gambia.
- In Timor Leste, trained 65 journalists in elections-related media monitoring, supported the finalisation of electoral law for presidential and legislative elections, and enhanced the political empowerment of women as voters, candidates, observers and election officials.
- Enhanced information management systems of the electoral management body in Zambia, and reached almost 80 percent of registered voters through innovative voter education.

### › Enhanced the rule of law, security and access to justice:

- Strengthened the administration of justice in Albania, Chad, Mozambique and Sudan.
- In Afghanistan, strengthened access to justice by rehabilitating 30 primary courts and detention centres in 10 districts; trained 300 justice officials, community and religious leaders on legal rights and protection of women and children; contributed to strengthening physical security with equipment and training including to female police candidates; helped sustain the national police force by paying police officers' salaries.
- In Albania, established a rights-based juvenile justice system offering alternatives to detention and promoting prevention of juvenile delinquency and social reintegration of offenders. Knowledge and awareness of UN Convention on the Rights of the Child enhanced among professionals dealing with juvenile offenders.
- Trained more than 10,000 police officers in Liberia and Somalia as part of new national police forces and broader reform of the security sectors.

### › Combated narcotics and human trafficking:

- In Afghanistan, government was supported in implementation of national counter narcotics strategy; alternative employment provided to 21,000 people, including training in orchard management and support to home based agro-nurseries.
- In Ukraine 3,000 people sensitized on consequences of irregular migration, and establishment of three migration information centres enhanced dissemination of information to potential migrants.

### › Reinforced statistical capacity to enhance development planning:

- National capacity on census administration, statistics, data capture, storage and analysis enhanced in Mozambique, Sudan, Afghanistan and Zambia. In Mozambique, 100,000 enumerators and ancillary personnel trained, and over 8 million census bulletins printed and distributed. In Afghanistan, mapping completed, central statistics office strengthened and capacity of 267,000 enumerators enhanced. In Zambia, results of demographic and health survey analyzed, disseminated, and used for national strategy for growth and poverty reduction.



## Selected policy frameworks guiding the partnership in governance

- › The **Millennium Declaration**: it closely links good governance to the achievement of poverty eradication and sustainable peace. It was adopted by 189 world leaders during the Millennium Summit on 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2000.
- › **Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment**: approved by the UN General Assembly resolution 47/133 of 18 December 1992.
- › **Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and the Code of Conduct for Election Observers**: commemorated at the United Nations on October 2005.

## Deepening democracy: Supporting elections, parliaments and civil society

A major component of the Commission and UN partnership in governance lies in supporting partner countries to develop effective systems, processes and capacities to organise credible, inclusive elections. Successful elections are important symbols of political expression and choice, but more importantly they ensure greater political accountability and are a first and necessary step in underpinning development with democratic governance. Increasingly, the emphasis of the UN partnership with the Commission is shifting from supporting elections as events, to a more holistic approach that looks at the entire electoral cycle, in a longer time frame. The electoral cycle approach supports an integrated set of mutually reinforcing actions that span the pre-electoral, electoral and post-electoral period (see chart 1).

Using this approach as an overarching framework, in 2007 the Commission and the UN jointly supported over 15 countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific regions in building sustainable capacities for the conduct of transparent and credible elections. Countries were assisted in reviewing electoral laws and establishing codes of conduct for political parties. Direct operational support was also provided to the conduct of elections through procurement and logistical support, assistance in voter registration, voter education, media training, and elections-related security training. The political empowerment of women was a particular area of focus. For instance, in Timor Leste, women were supported to run for local elections through the fostering of a dialogue between national and local women leaders, thereby enabling 273 women representatives of village councils to enhance their knowledge on women's rights to political participation. Participants also actively engaged in consultations that led to the adoption of the country's

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*Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression...*

(extract from Art. 19, Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

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electoral law in 2007 that establishes a quota system for candidacy lists of political parties.

In Nigeria, extensive support to the presidential and parliamentary elections, including voter education campaigns and training for the police to sensitize them on election-related security operations, contributed to peaceful elections, in which a record 60 million people registered to vote. In Sierra Leone, which held its second general election after devastating war, the partnership was key to the successful conduct of what is widely regarded as the most credible election in the country's history. And in Iraq, in spite of the difficult context, the institutional capacity of the newly-established independent higher electoral commission was strengthened, whilst the knowledge and understanding of the electorate on the country's electoral processes was enhanced through outreach campaigns using civil society and the media, contributing to broadly successful elections.



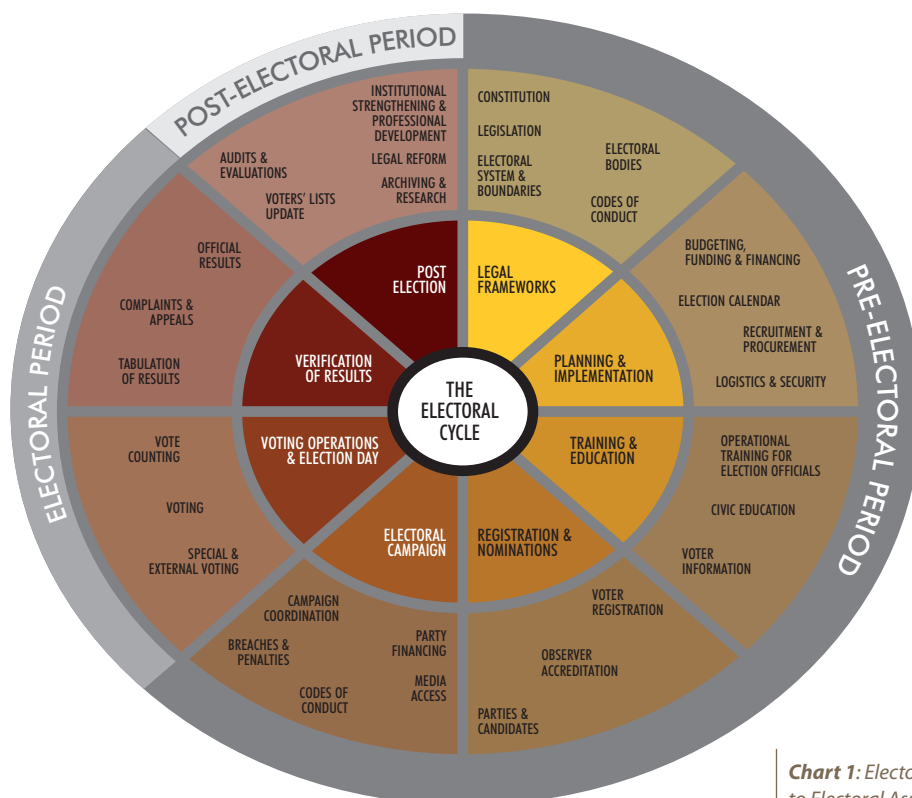
The electoral cycle approach is increasingly complemented with joint capacity building of key democratic institutions which are necessary to entrench democratic processes and enhance political oversight and accountability. At the core are the role and capacities of national parliaments and of non-state actors, principally civil society and the media.

National Parliaments are the embodiment of citizens' representation and the voice of the people. The range of capacity support spanned training to enhance legislative drafting skills, sharpening capacities of parliamentarians and parliamentary staff for policy and budget analysis, including gender-sensitive budgeting, and research and communication capabilities. Parliamentarians in the National Assembly in Laos were trained on national budget formulation, the analysis of resource allocation and budget outcomes, auditing and global politics and diplomacy. Similarly in Vietnam, the National Assembly and Provincial People's Councils were strengthened on budget and financial issues to enhance the quality of parliamentary debate of the budget and overall budget oversight. Political parties were also supported. For example, in Nigeria, aspiring parliamentary candidates, especially women, were trained in campaign strategies, media outreach, fund raising, strategic communications and networking with partners.

The crucial role of a strong civil society and a vibrant media in fostering greater accountability is well acknowledged. In the Gambia, Mauritania, Timor Leste, Zambia, and Iraq, support to local non-governmental organisations and the media helped develop their ad-

vocacy role as well as their capacities to provide services in the context of electoral processes. In Togo, an NGO network was established to monitor human rights during the parliamentary elections held in October 2007. This aside, over 20 civil society organisations were strengthened to support voter education and awareness-raising, contributing to high voter turn-out in the 2007 parliamentary elections. Post-elections phase, evidence suggests that the skills acquired by civil society organisations have been deployed for other advocacy and service delivery efforts.

Reforming public administrations, building capacities at sub-national levels, and establishing robust anti-corruption regimes are all crucial to enhancing accountability and deepening the democratic process. The UN worked with the Commission in Laos and in Turkey to strengthen local governance systems through training on local administration reform and local administration management. In Cameroon, the partnership supported a new draft framework law on anti-corruption, as well as a diagnostic study on corruption in health as a first step to action plans against corruption in that sector. Extensive support to the economic and financial crimes commission (EFCC) in Nigeria was instrumental in enhancing its leading role in the fight against corruption and money-laundering. The EFCC succeeded in prosecuting over 400 cases, and recovered more than US\$5 billion for the national budget, thereby contributing to changing perceptions and action at national and international levels, as seen in the 2007 Transparency Corruption Perception Index, where Nigeria's ranking improved meaning that it is now 147 out of 179.



**Chart 1: Electoral Cycle Approach to Electoral Assistance**





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*Everyone has the right to  
take part in the government  
of his country...*

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(extract from Art. 21, Universal Declaration of Human Rights)



## Enhancing the rule of law, security and access to justice

The UN and the Commission also cooperated to promote access to justice. In Africa, Asia and Eastern and Central Europe, the partnership supported the legal empowerment of the poor, enhanced investigative skills of police authorities and national investigation bureaus, provided facilities and expertise to aid criminal investigation, and supported training and provision of facilities to enhance administration of juvenile justice. An important dimension of the partnership lay in strengthening countries' capacities to manage their borders in accordance with best practices and international norms, including to combat narcotics and human trafficking. The Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan were assisted in strengthening their border management to combat illicit cross-border activities. In Kazakhstan, over 100 police officers were trained in integrated border management, and in Moldova and Ukraine, over 1,000 border officials were trained to reinforce effective border and customs controls and strengthen border surveillance. In Afghanistan, more than 200 officers were trained and equipped on precursor chemical control; identification kits provided to officers have since been used effectively in the seizure of precursors.



Timor-Leste - 2007 parliamentary elections (UN Photo/S. Tickner).

### Key messages of the partnership on governance

#### › Maximizes the UN's unique role and neutrality in support of sensitive development issues

The partnership leverages the UN's normative expertise, its unique role in setting and monitoring international norms and standards, its political neutrality and thus the trust of partners to work in the often-politically sensitive domain of governance and the rule of law.

#### › Institutionalized ability to learn and build best practice

The inter-institutional partnership between the Commission and the UN on electoral assistance is anchored in a Joint Task Force, which provides programming and technical support at country level, develops policy and knowledge products, provides training for election management bodies and other national actors as well as staff of the UN and Commission, and provides a platform to share best practices among a broad community of developing and developed country partners. This has permitted coordinated approaches to planning, programming, evaluation and learning.

# Supporting Sustainable Environmental Management

## Some results of the UN-European Commission partnership in 2007

- › International Panel for Sustainable Resource Management launched at instigation of European Commission and the UN, providing independent scientific assessment on the use of natural resources and science-based input to decision-makers.
- › In Africa, programme for monitoring illegal killing of elephants also supported decision-making on sustainable management of elephant populations in different African states.
- › In Vietnam, Law on Forest Protection and Development approved, recognizing the legal status of communities for the purpose of forest and land allocations.
- › In China, a “circular economy” master plan for the city of Guiyang developed, balancing economic growth with sustainable resource use and environmental protection.
- › In Indonesia, 965,000 hectares of tropical forests - an area equivalent to approximately one third of Belgium - protected through sustainable community-based forest resource management.
- › In Afghanistan, over 2,000 m<sup>2</sup> of traditional underground irrigation rehabilitated through community-based resource management, delivering water to 7,500 saplings in newly established orchards.



Chile - Fight against desertification (UNDP Chile).

## Fostering international standards and agreements

In 2007, the European Union remained at the forefront of international UN-sponsored debate on the environment and climate change. It played a leading role in climate change mitigation efforts, particularly in post-Kyoto negotiations and in support of the UN agenda by making the first binding unilateral commitment to a long-term emission reduction goal. The Commission also supported the achievement of agreements at the UN Climate Change Conference in Bali in December 2007 to launch formal negotiations for a global post-2012 climate regime.

Combating climate change was also promoted by the new agreement signed by the Parties of the Montreal Protocol, which aimed at tackling both climate change and protection of the ozone layer, which is the focus of the Protocol. In 2007, the international community recognised that the contracting parties' legislation, including that of the EU, had made the Montreal Protocol the most successful international treaty on environment to date.

Improving the governance of oceans and ensuring sustainable development of marine resources also featured as high priorities for the international community, as is reflected in the 2002 Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The Commission played a leadership role in international

and regional organisations and processes affecting global fisheries matters or law of the sea, with a view to promoting better governance of sea and oceans affairs at international level. Recommendations adopted at global level under the auspices of the UN General Assembly were translated into binding acts within regional fisheries management organisations and/or in the Community legal system. This is particularly the case concerning measures developed and implemented at global, regional and Community level to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, which constitutes one of the most serious threats to marine biodiversity and has considerable detrimental socio-economic consequences for coastal communities, especially in developing states.

The United Nations and the European Commission cooperate in many different international fora, such as the OECD/DAC environment working group and task team on strategic environmental assessment (a vibrant poverty and environment partnership) and the variability assessments resources group. Such groups involve the UN and the EC working as part of the international community to interpret international agreements into policy guidelines and guidance for addressing environment and natural resources management, climate change, water and energy in development cooperation.

## Helping countries manage their environment

The European Commission and the United Nations acknowledge that climate change, biodiversity loss and unsustainable use of natural resources are acute and increasingly tangible risks to the ultimate goal of eradicating poverty. In this context, the two organizations integrate the principles of sustainable development systematically into all their joint actions. In line with Millennium Development Goal 7, they work closely to fight global threats to the environment and to further the principles of sustainable development at global, regional and national levels. Their respective roles provide extensive opportunities to mobilize international attention to the global environmental priorities, such as climate change. In developing and transition countries in 2007, such international awareness raising efforts were matched with national and local awareness-raising to sensitize populations to environmental challenges and appropriate responses. World Environment Day was celebrated in various locations around the world, including in Afghanistan where the parliamentary environment committee was supported by the UN and the Commission to interact with schoolchildren to debate priorities for the country's development. The 2007 European Development Days focused on climate change: many high-level UN speakers participated, addressing the

challenges posed by global warming to development cooperation strategies and investments worldwide.

In an effort to further the Marrakech Process, which is a global multi-stakeholder effort to promote sustainable consumption and production (SCP), the UN and the Commission supported eco-labeling to increase the number of export products from emerging economies in Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa carrying the EU eco-label. Efforts were also made to strengthen local businesses in environmentally sound production techniques. In Lebanon, olive mill owners were assisted in introducing cleaner production mechanisms; 15 environment ministry staff were trained in environmental auditing of olive mills and supported in conducting ten such audits. Nepalese companies in the tourist industry were supported in developing responsible and sustainable tourism packages, with two thirds of them now marketing new products.

Management of natural resources frequently transcends geographical boundaries. Recognizing this, in 2007 the Commission and UN extensively promoted regional cooperation, supporting the Asia forest network and ASEAN social forestry network for the protection of

forests, and the South Asia coral reef task force to co-ordinate management of marine resources and coral reefs. In the Mediterranean countries, with support of the partnership, contracting parties to the Barcelona convention formally agreed to an ecosystem approach and adopted a roadmap to protect biodiversity, reduce pollution and restore equilibrium between human activities and natural resources of the sea and coast.

Wildlife conservation remained an important component of UN-Commission cooperation. Through some one hundred projects, grass-roots organizations across eight countries were supported in protecting tropical and other natural forests, replanting lost indigenous tree species in communal forests and promoting growth of fruit trees and industrial crops. Joint efforts to preserve the natural habitats of the Great Apes continued in

2007. In Côte d'Ivoire, a bio-monitoring programme for chimpanzee surveys was implemented in four national parks, data from which helped in the organization and effectiveness of anti-poaching patrols. In Cameroon, 22 village development plans were elaborated with local communities, curricula for forestry schools were developed and field training was carried out for park wardens. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, education campaigns and weekly radio broadcasts helped sensitize the local population to the need to protect endangered Great Apes and daily anti-poaching patrols and gorilla monitoring patrols were conducted. In Indonesia, efforts were made to fight illegal logging and fire fighter teams were set up. In Chile, 270 people were trained on community environmental restoration to combat desertification, which affects 69% of Chilean territory.

### Selected policy frameworks guiding the partnership in sustainable environmental management

- › **The Kyoto Protocol:** protocol to the international Framework Convention on Climate Change with the objective of reducing greenhouse gases that cause climate change.
- › **The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety:** international agreement on biosafety, as a supplement to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.
- › **The Marrakech Process:** global multi-stakeholder process to promote sustainable consumption and production, called for by the Johannesburg Plan of Action of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

### Key messages of the partnership on sustainable environmental management

#### › **Joining forces to promote environmental sustainability internationally**

The EU works closely with the United Nations to further the international environmental agenda. In its capacity as contracting party to numerous Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) negotiated under UN leadership, the European Commission contributed significantly to Europe's global leadership in tackling ecological and environmental issues.

#### › **Investing in scientific evidence for better policy making**

Expert-level cooperation between the UN and the Commission helps further global assessment based on reliable and authoritative information, and provides vital independent science-based inputs to decision-makers and policy formulators.



## NIGERIA

### Working In partnership to consolidate democracy and to fight corruption

The economic history of Nigeria is rather paradoxical. A country rich in natural and human resources, yet its level of overall human development has been consistently low. The country's potential as economic giant of Africa is undoubted, but human poverty remains pervasive.

In the recent past, however, the country is coming to grips with addressing its significant development deficits. Overall development policy management has been progressive, backed by extensive political and economic reform. Moreover, in the past couple of years, the country has been robustly dealing with the canker of corruption with some success, and in spite of some challenges around the 2007 elections, it is broadly recognised that democratic governance is taking root. The domestic civil society has become highly vibrant, and in the aftermath of the 2007 elections, their activism significantly contributed to the President establishing an electoral reform committee charged with proposing constitutional and electoral reforms to enhance the electoral process.

The UN and the European Commission are working together on a number of fronts to support Nigeria in its socio-political and development endeavours. The partnership in 2007 ranged from supporting follow up activities to the complex national census exercise conducted in 2005 (itself extensively supported by the UN and the Commission), programmatic and technical support to the conduct of the 2007 general elections, financial and technical assistance to the national efforts at fighting corruption and money laundering, support to enhancing access to basic social services, mainly water and sanitation, and polio eradication.

To further consolidate the gains made in the census exercise and develop sustainable institutional capacity in this domain, the UN-Commission partnership in 2007 registered the following results:

- Upgraded the National Population Commission's website to enhance its functionality and database handling capability;
- Enhanced broader stakeholder buy-in of the census outcome through support to a series of advocacy seminars;
- Digitalised the 2006 Enumeration Area Maps.

Crucially, the extensive support provided to the national census exercise, coupled with the continuing provision of technical assistance in building critical capacities will ensure that Nigeria has a population database to support more rational national planning and a more balanced resource allocation across the 36 states and the one federal territory that constitute the country.

On electoral support, despite some shadows cast over the 2007 electoral process, the outcome of the elections represented a fairly smooth transition of power from one civilian

administration to another. In supporting the 2007 general elections, the partnership produced the following:

- 75,000 copies of the voter registration manual for voter registration officials, 1,400 copies of the manual for election trainers, and 120,000 copies of the electoral observation guidelines;
- 120,000 copies of the electoral act and another 120,000 copies of a booklet detailing symbols of various political parties for awareness raising;
- Trained and sensitized police and other security forces about election-related security operations and human rights protection. 300,000 copies of the guidelines and code of conduct provided to the police;
- Sponsored publicity and voter education /information on national televisions and radio.

Endemic corruption represents a major haemorrhage of resources away from much-needed economic and human development investments necessary to support the country in its efforts to achieve the MDGs. Fortunately the government's resolve to fight corruption is now more evident and more robust. At the forefront of these efforts are an empowered Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Nigerian judiciary. Over 85 percent of all external financial support to the EFCC has been made available through a UN-Commission partnership, and this has been instrumental in enhancing the EFCC's leading role in the fight against corruption and money laundering. Through the support, EFCC has succeeded in recovering more than US\$5 billion for the national budget, and is aggressively following through on investigations into the assets and activities of several previous state governors and other high ranking public officials. As a consequence of these efforts, objective evidence shows that Nigeria's ranking on the Transparency International corruption perception index improved, and now stand at 147 out of 179 countries.

In the provision of **basic social services**, the partnership is increasing institutional and human resource capacities to improve water governance at the State and Local Government levels in six states and improve water supply, sanitation, and hygiene promotion services delivery in 1,400 rural communities. The partnership also strengthens the institutional capacity of the national water resource institute. It is establishing community-based models and increasing access to safe water for some 2.1 million people.

Finally, since 2003, the partnership has been supporting the Nigerian government in its efforts to eradicate polio, in particular by establishing a surveillance system and executing large scale vaccination campaigns as well as strengthening routine immunization. In 2007, the partnership also supported the Nigerian government in strengthening its surveillance for the prevalence of avian flu among poultry producers and traders.

# Saving lives and protecting people

Responding to humanitarian crises and emergencies

3



# Saving lives and protecting people

## Responding to humanitarian crises and emergencies

### Some results of the UN-European Commission partnership in 2007

#### › Improved coordination and information:

- An improved centrally-coordinated UN-led humanitarian information management system in place, complemented by a unified approach to needs assessments and classification.
- UN rapid deployment of emergency teams within six to 24 hours of the start of many emergencies; Commission support for UN's pre-positioned essential relief stocks in key locations worldwide was vital to the effectiveness of its response.

#### › Delivered humanitarian assistance:

- Humanitarian needs addressed in 30 countries worldwide, arising from both man-made and natural disasters: operations in Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Occupied Palestine Territories, Sudan and Uganda were among the most complex.

#### › Responded to the consequences of man-made crises:

- More than 35 million refugees and internally-displaced (IDPs) and stateless people assisted with food and other support.
- In Chad, more than 280,000 refugees from the Darfur region of Sudan and from the Central African Republic assisted with food, shelter and medicines; primary health care and education provided to more than 60,000 Chadian children. In Uganda, 1.8 million IDPs provided with assistance, including food and non-food items: Commission support to UN interventions contributed to dramatic improvement of freedom of movement and initial return of IDPs to their places of origin. In Kenya and Yemen, 70,000 Somali refugees assisted with food and shelter.
- In Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, Iraqi refugees supported with improved access to health and educational services. Some 200,000 Iraqi refugees registered and provided with documents; more than 20,000 supported to resettle in third countries.

#### › Responded to the needs arising from natural disasters:

- Immediate food assistance provided to people affected by natural disasters in 14 countries all over the world, from Nepal to Togo and from Bolivia to Swaziland. In Bangladesh, 2.3 million people affected by floods assisted with food aid. Supplementary school feeding provided to prevent deterioration in school children's nutritional status.
- Primary and reproductive health services delivered to communities affected by natural disasters in Bolivia, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, and Sudan. In Peru, in the aftermath of a violent earthquake, 58,000 hygiene kits distributed and psychological and legal counseling for women provided.
- In Mozambique and Madagascar, more than 1 million people affected by floods assisted with food and non-food items, such as hygiene kits, water purification and soap and buckets. Latrine facilities built and basic health services provided.
- In Peru, 60,000 people, 33,000 of whom were women, in rural highland districts of Apurimac, Puno, Ayacucho and Huancavelica assisted with food following devastating

frosts. Self-help efforts to recover livelihoods included rehabilitation of stone fences and infiltration ditches for pastures and animal shelter construction, and training on seed selection of native crops, production techniques in highland areas, and selection of protected sites for harvest.

› **Tackled the often “silent crises” of malnutrition:**

- 13 million people assisted (62% of which were children) in 13 countries in the fight against malnutrition, with mothers and children specifically targeted: Burundi, Guinea, Togo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Niger, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Myanmar, Honduras, Zimbabwe, Timor Leste and Egypt.
- In Burundi, 240,000 rural households affected by conflict and recent drought supported over two planting seasons with seeds (sweet potato cuttings and sorghum) and tools; 8 million cuttings of disease-free cassava distributed to rural families. Food security monitored, community level agricultural support services restored, with an emphasis on vulnerable groups such as returnees and HIV/AIDS-affected households.

› **Tackled disease outbreaks:**

- 2.7 million people vaccinated against meningitis in Burkina Faso; 1.3 million people vaccinated against yellow fever in Togo; 650,00 people vaccinated against measles in Liberia and 1 million in Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.
- 2.5 million people provided with safe drinking water in Sudan and in Guinea; 94,600 households benefited from improved water quality.
- Guidelines issued for strengthening national preparedness and planning for influenza pandemic and for risk education; more than 2,000 people trained, including community leaders. Health and veterinary personnel trained on communication about avian influenza outbreak prevention and preparedness in Kazakhstan and Ukraine as well as in several African countries through regional efforts.

The most basic human right is that of survival. Humanitarian aid provides an immediate, often life-saving response in situations of crisis. Its core purpose is to meet at least the most basic needs of the civilian population including food and water, shelter and protection. The objective is to minimize suffering in times of disaster or conflict, and to bridge the gap until recovery mechanisms are established and communities are able to regain a degree of self-reliance. In some cases, prolonged conflict and repeated cycles of violence or natural disasters can delay recovery, resulting in a need for humanitarian assistance over an extended period of time. The European Commission is one of the world’s largest providers of humanitarian aid, and is consistently a central partner to UN-led efforts in this domain. The UN contributes to EU policy formula-

tion on humanitarian issues, including the European Humanitarian Consensus and the EU response to situations of fragility in developing countries, while the Commission has played a useful and constructive role in the UN’s own humanitarian reform.

In 2007, the Commission cooperated with the UN in a wide range of humanitarian interventions, including large-scale emergency response to natural disasters, assistance for and protection of populations affected by conflict, and help for people still in need of assistance and made more vulnerable when donor and media attention had shifted elsewhere. In virtually all cases, the UN and the Commission were cooperating within the context of multi-donor and multi-actor efforts, including non-governmental organizations.





Zimbabwe - Food distribution (European Commission/A. Sullivan).

## Selected policy frameworks guiding the partnership in emergency and humanitarian assistance

- › **Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition:** adopted on 16<sup>th</sup> November 1974, it affirms that every man, woman and child has the inalienable right to be free from hunger and malnutrition in order to develop fully and maintain his/her physical and mental faculties.
- › The **European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid** adopted in 2007 reaffirms Europe's commitment to humanitarian principles and laws and recognizes the central coordinating role of the United Nations. Particular focus is placed on the principle of neutrality and on the division of tasks for a more effective delivery of aid. The Consensus is an important EU initiative to improve efficiency and address the numerous challenges posed by humanitarian crises worldwide.
- › The **"cluster approach"**, introduced by the UN in 2006 as one pillar of the humanitarian reform, provides systematic and predictable interagency cooperation based on clearly defined accountabilities within the UN and an equal partnership with civil society. The Global Humanitarian Platform governs the equal partnership of the UN, Red Cross/Red Crescent movement and nongovernmental organizations.



## Helping the UN to fulfill its humanitarian mandate

Within its own large scale humanitarian assistance programme, the Commission actively supports the UN in fulfilling its mandate to respond to emergencies and to ensure that international standards of protection and assistance are consistently met. In 2007, the Commission supported the UN and its partners in emergency needs assessments, protection of refugees, children and women in humanitarian emergencies, and delivering health in emergency situations. Through training of key humanitarian workers leading and implementing emergency operations, the Commission helped to enhance UN capacity to deal with the consequences of forced displacement in Chad, Colombia, Somalia, Mozambique, Peru, Sri Lanka, Dominican Republic and Bangladesh. Cooperation around the UN Humanitarian Air Service provided the humanitarian community with safe and reliable passage for cargo and personnel to areas where travel overland had become impossible. Through its thematic funding, the Commission supported the strengthening of the capacity of the UN in the context of the humanitarian reform and the cluster approach, in particular with regard to pre-positioning stocks, health interventions, disaster preparedness, emergency shelter, child protection, information management and needs assessments.



*Sri Lanka - Transitional shelters in Manatka du IDP camp (UNHCR/J. Davies).*

## Improving information for targeted responses

Worldwide emergencies demand continued efforts to improve coordination mechanisms and capacities to collect and disseminate quality information and news. The Commission contributed to development of an improved humanitarian information management system as well as to common approaches to early warning systems development, needs assessments and

classification in the immediate aftermath of crises. Enhanced coordination was particularly effective in providing UN cluster lead agencies with the tools to identify sector gaps and help direct partners in filling them. Improved information systems helped not only the UN, but also the broader humanitarian community to target and better coordinate actions based on a more complete picture of actual needs.

## Responding to man-made crises

In 2007, the Commission supported the work of the UN in a number of countries affected by emerging or pre-existing crises, the consequences of which continued to be felt by local populations. The humanitarian situation in Darfur continued to worsen during 2007, causing increasing levels of vulnerability among the affected population. The UN, with the support of the Commission, responded through a diversified approach ranging from the provision of protection and basic assistance to displaced populations, to the rehabilitation of water sources, schools and the provision of health assistance.

## Overcoming the effects of natural disasters

The year 2007 was characterized by climatic shocks and a number of countries were hit by adverse climatic conditions. For many, this had devastating effects with a loss of lives, destruction of food crops and disruption in the provision of basic services such as water and sanitation. UN collaboration with the Commission had three principal aims: first and foremost, to save lives and alleviate suffering of affected populations by providing essential kits for hygiene, shelter, medical supplies, water and food; but also to protect and restore livelihoods; and, increasingly important, to increase the capacities of national and local authorities to manage current disasters and reduce the potential effects of future ones.

## Sustaining support to protracted crises

The partnership also continued relief efforts in long-standing crisis situations, in Algeria, Colombia, Darfur and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, among others. Efforts focused on mitigating the consequences on displaced populations. Amongst these, the situation of the Sahrawi people in Algeria is extreme. More than 90,000 refugees have been living for more than three decades in camps in the area near Tindouf, where harsh living conditions make them almost entirely dependent on international humanitarian assistance. Support provided by the Commission helped the UN to continue providing all refugees with food assistance, basic domestic items, and adequate water and sanitation fa-



Niger - Local health center  
(European Commission/T. Muench).

cilities. Health and education were provided, with more than 23,000 children being vaccinated and over 30,000 children enrolled in primary education. Epidemiological surveillance including the reinforcement of laboratory capacity was put in place.

## Addressing the often-silent crisis of malnutrition

Acute malnutrition, particularly among children, can be one facet of emergency and post-crisis situations. However, it can also persist in peaceful and stable environments. Drought and varying weather conditions are part of the story, but it is often as much a question of access as scarcity of food, as market prices of basic staples, particularly cereals and beans, have increased and families' capacity to buy and consume food has been reduced commensurately. Chronic malnutrition has devastating and potentially life-long lasting effects and undermines all other development efforts. Nevertheless, structural and chronic malnutrition has been somewhat overlooked by the international donor community, and does not frequently feature among funding priorities. This makes the Commission's partnership with the UN in such situations all the more crucial.

Tackling malnutrition is complex. It requires interventions at the household-level, the direct involvement of communities, and also national institutional capacities.

Only by working at multiple levels and across sectors can sustainable headway be made.

The UN-Commission partnership has done much to ensure that attention is retained on often-forgotten crises such as Burkina Faso, Niger and Mauritania and relatively unknown chronic malnutrition situations found in Honduras and Egypt. Programmes contribute to a reduction in mortality, morbidity and prevalence of chronic diseases caused by poor nutrition. The partnership operates at various levels, most notably in building awareness, delivering nutritional programmes with non-governmental and community partners and providing safety nets to preserve the nutritional status of families. In parallel, the partnership helps countries build their systems and institutional capacities both to better prepare for and target action on the ground and to provide a clearer basis for preventative action.

In 2007, the partnership delivered therapeutic feeding for severely malnourished children and supplementary feeding for those with moderate but chronic malnutrition. Indicators of chronic malnutrition of children were used to target other food assistance programmes: in Zimbabwe and Honduras, for example, family rations were provided to families with at least one child suffering from acute malnutrition. A targeted effort was also made to support people living with HIV/AIDS and undergoing anti-retroviral treatment.

With Commission support, the UN also sought to raise the effectiveness of nutritional activities implemented within communities, by training community health agents and nongovernmental organizations in managing and responding to malnutrition. In Burundi, Guinea, Burkina Faso and Niger, health agents were trained in nutritional programmes as well as in the screening of malnourished children. Partnerships with civil society organizations for the screening and referral to rehabilitation centers of malnourished children were strengthened. For example, in Togo, a formalized partnership was established with the local Red Cross, among others. Non-governmental organizations implementing programmes at local level were also trained in management of food stocks and delivery, as well as nutritional issues.

In parallel, efforts were made to strengthen the systems for collection of key data on nutrition, and the capacities of governments and stakeholders to utilize the data for action. Cooperation around early warning systems for food security was vitally important. A regional programme for the Horn of Africa - Eritrea, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya and Somalia - started to enhance the quality and availability of nutritional data, with a view to integrating this into national nutrition information systems for long-term planning, monitoring and evaluation as well as aiding decision-making on humanitarian aid on the part of donors.

## Responding to health emergencies

As part of its overall commitment to implementation of the International Health Regulations within the European Union and third countries, the Commission partnered closely with the UN on health pandemics. The UN-Commission partnership continued to offer a coordinated and effective response to health emergencies arising from outbreaks of communicable diseases, such as meningitis, yellow fever, cholera and measles, ensuring comprehensive coverage of the full range of interventions needed to prevent, detect and control outbreaks. The cooperation included actions to provide safe drinking water, education, information, assessment and training for national core capacities. It also entailed the development of guidelines and tools, awareness raising and risk communication, particularly for the potential avian influenza pandemic. Linked to that, the partnership helped develop systems of early warning and epidemiological surveillance, vaccination and measures of control during outbreaks. Country-level actions were boosted by both the constant and coherent global cooperation and by selected sub-regional efforts, such as in West Africa where measures were taken to improve epidemic preparedness, alert and response to outbreaks of communicable diseases.

National capacities were also strengthened for preparedness and response to health emergencies. In Kazakhstan, for example, capacities for preparedness and response for the avian and human pandemic influenza were improved through the establishment of an effective

operational emergency response system and mechanisms for monitoring the pandemic. Moreover, with technical support from the partnership, a government decree establishing an inter-sector body was adopted. Regulations and guidelines on an operational emergency response system and mechanisms for monitoring the pandemic were developed, approved, printed and distributed. Collaboration and coordination among government and non-government stakeholders at national level in influenza prevention and response were strengthened, while the process is ongoing at the local level. In an effort to raise awareness among the broader population, 8,200 schools were involved in a communication campaign on avian influenza prevention.

“Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person”  
(Art.3, Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

### Key messages of the partnership on humanitarian and emergency assistance

#### › Emphasis on coordination:

Emerging conflicts and protracted crises need a coordinated response to be effective. The close partnership between the United Nations and the European Commission in humanitarian assistance helps foster a coordinated approach, harmonised responses and thus effective delivery of support to affected populations. With Commission support, the UN is able to improve its own response mechanisms to prepare for and respond to the needs of vulnerable populations in emergencies, in line with the Core Commitments for Children (CCCs) and the UN's cluster approach to its internal division of tasks.

#### › Maximizing the neutrality and capacities of the UN:

By working through and with the UN, the Commission benefits from the neutrality of the UN, its expertise, and its consistent presence and network on the ground before, during and after crises.

## CHAD

Working together to help the country recovery from a long-lasting conflict

A complex mix of ethnic and political tensions precipitated by environmental degradation and loss of livelihoods resulted in widespread violence and massive displacement in the Darfur region of Sudan. Violence spilled over the border into neighbouring Chad, where long-standing ethnic and political differences triggered armed confrontations between government forces and armed opposition groups – and within competing armed groups as well.

As various international attempts to encourage the parties to come to a peaceful solution largely failed to achieve significant results, the breakdown of law and order in large swathes of Darfur and Chad, and the proliferation of armed militias and criminal gangs created new displacement. Hundreds of thousands of refugees and internally displaced have become dependent on scarce international assistance. Images of women and children huddled under precarious shelters on the backdrop of a barren desert landscape have become familiar to European news watchers. In 2007, the European Commission provided considerable financial support to the UN-led humanitarian assistance programme in favour of more than 230,000 Darfuri Sudanese refugees sheltered in 12 refugee camps in Chad, 45,000 refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR), and 180,000 Chadians displaced by fighting in the east of the country.

Helping refugees and displaced people in Chad has proved an extremely challenging task. The security has been steadily deteriorating: refugees and IDPs have been attacked by bandits and militias, women and children have been targeted for sexual assault and kidnapping. Recruitment of children and young men, both forcible and voluntary, has been carried out in violation of international law, which prescribes that refugee camps should be strictly civilian. Humanitarian workers have been attacked and harassed, and on several occasions forced to evacuate thereby disrupting the delivery of aid.

Despite the immense challenge posed by the situation, the UN was able to provide essential life-saving supplies to some 450,000 people, albeit not regularly. These included, essential household goods, such as jerry cans to store water and plastic sheets to build shelters. Moreover 439,000 people received food aid, including 273,300 children. Health services, however basic, succeeded in lowering maternal and child mortality, while acutely malnourished children were able to access special nutrition programmes. Education was made available, wherever possible, also as a means to keep children away from recruiters of child soldiers. 61,534 children aged between 6 and 14 years were enrolled at school in 12 refugee camps in 2007. A community-based system to prevent sexual and gender violence, and to respond to identified instances was put in place. To reduce the risks associated with long forays out of the camps to collect wood for cooking, fuel efficient stoves were introduced. The provision of water remained one of the greatest challenges in the arid environment that prevails in large parts of Chad, especially during the rainy season. With the assistance of the European Commission, the UN was able to operate a dedicated flight to transport humanitarian personnel and to airlift supplies. Moreover joint efforts were made to build national capacity on early-warning systems for food security and crop assessments.

The two institutions also worked with local organizations to improve the quality of dihé – a widely diffused seaweed usually cooked by the local population as a thick soup or made into a sauce – through the use of new technologies for their collection and drying thereby increasing the amount of dihé local women are able to sell at the market.

In September 2007, the UN Security Council voted the deployment of a multidimensional force, MINURCAT – the United Nations mission to the Republic of Chad and Central African Republic – which authorized the EU to deploy forces to protect the refugees and IDPs and the humanitarian operation. Please see Chapter 8 for further information on the EUFOR Tchad/RCA mission.



# Preventing and overcoming crises

Crisis prevention, reintegration and recovery, and disaster risk reduction





# Preventing and overcoming crises

## Crisis prevention, reintegration and recovery, and disaster risk reduction

### Some results of the UN-European Commission partnership in 2007

#### › Supported mine action and small arms control:

- 50 million square meters of land declared mine impact free, and 2 million people regained access to productive land and social infrastructures as a result of mine clearance in countries across the world. At least 3 million Euros in additional annual income generated from land returned to local communities.
- 1.9 million mines and unexploded ordnance and 36,200 tones of ammunition destroyed. In Croatia, 528,000 arms collected and/or surrendered.
- 2 million people reached by mine awareness activities. In Afghanistan alone, a 50 per cent reduction in casualty figures achieved compared to the 2001-2002 period.
- Legislation to control circulation of small arms and light weapons passed in Albania, Croatia, Kosovo and Macedonia. In Macedonia, amended law on weapons adopted, law on private security companies reviewed and amended, UN firearms protocol implemented and the standards of the EU Code of Conduct for Arms Exports incorporated in national legal framework and procedures.

#### › Built national and local capacities to manage and reduce risks of disasters:

- In India, 1,045,000 people, including 22,500 teachers, trained in disaster response and management. State disaster management plans and acts drawn up based on learning from the project, and disaster management laws enacted in two State governments.
- In Afghanistan, disaster preparedness and response plan for the Kunduz province, school disaster management plan, and 32 provincial departmental plans developed by the national and local disaster management authorities and non-governmental organizations.
- In Uzbekistan, 12,000 children reached by disaster preparedness and risk reduction efforts through advocacy campaigns on "disaster risk reduction begins in school".
- Joint Commission-UN mission to the Republic of Korea following the oil spill, reflecting the swift mobilization of respective technical capacities for a joint environmental assessment.

#### › Helped people to recover from war through reintegration of ex-combatants and restoration of infrastructures:

- In Somalia, 6,000 militia disarmed and demobilized and reintegration plan formulated; 10,000 police and civilian weapons registered.
- In Côte d'Ivoire, 22,226 ex combatants reached by peer education, HIV counseling, testing and treatment. In Colombia, some 10,000 people, including children, at risk of recruitment into armed groups helped through psychosocial support and peace education, health services, and sexual and reproductive health instruction.
- EU Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict revised, benefiting from UN expertise in the implementation strategy. Six priority countries added (Chad, Haiti, Iraq, Israel/Occupied Palestine Territories, and Lebanon), in line with the UN Security Council Resolution 1612.

- 19 million displaced people, returnees and host communities supported by reintegration packages, rehabilitation of infrastructure and restoration of services.
- 11.35 million internally displaced people, returnees and local populations (of whom 60% were children), supported in making the transition home, through food baskets.
- 3.7 million people in Burundi, Chechnya, Georgia, Iraq, Occupied Palestine Territories, Somalia and Sudan gained access to safe drinking water through restored water points; sanitary conditions of half a million people were improved through rehabilitation of sewer systems. In Iraq, some 1.5 million people benefited from improved sanitary conditions through safe excreta disposal and 16,800 people benefited from the rehabilitation of houses. Addition of over 350 megawatts of electricity generating capacity to the national grid benefited the country as a whole.
- 657 schools rehabilitated benefiting 555,000 school age children and youths. In Liberia, 16,056 ex-combatants, a quarter of whom were female, assisted through formal and informal education and training in agriculture. 3,280 demobilized and other war-affected children assisted through education, with 95% graduating from skills training and apprenticeship placements.
- In Lebanon, cooperation helped the early recovery of the destroyed Palestinian refugee camp Nahr El Bared; in Syria, schooling of Iraq refugee children was supported.

Peace and security are vital to the fulfillment of individuals' human rights. Violent conflict destroys the human, social, physical and institutional capital that constitutes the very foundations of sustainable development. The Commission and the UN are united in their belief that the security agendas of both conflict prevention and peace building are best served by a strong development dimension.



Côte d'Ivoire - Arms destroyed by fire during the "Flame of Peace" ceremony in Bouake (UN Photo/B. Zoma).



## Promoting international agreements for mine action and small arms control

The Mine action and the control of small arms and light weapons represent two major thrusts of the Commission-UN cooperation in this direction. Although these constitute distinct programming areas, the impacts of landmines and small arms are similar and need to be addressed with equal urgency.

In 2007, the Commission and the UN worked together in 11 mine-affected countries - Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Burundi, Chile, Ethiopia, Iraq, Russia, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Yemen - to address the problem of landmines and explosive remnants of war. Mines, in addition to being a huge cause of human suffering for their victims, are a major impediment to economic activity and long-term development in many post-conflict areas. In 2007, Afghanistan and Angola were helped to fulfill their obligations under Article 4 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty, requesting the "destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines within four years of the treaty's entry into force for the concerned state". Other mine-affected countries supported by the partnership, such as Albania, Burundi, Ethiopia, Iraq, Russia, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Yemen continue to report progress against the different articles of the Ottawa Convention.

Despite the above mentioned enormous progress, there are still 78 nations affected by landmines and nearly 500,000 landmine survivors, of whom three-quarters are civilians. In some countries more than half of the landmine casualties are children. The proliferation of small arms and light weapons is also a major source of insecurity that needs to be tackled in the interests of sustainable peace, human security and development prospects of the affected countries. There are more than 600 million small arms and light weapons in circulation worldwide, more than half of which are in civilian hands.

Experience suggests that efforts to tackle these issues work best when integrated into broader national and regional peace building and development frameworks; when they are multi-component; and when they promote national compliance with international targets and standards. In Albania, Angola, Somalia, to mention a few, programmes supported by the Commission and the UN had direct links to national poverty reduction strategies, the Millennium Development Goals, and other national development plans.

The Commission and the UN supported national capacity building, helping states to meet their Mine Ban Treaty obligations, providing training on mine clearance, assisting in the destruction of stockpiles and helping governments address the socioeconomic impact of landmines. The partnership also supported mine risk education, and assistance to victims.

The Commission and UN joined efforts to advance the control of small arms and light weapons (SALW) in the Western Balkans. The strategy included weapon control measures, the secure management of weapon stockpiles as well as their destruction and disposal. In parallel with these interventions, in 2007 they supported the development of legal and policy frameworks and engaged with civil society to promote dialogue and awareness-raising. The comprehensive and multi-component nature of the small arms programmes is illustrated by the fact that support to the six Western Balkans countries covered at least 8 different areas of intervention, from destruction of surplus weapons to supporting small arms national commissions. This helped generate a change of approach within many of the Western Balkans countries, with SALW control interventions increasingly understood as a comprehensive process requiring planning, co-ordination and implementation by various agencies. The joint Commission/UN efforts incorporated strong institutional and legal development activities and successfully involved parliaments and civil society.



Lebanon - Unexploded ordnance destroyed (UN Photo/M. Garten).

Selected policy frameworks guiding the partnership in post crisis reintegration and recovery and disaster risk reduction:

- › **Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction:** it bans all anti-personnel landmines.
- › **UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects:** it sets clear guidelines to be followed by each signatory state.
- › **EU Code of Conduct for Arms Exports:** politically binding instrument that seeks to create “high common standards” for all EU members to use when making arms export decisions and to increase transparency among EU states on arms exports.
- › **Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters:** guiding framework for disaster reduction, which recognize disaster risk management as an important element of sustainable development.
- › **Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict:** proclaimed by the General Assembly on 14th December 1974, sets international standards for the protection of women and children in emergencies and armed conflicts.
- › **Commission policy on Children in EU External Action:** endorses the Paris Commitment and Principles to Protect Children from Unlawful Recruitment or Use by armed forces or groups, and provide core child protection actions for unaccompanied and separated children.

## Mainstreaming disaster risk considerations into national development efforts

The international community has increasingly embraced the importance of disaster risk reduction in the knowledge that it promotes sustainable development and the achievement of the MDGs. Prevention and disaster risk reduction activities cost a fraction of emergency relief and early recovery, not just in financial but most importantly in human terms. In 2007, the Commission continued to support the UN in improving methods for rapid mapping of complex and natural emergencies, applied in specific situations. Both organizations implemented protocols to make their data widely available to partners.

Direct disaster risk reduction activities, including the mainstreaming of risk reduction into development efforts, were undertaken in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan and the Andean region. All were affected by disasters in the recent past and/or are

at high risk of future disasters. Cooperation to reduce risks of floods in the Hindu Kush Himalaya region comprising Bhutan, India, Nepal and Pakistan also started in 2007.

Successful disaster risk reduction programmes tend to cover a range of mutually re-enforcing aspects. Governance is a critical part, including technical support to government structures to ensure that necessary national institutional and legislative arrangements are in place, and the involvement of the affected communities including local representative structures. This is clearly reflected in the work that the Commission-UN partnership supports, which in 2007 included:

**Raising awareness.** In Nepal, there were intensive awareness-raising efforts on earthquake preparedness, through brochures, posters and radio and TV messages.

**Promoting political commitment and supporting legislation and planning.** In Afghanistan and Bangladesh, the Commission and the UN helped integrate information from disaster risk assessments into national development plans and supported the development of appropriate institutional systems and responses. Supported by the partnership, the current 3 year interim plan of the Government of Nepal incorporates the need to integrate disaster risk reduction into sector plans both at the national and local levels.

**Building national and local capacities for preparedness, response and recovery, including tools that allow national stakeholders to assess their risk to climate variability and change.** In Kyrgyzstan, 40 disaster risk charts were performed in local authorities' territories, followed up by training on disaster risk reduction and the design of mitigation projects for 140 staff of local authorities and 150 members of rural community-based rescue teams. In Uzbekistan, in an effort to build community capacities for disaster preparedness and the reduction of risks, 26 makhalla representatives, 500 doctors and other medical staff, 87 provincial emergency staff, 37 regional government officials, 69 representatives from regional and district health and education departments and 120 teachers went through similar orientations.

**Supporting risk-resilient small-scale infrastructure. Many immediate clean-up and small-scale rebuilding operations provided employment opportunities.** In vulnerable communities in Sri Lanka, for example, Tsunami-related debris was cleared from 95 km of coastal areas in the Ampara District, generating over 15,250 hours of work for local laborers. The operation resulted in over 15,000 m<sup>3</sup> of hazardous and



Indonesia - Indonesian women painting her new home  
(UN-HABITAT / V. Wijaya).

non-hazardous material being collected. 100% of non-hazardous waste collected was utilized in community projects. 26 kilometers of roads were restored, generating 130,000 days of employment for communities. In Kyrgyzstan, 3 kilometers of farm roads, 875 meters of dikes and 1,370 meters of landslide-proof ditches and protection channels were constructed or rehabilitated; 784 houses were protected from hazardous natural phenomena, benefiting 4,095 inhabitants; 1,178 hectares of agricultural land were sowed with seed.

## Helping people restore their livelihoods and reintegrate in their communities

The return of refugees or internally-displaced people to their home communities often presents particular challenges. Returns often happen under conditions of continuing political instability or lingering insecurity, to places where infrastructure and basic services are insufficient to meet the needs of the returning populations. Access to legal counseling and assistance is often essential: during flight and in exile, documents are often lost or destroyed, and upon return this may prevent individuals from accessing basic services. In many countries, returnees find their homes and properties taken over by others, with the occupiers often displaced themselves and unable to recover their own properties. Women and unaccompanied children are at particular disadvantage when accessing services, including justice. Under such circumstances, returnees

may be perceived as a burden and a threat by communities that are already stressed, running the risk of tensions, reverse movements, or further displacement. For these reasons, the return of people to their communities has to be prepared well and supported with a range of measures to ensure that returnees as well as the host communities count on viable social, economic, legal and institutional structures that deliver security and acceptable living standards for all parties.

The UN-Commission partnership supports returnees in several ways. It helps facilitate safe return. Medical screening along corridors of return ensures that the sick can be identified and supported, thereby also reducing health hazards for receiving communities. Public awareness campaigns through the radio and press are carried



out to inform returnees of their rights. The UN and its partners devote particular attention to strengthening a protective environment by establishing legal clinics which provide free advice and intervene with the authorities or with the communities as necessary.

In 2007, the Commission and the UN worked together in 19 countries to help forcibly displaced people return to and reintegrate in their home communities. In the case of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Sudan and Tanzania, returnees were supported with non-food items, bed nets for malaria control and prevention, and safe transport to return home. In Afghanistan and Uganda, in addition to basic necessities, returnees were supported with income-generating opportunities, while efforts were made to strengthen local capacities to deliver justice. In territories as diverse as Serbia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Tanzania, Lebanon, Chechnya, or Colombia, thousands of people were able to recover their homes, obtain new documents, or register their children in schools thanks to the UN-Commission support.

The reintegration of ex-combatants into communities represents a particular set of challenges. Having in many cases lived by the gun for years, the reintegration

of ex-combatants, including many children, into civilian life is essential to their wellbeing and the security of communities. Working in partnership, in 2007 the Commission and the UN helped disarm, demobilize and reintegrate ex-combatants in seven countries: prevention and response mechanisms were put in place to deal with gender-based violence and raise awareness on HIV/AIDs, whilst disarmament and demobilization of combatants was accompanied and incentivized by food rations and vocational training. The reintegration of children associated with, or abused by, armed groups represented a further dimension of the UN partnership with the Commission. In Somalia, Nepal and Sudan, national structures were established to support this process, including improving the tracing of relatives to enable child soldiers to return to their families.

A critical aspect of the UN-Commission partnership was the linkage of support to immediate return with a longer-term approach to restore services through the rehabilitation of schools, health facilities and government buildings, and promote livelihoods including through rehabilitation of infrastructures. For example, in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Liberia, rehabilitation of roads allowed better access to social services and markets. In Southern Lebanon, houses and public infrastructures were repaired, including sanitation systems, communal water infrastructure systems, roads and bridges. Some 1.5 million people benefited from support to Lebanese municipalities to document and reconstruct houses. In Somalia, the construction of drainage and the upgrading of settlements in Hargeisa and Garowe improved the delivery of urban services. In Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, a central park was rehabilitated into a community social centre, thereby helping the process of reconciliation dialogue and professional training for youngsters.

“Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country”

(extract from Art 13, Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

## Key messages of the partnership on crisis prevention, reintegration and recovery

### › Facing conflict prevention and recovery activities in an holistic manner:

The support provided by the European Commission in the domain of conflict prevention and post-crisis reintegration and recovery helps the United Nations organize integrated and holistic approaches to conflict prevention, peace-building and peace-keeping and their link to development, assisting countries as they progress towards a self-reliance status.

### › Developing joint tools for assessment, analysis and planning in post-emergency situations:

In advancing the disaster risk agenda, the Commission and the UN prioritize the mainstreaming of disaster aspects into development efforts as well as the elaboration of shared tools for post-disaster damage, loss and needs assessments.

## AFGHANISTAN

### From conflict and misrule to reconstruction and new hope

Six years after the fall of the Taliban, Afghanistan remains engaged in a struggle to emerge from a conflict situation and consolidate the capacity and reach of the new Islamic Republic. While notable advancements in human development have been made, much of the focus of the international community's heavy presence in Afghanistan remains on securing the sovereignty of the government over the entire state territory, upholding rule of law and basic human rights, and addressing the immediate humanitarian needs of the Afghan population. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan is mandated to support the coordination of international assistance to the country and to strengthen strategic partnerships amongst development entities to maximize their respective impact in their areas of comparative advantage.

In this challenging context, the United Nations and the European Union have developed a strong partnership in Afghanistan which forms the core of international support to the country in a number of key areas.

In the security sector, the Commission has been one of the UN's strongest partner in leading civilian efforts to promote the establishment and strengthening of law and order in every region of the country. In 2007, the Commission was a donor for the Afghanistan New Beginnings Programme, which seeks to identify and disband illegal armed groups, dispose of mine and ammunition stockpiles throughout the country, and establish peaceful and sustainable livelihoods for ex-combatants re-integrating into society. In 2007, the programme undertook work in 1,259 communities, destroying almost 5,000 tons of ammunition and 170,000 anti-personnel and anti-tank mines in addition to other explosive remnants of war.

If law and order is to prevail in Afghanistan, sustainable, legal livelihood options must be available to all Afghans. This is especially important for members of the population who might otherwise be susceptible for recruitment by antigovernment elements and/or be forced into poppy cultivation in order to feed their families. With the strong support of the EU, the UN has led a large programme of anti-narcotics which is focused on providing alternatives livelihoods for poppy farmers. In 2007, 2,200 farms were trained in orchard management and development, while employment opportunities were generated by the funding of public works.

The EU has provided key leadership in its support for UN efforts to address the complex humanitarian crisis that is facing Afghanistan, as internally displaced people and Afghan returnees face extremely difficult conditions, especially during the winter months. With EU support, the UN expanded its efforts to safely resettle affected peoples in permanent locations and equip them with economic opportunities, while providing food aid, information and legal support, cash grant for initial installation costs, medical services and shelter to those still living in temporary arrangements. Of particular focus are women at risk those who have been victim of violence, many of whom received professional counseling, training and seed funding to help their reintegration into society. In 2007, approximately 5,000 vulnerable returnee families received shelter assistance, while the construction of 814 shelters for some 7,000 inhabitants generated much needed income. In addition, 5,038 internally displaced of returnee families living in informal settlements in Kabul benefitted from a comprehensive assistance project to improve living conditions and empower beneficiaries. The European Commission also supported the UN work to facilitate the return process of Afghan refugees from the neighbouring countries of Iran and Pakistan.

The decentralization of the international community's development efforts is vital to supporting the strengthening of the government's reach across the entire country. An established long collaborator with the UN on programmes to promote human rights, rule of law and justice systems development, the EU joined forces with the UN in 2007 to support the strengthening of district justice systems. Existing courthouses, detention facilities and legal offices were rehabilitated, while new ones were constructed. Training on rule of law and human rights issues such as the protection of women and children and family law was provided to legal professionals across the country, with significant emphasis placed upon the capacity development and strategic placement of women.

UN efforts to promote sustainable livelihoods and achieve food security also received support from the EU for a project which by 2007 had produced in country and made available to Afghan farmers up to 40,000 tons of high quality wheat seeds to boost productivity of 320,000 hectares of farmland across the country. The EU also helped to build agricultural statistics and market information systems including commodity price analysis and crop performance assessments. The results of this project provided important guidance for policy decisions at the highest level in the Ministry of Agriculture and the Government. The EU is also the largest donor to the environment sector in Afghanistan and in 2007 continued its support to the UN to strengthen environmental law and institutions, impact analysis, education and environmental management practices.

# Investing in human development

Ensuring peoples' access to quality education, health, water and sanitation



# Investing in human development

Ensuring peoples' access to quality education, health, water and sanitation

## Some results of the UN-European Commission partnership in 2007

### › Delivered quality education

- **Learning material delivered:** 9 million textbooks distributed to 6 million pupils in Iraq, whilst in Chechnya, 4,000 children benefited from 20,000 textbooks in the Chechen language and 3,800 Chechen history textbooks.
- **School enrollment increased:** In Côte d'Ivoire, school enrollment increased as a result of a national campaign aimed at sending 574,000 children between the ages of 6 to 12 to school. In Iran, primary school completion rates among girls in priority districts increased by 20 per cent from 2004 rates partly as a result of awareness raising efforts.
- **School facilities improved:** In Iraq, 422 schools rehabilitated benefiting some 500,000 school age children and youths by reducing overcrowding and congestion. In Chechnya and Ingushetia, 73 subject cabinets and 152 sport equipment items installed benefiting 1,270 people. In Chechnya, 4,000 young children accessed basic pre-school education and care through establishment of 40 community based centres.
- **School system and educational services improved:** In Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, and Occupied Palestine Territories, education provided to 481,130 pupils in 686 elementary, preparatory and secondary schools, and educational services provided to 7,106 trainees in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza.
- **Students provided with school meals:** approximately 6 million children provided with school meals, including nearly 590,000 in Liberia alone, addressing short term hunger while boosting learning capacity and retention rates.
- **Post-school opportunities offered:** In Lebanon, scholarships provided to selected students to give them a better chance to find meaningful employment by giving them access to universities that offer widely recognized diplomas at a lower cost with high employability indicators.

### › Curbed diseases

- **Transmission of polio curbed:** Transmission of type 1 poliovirus decreased globally by 84% compared to 2006, supported by international partnership. Of 27 re-infected countries since 2003, only 6 continued to report polio cases in the second half of 2007. Ethiopia became polio free.
- **Children vaccinated:** 2.3 billion doses of oral polio vaccine administered to 400 million children under five years of age during 164 rounds of supplementary immunization activity in 27 countries. In the second half of 2007, only 6 countries - Angola, Chad, DRC, Nepal, Niger and Sudan - continued to report polio cases.
- **Prevalent tropical diseases combated:** In Nigeria, guinea worm eradicated in 21 communities representing 70,000 people. In Mozambique, 63,500 insecticide treated bed nets distributed.



- **Access to sexual and reproductive health services improved:** In 10 ACP countries, integration of sexual and reproductive health services resulted in improved quality; 198 health facilities equipped and 1,521 service providers trained. In Angola, 36,000 female condoms and 1,348 reproductive health kits provided. In Haiti, 36.8 million condoms distributed; care provided to 3,724 people with HIV. In Malawi, 33 health care providers and 388 peer educators trained on HIV/AIDS, 31,000 targeted in awareness campaigns, and 55,935 condoms distributed. In Zimbabwe, 1,403 persons trained in participatory HIV/AIDS life skills teaching methodologies. In Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, 6,418 people trained on sexual and reproductive health issues, awareness campaigns held and 1,310,000 condoms distributed.
- **Antenatal care improved:** In Kenya, care improved for 157,747 women: 75,144 deliveries conducted by skilled attendants in 15 hospitals and 32 facilities delivering emergency obstetrics care services; 240 health workers and 2,042 community health workers trained in reproductive health. In Pakistan, 1,147 persons trained on maternal/neonatal health and family planning issues, 10 rural health clinics and 2 hospitals renovated and equipped. Medical materials provided to maternity hospital and children's hospitals in the Chechen Republic.
- **Drug abuse tackled:** Behavioral change promoted through communication activities in the Russian Federation and Ukraine to reduce impact of drug abuse on health of youth.
- **Access to clean water increased:** In 1,400 rural communities of Nigeria, community based models for water and sanitation delivery established, increasing access to safe water for 2.1 million people. In Somalia, installation of mini-water systems delivered clean drinking water to over 75,000 users.

## Securing access to quality education

The UN and the Commission are committed to accelerating progress toward the education Millennium Development Goals as a policy priority emphasized in the European Consensus on Development of 2005 – (to MDG 2) to ensure that by 2015 all children everywhere will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling, and to MDG 3 to promote girl's education to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education at all levels by 2015. If current trends continue, many countries are at risk of failing to meet the goals. According to the latest figures from the 2008 Education For All Global Monitoring Report, 72 million children (10% of the world's primary school-age children) were not enrolled in school in 2005, and household surveys suggest that the number of children out of school was actually much higher – an estimated 93 million. Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, in particular, have the lowest enrolment rates: 66% and 82% respectively. Latin America and the Caribbean, with 93% enrolment, are close to achieving the goal. The Middle East and North Africa and Central and Eastern Europe are expected to achieve universal primary education by 2015.

Promoting education is central to poverty reduction and the achievement of the MDGs, as education offers

children the knowledge and skills they need to be active citizens, participate successfully in the economy and fulfill themselves as individuals. It also contributes to better health, and higher incomes. An educated population and workforce is a prerequisite for building a well-functioning society and economy offering opportunities to all.

In 2007, the UN and Commission continued their combined efforts to achieve MDG 3 commitments – to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education by changing attitudes towards girls and their schooling. Girls in particular face discrimination and challenging circumstances that keep them out of school or keep them from learning effectively. Girls' education has been expanding all over the world, but not fast enough to ensure a basic education for the millions of girls still out of school. In Afghanistan, with support from the Commission, the UN worked to increase primary school enrollment and attendance, particularly for girls in areas where the gender gap in access to education is high, covering as many as 1.5 million children.

With a view to focusing on those excluded from education as a step towards achieving universal access for



Chad - Young people attending class (UNHCR/H. Caux)

all and raising awareness on the importance of education for all children, the Commission-UN partnership succeeded in Pakistan to ensure access to school for 27,000 children, mainly girls, who had previously never attended school.

Encouraging progress has been made towards universal primary education with the global attainment of net enrolment at 88%. The number of out-of school children has declined in recent years but is still high. Many of those who start school drop-out without finishing their primary education and there is growing evidence that school leavers have not acquired basic skills due to under-resourced education systems and poor quality instruction. The growing emphasis on quality education has turned attention to the need for appropriate educational policies and educational information systems. The UN and the Commission are working together to assist countries to fill this gap at both country and global level, where most of the efforts have been through the Education for All Fast-Track Initiatives. In 2007 in North Sudan, an education baseline survey was launched, whereby the education system information needs were re-assessed, the plan of action was finalized, and the proposed budget was reviewed. Results of the survey on the school environment are expected to serve as an important tool for Khartoum, Gazira, North Kordofan, North Darfur, South Darfur, and West Darfur.

Strengthening existing facilities and rehabilitating infrastructures at schools provides "child friendly schools" with care and protection of learners, caring for children's basic needs (such as school meals and health checks) as well as appropriate skills training for teachers and students. In the Democratic Republic of Congo new infrastructures were developed, and school equipment was procured. In Iraq, in addition to the rehabilitation of schools, health and nutrition conditions were improved through provisions to 1.9 million primary school children. 800 community leaders and teachers were trained in good health practices, and an accelerated learning programme was provided to 20,000 out of school children.

Timely delivery of meals to school children and take-home food rations provide an incentive to send girls to school and contribute to addressing short term hunger and enhancing the learning capacity of primary school children. In 14 districts in Chechnya, the food for education programme reached 110,000 pre and primary school children.

With the UN, the Commission provided scholarships to selected students to give them a better chance to find meaningful employment through giving them access to universities that offer widely recognized diplomas at a lower cost with high employability indicators. Regional efforts carried out in Colombia, Brazil, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, the Dominican Republic, Cambodia and India provided basic education, training in creative arts, entrepreneurial, recreational and social activities reaching 1,850 beneficiaries. In a cross-regional effort, livelihood skills and vocational training were provided to 755 people in Afghanistan, India, Colombia, Mexico, Brazil, Haiti, Armenia, the Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, and Thailand.

“Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit”

(extract from Art.26, Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

## Ensuring equitable access to health care and stopping spread of diseases

The right to health enshrined in numerous binding international human rights treaties represents an important milestone in the domain of health and human rights. Health services to vulnerable individuals and communities in all regions of the world are supported by the formulation of equitable health policies and programmes such as the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals related to health, namely the reduction of child mortality (MDG 4), improving maternal health (MDG5), and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases (MDG 6). Within this framework, in 2007 the partnership ranged from joint efforts for the mobilization of global public goods to combat and prevent diseases, supporting the scaling up and efficient use of funding for the health MDGs (including coordinating stakeholder interventions), mainstreaming health within national poverty-reduction strategies, and delivering support including in emergency settings.

In the area of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, the Commission and the United Nations maintain a close dialogue. Both institutions have an important role in providing normative guidance, strategic information and mobilizing leadership, civil society as well as financial, technical and human resources for an effective response. In this context, they have in recent years strengthened their partnership through secondment of UN staff to the Commission offices both in headquarters and in programme countries, where the Commission supports UN service provision including direct care, training of health-care providers, HIV counseling and gender based violence care, and the extension into non-health related programmes such as safe sexual behavior awareness with peer educators.

The Commission and UN partnership support to countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) has

been instrumental in advancing the agenda of maternal mortality reduction. In Africa, the ministries of health of 21 countries collaborated closely with governmental and international partners to develop road maps for attainment of maternal and newborn health related MDGs. In the same countries, fifty private and public health institutions began providing obstetric and neonatal health care services free of charge. In Kenya, improved access of women and children to basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric and neonatal care including skilled attendants, contributed to the reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality. This initiative prompted the government of Haiti to include maternal and neonatal services as the first step toward building a national system of social protection.

“Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including... housing and medical care and necessary social services... Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance”

(extract from Art.25, Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

Sexual and reproductive health strategies were produced in Burkina Faso, Guinea Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Suriname. Institutionalization of sexual and reproductive health in health teaching schools was completed in Burkina Faso, Equatorial Guinea and Jamaica. Sexual and reproductive health laws were voted upon in Burkina Faso, Equatorial Guinea, Jamaica and Niger. In non-EU members states of the European region, training of care providers, peer educators, and journalists on sexual and reproductive health was organized throughout 2007.

Commission-UN collaboration continued in more than 50 countries on pharmaceutical policies to ensure better access to essential medicines, and support was provided to sub-regional groups to promote policy alignment and harmonization. This included pharmaceutical sector assessments and policy development on medicines in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon, and support to procurement and regulation of



Democratic Republic of the Congo - Measles vaccination campaign in North Kivu (UN Photo/M. Frechon)

medicines in the Pacific and the Caribbean as well as in the Southern African region.

2007 saw the continuation of the intensified Commission-UN partnership on health policy in 8 countries. Collaboration at country level included health sector dialogue, development of sector-wide approaches in health and ensuring the prioritization of health in the preparation and implementation of poverty reduction strategy papers. It also included technical support to

the monitoring of progress against core health indicators including MDG indicators. Local communities received particular attention with legal and psychosocial support offering protection to women and girls from gender based violence such as in Peru, through training on the development and implementation of behavioral change communication, health education and health promotion in Cambodia, and in Pakistan through actions of community awareness and mobilization on maternal and neonatal health care issues.

### Selected policy frameworks guiding the partnership in health and education:

- › **International Health Regulations:** developed by the United Nations in conjunction with its member states and its international partners, including the European Commission, they aim to “prevent, protect against, control and provide a public health response to the international spread of disease in ways that are commensurate with and restricted to public health risks, and which avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade”.
- › **Health Strategy “Together for Health: A Strategic Approach for EU 2008-2013”:** adopted in 2007, it provides, for the first time, an overarching strategic framework spanning core issues in health as well as health in all policies and global health issues. The Strategy sets clear objectives to guide future work on health at the European level, and puts in place an implementation mechanism to achieve those objectives.
- › **“Education for All” Dakar Framework of Action:** document reaffirming the goal of education for all as laid out by the World Conference on Education for All and other international conferences.

## Delivering water and sanitation services

Safe drinking water and good sanitation facilities are preconditions for health and for success in the fight against poverty, hunger and child deaths. More than 2.6 billion people worldwide lack basic sanitation facilities, and over one billion do not have access to safe water. The Millennium Development Goal 7 committed world leaders to reducing by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015. The world is on track to meet the target of reducing the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water, though it is struggling to keep pace with population growth and ever-accelerating urbanization. Progress on meeting sanitation targets must be accelerated, otherwise some 2.4 billion people risk being left without access to basic sanitation.

The UN-Commission partnership continued to support basic 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. The partnership adopted a strong pro-poor focus in service delivery, involving poor and marginalized groups in decisions on service delivery and monitoring. Through the partnership, communities were provided with water and sanitation supplies. An important dimension of such cooperation was the procurement and delivery of tools and equipment for construction, repair and maintenance of planned and implemented mini-water supply systems and shallow wells as well as water surveying and water quality testing kits to ensure the communities can continue to operate the systems.



With the support of the Commission, the UN supported a multi-country effort in Ghana, Nigeria and Mozambique to enable a pro-poor focus of new drinking water and sanitation services through better identification of the needs of the poorest and most-vulnerable, in line with a human rights based approach to development and a focus on the most vulnerable. An operational platform developed for monitoring the water and sanitation sector draws on participation of stakeholders from civil society, private sector, academia, and different levels of government, and increases stakeholder access to relevant water and sanitation information and data at national and sub-national level.

In Nigeria, the UN-Commission partnership worked with several Nigerian states to improve their capacity to deliver water and sanitation delivery services. Support

extended well beyond simply digging boreholes, focusing rather on building long term capacity at the community, state and national level to deliver and manage water and sanitation services. The programme focused on improving the capacities of the national level institutions and the multiple new water and sanitation units across the states. The UN worked with state partners to formulate and test sanitation strategies on access to sustainable basic sanitation facilities and small-scale sanitation projects, as well as to establish monitoring and evaluation systems to analyze the data using water information management and sanitation management information systems.

To achieve better hygiene and sanitation, attitudes and behaviours can often be as important as access to a bar of soap. In Nigeria, as part of this broader programme, the UN developed training packages on hygiene promotion and community water management, and trained 36 master trainers who could then deliver the training at community level and carried out other state-wide activities to promote for community mobilization and hygiene.

Recognizing the crucial importance of providing services in fragile situations, the Commission supported UN assistance to Somalia to develop a legal framework to govern sustainable water supplies in selected urban areas. The UN also helped in the establishment of a water company to deliver services to communities – from setting up the company to establishing an accounting and billing system to rehabilitate the water company offices. Completion of the water supply system is underway, complemented by solar panels to drive the wells, as well as improved sanitation facilities in 16 primary schools.



Burundi - Refugee camp (European Commission/Y. Horent)

## Key messages of the partnership on education and health

### › Delivering education in all circumstances:

Working together enables the UN to fulfill its role even in difficult environments such as post-crisis situations, where schooling was still more important as a point of stability in the lives of children.

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

The UN-Commission cooperation in health ranges from joint efforts to improve the international regulatory framework, supporting the scaling up and efficient use of funding for health MDGs, mainstreaming health within national poverty-reduction strategies, and delivering health services including in emergency settings.

## GEORGIA

### HIV/AIDS prevention among young people in Georgia

Since it gained independence in 1991, the political situation in Georgia has been characterized by very uneven progress towards democracy and market economy. In the last few years, in particular following the events which led to the “Rose revolution” at the end of 2003 and to new presidential and legislative elections in early 2004, the Georgian government has been undertaking a programme of ambitious reforms aimed at promoting good governance, including democracy, the rule of law and fight against corruption. The Government’s reform programme is now entering the consolidation stage, amidst high expectations within Georgian society of a rapid improvement in living standards.

However, not all the population is yet able to fully enjoy the fruits of the recent economic and social progresses of the country. Two major territorial disputes, involving the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, keep the country in an unstable situation.

In 2007, the Commission and the UN worked together in the Abkhaz conflict zone through the implementation of a multi-sector and community based programme that aimed to improve the livelihoods of the local inhabitants for different ethnic groups, Abkhaz, Georgian, Armenian and Russians.

Working together with national partners and NGOs, the UN and the Commission:

- Supplied 15,000 people with 24-hour access to safe drinking water for the first time in 14 years;
- Improved some 1,000 people’s awareness on health and sanitation issues;
- Supported some 2,230 farmers through training and agricultural inputs, thereby helping them increase their cultivated land from 109 to 116 hectares;
- Provided some 700 households with training assistance to develop their own agriculture business.

Georgia is an ethnically diverse state, which means that proper handling of ethnic minorities is at the core of the country’s future cohesion. In this context, the Commission and the UN are paying particular attention to the protection and assistance of all minorities in the country, including Chechen refugees, thereby supporting Georgia’s efforts to enhance human rights protection. In particular, with the support of the Commission and other partners, the UN:

- Assisted with food and shelter an average of 1,388 Chechen refugees monthly;
- Provided all refugees were with access to primary health care;
- Supplied 365 Chechen refugee children in schools and pre-school facilities with appropriate school material.

Regarding the needs of young people, in 2007 the UN and the Commission continued working together to make sustained improvements in the sexual and reproductive health of youth, particularly those in the ages 15 and 24 by (a) informing, educating and communicating with them about their sexual and reproductive health and rights; b) improving availability of and access to quality youth friendly sexual and reproductive health services; c) strengthening inter-country collaboration and networking on youth sexual and reproductive health and rights in the context of a regional initiative which covers Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. In particular, in 2007:

- 100 young Peer Educators, including 40 from vulnerable groups, were trained;
- 14,000 young people were educated on their sexual and reproductive health and rights;
- 740 health care providers (including nurses, family physicians, military medical personnel, gynecologists and pharmacists) were trained in reproductive health service provision;
- Approximately 450,000 condoms were distributed;
- 816 teachers and teachers-in-training, as well as 219 civil society representatives and 362 parents were trained on youth sexual and reproductive health themes.

An important dimension of the partnership in Georgia is also strengthening country’s capacities in managing its borders in accordance with best practices and international norms, combating narcotic and human trafficking. This programme, which is undertaken also in Armenia, and Azerbaijan, aims to reach the gradual adoption by beneficiary authorities of EU good practices in the field of drug policies in order to reduce trafficking in human beings in the Caucasus region.

# Promoting sustainable livelihoods

Agriculture, food security, enterprise development, decent work and fair globalization

6



## Promoting sustainable livelihoods

Agriculture, food security, enterprise development, decent work and fair globalization

Some results of the UN-European Commission partnership in 2007

### › Promoted food security:

- The Commission's role as the single largest donor to the UN's food aid programme, provided an important boost to markets, particularly in Africa where the UN sourced commodities produced locally and regionally.
- **Protected crop and pasture from outbreak diseases:** In Tanzania, supported 220,000 farm families affected by voracious armyworms: provided some 500 metric tons of improved sorghum seeds, trained 1,500 trap operators and farmers, rehabilitated more than 100 national armyworm forecasting networks, provided affected villages with armyworm trap, septa, recording and outbreak forecasting sheets, and rain gauges.
- **Boosted local commodity markets:** 150,000 metric tons of food aid purchased on local markets in 21 countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America, impacting positively on local production. Complementary interventions reinforced suppliers' capacities to raise their business standards in order to participate in the market. In Lesotho, agricultural input trade fairs organized, guaranteeing a sizeable market and thus acting as an incentive for local farmers to produce surplus seeds and other produce. Vouchers, provided to farmers at the fairs to acquire 229 tons of agricultural seed and 276 tons of fertilizers, resulted in 13,000 hectares of land being planted with a variety of crops, such as maize, sorghum, wheat, potatoes, beans, peas and vegetables. 1,810 households accessed tillage services, resulting in 905 ha of land tilled. Food assistance also provided to the same vulnerable farmers avoided immediate consumption rather than planting of the seed.

### › Supported evidence-based decision-making:

- **Enhanced national capacities to use food security information:** Strengthened capacity to formulate food security policies, strategies and programming based on food insecurity and vulnerability information in 20 countries across the world, from Armenia to Zimbabwe, and Laos to Haiti. From September 2007, monthly crop yield forecasts produced in Cambodia allowed the government to take appropriate action in case of food crises.
- **Improved quality of statistics for policy decision-making:** Finalized Niger's first tally of agricultural and livestock resources. Census information showed that country's agricultural assets have been underestimated by 30% and that only 3% percent of the country's irrigable land is currently being exploited. Addressing this situation could give Niger the potential to be independent from milk imports and become an exporter of meat.
- **Strengthened national capacities to comply with international standards:** assisted Pakistan in raising quality standards of the fisheries industry, thereby helping secure access to external markets. Training provided to thousands of people, including on standard operating procedures and good hygiene practices.



## › Promoted decent work and fair globalization:

- **Created decent work:** In Somalia, generated decent employment opportunities for 1,210 people, benefiting 10,890 people including dependents. In Southeastern Anatolia, Turkey's least developed region, more than 2,000 jobs created through an entrepreneur support center helped by the partnership. In Sudan, creative productive employment opportunities for internally displaced people created through the rehabilitation of vocational and technical skills training, apprenticeship programmes, and skills upgrading courses.
- **Helped develop local private sectors and built capacity of small enterprises:** In Senegal, training and assistance provided to 129 business networks comprising 2,650 SMEs from various sectors. 117 Turkish-Cypriot professionals trained on EU environmental legislation and EU/international environment standards to facilitate integration of the Turkish Cypriot business sector into European markets.
- **Extended social protection coverage, particularly in the informal sector:** Social protection assessments supported in the Southern Mediterranean (Jordan, Morocco, Syria) and Asia (India, Thailand, Vietnam), providing a stimulus to extend social protection coverage in the informal sector in the context of Decent Work.
- **Boosted regional markets and organic trade:** Adoption by East African Community of the East African Organic Products Standard (EAOS), the second ever regional organic standard in the world: harmonizes requirements governing quality of products and services in East Africa thereby increasing sales and profits for small and medium farmers while strengthening intra-regional trade and exports.

## Promoting food security and rural development

Most poor people in developing countries still live in rural areas. Many are women, who depend directly or indirectly on agriculture and the rural non-farm economy for their livelihoods. Food supply is under pressure due to the expanding demand for food, the global rising price of energy, the increasing land exploitation and the scarcity of water. In Africa, where insecurity, adverse climate conditions and conflicts have combined to limit production growth, food prices have been pushed in a short time frame beyond the reach of large numbers of vulnerable people.

In this context, increasing productivity in the staple foods sector, connecting smallholders to rapidly expanding high-value areas such as horticulture, poultry or aquaculture, fostering the integration of rural areas in the national, regional and world economy, and generating sustainable and decent jobs, especially for women, are all vital for achieving the MDGs. This is particularly the case for delivering upon the central goal of halving world poverty (MDG 1) and the global partnership for development including fair globalization (MDG8), but also for securing women's empowerment and sustainable environmental management (MDGs 3 and 7).

High quality and timely data systems are vital for viable and sustainable agriculture since they provide policy makers with information on weather forecasting, innovations in crop varieties, pest control, irrigation, and efficient monitoring methods. Timely data on food security is particularly important. The UN and the Commission place a heavy emphasis on providing national institutions in Africa and the Caribbean with technical assistance and tools - such as easy access to international food security statistics and early warning information - that enable them to use quality and timely food information. This type of assistance is crucial: (i) in countries where food insecurity is chronic, in order to understand the long term structural causes of hunger and poverty; (ii) in countries under protracted crisis, where local communities are to be supported, through analysis and programming, in their efforts to build resilience to continuous shocks; and (iii) in countries in transition in order to formulate more effective policies. In Bangladesh, for instance, the government was supported in delivering the recently adopted national food policy, whilst policy makers were supported through the conduct of high quality research on food security that could inform and enrich the implementation of policy.

“Everyone has  
the right to... food...”

(extract from Art. 25, Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

The Commission and the UN also encouraged developing country participation in international standard-setting processes, particularly in areas of direct relevance to them. In 2007, the Commission and the UN partnership helped developing countries participate in the International Plant Protection Convention, an international treaty to secure action to prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products, and to promote appropriate measures for their control. In 2007, seven new countries - Comoros, Georgia, Kuwait, Micronesia, Namibia, Uganda, and Vanuatu - ratified the Convention. While government institutions were sup-

ported through technical assistance, farmers and grassroots organizations benefited from training on agrarian practices, crop production, business, and land use rights. Not least because agriculture consumes 85% of the world's utilized water, training was also provided to local people and farmers on water management and irrigation techniques.

In full recognition of the distinction of remittances as private transfers between individuals and families, but also the inherent development potential of remittances in communities of origin, the UN and Commission supported ongoing work to increase the economic impact of remittances, including by reducing financial transfer costs, supporting the “un-banked” rural population to participate in the financial sector by promoting innovative remittance and financial services, and facilitating productive rural investment of migrants' capital in their countries of origin.



*Sudan - A local farmer harvests sorghum produced from seeds donated by the UN (UN Photo/F. Noy)*

## Selected policy frameworks guiding the partnership in rural development and fair globalization

- › **2005 UN World Summit Outcome document**, stating the world's commitment "to make the goals of full and productive employment and Decent Work for all, including for women and young people, a central objective of our relevant national and international policies as well as our national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategies, as part of our efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals".
- › **European Commission communication: "Promoting Decent Work for all - the EU contribution to the implementation of the Decent Work Agenda in the world"**: adopted in 2006 to help promote the decent work agenda both inside and outside the EU. It recognises the importance of taking into due consideration each country's own economic and social reality, and of incorporating a wide range of stakeholders, to help partner countries take ownership and tackle priorities at national and regional level.
- › **International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**: comprehensive international agreement in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity, which aims at guaranteeing food security through the conservation, exchange and sustainable use of the world's plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, as well as the fair and equitable benefit sharing arising from its use.
- › **International Plant Protection Convention**: created by the UN in 1952 with the aim to prevent the international spread of pests and plant diseases.

## Fair globalization, enterprise development and decent employment

In the face of increasing interdependence, the Commission underlines the need to complement the Lisbon strategy - initially conceived as a way of mobilizing stakeholders within the EU to respond to the challenges by combining economic competitiveness, employment and social cohesion - with a strong external dimension to contribute to the shaping of globalization. The Commission advocates for the decent work concept and promotes its implementation through internal and external EU policies promoting international labour standards. In 2007, the European Parliament and the European Economic and Social Committee strongly supported the decent work agenda, and the Commission was a major partner for the United Nations in developing the concept and implementing development support that promoted decent work.

Securing fair globalization is a collective responsibility and requires a convergence of commitments and will from many actors. In this context, the UN and the Commission work together to expand the benefits of globalization, which should give all women and men the rights, opportunities and capabilities they need to exer-

cise their own choices for a decent life. In 2007, the two institutions supported the organization of an open exchange of views among 400 participants from governments, labour and employers, parliaments, academia and civil society on approaches to decent work. It was one of the most substantive and wide-ranging discussions on fair and inclusive globalization and decent work to take place since the report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization launched an international dialogue on the need for a fair and equitable globalization in 2004.

“Everyone has the right to work...”

(extract from Art. 23, Universal Declaration of Human Rights)





*Democratic Republic of the Congo - A woman watering her garden in Katuba (FAO/G. Napolitano)*

The UN-Commission global cooperation has increasingly been complemented with interventions at country level to build national capacities around this critical agenda. The private sector in EU member states and candidate countries - notably Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland, Slovak Republic and Turkey - was supported in integrating social and environmental concerns into business strategies and operations, thereby stimulating implementation of corporate social responsibility practices. This is very much in line with the UN Global Compact and is recognized by the EU as an important vehicle for harmonization, competitiveness, and social cohesion within the Union. A major event in 2007 brought together international and EU actors to discuss corporate social responsibility at the global level. Joint efforts towards strengthening the capacity of social partners to engage in social dialogue were also developed in the Western Balkans and in Turkey.

The Commission also supported the UN in its effort to integrate marginalized and vulnerable groups into income-generating activities, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The Commission and the UN supported the Polish government in efforts to re-integrate into the labour market former drug or

“Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security ...”  
(extract from Art. 23, Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

alcohol-addicted people, including people living with HIV as a result of drug abuse. In 2007, 670 people at risk of being excluded from the labour market due to long-term absence caused by addiction were trained on environmental related jobs, such as fruit tree cultivation and animal breeding, thereby promoting biodiversity and alternative employment simultaneously. Polish SME owners and managers were also supported through the promotion of tele-work and e-work as ways to increase company efficiency and protect intellectual capital.



## Key messages of the partnership on rural and SME development and fair globalization

### › Joined forces to advocate and help countries implement key parts of the international agenda

The European Commission plays a major role in advocating and creating instruments and incentives for the implementation into policies and practice of the international agenda on Decent Work.

### › Building national capacity on crop assessments

The UN and the Commission make joint efforts to build national capacity on early-warning systems for food security and crop and food security/supply assessments. In this context, they also encourage developing country participation in international standard-setting processes, particularly in areas of direct relevance to them.

## OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

The protracted socio economic crisis predominant in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip since September 2000 is characterized mainly by restriction on Palestinian movements, repeated destruction of physical assets, economic recession, and growing poverty. This crisis was accentuated in 2006 and 2007 by the political turmoil which followed Hamas victory at the 2006 elections and Hamas take over of the Gaza Strip in June 2007. Despite the establishment of the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) funded by European Commission, EU Member states and other donors that mitigated effects of this crisis through provision of essential services and financial support to vulnerable Palestinians who have suffered a loss of income, those developments prompted an increased isolation of Gaza through closure of major crossing points, restrictions on the entry and exit of goods, and reduction in power supplies, leading to a further impoverishment of the population and collapse of the remaining economy. In the West Bank, 2007 was characterized by a lack of geographic continuity and a more stringent regime of closure (construction/ expansion of settlements, barrier, roadblocks, checkpoints, seam zones, ID regime, etc) impeding access to services and employment opportunities and leading to an erosion of the socio economic fabric.

Following the collapse of the Unity Government and in an effort to support the reform of the Palestinian Authority, a Palestinian Reform and Development Plan was presented to the international community during the December 2007 Paris Conference.

**To mitigate the impact of the crisis on Palestinians, the European Commission, EU member States, and UN focused their 2007 assistance on emergency and humanitarian aid to vulnerable Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, translating into:**

- Providing food rations to 791,000 Palestine refugees in Gaza in an effort to support families prevented from getting access to food (unavailability of food);
- Assisting 245,000 food-insecure non-refugee Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, 52% of whom were women and more than 60% children. The component of relief was coupled with recovery programmes to support productive activities and skill development. Local procurement of wheat flour, salt and olive oil had a significant impact on the capacity of food insecure farmers to maintain and protect their livelihoods;
- Providing drugs and medical supplies to 416 primary health care facilities and 24 hospitals in the occupied Palestinian territories and ensuring adequate pharmaceutical training for 370 health staff;

- Providing psychosocial support to 95,000 children and their families, affected by violence and living in violence prone areas;
- Restoring basic sanitary conditions for 15,000 residents in North Gaza, victim of sewage floods from the collapse of the main sewage treatment pool in the Gaza Strip;
- Provision of minor subsidies to 12, 616 Palestine refugees and their families in the West Bank in an effort to support household incomes.

**In addition to those immediate emergency activities, the Commission and the UN focused on medium to longer term initiatives to assist the Palestinian Authority and the Palestine refugees through:**

- Supporting building of institutions promoting human rights and non violence, such as training of human rights organizations dealing with women rights or mainstreaming child rights and protection within Palestinian local communities.
- Promoting good governance practices in the area of anti corruption, judicial reform, rule of law, public and financial management reform through the governance strategy group which acts as the international aid coordination structure between donors and various Palestinian Authority bodies.
- Providing basic services in the area of health, education and relief and social services for 1.8 million Palestine refugees in West Bank and the Gaza Strip.
- Ensuring that humanitarian assistance is delivered as efficiently and effectively as possible via coordination mechanisms and in consultation with Palestinian Authority ministries and civil society.

**Through these various interventions in 2007, the partnership contributed to:**

1. Alleviating problems of constrained economic access to adequate nutrition, particularly for 1.5 million Palestinians stranded in the Gaza Strip;
2. Ensuring that the Palestinian population still had access to primary health care services, and equally important, sustaining/maintaining the good quality of health care delivered to the Palestinian population, being carefully monitored through regular health situation reports and coordination meetings;
3. Mitigating the impact of the high level of violence on the social, psychological and physical well being of Palestinians, especially of children that are particularly vulnerable, through providing Palestinians with the adequate assets to help them coping with violence and protecting themselves and children from all form of violence;
4. Avoiding a manmade disaster and a public health catastrophe in the north of the Gaza Strip by protecting residents from an immediate sewage spill off from the main sewage treatment plant;
5. Participating to the international community efforts to establish sustainable institutions that will contribute to the building of a viable democratic state through coordinating the international aid to the Palestinian Authority and providing strategic policy support;
6. Increasing advocacy efforts through more than 300 briefings to local and international delegations, including politicians, diplomats and policy makers, on the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the occupied Palestinian territories.

# Complementing the picture

some additional areas of cooperation between the UN and EU institutions

# 7



*In 2007, Member States of the European Union contributed 37.75% of the assessed budget of the United Nations, and 39% to its peacekeeping budget in support of UN peacekeeping operations in 17 countries in Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe and the Middle East.*

## Complementing the picture

### some additional areas of cooperation between the UN and EU institutions

Beyond the vital cooperation between the European Commission and the United Nations at the thematic and sectoral level, there exists a widespread and vibrant partnership both with the European Commission in multiple other fields, and with other institutions of the European Union.

Inter-governmentally, the European Union through its member states and through its institutions, participates in all areas of activity of the UN, including the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council, and bodies such as the new Peacebuilding Commission and the Human Rights Council. The European Commission cooperates inter alia with the Departments of Political Affairs, Peace Keeping and Economic and Social Affairs of the UN Secretariat, as well as with the UN funds, programmes, and specialised agencies. The EU-UN Working Group of the European Parliament now makes annual visits to New York to attend the UN General Assembly and has frequent exchanges with a range of UN partners.

There are logical reasons for the growth in the inter-institutional partnership. Crucial synergies exist between the United Nations' responsibility for the setting, promotion and upholding of international standards and the role of the European Union and the Commission in developing new standards and ensuring their implementation in the Union. Moreover, the nature of today's challenges, for example in the fields of the environment, migration, health and globalisation, has blurred distinctions between what might be considered purely internal affairs of the Community and areas covered by the UN. While these aspects are largely beyond the scope of this report, it is important to place the cooperation in the external field within the framework of the much larger partnership that exists. Indeed, as table 10 illus-

trates, UN-EU cooperation is largely mainstreamed into the work of both partners.

### Towards more effective multilateral administrations

A fundamental institutional affinity underlies and helps motivate the ever closer partnership between the United Nations and the European Commission. Both are multilateral bodies, committed to seeking global or transnational solutions to global problems. They share a number of organizational characteristics and challenges. Both the UN and the Commission are governed by and operate under the direction of their member states. Each has seen its mandate and responsibilities grow in breadth, depth and complexity since the time it was created; and each has extended the range of the actors with which it interacts, notably to civil society. The UN and the Commission share multi-faceted internal structures that include numerous separate departments as well as a very extensive geographical presence across the globe. They each benefit from a multicultural, multinational and multilingual work force. Most fundamentally, separately and together, the UN and the EU want to make a difference to the lives of the people around the world.

This institutional affinity has given rise to a particular interest on the part of the UN and the Commission to share and learn from each others' experiences of internal reform and change processes. 2007 saw the coming into force of an Exchange of Letters between the UN Deputy Secretary-General and the Vice-President of the European Commission to share their administrative best practices. Table 10 outlines the nature of the cooperation and its deliverables in 2007.

TABLE 7

#### Cooperation between the European Commission and the United Nations on Administrative Best Practices, signed October 2006

##### › Background:

Institutional similarities motivated the United Nations and the European Commission to come together around their internal organizational issues. Increasingly, international organizations are coming under intense pressure to enhance their performance, their accountability to their various stakeholders, and the transparency of their operations. It was against this background that the European Commission and the United Nations agreed in 2006 to cooperate on administrative best practices.



### › Cooperation Framework:

Specifically, the two parties agreed to an ongoing and structured exchange of information and best practices, to actively learn from each others' experiences, particularly in the light of recent internal reforms, both finalized and ongoing. A number of issues were identified as relevant, including: administration, planning and budget management, human resource management, internal controls, audit investigations, and ethics. Exchange of experience is secured through dialogue between senior managers, joint seminars, participation in training events organized by each institution, and by staff exchanges.

### › 2007 deliverables:

- Joint seminar entitled "Reinforcing EU-UN Active Partnership through Administrative Cooperation" held in March 2007. The main topics were the implementation of the reform at the European Commission and UN, human resources management, ethics, internal control and risk management, accounting system, strategic planning and programming, security.
- Finalisation of the "Action plan for the coordination and implementation of the EU/UN Agreement concerning exchanges of experience and information on administrative best practices 2007-2008 and beyond".
- Exchange of experiences and best practices in a number of fields, including on security threats and alerts, on rules to react to the cases of kidnapping, on UN policy access for journalists; and on internal management and administration i.e. planning, budget, human resources, internal controls, audit and ethics.

Most importantly, the framework allows for a now-continuous dialogue and exchange between different departments of the respective organizations and an interest, currently being explored, to extend the range of activities to include joint training for UN and Commission country delegations.

## EU-UN cooperation in crisis management

2007 also saw a continuation of regular exchanges between the Offices of the UN Secretary-General and the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union as well as a sustained dialogue at the highest level of the Council and with member states on ongoing or planned joint and separate peacekeeping operations (see table 8). UN officials participated in committee meetings of the Council at the request of member states. Regular technical-level exchanges took place between the Council Secretariat, the Commission and UN officials on issues ranging from UN reform, to EU enlargement, Africa, food aid, human rights and counter-terrorism.

A natural partnership exists between the United Nations and the European Union in the field of crisis manage-



*United Nations, New York - Secretary-General Meets European Union High Representative (UN Photo/E. Debebe).*

ment. Both the UN and the EU see security not only as a primary concern of peoples, but also a precondition to development. This is particularly the case for the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP), where both through its own actions and through its support to the role of the United Nations, the European Union has become a vital partner to the UN. Nowadays, the concept of “crisis management” is used to embrace the panoply of policies and instruments that range from

peace keeping, through peace building and post conflict recovery to conflict prevention, bringing together the activities of the European Commission and the EU member states working through the ESDP, in helping establish and maintain stability and security worldwide and thus lay the basis for sustainable development. Table 8 outlines the origins of this partnership, and cooperation that took place in 2007.

TABLE 8

## EU-UN cooperation in crisis management

### › Background:

The relations between the EU and the UN in crisis management began to develop at a time when the UN was looking at the reform of its peace operations in the framework of the 2000 Report of the Panel on UN Peace Operations, known as the “Brahimi Report”. This coincided with the laying of the foundations of the European Security and Defence Policy. The Commission Communication “The choice of multilateralism” from 2003 strongly recommended that the EU become more engaged in the fields of peace and security in the context of its cooperation with the UN. The UN, confronted with the changing nature of peacekeeping, sought increased support from regional actors. Two ESDP operations in 2003 were successful tests for EU-UN cooperation in this vital field: The EU Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina took over the UN international Police Task Force and the EU-led operation ARTEMIS carried out in summer 2003, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1484, succeeded in stabilising the security conditions and improving the humanitarian situation on protecting the civilian population in Bunia in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. These examples of cooperation on the ground represented a major breakthrough in the relations between the two organisations in the field of crisis management, led to a better knowledge of each other’s working methods, and set the stage for a joint declaration for cooperation.

### › Policy framework:

- [Joint Declaration on UN-EU Co-operation in Crisis Management \(24 September 2003\)](#)
- Identified four areas for further cooperation: planning, training, communication and best practice.
- Established an inter-institutional Steering Committee as a consultative mechanism to enhance coordination between staff from the UN Departments of Peace Keeping Operations and Political Affairs and the European Union, including the Council.
- [Joint Statement on UN-EU Co-operation in Crisis Management \(7 June 2007\)](#)

Main features include enhancement of mutual cooperation and coordination through:

- Regular senior-level political dialogue between the UN Secretariat and the EU-Troika on broader aspects of crisis management;
- Regular exchange of views between senior UN Secretariat officials and the Political and Security Committees of the EU;
- Continued meetings of the UN-EU Steering Committee including ad hoc meetings in crisis situations as required;
- Consideration of further steps to enhance cooperation in areas including, but not limited to: support to African peacekeeping capacity-building; cooperation on aspects of multidimensional peacekeeping, including police, rule of law and security sector reform; exchanges between UN and EU Situation Centers; and cooperation with the EU Satellite Centre;
- Pursuit of the establishment of specific coordination and cooperation mechanisms for crisis situations where the UN and the EU are jointly engaged;
- Systematic UN-EU joint lessons learned exercises following cases of joint operational cooperation.

### › Cooperation in 2007

In 2007, the Council Secretariat and the European Commission developed an implementation paper on the Joint Statement. The EU-UN Steering Committee on Crisis Management in 2007 dealt with both cross-cutting themes, including crisis management capacities of the two organizations (EU update on Headline Goals, UN update on UN capacities, tools and guidelines) and support to transition processes, and specific country situations (Kosovo, Georgia, Middle-East, Iraq, Afghanistan, Darfur/Sudan, Somalia, Chad, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo). In the Occupied Palestinian Territories, urgent civilian equipment to the Palestinian Civil Police was provided by EC/UN.

Other issues pursued were cooperation on security sector reform, developments in the four areas of cooperation included in the 2003 Declaration, elections in a crisis management perspective and the first EU-UN Education Days.

Over and above the activities which take place in the specific context of the Joint Declaration, a large number of other EU/Commission - UN cooperation activities have been developed, for example in the field of conflict prevention, where regular UN-Commission desk to desk dialogues take place in specific policy areas such as disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration and post conflict needs assessment.

The Instrument for Stability, approved in 2006, is the main thematic tool of the European Commission for cooperation particularly with partner countries in contexts of crisis and emerging crisis. In 2007, some 42% of resources under the Stability Instrument allocated for crisis response was channelled through the United Nations, to: Chad, Lebanon, Myanmar, the Occupied Palestine Territories, Sudan, Syria and Uganda. Funding was allocated to support the mandates of peace keeping, political and development arms of the United Na-

tions. In the framework of the Kimberley Process and sanctions, the Commission, which chaired the process in 2007, led the Kimberly Process review visit in Liberia which worked together with the UN Panel of Experts. Also during its chairmanship, the Commission reported to the UN General Assembly on activities of the Kimberley Process and negotiated a resolution supporting it, with wide co-sponsorship from both developed and developing countries.

The agendas of both the EU and the UN have evolved in similar directions, putting emphasis on the interlinkages between peace, security, human rights and the broader issues of development, and on the importance of addressing structural causes of conflicts. The EU has become an important partner for the UN, especially because of its ability to draw on a wide range of instruments at all stages of the conflict cycle as well as to build bridges with the longer-term efforts.

Cooperation with UN missions has taken several forms, such as hand-over (Bosnia), or take-over (Democratic Republic of Congo), European Security and Development Policy (ESDP) missions in support to UN operations (Chad/Central African Republic), as well as Community instrument support. Support to UN-managed peace-building activities extends to areas such as peace and reconciliation efforts, electoral processes, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, de-mining, security sector reform, human rights and democratisation, good governance and rule of law. While there is clearly a major focus on Africa, the EU and the UN are working closely together elsewhere, from the Balkans to Latin America/Caribbean (e.g. Haiti, Colombia), to the Middle East (e.g. West Bank and Gaza, Lebanon, Iraq) and Asia (e.g. Afghanistan, Nepal, Burma/Myanmar).

It has also been striking to see the growth in the EU's ability and willingness to intervene under UN mandate in crises, employing both military and civilian operations, working in tandem with the UN to help create the political space necessary for protecting human rights during and after conflict. Beyond the critical



*Kemal Derviş, Chairman of the United Nations Development Group and UNDP Administrator, inaugurates the Development Policy Forum initiated by Friends of Europe, the United Nations and the World Bank. On his left, Joseph Borrell (Chairman of the European Parliament Committee on Development) and, on his right, Giles Merritt (Secretary General of Friends of Europe), and Stefano Manservigi (European Commission Director General for Development and Relations with African, Caribbean and Pacific States).*

contribution to the UN budget and UN peacekeeping budgets by EU member states, the developing cooperation in the field of peacekeeping is most notable. The case of EUFOR in Tchad and the Central African Republic serves to illustrate this dimension of EU-UN cooperation.

EU policy also benefited from UN expertise, for example in the follow up implementation strategy for the EU Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict. Six priority countries were added (Chad, Haiti, Iraq, Israel/Occupied Palestine Territories, and Lebanon), in line with the UN Security Council Resolution 1612. The UN also assisted in the development of the EC policy on Children in EU External Action adopted, to include new approaches on children: towards supporting education in emergencies, endorsing the Paris Commitment and Principles to Protect Children from Unlawful Recruitment or Use by Armed Forces or Armed Groups, and providing core child protection actions for unaccompanied and separated children.

## Working with the European Parliament

Cooperation between the European Parliament and the United Nations continued in 2007, including at the highest levels of the Presidency and the Offices of the Secretary-General of both institutions. In addition to the annual visit of the EU-UN Working Group of the Parliament to the UN General Assembly, the UN Deputy-Secretary General as well as a number of heads of UN development and humanitarian Agencies addressed the Development Committee of the Parliament. For the first time, the United Nations Day - 24 October - was celebrated in the European Parliament, with the presentation of last year's annual

report on the results of the UN-European Commission partnership made to the President of the Parliament, and presented to the press by the Commissioners for Development and External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy. Parliamentary members and officials called upon UN capacities as a source of impartial advice on a range of issues, including climate change, humanitarian reform, global health, human rights and gender-based violence and the Millennium Development Goals. The UN was represented at numerous public hearings on issues ranging from the food crisis to integrated approaches to peace and development processes. Following signature in 2006 of an agreement for a training exchange of staff between the Parliament and UN country representations, implementation of the programme got fully underway during 2007. Deliverables during that year under the exchange programme are outlined in table 9.



*United Nations, New York - Deputy Secretary-General Meets European Parliament President (UN Photo/E. Debebe).*

## EUFOR TCHAD/RCA

In Resolution 1778 of 25 September 2007 the UN Security Council approved the establishment of a UN Mission in the Central African Republic and in Chad (MINURCAT) and authorised the European Union to deploy its forces in these countries for a period of one year from the time of its declaration of Initial Operating Capability.

In conducting such an operation the EU is reinforcing the long-term action which it has been taking to deal with the crisis in Darfur, in the framework of a regional approach to the crisis. The operation is being conducted with the agreement of the governments of Chad and the Central African Republic.

When fully deployed, the EU operation will involve around 3,700 troops from 14 European nations EUFOR Tchad/RCA is the most multinational operation the EU has ever carried out in Africa.

Please see p. 47 for further EC-UN cooperation in Chad.



## Framework Agreement between the United Nations and the European Parliament for reciprocal short term assignments of their respective staff members

### › Background:

Given its increasingly influential role in the issues of globalization and on global development, including promoting human rights and the role of parliaments in the developing world, the United Nations and the European Parliament agreed on the value of a closer cooperation for the greater good of their developmental and international policy based activities.

### › What:

In 2006, the United Nations and the European Parliament signed a Framework Agreement to allow reciprocal short term staff assignments, as an effective means for bringing about a stronger common understanding to each institution of their respective roles and work. The objective of the agreement is threefold:

- To provide an interesting professional opportunity for staff to develop their specialization in particular areas and/or become better sensitized to global and organizational issues;
- to share knowledge and experiences upon their return, in order to spread the lessons learned with their organization of origin;
- to contribute substantively to the work of individual UN country programmes or departments of the European Parliament.



United Nations, New York - Secretary-General Meets European Commission President (UN Photo/E. Debebe).

## Complementing the picture: the cooperation between the United Nations and non-External Relations parts of the European Commission in 2007

TABLE 10

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Administration                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See table 7</li> </ul>  |
| Agriculture and Rural Development                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shaping and implementation of international standards in the area of food safety and plant health.</li> </ul>   |
| Education and Culture                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ratification and implementation of UN Conventions, in particular the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.</li> <li>• Cooperation with the Alliance of Civilisations, particularly as regards the importance of open societies, civil society, human rights education and the gender dimension in the context of intercultural dialogue.</li> <li>• Joint effort to elaborate a follow-up strategy on youth voluntary activities, particularly in South East Europe</li> </ul>  |
| Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shaping of UN conventions related to labour and social matters and developing activities for their implementation in the EU and third countries.</li> <li>• Promotion of decent work in candidate countries, potential candidate countries and European neighborhood policy countries.</li> <li>• Promotion of corporate social responsibility at the global level</li> </ul>   |
| Enterprise and Industry                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of multilateral environment agreements in industry.</li> <li>• Implementation of cleaner production and consultation on energy efficiency.</li> <li>• Promotion of corporate social responsibility principles.</li> <li>• Programmes in third countries for quality infrastructure to increase third-country export of manufactured products, and small and medium-sized enterprise development.</li> </ul>  |
| Environment  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collective engagement in support of multilateral negotiations on climate change, biodiversity, and international environmental governance.</li> <li>• Cooperation to support sustainable consumption and production through international SCP round tables in major emerging economies and through the launch of the International Panel for Sustainable Resource Management.</li> <li>• Continued negotiations at UN Convention on Biological Diversity, especially on international rules on access to genetic resources and benefit sharing.</li> <li>• Participation in work of 2007 Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD 15) and review of 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development commitments.</li> <li>• Adoption of plan to address persistent organic pollutants as identified by the Stockholm Convention and the UN Economic Commission for Europe.</li> <li>• Collaboration on civil protection under disaster response, including common methodologies and standardised operating procedures, regular exchange of information, and joint training.</li> <li>• UN contribution to EC public consultation on "Adapting to Climate Change".</li> <li>• Continued support for UN reform processes in the area of environmental governance and advocacy for a specialized UN agency for the environment</li> </ul> |
| Fraud and Anti-Corruption Collaboration            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration in anti-fraud investigations and activities including sharing of experience, conducting peer reviews of various UN agencies, participation in investigators' conferences, and detachment of staff. Cooperation to implement the UN Convention against Corruption.</li> </ul>  |

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Health and Consumer Protection</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EC contribution to formulation and implementation of the International Health Regulations in EU and other UN member states.</li> <li>• Commission engagement in UN-led efforts on public health, innovation and intellectual property, culminating in adoption of global strategy at World Health Assembly 2008.</li> <li>• Technical collaboration on communicable diseases between the UN, the Commission and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.</li> <li>• Technical collaboration on food safety, including links between UN INFOSAN network and EU Rapid Alert System on Food and Feed.</li> <li>• Technical collaboration on blood safety and tissues/cells/organs transplantation.</li> <li>• EC participation as a full Party to the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control EC leadership on illicit trade in tobacco products (Inter Governmental Negotiating Body chaired by EC), development of guidelines on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship and work on tobacco products regulation.</li> <li>• EC financial and technical support to Global Health Workforce alliance.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Information Society and Media</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint efforts to enhance freedom to receive and access information via Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).</li> <li>• Investments in ICT for development, including internet in Africa.</li> <li>• Participated to ICT Research and Development within the current EU Framework Research Programme.</li> <li>• EC financial support and participation in the UN-led Internet governance forum as a follow-up to the World Summit on Information Society.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Justice, Freedom and Security</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in the Global Forum on Migration and Development and exchange with the UN inter-agency Global Migration Group organizations.</li> <li>• Dialogue on policy related to the Common European Asylum System and asylum aspects of EU border strategies.</li> <li>• Policy dialogue and best practice exchange on management of labour migration and on migration and development.</li> <li>• UN participation in high-level discussions between EU and African states, on asylum and protection issues.</li> <li>• UN information contribution to EU asylum decision-makers on protection needs and conditions on the ground, to aid accurate and fair decision-making. UN input into EU national reports on the state of transposition legislation on reception.</li> <li>• Cooperation to implement and monitor the implementation of the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its 3 Protocols.</li> <li>• Participation at UN-Global Initiative for Fighting Human Trafficking.</li> <li>• Continued policy dialogue on children's rights.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Maritime Affairs and Fisheries</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EC contribution to the elaboration within the UN General Assembly framework of a new regime for the management of high seas bottom fishing geared towards the protection of marine biodiversity (cf. UNGA resolution 61/105).</li> <li>• Joint capacity building for the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission.</li> <li>• EC contribution to the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea on issues related to marine genetic resources, marine security and safety.</li> <li>• EC contribution to the UN effort to elaborate a future legally binding agreement on port State measures to tackle illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and on the elaboration of guidelines in order to improve the protection of high seas marine biodiversity and management of deep sea fishing.</li> </ul>  |

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Research                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EC Participation in the Inter-Agency Group on Bioethics in Research.</li> <li>• Joint support for the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).</li> <li>• Research in conjunction with UN on health systems, infectious/neglected diseases and reproductive child and maternal health.</li> <li>• EC organised International Symposium on 'Future Climate, Impacts and Responses - The IPCC 4th Assessment Report and EC Integrated Climate Research', November 2007</li> <li>• Key Results of EU-supported research projects relevant for climate change impacts and adaptation presented in side events during the UNFCCC COP 13, December 2007 in Bali.</li> <li>• Joint efforts on early-warning systems for food security and crop and food security/supply assessments.</li> <li>• EC support to UN assessment of renewable energies.</li> <li>• EC contribution to UN global forest resources assessment and world conservation monitoring for evaluation of protected areas.</li> <li>• EC participation in UN-facilitated efforts to provide access to reliable and authoritative environmental information through a 'portal of portals'.</li> <li>• Collaboration on methodological guidelines and reference data aimed at ensuring consistency between European and international standards.</li> <li>• Support to international efforts to combat illicit trafficking of nuclear and radiological materials.</li> <li>• Collaboration around UN spatial-data infrastructure.</li> </ul> |
| Statistics                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EC participation in UN-led global efforts to improve coordination among international organisations in economic statistics and to reconcile international standards. In 2007 new standards were developed for: System for National Accounts; International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics, Distributed Trade statistics and Industrial statistics.</li> </ul>  |
| Transport and Energy             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integration of international meteorological components into the European Air Traffic Management system.</li> <li>• Engagement on environmental impact of aviation.</li> <li>• EC participation in UNECE/ESCAP-facilitated work on Euro-Asian transport links to ensure synergy with EC-led activities in this area, in particular concerning the extension of the major trans-European transport axes to the neighbouring countries and beyond.</li> <li>• EC participation in different transport related working groups organised by the UN to inform participating countries about recent developments in EU transport policy and legislation.</li> </ul>   |
| Scientific and technical support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EC satellite remote sensing capacities used by UN for global land cover mapping, for assessment of global change, global forest resources and world conservation monitoring for evaluation of protected areas.</li> <li>• Protection and security of the citizen through production of: composite indicators, scoreboards, sensitivity analysis, country performance/analyses.</li> <li>• Support to nuclear security through nuclear safeguards; nuclear forensics, international efforts to combat illicit trafficking of nuclear and radiological materials.</li> <li>• Support to develop early-warning systems for food security and crop and food security/supply assessments.</li> <li>• Support to UN-facilitated efforts to provide access to reliable and authoritative environmental information through a 'portal of portals'.</li> </ul>  |



## Concluding remarks

On 10<sup>th</sup> December 2008, we will celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Never has the challenge to make human rights a living reality for everyone been more crucial in a world of persistent inequality and divisions between the powerful and the voiceless, the wealthy and the poor, the armed and the vulnerable.

As this report demonstrates, the partnership between the United Nations and the European Commission is motivated by, and seeks to deliver upon the aims of the Universal Declaration. Be it in fostering democratic elections and building effective judiciaries, creating decent work, investing in health and education, providing shelter and protection to those who flee their homes, tackling food insecurity, or helping countries regain self-reliance after conflict, the UN and the Commission are guided by the spirit and the letter of this historic document. In 2007, in each of the aforementioned areas, the partnership advocated international norms, and built capacities - of governments to meet their obligations, and of citizens to know and claim their rights. The UN-Commission partnership is a testimony to the mutually reinforcing nature of human rights and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals: each set of commitments can strengthen efforts to achieve the other.

In preparing this document, the UN team in Brussels had in mind three objectives. The first was to inform UN and Commission stakeholders about achievements, and in so doing, reinforce the UN public accountability for the use of the Commission resources channeled through its organizations. Stakeholders include the country governments and societies that were supported, member states of the United Nations and the European Union, and civil society. The second objective was to contribute to the UN and the Commission's ongoing reflections to further improve their cooperation. In this context, this report confirms the findings of the independent evaluation of the Commission's external cooperation with partner countries through the United Nations (referred to in chapter 1), which argues that the partnership added considerable value to all stakeholders, and there are clear and compelling reasons for this cooperation to continue. Lastly, the UN aimed to make visible to citizens and policy makers, especially those of the European Union, the results of their unstinting support to multilateralism.

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

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## List of Acronyms

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>ACP</b>      | African, Caribbean and Pacific                                |
| <b>AIDCO</b>    | Europe-Aid Co-Operation Office                                |
| <b>CoE</b>      | Council of Europe   |
| <b>CSO</b>      | Civil Society Organisation                                    |
| <b>DDRR</b>     | Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation and Reintegration |
| <b>DG DEV</b>   | Directorate General for Development                           |
| <b>DG RELEX</b> | Directorate General for External Relations                    |
| <b>EC</b>       | European Commission   |
| <b>ECHO</b>     | European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office                 |
| <b>UNDG</b>     | United Nations Development Group                              |
| <b>EP</b>       | European Parliament   |
| <b>FAFA</b>     | Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement              |
| <b>MDGs</b>     | Millennium Development Goals                                  |
| <b>MS</b>       | Member States   |
| <b>NGO</b>      | Non-Governmental Organisation                                 |
| <b>ODA</b>      | Official Development Assistance                               |
| <b>UN</b>       | United Nations  |



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75352 Paris, France  
Tel: + 33 1 45 68 1000  
Website: [www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)



United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-HABITAT)  
Rue Montoyer 14, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
B-1000 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +32 2 503 3572  
Website: [www.unhabitat.org](http://www.unhabitat.org)



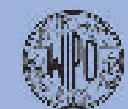
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)  
Rue Montoyer 14, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
B-1000 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +32 2 550 1830  
Website: [unfpa.org](http://unfpa.org)



World Food Programme (WFP)  
Avenue des Arts, 41  
B-1040 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +32 2 500 0910  
Website: [www.wfp.org](http://www.wfp.org)



United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)  
Rue van Eyck 11b  
B-1050 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +32 2 649 0153  
Website: [www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)



World Health Organisation (WHO)  
Rue Montoyer 14, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
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Tel: +32 2 506 4660  
Website: [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)



United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)  
Rue Montoyer 14, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
B-1000 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +32 2 513 2251  
Website: [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)



World Intellectual Property Organisation  
Rue Montoyer 14  
B-1000 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +32 2 213 1441  
Website: [www.wipo.int](http://www.wipo.int)

World Meteorological Organization  
7 bis, avenue de la Paix  
CH 1211 Genève  
Website: [www.wmo.int](http://www.wmo.int)