



PART I

Alleviating poverty & fostering international economic cooperation and development

PRESS BACKGROUNDER

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FIGHTING POVERTY IN FRAGILE STATES:

UNDP, WORLD BANK, EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND OECD-DAC AGREE ON PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

Senior representatives of the international community agreed to improve the effectiveness of their aid to fragile states following a two-day forum, in London, aimed at preventing fragile states from becoming marginalized from the benefits of global development and poverty reduction. One concrete outcome was the agreement to draft for discussion the *Principles of Good International Engagement in Fragile States*. This draft is slated for discussion at the upcoming **Paris High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness on 28 February-2 March** and the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) High Level Meeting on 3 March 2005.

[Note to Editor: The “Chair’s Summary for the Senior Level Forum on Development Effectiveness in Fragile States” is attached]

“International assistance must not shy away from the most challenging environments if it is to prevent humanitarian catastrophes like Darfur from occurring. No foreign policy can afford the implications to global security,” said **Suma Chakrabarti**, Permanent Secretary to the UK’s Department for International Development (DFID) and official host of the Senior Level Forum on Development Effectiveness in Fragile States.

The two-day forum supported a growing consensus that in order to support more balanced and inclusive development, international organizations and development and security “communities” in their member states must remain effectively engaged in the struggle against poverty in fragile states.

Fragile states are countries affected by weak governance and institutions where delivering aid is difficult but critical to support peace and stability, and to improve the lives of the millions of their citizens who are mired in a vicious circle of conflict, poor governance and poverty.

“It is estimated that a third of people living in absolute poverty around the world, live in fragile states,” said **Richard Manning, Chair of the OECD DAC**. *“These countries present an enormous challenge to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and have a major impact on regional and global security. Together, donors must remain engaged and improve the effectiveness of their aid in these difficult environments.”*

Research conducted by Professor Paul Collier and Lisa Chauvet, in advance of the SLF, reinforced participant sentiments expressed around the table that not engaging in fragile states is no longer an option if commitments on poverty eradication, lasting peace and stability are to be realized. According to the Collier/Chauvet report, *Development Effectiveness in Fragile States: Spillovers and Turnarounds*, two-thirds of the economic damage done by a fragile state are costs imposed on its neighbors. Having a fragile state as a neighbor reduces GDP by 1.6% per annum, and the cost of the average fragile state in economic losses alone is \$100 billion – twice the global aid budget. Further, over 75% of fragile states are conflict affected. They are a major source of refugee movements, drugs transit and in some cases have been used as bases for terrorist activities.

*“We must move from reaction towards prevention, and develop integrated policy approaches on prevention of state fragility, said **Stefano Manservigi, Director General, DG Development, European Commission.** We need to go beyond conflict and be better prepared to respond comprehensively to different kinds of crisis. This should include effective support to governance reform including institutional capacity building. Main challenges as I see them include increasing the capacity of regional organizations – particularly in Africa – and of partner countries to engage in prevention.”*

*“Fragile states share a common vulnerability but face very different combinations of problems,” added **World Bank managing director, Shengman Zhang.** “Through our Low Income Countries Under Stress (LICUS) Initiative, the Bank is trying to better calibrate its support to individual country circumstances, recognizing there exist different constraints of capacity and different needs across fragile states,” Zhang said.*

Representatives from bilateral and multilateral agencies shared examples of results-based interventions that have proven to be successful in these environments. Topping the agenda were: closer donor co-ordination and adoption of joint approaches; remaining engaged even in difficult times; and acting in ways that support and encourage “do-no-harm,” country-led development.

Speaking at the closing of the forum, **Zéphirin Diabré**, UN Under Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), emphasized that no one instrument emerges as the “golden solution” to meeting the urgent demands of stability, transition and recovery in fragile states. He said deliberate strategies around sequencing, timing and phasing are critical in the framework of a coherent and effective response.

“Our focus should remain on development effectiveness rather than just aid,” Diabré said. “For post-conflict countries, substantial progress has been made toward policy coherence and integrated action through the introduction of the UN/WB post-conflict needs assessment methodology and conflict cause analysis, coupled with the Transitional Results Matrix.”

This forum was hosted by DFID and convened by the OECD/DAC, the European Commission, the UNDP and the World Bank.

The Senior Level Forum on Development Effectiveness in Fragile States was one of the first vital strides in 2005’s important development agenda, which encompasses the launch of the UN Secretary General’s Millennium Declaration, the UN General Assembly Special Summit on the Millennium Development Goals, the UK Chairmanship of the G8 and its key focal point, Prime Minister Tony

Blair's Commission for Africa, as well as the Second High Level Forum on Harmonization and Alignment for Aid Effectiveness, to be held this March.

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For more information, please visit the following websites:

OFFICIAL WEBSITE: Senior Level Forum	http://www.oecd.org/dac/lap/slffragilestates
UK DFID:	http://www.dfid.gov.uk
UNDP:	http://www.undp.org
European Commission:	http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/events/events_details_2_en.htm
The World Bank LICUS Initiative:	http://www.worldbank.org/licus
OECD-DAC:	http://www.oecd.org/dac
Aid Harmonisation and Alignment:	http://www.aidharmonization.org/
United Nations Global Security:	http://www.un-globalsecurity.org
U.K. Commission for Africa:	http://www.commissionforafrica.org/commission/Commission.htm

United Nations Development Programme (New York) »

12 MARCH 2004

Burkina Faso: Development Partners Pledge \$2 Billion for Burkina Faso's Anti-Poverty Efforts

New York — Donors have pledged US\$2 billion in grants and loans to Burkina Faso for 2004-2006 to support the drive to reduce poverty in one of the world's poorest countries.

The commitments came at a Roundtable in Ouagadougou, the capital, last week chaired by Prime Minister Ernest Paramanga Yonli and UNDP Associate Administrator Zéphirin Diabré. UNDP collaborated with the Government to organize the event.

About 70 per cent of the pledges are for grants and the remainder will be loans. The new assistance does not include steps to reduce the country's external debt burden through the World Bank's heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative.

The pledges from donor countries and international financial organizations could potentially increase by about two-thirds the level of development assistance for Burkina Faso, which is currently about \$400 million per year, noted UNDP Resident Representative Christian Lemaire.

The resources will fund priorities such as education, health care, the campaign against HIV/AIDS and economic development to support efforts to achieve the overarching Millennium Development Goal of halving extreme poverty by 2015.

Landlocked Burkina Faso, with a population of 12.3 million, ranks 173rd of 175 countries on the UNDP Human Development Index 2003. Only one in four adults are literate, and just 36 per cent of children are enrolled in primary school. Despite improved economic growth, proportion of people living in poverty increased slightly from 44 per cent in 1995 to 46 percent last year.

President Blaise Compaoré said that his country is strengthening its human, technical and institutional capacities to ensure transparency and sound management of public finances and combat fraud and corruption.

"Our goal is to see the fruits of economic growth shared fairly and to manage poverty reduction efforts so as to achieve results," he said.

Mr. Diabré said that the donors' mission, in addition to serving as financial and technical partners, is to help strengthen democratic institutions. "We will always be at your side to help make your democracy a place for debate about development and discussion about the best way to provide education, health care, jobs and shelter for all -- a place to find, at last, the key to equitable development," he said.

Recently, Burkina Faso was given a "B" rating by Standard and Poor's, a partner with UNDP in an initiative to help sub-Saharan African countries obtain sovereign credit ratings, which are essential for obtaining commercial loans.

Development partners represented at the event included Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, and the United States. Multilateral donors were the African Development Bank, the European Commission, the International Monetary Fund, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, and the World Bank.

For further information please contact Theophane Kinda, UNDP Burkina Faso, or Nicholas Gouede, UNDP Communications Office.

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Chad: \$14 Million Chad Housing Initiative Boosts Progress On Millennium Goals

New York — In a US\$14 million initiative Chad will upgrade housing for poor families in the capital, N'Djamena, and the construction and renovation work will offer job opportunities and improve livelihoods, helping reduce poverty in the central African country.

The Government is providing nearly \$12 million for the work, adding to a \$2 million UNDP contribution, and UN Habitat is executing the project.

Solving urban problems, particularly housing, is an important public issue and a government priority.

Chad is one of the world's poorest countries, but new oil earnings enable the Government to fund most of this effort to transform poor areas. The initiative marks a new era in cooperation with UNDP.

Mahamat Ali Hasan, Minister of Planning, Development and Cooperation, emphasized that UNDP support in many forms is helping the Government's development efforts. The UNDP funds will go to technical assistance and management to strengthen public administration and good governance.

Under the initiative, 1,000 plots of land will go to families in slum areas and low interest loans to enable them to build new homes. It will build infrastructure such as schools, health centres and markets in the area.

Because a main element of the project involves loans for home building, repayment will provide resources to replicate the initiative in other towns, and continue it on an ongoing basis.

This will promote progress towards two of the Millennium Development Goals for 2015 endorsed by every world leader: Goal 1 of halving extreme poverty and Goal 7 on the environment, which includes the target of improving the lives of slum dwellers.

Other phases include refurbishing a rundown neighbourhood consisting of 5,000 dwellings and preparing development plans for the country's main urban areas. This will also enable residents in poor areas to gain secure tenure rights.

Involvement of local businesses and civil society groups in construction and renovation will strengthen the private sector and improve skills.

Although the country adopted a national housing strategy five years ago, with help from UNDP and UN Habitat, it still lacks an urban planning framework and housing finance institutions, and procedures for developing and improving parcels of land are slow and inefficient.

Chad ranks 165th among 175 countries on the UNDP Human Development Index 2003 - based on how long people can expect to live, educational attainment and average income per person - and two thirds of the population lives in poverty on an average of \$14 a month.

For further information please contact Keumaye Ignegongba , UNDP Chad, or Nicholas Gouede , UNDP Communications Office.

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UNDP in Côte d'Ivoire fact sheet

Report

from [UN Development Programme](#)

Published on 04 Jun 2003

Administrative sketch of Côte d'Ivoire

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been operating in Côte d'Ivoire since 6 January 1962. The UNDP office is based in Abidjan, the economic capital of the country. The total staff numbers 29, of which 81 per cent are nationals.

UNDP supports the execution of a cooperation programme 2003-2007 amounting to a total of US \$ 23 million. This development programme was formulated by the government in collaboration with UNDP and the United Nations system, with the participation of several national structures, bilateral and multilateral partners, the private sector and civil society. The UNDP programme in Côte d'Ivoire is aimed at the promotion of sustainable human development. The programme is executed through four strategic and interdependent components: combating poverty, good governance, combating HIV/AIDS, globalization and regional integration, and a fifth component of support to local development. All the strategic components are among the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), while focusing attention on the areas where UNDP has a comparative advantage, in particular governance and poverty.

Situation analysis

Facing an armed rebellion since 19 September 2002, Côte d'Ivoire, formerly considered a haven of peace, is going through a difficult crisis with unprecedented economic, social and humanitarian consequences. The major macro-economic balances are at present seriously endangered by the crisis. In the opinion of numerous economic observers, the persistent situation of unrest has been characterized by deepening poverty, destruction of socio-economic infrastructure and all kinds of disruption to the production system.

What is really at stake is the regional importance of the country as the economic engine of West Africa. Indeed, Côte d'Ivoire represents 40 per cent of the money supply of the West African Monetary Union and plays a primary role in the supply of several hinterland countries (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger...) The presence of a strong community of immigrant groups for the most part coming from neighbouring countries is an essential factor in seeking appropriate solutions to this crisis. In this context, UNDP plays a pivotal role in the operational process set up by the United Nations system for managing the crisis. The Resident Representative, in his capacity as United Nations system Coordinator in Côte d'Ivoire, ensures coherence among the interventions of UN agencies in the field and facilitates the mobilization of resources. During this crisis period, UNDP has focused the bulk of its activities from a perspective of consolidation of peace and strengthening support to vulnerable groups, in particular displaced persons and refugees, and preparation for a post-crisis management programme, while stressing social and humanitarian priorities.

In response to the various problems created by the crisis, UNDP and its partners have already taken specific actions, mostly having to do with social dialogue to seek national cohesion and urgent humanitarian issues. UNDP has organized logistical support and supplies of foodstuffs and equipment to certain conflict zones and contributes to activities to raise awareness of the need to restore peace and social cohesion. At present, the organization is undertaking activities in solidarity in order to provide assistance to the displaced populations of those regions declared conflict zones by the Côte d'Ivoire national

authorities.

Support to a pacifist group to encourage community dialogue

In order to strengthen and broaden its support activities in the field, UNDP is providing technical assistance to the Civil Society Peace Group. This Peace Group, which came into being recently through financing from UNDP and Canada, is composed of representatives of religious denominations, non-governmental organizations and organizations for the protection of human rights. Its purpose is to raise awareness and establish a framework for mediation and prevention of conflicts.

The Peace Group has undertaken the establishment of local committees in order to encourage the leadership to promote peace and reconciliation in their communities. UNDP, which has received contributions for this purpose from Belgium, Canada and the European Union as well as other donors, supports these efforts and participates in sponsoring a course to train monitors to work with the local committees.

A communications strategy has been proposed for the Peace Group, as well as modalities and measures which the local peace committees can use in collaborating with the media. UNDP is also working with the main actors, in particular the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), its United Nations partners, donors and the Ivorian leadership to come up with proposals conceived to address the fundamental causes of the crisis by strengthening democratic governance.

Safeguarding the achievements of the "Nerica rice" Programme and the survival of WARDA

The crisis in Côte d'Ivoire could obliterate ten years of research on Nerica (New Rice for Africa), the new variety of hybrid rice intended to promote food self-sufficiency throughout West Africa. Since 19 September, rebel soldiers have taken control of Bouaké, the second largest city in Côte d'Ivoire, and the headquarters of the Association for the Development of Rice in West Africa (WARDA), which is conducting the pilot project.

Through the humanitarian corridor, UNDP helped WARDA to obtain special authorization from the National Armed Forces of Côte d'Ivoire (FANCI) and local authorities to allow a team from WARDA to enter Bouaké and M'Bé, zones under rebel control, to gather and take back to Abidjan the working tools (for example hard drives, computer data and archives) and the personal effects of the staff, which had also been evacuated to Abidjan. It was also possible to secure the genetic data bank of WARDA which was collected on the local varieties of African rice. According to agro-industry and riziculture experts, this bodes well for the future of Nerica in Côte d'Ivoire, for if the fighting had continued, all the results of the research-development work on Nerica would have been lost without UNDP assistance.

The new rice variety Nerica, developed in Côte d'Ivoire, is capable of increasing yields by 50 per cent without fertilizer and 200 per cent by utilizing fertilizers and improved management. It should allow seven countries of West Africa to save \$88 million per year on rice imports in 2006.

WARDA directs the development of these new rice varieties with the financial and technical assistance of UNDP and other partners including the Japanese Government, the World Bank, USAID, FAO, the Rockefeller Foundation and the Africa Development Bank. As part of the process intended to help to disseminate the new varieties of rice in Africa, the NERICA Consortium was launched in March 2002 in Yamoussoukro, the administrative capital of Côte d'Ivoire.

Actions to promote continued education for children

UNDP and the Chamber of Commerce of Belgium have combined their efforts in a joint initiative to promote continued education for Ivorian children. This activity is intended to allow displaced children located in the Yamoussoukro reception area to continue and complete the primary school year 2002-2003. Around 370 children in the primary school cycle, including 113 girls, have been taken on by an educational group based in Yamoussoukro.

Through this project, the Chamber of Commerce of Belgium and UNDP have acquired school supplies for the children and good locations. The lessons learned will be useful in expanding this initiative to other regions. According to the Minister of

National Education, nearly a half-million students living in besieged areas will need exceptional measures in order to ensure their education. Along those lines, UNDP, in collaboration with French cooperation, has supported the retraining of about 800 primary and secondary teachers who will teach classes for the second school term begun last January. In addition, strengthened UNDP support to school cafeterias is under way in close cooperation with WFP.

For more information, please contact the UNDP web site: <http://www.ci.undp.org/>

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UNDP is involved in the formulation of a post-crisis programme in Côte d'Ivoire

UNDP, as the UN's global development network, and considering its experience in crisis and post-crisis management, particularly in Afghanistan, could contribute to the reconstruction efforts in Côte d'Ivoire. The following are the broad outlines of a post-crisis programme:

Technical assistance for the development of institutional capacity under the heading of democratic governance, reform of the judicial system, the police and the electoral process;

Support to refugees and displaced persons;

Support for a reduction in the spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic at the community level and among the armed forces;

Participation in the efforts to demobilize and re-integration of former combatants in the work force;

Support to the process of national reconciliation and social cohesion; implementation of income-generating projects for the most disadvantaged groups;

Contribution to the rehabilitation of the socio-economic infrastructure;

Promotion of the private sector and small and medium businesses and;

Support to communications efforts among the various components of society to solidify social cohesion and peace.

UNDP proposes to conduct a study to determine the socio-economic impact of the Ivorian crisis in the West African region and offers its expertise to call a meeting of donors centred on the mobilization of resources in close collaboration with the Bretton Woods institutions for the post-crisis programme. The total cost of the activities proposed above amounts to \$US 63.21 million.



Primary country

[Côte d'Ivoire](#)

Content format:

[News and Press Release](#)

Language:

[English](#)



Peace group supports community dialogue in Côte d'Ivoire

Report

from [UN Development Programme](#)

Published on 17 Dec 2002

With a fragile ceasefire in place in Côte d'Ivoire, UNDP is supporting efforts by the Civil Society Peace Group (Collectif de la Société Civile pour la Paix) to reduce religious and ethnic tensions and promote human rights, tolerance and peace.

The ceasefire, brokered in October by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), leaves the country divided, with rebel forces holding the north and troops loyal to the Government controlling the south. ECOWAS mediators are trying to secure a firm peace agreement, vital for stability of the entire region.

The peace group, formed by religious and human rights organizations, is setting up local committees to encourage leaders to promote peace and reconciliation in their communities. It aims to serve as a forum for dialogue, debate, exchange of information and bridge-building among local religious and ethnic communities.

UNDP and UNICEF are aiding these efforts, and have sponsored a course for trainers working with the committees.

UNDP Resident Representative El-Mostafa Benlamlih said the Civil Society Peace Group "aims to put in place the mechanisms for communities themselves to address future threats of ethnic violence."

The UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery arranged for two consultants from Search for Common Ground, a conflict resolution organization based in Washington, DC, to help the peace efforts. Belgium, Canada, and the European Union and other donors provided support.

The consultants met with political parties, traditional chiefs, religious leaders, women's organizations and youth groups. They discussed proposals for activities by local committees, including confidence building among members and establishing a code of conduct defining members' rights and responsibilities.

They also proposed a communications strategy for the peace group and ways for local peace committees to work with the media.

UNDP will also work with key players -- including ECOWAS, UN partners, donors, and Ivoirian leaders - on proposals to deal with root causes of the conflict by strengthening democratic governance, including a programme to help civil society groups and local communities promote reconciliation.

For further information please contact Aurelien Agbenonci (aurelien.agbenonci@undp.org), UNDP Côte d'Ivoire, or Nicholas Gouede (nicholas.gouede@undp.org), UNDP Communications Office.



Primary country

[Côte d'Ivoire](#)

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Equatorial Guinea revamps civil aviation to meet increasing demands

Wednesday, 12 May 2004: Equatorial Guinea is training staff and improving its civil aviation system, an increasingly important economic sector

An oil boom that began a decade ago and the resulting economic growth have put growing demands on air transport, including both international and domestic links. There are few all-weather roads, and air is the fastest connection between the mainland and offshore islands.

The Government is providing US\$3.7 million for the four-year project and UNDP is contributing \$110,000.

UNDP is helping the Government prepare a plan to develop the civil aviation sector, restructure the civil aviation authority, strengthen air traffic control, improve handling of documentation, ensure that its airports meet international standards, and evaluate staff competencies and conduct training to upgrade skills.

President Teodoro Obiang Nguema underlined the country's need to become self-sufficient in air safety, with adequate human resources and equipment. "We have accepted the principle of co-financing this project and we will carry it out," he said. "Air transport has tremendous importance for the country and the region, and the initiative responds to the appeal of the Economic Community of Central African States, which encourages the creation of airlines to link member countries."

UNDP Resident Representative Bacar Abdourohmane noted that the project supports efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and the regional integration strategy of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). He expressed hope that a group of "new generation" UNDP programmes to strengthen governance and combat poverty will be approved by the Government in the coming months.

Amadou Cheiffou, Regional Director of the International Civil Aviation Organization, said that his agency is ready to provide assistance for the project, and its experts will provide technical information and advice to national staff.

"The project will help create a self-sufficient civil aviation authority, with an adequate framework provided by legislation, trained personnel and financial resources to lift the country to the international level in civil aviation," he said. "This will allow Equatorial Guinea to become a regional focal point in aviation safety."

Equatorial Guinea has three airports providing domestic and international service, located in Malabo, the capital, Bata and Annobon island. A fourth is under construction in the eastern town of Mongomo.

The Agency for Air Safety in Africa and Madagascar (ASECNA) assists the Government in this sector, and the country's civil aviation operations are run mainly by retired ASECNA personnel. Staff training has been haphazard, however, and there is minimal equipment.

The country enjoys a budget surplus thanks to its oil revenues, and UNDP lobbied hard for Government co-financing of the project.

For further information please contact Lina Ekomo-Ikoli, UNDP Equatorial Guinea, or Nicholas Gouede, UNDP Communications Office.

http://www.un.org/special-rep/ohrlls/News_flash2004/12%20May%20Equatorial%20Gui... 05/03/2012

United Nations Development Programme (New York) »

28 AUGUST 2003

Ethiopia: New Coalition Aims to Improve Food Security

New York — A new coalition - with participation from international agencies, donors, civil society, and private sector and the Government - is working on strategies to improve Ethiopia's food security within two to three years. It hopes to end the recurrent crises brought on by drought and difficulties in getting assistance to those in need.

Ethiopia reduced the percentage of its 67 million people who are undernourished from 59 per cent to 44 per cent during the 1990s, making progress towards the Millennium Development Goals target for 2015 of halving the proportion of people suffering from hunger. The coalition aims to contribute to this effort.

Over the last two years the Government and development partners have engaged in consultations on the problem, and these culminated in a forum in June that brought together Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and other top officials and representatives of the UN and other international agencies, donor countries, civil society and the private sector.

They agreed to form a Coalition for Food Security in Ethiopia to foster partnerships to take action to lessen the impact of droughts, improve livelihoods and ensure that communities have adequate food supplies.

"The forum was a major turning point in the country's efforts to find a lasting solution to the issue of chronic food insecurity," said Samuel Nyambi, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative. UNDP provided funding and other support for the forum and Mr. Nyambi co-chaired the event.

"This is a significant new development, coming at a time when the Government's commitment to long-term food security and that of other stakeholders requires new efforts, given the repeated cycles of food appeals and the increasing frequency of droughts," said Mr. Nyambi.

The coalition set up a technical group of Ethiopian and international experts that is preparing a package of proposals. Support comes from a UNDP-administered funding pool, to which it has contributed along with the US Agency for International Development and the World Bank.

The group is focusing on several priorities, including improving livelihoods, agricultural and livestock production, access to food, a safety net and asset protection for rural communities, and marketing agricultural products. They are also working on implementation strategies and budgeting, access to land for voluntary resettlement of families in drought-prone areas, and health and nutrition.

The work is scheduled for completion by next month, laying the groundwork for a national workshop in October followed by a donor round table in November to mobilize resources to move forward on the food security strategies.

"We need to do business differently to address the challenge of rural livelihoods and food security, and we believe that the new coalition is the right way forward," said Mr. Nyambi.

For further information please contact Getachew Asamnew, UNDP Ethiopia, or Nicholas Gouede, UNDP Communications Office.

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Roundtable Says Increased Political Backing Can Improve International Development Assistance

Accra, Ghana, 13 February 2002 – For the 50 top-level government officials, donors and development practitioners meeting in Accra this week, the key question – especially in the run-up to the Financing for Development Conference in Monterey, Mexico next month – isn't just about more aid, but about delivering effective, transformative international development assistance. The answer: putting indigenous capacity at the very top of the development cooperation agenda.

The Accra Roundtable is the third in a series of gatherings addressing the need to reform international cooperation thinking, policy and practice. Hosted by President John Agyekum Kufuor of Ghana, the Roundtable is part of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) initiative "Reforming Technical Cooperation for Capacity Development", launched last year with funding from The Netherlands.

UNDP Administrator Mark Malloch Brown and Eveline Herfkens, the Dutch Minister for Development Cooperation, convened the Roundtable. High-profile participants included: HildeFrafjord Johnson, the Norwegian Minister of International Development, Ministers from the Philippines and Uganda; the Chair of the Group of 77; heads of major donor agencies; etc.

The Roundtable looked at political steps donors and recipient governments alike can take to make technical cooperation -- the provision of knowledge, advice and expertise -- better promote, strengthen and support indigenous capacity, what Malloch Brown called the "cornerstone of development". Development assistance needs to respond to clearly articulated national strategies. He said in the past "technical assistance had focussed more on building institutions and human capacity with the donors' priorities instead of the beneficiaries. Now, attention is on ownership and involving the beneficiaries at all levels so that they can be in the driver's seat."

Building capacity also means a departure from the traditional approach of "transferring" knowledge from the North to the South, Minister Herfkens said in her opening statement. Knowledge isn't universally relevant – nor is it learned as much as it is acquired on the basis of a real need to know. "Transformation needs to be rooted in indigenous knowledge and capacities. It needs to build on them to achieve whatever goals and aspirations a country sets itself – as identified for instance in a poverty reduction strategy paper."

In 1999, development assistance was valued at \$US59 billion (constant 1998 US\$), about a quarter of which is directed to technical cooperation. After an almost continuous rise for more than 20 years, ODA has declined since 1992, falling back to levels achieved at the end of the 1970s. The decline hits where it hurts most - technical cooperation to LDCs fell from more than \$US8 per head at the beginning of the 1980s to about \$US4 in 1999.

While aid has been declining, technical cooperation has made a positive impact in several countries. But the record has been very mixed and developing countries have raised growing concerns that technical cooperation is not timely and not always appropriate, often embodying the expertise of the donor countries and reflecting their priorities. There have been problems of sustainability. Technical cooperation has set up new institutional structures which have collapsed at the end of the project, for example. The Accra Roundtable addressed these concerns and discussed a set of measures -- from harmonization of procedures to avoiding technical cooperation practices which distort local labour markets -- that could be taken to enhance a closer partnership between donors and recipients to ensure greater effectiveness in the future.

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Madagascar: Political crisis stymies progress against poverty

PRESS RELEASE

New York — Political turmoil over a presidential election dispute that has plagued Madagascar since December is hitting the country's economy hard, setting back efforts to reduce poverty. This does not bode well for a country ranked 135th among 162 in the latest UNDP Human Development Report (2001).

The crisis has disrupted activities by both government and business. The impact is particularly unfortunate given Madagascar's economic stability and strong growth during the past five years, with a nearly seven per cent growth rate last year.

A new UNDP report examines the impact of the upheaval on the economy and people's lives. "This report is a United Nations' contribution to the situation assessment and will serve as a guideline for an eventual economic recovery plan," said UNDP Resident Representative Adama Guindo.

Even if the crisis had been resolved in June, economic output would drop by nearly 10 per cent this year, according to the report. As it is, the most optimistic forecast, requiring early resolution of the crisis and quick implementation of an economic recovery package, is for an economic decline of six per cent this year.

If difficulties continue, the country faces a deeper decline. Before the crisis, the projected poverty rate this year was 65 per cent. Instead, it is expected to climb back to the 1997 rate of 73 per cent.

Disrupted by roadblocks, the service sector has suffered the most, with a projected contraction of 16 per cent this year. One roadblock now remains, between Antananarivo, the capital, and Toamasina, the main port. People have to buy gasoline on the black market at five times the market price. Tourism is another victim of the crisis, with many countries advising against non-business travel to Madagascar.

Industrial output has fallen by 13 per cent since March, with production for export by companies in the duty free zone falling 22 per cent. Many companies have laid off employees or left them unpaid. In the duty free zone alone, 70,000 jobs are at stake.

The agricultural sector remains largely unscathed, though roadblocks slowed the movement of goods and farm revenues are down because families have less money to buy goods. If the crisis continues, already difficult living conditions in rural areas will deteriorate.

The study also shows that the Government faces an economic squeeze, with revenues down by US\$66 million between January and April, mainly because customs checkpoints are not working and businesses are unable to pay taxes.

A recovery package when the crisis is resolved could include a delay in tax payments, cancellation of certain debts and loans to help cash-strapped companies stay in business, says the report. Steps to restore tourism, support the duty free zone, and bolster the Malagasi franc will be vital, it also notes.

For further information please contact Erick Rabemananoro, UNDP Madagascar, or Nicholas Gouede, UNDP Communications Office.

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
14 Nov 2002

Rwanda military facility becomes technology training centre

Report

from [UN Development Programme](#)

Published on 14 Nov 2002

 Email A

former military school and barracks in Rwanda's capital, Kigali, have found new life as a training centre where students learn everything from more efficient candle-making and civil engineering to computer technology and food science.

Mark Malloch Brown, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), who is currently on official mission in Rwanda, visited the Kigali Institute of Science and Technology (KIST) yesterday. KIST has nearly 1,600 full-time students and about 1,160 part-time students - 27 per cent of them women.

The Government of Rwanda launched the institute in 1997 with support from UNDP. It was created after the genocide three years earlier, when many of the country's technical experts were killed or never accounted for. In fact today, some 94 per cent of the population still lives in rural areas and most make their living in agriculture, using rudimentary traditional technology.

KIST offers three and four-year programmes in agricultural technologies and information technology, management and automotive technology, among other courses. The first class of students graduated earlier this year. Most of them have returned to their home towns and villages to start small businesses and spread new and appropriate technologies.


Through the school of continuing education and the African Virtual University, students are able to tailor academic programmes to meet their special needs. In addition to its academic courses, KIST's Centre for Innovations and Technology Transfer conducts research to develop environmentally-friendly technological innovations -- such as solar power to heat water, fuel-saving bread ovens and food processors to lighten the work of farm families -- and find ways to transfer them to rural communities.

Following his tour of the centre, Mr Malloch Brown met Rwandan Finance Minister Donald Kaberuka, who explained that the Centre faced early resistance due to concerns that the population had other, more pressing needs.

"When it started," he recalled, "UNDP was criticized for getting involved with KIST. People said, 'This is elite education. What is UNDP doing in higher education?' Now, we're laughing all the way to knowledge."

Mr. Malloch Brown said that he was so impressed by what he saw at the centre that he would like to see the KIST model replicated on a small scale in rural areas. "UNDP has strongly advocated making sure that the so-called digital divide doesn't widen. In a sense, the aptitude for information and communications technology in a society is a good indication of the aptitude for change," he said.

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14 APRIL 2004

Senegal: Peace Progress Opens Way for Anti-Poverty Effort in Southern Senegal

New York — UNDP is extending a programme to reduce poverty to Senegal's southern region of Casamance, marking the return of United Nations activities to an area where civil conflict has simmered for more than two decades.

Based in Ziguinchor, the region's main city, the initiative will help communities build health clinics, schools, roads and other vital public works, in cooperation with other donors. It will also provide small loans to help start or expand local businesses and promote other activities to create jobs and protect the environment in the scenic region dotted with rice paddies, palm groves and mangroves.

UNDP is providing US\$4.5 million for the national programme, which also has branches in Saint-Louis in the north, Tambacounda in the east and in the central town of Bambey. "We hope that other United Nations and donor agencies will follow lead of UNDP," said Moustapha Diedhiou, Deputy Mayor of Ziguinchor.

Local and regional elected officials hailed the step, given that lack of security almost completely halted economic development programmes supported by Senegal's international partners. Only the World Food Programme, UN Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees and UNICEF have maintained a presence there.

"The branch is a new instrument in support of peace, and the sense of abandonment that we have long felt has lifted because UNDP is giving a strong signal in support of other donors returning to our region, said Mr. Diedhiou.

Awa Guèye Kebe, Minister of Family and Social Development, expressed the same sentiment and said that it would have been "unacceptable" not to include Casamance in the efforts to reduce poverty.

By opening the branch, UNDP is true to its mandate to be catalyst for development, said UNDP Resident Representative Ahmed Rhazaoui, carrying out his last official function before leaving his post last month.

He noted that the UNDP poverty reduction initiative will help mobilize funds for a larger economic and social revival programme for the region, coordinated by UNDP and the European Union.

UNDP's intervention is intended to signal to the Government, local communities and development partners that development activities can be carried out in Casamance without waiting for a formal peace agreement to be signed. Thus, such activities will help consolidate the peace process and move towards such an agreement.

For further information please contact Mademba Ndiaye , UNDP Senegal, or Nicholas Gouede , UNDP Communications Office.

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Business and MDGs



The Business Challenge Africa

Report of the 11th International Business Forum
8 - 10 October 2006, Bonn

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4. "New Economic Structures"



And fourth, while China's policy of "non-interference in other countries' internal affairs" has been seen by some as a refreshing and positive approach, others see it as inappropriate in the context of fragile states, allowing countries to bypass pressures to promote better governance¹¹⁴. Angola - which is generally regarded as having a poor governance record - has attracted substantial Chinese investment since early 2005. China Eximbank has provided US\$2 billion of loans for transport infrastructure, particularly in the mineral-rich region.

This clearly creates policy challenges for African countries, including development of their manufacturing sector; diversification of economic activity; careful management of the resource sector and use of the windfall gains; promotion of transparency in resource flows - particularly in the form of compliance with the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative; promotion of vertical and horizontal linkages with other productive sectors; the development of productive capacity to respond to the opportunities presented by Chinese trade and invest-

ment, including through an effective domestic investment climate; and maintaining pressure on fragile states to pursue good governance practices.

Plenary Viewpoint

"The way forward in the context of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development in terms of promoting the development of trade between Asia and Africa points to several directions: the formation of an appropriate policy, product development, empowerment of small and medium enterprises, as well as the promotion of corporate social responsibility. All development partners need to work together to build on these strategic directions"

Nicholas Gouede
Programme Specialist, UNDP

