UNDP is the UN’s global development network, an organization advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. It is on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges.

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Acknowledgement .................................................................................. 2
Preface ..................................................................................................... 6
Our Partners .......................................................................................... 10
Introduction .......................................................................................... 15
I. Leadership Roundtable ....................................................................... 18

II. Solution Exchange Forums
    Session 1: Leveraging Market Solutions for Human Development .......... 23
    Session 2: Showcasing Solutions in Public-Private Partnership for Development . 28
    Session 3: Showcasing Solutions in Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaption. . 32
    Session 4: Showcasing Solutions in Poverty Alleviation .......................... 36
    Session 5: Increasing Effectiveness of South-South Cooperation for Development
                A Workshop for Practitioners of South-South and TriAngular Cooperation: ...... 39
    Session 6: Role of Media In Development .............................................. 46

III. Southern Development Solution Exhibition ........................................ 40

IV. New Partnerships and Initiatives Launching
    Launching of the South-South Human Development Stock Exchange .......... 54
    Publications Launched ......................................................................... 56

V. Award Ceremony and Celebration .......................................................... 60

VI. Introducing Our Team ......................................................................... 68

VII. Media Coverage .............................................................................. 71

Appendix: Solutions Showcased at Expo 2008 ........................................... 100
On behalf of the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation and its Secretariat the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in UNDP, we wish to thank a great number of individuals and organizations whose tireless support and encouragement made the inaugural Global South-South Development Expo, which took place from 17-19 December 2008 in conjunction with the Fifth United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, a resounding success.

We especially thank the President of the General Assembly, Father Miguel d’Escoto Brockmann, for honoring this historical event with his personal presence and addresses at both the opening and the closing. He encouraged us that “we can transform this period of complex crises into opportunities for increased solidarity.”

We are particularly indebted to Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, for his continued support and his aspiring message to the event that “South-South cooperation helps developing countries learn how best to apply successful policies and practices in a context that reflects their national priorities.”

We would also like to thank the Chairman of the Group of 77 and China, John Ashe; Deputy Secretary-General Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro; Under-Secretary-General Zukang Sha; Under-Secretary-General Ibrahim Gambari; and Under-Secretary-General Cheick Diarra for their direction, backing and insightful contributions and the invaluable support of their offices.

Our special tribute goes to former UNDP Administrator, Kemal Derviş, who provided us the initial opportunity and platform and challenged us to transform
development gains and creating humanitarian emergencies. We see the cooperation that is helping land-locked countries gain access to international trade. We see the ever-increasing technology transfers among developing countries, as well as innovative regional trade agreements.

Let us be clear: South-South cooperation is a win-win situation for all nations. It is not a mere add-on in our development efforts. It must be seen as a fundamental investment in regional integration in a fragmented world. It must be seen as a driving force in our national security and independence. It must be seen as a crucial buffer between our fragile economies and the deeply flawed global trading system.
the EXPO from a concept to a reality. We thank him for his vision that the global South realize its shared aspirations for achieving sustainable and equitable development through the sharing and transfer of Southern-grown development solutions.

We would especially like to acknowledge H. E. Percival Patterson, Former Prime Minister of Jamaica, for chairing the Leadership Roundtable and for stressing that “the Development EXPO will help developing countries capitalize on their achievements.”

The solution exchanges that took place at the EXPO could not have happened without the participation of the governments of Argentina, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Germany, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Laos, Malaysia, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Senegal, Slovakia, South Africa, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela and Vietnam, among others. We thank these Member States for sending their representatives.

Our thanks also go to a number of UNDP country teams - particularly in Afghanistan, Botswana, Brazil, China, Mexico, Paraguay, South Africa, Tajikistan, Timor Leste, Tunisia and Venezuela, among many others - for their invaluable advice and assistance at every step along the way.

We would also like to thank Viorel Albu, Attiya Nawazish Ali, Dr. Margaret Arnold, Prince Bahati, Salvano Briceno, Mingyong Cai, Celso Grecco, Nebiha Gueddana, Dr. Sroj Jha, Venkat Krishnan, Juliana Liu, Clam Lorenz, Mario Lubetkin, Dr. Sulaiman Mahbob, Bunmi Makinwa, Orlando Mercado, Protais Musoni, Dr. Godfrey Nzamujo, Dorcus Phiri, Tamzin Ractcliffe, Dr. Bhitchit Rattakul, Dr. Toni Sethi, Dr. Mariangela Simao, Art Smith, Casper Sonesson, Jim Thompson, Laura Trevelyan, Mark Walton, David Wright and Jorge Ale Yarad. The extensive participation and contributions of these leaders resulted in a rich and rewarding exchange of Southern development solutions to help address both old and emerging Southern challenges.

Throughout the global South, there exists an enormous wealth of innovative, successful and scalable inclusive development solutions. For helping us to navigate the equally huge demands in search of these solutions, we owe our gratitude to Georg Kell, Executive Director of the UN Global Compact Office, and to Dr. Hanifa D. Mezouii, former Chief of the NGO Section of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

By closing ranks, our public and private sector partners are creating a win-win situation: Citizens are enjoying better public services, while companies are reaping financial profits. This was made possible by the engagement and participation of: The Africa Channel, Aguas Santiago Poniente, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, BBC World Service, Columbia University, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ), Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, Inter Press Service News Agency (IPS), Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Management Analysis Inc., Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), ProVention Consortium, RPN-TV Channel 9 (Manila), the Secretaria Genera Iberoamericana (SEGIB), The Songhai Centre, UNDP Partnership Bureau, UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), UN Environment Program (UNEP) Clearinghouse, UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Bank and the World Health Organization (WHO).
Bringing their respective strengths together at the EXPO to launch a joint global pilot mechanism to be known as the South-South Human Development Stock Exchange (SS-HDSX) were: South Africa’s Global Social Investment Exchange (GSIX) and the South Africa Social Investment Exchange (SASIX); Brazil’s Bolsa de Valoreis Sociais & Ambientais/Social and Environmental Stock Exchange (BOVESPA); United States’ eBay GivingWorks; India’s GivelIndia; China’s Shanghai United Assets and Equity Exchange (SUAEE); and the South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange (SS-GATE).

We would also like to thank Aiichiro Yamamoto, Chief Representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for co-sponsoring the very successful session for governments to review the successes and failures of 30 years of South-South and triangular cooperation. This provided the space for donors to speak about enhancing effectiveness.

We appreciate the support of Mitch Landrieu, Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana, especially for his commitment to capitalize on existing innovations and facilitate networks of knowledge sharing.

All those who have been part of the EXPO process would agree that an event of this magnitude - attempting to truly capture the imagination and the aspirations of the countries of the South, to provide what the developing world has been asking for - has been quite an undertaking, requiring creativity and dedication.

The team that has translated the Global South’s search for a solution-exchange mechanism from a distant dream to an inspiring reality is the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation. This would not have been possible without the leadership of its visionary Director Yiping Zhou and the conviction of his creative team. Thanks must also go to Senior Deputy Director John O. Kakonge, Chief of Staff Rogel Nuguid, Chief of Policy and Advocacy Cosmas Gitta, Chief of Knowledge Management and Operations Francisco Simplicio, Chief of Resources and Partnerships Mami Yamada, Chief of the Asia and Pacific Regional Unit Denis Nkala, Disaster Risk Management Coordinator Wilson Zenadez, Chief of the Africa Regional Support Unit Francois Ekoko and their dedicated staff, who worked with purpose and passion to bring the EXPO to fruition.

Our special thanks also go to Dingding Sun and Mithre J. Sandrasagra for the conceptualizing, coordinating and managing of the process leading to this publication; and to Bibi Singh and WhatWorks Inc. for their artistic contributions.

With the unequivocal commitment of the new UNDP Administrator, Helen Clark, to encourage developmentally-focused South-South flows of finance, technology, and know-how, we have every reason to expect tremendous success with future EXPOs.
The series of activities relating to the 2008 UN Day for South-South Cooperation, including the innovations of the Leaders Round Table and the 2008 Global South-South Development Expo have generated a number of ideas for South-South cooperation and approaches to enhance the scope and effectiveness of South-South cooperation. The Special Unit for South-South Cooperation will be producing detailed reports especially on the 2008 Expo.

I will try and capture some highlights especially as they point to ways of consolidating and strengthening South-South cooperation in the evolving global economic order. The main points may be summarized as follows:

• Today South-South cooperation is an essential ingredient in the international development agenda; it can and is indeed making an indispensable contribution to global development, including the development of the South. Countries in different parts of the South are creating home grown solutions to the multiple and complex problems they face. Many of these solutions can be replicated or adapted by other developing countries. Some developing countries today have substantial financial, technical and technological capacities that were unavailable to them in the past. A new Southern landscape has been created. South-South cooperation has made great strides, but much is possible with more deliberate, concerted and programmatic action. The Expo has begun to demonstrate one approach to greater exchange and collaboration.

• The need for a more central role for the South in international economic decision-making is increasingly being recognized. The G20 Summit on Financial Markets & the World Economy hosted by the United States in Washington, D.C. on November the 15th demonstrated a recognition of this in the invitation to a number of Southern leaders to participate in the summit on an equal basis. Elements in the international community have also begun to recognize that without the contribution of Southern countries, the spreading financial and economic crisis cannot be reversed. The developing countries must ensure that this initial widening does not lead to another, slightly larger, exclusive club.

• A large number of Southern countries are still struggling on the margins with enormous development challenges. A challenge for the North, the South and the international institutions is how to change that situation, especially in this time of resource scarcity.

• The full voices of developing countries, including the least developed countries and other specially disadvantaged Southern countries, must be heard. This is a central issue before the international community. It must remain a key task for South-South cooperation to ensure fundamental change in the global financial and economic governance structure.

• Best approaches to advance the interests of developing countries are critical. One approach which emerged is a region-by-region approach
This year marks the fifth observance of the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation. On previous occasions, countries of the South had considerable development gains to celebrate. South-South trade and investment flows were rising, and South-South development assistance reached an estimated $12 billion in 2006. Many developing economies were also growing at rates much faster than those of industrialized countries.

Today, the worldwide crises in finance, food and climate change call for even greater cooperation among developing countries. As never before, developing countries are collectively facing multiple global economic challenges that threaten to reverse development progress. The policy response must be bold.
That response can build on experiences gained through earlier financial crises in Asia and Latin America, and through numerous natural disasters and pandemics.

Since the 1990s, many developing countries have devised public programmes to improve access by the poor to food, credit, health, education and a host of other essential services in times of crisis. South-South cooperation should draw lessons from these programmes to protect vulnerable people today. Previous economic downturns led to a rise in debt burdens, the sale of productive assets and the sorry sight of children being pulled out of schools. We must do our collective utmost to avoid such consequences this time around.

South-South cooperation can also play a significant role in the fight against climate change. Many developing countries are adopting low-carbon development paths, backed by renewable energy and energy efficiency. Countries can share these experiences, policies and adaptation technologies.

On this United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, let us reaffirm our commitment to South-South strategies that will promote stability and well-being for all.
The GSSD Expo is not intended to be a conference about problems or a presentation of abstract scenarios and recommendations for solving them. Rather, the Expo is designed solely to bring together developing countries and their development partners - including donors, organizations of the United Nations system, and private-sector and civil society organizations - to methodically and regularly share their evidence-based development solutions. The inaugural GSSD Expo was a success primarily because of the creativity, innovation, solution exchange and network facilitation made possible by our partners.

### Partners of GSSD Expo

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<th>Country</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Songhai Centre</td>
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<td>Government</td>
<td>National STD/AIDS Program, Ministry of Education &amp; Skills Development</td>
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<td>Government</td>
<td>Ministry of Health</td>
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<td>Government</td>
<td>Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC)</td>
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<td>Brazil</td>
<td>Government</td>
<td>General Coordination for Bilateral Receiving Technical Cooperation (CGRB)</td>
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<td>Brazil</td>
<td>Government</td>
<td>Ministry of External Relations</td>
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<td>UNDP Project</td>
<td>Laços Sul-Sul Initiative (LSS)</td>
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<td>Private Sector</td>
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<td>Government</td>
<td>The China International Center for Economic &amp; Technical Exchanges (CICETE), Ministry of Commerce of the People’s Republic of China (MOFCOM)</td>
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Jim Thompson
Regional Director of the U.S. Department of States’s Global Partnership Center.

“The private sector can bring its reach into places we generally can not go ourselves, and the U.S. government doesn’t always have the ‘cool factor’ like YouTube or MTV to reach the youth.”
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<th>Country</th>
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<td>United Nations TCDC Network Demonstration Base</td>
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<td>Government</td>
<td>International Poverty Reduction Center</td>
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<td>China</td>
<td>Government</td>
<td>Economic and Technological Department of Jilin Provincial Government</td>
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<td>Government</td>
<td>Department of International Cooperation and Social Mobilization, the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
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<td>CSO</td>
<td>Yachana Foundation</td>
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<td>Government</td>
<td>Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with Africa (EFTCA), Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
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<td>Government</td>
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<td>Government</td>
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<td>UNDP Project</td>
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<td>Ministry of Home Affairs</td>
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<td>Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations</td>
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<td>Sustainable Bahia Negra Program</td>
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<td>Government</td>
<td>Servicio Nacional de Sanidad Agraria</td>
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<tr>
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<td>CSO</td>
<td>Band of Hope</td>
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**United Nations System & Other Intergovernmental Entities**

- Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations
- Office of the Administrator of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries & Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)
- Office of the Special Advisor to the Secretary-General on the International Compact with Iraq and Other Issues
- Office of the President of the General Assembly
- Office of the President of General Assembly High Level Committee on South-South Cooperation
- Office of the Chairman of the Group of 77 and China
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-Partnership Bureau
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-Human Development Report Office
- United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)-NGO Section
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)
- United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)-Safe City Programme
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)-Campaign to End Fistulas
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)-Dakar Subregional Office
- The World Bank Group-Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR)
- United Nations “A minute of peace” from South-South Initiative
- Organisation of The Islamic Conference (OIC)-Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI)
- Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB)
South-South cooperation (SSC) is a broad framework for collaboration among countries of the South in the political, economic, social, environmental and technical domains. Involving developing countries, South-South cooperation takes place on bilateral, regional, sub-regional and interregional levels. Recent developments in South-South cooperation have taken the form of increased volumes of South-South trade, movements toward regional integration, South-South flows of foreign direct investment and various forms of development assistance.
INTRODUCTION

In order to fully harness the vast number of available Southern development solutions to help address old and emerging Southern challenges, the United Nations Secretary-General, in his report to the sixty-second session of the General Assembly (A/62/295), among other things, called upon the international development community, including the United Nations system, to help scale up the impact of South-South cooperation by:

(a) optimizing the use of South-South approaches in achieving the internationally agreed development goals (IADGs), including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);
(b) intensifying multilateral support for South-South initiatives to address common development challenges;
(c) fostering inclusive partnerships for South-South cooperation, including triangular and public-private partnerships;
(d) improving coherence of the United Nations system’s support for such cooperation; and
(e) encouraging innovative financing for South-South and triangular cooperation.

With the aim of mobilizing global awareness of and support for South-South cooperation for inclusive development, the General Assembly, in its resolution 58/220 of 23 December 2003, proclaimed the 19th of December as the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, with the first such Day held on 19 December 2004. The event has since served as a vibrant platform for the international community to celebrate achievements; share development successes; explore new avenues for collaboration; forge innovative South-South, triangular and public-private partnerships; and launch concrete collaborative schemes towards achieving internationally agreed development goals (IADGs), including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The GSSD Expo is not designed for the discussion of problems or the presentation of generalized scenarios and prescriptions for solving them, as there is no shortage of forums for such purposes. Rather, it is designed solely to enable developing countries and their development partners, including donor agencies, organizations of the United Nations system, and private-sector and civil society organizations, to systematically and regularly showcase their

Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Antigua and Barbuda
Chairman of the Group of 77 and China
Mr. Winston Baldwin Spencer

“We must be made much more aware and conscious of each other, of our languages and cultures, of our needs and requirements, of our problems and sensitivities, of our assets and potentialities. This information should be produced by us and as far as possible transmitted through our own channels. Indeed, the importance of creating wide public awareness about South-South cooperation is becoming increasingly evident. Our mass media has an important role to play and should be encouraged to do so.”
evidence-based Southern Development Solutions (SDSs). These solutions are deeply rooted in, and developed under, historical, political, economic, social and geographical conditions specific to the SDS-originating countries.

GSSD EXPO offers three Value Propositions

(a) It offers SDS-originating countries and their development partners the opportunity to systematically organize and regularly showcase successful, sustainable and scalable SDSs.

(b) It offers SDS-seeking countries the opportunity to learn from a wide range of SDSs, and how these SDSs may help them to solve similar development problems using the South-South approach.

(c) It offers any interested third party (a donor agency, a United Nations organization, or a private-sector or civil society organization) the opportunity to fully appreciate the true value of the showcased SDSs and take an informed and strategic decision to support scaling-up efforts through innovative triangular and public-private partnership arrangements.

GSSD EXPO

Based on past experience and a strong desire by the international development community to more regularly share and exchange Southern-grown development solutions contributing to the achievement of the IADGs/MDGs, the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in UNDP launched the Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo) from 16 to 19 December 2008 at United Nations Headquarters in New York as an integral part of, and in conjunction with, the Fifth United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation.

As part of the Fifth United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, the GSSD Expo is designed as a concrete response to the strong commitment made by the Secretary-General and the UNDP Administrator to help the global South realize its shared aspirations for achieving sustainable and equitable development through the sharing and transfer of Southern-grown development solutions (SDSs), with the support of the donor community and the multilateral system under innovative triangular and public-private partnership arrangements. It also constitutes one of the Special Unit’s three global- and United Nations system-wide South-South support platforms.

Photo opposite courtesy of Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Chagas Disease Prevention and Control Project.

Deputy Secretary-General
Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro
Closing remarks at event on South-South cooperation
New York, 19 December 2008

The launch of the “Global South-South Development Expo and leader’s roundtable” and other discussions helped you to address a wide range of important aspects of this issue, including ways to leverage market solutions for human development, promote public-private partnership for development, and ease disaster risks. You examined climate change and the role that media. In short, this rich series clearly presented ways in which developing countries can assist themselves onto a path of economic growth.

This celebration of South-South cooperation comes at a propitious time as the world struggles to find a way out of the financial, food and fuel crises and the crucial role that horizontal cooperation can play in helping attenuate the impact of these challenges.
Following the opening of the Expo, the South-South Leaders Roundtable featured a group of renowned figures who led an interactive dialogue on the theme, “Towards a New Global Partnership Compact for South-South Cooperation.”

Honourable P. J. Patterson, Former Prime Minister of Jamaica
Honourable Mitch Landrieu, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Louisiana
Prof. Akbar Noman, Senior Fellow, Columbia University
Atiya Nawazish Ali, Assistant Secretary-General, Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, OIC
Celso Grecco, Chairman, Social Stock Exchange Association, Berlin
Ibrahim Gambari, Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General

Celso Grecco spoke about the creation of a social stock exchange in Brazil. In an example of the North learning from the South, Mitch Landrieu expressed that he was glad to be sitting next to Grecco, as the “idea he created is something we need to do in Louisiana.”

Landrieu said: “Louisiana has at least the foresight to see herself as a completely integrated piece of the international community.” He added: “One of the things Louisiana has tried to do is to say: ‘What other places in the world do we share interests with so that we can help stand ourselves up?… This financial crisis should put to rest whether or not countries can stand in isolation from each other.”

Patterson pointed out that the countries from the South that were represented at the G20 Summit in Washington were significant players in helping to deal with the financial crisis.

Professor Akbar Noman explained that the big difference between today and the 1930s is that you did not have large developing economies during the Great Depression, and now you do. Noman also talked about how the North could benefit from the South’s expertise. East-Asian countries, in particular, and Latin American countries learnt a lot of lessons through the financial crises of the late-1990s. “How to cope with financial crises, how to manage capital markets, how to get the balance right between the state and the market are very important lessons which the South has learnt,” Noman said, emphasizing, “I believe there is a lot for the South itself to exchange views on, and for the South to teach the North on.”

UNDP Administrator
Statement by Mr. Kemal Derviş
on the Occasion of the Opening Ceremony for the 2008 Global South-South Development Expo
New York, 16 December 2008

The growth of developing countries is critical to the prospects of the advanced economies too. Indeed, most of the growth in the world economy for 2009-2010 will be coming from developing economies. The following figures clearly illustrate this. Current consensus forecast that China’s economy will grow between 7 and 8 percent next year; that India’s economic growth will be close to 6 percent; that other developing countries’ aggregate economic growth will be between 2 and 3 percent; and that mature economies will contract by about 1 percent. These figures show rather dramatically how critical the performance of the South is to the world economy.
The Hon. P.J. Patterson, Former Prime Minister of Jamaica (L) speaking with Ambassador Byron Blake of the Mission of Antigua and Barbuda on the sidelines of the Leadership Roundtable.
Above: Delegates on the sidelines of the Leadership Roundtable.
Below left: Brazil’s delegation making an intervention following the Leadership Roundtable.
Below right: Panelists at the Leadership Roundtable (L to R) Celso Grecco, Chairman of the Social Stock Exchange Association; Mitch Landrieu, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Louisiana; P.J. Patterson, Former Prime Minister of Jamaica; Julianna Liu, BBC News; Attiya Nawazish Ali, Assistant Secretary General of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OIC); and Prof. Akbar Noman, Senior Fellow, Columbia University.
Above: (L to R) Yiping Zhou, Director of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in UNDP; Kemal Dervis, UNDP Administrator; Father Miguel d’Escoto Brockmann, President of the United Nations General Assembly; Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, Ambassador of Qatar and President of the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Committee of South-South Cooperation; John Ashe, Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda and Chairman of the G77 and China; P.J. Patterson, Former Prime Minister of Jamaica; and Ibrahim Gambari, Under-Secretary-General and Special Advisor to the Secretary-General addressed the Opening Session of the EXPO.

Above: Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, Ambassador of Qatar and President of the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Committee of South-South Cooperation, speaking with Father Miguel d’Escoto Brockmann, President of the United Nations General Assembly.

Left: Participants on the sidelines of the Leadership Roundtable.

Above: Participants on the sidelines of the Leadership Roundtable.
Above: Panelists Tamzin Ractliffe of the Global Social Investment Exchange (GSIX); Minyong Cai of the Shanghai United Assets and Equity Exchange (SUAEE); Hanifa Mezoui of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs NGO Section; and Yiping Zhou, Director of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in UNDP at the Leveraging Market Solutions Session.

SESSION 1: LEVERAGING MARKET SOLUTIONS FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

With an ever greater number of actors engaging in activities to promote human development, the need for open marketplaces that promote transparency, facilitate brokerage among development actors and enable risk and impact comparisons between development initiatives has become apparent. This session showcased seven innovative, market-based and policy-supported mechanisms that contribute to inclusive development:

1. The South African Social Investment Exchange (SASIX);
2. The Global Social Investment Exchange (GSIX);
3. Bovespa’s Environmental and Social Investment Exchange;
4. eBay Giving Works;
5. GiveIndia;
6. Shanghai United Assets and Equity Exchange (SUAEE);

The SS-GATE project is meant to provide a global and sustainable South-South transaction platform that facilitates market-driven and transparent exchanges of technology, assets, services and financial resources among the private sector, the public sector and civil society for inclusive growth of the countries of the South.

It currently has four components: Track 1, SME technology exchange to upgrade productivity; Track 2, financing small infrastructure development; Track 3, financing under-funded development projects; and Track 4, environmental technology exchanges relating to the Clean Development Mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol.

To date, the project on the SS-GATE System has gained support from the High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation and the Group of 77 and China, and over $15 million in financial and in-kind resources have been mobilized through various partners to co-fund project operations.

Track 1 witnessed initial results in its pilot stage, which include the legal creation of an independent not-for-profit international entity in China to operationalize the project. Four successful business deals were generated involving technology exchanges among China, Ethiopia, Gabon, Sudan and Vietnam. The pilot initially covers Africa, the Arab States region and Asia, focusing on agro and pharmaceutical business sectors; its full operation is targeted to begin in mid-2009.

Track 2 is in the planning stage. Track 3, the South-South Human Development Investment Exchange, launched its pilot during the GSSD Expo in December 2008. Two cooperation projects are listed involving Brazil, India, Kenya and Sri Lanka, and selected development solutions from the UNDESA NGO Section Best Practices Network are offered to build partnerships for cooperation initiatives.

Track 4 embarked on initial partnership consultations with the Shanghai United Assets and Equity Exchange, the Bureau for Development Policy (BDP) of UNDP and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, with an initial $7 million mobilized from the Government of China to co-fund the operation.

The South-South Human Development Stock Exchange will facilitate the actual transfer of knowl-
edge and experiences from one Southern country to another, thereby advancing human development and the achievement of the MDGs. Social entrepreneurs can meet potential social investors on this online platform.

"It is a real marketplace which brings together offers for good investments in development and people who want to make social investments into those offers," Francisco Simplicio of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation (SU/SSC) within the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) said.

At the launch, two projects were already available for investment on the website www.ss-hdsx.org.

First, based on experiences from India, 50 Sri Lankan women shall be trained in shrimp pickle making and food-processing in order to enable them to open up their own sustainable small-scale enterprises. The second project trained experts from Kenya in Brazil so that they could assist at least 100 Kenyan youth and adults in establishing small start-up businesses that produce apparel, arts and crafts, stationary and ornaments. A similar programme was successful in Brazil.

To provide the $32,000 and $45,000 in funding, respectively, needed to carry out these projects, investors can buy shares at $25 each. What distinguishes these investments from traditional donations is that shareholders receive regular updates.
on how their money is being spent and what impact it has. Thereby, beneficiary organizations are held more accountable.

With social stock exchanges “we are picking up the best concepts of the capitalistic system - [like] governance and transparency that is proper to a stock exchange,” Celso Grecco said. In 2003, Grecco created the world’s first social stock exchange in Brazil. “But we are getting rid of the worst parts of the system - people who want to make lots of money in a very short time,” he added.

Experiences from Brazil, but also from other social investment marketplaces in South Africa, India, China and the United States, have shown that these facilities are making capital more accessible to poor communities in the South. Human development projects gain greater visibility and investor relations costs are reduced. With diligent selection and oversight of supported projects, investments in a social stock exchange market are also more attractive than traditional donations. Smaller and non-traditional donors can more easily take shares in development projects. “And your investments are really paid back with a better society,” Grecco said. In Brazil, 81 of 104 listed development projects have been fully funded through the social stock exchange since 2003, with a total funding of $7.5 million. SS-HDSX is the first global attempt to establish a social stock exchange market.
Top left: Francisco Simplicio, Chief of Knowledge Management and Operations of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in UNDP, thanks Zhao Yongli of China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE) for his participation in Session One.

Clockwise from top right: Yiping Zhou, Director of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in UNDP, presents awards at the Leveraging Market Solutions Session to (clockwise from top R): Celso Grecco, Chairman of the Social Stock Exchange Association; Ujwal Thakar of GiveIndia; Tamzin Ractliffe of the Global Social Investment Exchange (GSIX); Minyong Cai of the Shanghai United Assets and Equity Exchange (SUAEE); and Clam Lorenz of eBay Giving Works.
Top: Yuvan Beejadhur of the World Bank (R) addresses Session One.
Left: Delegates gathered at the Leveraging Market Solutions Session.
The Secretary-General has called for “fostering inclusive partnerships for South-South cooperation, including triangular and public-private partnerships.” This session showcased the following PPP solutions:

1. Education for All.
2. Water Management.
3. HIV/AIDS and Neglected Diseases Prevention.
4. PPP beyond Millennium Development Goals (UNDP, United States State Department, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe).
5. Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), affiliated institution of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

By closing ranks, the public and the private sector can create a win-win situation: Citizens are provided with better public services, while companies enjoy financial profits – this concept does not only apply to northern industrialized economies.

Successful pioneering examples presented during the inaugural Global South-South Development Expo and Exhibition convincingly demonstrated that public-private-partnerships (PPPs) can contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

“Doing business with the poor is definitely an opportunity to generate profit,” said Casper Sonesson, Policy Advisor at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). “It is not something philanthropic.”

While partnerships between the public sector and privately held companies are a tool created in Europe and North America, developing countries already account for over 35 percent of the total number of PPPs worldwide, according to a new publication by UNDP.

“PPPs are extremely flexible mechanisms that can be used in a variety of sectors in development,” said Arthur Smith, Chairman of the U.S. National Council for PPP.

The PPPs presented showed how governments and public administrations can benefit from the expertise and capacities private companies have to offer in sectors like education, health, infrastructure or communication.

For example, by “involving the industry” the product development public-private-partnership model (PDP) of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) “has brought a new perspective into developments of products for the poor,” said Prince Bahati, Senior Program Manager at IAVI. “In the past, people thought academics could do it for diseases of the poor – as there were no incentives for private industries. But that did not work.”

Therefore, IAVI developed the PDP model in order to bring together the expertise of the private pharmaceutical industry with commitments of the public sector to provide products that are effective for the poor. To create incentives for the private industry, governments guaranteed cost reductions and markets for drugs and vaccines once developed.

So far, 12 PDPs are in place in Southern developing countries – mainly in Africa – searching for products that address neglected diseases affecting the world’s poor. Through PDPs, “investment in this sector has been increased,” Bahati said.

Other examples for successful PPPs were introduced by Attiya Nawazish Ali, Assistant Secretary General of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry,
Above photo courtesy of “Better Opportunities for Youth and Women” Project in Moldova.
Right photo courtesy of MIT and Nokia joint initiative EPROM in East Africa.
which is affiliated with the 57 member states Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

Participants stressed the importance of collaboration between developing and developed countries – where the PPP idea was created.

“The private sector can bring its reach into places we generally can not go ourselves,” said Jim Thompson, Regional Director in the State Department’s Global Partnership Center. “And the U.S. government doesn’t always have the ‘cool factor’ like YouTube or MTV to reach the youth.”

A model for how PPPs can be used in the education sector to improve the maintenance of school buildings was presented by David Wright, Special Consultant on PPP to International Financial Services London (IFSL). All panelists agreed to a statement made by Wright: “What [PPP] really is about is to provide better public services.”
Above: Delegations attending Session Two. Right: Panelists at the podium in the Trusteeship Council Chamber.
Disasters impact development gains attained by developing countries. Climate change is considered a creeping disaster with long-term global impact on development and human security. Conceptual and practical solutions to mitigating both the risks of disasters and the impact on climate change as well as effective mechanisms for South-South transfer of such solutions are urgently needed. This session was a showcase of five innovative and scalable solutions:

1. United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;
2. The World Bank’s Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery and its South-South Cooperation Trust Fund;
3. ProVention Consortium’s Approach in Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation;
4. Asian Disaster Preparedness Center’s Regional Initiatives Linking Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change;
5. UNEP Clearinghouse.

South-South cooperation was not suddenly invented but is based on solidarity and shared interests. “Solutions are in the South,” stressed Salvano Briceno, of United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR). What is needed now is emphasis on a more sustained, systematic and structured approach to work together through partnerships, demand and need driven projects...building networks that can assist community-to-community, city-to-city sharing.

Climate change is a silent war that has already begun, warned participants at Session 3 of the Global South-South Expo, focused on “Showcasing Solutions in Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change.” Climate change will not announce itself as an apocalyptic event. Rather, as Margaret Arnold, Head of ProVention Consortium explains, more hazard events, changes in growing seasons, changes in availability of water, salinization, changes in “early warning” signals, and disappearing coastlines are only some of the effects of climate change. “Poor communities are aware of what is happening and they are feeling the impacts. While they may not be fully aware of the global context or what more is to come, their lives and livelihoods are being affected now,” Arnold said.

Arnold stressed the importance of “demand driven mechanisms that support communities that know what they want to do.”

To understand the scale of the problem, it was noted that during the 1950s there were six major floods, which affected seven million people, while in the 1990s there were 26, affecting the lives of 150 million people.

Disasters are getting bigger, not only because of climate change but because of the simple fact that there are more people on earth, Salvano Briceno said. Extreme weather events do not affect people equally, and without Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) the damage can only increase.

“DRR is one of the first lines of defense for adaptation to climate change. Unless DRR is tackled, none of the Millennium Goals or Food Security goals can be achieved,” Briceno said. “We are not alarmists, this is a portrayal of reality,” he continued.

Dr. Bhichit Rattakul, Executive Director of Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), said involving multi countries, multi cities, and multi governments has to be a key element in the design of any DRR project. Countries have to prepare together as a regional approach and transfer the know-how.
South-South cooperation can also play a significant role in the fight against climate change. Many developing countries are adopting low-carbon development paths, backed by renewable energy and energy efficiency. Countries can share these experiences, policies and adaptation technologies.
UNDP Administrator
Kemal Derviş

Within this global economic context, building stronger North-South, and especially South-South, partnerships will be important to leverage the potential of the South to respond to the economic crisis, to reduce poverty, to further development, and to address climate change.
Throughout the global South, there exists an enormous wealth of innovative, successful and scalable inclusive development solutions. Equally huge are demands and efforts in search of such development solutions.

“To really fight poverty and embark on a sustainable development road, it is critical to build strong internal markets,” says Dr. Godfrey Nzamujo of Benin’s Songhai Sustainable Growth Initiative. Since 2004, the Initiative has successfully increased the average yield of rice in the communities where it is active from 700kg per hectare/year to 5 or more tonnes per hectare/year today.

Developing countries shared successful approaches to tackle the various dimensions of global poverty in a sustainable way. The displayed projects covered a wide range of solutions in sectors like rural development, education, health and multinational cooperation. Seven Southern-grown development solutions were showcased:

- From Benin - Songhai Centre’s solutions in addressing food security and developing rural agro-economy, conserving natural resources and expanding local markets;
- From Malaysia - Government’s solutions in expanding information and communication technology (ICT) training in isolated or disadvantaged secondary schools in Cambodia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Vietnam;
- From Moldova - “Better Opportunities for Youth and Women” project’s solutions in integrating disadvantaged and marginalized social groups into the national development process;
- From Brazil - “Laços Sul-Sul” initiative’s solutions in ensuring universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care through the horizontal exchange of information and the joint elaboration of strategies and action plans worldwide;
- From Botswana - Solutions in combating HIV/AIDS at the national level, drawing from the Brazilian experience;
- Implemented by UNFPA - Solutions in mounting a multi-country campaign to end fistula;
- From Tunisia - Solutions in providing family planning and reproductive health services.

“The key point is the development of what I call ‘native competencies,’” Nzamujo said. The Songhai Sustainable Growth Initiative has helped in “turning rural communities into viable socio-economic entities” – without becoming dependent on enduring foreign assistance.

Unlike in other rural communities, so-called “value chains” have been developed in the Songhai communities. Therefore, agricultural exports are not fully exported to cities and elsewhere where value is added to the products – leaving most benefits of the products to others. Instead, jobs and income are created at local businesses that process the agricultural products and then sell their output to other regions and countries. Among the exported goods are fruit juices, mango puree and sausages.

“Songhai now is a center of training, a production center, and a research center,” Nzamujo said. After his presentation, representatives from a number of African countries showed their interest in reproducing the initiative in their homelands.

Launched in 2004 by the Brazilian Government, the “Laços Sul-Sul” (LSS) initiative has the goal to achieve universal access to HIV/AIDS care, treatment and

Photo opposite courtesy of Songhai Sustainable Growth Initiative in Benin.
prevention. The LSS member states are Bolivia, Brazil, Cape Verde, East Timor, Guinea Bissau, Nicaragua, Paraguay, and Sao Tome and Principe. The cooperation within LSS is horizontal – because “each country has some experience to share”, as Mariângela Simão, Director of the National STD (sexually transmitted disease)/AIDS Programme in Brazil, said. Linked to national plans, LSS helps to transfer capacity and knowledge from one member state to others.

Funded by donations from the Brazilian government, the initiative also assures access to anti-retroviral treatment in member countries. Specific additional activities of LSS focus on reducing mother to child transmission (MTCT) of HIV. Testing and treatment has been significantly broadened in a number of member states, while MTCT has been reduced. Most important, however, was that all the solutions showcased have the potential to be reproduced in other developing countries – and all panelists pledged that they will provide support if other countries are interested.
Opposite top: Photo courtesy of Songhai Sustainable Growth Initiative in Benin.
Opposite bottom: Photo courtesy of Malaysian Smart School Project.
Above: Photo courtesy of “Better Opportunities for Youth and Women” Project in Moldova.
Left: Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, Ambassador of Qatar and President of the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Committee of South-South Cooperation (CENTER) presenting an Award to Viorel Albu of Better Opportunities for Youth and Women, Moldova (L) during the Showcasing Solutions in Poverty Alleviation Session.
Top: Honorees following the Poverty Alleviation Session awards ceremony.

Bottom: Panelists at Session Two (L to R): Tom Stephens; Sulaiman b. Mahbob of Smart School Project, Malaysia; Tony Sethi of Columbia University; John O. Kakonge, Senior Deputy Director of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in UNDP; Godfrey Nzamujo of the Songhai Sustainable Growth Initiative, Benin; and Viorel Albu of Better Opportunities, Moldova.
Above: Panelists at the afternoon segment of the Showcasing Solutions in Poverty Alleviation Session (L to R): Ms. Dorcus Phirie of Teacher Capacity Building Project, Botswana; Dr. Mariangela Simao of "Lacos Sul-Sul" Initiative against HIV/AIDS, Brazil; Dr. Theogene Rudasingwa of Rwanda Pangaea Global AIDS Foundation, and Former Ambassador of Rwanda to the United States; Bisola O. Ojikutu of Harvard University Medical School; John O. Kakonge, Senior Deputy Director of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in UNDP; Ms. Nebiha Gueddana of National Office of Family and Population, Tunisia; Mr. Faustin Yao of UNFPA Sub-Regional Office, Senegal.
SESSION 5: INCREASING EFFECTIVENESS OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT: A WORKSHOP FOR PRACTITIONERS OF SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

With no shortage of innovation, technology, good practices, success stories and effective triangular models of South-South cooperation, representatives of recipient countries and donors met during the Expo to share information and experiences. They aimed at increasing effectiveness of South-South Cooperation for Development. “The workshop takes up the challenging task of reviewing and analyzing 30 years of South-South cooperation in one day,” said co-chair Aiichiro Yamamoto.

South-South cooperation has grown significantly in recent years. According to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, South-South development assistance accounted for roughly $12.6 billion in 2006 (20 per cent of which went through multilateral channels).

Equally significant is the increasing interest by many OECD/DAC and non-DAC countries in such cooperation. This session, co-organized by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Special Unit For South-South Cooperation within UNDP, provided a unique space for them to share innovative practices in South-South and triangular cooperation, including the setting of national policies and priorities, institutional arrangements, resource allocation, programme delivery mechanisms and opportunities for new partnerships.

Japan has been greatly involved in promoting and implementing South-South and triangular cooperation based on its own experiences. The adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries 30 years ago has given great prominence to South-South and triangular cooperation, making it a fundamental part of international development cooperation, said Ambassador of Japan to the UN Shigeki Sumi.

“South-South cooperation must not be seen as a replacement for North-South cooperation. Strengthening South-South cooperation must not be perceived as a measure of coping with the receding interest of the developed world in assisting developing countries,” said John Ashe, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the UN. “It is up to us to promote and build on South-South cooperation at the bilateral, subregional, regional and inter-regional levels, including through triangular cooperation with the support of the UN system.”

JICA provided the rationale behind supporting South-South Cooperation by saying that “teaching is learning.” Knowledge sharing is seen as the most effective way of consolidating the results of capacity development. The case of a hospital management project - part of the Asia-Africa Knowledge Creation Program - was presented by JICA as a best practise. Created in Japan, but first modified for Sri Lanka’s standards and society, the project went on to benefit public hospitals in eight African countries.

The participants agreed that with no shortage of innovation or technology and many good practices, what is needed right now is the sharing of information so that countries can benefit from each other’s experience.

More than 40 countries participated in this EXPO Session.
Top: Delegates gathered at Session Five.
Left: Banchong Amornchewin of Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency (TICA) addressed the workshop for practitioners of South-South and Triangular Cooperation.
Above: Aiichiro Yamamoto of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Yiping Zhou, Director of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in UNDP present an award to Kae Yanagisawa of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) following Session Five.
Yiping Zhou, Director of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in UNDP and Aiichiro Yamamoto of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), present awards at the Increasing Effectiveness of South-South Cooperation for Development Session to (clockwise from top R): Roberto A. Acosta of Servicio Nacional de Sanidad Agraria, Peru; Helena Yaa Nkole Of World Bank; Miguel Hakim of Secretaría para la Cooperación Iberoamericana (SEGIB); Banchong Amornchew of Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency (TICA); Sabahattin Gazanfer of Turkish International Cooperation Agency (TIKA); Brenda Killen of Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Top left: Zhao Yongli of China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE).
SESSION 6: ROLE OF MEDIA IN DEVELOPMENT

The role of media in development has been recognized. Modern communication media bring events around the world to our living rooms instantaneously as they occur. In a sense, this makes all of us eyewitnesses to the natural disasters, deadly diseases, wars and other challenges facing our fellow human beings on a daily basis. Deserving special recognition are those in the mass media community who are leading the way in highlighting solutions to help free all human beings from conditions of extreme poverty and related deprivations. This session featured presentations by The Africa Channel, BBC World Service, Inter Press Service News Agency and RPN-TV Channel 9 (Manila).

“What role can the media play in publicizing the U.N.’s development agenda?” asked Mario Lubetkin, Director General of IPS News Agency based in Rome, Italy, who chaired the panel. “And does development - considered ‘un-sexy’ by some in the mainstream media - help sell newspapers?” he asked, adding, “If not, how can shortcomings in development coverage be rectified?”

Lubetkin pointed out that issues long neglected by the mainstream media - such as hunger, poverty alleviation, population, children, HIV/AIDS, gender empowerment and the environment - have been the main thrust of IPS reporting since 1964. These are issues that are of major concern mostly to developing nations, comprising over two-thirds of the 192 members of the U.N.

“IPS News Agency believes in the role of information as a precondition for lifting communities out of poverty and marginalization,” Lubetkin stressed, adding that IPS is a communication channel that privileges the voices and the concerns of the poorest - creating a climate of understanding, accountability and participation around development.

How the poorer world can progress by getting information from media is an important question, BBC UN Correspondent Laura Trevelyan said. But Trevelyan stressed that the job of the journalist is “not to play a supporting role, or to be a cheerleader for what the U.N. is trying to do, but to examine the objectives which have been set out, and to ask the difficult questions both from governments and the U.N. itself.”

“Especially at the U.N. there’s a tendency to think of journalists as partners in some way, but the work of a journalist is to speak truth to power,” she said.

Media should expose the things that don’t work, Mark Walton of The Africa Channel (TAC) emphasised, but should not stop there. Walton spoke about the importance of providing positive coverage of the African continent for viewers who he says are exposed to disproportionately more negative coverage of the continent. “To us, as TAC, the role of media in development is simply to be balanced and fair, and present a complete picture of the current reality, Walton said, “This means that media should make the effort to show the advancements and the things that work on the continent to encourage forward movement and invite others to help Africa reach her goals.” He criticised Western mass media - including Hollywood - for repeatedly defining Africa using a vocabulary of despair, poverty, conflict, disease, corruption, and natural disaster.

Orlando Mercado from Philippines, President of RPN TV Channel 9, shared his expertise in successfully
building media for development. Mercado took over a “troubled network” in the Philippines and turned it into a successful television station that promotes educational messages on climate change and disaster risk reduction year-round.

“While in the public sector, both as a lawmaker [Senator] and a cabinet member [Secretary of National Defence], there have been two causes that I have embraced as my own. The first is the protection of the environment, and the other, disaster risk reduction,” he said.

Mercado found that television can create a culture of strategic thinking. “We want to help change common perceptions about disasters. While response, relief and prevention are important, mitigating disaster risks is what really matters,” Mercado said.
Opposite page: Participants at Session Six.
Above: Panelists at Session Six (L to R): Laura Trevelyan of the BBC; Orlando Mercado of RPNTV-Channel 9 (Philippines); Mario Lubetkin of Inter Press Service (IPS); Mark Walton of the Africa Channel; and Yiping Zhou, Director of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in UNDP.
Left: On the sidelines of the Media Session (L to R): Laura Trevelyan of the BBC; Yiping Zhou, Director of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in UNDP; and Mario Lubetkin of Inter Press Service (IPS).
The SDS Exhibition comprised booths installed in the Vienna Café area and the Visitors’ Lobby of the United Nations Secretariat building. A total of 40 Southern-grown development solutions were displayed using posters, audio-visual equipment, and printed materials and publications relevant to South-South cooperation. Human Development Stock Exchanges also displayed trading demos.
Pakistani - Rafi Peer Theatre Workshop

Project Name: Rafi Peer Theatre Workshop
Country: Pakistan

Background:
Self-funding; plus grants from UNESCO, government and the private sector.

Implementing Agency:
Rafi Peer Theatre Workshop

Project Status: Ongoing
Project Period: 1974 to present

The Rafi Peer Theatre Workshop, located in Multan, Pakistan, is a well-known and respected performing arts institution. It was founded in 1974 and has been continuously active since then. The workshop's mission is to preserve and develop the traditional art forms of Pakistan, particularly the Qawwals and the Sufi mystics. It provides training to young Qawwals and Sufi poets in the traditional arts of singing and poetry. The workshop also performs at festivals and events both within Pakistan and internationally, promoting the rich cultural heritage of the country. It is a shining example of how traditional art forms can be preserved and revitalized in the modern world.
During this event, the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation launched the pilot South-South Human Development Stock Exchange. This mechanism facilitates the actual transfer of knowledge and experiences from one Southern country to another, therefore advancing human development and the achievement of the MDGs. Social entrepreneurs can meet potential social investors on this online platform.

The pilot South-South Human Development Investment Exchange (the South-South Exchange) is a marketplace to:

- Forge partnerships between institutions with needs and institutions with solutions to advance human development.
- Facilitate social investment to replicate proven solutions to advance human development.

The pilot South-South Exchange seeks to create a reliable, standardized and accountable environment through which social investors can identify quality and high-impact human development projects. It also provides visibility, mobilizes resources and builds networks for exchanges of experiences among developing country organizations.

**Pilot South-South Exchange Partnership Building and Investment Cycle**

**The Partnership Building Market**

- **Best practice** - A developing country institution accredited with a United Nations organ or with a partner human development investment exchange, which wishes to cooperate with another developing country institution to advance human development, lists its Best Practice;
- **Proven Solution** - The Best Practice is peer-reviewed by a panel of experts working in the same field and region. If the peer-review process is favorable, the Best Practice becomes a Proven Solution;
- **Partnership initiatives** - Another developing country institution requests cooperation to replicate the listed Best Practice in their community;
- **Listed Projects** - The match between the two cooperating institutions is reviewed and approved by both the Solution Provider and the South-South Exchange staff.

**The Social Investment Market**

- **Listed Projects** - The cooperation project is listed in the pilot South-South Exchange social investment market;
- **Social Investment** - Social investors buy shares in the project;
- **Grant agreement** - Once the project is fully funded a grant agreement is drafted and signed;
- **Disbursement** - Funds are disbursed in tranches, as stipulated in the grant agreement, for the institutions to implement the cooperation project.
Implementation & Monitoring

- **Interim reports** – At intervals stated in the grant agreement, the institutions submit reports to the pilot South-South Exchange describing the project’s progress and accomplishments;

- **Concluding report** – Once the project has been completed, a final report is submitted to the pilot South-South Exchange summarizing the fulfillment of objectives against the milestones set forth in the grants agreement;

- **Final peer review** – The cooperation project is peer-reviewed by a panel of experts and volunteers working in the same field and region;

- **Final project report** – The concluding report as amended and/or supplemented by the final peer review is published online. Investors are notified of project completion and achievements with a link to the published report.

The Special Unit also launched the following publications during the event:

The series Sharing Innovative Experiences is part of the multidimensional strategy of the UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation (SU/SSC) to promote knowledge-sharing in the South. It presents Southern Solutions to Southern challenges through the use of Southern expertise. Each volume of case studies focuses on a specific topic that is identified by the Special Unit on the basis of its corporate priorities and their links to the Millennium Development Goals.

“Sharing Innovative Experiences Volume 14: Examples of Community-based Approaches to Recovery from Natural Disasters: Post-tsunami Experiences”

This volume examines how to use small financial contributions to achieve maximum, sustainable impact at the grass-roots level in communities recovering from natural disasters. Special focus is placed on small-scale community infrastructure and livelihood development, with a particular emphasis on women. It features 25 case studies of community recovery initiatives selected from 224 grants targeting 134 communities that were provided by the South-South Grants Facility (SSGF) after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. These case studies highlight the innovative schemes used by the recipients of the small grants, which directly or indirectly affected over 60,000 beneficiaries who had had their homes and livelihoods destroyed. These success stories are a testament to the notion that the smart investment of small amounts of financial resources can have an impact that is longer lasting and that affects more beneficiaries than conventional assistance of greater financial value.
“Sharing Innovative Experiences Volume 15: Examples of Successful Public-private Partnerships”

This volume presents examples of public-private partnerships (PPP) projects, with a particular emphasis on PPPs designed to achieve development goals. The intention is not to provide rigid models since each partnership must be crafted to meet the local conditions and needs. Rather, the aim is to convey the range of possibilities offered by this unique tool, which can be of substantial help in providing services and infrastructure where government financing options may be limited. The case studies are drawn primarily, but not exclusively, from developing countries. They cover sectors ranging from environment, water/wastewater infrastructure, healthcare, power, public buildings, and transportation. Both successful initiatives and those that have fallen short of achieving the project objectives are included since lessons can be drawn from both types of experiences.

“Revenue’s Role in the Quest for Inclusive Development: What Works and What Can Work Better?”

This publication is the first UNDP/UNDESA joint publication on this topic: Revenue’s Role in the Quest for Inclusive Development: What Works and What Can Work Better? co-forwarded by Sha Zukang, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, and Kemal Derviş, the former UNDP Administrator, the book explores successful country experiences in addressing key taxation issues that would benefit other Southern countries. The publication and accompanying DVD are designed for immediate use by in-country legislators and regulators responsible for designing tax policy, by tax administrators and by professors of tax law and economics. The publication was launched at a High-Level Panel convened at the 2008 International Conference on Financing for Development in Doha, Qatar.
“IPS TerraViva South-South Executive Brief Special Edition: Inaugural South-South Development EXPO”

The IPS TerraViva South-South Executive Brief is published in partnership with IPS International News Agency, whose overall mission includes coverage of the increasing political, social, and economic cooperation among developing nations. The Executive Brief contains independent, professional journalism including news, interviews and stories based on policy statements on South-South cooperation at the highest levels of government, and examples of cooperation in action or under consideration. At the international level, the Executive Brief includes interviews and statements by foreign ministers and senior officials. At the local level, the views of affected communities and civil society are highlighted.

“South-South in Action” News Letter on South-South and Triangular Cooperation

The newsletter provides opportunities for practitioners of South-South and triangular cooperation in the South and North to interact with each other through information exchange and knowledge sharing and thus deepen their understanding on the policies, initiatives and programmes that are put in practice by different organizations. Through the newsletter practitioners will have the chance to publicize their own activities, learn from others, and seek opportunities for expanding partnership for South-South and triangular cooperation. The newsletter is created in a participatory manner. All articles are authored and provided by Southern countries, UN organizations and donors engaged in triangular cooperation, while the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation facilitates participation and editing of the newsletter.
Visitors to the Southern Development Solution Exhibition where 40 Southern-grown development solutions were displayed over four days in the United Nations Secretariat building.
This segment featured a number of celebration activities, which began with the opening of the Fifth United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation (SSC) by H.E. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, Ambassador of Qatar, and President of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation of the General Assembly, followed by featured keynote speeches of eminent personalities. It also included a presentation on the main outcomes of the GSSD Expo, followed by an Awards Ceremony. At the Awards Ceremony: The South-South Leadership Award, the South-South Partnership Award, and the South-South Innovation Award were presented.

The South-South Leadership Award was presented to Inter Press Service (IPS) News Agency for its role in promoting stronger ties among developing nations and media outlets. Accepting for IPS was Mario Lubetkin, IPS Director General. RPN-TV Channel 9 in the Philippines was honored with the South-South Cooperation Partnership Award, and the U.S.-based Africa Channel with the South-South Cooperation for Innovation Award. Accepting the awards were Orlando Mercado for RPN TV and Mark Walton for the Africa Channel.

Additionally, A South-South Cooperation Special Award was presented to the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Market Women’s Fund, named after the first woman African head of state in Liberia, while the South-South Cooperation Award was presented to Ambassador John W. Ashe, Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda, who chairs the 130-member Group of 77 developing nations.

Also, during the celebration activities, Mr. Yehoram Ben-Shalom, Senior Advisor of the World Association of Former United Nations Internes and Fellows, Inc. (WAFUNIF), launched the “Minute of Peace” initiative in conjunction with the UN International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010). The event - starting October 10, 2010 at 10:10am and following the sun around the globe to every time zone - will be the world’s largest ever peaceful event taking place in over 200 territories across the world with the intention of ‘Uniting all the Nations’ for just 1 minute, 10 seconds. “The Minute of Peace is a Global South-South Triangular Initiative. With content distribution and open-platform management, it will bring the world together by globalizing the Culture of Peace,” Ambassador Al-Nasser said at the launch.

The GSSD Expo and the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation concluded with an inspirational live concert by performers from the troupe, Mizero Children of Rwanda.
AWARD CEREMONY & CELEBRATION
Above: Honourable Vabah Gayflor, Liberia’s Minister of Gender and Development (L) speaks with Yiping Zhou, Director of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in UNDP (R) and John O. Kakonge, Senior Deputy Director of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in UNDP.

Above Panelists at the Opening of the Fifth United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation (L to R): Yiping Zhou, Director of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in UNDP; Abdul Wahab, Permanent Observer of the OIC to the United Nations; Father Miguel d’Escoto Brockmann, President of the General Assembly; Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, Ambassador of Qatar and President of the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Committee of South-South Cooperation; John Ashe, Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda and Chairman of the G77 and China; Cheick Sidi Diarra, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States; and P.J. Patterson, Former Prime Minister of Jamaica.

Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, Ambassador of Qatar and President of the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Committee of South-South Cooperation presents awards to (left photo) Hon. Vabah Gayflor, Liberia’s Minister of Gender and Development representing Hon. Sirleaf Johnson, President of Liberia; and (right photo) Ambassador Byron Blake of the Mission of Antigua and Barbuda representing Hon. John Ashe, Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda and Chairman of the G77 and China; on the Fifth United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation.
Above: Panelists addressing the Opening of the Fifth United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation (L to R): Yiping Zhou, Director of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in UNDP; Abdul Wahab, Permanent Observer of the OIC to the United Nations; Father Miguel d’Escoto Brockmann, President of the General Assembly; Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, Ambassador of Qatar and President of the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Committee of South-South Cooperation; John Ashe, Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda and Chairman of the G77 and China; Cheick Sidi Diarra, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States; and P.J. Patterson, Former Prime Minister of Jamaica.

Left: Deputy United Nations Secretary-General Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro addresses the Opening of the Fifth United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation and delivers remarks on behalf of Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. Yiping Zhou, Director of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in UNDP (L) and Father Miguel d’Escoto Brockmann, President of the General Assembly (R).

Above Right: Sound of Korea performs at the closing celebrations.

Below and opposite: The Band of Hope from Rwanda perform for delegates and participants during the closing celebrations of the EXPO.
Above, below and opposite: The Band of Hope from Rwanda.
The Special Unit for South-South Cooperation (SU/SSC) was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1978 in UNDP. Its primary mandate is to promote, coordinate and support South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation on a global and United Nations system-wide basis. The Special Unit receives policy directives and guidance from the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation (HLC), which sets policies and directions and reviews worldwide progress in South-South cooperation. The Special Unit serves as the Secretariat of the HLC and prepares all substantive reports, including the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation, for submission to the General Assembly. It also organizes the General Assembly proclaimed United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation celebrated on 19 December each year. In addition, the Special Unit manages the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation (UNFSSC), the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF) of the Group of 77, and the India-Brazil-South Africa Facility for Hunger and Poverty Alleviation.
Above: Hon. Vahb Gayflor, Liberia’s Minister of Gender and Development (L); John O. Kakonge, Senior Deputy Director of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in UNDP; Yiping Zhou, Director of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in UNDP.

Left: Special Unit for South-South Cooperation team.
Above: UNDP Administrator Helen Clark meeting in New York with the team of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation.

Bottom page, above left to right: Dorothy Davis, Senior Consultant, Special Unit for South-South Cooperation; Siba Kumar Das, Senior Consultant, Special Unit for South-South Cooperation; Cosmas Gitta, Chief of Division of Policy, Special Unit for South-South Cooperation; Leela de Silva, Senior Consultant, Special Unit for South-South Cooperation.

Above right: Rogel Nuguid, Chief of Staff, Special Unit for South-South Cooperation.

Below left: Maria Hemsy, Management Associate, Special Unit for South-South Cooperation; Mithre Sandrasagra, Consultant, Special Unit for South-South Cooperation; Audette Bruce, Consultant, Special Unit for South-South Cooperation.

Below right: Special Unit for South-South Cooperation Team.
On the sidelines of the Media Session (L to R): Laura Trevelyan of the BBC; Yiping Zhou, Director of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in UNDP; and Mario Lubetkin of Inter Press Service (IPS).
The GSSD Expo 2008 was extensively covered by the international media. Reporting on the events of the EXPO was carried by newspapers and wire services, as well as by radio and television outlets, even by bloggers.

**Middle East Truce Beginning to Crack**

*Analysis by Mel Frykberg*

RAMALLAH, West Bank, Dec 16 (IPS) - Ten days of intensive fighting broke out between Israel and the Islamic resistance organisation Hamas last month despite a ceasefire. Israel carried out a cross-border incursion into Gaza, sparking a cycle of tit-for-tat violence which claimed the lives of dozens of Palestinian fighters and lightly injured two Israelis.

This serious breach of a six-month ceasefire between the two raises questions whether the current truce, which formally ends in several days will be renewed, or whether Israel will embark on a major military incursion into the Gaza Strip as it has been threatening. While a number of analysts have argued that there is a strong possibility of the truce continuing, most agree that an eventual bloody showdown between the Jewish state and Hamas is only a question of time.

Impacting the decision-making on both sides are a number of factors including upcoming elections in Israel next February, Palestinian political infighting, and military and strategic assessments. Dr Ahmed Yousef, Hamas spokesman and the foreign advisor to Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, said discussions were ongoing and that his organisation had not reached a consensus just yet on renewing the truce.

"We are discussing a number of issues including whether Israel will lift the blockade of Gaza to allow sufficient supplies of humanitarian aid in. We are also seeking the opinions of the smaller resistance groups such as Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)," he told IPS.

**Obama Faces Hungry Nuclear Industry**

*Matthew Cardinale*

ATLANTA, Georgia, Dec 16 (IPS) - As Democratic President-elect Barack Obama prepares to take office in a few weeks, he faces a hungry nuclear industry that wants to be included in his energy plan. At least 31 new plants have been proposed throughout the United States, according to the
Ban urges greater cooperation among developing nations to tackle current crises

19 December 2008 – Developing nations are facing multiple global challenges that threaten to reverse development progress as never before, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon warned today, urging them to share their experiences, policies and technologies to ensure that hard-won gains are not lost.

"Today, the worldwide crises in finance, food and climate change call for even greater cooperation among developing countries," Mr. Ban said in a message to mark the fifth observance of the UN Day for South-South Cooperation.

He noted that while in previous years countries of the global South had considerable development gains to celebrate on the occasion of the Day, that is not the case now in the wake of the current crises gripping the world, particularly the economic slowdown.

"The policy response must be bold," he urged, stressing the need to build on experiences gained through earlier financial crises in Asia and Latin America, and through numerous natural disasters and pandemics.

Since the 1990s, many developing countries have devised public programmes to improve access by the poor to food, credit, health, education and a host of other essential services in times of crisis, he stated.

"South-South cooperation should draw lessons from these programmes to protect vulnerable people today," said Mr. Ban.

The Secretary-General also pointed out that South-South cooperation can play a significant role in the fight against climate change, which he has called "the quintessential global threat."

He noted that many developing countries are adopting low-carbon development paths, backed by renewable energy and energy efficiency, and encouraged countries to share these experiences, policies and adaptation technologies.

At a special event in New York to mark the Day, the Deputy Secretary-General highlighted the crucial role that horizontal cooperation can play in helping attenuate the impact of current challenges.

"This celebration of South-South cooperation comes at a propitious time as the world struggles to find a way out of the financial, food and fuel crises," Asha-Rose Migiro noted.
Moon urges developing nations to share experiences

United Nations (PTI): Warning that developing nations are facing multiple global challenges that threaten to reverse development progress, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has urged them to share their experiences, policies and technologies to ensure that hard won gains are not lost.

In a message on the occasion of fifth anniversary of the UN Day for South-South Cooperation, Moon said the worldwide crises in finance, food and climate change call for even greater cooperation among developing countries.

He also noted that while in previous years countries of the global South had considerable development gains and stressed the need to build on experiences gained through earlier financial crises in Asia and Latin America, and through numerous natural disasters and pandemics.

Since the 1990s, many developing countries have devised public programmes to improve access by the poor to food, credit, health, education and a host of other essential services in times of crisis, he stated. "South-South cooperation should draw lessons from these programmes to protect vulnerable people today."

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UN campaign helping global South combat obstetric fistula receives award

18 December 2008 – A United Nations-backed campaign aimed at eliminating obstetric fistula, a debilitating injury resulting from giving birth, has been recognized with an award for championing collaboration between countries of the global South, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) announced today.

The Campaign to End Fistula, launched by the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) in 2003, now works in 45 countries in combating the condition, which involves a hole in the birth canal caused by prolonged labour without prompt medical intervention, usually a Caesarean section. The woman is left with chronic incontinence and, in most cases, a stillborn baby.

The award committee is so important to the millions of women living with this terrible condition. By strengthening South-South cooperation, national health systems can shorten the learning curve in addressing this problem.

In one programme, UNFPA organized a three-day marathon training session for medical staff from four Asian countries held at a hospital in the Bangladeshi city of Sylhet, during which 29 women suffering from obstetric fistula underwent successful surgery.

Teams of experienced surgeons, nurses and anaesthesiologists from Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Timor-Leste performed the procedures to share knowledge on fistula repair, while other local medical staff and students observed.

"We are extremely proud of this recognition," said Director of the UNFPA Sub-Regional Office in Dakar, Senegal, Faustin Yao.

"It is so important to the millions of women living with this terrible condition. By strengthening South-South cooperation, national health systems can shorten the learning curve in addressing this problem," he added.

The UNFPA campaign aims to eliminate fistula by 2015 by preventing and restoring the health and dignity of women living with its consequences. In the past five years, the campaign has raised more than $25 million in contributions and educated tens of thousands of individuals, community leaders and policymakers about the condition.

UNDP is slated to present awards to six organizations tomorrow, including UNFPA, at UN Headquarters in New York as part of the Global South-South Development Expo, an initiative commemorating the UN Day for South-South Cooperation.
UN chief calls on developing countries to join hands in tackling world crises

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 19 (Xinhua) -- UN Secretary-general Ban Ki-moon on Friday called upon developing countries to strengthen cooperation and do their collective utmost in dealing with the current global crises in finance, food and climate change.

In his message marking the United Nations Day for South-South cooperation, which falls on Friday, Ban said, "Today, the worldwide crises in finance, food and climate change call for even greater cooperation among developing countries. As never before, developing countries are collectively facing multiple global economic challenges that threaten to reverse development progress. The policy response must be bold."

"That response can build on experiences gained through earlier financial crises in Asia and Latin America, and through numerous natural disasters and pandemics," he said.

"Since the 1990s, many developing countries have devised public programs to improve access by the poor to food, credit, health, education and a host of other essential services in times of crisis," he said. "South-South cooperation should draw lessons from these programs to protect vulnerable people today."

"Previous economic downturns led to a rise in debt burdens, the sale of productive assets and the sorry sight of children being pulled out of schools," he said. "We must do our collective utmost to avoid such consequences this time around."

South-South cooperation can also play a significant role in the fight against climate change, he said. "Many developing countries are adopting low-carbon development paths, backed by renewable energy and energy efficiency. Countries can share these experiences, policies and adaptation technologies."

This year marks the fifth observance of the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation. On previous occasions, countries of the South had considerable development gains to celebrate. South-South trade and investment flows were rising, and South-South development assistance reached an estimated 12 billion U.S. dollars in 2006, Ban said. "Many developing economies were also growing at rates much faster than those of industrialized countries."

"On this United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, let us reaffirm our commitment to South-South strategies that will promote stability and well-being for all," he said.

The United Nations General Assembly decided to declare Dec. 19 as the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation. This was the date on which the General Assembly endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries.
Deputy Secretary-General, at headquarters event, says south-south cooperation can play crucial role in helping lessen impact of financial, food, fuel crises

Following are UN Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro's closing remarks at the event on South-South cooperation in New York, 19 December:

South-South cooperation is an integral aspect of international development cooperation. The almost weeklong series of special events shows the great importance the United Nations attaches to the subject. I thank all involved for making this possible.

The launch of the Global South-South Development Expo and leaders round table and other discussions helped you to address a wide range of important aspects of this issue, including ways to leverage market solutions for human development, promote public-private partnership for development and ease disaster risks. You examined climate change and the role of the media. In short, this rich series clearly presented ways in which developing countries can assist themselves onto a path of economic growth.

The Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, adopted during the Follow-Up International Conference on Financing for Development held in Qatar earlier this month, reaffirmed the United Nations support for South-South cooperation, as well as triangular cooperation, and stressed that it is a shining example of solidarity and cooperation between countries, based on shared experiences and objectives.

This celebration of South-South cooperation comes at a propitious time as the world struggles to find a way out of the financial, food and fuel crises and the crucial role that horizontal cooperation can play in helping attenuate the impact of these challenges.

I congratulate the Special Unit of the United Nations Development Programme for holding this very important event as I personally reaffirm the United Nations commitment to South-South cooperation.

For information media • not an official record
Newsbriefs

**Public-Private-Partnerships for Development**

Wolfgang Kerler

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 17 (IPS) - By closing ranks, the public and the private sector can create a win-win situation: Citizens are provided with better public services, while companies enjoy their financial profits - and this concept does not only apply to northern industrialised economies. "Doing business with the poor is definitely an opportunity to generate profit," Casper Sonesson, Policy Advisor at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), said at a panel discussion at U.N. Headquarters Wednesday. "It is not something philanthropic."

At the discussion -- taking place in the context of fifth United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation and the inaugural Global South-South Development Expo and Exhibition of development solutions (December 16-19) -- a number of successful public-private-partnership (PPP) projects in developing countries were presented. These PPPs were hailed as pioneering contributions to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in developing countries. One example is the Product Development Public-Private-Partnership (PDP) model of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI). The PDP,

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**Little Movement Against Tax Havens**

Julio Godoy

PARIS, Dec 17 (IPS) - As many feared, little action has resulted from the latest attempt to move against tax havens. The irony of the last event was perhaps telling of the inaction to follow. About 200 experts in international finance met last month in Monte Carlo to discuss tougher international regulations against tax evasion. Monte Carlo, in Monaco to the south of France, is one of the most notorious tax havens in Europe.

"At least, we were discussing tax evasion at the geographical heart of the matter," a French financial expert told IPS. Monaco, he said, "has a very bad image even among the global financial community." Monaco, Andorra and Liechtenstein are the last three tax havens in Europe accused by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD, a grouping of 30 wealthy nations), of not applying the body's voluntary standards on financial transparency and exchange of information.

But the meeting in Monte Carlo, organised by the OECD's Financial Action Task Force (FATF), was evidence at least that the fight against tax evasion is back on the international agenda. The OECD and the FATF have been leading a fight against tax havens since the early 1990s. Tax havens are seen as the homes of speculative hedge funds, criminal money laundering, and tax evasion.

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**Global Community Shies Away from Volatile Somalia**

Thalif Deen

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 17 (IPS) - The international community is shying away from one of the most politically-troubled and dangerous war zones in the Horn of Africa: the perpetually strife-torn Somalia. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon Wednesday confessed he has virtually given up all hopes of sending a U.N. peacekeeping force into the country,
PRESS RELEASE: First-ever Global South–South Development Expo underscores importance of cooperation and innovation

By MediaGlobal News Service

UNITED NATIONS, 16 December 2008 [MEDIAGLOBAL]: The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Special Unit for South-South Cooperation's first ever Global South–South Development (GSSD) Expo currently underway at the United Nations is focused on cooperation and finding solutions for the countries of the global South.

Emphasizing the role of South-South cooperation in meeting development and economic challenges, UNDP Administrator Kemal Dervis said, “Within the global economic context, building stronger North-South, and especially South-South, partnerships will be important to leverage the potential of the South to respond to the economic crisis.”

Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser of Qatar presided over the launch of the exposition. He was joined by Ambassador John Ashe, Chairman of the Group of 77, the Honorable P.J. Patterson, the former Prime Minister of Jamaica, and President of the United Nations General Assembly, Miguel d’Escoto.

As part of the fifth United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, the GSSD Expo presented some of the most successful practices of cooperation, allowing leaders within the international community to learn first-hand the experiences of the countries of the global South. This is the first forum of its kind to encourage leaders to engage in interactive discussion and lay the groundwork for a new global partnership for cooperation. Leaders will also be exposed to the newly created South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange and the launch of the South-South Human Development Stock Exchange, both of which use market-based mechanisms to assist in development.

Ambassador Al-Nasser called attention to the current global economic crisis which, as he noted, has revealed the vulnerability and interdependence of all countries.

“The credit crunch has served to create a domino effect of sorts that has dampened some of the fervor and enthusiasm about the new prospects for development in the global South,” he said. He commended the work of Benin’s Songhai Centre as an excellent example of how innovative and sustainable agricultural practices can transform communities in the South. Created in 1985, the Centre trains local communities in the use of modern agricultural practices and effective management to protect the environment, alleviate poverty and ensure food and energy security. He explained that plans to duplicate its efforts in other developing countries exemplify the essence of South-South cooperation- and that the purpose of this exposition is to make leaders at the local, national and global level aware that development solutions exist.

The four-day event will further serve as a workshop for bringing together new partnerships throughout the developing world. Triangular cooperation initiatives, which involve financial support from Northern donors or international organizations, will be presented as comprehensive approaches to development problems in the South. Solutions offered by public–private partnerships in the realm of climate change and disaster risk management will also be examined. In spite of the global economic woes, “the tenor of the initiatives and success stories showcased at the Expo bring a sense of hope and purpose to our work as leaders and practitioners in the development arena,” Ambassador Al-Nasser said.

The Honorable P.J. Patterson said that the forum is an essential part of a continuous process to attract the international community to instances of South-South cooperation. “The very fact that the United Nations has focused on the concerns of the South will help lead to awareness and promotion of South-South cooperation down the road,” he told MediaGlobal.

Ambassador Al-Nasser concluded the opening session by urging leaders to remain vigilant and to continue
Rwandan child choir to perform at UN

The message of Forgiveness coming from the mouth of babes! These young orphans and vulnerable children from the beautiful country of Rwanda in Africa between the ages of 11 to 18 years of age will delight and inspire their audiences in song, drumming and dancing! December 2008, USA – In December, a group of Rwandan children will arrive in the U.S. as young cultural and peace ambassadors to take audiences on a journey into the lives of the Rwandan people.
Qatar stresses importance of the events organized to mark UN Day for South-South Cooperation -2-

Article Date: 11:58 2008/12/17
Article ID: 0017

Qatar’s Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations H.E. Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser noted that the Global South-South Development Expo has pulled together some of the best examples of projects that are proven successes from across every region of the South. “This forum enables the international community to witness innovative best practices from across the South, including: the first-ever south-south leaders Round Table that brings leaders together in an interactive session to guide future Expos and to lay the ground for establishing a new global partnership compact for south-south cooperation,” H.E. Al-Nasser said.

The exposure to the newly minted south-south Global Assets and Technology Exchange mechanism and the launch of the south-south Human Development stock Exchange where market-based mechanisms are adapted to mobilize funds to address development priorities,” H.E. Al-Nasser added. H.E. Al-Nasser underlined that the tenor of the initiatives and success stories showcased at the Expo bring a sense of hope and purpose to our work as leaders and practitioners in the development arena, expressing hope that everybody will be engaged in discussions through the six sessions on topics like, leveraging market solutions for human development and showcasing solutions in poverty alleviation. H.E. Al-Nasser called for fully employed south-south Cooperation to ensure that the south does not relapse into the negative growth rates of years past, but instead protects and furthers the gains made over the past few years toward the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Concluding, H.E. Al-Nasser presented congratulations on the success of the Doha Conference of Financing for push forward the south-south Cooperation, The North-South Cooperation, as well as the Triangular Cooperation. (QNA) ST/LY
IPS Wins South-South Leadership Award

WRITTEN BY THALIF DEEN

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 19 (IPS) - At a formal ceremony attended by diplomats, senior U.N. officials and journalists, the United Nations Friday presented its 2008 'South-South Leadership Award' to Inter Press Service (IPS) news agency for its role in promoting stronger ties among developing nations and media outlets.

“We consider ourselves privileged to accept this award -- and we also view this as a recognition of the work we have been doing to highlight South-South cooperation in the field of communications during the last 45 years,” said IPS Director-General Mario Lubetkin.

“As a news agency of the global South, IPS follows the U.N. development agenda very closely,” he added.

Lubetkin also pointed out that IPS currently has content or distribution partnerships with several media outlets, including Al Jazeera TV, OneWorld, Infosud, Envolverde, and the Killid Group and Pajhwok Afghan News.

The award was presented by the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation within the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP), which has honoured individuals and institutions over the last four years.

Lubetkin said the main thrust of IPS news reporting has been -- and continues to be -- on issues long neglected by the mainstream media. These include hunger, poverty alleviation, population, children, HIV/AIDs, gender empowerment and the environment, just to name a few.

“In short, these are all issues that are of major concern mostly to developing nations, comprising over two-thirds of the membership of the United Nations,” he said during a panel discussion on 'The Role of Media in Development' which he chaired, prior to the award ceremony.

Many countries in the developing world have become centres of excellence in the fields of health, education, agriculture, the arts and modern technologies.

“And as part of our communications agenda, we are keeping track of these developments and reporting them to the outside world and we will continue to do so,” Lubetkin said.

The panel discussion was aimed at inspiring the media around the world to re-think their definition of how development issues should be covered without losing objectivity and how to expand perspectives by including more voices and expertise from the South.

The other winners at Friday’s ceremony included RPN-TV Channel 9 in the Philippines (for ‘South-South Cooperation Partnership Award’) and the U.S.-based Africa Channel (for ‘South-South Cooperation for Innovation Award’). Accepting the awards were Orlando Mercado for RPN TV and Mark Walton for the Africa Channel.

Additionally, A ‘South-South Cooperation Special Award’ was presented to the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Market Women’s Fund, named after the first woman African head of state in Liberia, while the ‘South-South Cooperation Award’ was presented to Ambassador John W. Ashe, Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda, who chairs the 130-member Group of 77 developing nations.

The four-day celebrations included the launch of the Global South-South Development Expo and an exhibition of ‘Southern Development Solutions’ highlighting shared experiences in the developing world, including success stories in South-South cooperation.

This is the fifth consecutive year the United Nations is commemorating the ‘U.N. Day for South-South Cooperation.’

The list of past award winners includes the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh and the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund, which finances South-South regional projects.

Referring to the longstanding proposal for the creation of a news agency of the global South, Lubetkin said IPS has offered its expertise and its longstanding experience to help establish such an agency.

Told about the South-South award presented to IPS, Shashi Tharoor, a former U.N. under-secretary-general for public information, said: “I have followed IPS’s reporting for three decades, and worked with them at close quarters during my media-related assignments at the U.N.”

“I have found IPS an excellent source of news and insight about the developing world, covering stories that the world’s dominant media outlets too often ignore,” said Tharoor, author of several bestselling novels, including ‘The Elephant, the Tiger and the Cell Phone.’

He said IPS reporters marry the highest professional standards of journalism to an institutional commitment to covering stories of particular concern to the global
Every day is special - 19.12.2008

Today is the feast day of St. Nicholas in the Orthodox Church, most notably celebrated in Ukraine. St. Nicholas was the Bishop of Myra (now Demre in Turkey) in the fourth century.

The majority of churches celebrate St. Nicholas’ feast day on Dec. 6, but some Orthodox churches following the old Julian calendar celebrate the feast day of St. Nicholas on Dec. 19.

Today is the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation. Referring to cooperation between Latin American, African and Southeast Asian countries, the UN proclaimed this day in 2003. Dec. 19 is the date on which the UN endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries in 1998. The UN General Assembly urged all relevant United Nations organizations and multilateral institutions to intensify their efforts to effectively mainstream the use of South-South cooperation in the design, formulation and implementation of their regular programs and to consider increasing allocations of human, technical and financial resources for supporting South-South cooperation initiatives.

On this day in 1966, the first Turkish passenger automobile, the Anadol, was marketed. A previous unsuccessful prototype was called Devrim (Revolution), but the project was discontinued before being marketed. Production of Anadol passenger cars was discontinued in 1986. Anadol was produced by Koç Group’s Otosan Automotive Co.

On this day in 1972 journalist, politician, sociologist, writer and owner of Vatan daily Ahmet Emin Yalman (b. 1907) died. Yalman was always a figure of opposition. During the British occupation of Istanbul, he was exiled to Malta because of his articles in the Vakit daily. During the early republican era, he was prosecuted by the regime because of his harsh criticism of the Republican People’s Party (CHP).

Gregorian Calendar: 19 December 2008 C.E.

Hijri Calendar: 21Dhul-Hijjah 1429 A.H.

Hebrew Calendar: 22 Kislev 5769

calendar@todayszaman.com
United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon:

"South-South Cooperation Can Play a Significant Role in the Fight Against Climate Change"

Message on the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, 19 December 2008

VIENNA, 19 December (UN Information Service) - This year marks the fifth observance of the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation. On previous occasions, countries of the South had considerable development gains to celebrate. South-South trade and investment flows were rising, and South-South development assistance reached an estimated $12 billion in 2006. Many developing economies were also growing at rates much faster than those of industrialized countries.

Today, the worldwide crises in finance, food and climate change call for even greater cooperation among developing countries. As never before, developing countries are collectively facing multiple global economic challenges that threaten to reverse development progress. The policy response must be bold.

That response can build on experiences gained through earlier financial crises in Asia and Latin America, and through numerous natural disasters and pandemics.

Since the 1990s, many developing countries have devised public programmes to improve access by the poor to food, credit, health, education and a host of other essential services in times of crisis. South-South cooperation should draw lessons from these programmes to protect vulnerable people today. Previous economic downturns led to a rise in debt burdens, the sale of productive assets and the sorry sight of children being pulled out of schools. We must do our collective utmost to avoid such consequences this time around.

South-South cooperation can also play a significant role in the fight against climate change. Many developing countries are adopting low-carbon development paths, backed by renewable energy and energy efficiency. Countries can share these experiences, policies and adaptation technologies.

On this United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, let us reaffirm our commitment to South-South strategies that will promote stability and well-being for all.

* * *
United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation

Today, December 19, 2008, is United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation. A delegation of dairy producers from Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Uganda recently visited India’s Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation. The aim of the delegation was to study the success of “Operation Flood,” which transformed milk-deficient India into the largest producer of milk and milk products in the world.

The African delegation came away impressed that Indian small dairy producers had guided and influenced policy from the bottom up, and it opened their eyes to the enormous possibilities in their own countries. Bringing Indian and African dairy experts together was made possible by the World Bank’s newly launched South-South Experience Exchange Facility.

The South-South Experience

In October 2008, the World Bank Group launched a financing facility to provide a simple, low cost way for developing countries to share their knowledge and expertise in overcoming poverty. The South-South Experience Exchange Facility is a new multi donor trust fund that promotes the idea that the development successes in one country can be replicated in another.

The trust fund has identified other areas suited for this financing including managing commodity...
MIZERO Children of Rwanda invited to perform at the UN in NY on December 19, 2008!

Friday, August 29, 2008

MIZERO Children of Rwanda Choir to perform at the UN as part of their FORGIVENESS TOUR in the U.S.

The message of Forgiveness coming from the mouth of babes! These young orphans and vulnerable children from the beautiful country of Rwanda in Africa between the ages of 11 to 18 years of age will delight and inspire their audiences in song, drumming and dancing!

In December, a group of Rwandan children will arrive in the U.S. as young cultural and peace ambassadors to take audiences on a journey into the lives of the Rwandan people through music, dance, costumes and drumming. They are known as the MIZERO Children of Rwanda which in Kinyarwanda, the language of their home land, means HOPE

While many organizations are helping Rwanda recover from the 1994 genocide, few have addressed the issue of cultural brokenness. My vision for MIZERO is to build, bring and to spread hope to Rwandan children through our vibrant music and dance traditions. It is my goal to mentor them to help them discover the power of forgiveness as I have, to help these young ones grow up free from hatred, bitterness and the spirit of revenge. This use of the arts combined with the message of forgiveness can help these children heal their wounds from the past and put a stop to violence and any future genocide through this next generation of young leaders. says MIZERO founder and CEO, Jean Paul Samputu

The UN has declared the year 2009 as the Year of Reconciliation. Samputu and MIZERO have embarked on an impassioned 2009 schedule filled with activities that focus on the topic of Forgiveness as a Step to Reconciliation. This includes the FORGIVENESS TOUR, various conferences and concerts, and global conferences called GATHERING OF FORGIVENESS: A Step to Reconciliation, to be held in Rwanda in February and July 2009 which will also commemorate the 15th year of the Rwandan genocide.

This inspirational tour’s highlight will be the children’s performance at the UN at the Global South-South Development Expo, in conjunction with the Fifth United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation on Dec. 19th. They have been invited to perform at the conference: Advancing Cooperation between the United Nations and Worldâ€™s Religion. which will take place in New York on December 16th 2008 at UNICEF Labouisse Hall. In addition, the MIZERO children are looking forward to exchanging with children from various schools in the Greenwich, Connecticut area. They will be jamming with the Djole Drum and Dance Company from South Carolina who will be making a special trip to New York City to meet with the MIZERO children. The MIZERO children will experience Christmas with the gracious hosts from Foxhill Bruderhof Community in Walden, NY.

The MIZERO foundation welcomes financial donations, donation of Christmas gifts for the children, or if you can make available a van or bus for transportation needs while in NY and the tri-state area. If your group, organization or church would like information about having the children perform at your event, anytime from December 27th through to January 23rd, please contact us at (438) 275-5147 or (828) 507-1848 or email us at mizerofoundation@gmail.com.

MIZERO Children of Rwanda believes that through music and arts, youth receive self-confidence, life skills and creative expression to help them heal and go forward. These children are sharing their gift of music and performance while raising awareness about the 1 million other orphans of Rwanda.

Grace and Peace,
IPS Wins South-South Leadership Award
Thalif Deen

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Global South-South Expo to showcase more than good ideas

By MediaGlobal News Service

25 August 2008 [MEDIAGLOBAL]: South-South driven solutions will be the focus of December’s South-South Development Expo, an annual event the United Nations Development Programme’s Special Unit for South-South Cooperation plans to launch this year. Like other such events, representatives of public and private development initiatives in developing countries will share hard won knowledge with countries facing similar development challenges. But unlike other forums, this one will be about more than talking, said Ying Zhou, the unit’s director. “If you want to discuss problems, don’t come here. But if you have a solution – it’s your show. If you have a serious appetite for learning, you come,” Zhou told MediaGlobal, describing the Expo as a development initiative with an entrepreneurial spirit. “It’s about what we have done, and what could be your solution if you are serious,” he said, explaining that rather than giving a country team a few minutes to present the highlights of a successful program, they would be given time to discuss the policies, legislation, budget initiatives and private sector involvement behind it. “The whole idea of the Expo is to give countries the whole stage to explain what happened in the past 20 years,” Zhou said, noting that participants would come away with a greater appreciation for the connections between different policy sectors for example how achieving greater gender balance in a national assembly might be key to legislating greater public health funding. The Expo will be held December 17-19. The UNDP Administrator, current and former heads of state and several Nobel Laureates are among those expected to attend.

For more This Week in Development stories, go to: http://mediaglobal.org/this-week-in-development
Kemal Derviş: 2008 Global South-South Development Expo

Statement by Mr. Kemal Derviş, UNDP Administrator, on the Occasion of the Opening Ceremony for the 2008 Global South-South Development Expo

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to welcome you today to the inaugural Global South-South Development Expo. This initiative provides the opportunity to take note of the achievements of countries and organizations across the world that have taken steps in the fight to eliminate poverty and reach the Millennium Development Goals, and other internationally agreed development goals.

1. Global economic context and prospects for development

At the Financing for Development Review Conference in Doha, the international community reaffirmed its commitment to tackle global poverty and achieve the MDGs. This included the commitment to scale up assistance to developing countries towards meeting the aim of allocating 0.7 percent of developed countries' GNP as aid to developing countries by 2015. The Doha outcome document also reflects the significant international consensus on the need for complementary and concrete action to address the triple crisis arising from the economic downturn, climate change and extreme poverty.

This renewed determination comes at a critical time when we are facing a major global economic downturn. The financial crisis has become an economic crisis and is becoming a human crisis; unchecked, it could become a security crisis.

Governments have been responding to the crisis, but more is needed, including a large fiscal stimulus preferably coordinated globally, to counteract falling private demand. Global coordination will increase the effectiveness of everyone's actions. Fairness demands that the most vulnerable who had no role in the making of this crisis receive strong support.

The growth of developing countries is critical to the prospects of the advanced economies too. Indeed, most of the growth in the world economy for 2009-2010 will come from developing economies. The following figures clearly illustrate this. Current consensus forecast that China's economy will grow between 7 and 8 percent next year; that India's economic growth will be close to 6 percent; that other developing countries' aggregate economic growth will be between 2 and 3 percent; and that mature economies will contract by about 1 percent. These figures show rather dramatically how critical the performance of the South is to the world economy.

2. The role of South-South Cooperation in meeting development and economic challenges

Within this global economic context, building stronger North-South, and especially South-South partnerships will therefore be important to leverage the potential of the South to respond to the economic crisis, to reduce poverty and furthering development, and to address climate change.

In particular, expanded development-focused South-South financial flows add a new and welcome dimension to international development cooperation, providing more options to programme countries in support of their development needs and efforts. The rise of newly industrializing and other middle-income countries presents new opportunities for low-income countries and LDCs to learn from their development experiences that may often be more relevant to their own challenges.

It is therefore opportune that we gather together this week to mark the fifth annual United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation and to discuss, analyze and determine how to learn from the experiences in the South in meeting developmental and other global challenges.

This first Global South-South Development Expo also provides additional opportunities for partnership building among donors, private sector and civil society organizations.

This, together with the events on the actual UN Day on 19 December 2008, holds the promise of further broadening our understanding of the role of South-South cooperation in fostering development.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we seek to join forces to face the economic, environmental and social difficulties ahead, South-South cooperation has an important role to play. For its part, UNDP is committed to instituting the principles and modalities of South-South cooperation throughout our entire global and country programmes.

I hope that the activities taking place this week will help to provide concrete answers that can inform our collective response to the pressing challenges of our time.

Thank you.
CLIMATE-L.ORG

19 December 2008
UN Day for South-South Cooperation: CBD Executive Secretary Addresses
Disaster Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation

17 December 2008: On the occasion of the fifth annual UN Day for South-South Cooperation
and the Launch of the Global South-South Development Expo, organized by the UN
Development Programme on 17 December 2008, Ahmed Djoghlaf, Executive Secretary of the
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), drew attention to statistics coming from climate-
related natural disasters.

He stressed that biodiversity loss can worsen the effects of climate change, and deplored that, despite the
demonstrated ability of biodiversity to both stabilize the climate and mitigate the effects of climate change, efforts
to halt its loss are proceeding slowly, while climate change itself is accelerating these trends.

He noted that South-South cooperation is an important way for the countries that will be hardest hit by climate
change to share strategies for assessing and reducing climate change risk, adding that the importance of
incorporating the many values of biodiversity into the process of South-South cooperation was explicitly
recognized in 2006. [The Statement]

in action: Announcement, actor:Multilateral Treaty Body, block:Adaptation, issue:Biodiversity & Forests,
issue:Disasters & Humanitarian Relief | Permalink

Comments

The comments to this entry are closed.
UN campaign helping global South combat obstetric fistula receives award

18 December 2008 – A United Nations-backed campaign aimed at eliminating obstetric fistula, a debilitating injury resulting from giving birth, has been recognized with an award for championing collaboration between countries of the global South, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) announced today.

The Campaign to End Fistula, launched by the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) in 2003, now works in 45 countries in combatting the condition, which involves a hole in the birth canal caused by prolonged labour without prompt medical intervention, usually a Caesarean section. The woman is left with chronic incontinence and, in most cases, a stillborn baby.

The award committee highlighted the UNFPA campaign’s innovative approach in the prevention and treatment of obstetric fistula and the rehabilitation of fistula survivors, in particular the sharing of knowledge to rapidly advance the expertise among countries in the global South.

In one programme, UNFPA organized a three-day marathon training session for medical staff from four Asian countries held at a hospital in the Bangladesh city of Sylhet, during which 25 women suffering from obstetric fistula underwent successful surgery.

Teams of experienced surgeons, nurses and anaesthesiologists from Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Timor-Leste performed the procedures to share knowledge on fistula repair, while other local medical staff and students observed.

“We are extremely proud of this recognition,” said Director of the UNFPA Sub-Regional Office in Dakar, Senegal, Faustin Yao.

“It is so important to the millions of women living with this terrible condition. By strengthening South-South cooperation, national health systems can shorten the learning curve in addressing this problem,” he added.

The UNFPA campaign aims to eliminate fistula by 2015 by preventing and restoring the health and dignity of women living with its consequences. In the past five years, the campaign has raised more than $23 million in contributions and educated tens of thousands of individuals, community leaders and policymakers about the condition.

UNDP is slated to present awards to six organizations tomorrow, including UNFPA, at UN headquarters in New York as part of the Global South-South Development Expo, an initiative commemorating the UN Day for South-South Cooperation.

News Tracker: post stories on this issue
Countries targeted by UN-backed campaign to end obstetric fistula leap to 45
Capacity.

INFOS

UN marks Fifth South-South Cooperation Day, launches Global Expo on development solutions

In response to calls to expand this initiative and provide a regular platform to share and exchange South-South development solutions, UNDP’s Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in UNDP launched the Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo) in New York from 16 to 19 December 2008. The event was held as part of the Fifth United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation.

Since 2004, the United Nations has commemorated an annual day for South-South Cooperation on 19th December. The aim is to celebrate achievements; share development successes; explore new avenues for collaboration; forge innovative South-South, triangular and public-private partnerships; and launch concrete collaborative schemes towards achieving internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Link

Publié par ECPDM, SIVU, MRCU 2009
Campaign to End Fistula Wins Prestigious Award and Recognition as a Champion in the Field of Public Health

18 December 2008

UNITED NATIONS, New York—The Campaign to End Fistula was today recognized as a model for championing collaboration between countries in the Global South, receiving an award of excellence from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The award committee of UNDP’s Special Unit for South-South Cooperation highlighted the Campaign's innovative approach in the prevention and treatment of obstetric fistula and the rehabilitation of fistula survivors. UNFPA was recognized for facilitating connections among countries to share knowledge and expertise.

With the help of UNFPA, health providers and civil society organizations have travelled from Nigeria to Sudan, from Ethiopia to Niger, from Mali to Cameroon, and more, to exchange experiences and innovative models. Health ministries from different countries have worked towards common solutions, and fistula survivors have become influential advocates, raising awareness of the debilitating condition.

This year’s award recipients were chosen for their achievements and the impact of their work. This year, the Campaign, which began in 12 countries in 2003 and now spans 45 countries in Africa, Asia and the Arab region, has demonstrated a cross-cutting approach to eliminating fistula. This comprehensive approach takes into account the health, education, economics, transportation, communications and social and cultural norms related to fistula.

“We are extremely proud of this recognition,” said Faustin Yao, Director of UNFPA’s Sub-Regional Office in Dakar. “It is so important to the millions of women living with this terrible condition. By strengthening South-South cooperation, national health systems can shorten the learning curve in addressing this problem. We can work together to end fistula by ensuring universal access to reproductive health in general and care facilities in particular, strengthening maternal health systems and promoting women’s empowerment.”

The UNDP awards were given to six organizations as part of The Global South-South Development Expo, a landmark initiative commemorating United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, on 19 December. Since 2004, the event has served as an energizing platform to highlight the importance of exchanging resources, technology and knowledge among developing countries towards their mutual advancement.

In announcing the award, Yiqing Zhou, Director, Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, acknowledged the Campaign to End Fistula as a “champion in the field of public health”. Additionally, UNFPA staff was invited to take part in the Expo from 16 to 19 December at the United Nations Secretariat to share successful solutions and explore new ways of collaborating in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

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Related Links:
- Campaign to End Fistula Website
- UNDP Global Development South-South Expo
- United Nations Secretary-General’s Report on Supporting
# Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Today:** Wednesday 18 February 2009  
**Prayer times:**  
- Fajr 04:50  
- Dhuhr 11:45  
- Asr 15:30  
- Maghrib 19:30  
- Isha 21:00

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nation &amp; Citizens</th>
<th>Government</th>
<th>Ministry Of Foreign Affairs</th>
<th>Economy</th>
<th>Tourism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

## Qatar stresses importance of the events organized to mark UN Day for South-South Cooperation

New York, December 17 (QNA) - The State of Qatar has underlined that the events organized to mark this year’s UN Day for South-South Cooperation provide ample opportunities to take a keen look at Southern solutions that can be adopted, scaled-up and applied to the many challenges facing the developing world. The remarks made in the speech of H.E. Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations and President of the High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation, delivered on the occasion of the launch of the Global South-South Development Expo. H.E. Al-Nasser noted that the agenda for these next few days is filled with discussions on topics of great interest to us all, as together we seek to identify and explore the any successful solutions to shared development challenges found among the countries of the south. H.E. Al-Nasser called for letting current crises to rob us of the many development gains achieved buy the south recently through rising levels of south-south trade, investment and other exchanges. "The beauty of south-south cooperation is that first and foremost, this dimension of international relations is about solidarity expressed in concrete and demonstrable actions of sharing technical know-how, experience and various resources among developing countries," H.E. Al-Nasser said. Despite the economic difficulties facing us during this time of financial instability, south-south approached to development provide a window of opportunity to share the hard-won lessons and relevant knowledge on overcoming difficult obstacles to development among countries that are experiencing economic hardships and other pressing crises, H.E. Al-Nasser added.

Qatar’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations H.E. Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser noted that the Global South-South Development Expo has pulled together some of the best examples of projects that are proven successes from across every region of the South. "This forum enables the international community to witness innovative best practices from across the South, including: the first-ever south-south leaders Round Table that brings leaders together in an interactive session to guide the South and to lay the ground for establishing a new partnership compact for south-south cooperation," H.E. Al-Nasser said. "The exposure to the newly minted south-south Global Assets and Technology Exchange mechanism and the lunch of the south-south Development stock Exchange where market-based mechanisms are adapted to mobilize funds to address development priorities," H.E. Al-Nasser added. H.E. Al-Nasser underlined that the tenor of the initiatives and success stories showcased at the Expo bring a sense of hope and purpose to our work as leaders and practitioners in the development arena, expressing hope that everybody will be engaged in discussions through the six sessions on topics like, leveraging market solutions for human development and showcasing solutions in poverty alleviation. H.E. Al-Nasser called for fully employing south-south Cooperation to ensure that the south does not relapse into the negative growth rates of years past, but instead protects and furthers the gains made over the past few years toward the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Concluding, H.E. Al-Nasser presented congratulations on the success of the Doha Conference of Financing for the south-south Cooperation, as well as the Triangular Cooperation.

## Ministry’s News:
- H.E. the Premier attends the signing of the goodwill and confidence-building document on Darfur crisis  
  - 17/02/2009
- H.E the Premier and Montenegro’s Premier hold a Round Of Official Talks  
  - 17/02/2009
- H.E the Premier: parties have the will to end the protracted dispute in Darfur  
  - 17/02/2009
- Al-Mahmoud and Besoie review the outcome of Darfur peace talks  
  - 17/02/2009
- Qatar/Chad/Telephone contact  
  - 17/02/2009
- Qatar/Lebanon  
  - 17/02/2009
- Qatar/United Nations  
  - 17/02/2009
- H.E the Premier receives Iranian Minister  
  - 16/02/2009
- H, E. The Prime Minister: tomorrow witnesses signing of confidence-building document between sudanese rival factions  
  - 16/02/2009
- H.E Premier/Meeting  
  - 16/02/2009
- Qatar/ Morocco/meeting  
  - 16/02/2009
- Qatar/Libanon/Meeting  
  - 16/02/2009
- Darfur peace talks in doha in progress, says H. E. The Minister Of State For Foreign Affairs  
  - 15/02/2009
- H.E the Premier congratulates new president of bangladesh on his inauguration  
  - 15/02/2009
- H.H the Emir sends letter to Saudi Monarch  
  - 14/02/2009
- Assistant Foreign Minister/U S - Islamic World Forum press conference  
  - 14/02/2009
- Darfur peace parties have sincere wills - Prime Minister  
  - 13/02/2009
- H.E the Prime Minister/Telephone contact  
  - 13/02/2009
- Qatar - Indonesia meeting  
  - 13/02/2009
hopebuilding | Inter Press Service wins 2008 South-South Leadership Award

At a formal ceremony Dec. 21, 2008, attended by diplomats, senior U.N. officials and journalists, the United Nations presented its 2008 ‘South-South Leadership Award’ to Inter Press Service (IPS) news agency for its role in promoting stronger ties among developing nations and media outlets. The award was presented by the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation within the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP), which has honoured individuals and institutions over the last four years including the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh and the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund, which finances South- South regional projects.

“We consider ourselves privileged to accept this award — and we also view this as a recognition of the work we have been doing to highlight South-South cooperation in the field of communications during the last 45 years,” said IPS Director-General Mario Lubetkin. “As a news agency of the global South, IPS follows the U.N. development agenda very closely,” he added. Lubetkin said IPS reporting has focused on issues long neglected by the mainstream media including hunger, poverty alleviation, population, children, HIV/AIDS, gender empowerment and the environment, to name only a few.

“In short, these are all issues that are of major concern mostly to developing nations, comprising over two-thirds of the membership of the United Nations,” he said during a panel discussion on ‘The Role of Media in Development’ which he chaired, prior to the award ceremony.

Many countries in the developing world have become centres of excellence in the fields of health, education, agriculture, the arts and modern technologies. “And as part of our communications agenda, we are keeping track of these developments and reporting them to the outside world and we will continue to do so,” Lubetkin said. The panel discussion was aimed at inspiring the media around the world to re-think their definition of how development issues should be covered without losing objectivity and how to expand perspectives by including more voices and expertise from the South.

Other winners included RPN-TV Channel 9 in the Philippines (for ‘South-South Cooperation Partnership Award’) and the U.S.-based Africa Channel (for ‘South-South Cooperation for Innovation Award’). Accepting the awards were Orlando Mercado for RPN TV and Mark Walton for the Africa Channel. Additionally, a ‘South-South Cooperation Special Award’ was presented to the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Market Women’s Fund, named after the first woman African head of state in Liberia, while the ‘South-South Cooperation Award’ was presented to Ambassador John W. Ashe, Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda, who chairs the 130-member Group of 77 developing nations.

The four-day celebrations included the launch of the Global South-South Development Expo and an exhibition of ‘Southern Development Solutions’ highlighting shared experiences in the developing world, including success stories in South-South cooperation. This is the fifth consecutive year the United Nations is commemorating the ‘U.N. Day for South-South Cooperation.’

Referring to the longstanding proposal for the creation of a news agency of the global South, Lubetkin said IPS has offered its expertise and its longstanding experience to help establish such an agency.

Shashi Tharoor, a former U.N. under-secretary-general for public information, said: “I have followed IPS’s reporting for three decades, and worked with them at close quarters during my media-related assignments at the U.N.” He said IPS reporters marry the highest professional standards of journalism to
an institutional commitment to covering stories of particular concern to the global South.

“They are indispensable to any reader who wishes to stay abreast of what’s happening in developing countries around the world,” Tharoor told IPS.

Ernest Corea, a former Sri Lankan ambassador to the United States, and ex-chair of the Commonwealth Select Committee on Communication and Development, said UNDP has once more demonstrated its effectiveness as a catalyst of South-South Cooperation by establishing the award for leadership in this vital area. “IPS is a richly deserving recipient of the award: its mission, style, and mode of operation define South-South Cooperation,” he added. Corea said communications are an essential component of development. “The next step for institutions such as UNDP and the Group of 77 should be to support IPS as the hub of a network of South-oriented media organisations that would accelerate the pace of South-South Cooperation,” Corea told IPS. He pointed out that IPS already has many “sharing” agreements with like-minded groups. These arrangements should be made systemic and expanded.

South-South Cooperation need not be restricted to economic development. At its most effective, it should be holistic, engaged in a range of activities that affect the quality of life of the human family. A network of communications can move ideas throughout the South, where they can be adapted as necessary and adopted. “I look forward to the day when IPS functions as the central unit of such a network,” added Corea.

This story was slightly abridged from the original story, entitled MEDIA - IPS Wins South-South Leadership Award, was written by Thalif Deen and datelined United Nations Dec. 19, 2008, distributed by Inter Press Service. The original story can be found at http://www.ips.org/institutional/media-ips-wins-south-south-leadership-award/
Joint UNDP - MFA Press Release: Romanian funded UNDP project in the Republic of Moldova

Date: 02.09.2009

Although Romania joined the prestigious donor countries club only two years ago, following the accession to the European Union in January 2007, the official development assistance (ODA) contribution is already bringing noteworthy results. The project ‘Better Opportunities for Women and Youth’ implemented in Republic of Moldova with help from the governments of the United States and Romania, received an award during the global South-South Development Expo (SSSD) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Thanks to this project financed also by the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNDP Moldova created nine Social Reintegration Centres for orphans, children with no family care, and mothers, with children or expectant, who were victims of domestic violence. Apart from shelter services, the centres provide psychological and social care, career counseling and vocational training, all aimed at facilitating a smooth re-integration of people living on the fringe of society.

Republic of Moldova, is very much linked to the role UN and UNDP wants to play in identifying and linking relevant experience in Romania to programme objectives in other countries.

This project will be subject of a documentary film produced by Marten Volcu for the Romanian National Television (TVR1) to be filmed in May.

Romania’s contribution to ODA in the 2007 financial cycle was 80 million Euros, channeled through various ministries and international organizations, including UNDP, which is involved in the implementation of projects in a set of priority countries selected by the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (i.e. Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Georgia).

“We were pleased that our first steps in the new endeavor of development assistance received UN acknowledgment. An ODA priority for Romania will remain the Republic of Moldova and we trust this first accomplishment will be followed by other relevant and effective projects developed with the competent support of the UNDP,” said Mihaela Ruijiers, director of Development Assistance Directorate of the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The UNDP is a key actor within the donor’s community.
Awards & Accolades

ADPC Executive Director honored for outstanding contribution to South-South Cooperation

Dr. Bhichit Rattakul was honored for his outstanding contribution to South South Cooperation at the 5th Annual United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation held at the U.N. Headquarters on the 19 Dec 2008. The event also launched the first Global South-South Development Expo from 16-19 Dec 2008 in New York.

Dr. Bhichit in his address on South South Cooperation on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction shared ADPC processes, resources in devising solutions for replications across countries of the South.

For more information on the event, visit http://ssc.unfpa.org

ADPC received the World Center of Excellence award at the First World Landslide forum

The forum held from the 18-21 November 2008 at the United Nations University, Tokyo, Japan was a global cooperation platform to contribute for landslide and other related earth system risk reduction.

ADPC received the World Center of Excellence award for promoting knowledge sharing, innovations and institutions with South-South focus network on Landslide Risk Reduction in Asia.

For more details: http://www.tcltq.org/

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Education News Update

Wednesday, Feb 18, 2009

NEWS

EPU Receives Award For Smart School Projects in Four Asian Countries

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 23 (Bernama) -- The Economic Planning Unit (EPU) of the Prime Minister’s Department have received the South-South Innovation Award for its Smart School Project in rural areas in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.

The award was received by EPU Director-General Tan Sri Sulaiman Mohamed at the United Nations headquarters in New York last Tuesday during the Global South-South Development Expo 2008 in conjunction with the Fifth United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation.

An EPU statement here said that the project was part of Malaysia’s contribution under the initiative for Asian integration to help bring those countries into the mainstream development.

-- Bernama
13/01/2009

SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION LINKS ON SHOW AT THE UN

Cooperation in combating AIDS among Brazil and seven other countries is displayed as a model initiative at global exhibition At the United Nations, Brazil is exhibiting an initiative that was selected to participate in the Global South-South Development Expo. The exhibition at the UN headquarters in New York will close on December 19 and is part of the celebrations of United Nations South-South Cooperation Day established by the organisation’s General Assembly in 2003. The South-South Cooperation Network (SSS) is one of 30 initiatives that were selected to participate in the event. The SSS is a cooperation network for confronting the AIDS epidemic jointly developed by the governments of Brazil, Bolivia, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Nicaragua, Paraguay, São Tomé and Príncipe and East Timor in partnership with UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNFPA and the International Centre for Technical Cooperation in HIV/AIDS (CICT). UNESC0 is expected to join the network in 2009.

Brazil launched the initiative in 2004 for the purpose of: fostering universal access to prevention, treatment and care in the field of HIV and AIDS; mobilising society and creating a supportive environment for the reduction of the stigma associated to the issue; and heightening the efficacy of the actions being implemented in the participating countries. According to Márcio de Simão, Director of the Ministry of Health’s National STD and AIDS Programme and responsible for presenting the major achievements of the SSS in New York, the network promotes the sharing of experiences in responding to HIV among countries that, in spite of their very distinct realities in regard to the epidemic itself, actually face very similar challenges in promoting their development.

The South-South cooperation initiatives are organized on a bilateral, regional or international basis and have led to increased trade among the countries involved, greater regional integration, increased flows of capital and the promotion of several forms of stimulating development. This type of cooperation has also enabled an exchange of experiences to take place and the unfolding of joint efforts to find solutions to the challenges that confront each country. Support from the developed countries and multilateral institutions has been decisive in the implementation of South-South cooperation activities. The exhibition is a clear indication of the United Nations’ commitment to supporting the aspirations of the nations of the South in regard to achieving equitable and sustainable development by sharing and transferring solutions that are adapted to local realities. There can be no doubt that South-South links network is a genuine example of South-South cooperation involving countries of three continents and the United Nations Agencies in a permanent process of exchanging information and mutual assistance” declared Dr. Pedro Chequer, UNAIDS Coordinator for Brazil.

Source: Ministry of Health
APPENDIX: SOLUTIONS SHOWCASED AT EXPO 2008
**Appendix**

**SOUTH-SOUTH SOLUTIONS**

**Afghanistan** ........................................ 102
Capacity for Afghan Public Service

**Benin** ............................................. 105
Songhai Sustainable Growth Initiative

**Botswana** ........................................ 108
Appropriate Technologies for the Hearing Impaired

**Botswana** ......................................... 111
Brazil/Botswana South-South Cooperation in Teacher Capacity Building for HIV/AIDS Prevention in Botswana

**Brazil** ........................................... 114
Laços Sul-Sul Initiative against HIV/AIDS

**China** ............................................ 117
China International Centre for Economic and Technical Exchanges

**Czech Republic** ................................. 119
Centre for Evaluation, Prevention and Research of Substance Abuse (CEPR0S)

**Ecuador** ......................................... 122
Yachana Technical High School for Indigenous Youth

**Haiti** ............................................. 125
Rabies Control in Haiti through a Vaccination Campaign

**Kenya** ............................................ 127
Bio-sanitation Centres in Urban Slum Areas

**Kenya** ............................................. 130
The Green Belt Movement

**Lao People’s Democratic Republic** ...... 133
Expanding Service Provision through Government-CSO Partnerships

**Malaysia** ......................................... 136
The Smart Schools Project

**Mexico** ........................................... 139
Supplier Development Programme

**Moldova** .......................................... 142
Better Opportunities for Youth and Women

**Mongolia** .......................................... 144
Trade and Human Development

**Pakistan** .......................................... 147
Rafi Peer Theatre Workshop

**Paraguay** ......................................... 150
Sustainable Bahía Negra Joint Programme

**Senegal** .......................................... 153
HIV/AIDS Programme for High Risk Groups

**Slovakia** .......................................... 156
Technology Transfer for Cheese Production in Mongolia

**South Africa** .................................... 159
The African Toyshop

**South Africa** .................................... 162
Expanding Health Coverage through Public-private Partnerships

**South Africa and Mozambique** ...... 165
The South Africa-Mozambique N4 Toll Road

**Tajikistan** ........................................ 168
Remittances for Development

**Timor-Leste** ..................................... 170
Strengthening the Justice System of Timor-Leste Programme

**Tunisia** ............................................ 173
Tunisia-Niger Family Planning Initiative

**Turkey** ............................................ 176
Development of Apiculture in Macedonia

**Uganda** ............................................ 179
The Alliance of Mayors Initiative for Community Action on AIDS at the Local Level (AMICAALL)

**Venezuela** ....................................... 182
Fundación del Estado para el Sistema Nacional de Orquestas Juveniles e Infantiles de Venezuela

**Viet Nam** ................................ .......... 185
Protection of Biodiversity through Sustainable Livelihoods

**TRIANGULAR COOPERATION INITIATIVES**

**Numerous countries** ........................... 188
AfriGadget

**MIT** ............................................... 191
Entrepreneurial Programming and Research on Mobiles (EPROM)

**PAHO** ........................................... 194
Overcoming Chagas Disease in the Southern Cone of Latin America

**UNDESA & the Special Unit for SSC in UNDP** ........................................ 197
Sharing Successful South-South Taxation Practices

**UNFPA** ........................................... 200
Campaign to End Fistula

**UNIFEM** ......................................... 203
Safe Cities Programme: Stopping Violence against Women in Latin American Cities
AFGHANISTAN -
ACCELERATING CAPACITY IN PUBLIC SERVICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name:</th>
<th>Accelerating Capacity for Afghan Public Service</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Country:</td>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominated By:</td>
<td>UNDP Afghanistan</td>
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<td>Implementing Agency:</td>
<td>Afghan Capacity Development Secretariat</td>
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1. Background and Overview of Project or Initiative

The legacy of 25 years of war and conflict has left Afghanistan with a collapsed administrative system and a very small pool of skilled Afghans capable of developing a vision and running the State. Although the government system is considered resilient in terms of its basic structure, practices and procedures, it has been seriously depleted of human and material resources. The Government’s Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board has underlined the inadequate capacity of government institutions at all levels, limited progress in capacity development, and the proliferation of technical assistance at a high cost and of consultants performing line government functions.

Despite huge investments in technical assistance, to date, there has been widespread dissatisfaction in Afghanistan with the high cost of such assistance and its limited impact in terms of capacity development. Given the experience with technical assistance in the country, there has been a growing sense of the value of the use of coaching as an approach to achieving lasting impact on capacity development. The same is true for the employment of experts from the sub-region, who are less costly and more sensitive to the local context.

In response to the need for sustainable capacity development within the Afghan public service, the Capacity Development Secretariat of the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC) is implementing the project, “Capacity for Afghan Public Service”, with support from UNDP, Canada and India.

2. Project Objectives

The objectives of the project are to use coaching to strengthen core functions of the Government; use advisory services to strengthen leadership and policy-making skills; develop local coaches for large-scale use at the national and subnational levels; and develop capacity within IARCSC to manage this project on a sustainable basis.

3. Project Approach

The project is designed in particular to support the Afghanistan National Development Strategy, which clearly points out the need for management of technical assistance to ensure the accelerated and sustainable transfer of skills and expertise. The project has applied its resources to develop the ability of the ministries/agencies of the Government by enabling the acquisition and strengthening of capacity for effective and efficient functioning. It uses coaching as
a methodology to strengthen core functions of government and advisory services to enhance leadership and policymaking skills.

The focus of the project is on long-term capacity development of Afghan civil servants through the placement of international and national coaches with these civil servants in ministries and agencies of the Government. Coaching and advisory services are provided to strengthen both the core functions of the Government and the public-administration capacity at the central and subnational levels.

Coaching and mentoring techniques, unlike traditional classroom training, are on-the-job learning processes that enable better retention of what is learned, especially if the entry-level capacity is low. These techniques prove very useful for jobs that require dealing with a wide variety of situations typical of public management and for jobs where guided practice is important. The coach does not provide direct technical assistance to ministry staff. Rather, the role of the coach is to facilitate the performance, learning and development of the individual or team that will in turn support the capacity of the organization.

4. Project Outcomes and Benefits

Based on a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Government of Afghanistan, the Government of India and UNDP on 23 January 2007, India agreed to provide the services of 30 of its civil servants to work under the project as coaches/advisers in different ministries and institutions of the Government of Afghanistan.

While this set of international coaches was only an initial nucleus, the emphasis has been placed on developing local Afghan coaches who will continue to use coaching as a tool to build capacity on a sustained basis. The project has also recruited 33 Afghan nationals as national coaches/trainers for capacity development and has teamed them with international coaches in the relevant ministries and agencies.

In March 2008, a performance assessment was conducted to measure the impact of, and satisfaction with, the coaching model employed by the project. The assessment was important in determining the transfer of skills from the coach to the coachee and in serving as a mid-term evaluation of the project. It was carried out after completion of the first six months of assignment for 11 coaches in 9 ministries and included self-assessment by coaches, by their coordinator and by their coachees. The results show that the average satisfaction level with the project is significant (74 per cent). In general, most coachees were highly satisfied with the work style of the coach. This is reflected in the significant levels of satisfaction with respect to the relationship between the coach and the coachee as well as the participation of the coachees in the project activities.

A noticeable outcome of the rapid impact assessment was the confirmation of acceptance of coaching as a tool for capacity development. The impact of coaching on the team’s performance, application of acquired skills and knowledge, and personal development was also reported to be significant. The beneficiary satisfaction level in individual ministries/agencies ranged between 60 and 80 per cent, confirming the hypothesis that coaching and mentoring, unlike traditional classroom training, prove to be very useful learning processes that enable better retention of what is learned, especially if the entry-level capacity is low.

5. Sustainability and Innovation

The following early lessons can be drawn from the implementation of the project:

- Coaching is an effective method of developing capacity and transferring skills in the post-conflict conditions of Afghanistan, where the
entry-level capacity is either lacking or very low, because coaching enables better retention of what has been learned.

- Capacity development is known to be a long-term process that is not amenable to delivery pressures and the quest for short-term results. Coaching and mentoring therefore proved to be very useful for jobs where guided practice is important, which is typical of core functions of public management, so that sustainable capacity of public services is developed in a gradual and systematic manner.

- The engagement in capacity development through coaching should have a long-term horizon and allow for adaptation. The CAP project needs to remain engaged despite difficult circumstances resulting from weak absorption capacity.

- Current distortions in civil service employment are seen as an obstacle to capacity development in Afghanistan.

### 6. Replicability

The approach of the project to capacity development would seem to be replicable in situations in other countries, and the use of South-South cooperation is an effective and feasible option for sourcing international coaches for capacity development at a low cost.

At the same time, the project has already demonstrated the importance of continued advocacy and outreach so that activities remain accountable to beneficiaries and contribute to ownership by national authorities. Continued advocacy with open dialogue, demonstrating a collective culture of transparency, is essential to overcoming potential obstacles.
1. Background and Overview of Project or Initiative

Most countries in West Africa have undergone political reforms since the early 1990s. These reforms have resulted in the democratization of the political and administrative structures of the States and the creation of local governments and other decentralized entities, with a view to improving governance. Often, however, the process of political reform has not been accompanied by the kinds of socioeconomic reforms and appropriate development strategies that will make these local development efforts economically viable and sustainable. By and large, these decentralized entities still depend on the central governments and donor agencies for support and fail to provide relevant services at the local level.

The “Songhai Sustainable Growth Initiative” is aimed at developing replicable processes for reversing the above tendencies and turning rural communities into viable socioeconomic entities.

2. Project Objectives

The project has three core objectives: development of local agro-economic skills and competencies; adaptation of appropriate technologies that will lead to the development of products and services aimed at improving the lives of the rural population; and support and expansion of appropriate local markets for those at the bottom of the socio-economic pyramid.

The project employs a systems model of production, processing and marketing designed for local needs and market opportunities.

3. Project Approach

The project was started in March 2004, with the next phase scheduled to begin in January 2009 and end in December 2011. Three communities from different geographic zones in Benin were chosen as project sites (Kinwedji in the west, Parakou in the north and Savalou in the centre). These sites will not only be models of sustainable development but will also become service centres for training, extension and knowledge dissemination for other communities in their respective regions.

The comprehensive systems approach of the project begins by examining the full value chain of production, processing and marketing. This consists of:

- **agricultural production**: This comprises three subsectors: animal production, food crop pro-
duction and aquaculture. The agricultural production techniques in the project are based on the zero-waste concept, where the wastes from one subsector are recycled and become inputs in another subsector. In addition to the resources recycled and reused, most of the energy used on the project sites is locally produced, showing that sustainable communities can become more energy self-sufficient;

- **processing:** This component is concerned with value added to the agricultural production in order to generate additional income for smallholder producers and rural entrepreneurs. Traditionally, local communities export their agricultural products to the cities and elsewhere and practically no added value is created at the local level. Under this project, new technologies and processes are developed with the population, which enables movement up the value chain to higher-end products and services that can be marketed beyond the local communities. Jobs are therefore created and more income is generated at every stage of the value chain in the rural communities;

- **marketing and distribution:** The project seeks to distribute and market both the primary and processed goods. In addition, different services such as ecotourism are rapidly developing in the project localities. In the next phase of the project, these sites will become rural entrepreneurial zones that will be linked with VSAT and tele-centres to facilitate communication and market transactions.

4. Project Outcomes and Benefits

After four years, the project now has core socio-economic leadership groups called “barefoot engineers” or “social economic entrepreneurs” at each of the project sites. There are 25 in Kinwedji, 95 in Parakou and 35 in Savalou.

The systems approach employed by the project using the leadership groups has resulted in dramatic increases in agricultural production. At all the project sites, agricultural production has increased by at least 17 per cent in the last few years. More specifically,

- the average rice yield in all these communities before 2004 was 700 kg per hectare/year. At present, the rice yield is 5 tons/hectare/year in Kinwedji and 4 tons/year in Parakou while in Savalou, the average yield is 4.5 tons/hectare/year;

- the average soybean yield in Benin is 300 kg per hectare. At the project sites, the yields are as follows: Kinwedji, 2.5 tons/hectare; Parakou, 2 tons/hectare; and Savalou, 2.3 tons/hectare. This has led to the development of a soybean value chain that includes seed production, soy oil, soy cake, soy milk and soy based pastries;

- in all three communities, there are now rice-processing units and seed-production activities. Loans were given to women to purchase rice-processing units. Parboiling techniques have been introduced, leading to higher prices per kilogramme of processed rice. Women have also gone through training sessions on rice-seed production and are now producing seeds, building appropriate storage facilities and marketing their products.

Overall, the project has lowered the production costs, made the operations more competitive and enabled the small-and-medium-enterprise (SME) food-processing sector.

5. Sustainability and Innovation

The founders of the “Songhai Sustainable Growth Initiative” see their project as a commitment to an active and generative use of resources. The project seeks to revitalize work and the basic structure of traditional African economies by focusing on the core element of the modern economy: the enterprise.
The challenge has been to engage all stakeholders in a radical departure from conventional economic norms to the use of new processes where sustainable agriculture becomes the launch pad for accelerated rural growth. This requires understanding the actual needs of the local communities. In other words, understanding the nature and potential of local markets and their linkages to wider regional, national and international markets is of paramount importance.

The project has also placed considerable emphasis on the development of techniques that favour a higher rate of production of sustainable products and services with minimal environmental or carbon footprints. The technological innovations of the project are oriented towards point-of-use and modular or decentralized technologies, infrastructure and products such as generation of renewable energy.

The high productivity at the project sites vouches for the demonstrated success of this systems approach.

6. Replicability

The Songhai Centre management team feels confident that its experience can be easily replicated in other Southern countries, given an understanding of local conditions. New value chains such as those for corn, yam, egg production and ruminants will be added beginning in 2009, which widens the scope for replicability. Furthermore, the second phase of the project will also concentrate on the growth of the energy component. Eight biogas units will be built in Kinwedji, 10 in Savalou and 15 in Parakou. The Songhai Centre also has started discussions with companies in Europe on the use of Songhai as a testing ground for the development of 25-kW fuel cells as an energy source. Fuel cells are more efficient than gas generators; at the same time, they have a smaller carbon footprint and increase energy efficiency.
1. Background and Overview of Project or Initiative

Godisa Technologies Trust (Godisa) is an ISO-certified, nonprofit social enterprise based in Botswana that manufactures the SolarAid, a solar-powered charger of hearing aid batteries, and a digital behind-the-ear (BTE) hearing aid for use in developing countries.

Godisa was established to meet an urgent need. Hearing impairment is considered the most prevalent impairment in the world – almost 600 million people, an estimated 10 per cent of the population worldwide, have hearing impairment that is mild or worse. Developing countries have a hearing deficiency rate that is more than double that of developed countries. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 278 million people in the world are affected by moderate bilateral hearing loss or worse. The burden of disabling hearing impairment is estimated to be approximately twice as large in developing countries as in developed countries. Once a person cannot hear properly, social interaction, educational success and meaningful employment become difficult if not impossible.

In developing countries, hearing aids and the batteries required to power them are very expensive and often unavailable or inaccessible to people with hearing impairments.

2. Project Objectives

Godisa seeks to provide a lifetime of hearing to those in need at no or very low cost. Returns from sales are used to provide training and empowerment for hearing-impaired workers, to fund research and development, and to continue subsidizing the cost of products.

The mission of Godisa is to be a model non-profit enterprise in Botswana, giving hearing-impaired people affordable access to hearing through the provision of appropriate technology. As part of its core values, the company stresses deaf empowerment through training and employment of deaf and hearing-impaired people.

3. Project Approach

The Godisa business model is based on meeting the following business and development objectives through its products, which are:

- **Lower priced**: at least 75 per cent less expensive than comparable products, enabling bulk purchase for donation purposes by government, deaf schools, hearing-related international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), deaf groups and caring individuals as well as subsidized direct sales to audiologists and hearing impaired people living in developing countries;
• **high quality:** all of Godisa’s products meet applicable WHO guidelines and use robust and proven components that last for many years;

• **technically advanced:** internationally award-winning design, rapid and highly effective battery charging with the SolarAid, and modern digital BTE hearing aids;

• **environmentally sound:** solar-powered (clean energy) battery recharging that reduces the harmful environmental impact of battery disposal; and

• **designed for the developing world:** developed by an African organization that understands the challenges faced by hearing-impaired people and hearing-related organizations in developing countries.

Godisa has also sought to expand its business operations by identifying and establishing relationships with NGOs and charitable foundations that share the same goal of delivering hearing-aid products to marginalized groups in developing countries. Two initial partners have been identified: one in Mali and one in Kenya.

In Mali, Godisa initiated a partnership with the Malian Association for the Deaf (AMASOURD) through the World University Service of Canada South-South partnership programme. Mali is a representative West African country, where market conditions are more typical of developing African nations than those in Botswana. AMASOURD is a national association operated for and by deaf people in Mali, with a membership of over 100,000 deaf people and networks. It will work with already-existing health networks of the National Federation of Community Health Associations of Mali (FENASCOM), through which the only two known audiologists are attached, providing them with the hearing aids, chargers and accessories. At least 50 per cent of the hearing aids and chargers will be distributed to women and girls.

In Kenya, Godisa is at an advanced level in negotiations with Dandora Deaf Self Help Group (DDSHG), a community-based organization that aims to build the capacity of the deaf community. Dandora is one of Africa’s largest informal settlement slums. The majority of the population is unemployed and most families do not have the resources to send children to school. Within Dandora, there is a community of deaf and hearing-impaired individuals who face additional challenges presented by their disability.

In partnership with Godisa, DDSHG plans to expand its services to include community-based rehabilitation (CBR) through assessment of hearing loss and the subsequent provision of appropriate hearing aids, solar-powered battery chargers and follow-up care. It will be Godisa’s responsibility to provide guidance in setting up a Godisa-like assembly/operation. Godisa will provide training in production, business planning and practices.

### 4. Project Outcomes and Benefits

Godisa has already demonstrated its business viability while meeting specific development goals:

- its products are low cost, technically advanced, environmentally sound, and designed specifically for challenges faced by hearing-impaired people living in the developing world, ensuring that its products meet the WHO guidelines for hearing aids for developing countries;

- Godisa is the only extensive assembler of hearing aids and charger manufacturer on the African continent; and Godisa is possibly the only hearing-aid centre in the world to have the training and empowerment of hearing-impaired people as a core value. All of the technical assemblers employed at Godisa are deaf or hearing impaired and have been provided with training (technical and in life skills).
The specific development goals met by Godisa include:

- improved health and reduced disability;
- improved accessibility for people with disabling hearing loss to their environment and to information and communication technologies;
- improved levels of hearing obtained by proper use of a hearing aid, which will enable hearing-impaired people in the region to become more involved in the life of their community, including participation in education and work opportunities;
- protection of the environment through the use of renewable energy and reduction of hazardous waste (from battery disposal); and
- creation of global partnerships with other African/developing-country partners for the development and improvement of referral systems or distribution systems for continued rehabilitation of hearing impairment.

5. Sustainability and Innovation

At the moment, the project is quite young and has yet to demonstrate lasting change. Mechanisms used to ensure future sustainability include the provision of continued training and guidance in the areas of production and business skills to the partner organization. There is great benefit in partnering for activities such as creating awareness about hearing disability, product use, policies and guidelines for deafness/hearing impairment in developing countries, and bulk purchasing.


6. Replicability

Godisa is in the process of scaling up and setting up Godisa-like operations in key areas. Two partners have found funding and are waiting to implement the plan, which includes training, sharing technology, procurement and recruitment of partner project employees. Godisa is also preparing for change, having already completed the development of a five-year strategic plan and begun its implementation.
1. Background and Overview of Project or Initiative

The project, “Brazil/Botswana South-South Cooperation in Teacher Capacity Building for HIV/AIDS Prevention in Botswana”, is an example of South-South cooperation between geographically distant countries that have a wealth of experience and shared commitment to ending the social and economic devastation of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Brazil has an internationally recognized programme that has been successful in combating HIV/AIDS and that can productively inspire the teachers’ training curriculum. It also has a developed expertise in distance education, especially in teachers’ training through information and communication technology (ICT). Botswana, for its part, is one of the countries most affected by HIV/AIDS but it has a fully committed political leadership determined to achieve its national objective of an AIDS-free generation by 2016.

2. Project Objectives

The objective of the project was to accelerate the ability of the Government of Botswana to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic by applying the highly successful lessons and experience from Brazil in using the school curricula and distance education to raise public awareness and prevention among highly vulnerable age groups.

3. Project Approach

Since 1992, the Government of Botswana has sought to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic in collaboration with various partners through a series of five-year strategic plans designed to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS and the impact of the epidemic on individuals, families and society. In alignment with these goals, the Ministry of Education (MoE) developed its sectoral strategic framework with the following relevant objectives:

- fostering behavioural change in students and staff through behavioural change communication strategies and enhancing understanding of sexual reproductive health issues to prevent the further spread of HIV infection and reduce the denial, stigma and secrecy surrounding HIV and AIDS;
- strengthening the MoE coordination, management, monitoring and evaluation of HIV/AIDS strategies at the workplace and institutional levels through intersectoral collaboration;
enhancing the capacity of the education sector to cope with and plan for the long-term impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on education; and

- initiating/strengthening school-community partnerships in combating the spread of HIV/AIDS and in supporting the home-based care programme for sustainability and self-reliance.

The teacher capacity-building project was designed to contribute to the achievement of the above goals, particularly facilitating the breaking down of the silence associated with speaking openly about HIV/AIDS in classroom settings, thus creating an opportunity for relevant behavioural change.

In collaboration with the MoE plan, Botswana TV (BTV) uses the teacher capacity-building initiative as a vehicle for developing its ability to respond to HIV/AIDS in the country as well as its educational television broadcasting. Television broadcasting thus complements already-existing radio and print media coverage concerning HIV/AIDS, creating the opportunity for comprehensive, multimedia national HIV/AIDS campaigns.

The teacher capacity-building project as a component of the HIV/AIDS strategies of both the MoE and the Department of Information and Broadcasting (which incorporates BTV) is reflected in ministerial and sectoral HIV/AIDS and development plans. These plans contribute to two concurrent and increasingly integrated national planning processes: the development of the third five-year National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan 2003-2008 and the preparation of National Development Plan 9 (NDP 9), which encompasses the same time frame. Through these processes, the teacher capacity-building initiative becomes integrated into the plans of the Government of Botswana for social and economic development.

The BTV programming is modelled after Brazil’s experience and recognized expertise in distance education, specifically for teacher training, through television and information technology. In Brazil, the system consists of 62,000 schools, 1 million schoolteachers and 24 million pupils.

4. Project Outcomes and Benefits

Overall, the teacher capacity-building project has proved to be a creative and valuable South-South cooperation initiative with tremendous potential for improving approaches to interactive teaching-learning in Botswana. The television component of teacher capacity-building, although based on the Brazilian concept of using multimedia for distance education and focused public education, has been tailored to the cultural, social, bio-social and HIV/AIDS-related situations in Botswana. Some of the major benefits of the project include:

- television broadcasting in schools. The Brazilian team worked with Botswana counterparts from the MoE, schools and colleges and Botswana TV to train personnel in production and broadcasting capabilities for school-based communications. All television programmes are complemented with printed material stressing the main points broadcast on the television programme;

- interface with ICT. The UN/World Link and Government Project is responsible for facilitating students’ use of ICT to further their engagement in HIV/AIDS prevention following television broadcasting in the 16 schools that have ICT centres;

- development of curricula on HIV/AIDS prevention. The development of curricula on HIV/AIDS prevention is an integral part of the capacity-building initiative. The Brazil/Botswana team undertook an iterative, participatory process in preparing curricula of relevance to Botswana youth. Issues to be addressed included how to facilitate discussion about the socio-cultural conditions that predispose to intergenerational sex and about sex within the school-age cohort;

- training in the use of interactive education programme in the classroom. Teachers throughout
Botswana were grouped in regional education centres for training in how to maximize the communication opportunities presented by the interactive, HIV/AIDS-prevention television programmes in the classroom.

5. Sustainability and Innovation

The project has demonstrated a useful model of South-South cooperation by building off the successes and lessons learned in one country and applying them to the specific context of a second country. The sensitivities and moral and cultural issues associated with HIV/AIDS make this kind of knowledge transfer even more complex and nuanced. The combination of Brazil’s extensive background and experience, coupled with Botswana’s strong political commitment to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic, was the keystone in the success of this project.

The project successfully mobilized various forms of support from each of the key partners in line with the mandates, comparative advantage, capacities and cooperation agreements between the individual partners and the Government of Botswana. The MoE and BTV were able to pool the technical and material resources whenever required, as reflected in the successful transfer of skills from the Brazilian team.

6. Replicability

The skills imparted in broadcast education, distance learning and design of programme content are ongoing and clearly replicable.
1. Background and Overview of Project or Initiative

Despite significant efforts to halt the spread of HIV, the epidemic continues to grow, with over 2.5 million new infections worldwide in 2007 (UNAIDS 2007 AIDS Epidemic Update). HIV challenges governments, civil society and international organizations to respond in a comprehensive and decisive manner while usually facing insufficient human and financial resources.

The Laços Sul-Sul (LSS) Initiative launched by Brazil in 2004 focuses on the promotion of the human right to health and has been the key to the establishment and/or structuring of HIV-related services in several partner countries. The Initiative, which includes Bolivia, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Sao Tome and Principe, and Timor-Leste, undertakes capacity-building activities to promote HIV prevention in schools, access to medicines and strengthening of the network between participating countries.

Another innovative characteristic of the LSS Initiative is the use of a human rights-based approach to achieve these goals, focusing on:

- the right to know how to protect oneself and others from HIV;
- the right to know one’s HIV status, with the guarantee of adequate counselling;
- the right to integrated, comprehensive treatment and care, including pediatric treatment; and
- the right of all babies to be protected from HIV transmission from their mothers.

2. Project Objectives

The objective of the Initiative involves a common commitment to ensuring universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care through the horizontal exchange of information and the joint elaboration of strategies and action plans – all within the context of solidarity among developing nations and a model of horizontal cooperation.

This model of South-South cooperation recognizes that the ultimate responsibility and ownership of the response to HIV lie with participating countries, not donors or international organizations.
3. Project Approach

In October 2004, Brazil hosted the first meeting of the newly formed partnership, which included representatives from the Governments of Brazil, Bolivia, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Paraguay, Sao Tome and Principe, and Timor-Leste as well as the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

During this initial meeting, all participating countries agreed that the focus would be much broader than just treatment and the provision of anti-retrovirals. It would include an ongoing exchange among the countries involved, focusing on universal access to prevention, treatment and care, through mechanisms such as human capacity development and the strengthening of civil society, human rights, and youth involvement and mobilization. As a result, the following lines of action were agreed upon:

- ensure universal access to prevention, including counselling and testing, and treatment;
- generate demand for services, thus increasing utilization;
- create a supportive environment through social mobilization to decrease stigma and increase the use of services; and
- mobilize participation of those who utilize services at different levels of decision-making and evaluation.

In November 2005, Brazil hosted the second meeting of the Initiative, and Nicaragua joined as the eighth participating country. This second meeting consolidated the partnership and allowed countries to share the significant progress that had already resulted from the Initiative. In addition, the International Centre for Technical Cooperation on HIV/AIDS (ICTC/AIDS) – a joint Initiative between the Government of Brazil and UNAIDS aimed at strengthening national responses to the epidemic through South-South technical cooperation – was designated to manage technical cooperation activities within the framework of the Initiative.

4. Project Outcomes and Benefits

The Government of Brazil, through its National STD and AIDS Programme, pledged to offer universal access to first-line treatment to six Portuguese and Spanish-speaking countries committed to halting the spread of the epidemic while HIV prevalence is still relatively low. The purpose of the Brazilian pledge was to contribute to the strengthening of national policies and efforts to support universal access to antiretroviral treatment.

Because children and adolescents have often been ignored in national programmes to fight HIV/AIDS, UNICEF joined this partnership, adding technical and financial support to incorporate a special focus on pregnant women, adolescents and children. This particular emphasis includes informing these populations of their right to prevention and treatment so as to increase the use of such services. In November 2007 during the fourth meeting, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) was included in the Initiative.

5. Sustainability and Innovation

By fostering South-South cooperation between countries, the Laços Sul-Sul Initiative is contributing to a strengthened national response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. This includes improved national monitoring and evaluation through capacity-building and training as well as increased capacity of national AIDS programmes through exchanges of successful experiences, documents and training.

Moreover, the Laços Sul-Sul Network is comprised of and led by national governments, which strengthens the ownership of partner countries and ensures continuity of the activities. The Initiative is also promoting the establishment of linkages between all partner...
countries as well as strong peer institutions and individual exchanges.

With regard to innovation, the Initiative has promoted country ownership of the Network by recognizing that the ultimate responsibility and ownership of the response to HIV lie with participating countries. Equally important is the application of a human rights-based approach to HIV/AIDS, this being the main principle of the Initiative and the basis of all activities under the project.

The Initiative has promoted a broad approach, including an ongoing exchange among the countries involved, focused on universal access to prevention, treatment and care. Mechanisms to achieve this objective include human capacity development, and the strengthening of civil society, human rights, and youth involvement and mobilization.

6. Replicability

The process of the establishment and engagement of partners – countries, civil society, United Nations agencies – and the human rights-based approach are certainly main lessons of the Laços Sul-Sul Initiative. The promotion of country ownership and the horizontal approach – meaning that all partners have experiences to share and from which to learn – are a true reflection of South-South cooperation.
CHINA —
CHINA SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION NETWORK

Project Name: The China South-South Cooperation Network
Country: China
Sector: Multi-sectoral
Sponsor/Donor: UNDP, Government of China

1. Background and Overview of Project or Initiative

China, as the biggest developing country and a staunch supporter of South-South cooperation, has accumulated experiences in such cooperation. The China International Centre for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE), as an ad-hoc UNDP governmental implementation partner, has initiated the establishment of a South-South Cooperation Network.

2. Project Objectives

The Network aims to promote South-South cooperation in order to improve the livelihoods of the developing countries. It can provide information on how some of the centres in China, after receiving assistance from UNDP, have grown into independent institutions that could now provide adequate services or assistance to other developing countries.

3. Project Approach

The main partners are UNDP and various ministries in China. UNDP would provide resources, including funding, especially in the initial stages, as well as technical assistance while the ministries would help to coordinate some of the policies.

4. Project Outcomes and Benefits

The impact of the China South-South Cooperation Network is comprehensive, covering various fields, such as poverty alleviation, economy, environment and employment. It is directly related, but not limited, to the Millennium Development Goals.

Many people work for the centres, which contributes to local employment. The centres could be a source of appropriate techniques and technologies that could help the local community and small enterprises. Promotion of technologies such as biogas, solar power and small-scale hydro-power would improve the environment.

5. Sustainability and Innovation

The centres are aware of the sustainability issue but continue their activities despite some funding problems with respect to concerted actions. Their approach is to match the priority areas of assistance with the development agenda of the national or local government to maximize aid effectiveness.

Adequate technologies could help to ensure the sustainability of the centres, and their cooperation as an entire network would have a broad effect and increase the opportunities for cooperation. The Network would also showcase the experiences of donation management.

The network would probably be the first one of its type to consolidate all the resources in terms of technical and economic cooperation among the developing countries.
6. Replicability

Replicability is currently under consideration. Each developing country would have many UNDP projects, which could be sustained after the withdrawal of UNDP, and they could be considered as the basis for a network to benefit other developing countries. The ability to draw on the experiences of these projects may also help to avoid duplication in UNDP efforts globally.
CZECH REPUBLIC –
CENTRE FOR EVALUATION, PREVENTION AND RESEARCH OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE (CEPROS)

Project Name: Centre for Evaluation, Prevention and Research of Substance Abuse (CEPROS)
Country: Czech Republic
Nominated By: UNDP
Sector: Health HIV/AIDS
Sponsor/Donor: Multiple partners and donors, including the Government of the Czech Republic, the UNDP Bratislava Regional Centre, UNDP Ukraine and WHO
Implementing Agency: CEPROS
Project Status: Completed

1. Background and Overview of Project or Initiative
The project, “Centre for Evaluation, Prevention and Research of Substance Abuse (CEPROS)”, was formulated between UNDP and the Czech Republic as part of the Emerging Donors Initiative, with funds channelled through an agreed Czech Trust Fund to be used for technical assistance and support to other post-Soviet countries. The project aims to support Ukraine’s HIV/AIDS outreach and research programmes through CEPROS, a Czech nongovernmental organization (NGO).

2. Project Objectives
The objective of this project was to create the conditions for establishing standard procedures for the substitution of buprenorphine therapies and initiate a pilot buprenorphine substitution project in Ukraine.

CEPROS is a non-profit public service organization whose mission is two-fold: to reduce the substance abuse and associated negative phenomena in the population of the Czech Republic, with a special emphasis on the health of children and adolescents, and to strengthen prevention, diagnostics and treatment of health disorders caused by risky lifestyles. It provides services in research and development, consultancy and evaluation, and dissemination of new knowledge and best practices in the fields of addiction, mental health and public health.

The on-the-ground, practical experience of CEPROS was well suited to supporting a bilateral programme of assistance with Ukraine through support and facilitation from the Government of the Czech Republic, the UNDP Bratislava Regional Centre and UNDP Ukraine.

3. Project Approach
A situation analysis by Czech experts served as a base for the project components. The project focused on improving the knowledge and practice of Ukrainian medical professionals in implementing substitution treatment by demonstrating Czech protocols for the comprehensive medical and psychosocial treatment of drug addicts using empirically tested Czech methodologies.

4. Project Outcomes and Benefits
At the request of the UNDP office in Kiev, all project activities were concentrated on Zakarpatska Oblast in Ukraine.
CEPROS initially undertook a global assessment of the situation in Ukraine concerning the spread of HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, the existing drug policy and substance abuse treatment system, and the status of the substitution treatment in place. This assessment served as a baseline for an overall proposal and recommendations on how to improve the existing system, including which stakeholders to involve in future activities and what steps should be taken in order to make the system integrated, efficient and consumer-oriented.

Subsequently, CEPROS conducted a workshop of involved parties active in drug users' treatment and HIV/AIDS prevention in Ukraine. The workshop, which was held in Prague in 2005, exposed the participants from different Ukrainian target institutions to substitution techniques used in the Czech Republic.

In terms of impact, the project focused on enhancing the system in place in Ukraine, with the aim of improving its capacity to target more vulnerable populations, especially in Zakarpatska Oblast, and implementing a new drug substitution method in the country. Thus, the project supported local capacity-building in one particular area of health prevention and the health system. One of the main achievements was the opening of the first substitution centre in Zakarpatska Oblast - in the city of Uzhhorod - in early 2007. This was a direct result of the cooperation between CEPROS, UNDP and Ukrainian partners operating in HIV/AIDS prevention and drug-user treatment programmes.

Creation of the first substitution centre in Zakarpatska Oblast was an important milestone of success for the oblast drug users, who were given access to effective health treatment and care. The centre has also helped to expose drug users to their human rights and encourage their reintegration into society.

This initiative addressed the insufficient HIV/AIDS preventive measures in Ukraine within the target group of drug addicts. An important component of these measures was the training of medical personnel as well as the educating of public officials about the option of buprenorphine therapies. One of the project recommendations was to continue with follow-up activities. As a result, a plan for similar activities in the border region of Ukraine with Slovakia has been drafted.

The project has resulted in the enhancement of Ukraine's HIV/AIDS and substance abuse system, with the aim of improving its capacity to target more vulnerable populations and implement the new drug substitution protocol in the country.

5. Sustainability and Innovation

The successful partnership that has been established between CEPROS and various Ukrainian partners led to the creation of the substitution centre in Zakarpatska Oblast, the area with the highest prevalence of HIV/AIDS-infected intravenous drug users, and further collaboration for this major health problem.

The new local capacities built in Ukraine can be considered as the main achievement in terms of the sustainability of the project as a whole. The long-term support from UNDP and the Czech Trust Fund helped to achieve the result, i.e., facilitation of assistance with implementation of an innovative programme in the area of HIV/AIDS prevention.

Informal and effective cooperation between the Czech Republic and Zakarpatska Oblast has been established and is continuing.

6. Replicability

This project activity can be easily replicated in other similarly affected regions. The Czech Trust Fund has begun to collaborate with UNDP Serbia, which is interested in the same type of programme to build the local capacities in the area of treatment of intravenous drug users, substitution methodologies and HIV/AIDS prevention.
The project also has the potential to be scaled up either at the level of a larger regional impact or more intensive and timely activities with the involvement of a higher number of targeted partners. CEPROS has begun negotiating with other international donors to provide more resources in order to train street workers in Ukraine who would assist the most vulnerable groups. The concept of street workers was not known in Ukraine before this project.
1. Background and Overview of Project or Initiative

In the Amazon region of Ecuador, poverty, environmental degradation and poor quality of public education are all inextricably linked. In Ecuador generally, public education achieves disappointingly poor results for rural youth. In the Amazon, educational achievement is even lower: approximately 85 per cent of young people fail to finish secondary school. Those who do finish find it difficult to obtain work, owing to a lack of relevant educational skills. The traditional bureaucratic educational model consists of a teacher working within four walls, dictating material in a monolog and a non-participatory manner on subjects that frequently have no relevance to the lives of the young people whom they are teaching. Indigenous and mestizo youth from many rural communities in the Amazon have had access to schools in their communities only for the past 25 to 30 years. They have not grown up in a culture of education that is relevant to their lives and future job prospects.

To address these issues, the Yachana Foundation opened Yachana Technical High School in October 2005 to benefit high school-age indigenous and mestizo students who live in remote rural communities in Ecuador’s Amazon region. Meaningful education is the key to reversing generations of poverty, raising environmental awareness and ensuring the sustainable use of the region’s natural resources. With the proper preparation, Amazon youth can become good stewards of their land, leaders within their communities and ambassadors for the Amazon.

2. Project Objectives

The objective of the Yachana Technical High School project is to prepare Amazon youth to be successful entrepreneurs, gain the tools to improve their standard of living and create environmentally sound employment possibilities in the rainforest.

3. Project Approach

Yachana Technical High School is a non-traditional technical school providing a practical and relevant experiential learning approach. It is forging a new generation of green leaders and entrepreneurs and is sparking students’ interest and desire to continue their education. The programme promotes the conservation of the Amazon’s biodiversity through teaching the sustainable use of natural resources, developing professional skills to improve employability, and mentoring the management of student-
run ecological enterprises. Subjects include eco-
tourism, sustainable agriculture, forest and wildlife
management, and environmentally sustainable
micro-enterprises.

While the education is relevant and practical, there
is still the problem of a digital divide between the
rural Amazon students and the rest of the world. In
early 2006, the Yachana Technical High School Inter-
centre was opened. Equipped with a 2,000-watt
solar array and an innovative hydroelectric system,
high-speed satellite communication and the latest in
solar-powered, wireless mesh-box repeater technol-
yogy, the Internet centre is providing an opportunity
for the students of the high school to have access to
information and to communicate with students and
others throughout the world.

4. Project Outcomes and Benefits

The school has 120 students from four ethnic groups,
five provinces and 54 communities. The first graduat-
ing class was in July 2008. The regional impact of this
enrolment is significant, reaching tens of thousands
of people. Students are returning to their communi-
ties and introducing improved agricultural, health
and income-generation techniques that are raising
the standard of living of their communities.

A survey of the recent graduates shows the impact
that the school’s non-traditional form of education
has had on them. It indicates, for example, that 90 per
cent of the students are using some type of organic
technique on their family farms while 87 per cent are
using a waste man management system in their own
homes and 33 per cent are employing such a system
in their communities. In addition, 38 per cent of the
graduates are involved in a tourism project in their
communities and 95 per cent have either already set
up a micro-enterprise project or are in the process
of doing so. Sixty-seven per cent of the students are
applying conservation techniques that they have
learned within their local region, 96 per cent have
greatly increased their personal use of medicinal
plants, and 79 per cent are looking at clean energies
for their families or communities. Finally, 50 per cent
of the graduates have actively engaged in efforts to
defend their community against environmental dam-
age as a result of logging, oil companies and other
factors.

5. Sustainability and Innovation

Young people from the Amazon region of Ecuador
have traditionally learned by doing, not sitting in
classrooms. The school is thus a pioneer in making
changes in the traditional educational system in or-
der to provide a relevant learning experience for
young people from poor, rural and isolated environ-
ments. The students return to their homes every 28
days and introduce improved agricultural methods,
water filters for better health or information on the
protection of their environment.

With support from the Yachana Foundation, Yacha-
na Technical High School is providing an extensive
“campus” of 1,700 hectares of land and infrastruc-
ture worth $1.3 million for the students to use in this
learning process. The students learn by being actively
involved in all aspects of the Foundation’s ongoing
development and eco-tourism projects. The approach
is different because the Yachana Foundation and
Yachana Lodge are providing students with access to
and participation in adult-level operations, financial
management, dealing with tourists and training in
accounting as well as participation with visiting
international students and volunteers. Innovative
scheduling divides the students into two groups in
a residential setting, each group present for 28 days,
which reflects the realities of the region. The high
school operates 365 days per year.

Yachana Technical High School is striving towards
being as close to economically self-sufficient as po-
sible. Initially, large sums of support were needed
for salaries, operations and the construction of
The goal of the high school is to be self-sustaining in a short period of time. As part of this goal, a number of micro enterprises have been developed that are helping to offset the cost of the operation of the high school.

6. Replicability

A number of factors point to the replicability of the Yachana Technical High School:

Students who have visited it from throughout the country through its programme of “Jovenes a Jovenes” are becoming the ambassadors for starting new initiatives modelled along the lines of Yachana. All of the students and professors who visit the high school receive an introduction to its concepts and see its programme and how it is working.

School graduates will return to their communities or other parts of the country and will help to be the multipliers in this process of establishing “networks of change.”

The school is promoting the extension and replication of its programme through community outreach activities, specifically in elementary schools. The Ministry of Education is looking at how to replicate components of the programme in other parts of the country.
HAITI –
RABIES CONTROL VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

Project Name: Rabies Control Vaccination Campaign
Country: Haiti
Nominated By: WHO
Sector: Health and social mobilization
Sponsor/Donor: Pan American Health Organization
Implementing Agency: Ministry of Health and Population / Ministry of Agriculture
Project Status: Completed
Project Period: 2007-2008

1. Background and Overview of Project or Initiative

Haiti has for decades had the highest number of human rabies transmitted by dogs of all Latin American and Caribbean countries. As recently as 2006, it accounted for 11 of the 29 cases in the Americas. It should be noted that Haiti, in addition to Bolivia, Guyana, Honduras and Nicaragua, is one of the priority countries of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/WHO.

To address this serious health risk, PAHO prepared a technical cooperation among countries (TCC) project to develop a national rabies control plan for Haiti and to undertake a rapid but thorough vaccination campaign. The project was supported by cash and in-kind contributions from WHO, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, the Dominican Republic and France.

The campaign proved to be very successful owing not only to the support of the different countries involved but also to the strong national commitment and effective coordination between the country’s agriculture and health sectors (through the Ministry of Health and Population and the Ministry of Agriculture).

2. Project Objectives

The purpose of this project was to draft and reach consensus on a National Rabies Control Plan and to carry out an anti-rabies vaccination campaign, including a significant public-awareness and social-inclusion component.

3. Project Approach

The vaccination campaign was organized in two phases: December 2007-April 2008 and April-July 2008. As noted earlier, it had a strong component of social mobilization. The population was informed (through radio messages, the most effective type of communication in Haiti) about the ways to prevent and control rabies.

The following phases were implemented:

• through the Direction de la santé animale (Animal Health Department), hiring of a private enterprise specializing in social communication in order to proceed with sensitization of the population (carried out mainly through radio spots at all levels, departments and local communities). This approach made it possible to reach the most vulnerable population in the interior departments;

• preparation of informative posters, which were distributed to the population (on prevention measures, what to do in case a person is bitten by a dog, how to detect signs of rabies, etc.);

• organization of 160 vaccination brigades. To achieve this, local staff were selected from organizations with previous experience in vaccina-
tion campaigns, such as “Gwoupman Sante Bèt” and INTERVET. These brigades included a person in charge of vaccine administration and another responsible for the preparation of the vaccination certificate. A vaccination report was also prepared (original and copy);

- organization of vaccination posts, prioritizing the places and communities at higher risk; and
- supervision of the National Rabies Control Plan.

One of the challenges was to ensure the reorganization of treatment for affected people and the implementation of an alert system (rapid interventions). The initiative had a very strong social and environmental component as it contributed to population sensitization and informed the people about risks and ways to prevent rabies.

4. Project Outcomes and Benefits

Through the vaccination campaign (timeframe of less than a year), 355,545 animals were vaccinated (dogs and cats): 183,058 animals in the first phase and 172,487 in the second phase. The vaccination campaign was the most successful in Haiti’s history.

In terms of beneficiaries, there are 202,279 animal owners who are the direct beneficiaries, along with approximately 7 million people (out of a total population of 9.6 million) who live in the vaccination campaign areas and who will no longer be exposed to the risk of getting human rabies. The project strategy resulted in community involvement and the strengthening of local and national capacities, especially through the elaboration of the National Rabies Control Plan. The main focus of the project was to reduce cases of human rabies transmitted by dogs. This is a clear contribution towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 6 relating to the reduction of communicable diseases.

5. Sustainability and Innovation

This project entailed the solidarity, contribution and hard work of both neighbouring countries such as Cuba and the Dominican Republic, which are low-income countries with a relatively low level of development, and more advanced (Brazil) or developed countries (such as Canada and France) to support the country most in need in the Americas. The political will and technical capacity of all of these countries were put to the service of Haiti in a coordinated manner, with a high level of achievement. Haiti now has a National Rabies Control Plan besides having immunized a cohort of canines against the rabies virus.

The project is also noteworthy in terms of:

- education: the target population was sensitized regarding the risks of human rabies and prevention mechanisms;
- social inclusion: most vulnerable populations were reached and high-risk groups were identified and prioritized;
- outreach: through the social communication strategy defined, the project had an impact in changing people’s behaviour and understanding of rabies risks; and
- networks: all experts mobilized from different countries through this project continue to be in contact (national counterparts, local organizations, PAHO/WHO staff, etc.) and a new project is being drafted.

6. Replicability

This initiative is could be replicated in countries with similar contexts. PAHO could also support other countries in the region through the TCC mechanism.

The TCC modality continues to be an effective instrument for solidarity, horizontal cooperation and strengthening of the institutional capacity of countries to meet their health needs. Through this modality, different countries (Brazil, Canada, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, France and Haiti) found a way to exchange knowledge, skills, resources and technologies in solidarity with Haiti, each contributing in different ways.
KENYA –

BIO-SANITATION CENTRES IN URBAN SLUM AREAS

Project Name: Bio-Sanitation Centres in Urban Slum Areas
Country: Kenya
Nominated By: Umande Trust
Sector: Water and Sanitation
Sponsor/Donor: Umande Trust
Implementing Agency: Umande Trust
Project Status: Ongoing
Project Period: 2003 to present

1. Background and Overview of Project or Initiative

The Laini Saba and Katwekera villages are located in the Kibera slum in Nairobi. Like other slums, they lack adequate housing, infrastructure and services. The residents are poor and unskilled but seeking opportunities to improve their livelihoods. With limited employment and incomegenerating opportunities, they engage in informal economic activities. On average, they earn less than one dollar a day. Out of problems identified in scoping surveys, water and sanitation issues were given high priority. About 85 per cent of households buy water from privately or communally owned kiosks at prices four to five times higher per litre than tariffs charged by the Nairobi Water and Sewerage Services Company. Most residents cannot afford adequate water for their daily requirements. Dilapidated pipes cause wastage and expose water to contamination. With insecurity and lack of bathrooms, residents bathe in open spaces while women bathe in houses, causing dampness.

About 150 women, men, youth and children may share one latrine, with many resorting to “flying toilets” (the use of plastic bags for defecation that are then thrown into ditches, etc.) and open spaces. Most latrines have wornout floors and superstructures that offer neither safety nor privacy. The latrines are usually shallow and fill up quickly. Unless exhausted, human wastes overflow into drains and streams causing pollution and constraining access by children, the elderly and the physically challenged. This situation leads to the prevalence of diseases, epidemics and deaths.

2. Project Objectives

The community wanted access to water and to find solutions to the disadvantages of pit latrines. The project aims to build capacities of community-based resource persons and groups in initiating and managing water and sanitation projects and promoting hygiene in order to change behaviour.

3. Project Approach

The project has used a community-led strategy and an eco-friendly technical option that respond to the need for sanitation services while providing facilities for social interaction.

They include:

- community mobilization and formation of a totalsanitation-for-hygiene-access (TOSHA) coalition and a ushirika facility consisting of a bio-latrine, a shower and a water source, using a pay-for-use revenue model;
• democratic election of committees by groups and training of the committees in management, business planning and accountability;
• community-led mapping to identify problems and set priorities;
• training in hygiene promotion targeting children, youth and adults;
• identification of land;
• preparation of technical designs, modelling and bills of quantities with the involvement of the Executive Committee and presentation of technical drawings for approval by the Nairobi City Council;
• leveraging of their financial and technical investments from the public and private sectors, and daily saving by primary groups;
• promotion of viable enterprises and development of water and sanitation assets; and
• forging of strategic alliances with peer organizations in water and sanitation.

Mobilization of financial resources was carried out using project proposals to likely donors while some technical inputs and in-kind support were solicited directly. However, most local partners were reached through networking with organizations already working in Kibera.

4. Project Outcomes and Benefits
Construction and management of the bio-centre have been a learning process, with lessons learned informing replication. Key challenges include: initial reluctance by some residents to work on a voluntary basis, community negotiations with structure owners and the local administration to secure space for the project, and removal of waste from the site of old latrines while meeting Kenyan environmental regulations and standards.

About 1,000 men, women, youth and children from poor slum households have benefited from the project. Neighbouring schools and churches also use the facilities for a monthly fee. Better hygiene and greater appreciation of a clean environment have reduced flying toilets and have improved health in the vicinity.

With respect to community involvement in decision-making, the centres have emphasized all-around capacity building, including enhanced capacities in designing and planning improved sanitation; better access to information on water and sanitation; and improved governance from within the community, transparency and accountability. The General Council of Ushirika elected gender balanced committees.

5. Sustainability and Innovation
The anaerobic technology used at the slum’s bio-centre is an adapted replication of the best practice entitled Costeffective and Appropriate Sanitation Systems by Sulabh International Social Service Organisation in New Delhi, India. The system converts human waste into biogas and contributes to environmental sustainability by reducing emissions. In replicating this model, Umande used water and sanitation as entry points to poverty reduction, improved access to information, community networking and empowerment.

It is innovative in:

• demonstrating construction governance in which communities take the lead in planning, designing, costing, procuring, constructing and assessing performance by the Executive Committee;
• using laddis slab and beam technology that reduces costs substantially;
• constructing a two-storey, spherical, African hutshaped superstructure that provides sanitation facilities and rentable space to subsidize community services on the ground floor;
• ensuring accountability by having members hold monthly review meetings and display financial reports on communal notice boards;
• demonstrating successful partnerships among non-governmental organizations, the local authority, water providers, international agencies, the private sector and communities;
• empowering communities to develop assets and manage them; and
• enhancing ownership through training in shareholding to enable members to earn dividends.

Residents use facilities on a pay-for-use basis once a sponsoring agency provides investment funds for construction. The project developed a differential pricing strategy that maximizes profit on commercial facilities at the biocentre in order to subsidize access to water and sanitation for residents. In addition, saving by primary groups has entrenched a saving culture. It has also changed the attitude of the public so that it perceives human waste as a source of biogas and a business.

6. Replicability

Umande Trust is replicating this initiative on varying scales in Kenya using funds from sponsors who were encouraged by the success of the bio-centre project in Katwekera. Scaling up can be achieved by increasing the size of the bio-digester and the number of latrines as well as commercial facilities. Replication at new sites is sponsored by various multilateral, bilateral and national entities, including the Athi Water Services Board, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
KENYA —
THE GREEN BELT MOVEMENT

**Project Name:** The Green Belt Movement  
**Country:** Kenya  
**Nominated By:** Green Belt Movement (CSO)  
**Sector:** Environment and grassroots mobilization  
**Sponsor/Donor:** Multiple partners and donors including UNEP, Kenya Forest Service (an agency of the Ministry of Environment), the League of Women Lawyers, et. al.  
**Implementing Agency:** Green Belt Movement (CSO)  
**Project Status:** Ongoing  
**Project Period:** 1977 to present

1. Background and Overview of Project or Initiative

The Green Belt Movement (GBM) was founded by Prof. Wangari Mathai in 1977 under the auspices of the National Council of Women of Kenya. Started mainly as a grassroots women’s social movement, GBM promotes a bottom up, holistic approach to environmental conservation and development, a process that addresses basic needs and problems that communities identify as their priorities. In the process, people improve the quality of their lives and that of their communities. Using tree planting as the entry point, GBM mobilizes communities to take action for their immediate environment.

In the 1990s, the GBM was one of the most prominent civil society organizations (CSOs) publicly protecting the environment, opposing corruption, advocating for human rights and supporting peaceful democratic change in Kenya. It has also started to take its messages and approach to other countries in Africa. In 2004, Prof. Mathai was awarded the ultimate recognition for her commitment to the environment and the achievements of the GBM: the Nobel Peace Prize. She is the first African women and environmentalist to receive this award.

2. Project Objectives

The vision of the GBM is to create a society of people who consciously work for continued improvement of their environment, governance, peace and a greener, cleaner country. The GBM mission has been to mobilize community consciousness for environmental conservation, self-determination, equity, improved livelihood security, good governance and peace, using tree planting as the entry point.

3. Project Approach

The GBM addresses several issues through its expansive extension service, including tree planting, reproductive health, food security, civic and environmental education, cultural biodiversity, water harvesting, food security, advocacy and community-based tourism.

Using the unique GBM approach of community mobilization, over 6,000 community groups have been formed, comprising mostly women and representing about 120,000 households. The women are not only the beneficiaries but also form the community groups, which manage tree nurseries, raise tree seedlings and plant them on private farms and public land.
4. Project Outcomes and Benefits

Over the past 30 years, GBM and the networks involved in the movement have planted over 40 million trees using the unique GBM grass-roots approach to community mobilization. As noted earlier, over 120,000 households are involved in the movement, participating in more than 6,000 community groups, comprising mostly women. Because of the nature of GBM activities and the power of the civic and environmental education programme, many GBM network members at the grass-roots level are often elected to positions of leadership in their communities. Such positions have included leadership of community groups, members of development committees for their community and local councilors. Some of the specific achievements and impacts of the GBM are:

- **Afforestation:** As noted above, more than 40 million trees have been planted since 1977 by GBM-supported community groups. In 2006 alone, the GBM planted 4.9 million trees in Kenya;

- **Creation of economic opportunity:** GBM programmes have empowered thousands of women to lift themselves and their families out of poverty by earning money and developing income-generating activities. The GBM provides annual scholarships for bright but needy girls to complete their education through the high-school level;

- **Community mobilization:** GBM communities have formed 6,000 tree nursery groups with more than 600 networks in Kenya. Eighty percent of participants at the grass-roots community level are women;

- **Increased environmental awareness:** Through civic and environmental education programmes, advocacy and networking initiatives, there is a heightened public awareness of the need to protect and conserve local biodiversity. Landscapes have been transformed in places where the GBM has been active over the past 30 years;

- **Individual and community empowerment:** Through tree-planting and education programmes, the public benefits from an empowered community and protected natural resources. Communities choose to plant trees through the GBM 10-step programme because of the added value of its educational and empowerment seminars;

- **National and international recognition:** The visible achievements of the GBM tree-planting and advocacy programmes continue to inspire the environmental consciousness of Kenya. Most notable among these programmes are the successful efforts of the GBM to protect the Jeevanjee Gardens, Karura Forest and Uhuru Park – major green spaces in Kenya that were once threatened with privatization but now remain public parks. The GBM Pan Africa Green Network was founded in 1986 and works with other African and international non-governmental organizations to promote tree planting across Africa and in other countries of the South.

5. Sustainability and Innovation

The GBM is a grass-roots organization that is driven by local networks of community-based groups rather than individuals. The leadership and management of the groups are carried out by local members at the community level.

Working with groups ensures continuity when members change or increase in number; the entire group is unlikely to disband and move even when one or two members depart. Also, while the GBM provides an incentive to communities for every tree that survives, it also works with the communities to introduce training in income-generating activities, food security, water harvesting, and advocacy activities, among others.

One of the most innovative aspects of the GBM modus operandi is that it focuses on empowering local communities financially while protecting the
environment. By developing a unique 10-step procedure, the GBM ensures that trees are planted and validated as being in the ground before payments are made. The payment for each seedling is a token of appreciation for the commitment that the community groups have shown. As such, it is a small amount of money that in turn encourages the planting of large numbers of trees. Women are able to benefit directly from funds paid to the groups for surviving seedlings, thus greatly improving their financial status. The payment for trees is also tagged to survival: surviving seedlings are paid in full after a validation exercise is conducted three months after planting.

6. Replicability

The potential replicability of the GBM is excellent. Because of the simple structure of networks formed around tree nursery groups, nurseries and networks have been mushrooming around the country. A network is formed where 5 to 10 groups of no more than 100 members in total come together. They register themselves with the government authority so that they have a formal identity to operate a bank account. The requirements for the network are to identify network officials (chair, secretary and treasurer) who host monthly meetings with the group members to discuss any issues and collate their tree nursery data, which will be sent to the central headquarters of the GBM for entry into its database. The challenge for the GBM today is to develop the capacity to respond to the growing demand for it around the country.
LAO PEOPLE’S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC –
EXPANDING SERVICE PROVISION THROUGH
GOVERNMENT-CSO PARTNERSHIPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Project Name:</strong></th>
<th>Expanding Service Provision through Government-CSO Partnerships</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Country:</strong></td>
<td>Lao People’s Democratic Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nominated By:</strong></td>
<td>Government of Lao People’s Democratic Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sector:</strong></td>
<td>Governance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sponsor/Donor:</strong></td>
<td>Concern Worldwide, UNDP Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Vietnam Assistance for the Handicapped (VNAH)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Implementing Agency:</strong></td>
<td>Public Administration and Civil Service Authority (PACSA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project Status:</strong></td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project Period:</strong></td>
<td>2007-2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Background and Overview of Project or Initiative

Since 2006, the Public Administration and Civil Service Authority (PACSA) has led the development of a decree on local civil society organizations (CSOs). This decree will put in place a framework for CSOs to work throughout the country. Local CSOs will be able to perform voluntary, not for-profit work in cooperation with the Government. In July 2007, PACSA, with the support of UNDP, began the first phase of a four-year project that will improve efforts to reduce poverty in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic through government-CSO partnerships. The project seeks to contribute to people’s increased participation in public policy, local development and nation-building through the project goal of enhanced government partnerships with social organizations to deliver services in the public interest towards poverty reduction.

2. Project Objectives

The project aims to enhance the knowledge of government officials and legislators with regard to the role of civil society in working alongside government to reduce poverty. This will be achieved through:

- the sharing of experiences and best practices among countries of the South;
- conferences and workshops at the national and provincial levels to discuss the benefits of government-CSO partnerships;
- provision of a platform for engagement between members of the national assembly and CSOs;
- development of a legislative framework for CSOs. The first decree on associations will allow local associations to officially register themselves for the first time in the history of the country;
- a publication to collate all the knowledge and ideas that have come out of the workshops as well as best practices from other developing countries; and
- development of the capacity of CSOs.

3. Project Approach

The project’s initial focus has been on sensitization to the idea of government-CSO partnerships through a series of conferences, workshops and study tours. These include exposure to national experiences from Cambodia, China, India, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam, which are described below.
Once the Decree on Associations has been approved by the Government, the project will enter its second phase, which will run from 2009 until 2011. Whereas the first phase is focused mainly on raising awareness and the drafting of the Decree on Associations, the second phase will concentrate on the implementation of the Decree and development of the capacity of the Government to register CSOs as well as the capacity of CSOs to work through the country for poverty reduction.

The main challenges that the project is experiencing include the lack of:

- best-practice examples on CSO registration in Southeast Asia;
- knowledge and capacity of the Government to register local associations;
- government staff to implement all activities in the project; and
- knowledge of what CSOs are and how they can benefit the country. Many people whom the project and UNDP approached were very skeptical in the beginning; it therefore took time to convince them.

4. Project Outcomes and Benefits

In August 2007, PACSA organized a large National Conference on Government-CSO Partnerships, inviting resource persons from Cambodia, China, India, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam to make presentations on their experiences in this area. These resource persons came from government, NGOs and international organizations. The national conference was followed by workshops for four provinces. The project also organized a study tour to China for high-level government officials. PACSA established the drafting committee for the Decree on Associations, and the project financed a number of workshop meetings for this team.

In 2008, Vietnam Assistance for the Handicapped (VNAH) and Concern Worldwide organized a Consultation Workshop on the Draft Decree for government officials. UNDP Lao People's Democratic Republic and Concern Worldwide further supported PACSA in organizing another conference for five additional provinces and a study tour to Viet Nam for key government stakeholders for the decree approval process. Various Vietnamese ministries and agencies also sent officials to the Lao People's Democratic Republic to share their experiences directly with their Lao counterparts.

At the time of writing of this brief, the project had achieved the following results:

- **Decree on Associations**: A Decree on Associations has been drafted and sent to the Government for approval. Once the Decree has been approved by the Government, local associations will be able to register, obtain official status and receive funding from international organizations.
- **Awareness-Raising**: Over 300 national and provincial government officials have a better knowledge of what a local CSO is and how it can benefit the Government and the country. They are also aware that the Government has drafted a Decree on Associations. The draft content of this Decree has been discussed with the participants of these conferences. In July 2008, 60 members of the National Assembly attended a similar awareness-raising conference, focusing on the role of the National Assembly in supporting CSOs.
- **Leadership**: The Decree on Associations and its implementation guidelines will provide greater clarity regarding the roles and responsibilities of the different government institutions at the national and provincial levels.

5. Sustainability and Innovation

The Decree on Associations will allow local CSOs to register in the country for the first time and receive international funding more easily. The examples of CSOs in the region and the Government approach of Viet Nam towards local CSOs have convinced the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic...
that it is time to recognize the local CSOs in its country and to give them official status. The knowledge of VNAH in this process was very helpful as well, enabling the Government to benefit from the Viet Nam experience in this regard.

In late 2008, PACSA is also planning to draft a Decree on Foundations, allowing foundations to officially register as well.

6. Replicability

Even at this early stage, the project has demonstrated a useful way of introducing a new development approach for Governments that have historically had a statist (government-only) approach to the provision of services. The project has been successful by showing officials in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic how even Governments with historical and political legacies have adopted similar models of collaboration involving CSOs and NGOs.
MALAYSIA –
THE SMART SCHOOL PROJECT

Project Name: The Smart School Project
Country: Cambodia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam
Nominated By: Government of Malaysia
Sector: Education
Sponsor/Donor: Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister’s Department
Implementing Agency: Malaysian Technical Cooperation
Project Status: Completed
Project Period: 2002-2008

1. Background and Overview of Project or Initiative

The “Smart Schools” project aimed at extending assistance for developing competencies in information technology in the global knowledge-based economy for Cambodia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam. An initiative of the Government of Malaysia through the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) of the Prime Minister’s Department, the project is in line with the Government’s aspiration to achieve Millennium Development Goal 8, specifically, Target 18. This target focuses on making available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications, to other developing countries in cooperation with the private sector. The Multimedia Development Corporation, a Government company, implemented this project through collaboration with the private sector.

This initiative is also Malaysia’s contribution to the Work Plan of the Initiative for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Integration (IAI). The IAI, launched at the Fourth ASEAN Informal Summit in 2000, seeks to narrow the development gaps among ASEAN member countries and expedite greater regional economic integration, promote equitable economic development and help to alleviate poverty in Cambodia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam.

2. Project Objectives

The project had the following objectives:

- to develop nation-building in line with the E-ASEAN initiative;
- to promote the selected schools as experimental test beds making the educational transition from a traditional model to the smart-school model in tandem with the knowledge-based economy;
- to promote the selected schools as community centres for the diffusion of information and communication technology (ICT) to neighbouring communities and as models for the recipient country’s educational enhancement; and
- to provide a platform for the establishment of global linkages at the school level via the use of ICT and multimedia tools.

3. Project Approach

The first phase of the project was implemented between 2002 and 2003 in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Myanmar. Five schools and 21 teachers in these countries underwent the educational transition from a traditional model to the smart-school model in tandem with the knowledge-based economy. Twenty-one teachers were trained in Malaysia during the first phase. The training exposed the teach-
ers to ways to use ICT effectively in teaching methods depending on the subject, specialized topics, year group and level of students, and teachers’ competencies. It also enabled teachers to produce lesson plans that incorporate technology-enhanced teaching and learning materials and activities as well as to plan the management of the classroom environment to maximize the potential of their ICT-enriched lessons.

The second phase was implemented in Cambodia and Viet Nam. The approach to this phase adopted the implementation features from phase one, which included the transformation of a classroom to a smart-school laboratory with 21 personal computers (PCs), a network server and other relevant peripherals. Two schools from Cambodia and Viet Nam, respectively, were involved in the second phase of the project, which began in 2006 and was completed in 2008.

4. Project Outcomes and Benefits

The “Smart Schools” project has allowed the children from these four Southeast Asian countries to experience ICT in education as well as access to ICT facilities and resources used for teaching and learning activities, supported by innovative content and teachers with innovative skills. As experienced in Malaysia, the initiative contributes to a lower number of disciplinary cases. The engaging teaching and learning activities also contribute to school retention. This in return will increase the ICT awareness of these children and educators.

The project was also designed to enable the surrounding community to reap the advantages of the Smart-School facilities and resources, where public usage of the facilities was highly encouraged under the schools’ supervision. The initiative has reached community members, especially those who have limited or no access to computing facilities, with the opportunity for life-long learning. Through this initiative, the underserved communities now regard ICT as an important tool that can change and enhance their lives and the lives of the younger generations through the accelerated acquisition of information.

Specific outcomes include the following:

- The project provided the opportunity to the teachers and students alike to accelerate their acquisition of knowledge. In addition, the students were exposed to an innovative and engaging approach to teaching and learning that would encourage school retention and reduced the numbers of school leavers.
- An estimated 5,000 students and 100 teachers in Cambodia, 4,000 students and 200 teachers in Myanmar, 3,500 students and 150 teachers in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, and 3,000 students and 120 teachers in Viet Nam received direct access to the ICT facilities and resources provided through the Smart-Schools initiative. This not only benefits the students and teachers but also the community at large, especially their immediate families as they, too, could access the Internet and computing facilities.
- The initiative has led to schools assuming responsibilities in expanding the project, as is apparent in Preahyukunthor High School in Cambodia. There, the trainees who underwent the training in Malaysia prepared a proposal to obtain funding for the in-house training for other teachers to share their experiences and newfound knowledge on accelerating innovative ideas in teaching and learning through the smart-school concept. Small-scale knowledge-sharing sessions have already been conducted in all the schools, affecting teachers from within the school as well as neighbouring schools.

5. Sustainability and Innovation

With respect to sustainability, an implementation plan has been structured to assist the schools in ensuring that the technical and innovative teaching skills that they had recently acquired are being disseminated to other teachers. This ultimately ensures that the professional development of the teachers is shared, sustained and enriched.
The innovative approach taken by this initiative is shown in the provision of a holistic, end-to-end solution and services aimed at providing capacity-building and skills transfers for human development in the global economy.

The project encapsulates:

- a conducive, ICT-enabled environment – a classroom redesigned to accommodate ICT integration into education;
- innovative tools – provision of the Self-learn Tools that enable teachers and students to control their own teaching and learning environments;
- a skills-enhancing programme – 8-week professional development training in Malaysia for the selected teachers from the schools involved; and
- support structure – a dedicated help desk and maintenance support for the ICT peripherals as well as the innovative tools provided to the schools for any problems encountered by the students or teachers.

6. Replicability

The “Smart Schools Project” is replicable provided that Governments make a strong commitment to establishing the following key components and inputs:

- **master trainers**: knowledge-sharing sessions regularly conducted for teachers in other schools to increase the pool of master trainers available;
- **engagement of local industry**: sustained availability of technical ICT support; and
- **policy support**: commitment from the Government to ensure that the infrastructure, professional development and necessary support are in place.
1. Background and Overview of Project or Initiative

This initiative consists of two joint components, one that originated in Mexico and is now being transferred to other Latin American countries and a new one that aims to increase quality employment in Mexico’s value chains by adapting human-talent practices from East Asian economies.

Since 1998, UNDP Mexico has managed a “Supplier Development Programme” (“Programa de Desarrollo de Proveedores”) aimed at strengthening Mexico’s value chains. The Programme methodology was developed combining different best practices from entities such as the European Union, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United States Small Business Administration (SBA). Since the beginning of 2008, the Programme, whose principles are currently being transferred to other Latin American countries, is being complemented with a policy-oriented activity called the “Exchange on Human Capital Formation”. This activity aims to facilitate the adaptation of eastern Asian experiences to the Mexican value-chain policy environment. It is expected that the Exchange will enhance policy support for the value chains of the type that is being assisted by the “Supplier Development Programme.”

2. Project Objectives

The “Supplier Development Programme,” http://www.pnudpdp.com/Portal/mnu_portal.htm, was a response to the challenges faced by the Mexican economy, which, since 1994, has been integrated into a common market with Canada and the United States North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). While NAFTA initially brought additional foreign direct investment (FDI) to Mexico, it failed to develop the expected number of high-quality, better-paid jobs. Instead, most value and the corresponding better-paid jobs and labour conditions are still added in the countries of origin of the FDI while the operations in Mexico are confined mostly to low-paid manufacturing assembly.

The “Supplier Development Programme” has worked to balance this phenomenon of “assembly-only production” by developing local-supplier small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that could manufacture parts that were being imported, especially those with a higher level of complexity, or prevent the existing local production of those parts to be delocalized abroad.

3. Project Approach

The Programme operates mainly thru agreements with large national or international companies that agree to improve and/or enlarge their pools of SME suppliers in Mexico. It has assisted 278 SME manufacturers with its in-depth, year-long intervention methodology since 2003, when it scaled up its spread from a pilot project in the central part of Mexico to
nationwide coverage. In addition, thru five web-site portals that match the demand of larger enterprises with the supply potential of SME manufacturers, it is currently assisting 2,249 small companies that list their production capabilities there.

4. Project Outcomes and Benefits

The “Supplier Development Programme” has increased the efficiency with which SMEs supply the larger enterprises that head the different value chains. It has thus shortened the period of delivery of the different inputs that the larger companies buy, diminished the percentage of faulty products and increased the sales of SMEs to larger companies.

The initiative has inspired other supplier development programmes in Mexico; for example, business associations have started their own subnational programmes with similar methodologies.

Since the beginning of 2008, the Programme has been part of the national development plan, becoming a national public policy that aims to duplicate in the following two years (2009-2010) the number of SMEs already assisted. With this evolution, it has a new name, “Programa Nacional de Empresas Tractoras”. The latest federal funding approved for the Programme is $2 million for the period August-December 2008.

The initiative has trained 100 local specialists thru a web-based training seminar, complemented with hands-on training in different value chains. The seminar is mandatory for the consultants involved in the initiative. Currently, a new version of the seminar is under way to add additional consultants.

Finally, the initiative has assisted SMEs with a total of 6,327 employees by the end of 2007, and it is widely perceived as having greatly diminished the risk of these companies losing their contracts with the large companies. In some cases, the increase in employment has been on the order of 50 per cent (leather manufacturing value chain, including very small SMEs) or in the case of Grupo Alexa, 300 new jobs.

5. Sustainability and Innovation

From its beginning, the initiative has relied on business support in the form of payments for services to fund the Programme. No services are provided free of charge, ensuring that the Programme is useful and valued by the companies. In addition to payments by SMEs and large companies, the Programme is funded by federal and state (province) monies. As such, it has linked large and small companies with business chambers and with the national and state governments.

The “Supplier Development Programme” has pioneered supplier development efforts in Mexico by providing assistance for one year, which covers most management and production functions of the SMEs. Previous programmes consisted primarily of matching (supply-and-demand) activities but lacked in-depth intervention in the SME management capabilities. The initiative is also innovative in that it looks at the SME management practices and those of the larger company that buys or could potentially buy the SME products. In particular, it works to improve the practices of purchasing departments of large companies towards the goal of facilitating their transparent and fluid interaction with local SMEs. The initiative involves the management of the large company extensively insofar as it is involved in devising the actions that will improve the purchasing practices of the company as well as those of its SME suppliers. It has also linked with the Global Compact.

By becoming a national development policy in 2008, the initiative has been scaled up to double its size and further increments are expected from 2010 on. It is also migrating from being a UNDP initiative to being institutionalized: a foundation created by a private-public alliance will direct the Programme starting in 2009.
6. Replicability

The “Supplier Development Programme” has awakened keen interest in other medium- and low-income economies of Latin America because it provides a proven methodology, already-tried web-based training seminars, software that keeps close track of programme activities and software that helps to match supply and demand. It could be translated from Spanish to other languages and adapted to agriculture and agribusiness industries to suit countries with lower levels of industrial development.
1. Background and Overview of Project or Initiative

The “Better Opportunities for Youth and Women” project promotes the reduced vulnerability of socially disadvantaged categories of people facing negative social phenomena such as domestic violence and physical abuse, abandonment, unemployment, criminality, drug abuse and trafficking in human beings.

Because of Moldova’s economic and social legacy under the former Soviet Union and the subsequent economic transition years, a disproportionately large percentage of the country’s population faces social hardships. The overall objective of the project is therefore to develop specific services to support the social, economic and professional reintegration of disadvantaged persons, especially orphans or children without family care, mothers with children at risk, pregnant women at risk or in crisis situations and victims of human trafficking. The project provides shelter services (up to 12 months) that furnish psychological and social care, impart independent life skills, make available activities aimed at facilitating or mediating beneficiaries’ access to the labourmarket, and assist with financial and material support as well as professional orientation and jobs.

2. Project Objectives

The project’s major objectives are to:

- establish and develop a network of ten independent centres for social reintegration located in areas outside the capital city and operated by local non-governmental organizations (NGOs);
- develop within these centres support services and programmes to facilitate social and professional reintegration of project beneficiaries;
- improve social assistance services in these communities from a qualitative and a quantitative perspective;
- increase the marketability of the labour force through professional training; and
- create long-term and temporary employment through the launch of social enterprises.

3. Project Approach

The Social Reintegration Centres cover the deficit of specialized social services provided to young people who have been brought up and educated in State-run residential institutions as well as women and children at risk or in a crisis situation or pregnant women.
inclined to abandon their children. Via these centres, the project aims at reducing the number of vulnerable persons subject to risk of social marginalization, physical and psychological abuse or exploitation.

The project established the following project deliverables to be completed by the time of the project’s formal closure in 2009:

- 10 Social Reintegration Centres established and fully operational;
- at least 1,700 project beneficiaries who will benefit from a wide variety of services for a period of two years and who will receive professional training with real employment opportunities;
- 10 new social enterprises created;
- at least 300 of said graduates to be employed within the newly established social enterprises;
- 30 partnerships with the private sector established; and
- approximately 65 specialists from the social and child-protection field trained to further assist beneficiaries.

4. Project Outcomes and Benefits

As of mid-2008, nine Social Reintegration Centres had been established and were fully operational while the tenth one will be established before the end of 2008.

Some 2,700 beneficiaries have been assisted from the beginning of the project. Of this number, 338 attended vocational training and 512 were professionally integrated. It is expected that the total number of vocationally trained beneficiaries will increase to 1,500 by the end of 2008 owing to the recent establishment of eight Vocational Formation and Integration Services Centres by the Government of Moldova.

Likewise, six social enterprises were created that perform a range of entrepreneurial activities. Another four business plans put forward by partner NGOs are being examined. In addition, 72 new jobs were created for Centre graduates through the social enterprises formed in partnership with the private sector.

Similarly, 23 partnerships were established with the private sector, and 58 specialists from the social and child protection sector were trained to further assist beneficiaries.

5. Sustainability and Innovation

The project contributed to the establishment of the first Social Reintegration Centres operated by local non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The Centres are funding their services themselves through parallel income-generating activities. Additionally, the entrepreneurship activities are generating jobs and professional experience for the project beneficiaries, contributing to their socioeconomic reintegration.

The social entrepreneurship phenomenon is a relatively new concept for Moldova although it is used widely in Western European countries and the new European Union members of Bulgaria and Romania. In the specific case of the “Better Opportunities for Youth and Women” project, the majority of social entrepreneurship activities are undertaken through public organizations that are project partners. Thus, entrepreneurship activities are carried out both directly by NGO partners and indirectly by setting up separate social enterprises or joint ventures in collaboration with the private sector.

6. Replicability

The experience of the project can be efficiently replicated, most notably in other Commonwealth of Independent States countries where the challenges and social problems are quite similar. All these countries continue to require support for reforming the old Soviet social assistance system, strengthening the capacity of non-governmental actors to provide suitable assistance to marginalized people, and thereby improving the quality and effectiveness of services provided.
MONGOLIA –
INCREASING INTERNATIONAL TRADE FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Project Name: Trade and Human Development
Country: Mongolia
Nominated By: Government of Mongolia
Sector: Poverty reduction through international trade
Sponsor/Donor: UNDP, GTZ
Implementing Agency: Ministry of Industry and Trade
Project Status: Ending December 2008
Project Period: 2005-2008

1. Background and Overview of Project or Initiative

International trade can be instrumental in fostering economic growth and improving the lives of the people. It has enormous importance for Mongolia, a small open economy. The trade turnover accounts for 124 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP), with exports accounting for 57 per cent and imports for 67 per cent. GDP grew by 10.6 per cent in 2004, up from 5.4 per cent in 2003. Despite this economic expansion, income poverty remains widespread, with 36 per cent of the population living below the poverty line.

Thus, buoyant trade may not always contribute to human development and poverty reduction. In Mongolia, there is a need to turn international trade into a powerful tool to reduce poverty and foster development, breaking the barriers and vulnerability common to landlocked economies.


2. Project Objectives

The objective of the project has been to use the concept of human development and Mongolia-specific Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as the framework for building the national capacities in negotiation and leadership in Mongolia in particular and among landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) in general in order to leverage their abilities for improved trade outcomes.

3. Project Approach

The approach adopted by the project has been to focus on three key areas:

- to strengthen and align trade/industrial policy-making and negotiations in Mongolia with wider development concerns and the poverty-reduction strategy of the Government within the framework of MDGs and human development;
- to strengthen the analytical and negotiation capacities of trade and international relations professionals and leaders through access to innovative tools and approaches; and
- to institute mechanisms for continued interaction between LLDCs by contributing to consolidating their interests and position in negotiations for market access and policy space.
Towards this end, the project has followed two parallel tracks:

- **analysis of trade and human development policy.** The project created the Trade Policy and Negotiation Unit within the Ministry of Industry and Trade. It supported the capacity-building activities of the Unit in order for it to successfully undertake solid policy analysis on the impact of World Trade Organization (WTO) accession on poverty eradication and human development in Mongolia. The project likewise helped to strengthen the wider economic diplomacy and negotiation skills across the Government. This capacity support has served as a platform for discussion and cross-fertilization in the area of trade and human development and for strengthening the negotiating position and negotiating capacity of the Government in trade-related issues.

- **global networking among LLDCs.** The second track took a more global perspective on trade and human development. It helped to establish and develop a global electronic network among LLDCs of Africa, Asia and Latin America and culminated in a global forum for LLDCs to discuss common trade-related policy and challenges. The meeting was held in Ulaanbaatar in August 2007.

### 3. Project Outcomes and Benefits

Another main output of this project has been to increase the Government capacity in trade negotiations. In particular, the capacity of the Ministry of Industry and Trade to analyse trade from a human development perspective has been increased. A number of studies were completed and policy options were prepared for Mongolian policy-makers and negotiators. The project also contributed to helping to draft a National Law on Foreign Trade.

With respect to the global network, the LLDC Ulaanbaatar Declaration, adopted during the August 2007 Meeting of Trade Ministers of LLDCs, was subsequently used in a number of different international settings:

The Ulaanbaatar Declaration was presented by Paraguay on behalf of the LLDCs at the special session of the WTO General Council on Aid for Trade in November 2007. LLDCs were urged to take advantage of the Aid for Trade initiative at the country and regional levels with the assistance of international agencies and regional development banks.

The Declaration was the main LLDC document in the negotiations at the Twelfth Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XII), which was held in Accra, Ghana, in April 2008, and the resulting Accra Accord, which defines the scope of the UNCTAD work programme for the period 2008-2012.

The Ulaanbaatar Declaration played a role in the preparation of LLDC proposals in the context of the negotiations on trade facilitation at the WTO at the recent Doha Round.

Parallel to these international trade forums, a series of successful e-discussions among LLDCs was organized jointly by the Ministry of Industry and Trade and UNDP from October to December 2007. The purpose of these e-discussions was to address some key points in LLDC trade-related issues. More information on these e-discussions can be found at www.global-event.mn/e-discussion.

### 5. Sustainability and Innovation

Most of the LLDCs are poor. The main innovative aspect of the project was to contribute to policy development and increased capacity of the Government of Mongolia and other LLDC Governments to leverage multilateral trade negotiations in order to promote poverty reduction and human development through sustainable economic growth.
In Mongolia, as a result of policy research and advocacy components of the project, an understanding of the importance of trade policies and trade negotiations and their implications for human development was strengthened among trade professionals in government and among Mongolian NGOs interested in the nexus of economic growth, trade and poverty reduction.

The global network for LLDCs and the August 2007 conference in Ulaanbaatar further created specific means for LLDCs to address their development challenges jointly in the context of international trade.

6. Replicability

The project has generated considerable interest in Mongolia for a continued focus on the linkages between trade and human development. With the completion of the Government’s Medium Term Trade Strategy, a second phase of the project could contribute to the implementation of the strategy and help Mongolia to benefit from the global Aid for Trade initiative. It is also expected that the global LLDC network on trade and human development will generate similar projects in the respective member countries.
PAKISTAN –
RAFI PEER THEATRE WORKSHOP

**Project Name:** Rafi Peer Theatre Workshop  
**Country:** Pakistan  
**Nominated by:** Rafi Peer Theatre Workshop  
**Sector:** Arts and culture  
**Sponsor/Donor:** Self-funding, plus grants from embassies, foundations and the private sector  
**Implementing Agency:** Rafi Peer Theatre Workshop  
**Project Status:** Ongoing  
**Project Period:** 1974 to present

1. Background and Overview of Project or Initiative

The Rafi Peer Theatre Workshop (RPTW) is a non-governmental, non-profit organization that promotes arts and culture in Pakistan. Founded in 1974, RPTW has grown in the past three decades to include not only theatre and puppetry but also a host of other art forms in its repertoire, becoming Pakistan’s largest arts organization. RPTW believes in imparting education through the arts and commitment in building collaborative links via cultural forums.

Today, it is more important than ever that all people identify and celebrate the common ground between different faiths and learn to distinguish the diversity that has always lived within Islam. The initiatives of RPTW bring together a vast selection of artists and musicians from around the world to represent their culture before local masses and experience the true face of Pakistan.

2. Project Objectives

The objective of RPTW is greater than what meets the eye. The aim is to promote culture as a fundamental dimension of contemporary life at all levels through the expansion of its role at national and international levels.

3. Project Approach

RPTW functions on multifaceted levels to achieve its targeted goals by working in the performing arts to bring about social change and create an atmosphere of learning through arts and entertainment for a society starved of quality activities and entertainment. To achieve this, RPTW uses culture as a catalyst that is common among all social strata, engaging children, young adults and adults in its activities. Changing perceptions through spiritual music and theatre are also highlighted on its agenda.

Today the organization hosts four major festivals in Pakistan: the World Performing Arts Festival, presenting an unmatched variety of music, puppetry, dance, theatre and a rich cinematic experience from more than 76 countries; the International Youth Performing Arts Festival, encouraging the talent of youth from around the globe; the National Folk Puppet Festival, sustaining the dying art of folk puppetry in Pakistan; and the International Mystic Music Sufi Festival now also touring internationally, spreading the message of peace and unity espoused by Sufi mystics in renderings of some of the most beautiful poetry and music known to humankind.
In addition to the festivals, RPTW has created Pakistan’s first Museum of Puppetry. It also owns a cultural complex and a national touring company called Nautanki (theatre on-wheels), and it has undertaken to build an Arts Village where indigenous arts and crafts will be showcased, contributing to the country’s creative economy.

4. Project Outcomes and Benefits

The RPTW festivals highlight the fundamental role of the arts as cultural expression necessary for human development, the economy, the creation of new educational partners and the cultivation of diversity. They are also a source of self-recognition and self-esteem for different communities, their art forms, fundamental rights, traditions and beliefs. Additionally, the festivals debate the development of the arts through such platforms, created for focused meetings of those who fight for a better society.

These festivals define values through unification, identity, creativity and diversity, becoming responsible for individual and social development by creating jobs and avenues of employment and generating income for both local and foreign groups. They strongly relate to the production, diffusion and appreciation of historical heritage and increased tourism.

It is very important that such initiatives remain a permanent exercise projecting diverse forms of performances that manifest the cultural expression of their people by guaranteeing peaceful and generous coexistence between social groups and different cultures.

Some highlights of the RPTW festivals are noted below:

- World Performing Arts Festival. The main aim of the festival is to promote cultural diversity in a rapidly globalizing world. The festival enables participants to view each culture independently and compare it with their own. Vital relationships gradually form between artists as they develop an understanding of each other’s work over time. These interactions and the fusions that consequently emerge are a natural outcome of an artist’s experiences, as opposed to a strained effort at cultural exchange or, in other words, forced globalization. Natural collaboration is always more conducive to peaceful partnerships than forced globalization.

- International Mystic Music Sufi Festival. The 2008 International Mystic Music Sufi Festival featured groups from Algeria, Egypt, France, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Morocco, Pakistan, Spain, the Syrian Arab Republic and the United States of America. Devotional dance, music and poetry formed the essential elements of the performances highlighting the eternal wisdom and mesmerizing beauty of the Sufi message. The purpose of the festival is to shine through conflicts existing not only between Muslims and non-Muslims but also within the Muslim world. It aims to communicate the spirit of Islam as a proponent of peace and love to as wide an audience as possible. A total of 45,000 people attended the festival.

- International Youth Performing Arts Festival. The International Youth Performing Arts Festival was created with the vision of generating a beneficial atmosphere for young performing groups, enabling them to take their productions out of their academic institutes onto a professional stage. It encourages the youth to participate in activities in the field of the live performing arts such as drama, dance, music, theatre and film.

5. Sustainability and Innovation

Peer Artist Management (PAM) Services is an outgrowth of the RPTW arts festivals. Having organized numerous international festivals, RPTW has developed a rich network of contacts in the musical industry. PAM Services has been created to promote the indigenous, devotional and classical music in Pakistan as well
as its signed artists in addition to encouraging new talents and developing collaborative projects on an international scale. This project will focus on artists coming from rural and remote areas, with upcoming singers and musicians as a priority target. Musical genres to be promoted include Sufi, devotional, folk, semi-classical and classical music.

6. Replicability

RPTW sustains its projects with funding from its own resources, such as Peeru’s Café, and recently resources from the Royal Norwegian Embassy. The organization often works with cultural bodies such as the Annemarie-Schimmel-Haus and various embassies during specific projects. For events and festivals, RPTW has engaged the corporate sector as it has the capacity to fund projects. Before the change of government, RPTW was also supported by the former President and Government of Punjab.
1. Background and Overview of Project or Initiative

The Municipality of Bahía Negra in the department of Alto Paraguay was created in 2006 and, as one of the newest in the country, it is undergoing a consolidation process aimed at developing its financial, structural and organizational systems. Historically, the area has been one of the poorest in the nation, with a very limited revenue-generating base compared to other cities and municipalities. At the same time, Bahía Negra is located at an important environmental and tourist axis, in close proximity to the Brazilian Pantanal (and the town of Bonito) and the Bolivian Pantanal (and Otuquis Park). Both countries, and especially Brazil, have recognized the importance that this ecosystem represents for tourism, and both have established mechanisms to favour income-generation based on the implementation of environmentally sustainable tourism.

For its part, the 2007 territorial planning document of the Government of Paraguay for the departments of Alto Paraguay and Boquerón noted the zone of Bahía Negra as “recommended for the management and sustainable use (both commercially and as sport) of wildlife, forests, fishing and nature tourism”, assuring that it is a “potential area for the use of renewable natural resources based on conservation techniques and approaches”. The same territorial planning document noted, however, that the projections of farming use for this department indicate that by 2025, some 2 million hectares (20 per cent of the departmental surface) would be exploited.

In close proximity to Bahía Negra is Rio Negro National Park. With a surface area of some 123,000 hectares, the Park has been identified as an important biodiversity area and major habitat for numerous bird species and it is now being legally and territorially consolidated. According to the territorial planning document, it is the only protected area that ensures the maintenance of a significant sample of the Paraguayan Pantanal. Consequently, the decisions that the new Municipality of Bahía Negra may make regarding its development model will have a high impact on the Pantanal ecosystem. This is also true owing to the fact that, according to its organizational chart, the Municipality has among its functions the establishment of a system of rural, urban and physical planning.

The existence of the Municipality of Bahía Negra within the Rio Negro National Park buffer area and its development needs must be legally, socially and environmentally harmonized within this institution’s territorial plan.
2. Project Objectives

The objectives of the initiative are twofold: to consolidate a territory located within an ecosystem of global importance in Paraguay and to provide the technical basis for the sustainable development of the Municipality of Bahía Negra through interventions that allow for its strengthening based on the preservation of the environment and in harmony with this population’s human development.

3. Project Approach

Since 2000, Guyra Paraguay has been working within Río Negro National Park on capacity-building and carrying out scientific studies that highlight the importance of the site. The non-governmental organization (NGO) has also prepared the first conservation plan, trained and consolidated a local conservation group, and more recently acquired properties and declared them “for conservation purposes” in perpetuity within the area of the Park. In the surrounding area, Guyra Paraguay has managed to obtain funds for the acquisition of some 10,000 hectares in this Pantanal ecosystem with an approximate value of $1 million.

Besides the activities normally developed by Guyra Paraguay to obtain funds and acquire territories in the area of Río Negro National Park and the subsequent strengthening of these territories, the following four main activities have just begun to be carried out through the “Sustainable Bahía Negra (Bahía Negra Sustentable) Joint Programme”:

• **strengthening of the Municipality of Bahía Negra:** This component will centre on facilitating the development of the management capacities of the Municipality of Bahía Negra, especially concerning its relationship with central government. The strengthening will focus on the cultural and environmental dimensions of this municipality. The expected results will inform the preparation of a territorial plan and of an administrative and organizational assessment that includes a business plan to strengthen municipal performance;

• **strengthening of community capacities:** The participation of the community in the consolidation of the Municipality is essential; thus the existing social structures will be technically and organizationally strengthened. The participation of the native indigenous communities will be guaranteed through inclusive processes based on their prior and informed consent and on respect towards their traditional knowledge and livelihoods; and

• **cultural and biological conservation:** Through this component, activities, studies and focused research will be carried out that add technical and scientific knowledge to the biological value of the Pantanal ecosystem and ensure the participation of the native communities based on their traditional knowledge. This knowledge will constitute the basis for the territorial planning of Bahía Negra and will give rise to courses of action for the preparation of an eco-tourism plan for the Municipality of Bahía Negra, a plan to be achieved in a participatory manner.

4. Project Outcomes and Benefits

The project staff have begun work with the Municipality to examine options for revenue generation in terms of various tax policies and subscription rates and how they would benefit the local population with respect to health, education and employment based on specific business plans that are strategically implemented.

Other achievements worth mentioning are the close contact of the public institutions (the Municipality and the Office of the Secretariat of the Environment) with Guyra Paraguay and UNDP. This is evidenced by the contracting of a park ranger from Bahía Negra for the Río Negro National Park and the establishment of one office for this Park on the premises of the Municipality.
In terms of community development, the strengthening of the Eco-Club Pantanal (and the community radio, “Bahía Negra Poty”) represents perhaps the most visible and tangible achievement of the project to date.

5. Sustainability and Innovation

This project demonstrates an important lesson for South-South cooperation, namely, the role of a local NGO, in this case Guyra Paraguay. This NGO has managed to gather an international consortium of donors for the purchase of land of great environmental importance, based on a strategic alliance with UNDP, which then has grown into the “Sustainable Bahía Negra” Joint Programme.

Specifically, land has been acquired in order to guarantee its conservation in perpetuity. In addition, Guyra Paraguay has entered into an agreement with the Secretariat of the Environment for the joint management of three protected areas, including Río Negro National Park, establishing the basis for the participation of non-governmental partners in the conservation of these public protected areas. This link between private and public sectors is intended to correct the current budgetary deficiencies of the public institutions in charge of these public areas while generating sustainable development in the district of Bahía Negra based on the conservation of the natural resources of the area. In addition, the initiative itself centres on the development and strengthening of capacities both in the Municipality of Bahia Negra and in community organizations in order to ensure the empowerment of the local population in the activities that will govern their future.

6. Replicability

The approach for Bahía Negra has also been developed by Guyra Paraguay in another region of the country (Itapúa), and it may be continued in other districts based on the subscription of cooperation agreements and the creation of close relations with local communities. The consolidation of this best practice is presently being documented in order to promote it within the country and abroad.
1. Background and Overview of Project or Initiative

In Senegal, the HIV/AIDS epidemic is relatively small compared to that of many other countries. Generally concentrated in certain high-risk groups, HIV/AIDS is defined by four main features:

- a usually low prevalence (0.7 per cent) in the overall population;
- a disparity between regions characterized by a prevalence of 2 per cent, higher than the national average in the south of the country (Kolda and Ziguinchor);
- a higher number of women affected by the disease than men, with 2.5 infected women for every 1 man; and
- an elevated prevalence in high-risk groups: female sex workers, 19.8 per cent, and men who have sex with men (MSM), 1.5 per cent.

In order to address the high prevalence rates among these two high-risk groups, the Ministry of Health Division for the Prevention of HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases undertook a targeted prevention and treatment programme.

2. Project Objectives

The objectives of the programme are to reduce the spread and incidence of HIV/AIDS among the high-risk groups in the Senegalese population and to offer these groups an effective treatment protocol and socialization services.

3. Project Approach

Prior to the start of the programme, the Ministry of Health had conducted a number of epidemiological surveys on HIV/AIDS dating back to 1989, when female sex workers were targeted as a potential high-risk group. The first HIV/AIDS survey that looked at high-risk men was carried out in 2001 and included a sample of 250 men living in Dakar. This survey found that 80 per cent of those identified as infected were bisexual, mostly married and polygamous.

The various surveys highlighted the need for the Government to offer special services for these two largely “invisible” high-risk groups. Since 2003, the Division for the Prevention of HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases, in collaboration with its partners, has initiated a programme of AIDS support for these two groups in Dakar and regionally.

The package of services for the care of these two groups is following an integrated approach that takes into account the medical aspects of each community. Thus, the medical care of female sex workers, both at the central and regional levels, includes regular mon-
monitoring and health screening and early treatment of sexually transmitted diseases among the sex workers and their regular partners. Women who test positive for HIV are eligible for free treatment of the virus with antiretroviral drugs (as are all other people living with HIV). A similar programme of services has been set up for high-risk men.

The programme has sought to work closely with other organizations and institutions in the comprehensive care of the two groups. These wider interventions also target sexual partners who may be affected through the information given to the general population but also in awareness sessions and the distribution of condoms.

Overall, the services are part of the Government’s 2007-2011 Strategic Plan against HIV/AIDS that was prepared using a boots-up participatory consultation model for reaching widespread consensus and support. In this context, the Ministry has partnered with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; the United Nations Population Fund; the United States Agency for International Development; the World Bank; and the World Health Organization. Their interventions are made through technical and financial support within the framework of consolidated plans developed in conjunction with the objectives of the Strategic Plan.

4. Project Outcomes and Benefits

To date, the interventions for the two high-risk groups have shown significant results.

For female sex workers, the targeted services are now offered in 25 health centres around the country and include nearly 2,700 women. The prevalence rate, although still high, has stabilized at 19.8 per cent. The recent national survey found that almost all sex workers interviewed (99.7 per cent) reported having heard of HIV or AIDS. According to the same survey, 98.2 per cent of sex workers said that they had used a condom with their partner during the last sexual intercourse.

Among high-risk men, the targeted services now reach 10 of the 11 regions in the country and approximately 1,550 men are being assisted at 19 different health centres.

5. Sustainability and Innovation

The system put in place for these high-risk groups is highly likely to be sustainable for a number of reasons:

- the integration of care with reproductive health services for high-risk female sex workers;
- the introduction of subcentres for closer monitoring of beneficiaries, in particular those unlikely to use more traditional health clinics or hospitals;
- the continuum of care that links the public health structure with community services often provided by non-governmental organizations and other community-based organizations; and
- interventions that the community made to improve the social environment for these two high-risk groups.

With regard to innovation, the programme has used a number of highly successful approaches to reach and counsel beneficiaries, including:

- offsite provision of services and counselling, including mobile clinics;
- peer-to-peer counselling by target group members for target group members; and
- health mediators who use assistants in health facilities in order to improve prevention and the care of people in vulnerable situations. The introduction of mediators in the healthcare system and hospital associations is a key determinant of access to prevention and care.
6. Replicability

This initiative for high-risk groups is replicable. The identification of MSM as a highly vulnerable group and the strategies put in place to ensure prevention as well as the inclusion of this group are all elements that justify the appropriateness of this intervention. These strategies can be replicated and adapted to the target.

The control and management of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS among the target groups have undoubtedly contributed to the stabilization of the epidemic in Senegal. By using advocacy, communications for behaviour change and treatment therapies, knowledge about HIV, modes of transmission and an increasing rate of condom use by males and females all suggest the major changes that have occurred among these high-risk groups.
1. Background and Overview of Project or Initiative

Mongolia has traditionally been a country with high poverty rates, but it has not been affected by widespread hunger and malnutrition. This has been largely owing to the large nomadic pastoralist population whose traditional practices were, until recently, able to make Mongolia self-sufficient in food. This large nomadic population has traditionally raised cattle, horses, sheep, goats, yaks and camels. Thus, livestock breeding is very important for food self-sufficiency as well as major environmental considerations since pastureland accounts for almost 80 per cent of the country.

With the breakup of the Soviet Union, however, this situation began to change. Whereas Mongolia had always been self-sufficient in milk production in the past, the transition to a market-oriented economy saw a rapid decrease in milk production. Today, the demand for milk and dairy products in urban areas is covered mainly by importing; about 7,000 tonnes of milk and dairy products are imported into the country annually. In addition, domestic dairy products often do not meet basic quality and food safety standards. Food production in general has also been compromised by the rural-to-urban migration that has led to economic, social and health problems in urban areas.

The Government of Mongolia and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture in particular have a policy of encouraging and supporting the introduction of agribusiness systems and technologies that increase the competitiveness of Mongolian companies, their products and services for domestic as well as foreign markets. Similarly, the government supports the rural population in their traditional way of living since life in urban areas does not provide sufficient possibilities of subsistence for all who go there with the vision of a better life.

2. Project Objectives

The project was focused on supporting rural communities, improving their living standards and increasing their income by introducing simple technologies for processing milk into a “durable” and higher added-value product: cheese.

3. Project Approach

From September 2005 to March 2008, Adams & Co., Ltd., a Slovak firm, implemented a development project, “Cheese Production in Mongolia – Slovak Technology Transfer”, as part of Slovak official development assistance. The goal of the project was to contribute to the social and economic development of rural areas of Mongolia through the introduction
of Slovak technology for the production of cheese under simple farming conditions. The project was implemented in Batshireet soum, approximately 400 km from Ulaanbaatar.

The technology of cheese production under simple farm conditions was introduced to the members of the Gurvan Nertei cooperative. The typical family has several children and owns 10 to 20 milking cows. In their traditional nomadic lives, the families move from site to site some three to four times a year.

The most important challenge of the project was to motivate local cattle-breeding families to start with new milk-processing methods. The key factors in this successful initiative were the approach to local people, use of their traditional methods of milk processing, and simple and environmentally friendly technology. Other important advantages of a new method of milk processing were:

- reducing the size of the final product and making transport to the sale location simpler and less expensive;
- prolonged durability of the final products and reduction in the loss from transport to the sale location; and
- increasing income from the sale of valuable dairy products with higher added value.

The most critical components of the project entailed the design of technology appropriate for the local conditions. Slovak experts came to Mongolia and evaluated methods to ensure quality, taste and hygiene standards. The aim of this phase was to eliminate production problems, supervise Mongolian people in building small facilities for cheese production and underground storage facilities for cheese ripening, and help them with the introduction of new products in the market. This period also served as a time for selecting the best cheese product. After analysing technological, hygiene, climate and storage conditions, the gouda type of cheese was selected as the most suitable product. A Manual for Cheese Production was prepared, which serves as basic material for other families interested in cheese production.

4. Project Outcomes and Benefits
The project was undertaken in full accordance with the policy of the Government of Mongolia and contributed to significant improvements in the economic conditions of the cooperative members. Furthermore, it can serve as a model for cooperation with rural communities. Introduction of the technology to the pastoralists was based on using their potential, habits and traditional way of living. In the region, there are other nomadic families who can become new cheese producers.

Perhaps most importantly, the Batshiret cheese has found a value niche in the local markets. It is sold in several markets and big supermarkets in Ulaanbaatar. The quality of the cheese satisfies the commercial requirements and the price is reasonable for consumers.

5. Sustainability and Innovation

The tradition of cheese production as we know it in Europe or other developed countries has not existed in Mongolia. Cheese or other durable dairy products are imported to Mongolia while their consumption is increasing from year to year. The Government therefore supports initiatives for the development of the agricultural sector and food and milk sufficiency as well as those that contribute to the development of rural economies.

The innovative approach used in this project can serve as a model for further development cooperation. The introduction of simple and understandable technology for milk processing motivated the pastoralists to change their orientation from traditional Mongolian dairy products to a new product – a European-style cheese that has a much higher level of “durability” compared with traditional dairy products. Reduc-
tion in product size, ease of transportation and storage, and a better selling price increased the profit of cooperative members. Moreover, the technology for cheese production does not require any energy source, it is environmentally friendly as it does not produce any waste (the leftovers from production can be used for animal feed), it does not require additional hard manual labour by shepherds, and it respects the life of rural people in their natural environment.

6. Replicability
The project is easily replicable in different regions of Mongolia (or even other countries) as it is based on the use of simple technologies (only simple tools such as pots, forms and a press needed for cheese production). The technology is environmentally friendly as it does not produce any waste nor require any energy source. The main advantage of the cheese production technology is that it uses traditional working habits of Mongolian shepherds and takes into consideration the traditional distribution of labour in rural families. The cheese also can be processed from different types of milk depending on the region (cow, yak, camel, sheep, etc.).
**SOUTH AFRICA –**

**THE AFRICAN TOYSHOP**

- **Project Name:** The African Toyshop
- **Country:** South Africa
- **Nominated By:** The African Toyshop (Pty.) Ltd
- **Sector:** Artisanal manufacturing
- **Implementing Agency:** The African Toyshop
- **Project Status:** Ongoing
- **Project Period:** 2005 to present

### 1. Background and Overview of Project or Initiative

The African Toyshop is perhaps the first shop of its kind in the world. It stocks and sells only toys that have been handmade in Africa (including Angola, Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Lesoto, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe).

The African Toyshop was started by Greg Moran, who opened the first shop in May 2005 in Johannesburg, South Africa. Since then, the company has opened a second store in Johannesburg and started a joint-venture shop in Durban, South Africa.

The inspiration for the company came from frequent trips by the founder to different African countries. It was during his travels that he began coming across amazing handmade toys – made by people who are desperately poor and with the most basic tools imaginable. The toys were often of remarkable detail and complexity as well as quirky and fun (many could also be classified as art). Greg Moran brought examples of the toys home for family and friends and began thinking about how to create a shop that could expose the toys to a greater market and contribute to the economic development of the toy makers.

### 2. Project Objectives

The short-term vision of the African Toyshop is to contribute to the development of toy makers, their families and communities and to reduce poverty by exposing African toy makers to a much broader market both in South Africa and internationally.

The Toyshop's long-term vision is to become the leading company in sourcing and providing African toys to a world market in a way that ensures that all trade is conducted fairly, openly and ethically through its recently established company, the African Toyshop (Pty.) Ltd. The Toyshop also plans, in the long run, to establish boutique shops in key international locations to showcase the very best works by African toy makers.

### 3. Project Approach

To date, the Toyshop has been funded solely by its founder, Greg Moran. In principle, it has resisted seeking funding from government and international non-governmental organizations since it is part of the vision of the shop to succeed in a fair-trade business environment. However, funds are occasionally sought on behalf of toy makers to enable them to conduct small empowerment programmes.
Since its inception, the African Toyshop has complied with internationally accepted fair-trade principles, which led to its being accepted as a member of the Cooperation for Fair Trade in Africa (COFTA). COFTA members are expected to comply with the 10 International Fair Trade Association (IFAT) fair-trade standards. In line with these, the African Toyshop:

- creates opportunities for economically disadvantaged toy makers around Africa;
- deals fairly, transparently and respectfully with toy makers;
- develops toy makers’ independence and finds them new markets;
- promotes fair trade, uses honest advertising and “marketing, and aims for the highest-quality toys (including providing feedback to toy makers and encouraging child safety);
- pays toy makers a fair price – usually the asking price, often more;
- values and rewards women’s work equally, encourages increased numbers of women toy makers, and encourages all toy makers to produce toys for boys and girls as well as gender-neutral toys;
- encourages a safe and healthy working environment for toy makers;
- discourages child labour;
- encourages toy makers to replace natural resources used (such as trees) and to recycle materials; and
- trades with concern for the social, economic and environmental well-being of toy makers, including paying up to 50 per cent of the cost of the toys on order.

4. Project Outcomes and Benefits

Since its inception in 2005, the number of toy makers involved with the company has grown exponentially. While the company originally had works from only a few toy makers, the number has grown substantially by sourcing, finding and building relationships with cooperatives in Kenya, South Africa and Swaziland. The company has also encouraged smaller toy makers to employ and train people from their communities. Although it is difficult to provide accurate numbers (since people are employed when work is available and many cooperatives increase and decrease their staff numbers according to demand), it can be safely estimated that the company has had a direct impact on the lives of at least 100 to 150 toy makers and on the lives of their families as well.

Although difficult to measure at this stage, the amount of money paid out by the shop to toy makers over approximately 3½ years, the steady increase in the size of orders, increased prices paid to those whose toys sell well, and the slow but steady increase in international orders indicate that a substantial amount has been paid to those who would otherwise only have been able to sell their toys to tourists on the side of the road.

Through its new range of African Toyshop Originals, the shop aims to dramatically increase the earnings of toy makers. It also recently secured two agreements to produce toys for a much broader market: one with those responsible for marketing the South African national football team (Bafana Bafana) and one with a major sportswear manufacturer (Diadora). In terms of both of these agreements, the company’s toy makers will be specifically commissioned to produce toys and memorabilia for sale through the shops and website and on the websites of both Bafana Bafana and Diadora.

5. Sustainability and Innovation

Ensuring sustainability is a major problem facing most development activities and projects. The African Toyshop suffers from it, too, since the business model is an extremely labour-intensive undertaking with a multitude of challenges to be addressed before the company becomes profitable and sustain-
able. Of course, as a private enterprise (albeit one with a strong development focus), the company aims eventually to achieve financial sustainability through increased sales and profitability, with profits being used to source new toy makers, to conduct small development projects with them, to ensure certification of products as child-safe, and to secure greater exposure to markets for all toy makers.

All in all, the approach of the African Toyshop is highly innovative: not only did the company seek to find and sell toys already being produced in compliance with fair trade but it also simultaneously sought to develop the toy makers to such an extent that they are able to compete with other toy makers and to expand the range of toys that they produce so as to increase their earning potential. Although other fair-trade shops exist and many African curio shops have been set up over the years, none of them works at the retail and wholesale levels as well as at the level of development of individual toy makers.

6. Replicability

The business model can be readily scaled up, especially with a small injection of funds. This would include development of toy makers, training, safety compliance, building the base of wholesale clients and working with new toy makers. In fact, the owners have already begun this process, establishing a new company that will focus far more on development and wholesaling than the Toyshop is capable of doing. The company has already been approached by various businesses and shops in the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States and elsewhere that would like to open franchised shops in these countries.
1. Background and Overview of Project or Initiative

South Africa has a population of 48 million, living in nine provinces. Since the abolition of apartheid in the mid-1990s, the objective of the Government has been to provide equal services to all citizens. To achieve this will require significant infrastructure redevelopment in a number of sectors, one of which is healthcare. More than half of all the country’s medical facilities suffer from lack of maintenance, many requiring substantial restructuring in order to serve the needs of the entire population. The situation has been exacerbated by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

While this challenge is nationwide, an example at the provincial level best illustrates the positive approach being taken by the Government. The Province of Free State is in central South Africa, with the provincial capital at Bloemfontein. Of the approximately 2.8 million people residing in Free State, only 13 percent have private health insurance and most rely on government-operated facilities for their healthcare needs. There are two academic public hospitals in Bloemfontein: Pelonomi and Universitas. To reduce redundant services, improve cost-effectiveness and provide the same level of medical care for all South Africans, the Free State Health Department decided to combine and coordinate the operations of the two hospitals. This was achieved through an innovative public-private partnership (PPP) model.

2. Project Objectives

The PPP developed by the Free State Health Department had three primary objectives:

- to address the backlog of infrastructure needs that had accumulated as a result of years of underfunding. The Pelonomi Hospital required major renovation, and the Universitas Hospital, while not in as deteriorated a condition, also needed to upgrade some of its facilities. The PPP provided funding for both of these hospitals;

- to provide a better level of healthcare for all South Africans. With the funding limitations of the Free State Health Department, it was not possible to address the infrastructure needs and at the same time improve everyone’s access to quality healthcare; and

- to provide the option of private healthcare in Bloemfontein at a reduced cost. The private sector realized that there was an opportunity to serve partially insured and uninsured people in the Bloemfontein area; however, constructing a
new hospital would require a significant investment. By leasing beds and operating theatres within the existing public hospitals, the private company was able to provide service at a reduced cost.

Another but less tangible objective was to exchange and share knowledge between public and private physicians and healthcare providers. By locating public and private staff within the same facilities, there could be a greater chance to share expertise and work together in academic and professional settings. This helped to further the second objective of better healthcare for all South Africans.

3. Project Approach

A 1997 audit of health facilities for the Free State showed that an estimated R825 million were needed to address infrastructure backlog in the health sector, with almost R100 million needed for Pelonomi Hospital alone. However, there was not enough funding in the budget to cover these expenses. In 1998, the Free State Health Department began exploring many possible solutions. Realizing that the hospitals already outsourced their catering, gardening, cleaning and security services, it concluded that it could also lease out the extra space in each hospital.

By leasing the extra space to a private company, the Free State Health Department could generate capital to help offset the cost of hospital operation while the private company would gain space for private healthcare services at a lower cost because of not needing to build new facilities. In November 2002, an agreement was reached by the Free State Health Department and a consortium of two healthcare companies. Under this agreement, the private hospital beds and operating theatres were co-located within the two public hospital facilities, and the private partner funded all of the renovations to both of the FSHD hospitals. After eliminating the duplication of services, there was available space in the two hospitals equivalent to 500 beds. In addition, operating-room access and other specialized facilities could be shared on a fee basis.

4. Project Outcomes and Benefits

The PPP for Pelonomi and Universitas Hospitals has been extremely successful. Now Bloemfontein offers all its citizens better healthcare choices. For insured citizens, new facilities are available to them. For the uninsured, Pelonomi and Universitas Hospitals offer excellent care in well-maintained and up-to-date facilities. For the partially insured, this PPP offers them their choice in services.

The Free State Health Department is better equipped to provide truly equal care to all its citizens. In 2004, Pelonomi Hospital celebrated its 40th anniversary of operation. The hospital has faced many challenges over the years as the only black academic hospital in Bloemfontein. The upgrades and renovations to Pelonomi Hospital have ensured that the building with so much history will continue to survive. By removing the redundant services, this historically black hospital and Universitas Hospital are able to reach and treat all citizens without services based on race.

Both hospitals now have facilities that are totally functional. The healthcare needs of the population – whether insured or uninsured – are being met on a daily basis. Doctors and staff in both the private and public hospitals are able to share their knowledge more easily because they are located in the same facilities.

The PPP was able to reduce costs for both the Free State Health Department and the private partner. Pelonomi and Universitas Hospitals received the needed renovations at no cost to the provincial government, which was unable to fund the project. The private partner was also able to reduce the costs of providing private healthcare to citizens in Bloemfontein because it did not have to build a new hospital. Costs were reduced and the quality of healthcare was increased as a result of this PPP.
5. Sustainability and Innovation

Although apartheid ended in the early 1990s, everything was not automatically made equal. This initiative was a way to provide lasting equality in healthcare for Free State residents. Poor, uninsured residents have been empowered by the new hospitals because they know that they deserve quality healthcare and will fight to make sure that they always have it.

The solution struck by the public-private partners represents a creative way to provide a needed service. By combining the two hospitals into one hospital at two sites, duplicate services were removed and the Free State Health Department was able to lease unused space made available. As a condition of the contract, the private companies needed to upgrade and repair the hospitals. By using a creative solution, the Free State Health Department was able to provide better healthcare to those in need and received upgraded buildings, all through private funds.

6. Replicability

The initiative is very replicable because many hospitals lack the resources to complete needed renovations but might have unused space that could be leased to a private healthcare company/private hospital. Employing creative solutions where private and public hospitals share resources can be done in many other locations.
1. Background and Overview of Project or Initiative

South Africa and Mozambique have developed a major infrastructure programme designed to increase the efficiency of product transport, spark regional and global trade, and provide additional economic opportunities to their citizens. One crucial element of this programme is the public-private partnership (PPP) project to renovate and expand the N4 toll road connecting Pretoria, South Africa, to Maputo, Mozambique. This project is an example of South-South cooperation and demonstrates how private-sector financing and expertise can be used, through a PPP, to achieve development goals.

Rehabilitation of this key transport route between the two countries began in 1996, shortly after both South Africa and Mozambique held their first democratic elections. Increased political stability in the region allowed the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Government of South Africa to propose new initiatives that focused on economic development, trade and regionalization.

2. Project Objectives

There are several objectives associated with the N4 project, namely, to:

- foster trade between South Africa and Mozambique;
- direct products to the Port of Maputo and facilitate regional and global trade;
- develop tourism within the region;
- further develop major exporting industries in the region;
- reduce the cost of transportation by improving the efficiency of roadways; and
- foster broader economic activity, empowerment and development of communities within both countries.

3. Project Approach

Rehabilitation of the N4 toll road is one part of the Maputo Development Corridor (MDC) Project and its most extensive infrastructure project. The N4 runs from Pretoria, the administrative capital of South Africa, to Maputo, the capital of Mozambique. The MDC runs from the Johannesburg region in South Africa to Maputo. The objective of the MDC is to reconstruct a cross-border economic relationship that had developed during the industrialization of the area in the late 1800s. Years of unfavourable political conditions in both countries led to the deterioration of this key transport route that had
connected the heartland of South Africa to an export harbour. Neither country had sufficient resources to invest in the failing infrastructure, but each wanted to foster stronger transport and trade links. The philosophy behind the MDC is straightforward: create a favourable climate for investors; then encourage the private sector to improve the infrastructure, create jobs and increase trade and further investment.

To facilitate the cross-border project, the South Africa Department of Transportation organized the South African National Road Agency Limited, and the Mozambique Department of Roads and Bridges created the Administração Nacional de Estradas. These two new agencies were developed to work with a concessionaire who would design, upgrade, construct, operate and maintain a new toll road. After an open-bidding process, a consortium of South African and Mozambican companies won the contract to develop the road and associated infrastructure.

The contract was based on a build-operate-transfer model. No government subsidies were provided to the concessionaire for the project; the rehabilitation of the N4 was financed through equity and debt that were negotiated by the concessionaire. Operations and maintenance costs were to be paid for by revenue generated through the collection of tolls. Traffic volume on the toll road is dependent upon the economic development of communities along the route, so the concessionaire has a high stake in related projects as well.

In the beginning, the project lacked public support. This led the concessionaire to agree to reduce tariffs for regular users and to begin providing services, such as 24-hour road patrols to assist motorists, to justify the cost to local commuters. The Government has continually shown strong support for the toll road and has attempted to appease residents adversely affected by the project. Use of the highway has steadily increased over the years, showing an acceptance of this PPP.

Toll pricing was the subject of much controversy prior to implementation. On the South African side, road users were discontented that they had to pay for a road that had previously been free. On the other side, contending with widespread levels of poverty as well as the residual legacies of the ruling party’s previous push towards socialism, most Mozambicans were hostile to the whole PPP concept.

4. Project Outcomes and Benefits

Initially, the project involved the rehabilitation and upgrading of an existing 390-kilometre route from Balmoral (20 kilometres west of Witbank) to Moamba and the construction of a new 50-kilometre road from Moamba to Maputo. This new route cut 150 kilometres off the trip between Gauteng Province and Maputo, shortening the travel time to four hours. The actual road varies from a two-lane single carriageway to a four-lane freeway, but the renovation of single-lane segments included considerable widening to accommodate vehicles hauling large cargos.

With the addition of the Pretoria section of the N4, the concessionaire now manages 630 kilometres of toll road in two countries, operates six main-line toll plazas and four ramp plazas, maintains several feeder roads and manages 18 load-control centres (weigh bridges) to protect the road and region against overloading.

With respect to employment, 5,677 jobs were created during the initial phase while in total, about 13,000 casual, temporary and permanent jobs have been created by the project, facilitating the development of communities situated along the route. The concessionaire currently employs 400 full-time staff and maintains subcontracts with over 60 local small subcontractors.

The project includes provisions to help poor and disadvantaged people as well as families with students and local merchants (mostly women).
Roadside vendors originally posed a challenge for the concessionaire. Initially, local rural women trying to sell fruit to travellers were chased off the N4; their activity was not only illegal but also a safety hazard. At first, the local council suggested that such activities be licensed and formalized and that the women be moved to a planned mini-market. The local women, however, felt that this would deprive them of potential customers. In a compromise, the concessionaire agreed to pave slip-off areas along the N4 where the women could sell their products.

5. Sustainability and Innovation

This project is self-sustaining. Under it, an important artery connecting South Africa and Mozambique has been repaired and expanded, fostering better trade between the two countries. The partnership is significant because it has resulted in a higher-quality road connecting South Africa and Mozambique, with subsidized tolls for the poor. New technology for determining vehicle weight has been used to reduce the number of overloaded vehicles on the road.

6. Replicability

The project is replicable because PPPs can be used for many types of roads. A strong partnership with more than one country would be needed in order to have a toll road in two countries, for example, but it can be achieved. The project also demonstrates that it is possible for contracts to include progressive tariffs/tolls to aid poorer residents.
TAJIKISTAN – REMITTANCES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Project Name: Remittances for Development
Country: Tajikistan
Nominated By: UNDP Tajikistan
Sector: Community Development
Sponsor/Donor: UNDP, International Organization for Migration
Implementing Agency: Government of Tajikistan/Jamoat Resource and Advocacy Centres (community-based governmental organizations)
Project Status: Ongoing
Project Period: 2004 to present

1. Background and Overview of Project or Initiative
Labour migration is a serious issue for Tajikistan. A large part of the population seasonally migrates to the Russian Federation and other Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries to find better employment opportunities. The remittances sent annually to Tajikistan amount to more than $260 million, or 20 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP). However, this money is mainly spent for consumption and traditional ceremonies and is rarely invested in income-generating and job-creating activities.

It was recognized that remittances could be a major channel for economic investment and growth in the Tajik economy. The migrants’ remittances are a lifeline for a majority of Tajik citizens. In some regions, based on estimates by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), more than 70 per cent of the households depend on remittances sent by their relatives as their primary source of revenue. Therefore, labour migration plays a tremendously important role in the local community economy, but the remittances were not being used for long-term community development benefits.

2. Project Objectives
In order to channel remittances for longer-term local development benefits, the objectives of this project are:

- to channel the remittances into the local economy;
- to involve the community in implementing joint community projects that are socially and economically focused; and
- to increase the number of loan recipients within the jamoats (sub-district administrative divisions).

3. Project Approach
The project began in August 2004 when a joint UNDP/IOM assessment was conducted to identify the capacity and willingness of community members to invest a portion of their remittances in developing the local economy. Two jamoats in Western Khatlon, Sayod and Telman, were selected and 300 people participated in the assessment. In February 2005, they were provided with a five-day training session on how to start their own business. Following the training, project specialists decided to grant $20,000 in UNDP funds to each jamoat. The grant money would support a loan-allo-
cation strategy based on the 50-50 principle: those community members who committed to invest their own money would have their amounts matched by the Jamoat Resource and Advocacy Centres (JRACs), which are community-based governmental organizations, through the grant funds. The funds were allocated to support economic development activities, including agriculture, cattle breeding and trading.

With support from IOM, UNDP initiated this project with JRACs, Migrant Household Initiative Groups under the JRACs and labour migrants. The involvement of JRACs was crucial to the success of this project because they enabled community involvement and coordination with local groups of interested parties, resulting in increased ownership and buy-in from citizens.

4. Project Outcomes and Benefits

At the initial stage, the JRACs of Sayod and Telman worked closely with communities to attract and channel the remittances for the development of vital rural infrastructure projects such as schools, bridges and rural health centres. This was an innovative way to involve the community in identifying priority projects. The JRAC in Sayod implemented three joint projects, the Centre in Telman, five such projects. The community contribution ratio was approximately 40:60 in each of the joint community projects. These projects were supported by all community members, who contributed money from their remittances to repair schools and establish rural health centres.

In 2007, UNDP mobilized over $50,000 in remittances in more than 15 communities of Tajikistan. To date, more than 40 subprojects have been implemented through this project.

5. Sustainability and Innovation

Prior to this project, remittances had been used mainly for wedding, funerals and building houses, activities that did not obviate the need to continue the cycle of migrating abroad to work. This project encouraged the communities to rethink their spending preferences, directing their remittances towards the development of the local economy through income-generating activities and public services. Now people are willing to give a part of their earned income to contribute to a better life in the future, for the education of their children and to improve their livelihoods through better public services.

These practices will be continued and expanded by the approximately 90 JRACs throughout the country. These JRACs are sustainable community-based organizations that are established and managed by community members themselves. In the future, it is envisaged that the ownership of the joint UNDP/IOM project will be handed over to the JRACs. Every year, each JRAC budgets a certain amount of money for these small community projects, which are supplemented by remittances and represent a good example of a public-private partnership. The remittances project has shown its sustainability and the mechanism is being replicated in other jamoats in Tajikistan.

6. Replicability

There are no preconditions in Tajikistan that constrain the replication of this project, as the project has the strong support of the Government and proven benefits at the community level. It is thought that this type of project that helps remittances to be channelled for community development benefits would have a strong appeal for those Southern countries with a significant number of migrant labourers who send remittances back to their homes, usually in rural communities.
1. Background and Overview of Project or Initiative

When Indonesia withdrew from East Timor in 1999, judicial institutions had to be built from scratch. Not a single judge was left in the territory. Buildings and infrastructure had been destroyed. There was only a handful of individuals with any legal training.

The development challenge facing Timor-Leste is characterized by a shortage of skilled personnel and a lack of basic institutional systems and processes. Simultaneously, professional ethics and work attitudes must be introduced and consolidated.

The legal framework of the new State is beginning to take shape. Presently, applicable laws come in the form of Timor-Leste legislation available mostly in Portuguese, but there are also some laws and regulations that have been drafted in English and other residual laws and regulations in Indonesian. This has caused significant linguistic barriers. In addition, there is a plethora of local dialects and traditional justice systems rooted in family, clan and village. The traditional systems are sometimes at odds with the constitutional system.

Without strong, impartial judicial institutions, there can be no perception of justice. Usually, it is the weaker party in a conflict – often the poor and disadvantaged – who needs the protection that comes from the rule of law. For any country, a strong judiciary is essential to transparency and accountability in a society. It is a key safeguard against the abuse of power.

2. Project Objectives

The main objective of the UNDP justice system programme is to provide an accessible justice system capable of delivering equal, effective and efficient justice, upholding the rule of law and protecting the democratic system, thus facilitating sustainable growth to the benefit of the people of Timor-Leste.

3. Project Approach

The justice system programme was launched in January 2003 with the objective of strengthening the institutional capacity of the judiciary institutions in Timor-Leste. Now in its fifth year, it will be revised to reflect the new priorities of the Government and set the course for the next three to five years. The programme will continue to support institutional capaci-
ty development of the Courts, the Prosecution Services and the Ministry of Justice. In addition, measures to enhance citizens’ access to justice will be sought and incorporated so as to bring the judiciary closer to the population and promote peaceful resolution of disputes through both the formal and informal systems of justice. The project works with several key constituencies:

- **The Council of Coordination** for the Justice Sector (CoC), the Steering Committee for the justice system programme, comprises the Chief Justice, the Minister of Justice and the Prosecutor-General. All policy decisions and work plans are decided by these three representatives. The CoC is also a forum for informal discussions on issues of cross-sectoral concerns in general.

- **The Ministry of Justice** is not a judicial body, but it is highly relevant to development in the sector. It determines government justice policy and provides administrative support to the judicial institutions. It also oversees three crucial institutions that are direct beneficiaries of the programme:
  - the Public Defenders Office;
  - the Prisons Service; and
  - the Legal Training Centre.

The Minister of Justice represents the Government on the CoC.

- **The Prosecution Services** are constitutionally separate from the Courts and the Executive and constitute the third partner in the justice system programme. The institution is comprised of the Office of the Prosecutor-General and four district prosecution services. It is mandated with prosecuting ordinary crimes and serious crimes, the latter pertaining to the violence that gripped the nation in 1999.

- **The Courts**: Currently, the judiciary consists of one appeals court and four district courts. The Supreme Court and specialized courts have yet to be established. A constitutional body called the Superior Council of the Judiciary (SCJ) is the administrative and disciplinary body of the courts. The chief justice of the land is the president of the SCJ. He represents the courts on the CoC.

4. Project Outcomes and Benefits

Through a technical assistance cooperation agreement between the Government of Brazil and Timor-Leste, the project has focused on certain key areas:

- **opening of a public defence office at the prison**: International public defenders have been providing legal counsel to prisoners. To create adequate space, enable a better environment for interviews and maintain the utmost privacy for the prisoners, a room within the inner-fence area of the prison was established. Two international public defenders are stationed at the prison office once a week; they also remain on standby for urgent calls throughout the week. On average, 10 to 15 prisoners are receiving legal counsel from the public defenders on a weekly basis;

- **ongoing training for assistants to public defenders**: As part of the capacity development efforts for the Public Defenders’ Office staff, international public defenders have been engaged in training courses for assistants to public defenders since July 2007, with 19 assistants receiving training;

- **deployment of national court actors in the districts**: The core programme activity that was implemented with the assistance of the Brazilian court actors was the deployment of national court actors to the districts (full-time) in Baucau District Court, ensuring the presence of at least one judge, one prosecutor and one public defender; and

- **the Legal Training Centre**: As the nation’s official post-graduate training institution for producing jurists, the Legal Training Centre
displayed its most significant achievement in 2007: the graduation and swearing in of 11 judges, 9 prosecutors and 7 public defenders as the nation’s first judges, prosecutors and public defenders. The second group of 10 trainees completed academic training in December 2007 and began on-the-job training as probationary actors in January 2008.

5. Sustainability and Innovation

From a longer-term perspective, rule of law creates a predictability that facilitates investment and poverty reduction. A strong judicial system is therefore necessary for peace, stability and nation-building. The core activities that were implemented in 2007 and that will continue for the next three to five years of the programme are as follows:

- continued training and capacity development of national judiciary actors: Graduation and swearing in of 39 national judges, prosecutors, public defenders (10 still in the probationary phase) and the opening of a third course for another 21 court actors in August 2008;
- continued provision of training courses through the Legal Training Centre for national magistrates; the addition of short-term courses on Criminal Procedure Code for the national police officers and on Civil Procedure Code for legal clerks;
- empowerment of public-information and legal awareness activities, especially together with the Public Defender’s Office, to provide access to justice to disadvantage groups;
- support to the Ministry of Justice in the areas of legislative drafting, translation and interpretation, and information technology systems and procedures; and
- continued improvement of security conditions in the prisons and provision of training and on-the-job mentoring for prisons officials as well as the relaunch of social reintegration programmes.

6. Replicability

The capacity-building programme of the Ministry of Justice will continue to be scaled up with support from UNDP, Brazil and other development partners. The project has demonstrated a triangular cooperation model for helping citizens in low-income countries to be given access to a functioning justice system and thereby promote conflict prevention.
1. Background and Overview of Project or Initiative

Since its creation in the 1970s, the Tunisian Board of Family Planning (BFP) has been working to promote social welfare and to ensure reproductive health for all citizens. In charge of implementing the Government’s population programme, the Board succeeded in fulfilling the main goals by significantly lowering the demographic rates (i.e., the growth rate from 3.1 per cent in 1966 to 1.12 per cent in 2004 and the fertility index from 6.5 children per women in 1996 to 2.1 in 2004). The success of the population and reproductive health programme brought national and international recognition to the institution. Over the past 30 years, over 1,600 international candidates have been trained in the fields of contraceptive technology, communication for reproductive health, family planning, management of reproductive health programmes, gender and research.

In 1994, an initiative called “Partners in Population and Development: A South-South initiative” was launched in Cairo on the occasion of the International Conference on Population and Development, with the aim of promoting South-South cooperation. This led to a partnership between Tunisia and Niger for a three-year project on “the Promotion of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Services in Kollo, Niger”, which was supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the French international cooperation agency.

Niger has one the highest population growth rates in the world, around 3.6 per cent, coupled with a fertility index of 8 children per woman. If this rate is maintained, the number of inhabitants will rise to more than 50 million by 2050. Health indicators are a cause for concern: the infant mortality rate is 159 per 1,000 births, maternal mortality in 2000 was 590 per 100,000 live births and about 50 per cent of the children were undernourished. Only 16 women per 100,000 had medically assisted births in 2000. Health coverage is only about 50 per cent. Faced with these challenges, Niger was in search of a model that was relevant to the local context and that could address the need for the provision of quality and regular reproductive health services to the population. The Tunisian model for reproductive health and family planning was identified as easily transferable and adaptable to the Niger context.

2. Project Objectives

The overall goal of the project was two-fold:

- to help in reducing the maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity rates; and
- to initiate a South-South cooperation project and learn from its lessons.
The project had eight specific objectives:

- to ensure reproductive health and family planning services for 80 per cent of the population of Kollo;
- to increase contraceptive prevalence from 1.5 per cent to 10 per cent;
- to increase complete prenatal visits from 10 per cent to 40 per cent;
- to increase medical birth delivery from 5 per cent to 10 per cent;
- to protect 70 per cent of children 0-11 months of age through complete vaccination (DTC & polio 3 as a major indicator);
- to train 100 traditional midwives;
- to ensure that 100 per cent of the health centres could provide urgent obstetrical services; and
- to prevent sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS.

3. Project Approach

In 1997, a protocol of agreement was signed between the Secretary General of the Ministry of Health of Niger and the Director of the Tunisian National Board for Family and Population within the framework of South-South cooperation. The Board was to provide assistance to health activities and reproductive health for the reduction of mortality and maternal death rates in the Kollo health district. In September 1998, an agreement was reached with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs to provide triangular funding for the Niger-Tunisia cooperation project.

The strategy adopted centred on the transfer and adaptation of operational mechanisms that had proven efficient in Tunisia. It was in particular the experience of addressing similar problems within a similar social, cultural and religious context that made the Tunisian model relevant for Niger. The strategy focused on:

- strengthening the capacity of the district health services and the community-based services for reproductive health/family planning (equipment, training the management of reproductive health/family planning services, and partnership);
- improve access of the population to reproductive health/family planning services by deploying to remote villages (more than 15 km from the health centres of the Kollo district) a network comprising four mobile teams;
- improve awareness campaigns for populations with the implementation of an information-education-communication (IEC) programme in reproductive health/family planning; and
- initiate an advocacy campaign targeting decisionmakers and opinion leaders at the central and peripheral levels.

4. Project Outcomes and Benefits

Activities included health services such: antenatal and postnatal visits, vaccination of children 0-11 months of age, health care and sensitization of pregnant women and women of reproductive age, growth surveillance for children 0-11 months old, contraception prescription, treatment of sexually transmitted infections and HIV prevention, medically assisted birth delivery, advocacy and sensitization activities.

The following outcomes and impact for beneficiaries were observed:

- 11,500 women of reproductive age accepted a contraceptive method, most of them for the first time in their lives; another 17,199 returned for supplies;
- 32,600 children ages 0-11 months benefited from vaccinations and growth surveillance;
- 32,200 pregnant women benefited from prenatal consultations;
- 5,500 women benefited from postnatal consultations;
- 100 traditional midwives benefited from three-week practical training in the regional maternity centre and received birth attendance kits;
• 2,550 patients were treated for sexually transmitted infections;
• 5,650 women benefited from medically assisted birth delivery; and
• 150 health personnel were trained in various specialities relevant to reproductive health/family planning. The mobile units for reproductive health/family planning proved to be very effective and efficient in providing services for excluded populations in very remote and rural areas. The Ministry of Health integrated this strategy into its Health Development Plan 2006-2009.

5. Sustainability and Innovation

Sustainability and innovation by the project were observed in three key areas:

• education/awareness: The initiative had a strong communication aspect. Through the daily sessions with the population, strong emphasis was put on gender, the school enrolment of young girls, late marriage, men’s responsibility as a partner for reproductive health/family planning, family size and poverty, and Islam and family planning. Such debates succeeded in raising awareness of these fundamental population and social issues among the leaders and the population;

• leadership building: The initiative succeeded in developing leadership commitment for reproductive health/family planning and population and development issues. Within both the Ministries of Health and of Population and Social Affairs, a group of senior managers worked on enhancing commitment among political and community leaders. A national programme of reproductive health with a strong emphasis on family planning was elaborated, discussed and agreed upon in the National Assembly (parliament).

• community involvement: The community was involved from the early stages of the project design. Many meetings were held with religious leaders, heads of villages (very powerful traditional leaders) and the NGOs. Local leaders were involved in the debate on Islam and family planning and they gave strong support to the initiative.

6. Replicability

The project shows the benefits of using a South-South collaboration model to address a culturally sensitive development topic such as family planning. That the Government of Niger has now adopted family planning as a way of fighting poverty shows a strong commitment to mastering demographic explosion. The goal is to maintain a population of 35 million by the year 2050 rather than the projected 55 million.
1. Background and Overview of Project or Initiative

Throughout recorded history, apiculture (beekeeping and the resulting products) has played an important but often unrecognized role in agricultural systems. Products such as honey, royal jelly, propolis, pollen and bee venom have been in use for millennia for nutrition, healthcare and treatments. When the active role played by beekeeping in pollination is considered, it emerges as a major component in other agricultural commodities, notably, fruit, flowers and tree crops. Additionally, beekeeping holds an important place in the agricultural sector as a result of advantages such as being independent of soil, having low labour requirements and being able to generate income in a short time.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which was established as an independent State following the collapse of the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, has an unemployment rate of 37.7 per cent. Approximately 58 per cent of the population lives in cities and in recent years, the rate of migration from rural areas among the youth increased as a result of difficult economic and social conditions in these areas.

An insufficient amount of arable land in the Radoviš Municipality in the eastern part of the country where the project was conducted has meant that families in the area are unable to benefit or earn from the land. Another characteristic of this region is its ethnic diversity and the significant size of the minority population.

2. Project Objectives

The main objective of the project is to improve the living standards of selected farm families, provide an example to other families, and – as a result of the marketing of the honey and bee-related products obtained from the project – develop an apiculture industry in the region. A further objective was to achieve coherence among ethnic minorities through cooperation in developing their local economy.

3. Project Approach

The project was developed jointly by the Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA), the Ministry for Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Central Beekeeping Association of Turkey. TIKA was
responsible for developing the project and providing the expertise (from the Central Beekeeping Association of Turkey), materials and equipment necessary for its execution. The coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the project as well as the provision of local office facilities, services and equipment were the responsibilities of the Ministry for Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

In order to provide support to the social and economic development of people living in the eastern part of the country through training in apiculture, the project was planned in two stages for the target villages of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The first stage delivered training to the farmers on beekeeping and maintenance and apiculture techniques as well as the transplanting of bees in primitive baskets to modern hives and the supply of beekeeping tools and equipment. The second stage will include the distribution of hives with bees to beekeepers; production of queen bees, larvae, royal jelly and pollen; instruction in the harvesting of honey and marketing techniques; supplying the main materials for bee production and pollen traps for pollen gathering; and activities for the establishment of new businesses with the larvae recycled by the beekeepers.

4. Project Outcomes and Benefits

As of June 2007, 1,420 hives with bees and 29 pieces of equipment and material had been distributed to all the beekeepers participating in the programme at a ceremony attended by representatives of the participants of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and of Turkey.

Following the modernization of hives, in the short period of two months (the period for the harvesting of the most important product – honey) during which training and consultancy services continued and beekeepers were provided with training in the harvesting of honey, honey totalling 1,150kg was harvested from 182 hives at 13 of the businesses where hives had been modernized. At the same time, renewal of aged and disabled queen bees was undertaken at the businesses with the implementation of the bee renewal programme.

As apiculture is a sector that delivers profits in a short time frame, farmers have been provided with employment and additional income opportunities. In addition to the farmers and their families, people living in the region who are involved in the packaging, labelling and marketing aspects of the various stages of production have also benefited from an increase in income. It has also been observed that other farmers in the region who were not part of the project believe that they can secure a living in this way and have expressed a desire to be involved in the project.

Further, the pollination carried out by the bees will have a positive effect on the production of fruits and vegetables in the region, which will benefit the population that earns a living from these sectors.

Finally, as a result of the project, the farmers have become members of the Beekeepers Association that was established, which has become one of the strongest associations in the country.

5. Sustainability and Innovation

The project has been spread out over three years and high priority has been given to the training of the farmers. Thus, when the involvement of TIKA in the project ends, the trained farmers will have the skills to continue the project. Furthermore, the Beekeepers Association that was established as part of the project will ensure the continued support and activity of the beekeepers following the disengagement of TIKA from the project. In addition, the rich flora of the region is highly suited to apiculture and as such will ensure that farmers receive a highly satisfactory income.
During a study visit to the region in 2006, it became evident that the people of the region failed to see apiculture as a source of income. The region is has one of the highest rates of migration in the country and local people are moving to the city or other countries in order to find work. Through this project, TIKA has demonstrated that apiculture can be a source of income and it has convinced locals that they can obtain a living without leaving the region.

Spreading training out over a long period and providing theoretical training to ensure trust and then delivering practical training by supplying hives have secured trust in the project and in a sense have become a preventative measure with respect to the migration problem. In particular, the fact that farmers were able to earn an income in two months that is the equivalent of their normal yearly income has increased belief in the success of the project.

6. Replicability

The scalability of the project is derived from the fact that while initially 66 farmers were supplied with bees, hives and modern apicultural equipment, larvae derived from selected beekeepers have enabled the establishment of 10 new businesses and 76 families have benefited from the project in the first instance.
1. Background and Overview of Project or Initiative

The Alliance of Mayors Initiative for Community Action on AIDS at the Local Level (AMICAALL) is a growing network of local government authorities, including, mayors and local municipal/urban leaders, committed to supporting sustainable responses to the HIV/AIDS epidemic at the local level. AMICAALL was initiated to address the high HIV prevalence in cities in Africa and the need to build capacity for coordinating the HIV/AIDS response in local urban authorities/governments by urban leaders themselves. The Alliance was launched in 1998 in Côte d’Ivoire when mayors signed the Abidjan declaration of commitment to respond to HIV/AIDS in cities and municipalities in Africa.

The overall goal of the Alliance is to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and to mitigate the social and economic impact of the epidemic on local authorities and communities in Africa.

The AMICAALL Uganda Chapter was launched in 2001 when local leaders in different towns and municipalities met in Kampala and signed a declaration of commitment to support the HIV/AIDS responses in Uganda. The Chapter has been supported by UNDP since its inception with a National Coordination Office/Secretariat in Kampala that provides technical support, management and overall coordination for the National Chapter and AMICAALL programme activities. The Chapter is a registered nongovernmental organization (NGO) deriving its membership from the 105 designated municipalities and town councils.

2. Project Objectives

The vision of the AMICAALL Uganda Chapter is a well-coordinated, strengthened, multisectoral approach to the response to HIV/AIDS on the part of the local governments of Uganda. The mission is to build the necessary capacity of urban local governments to expand the multisectoral response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the country.

3. Project Approach

The AMICAALL Uganda Chapter is the only nationally registered NGO that primarily focuses on the urban HIV/AIDS responses. It is now recognized as a coordinating body for HIV/AIDS responses in urban
areas in the country. AMICAALL is a major entry point for addressing HIV/AIDS in the local government, it therefore is critical in facilitating the decentralized response to HIV/AIDS in Uganda. The AMICAALL Uganda Chapter is guided by the five-year Strategic Plan of Action 2006-2010, which is in line with the Uganda National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS (2006-2010).

AMICAALL programme activities are guided by a number of objectives, including:

- to enhance advocacy, sustainable leadership and commitment for an HIV/AIDS response at various levels of urban local governments in Uganda;
- to strengthen the capacity of urban authorities and communities to plan and effectively deliver quality services at the local level;
- to strengthen the coordination and management of the multisectoral responses to HIV/AIDS in urban local governments;
- to develop strategic partnerships and networks at local and international levels for an effective HIV/AIDS response in urban local governments;
- to strengthen urban community interventions for orphans and other vulnerable children; and
- to enhance resource mobilization and use to support the HIV/AIDS response on the part of urban authorities and communities.

AMICAALL Uganda works with numerous partners comprising line ministries and civil society organizations that work either on HIV/AIDS or local governments. Each of the partners has a representative on the AMICAALL Technical and Advisory Committee. Their role is to provide technical advice to the AMICAALL Secretariat. Quarterly review meetings of the AMICAALL Technical and Advisory Committee are held to review the progress of AMICAALL programme implementation in the country.

4. Project Outcomes and Benefits

With support of the UNDP country office and other partners, AMICAALL has successfully implemented a number of activities in different HIV/AIDS thematic areas. These include:

Through the network of the Alliance countrywide, a total of 206 mayors and town clerks has been mobilized and sensitized on the social and economic consequences of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in their communities. They have been inspired to become actively involved and they now lead the local response to HIV/AIDS in their constituencies.

The mayors and municipal leaders have also been trained in corporate governance with an HIV/AIDS perspective. One of the key outputs of this training is to ensure that they mainstream HIV/AIDS in their development plans. A good number of urban councils have plans that reflect HIV/AIDS issues.

Local-level management and coordination systems for an HIV/AIDS response at the local level have been developed in urban authorities through the establishment and orientation of municipal and town council AIDS taskforces. Forty municipal and town council AIDS taskforces have been established and oriented in their key roles and functions.

AMICAALL has established partnerships and networks for an HIV/AIDS response at the local and international levels. Formal partnership arrangements include the City-to-City and Municipal Partnership Programme, e.g., the city of Winnipeg in Canada and the city of Kampala supported by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the United States Conference of Mayors.

AMICAALL has also supported urban councils to develop HIV/AIDS workplace policies to manage HIV/
AIDS in the urban workplace. It prepared a guide to developing HIV/AIDS policies in urban places and disseminated it to all 105 urban councils.

Through realization of the urban authorities’ role in fighting the epidemic, 50 urban councils have created local budget lines for HIV/AIDS interventions in their development plans to ensure local resource mobilization for HIV/AIDS.

5. Sustainability and Innovation

The AMICAALL mandate is to build the capacity of urban local governments, and over the past few years, it has gained experience in working with these governments in mainstreaming different national goals and agendas. Encouraging urban councils to create local budget lines for HIV/AIDS and continued mobilization to pay annual subscriptions have also contributed to the sustainability of the programme. A sustainability plan is being developed by AMICAALL.

AMICAALL has demonstrated the importance of strategic partnerships and networks as critical factors in facilitating a coordinated response and enhancing technical and financial resources. It will continue to build partnerships and networks at the national and local levels within a multisectoral approach to expand HIV/AIDS services in urban areas.

6. Replicability

The AMICAALL initiative has been able to grow considerably from its beginning in 1998. The experience of AMICAALL Uganda has shown the importance of building alliances and partnerships in order to lay the foundation for sustainability and provide the framework for replicability in other countries.
VENEZUELA – FOUNDATION FOR THE STATE’S NATIONAL SYSTEM OF JUVENILE ORCHESTRAS OF VENEZUELA

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<tr>
<th>Project Name:</th>
<th>Foundation for the State’s National System of Juvenile Orchestras of Venezuela (FESNOJIV)</th>
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1. Background and Overview of Project or Initiative

The Foundation for the State’s National System of Juvenile Orchestras of Venezuela (Fundación del Estado para l Sistema Nacional de Orquestas Juveniles e Infantiles de Venezuela, or FESNOJIV) is a public institution geared towards an integrated programme of development for disadvantaged children and young people through a novel method based on instruction and participation in music education and performance.

This programme was founded by the now well-known Maestro, José Antonio Abreu, who set up the National Youth Orchestra organization, called Juan José Landaeta, in 1975. Three years later, this organization was renamed the Simón Bolívar Venezuelan Youth Symphony Orchestra (OSJVSB). In 1979, the State Foundation for the Venezuelan Youth Orchestra was officially established, and from 1996 onwards, it has been identified as FESNOJIV. The main objective of FESNOJIV has been to promote and develop youth and children’s orchestras all around the country. A further role of equal importance is the implementation of programmes and other activities relating to the development and education of all its young members.

One obstacle encountered by the visually impaired was the lack of sheet music in Braille, which gave birth to the Centre for Research and Printing of Braille Sheet Music. This was undertaken with the aim of reducing illiteracy and school failure within the blind community of boys, girls and adolescents and to allow those of the community to make music and start choir singing. To help to address the needs of those with hearing problems, several institutions are now available such as the White Hands Choir, the Percussion Ensemble and the Rhythm Band. The purpose of this Special Education Project is to include the children with special needs in the activities of the System at the same time that it makes the System more aware and prepared to integrate them into its activities.

From July 2007, advances have also been registered in the establishment of the Penitentiary Symphony Orchestra, Dreams of Freedom, in accordance with the national policy to humanize the penitentiary system. This is the first time that the system has lent itself to adult education, particularly in the collective teaching of music as a mechanism to facilitate the reintegration into society of the penitentiary population. The programme has been set up in four facilities and 250 people are now participating.
in orchestras, ensembles, choirs and Venezuelan folk groups.

2. Project Objectives

The objectives of the Foundation are to use music as a tool for social inclusion, giving its participants training that will promote the pursuit of new goals in the present and in the future. The method used encourages teamwork through individual and collective practice and appreciation of selected instruments within the orchestral family. Maestro Abreu, the founder, is quoted as saying that “an orchestra is a community whose exclusive and essential purpose is to interact with each other”. In this regard, the music within the System becomes the vector for the transmission of values such as discipline, solidarity, tolerance and respect for others that, according to its founder, constitute the social function of the arts.

3. Project Approach

The initiative attracts boys and girls at a very early stage in their lives (about two years of age) in their own surroundings, which helps to create a strong sense of belonging with the System. It is worth highlighting that the orchestras within the System promote cultural activities that encourage an appreciation of both academic as well as popular music, breaking down the paradigm of classical music as the domain of the privileged. The qualitative results immediately generate a multiplying effect within the districts where the initiative operates, giving rise to a gradual but sustained increase in the number of participants joining the System.

Children are expected to take part in the programme on a daily basis (four hours a day, twenty-four hours a week, from Monday to Saturday). The dynamic within the programme is based on meritocracy, understood as a means of achieving success through personal effort, constancy and discipline, leading to healthy competition in the pursuit of artistic excellence. From the beginning, the teaching learning process is collective, and continuous evaluation measures the progress made by the participants. The activities include rehearsals, workshops and weekly individual checking and control.

The centres that operate under the auspices of the Foundation target children and youngsters from a mix of backgrounds, although there is a predominance of children and youth from the lower socio-economic strata. The centres also target homeless boys and girls as a means of rehabilitation and reinsertion into the family and society in general. Given that the centres are now found in many different parts of the country, native indigenous boys and girls and Afro-Venezuelan youngsters have been readily included. The social mix represented by these centres has contributed to the growing incorporation of youngsters of various socially vulnerable groups and clearly shows the integrating capacity of the programme.

Since 1995, the Foundation has also carried out a programme of special education throughout the country, the main objective of which is to include and encourage participation by boys, girls and adolescents with special needs. These needs include cognitive deficits; sight, hearing or learning difficulties; disabilities; and autism. This programme now cares for 1,045 youngsters, using musical education to couple the pedagogical approach with the characteristic of each disability.

4. Project Outcomes and Benefits

In terms of its overall functioning, the Foundation has 172 centres operating in cities and towns throughout the country. The Orchestral Centre is the focal point of the network and the essence of the Foundation because all musical, orchestral and choral activities take place within its confines. The centres enjoy relative autonomy in managing and financing their own ac-
tivities according to their size, each reaching on average approximately 2,000 boys, girls and adolescents.

At present, the Foundation network comprises more than 172 youth orchestras (students ranging from 15 to 22 years of age), 193 infant orchestras (ages 7 to 15 years), 18 pre-infants orchestras (4 to 7 years of age), 24 initiation symphony orchestras, 344 chamber groups, 145 infant and youth choirs, and 302 associate choirs, in all comprising around 283,050 boys, girls and adolescents from all over Venezuela.

5. Sustainability and Innovation

The success of this initiative has been recognized at an international level because it combines artistic excellence and solid ethical principles applied to the betterment of society. The world’s best known concert halls have given standing ovations to the Foundation’s orchestras not only because of their quality but also for the particular characteristics of the performers: young boys and girls raised and educated in Venezuela who have never been near a conservatory and who express their love for music combined with choreographies that have stirred up the traditional concept of an orchestra.

A recent study estimates the number of people who have received the benefit of musical training during the 30 years since the Foundation was started to be around 2 million.

Recent studies show that the impact on the beneficiaries of the System is three-fold: (a) improved psychosocial behaviour, (b) improved school efficiency and intellectual inquisitiveness, and (c) better sociocultural behaviour within the family nucleus and the community.

At present, consolidation of the System has become a number one priority for the social policy of the Government of Venezuela. At the end of 2007, the “Music Mission” was launched as a strategy for social inclusion and to deliver the fruits of the labour of FESNOJIV. Over the long term, the Government is considering ways to integrate the Foundation’s principles into the formal education curriculum, making the teaching of music mandatory.

6. Replicability

With support from the Organization of American States (OAS) and other donors, the FENOSJIV music education model has been disseminated to more than 20 countries. The same applies to the creation of the OAS Youth Orchestra of the Americas. The FENOSJIV model has also inspired the creation of the Ibero-American Youth Orchestra, which made its debut in 1997, supported by the Andres Bello-UNESCO Agreement during the VII Ibero-American Summit.
1. Background and Overview of Project or Initiative

The initiative seeks to help to develop more sustainable livelihoods for ethnic minority groups in the Sa Pa District of northern Vietnam. It also provides incentives for the conservation of threatened indigenous medicinal plant species. This northern mountain region has the highest poverty rate in the country. Ethnic minorities comprise over 50 per cent of the population. Their knowledge of forest plants, as well as derived products and their uses, represents one of their few assets. Sa Pa is an acknowledged national centre of expertise on the traditional use of medicinal plants and their biodiversity. However, over-exploitation of these forests and their medicinal plant species endangers the ecological integrity and biodiversity of these areas. Previous efforts to develop livelihood options based on medicinal plants in Sa Pa have focused on non-native species and largely benefited the Kinh (ethnic Vietnamese).

This initiative grows out of the Medicinal Plants Innovation Project (funded by NZAID for 2003-2006) by investigating whether native medicinal plants in Sa Pa (a) had commercial potential for development in local, regional and international markets, (b) could be domesticated and grown by local ethnic minorities, and (c) could hence contribute to both biodiversity conservation and to rural livelihoods.

The Medicinal Plants Innovation Project involved the local community and district government in Sa Pa together with an international conservation non-governmental organization (NGO) (Fauna and Flora International) and a New Zealand-based natural products company, Forest Herbs Research Ltd. (FHR); it was financed by NZAID. This project identified five native medicinal plant species with commercial potential and undertook a comprehensive scientific study of them, including their agronomic and commercial potential as well as the prospects for positive environmental and social impact. Natural products based on unique essential oils derived from two of these species were formulated and test-marketed. Another species was found to have significant potential for anti-melanoma properties, and a patent was taken out to protect this intellectual property.

2. Project Objectives

The goal of the project and of the initiative that evolved from it is the “sustainable development of...
high value natural products based on medicinal plant species of conservation value in Viet Nam, emphasizing participation of local ethnic minority communities. This combines the medicinal plant knowledge and experience of ethnic minority groups in Sa Pa with rigorous scientific studies to demonstrate the efficacy of their biological properties, with the aim of developing high-value products for domestic and international markets. It also includes the sustainable production of these species by the ethnic minority communities themselves for conservation and product marketing purposes.

3. Project Approach

Since the MPI project finished, a sustainable and equitable commercially oriented partnership has developed between a Sa Pa-based community association (Sa Pa Indigenous Medicinal Plants Association, or SIMPA) and a Vietnamese owned natural products production/marketing company, Sa Pa Essentials (SPE) Ltd., which works with SIMPA on a fair-trade basis. FHR in New Zealand continues to provide mentoring and other support to SPE and SIMPA.

SIMPA currently has 30 members who cultivate and process the medicinal plants. SPE produces and markets the natural products formulated from these plants, paying to SIMPA a royalty that provides fair compensation for the use of its traditional knowledge and culture in the marketing process. SIMPA now also owns the patent taken out for the anti-melanoma properties discovered in one of the target plant species.

Between 2006-2008, the initiative went through a transition from “project” to “enterprise” as donor support ended and the fledgling farmer association (SIMPA) and fair-trade company (SPE) were established and began operations. Informal support from FHR in New Zealand continued. In 2007, the partnership obtained official product licences to permit legal sales of the products, and commercial operations began.

Options have been developed for establishing an equitable value chain that links the ethnic minority communities in Sa Pa (as plant producers and primary processors) with high-value domestic and international markets for the products derived from their production. The marketing strategy aims to maximize the value added to the products that can be produced from native medicinal plants of conservation value.

4. Project Outcomes and Benefits

In 2007, a social impact study was carried out in Sa Pa, looking at the impact achieved at that relatively early stage and at potential impact into the future. The study was contracted to the Gender and Family Research Institute in Hanoi. The same consultants had previously conducted the initial social impact study at the start of the project and had established the key indicators (as relevant to the communities involved in the project) and their baseline status at that time. This final study looked at changes that have occurred in the two years since the initial study, following two cycles of plant production and trials of essential oil extraction. The major findings of the study were:

- The production, sale and processing of Elsholtzia plants have provided an important source of income to members of SIMPA involved in the project (24 households).
- Incomes have increased in the 24 families involved in SIMPA (through plant cultivation and processing activities), but as yet this contributes only a small percentage of total income.
- Money earned from the sale of the medicinal plants was used to pay for house building materials, food, medicines, clothes, education, etc.
- The initiative has also had an important and positive influence on the position of women within households through their membership in SIMPA, including in leadership (chair and vice-chair) positions, acquisition of new skills such as medicinal plant cultivation and processing, and making their own contribution to household income.
5. Sustainability and Innovation

Mechanisms have also been developed to ensure that the ethnic minority communities can own, and benefit from, the intellectual property generated by the project. The project has already begun to demonstrate the concept of “Effective, high quality, natural plant products, from medicinal plant species of conservation value native to the Sa Pa district of northern Vietnam, that are produced, harvested and commercialized sustainably by local ethnic minority communities.”

The initiative is now aiming to expand to reach a level of economic activity that will sustain the recently established organizations and the communities that they seek to benefit as well as to provide long-term support for biodiversity conservation in the Sa Pa area. The plan is that as a strong social enterprise owned and operated by the ethnic minorities of Sa Pa is consolidated, additional minority communities will be included to meet market demand for the plants and to spread the economic and social benefits.

The partnership was selected from over 200 entrants as one of five winners of the 2007 SEED Award. The initiative was also chosen as one of 12 finalists for the BBC World Challenge award and was able to use the television coverage that this produced to explore new commercial prospects.

6. Replicability

The initiative is replicable and has possibilities for scaling up, with interest already shown by several other agencies (CARE, the Ford Foundation, the United Nations Industrial Organization and others). This could be achieved through:

- the expansion of the existing initiative outwards from Sa Pa to include other disadvantaged, rural, ethnic minority communities in northern Vietnam over time; and/or
- taking the model developed by the MPI project and starting a similar process in other locations/countries.
NUMEROUS COUNTRIES – AFRIGADGET

Project Name: AfriGadget
Country: Numerous countries (virtual)
Nominated By: AfriGadget
Sector: Information Technology/communications
Sponsor/Donor: All volunteer
Implementing Agency: AfriGadget
Project Status: Ongoing
Project Period: 2006 to present

1. Background and Overview of Project or Initiative
AfriGadget was started in 2006 by a number of African bloggers. The idea behind AfriGadget was to create a forum on the appropriate use of technology and African ingenuity in its application. More specifically, AfriGadget was founded out of the desire of one of its founding editors, Erik Hersman, to have a platform for showcasing the positive aspects of the application of appropriate technology in Africa to African problems.

This led to discussions with various African bloggers from which the concept of using a web forum to present this information was born. When AfriGadget was launched in the summer of 2006, there were seven contributing partners (editors) to the blog.

The project is run entirely by volunteers who work on the project and pay for the administrative costs themselves.

2. Project Objectives
The primary objective of AfriGadget is to provide a tool that can act as a documentation platform website as well as an online resource and a repository of information on appropriate technology. AfriGadget seeks to raise global awareness of African ingenuity and innovation in the application of appropriate and sustainable technological solutions to African problems on the part of an audience that is mainly in the developed world.

3. Project Approach
AfriGadget is a website dedicated to showcasing African ingenuity. A team of bloggers and readers contribute their pictures, videos and stories from around the continent.

One of the AfriGadget goals is to increase the number of stories showcasing African ingenuity. The Grassroots Reporting Project is the editors’ plan to find, equip and train more AfriGadget reporters in the field throughout Africa. The objective is to leverage the power of current and emerging technology such as video cameras, digital cameras, laptops and phones to bring quality content online and eventually on television.

A combination of mobile phones and computers will be assigned to individuals in 10 African countries for the purpose of getting more on-the-ground reporting of stories of African ingenuity to the world. An AfriG-
adget editor will be in charge of identifying the best candidates for inclusion in the programme. This editor will also travel to each country to train and equip the new AfriGadget reporters for the programme.

A network of field reporters will be created who report on stories that meet the following criteria:

- showcase an ingenious innovation that is new, or a repurposing of existing technology in a new way;
- are interesting in the sense that they capture the imagination of others, inspiring them to see solutions in uncommon ways;
- focus on practical ideas that solve problems in a demonstrable way; and
- highlight entrepreneurs who are inventing new products or solutions.

Another proposed project to be launched in the fall of 2008 (if funds are available) aims at formalizing the processes of measuring, documenting and reporting on the appropriateness of technology in use in other parts of the continent and coming up with a standardized methodology for reporting and knowledge transfer. This methodology will be used to document projects as well as engage populations in the field by presenting tried and true applied technologies in informal and workshop-style settings as a means of disseminating knowledge.

4. Project Outcomes and Benefits

With a current peak readership of about 75,000 to 150,000 per month for popular articles, the website could easily grow to have the capacity to handle in excess of 1 million readers a month simply by adding more hosting hardware and services.

To this end, AfriGadget has been extremely successful with its stated objective. The editors bring an average of two to three exciting stories on the application of appropriate technology to a global combined audience of, in some exceptional cases, more than 500,000 unique visitors over the course of a month. This audience does not include people reading its content from aggregator websites such as Boing Boing and Engadget, where its stories are frequently cross-posted and that have daily audiences in excess of 1 million readers.

Evidence of the effectiveness of AfriGadget outreach is its nomination as one of Time magazine’s top 50 websites for 2008.

5. Sustainability and Innovation

AfriGadget is currently an Internet reporting project run by volunteers. The editors have only the capacity to participate in the reporting phase of the projects that they write about; they do not have the resources and capability to carry out quantitative and qualitative assessments.

The long-term sustainability of AfriGadget is facilitated primarily through eschewing the traditional reporting model for projects such as this. The editors rely entirely on an Internet-based reporting and distribution model. They have distributed both workloads and capacity based on specialization by including experts located in various parts of the world, all of whom have different professional specializations and interests.

By keeping administrative overhead low and allowing editors to pick and choose which projects they work on based on their interests, AfriGadget has created a model that scales to allow new experts to be integrated easily into the project. Using the Internet for collaboration, preparation and publishing also enables the editors to keep costs very low.

In short, the primary innovation of AfriGadget lies in choosing to use the Internet as the only medium of reporting and distribution.
6. Replicability

AfriGadget can be easily replicated and scaled up to a very large extent simply through adding volunteer editorial staff and extending the capacity of its Internet web-server hosting facilities.

Scaling up is achieved by adding volunteer editors to the staff regularly, with the only fixed cost of this process being that of reporting equipment (cameras, cell phones, computers and Internet connection service fees) for editors joining the team.
1. Background and Overview of Project or Initiative

Today’s mobile phones are designed to meet Western needs. Subscribers in developing countries, however, now represent the majority of 2.4 billion mobile-phone users worldwide. Africa is currently the fastest-growing mobilephone market in the world. Over the past five years, the continent’s mobile-phone use has increased at an annual rate of 65 per cent – twice the global average. In June of 1999, Kenya, for example, had 15,000 mobile-phone subscribers. By the end of 2004, the country had 3.4 million subscribers, and in the last 18 months, this number has grown to over 5.6 million despite the fact that only 200,000 Kenyan households have electricity.

According to the Government’s 2005 Economic Survey, Kenya’s small-business sector, which employs the majority of workers in the nation, created approximately 437,900 new jobs last year. The boom in mobile phones in Kenya has been credited with much of this growth. Indeed, it has been shown that adding an additional 10 mobile phones per 100 people boosts the growth of a typical developing country’s gross domestic product by 0.6 per cent.

A large part of this boost comes from the innovative use of mobile-phone technology by local entrepreneurs. In contrast to their use in the developed world, mobile phones in Africa are utilized for a wide variety of tasks, from sending money to family members to buying a fish from the market. African businessmen, farmers and labourers are finding new uses for a tool thought of as simply a voice communication device in the West and are coming up with original methods for solving their own problems.

2. Project Objectives

The objective of this project is to support and expand the computer science curricula in African universities to include mobile-phone technologies and programming and to encourage entrepreneurial efforts among students and faculty using their newly acquired skills and training.

3. Project Approach

Until recently, the computer science curricula of universities throughout Africa still focused exclusively on traditional desktop computer programming. As a result, African computer-science graduates were not qualified to address the computing needs of African people associated with telecommunications, in particular mobile phones.
In early 2006, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Nokia launched a trial initiative called “Entrepreneurial Programming and Research on Mobiles (EPROM)” in East Africa. Its purpose is to develop a mobile-phone programming curriculum that equips computer science students with the skills to design mobile-phone applications specifically for the needs of people in the developing world.

EPROM is part of the MIT “Program for Developmental Entrepreneurship”, which aims to foster mobile-phone-related research and entrepreneurship. Key activities include:

- the development of new applications for mobilephone users worldwide;
- academic research using mobile phones; and
- the creation of a widely applicable mobile-phone programming curriculum.

4. Project Outcomes and Benefits

Now going into its third year, the MIT EPROM initiative has expanded its mobile-phone programming courses to 12 computer science departments across sub-Saharan Africa. The EPROM faculty has grown to 15 African computer science professors and lecturers who are running their own EPROM application development laboratories. Some universities are incorporating the EPROM curriculum into new master’s degree programmes while others are focusing these materials on their incoming undergraduate computer science students. The continued growth of EPROM has led to hundreds of mobile-phone applications developed specifically for the African market. Several of these student projects have attracted international media attention while others are being formed into start-up ventures based in Addis Ababa, Kampala, Kigali, Nairobi and beyond.

Thanks to a donation from the Nokia Corporate Development Office, EPROM Mobile Application Development Laboratories are now being established in Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal and the United Republic of Tanzania.

5. Sustainability and Innovation

EPROM has undergone considerable expansion, and with requests from dozens of additional universities across Africa, the initiative appears to be providing a much-needed service to the African computer science community. The EPROM courses are currently being taught by faculty members (professors and lecturers of computer science within a university in Africa) who have been trained during an EPROM teach-the-teachers event. These faculty members are then incorporating the EPROM materials into their universities’ standard computer-science curriculum, making it a permanent part of future undergraduate and graduate education.

In short, the African computer science community is now empowered to develop mobile-phone applications for itself. Apart from a new curriculum, EPROM has placed considerable emphasis on connecting students with local start-ups as well as major corporations to help them with their projects and mobile-phone applications. Examples of student research projects that have been given an entrepreneurial boost are:

- **Airtime Banking**: Mobile-phone users in rural areas are able to buy air time only when they go to the market in town centres, an event that occurs rarely owing to the long travel distances required. Airtime Banking is a short message service (SMS) application developed for Kenyan air time dealers in rural town centres to help solve this problem;

- **Mosoko**: The Mobile Community Market. People in developing regions have limited knowledge of the marketplace for goods and services beyond their immediate friends and neighbours. This limited knowledge contributes to inefficiencies in local markets, which, in turn, affect their larger
economies. This is the central problem that Mosoko aims to solve.

• **Mobile Demographic Surveillance System:** Medical Data Collection on Mobiles. The Mobile Demographic Surveillance System (MDSS) is an attempt to enable medical field workers to conduct surveys on mobile phones that can remotely interface with a local hospital’s database. Shifting the system from paper-based surveys to mobile phones has the potential to enable the field workers to remain in the field for longer periods while bypassing the time-consuming and potentially error-prone data transcription process.

6. Replicability

To gain access to the EPROM curriculum materials and have a mobile-phone application development laboratory built, a university needs to send a computer-science professor or lecturer to an EPROM teach-the-teachers workshop. Upon successful completion of the course, the university begins to use the EPROM materials and phones are donated for the laboratory. This process is fairly straightforward and has already occurred 12 times in the last two years.
1. Background and Overview of Project or Initiative

Chagas disease (also called American trypanosomiasis) is a human tropical parasitic disease that occurs in the Americas, particularly in South America. Its pathogenic agent is a flagellate protozoan that is transmitted to humans and other mammals mostly by blood-sucking bugs.

Chagas disease is one of a group of neglected diseases or “diseases of poverty”, with multiple socioeconomic and environmental determinants that generally lie outside the purview of the health sector. It and the other neglected diseases principally affect the poor (especially those living in extreme poverty) and contribute individually and as a group to poverty traps from which families find it difficult to escape. Chagas disease is also often imbedded at the community level in a web of transmission of other infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria as well as chronic malnutrition.

Diseases of poverty such as Chagas disease require an intersectoral and multi-disease approach to their prevention and control. Integration of Chagas disease surveillance and control activities at the community level (in the local primary health care system, in schools and in community networks) is a key strategy for achieving the elimination of this disease. The sustainability of elimination is also likely to be dependent on combating poverty and malnutrition and on improving the quality of life through integrated, intersectoral and multi-disease approaches.

2. Project Objectives

The project objective is to design a subregional initiative in the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) countries of South America aimed at eliminating Triatoma infestans, the vector of the disease in this subregion, and to interrupt the transfusional transmission of Trypanosoma cruzi.

3. Project Approach

In 1991, the Ministries of Health of the Southern Cone countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay) met in Brasilia within the framework of the “Southern Cone Initiative to Control/Eliminate Chagas” (“Iniciativa en Salud de los Países del Cono Sur”, or INCOSUR) and created an Intergovernmental Commission. This Commission would be in charge of the elaboration and execution of a subregional Action Plan to eliminate Triatoma infestans and to interrupt the transfusional transmission of T. cruzi.
Every year since March 1992, the Intergovernmental Commission of the Southern Cone for the Elimination of *T. infestans* and the Interruption of Transfusional Transmission of American Trypanosomiasis has held its annual meeting. At this meeting, concrete plans are finalized for horizontal technical cooperation among countries as well as other similar regional initiatives, with international missions to evaluate programmes and monitor achievements towards the goal.

This Commission now has its technical secretariat at the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

4. Project Outcomes and Benefits

Partners meet regularly and communicate on an ongoing basis to share knowledge, experiences, results of operational research projects and, above all, commitment to continue the arduous and tenacious fight against Chagas disease. A collective sense of commitment, mutual support and the external evaluation of programmes and certification of results have led to a spiral of high and sustained achievements. The culture of evaluation and accountability of social programmes and projects has been strengthened.

In its twelve years of existence, INCOSUR has achieved the following:

- 1997: interruption of vectoral and transfusional transmission of *T. cruzi* in Uruguay;
- 1999: interruption of vectoral transmission in Chile;
- 2000: interruption of vectoral transmission of *T. cruzi* by *T. infestans* throughout nearly all the endemic area;
- 2001: interruption of vectoral transmission in five provinces in Argentina: Entre Ríos, Jujuy, La Pampa, Neuquén and Río Negro;
- 2002: precertification for interruption of vectoral transmission in the Department of Amambay, Paraguay;
- 2006: interruption of vectoral transmission of *T. cruzi* by *T. infestans* in Brazil in all endemic area in 13 States;
- 2007: interruption of vectoral transmission of *T. cruzi* in Paraguay, Región Oriental;
- decrease in household infestation by *T. infestans* in many areas of the subregion;
- development of a control programme in Bolivia, with support from the Inter-American Development Bank, PAHO/WHO and UNDP;
- improvement in prevention and quality assessment of transfusional transmission in the subregion; and
- more effective and efficient management of Chagas control.

Overall, more than 170 million people in the Southern Cone have been protected and have benefited from this initiative, contributing also to the achievement of Millennium Development Goals (eradication of poverty, ensuring environmental sustainability).

5. Sustainability and Innovation

The fact that this partnership has remained active since 1991 is a clear indication of its sustainability. Much has been achieved in terms of capacity-building since national health authorities have put in place the coordination mechanisms to enable the continuity of activities (at national, local and subregional levels). The new PAHO/WHO initiative and global network to eliminate Chagas disease as a public health problem will be addressing the burden of the disease in the Americas and in non-endemic countries as a part of the forthcoming WHO Global Plan to Combat Neglected Tropical Diseases, 2008-2015.

Numerous scientific meetings have taken place, and many scientific publications have been published, increasing the knowledge base about the disease and the evidence for its control. Many of the research projects undertaken have produced improvements
in technology packages to tackle the disease through operational research. The most innovative aspect of the initiative is the way in which countries came together and created the mechanisms to implement the initiative towards Chagas disease control, using their collective capacity to harness the disease. In the field of science and technology, there have been innovations relating to vector control (chemical control spraying).

6. Replicability

The experience in the Southern Cone countries under this initiative has been replicated and scaled up in the following subregions and countries:

- Central America: Iniciativa de los Países de América Central para el Control de la Transmisión Vectorial, Transfusional y la Atención Médica de la Enfermedad de Chagas (IPCA): Belice, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua y Panamá, 1997. Japan has recently contributed with earmarked funds to continue this initiative;
- Andean Region: Iniciativa de los Países Andinos de Control de la Transmisión Vectorial y Transfusional de la Enfermedad de Chagas (IPA): Colombia, Ecuador, Perú y Venezuela, 1998;
- Amazon: Iniciativa de los Países Amazónicos para la Vigilancia y Control de la Enfermedad de Chagas (AMCHA), 2004; and
1. Background and Overview of Project or Initiative

The primary goal of this initiative is South-South sharing of successful taxation practices, with a view to mobilizing domestic resources to attain sustainable financing for development. The 2002 Monterrey Consensus emphasized that an effective, efficient, transparent and accountable system for mobilizing domestic resources and managing their use is essential to secure fiscal sustainability, growth and poverty reduction. Such a system is also needed to reduce reliance upon foreign aid, which is often conditional and may lead to a situation of dependence.

Capital flight from developing countries to financial centres results in tax evasion and loss of government revenue. This impedes the capacity of developing countries to mobilize domestic resources, which is necessary for investment in social infrastructure and services, including health, education and social security systems.

The challenges for countries of the South are exacerbated by issues such as transfer mispricing within multinational corporations and other types of tax avoidance and evasion. The sophistication of such practices presents special challenges to many developing countries in particular, with their limited policy development and technical capacities to deal with the complex issues involved.

There is an unmet demand for the sharing of successful practices in this area. This is seen in the sharing of such experiences that already occurs on an ad hoc basis at the country-to-country level. Demand for technical assistance in the tax area is increasing, with a call for Southern perspectives and experiences as part of such assistance.

2. Project Objectives

The twin goals of this initiative are South-South sharing of successful taxation practices (S4TP) with a view to mobilizing domestic resources in order to attain sustainable financing for development, and identification of further work to integrate Southern perspectives into international tax norms and practices so as to fully mobilize domestic resources.

3. Project Approach

This initiative was formulated in late 2007 by a partnership of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation. It aims
to assist developing countries in dealing with the above-mentioned challenges without reinventing the useful work already being done in the area and with the emphasis remaining on practical improvements. The project will also identify where further work is needed in order to integrate Southern perspectives into international tax norms and practices as well as where regional and multilateral responses may be required to fully allow for the mobilization of domestic resources.

The project strategy is to achieve these goals by:

- identifying successful Southern practices in tax policy and administration;
- disseminating such practices, including suggested refinements and options; and
- recognizing the limits of a practice-sharing approach in mobilizing domestic resources, and identifying practical opportunities for improving the integration of Southern perspectives into the development of international norms in the area of taxation, particularly those addressing issues such as tax avoidance and evasion.

The strategy is currently being pursued during an initial 15-month period, or first phase, of the proposed multi-year initiative that began in February 2008. This phase consists of six overlapping steps in disseminating successful practices and prompting needed actions in the area of taxation and the setting of international norms. The six steps are:

(1) research and planning by a working group of representatives of partnering organizations of the initiative to identify key agendas, participants and sources of financial support for the activities and events of the initiative;

(2) a small conference meeting of S4TP on “Revenue’s Role in the Quest for Inclusive Development: What Works and What Can Work Better?” This meeting was convened on 22-23 May 2008 at the New York University School of Law, with participants from Barbados, Brazil, Chile, China, Egypt, Guatemala, India, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Norway, South Africa and the United States. It focused on sharing experiences in taxation in the areas of extractive industries, transfer pricing, tax judiciaries, and modernizing tax administration and compliance;

(3) a follow-up meeting held in late August 2008 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Participants at this meeting delved further into experiences of leading developing-country tax administrators and experts with issues of transfer pricing, an area of particular concern at the New York meeting;

(4) publication and dissemination of South-South successful practices in taxation. These activities will be implemented beginning in 2008 in the form of a series of manuals for tax administrators.

(5) recommendations regarding taxation in the context of the Doha Follow-on Conference. As mentioned earlier, these will draw on the priority needs identified by this initiative, which will then be assessed for feasibility;

(6) follow-up steps in the second phase of implementation of this initiative. The follow-up, beginning in early 2009, will consist of a series of South-South learning events, technical assistance and products aimed at improving Southern as well as Northern inputs into international tax norms.

4. Project Outcomes and Benefits

The intended initial achievements are the holding of the first international meetings for South-South exchanges on issues and practices of taxation; the placement of taxation of domestic resources on the agenda of the Doha Follow-on Conference; the provision and dissemination of a first-ever manual(s) on Southern taxation practices; and
the recommendations for a strengthened United Nations tax secretariat and subsequent capacity-building activities aimed at increasing mobilization of Southern countries’ domestic resources for sustained development, especially in relation to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The expected longer-term impact or outputs are: (a) the identification, documentation and sharing of successful Southern practices in taxation as a means of mobilizing domestic resources for development among Southern Governments; and (b) options for enhancing the input of successful Southern practices into more regional and multilateral contexts, such as the development of international norms in the area of taxation, including specific inputs into the 2008 Doha Review of the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development.

5. Sustainability and Innovation

The initiative will achieve sustainability by catalysing the increased commitments of resources by the United Nations and other international organizations for the staffing of the United Nations Tax Commission Secretariat, initiative-recommended clearinghouse activities on information, technical assistance, and the continuing exchange of successful taxation practices among Southern countries towards the fulfillment of the MDGs.

6. Replicability

Scaling up of the findings and recommendations of the initiative is part of its second phase of regional meetings for Southern-country participants and the simultaneous generation of recommendations for revised international norms and codes of accountability in regional and global tax practices to be developed in part through the South-South sharing envisaged under this project.
UNFPA —
CAMPAIGN TO END FISTULA

**Project Name:** Campaign to End Fistula  
**Country:** 35 countries  
**Nominated By:** United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)  
**Sector:** Maternal Health  
**Sponsor/Donor:** Multiple donors and sponsors, including host governments, multilateral and bilateral donors, foundations, advocacy groups, civil society organizations and private companies  
**Implementing Agency:** UNFPA  
**Project Status:** Ongoing  
**Project Period:** 2003 to present

1. Background and Overview of Project or Initiative

In 2003, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and partners launched the global Campaign to End Fistula. This Campaign includes interventions to prevent fistula from occurring, treat women who are affected, and help women who have undergone treatment to return to full and productive lives.

Obstetric fistula is a severe morbidity caused by prolonged obstructed labour unrelieved by timely medical intervention. It exposes the challenges that persist in reducing maternal mortality and morbidity. With timely access to skilled delivery care and emergency obstetric care, these injuries can be avoided. Unfortunately, however, the condition affects more than 2 million women and girls in developing countries, with as many as 100,000 new cases each year.

The Campaign strives to build political commitment and broad support for achieving the international goals relating to maternal and newborn health by highlighting the human consequences of a failure to act. It also aims to strengthen health systems to be able to respond to the need for a continuum of health care in pregnancy, childbirth and after the birth. The Campaign is now working in more than 45 countries in Africa, the Arab States region and Asia, and involves a range of partners.

2. Project Objectives

The ultimate goal of the Campaign is to make fistula as rare in developing countries as it is in the industrialized world by 2015 in line with the International Conference on Population and Development and targets of the Millennium Development Goals.

3. Project Approach

Obstetric fistula provides a good example of the need for partnerships and a multisectoral response to achieve the international health goals. It touches on health, education, economics, transportation, communications, and social and cultural norms. Consequently, all levels of the Campaign strive to forge solid partnerships encompassing a range of expertise and perspectives.

The most important partners in the effort to end fistula are the governments of Campaign countries. At the national level, partnerships between UNFPA, the Government, civil society organizations and public health professionals are being formed while local coalitions are also being developed to enlist the commitment of
communities and religious and traditional leaders to prevent maternal death and disability.

In each country, the national campaign focuses on three key areas:

- **prevention**: The most effective way to prevent fistula is to ensure access to quality maternal healthcare services, including family planning, skilled birth attendance and emergency obstetric care. In the long run, prevention also entails tackling underlying social and economic inequities through efforts aimed at empowering women and girls, enhancing their life opportunities and delaying marriage and childbirth;

- **treatment**: While prevention is the focus, there is a strong commitment to treating women who are already affected. In most cases, simple surgery can repair the injury, with success rates as high as 90 per cent for experienced surgeons. The average cost of fistula treatment is $300. The Campaign supports all areas of treatment, from training doctors in fistula surgery to equipping and upgrading fistula centres;

- **rehabilitation**: Fistula treatment goes far beyond repairing the ruptures in a woman's tissues. Many patients – especially those who have lived with the condition for years – will need emotional, economic and social support to fully recover from their ordeal. Through the Campaign, women receive counselling and skills training to help them get back on their feet after surgery. Working with communities is also key in helping to reduce the stigma surrounding the condition and ensure that women are welcomed back into society.

### 4. Project Outcomes and Benefits

In just a few years, the Campaign has made remarkable progress with relatively modest funding. It has brought fistula to the attention of a wide audience, including the general public, policy-makers, health officials and affected communities. Since 2003, the Campaign has secured more than $25 million in contributions that go to support countries’ efforts. In 2007, it was active in more than 45 countries in Africa, the Arab States region and Asia, preventing and treating fistula and rehabilitating and empowering women after treatment. The goal of this ambitious Campaign is to eliminate fistula by 2015. Significant progress is being made towards this goal, as shown by some of the following results to date:

- thirty-six countries have now assessed the national need to address fistula;
- sixteen countries have integrated fistula into relevant national health policies and plans; and
- more than 7,800 women have received fistula treatment.

In 2007 alone:

- tens of thousands of individuals, community leaders and policy-makers were sensitized about maternal health;
- support was received by 89 health facilities in 19 countries to strengthen the capacity to provide treatment services; and
- training was provided for more than 500 professionals in fistula management, including surgery, pre- and post-operative care and counselling.

### 5. Sustainability and Innovation

The Campaign to End Fistula represents an unprecedented level of coordination and partnership-building efforts towards the prevention and treatment of fistula. By drawing attention to fistula, UNFPA and partners in the Campaign have turned the spotlight on maternal health as well. While UNFPA and other partners provide facilitation support, many of the elements generated throughout the Campaign are local solutions. These innovations are then shared across countries and communities for the realization of Millennium Development Goal 5: improving maternal health. Crucial to sustainability is capacity-building in
the form of community mobilization. Involvement of the community fosters ownership and the development of capacities that are essential for obstetric fistula prevention and for addressing social and cultural determinants that perpetuate maternal mortality and morbidity.

The voices of fistula survivors represent a tremendous asset for programming and for sustainability. Given leadership and media training skills, fistula advocates can be good spokespersons for maternal health at all levels. Many already belong to civil society organizations or can be connected to organizations that will provide them with a sustainable platform from which to advocate. Increased involvement of fistula survivors can contribute to the promotion of community ownership and programme sustainability.

6. Replicability
The global Campaign to End Fistula has grown at a fast pace since its launch in 2003. While it began with 12 countries, there are now more than 45 countries in Africa, the Arab States region and Asia engaged in activities relating to fistula, including prevention and treatment as well as rehabilitation and women’s empowerment after treatment. At the beginning of 2006 when the current thematic funding period began, there were approximately 15 countries in full implementation phase. This number has nearly doubled, with 28 countries currently at or entering the implementation phase.
UNIFEM –
SAFE CITIES PROGRAMME: STOPPING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICAN CITIES

**Project Name:** Safe Cities Programme: Stopping Violence against Women in Latin American Cities  
**Country:** Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Ecuador  
**Nominated By:** UNIFEM  
**Sector:** Urban planning and crime prevention  
**Sponsor/Donor:** Slovak UNIFEM, UNDP, UN-Habitat, Spain  
**Implementing Agency:** UNIFEM, local governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, Latin American regional networks  
**Project Status:** Ongoing  
**Project Period:** 2003 to present

1. **Background and Overview of Project or Initiative**

Violence is now among the five main causes of death in Latin America and it is the principal cause of death in Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico and Venezuela. While young men remain the major victims of street violence, the rapid acceleration of criminality and violence in Latin American cities creates a high degree of insecurity for women and girls as well. Women in too many public spaces must fear rape, homicide, kidnapping or sexual harassment. Government protection and prevention policies have not always been adequate to meet these concerns.

Building on a two-country pilot initiative that was supported by a grant in 2003 from the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, the “Safe Cities Programme” is creating a model for women-friendly urban renewal in which women’s safety is a primary concern.

2. **Project Objectives**

The “Safe Cities Programme” has the objective of supporting policy reform, urban planning and service delivery to enhance women’s security in selected neighbourhoods throughout Latin America.

3. **Project Approach**

The original project was expanded into a regional UNIFEM programme in Latin America, with activities in Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Ecuador. There are also commitments to replicate the programme in more cities in Latin America and the Caribbean as well as across Africa and Asia.

The programme is guided by the Beijing Platform of Action and the Habitat Agenda that states: “Governments commit themselves to: develop programmes and practices that promote the total and equal participation of women in the planning and in the decision-making process regarding human settlements and urban development”.

As noted above, the first pilots were funded through a grant in 2003 from the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women. The grantees in Peru and Argentina were civil society organizations (CSOs): Centro de la Mujer Peruana Flora Tristan (FT) and Centro de Intercambio y Servicios Cono Sur Argentina (CISCSA).

The UNIFEM regional programme, inspired by the Trust Fund pilot, encourages the continued expan-
sion of the pilot strategies: promoting public awareness, policy changes and practical strategies that enhance safety and protection for women and girls. The number of partners continues to grow.

Currently, major stakeholders include: local governments, particularly those sectors in charge of developing policies on gender and equality; non-governmental organizations (NGOs); community-based citizen organizations, particularly those constituted by women; and international organizations (including the Huairou Commission) and international cooperation agencies (including UN-Habitat, UNDP and UNIFEM). Other partners include existing networks constituted by either NGOs specialized in the issue, local governments and/or gender units.

4. Project Outcomes and Benefits

The main outcomes of the project are summarized below.

- analysis of legislation and norms relating to urban violence against women. CISCSA produced a guide to gender-sensitive municipal planning titled “Tools for the Promotion of Safe Cities from a Gender Perspective”. The first regional compilation of information on urban violence against women in Latin America, the book makes the case that while women in recent decades have moved more firmly into public spaces, these spaces do not yet ensure women’s right to safety. It showcases successful practices from the region and other parts of the world and offers tools for formulating urban improvement strategies that improve women’s safety;
- women’s groups trained in how to better address the problem of gender violence. The project has supported local women’s groups to brief city planners and the media on the issues women face and to discuss recommendations to improve safety.
- citizens and government officials sensitized to the problem of violence against women in urban settings. The project component has begun printing antiviolence messages on pre-paid transportation cards, informing commuters that “Violence against women is a grave violation of human rights”. Municipal plans were revised to include steps to curtail violence, such as better signage and the installation of bus shelters allowing passengers clear visibility of the surrounding area. In Lima during the pilot project, city officials also took immediate action by improving lighting on streets and parks and fencing off empty lots. Multimedia information campaigns have been produced across the region.
- women’s organizations strengthened in their capacity to contribute to the formulation of policies affecting women. This has been one of the key strategies for the programme. In each of the cities, the capacities of community-based women’s groups have been strengthened to better advocate for improvements in the urban setting. All have strengthened their ties to municipal decision-makers and forged connections to international organizations and networks through the annual meeting of stakeholders.

5. Sustainability and Innovation

The inventory of sustainable solutions that can improve urban environments and reduce violence against women is growing as the programme is replicated in more and more cities across Latin America. The programme is achieving lasting change through knowledge-sharing and through the production of widely disseminated training materials for stakeholders, including the “Guide to Promote Safe Cities from a Gender Perspective”, which is currently available in English, Portuguese and Spanish.

The experiences of individual cities in implementing the programme are captured annually during a stakeholder conference, which includes NGO, United Nations and Government partners. The conference is becoming an increasingly important forum for the
consolidation of substantive knowledge on the “how to” of creating safe cities for women. Further, the forum is enhancing the capacities of all partners to carry out the work and to strengthen their abilities to influence the direction of public policies that lead to positive changes.

Programme partners have contributed to changes in urban planning and infrastructure developments to reduce urban violence in Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Colombia. Participation of government partners in the annual forum is an indication of their support for and buy-in into the programme.

The “Safe Cities Programme” is innovative in its holistic approach that brings together women living in communities, international organizations and NGOs, and public policy-makers to develop and implement an agenda for change. It has identified practical solutions to pressing urban problems in the context of increasing urbanization and it focuses on the unmet needs of women in these communities. Most importantly, the programme connects the lived experience of women in the communities directly with practical and immediate public policy solutions.

6. Replicability

The initiative provides practical and innovative solutions to promote security in perilous urban settings that can be applied in cities across the globe. Furthermore, the methodology for creating inclusive political dialogue is giving voice to traditionally excluded groups. This can be applied narrowly within the context of increasing safety in cities or more broadly to strengthen the voice of community-based groups in order to amplify their participation in the political process at the local level more generally.