



United Nations  
Brussels



SAVING AND IMPROVING LIVES

Partnership between the United Nations and the European Union in 2013



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**The UN Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals agreed in 2000**  
guide our action: “... certain fundamental values [are] essential to international relations in the 21st Century: Freedom ... Equality ... Solidarity ... Tolerance ... Respect for nature ... Shared responsibility...”





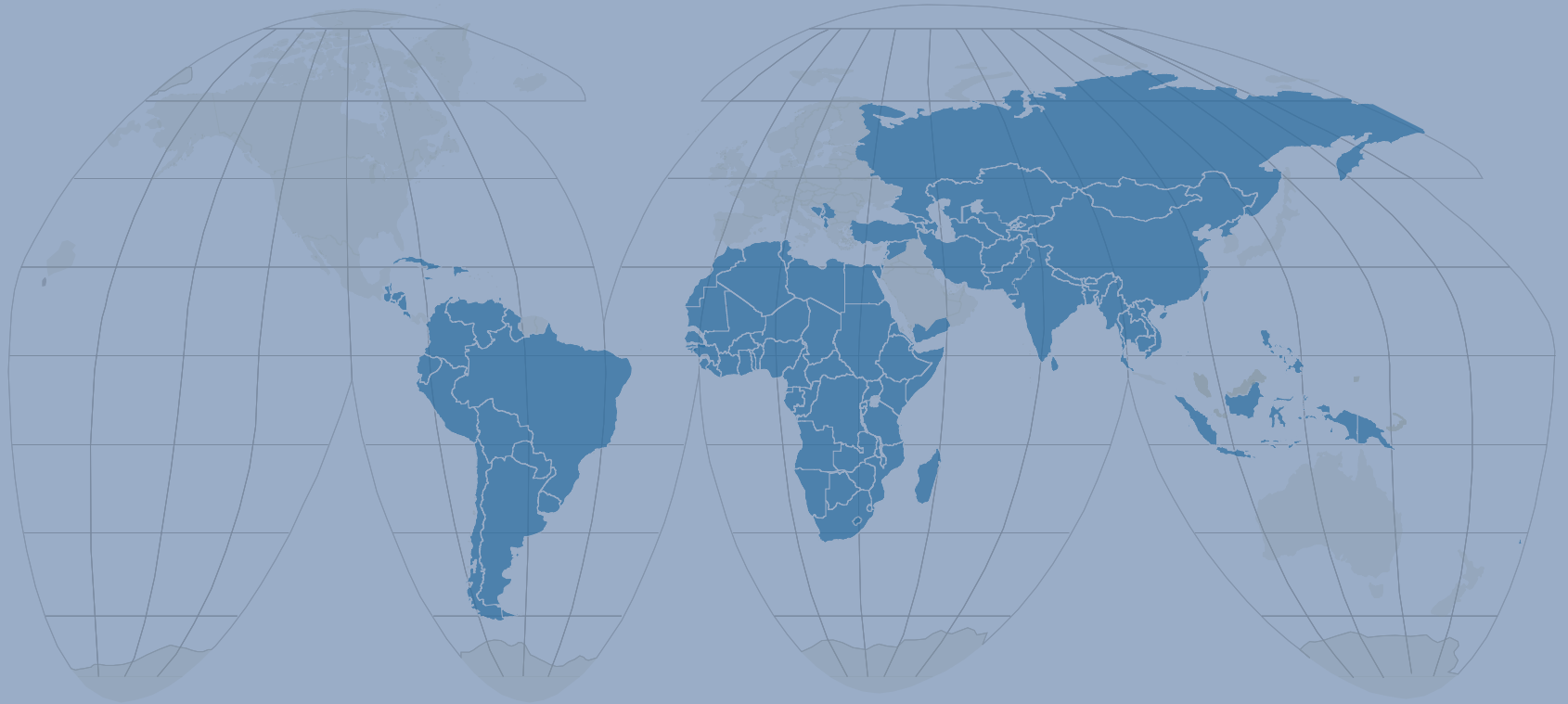


# The foundation of the UN-EU partnership is the UN Charter of 1945:

“We the peoples of the United Nations determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war .... To reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights .... To establish conditions upon which justice and respect ... for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained ... To promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.”

## TREATY OF LISBON (Treaty on European Union - Article 3):

“In its relations with the wider world, the Union shall uphold and promote its values and interests and contribute to the protection of its citizens. It shall contribute to peace, security, the sustainable development of the Earth, solidarity and mutual respect among peoples, free and fair trade, eradication of poverty and the protection of human rights, in particular the rights of the child, as well as to the strict observance and the development of international law, including respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter.”



In 2013, the UN and the EU worked together to support governments and civil society in over 110 countries

This report reflects the partnership between the United Nations and the European Union in humanitarian and development cooperation, as well as elements of our coordinated work in the fields of peace and security, and human rights. The results belong to the governments and people of the countries. Only their tireless efforts assure development – the UN-EU partnership can but support this.

The EU is frequently part of multi-donor arrangements coordinated by the UN in support of country-led efforts. An independent evaluation underlined that by working together the EU and the UN were able to achieve more than each could if working alone. While the EU works with all UN bodies, agencies and programmes across virtually the entire range of UN activities, the results included in this report do not constitute the entirety of achievements in 2013.

The production of this annual report is part of our continuous efforts to inform the public and decision-makers within EU institutions about the UN-EU partnership. In order to give greater visibility to the work of the UN and the EU, and better inform and engage Europeans on global issues, we have developed a number of joint communication initiatives in addition to this series of reports.



## Secretary-General of the United Nations



The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have been a remarkable global initiative. The MDG framework galvanized governments to make strong political commitments to reduce poverty in all its many manifestations. Thanks to wide-ranging global and national investments, substantial progress has been made in meeting many of the MDG targets, such as halving the number of people living in extreme poverty and increasing the proportion of people who have sustainable access to improved sources of water. However, as we approach the MDG deadline -- the end of 2015 -- urgent action is still needed to accelerate achievements.

The European Union has been a long-standing supporter of UN efforts towards reaching the MDGs. This report presents some of the results of our fruitful collaboration in 2013 in more than 110 countries. Together, we saved millions of lives when crises erupted; enabled people worldwide to claim and enjoy their rights; provided access to health and education for women and children; and addressed some of the fundamental challenges of our era, such as the impact of climate change.

I wish to express our appreciation to the European Union for its generous support of the United Nations in all areas of our work. Collectively, we achieved far more than our organizations could have done alone. I welcome the deepening of this partnership through the MDG Acceleration Framework. As we shape and implement an ambitious post-2015 global development agenda, the United Nations will continue to count on the contributions of the European Union in building lives of dignity for all across the world.

*Ban Ki-moon*  
Ban Ki-moon



I am delighted to introduce this ninth report which sets out the main accomplishments in the cooperation undertaken between the European Commission and UN agencies, funds and programmes throughout the world in 2013.

The report shows how our joint work in the field continues to pay dividends; illustrates how the European Union and the United Nations have succeeded in creating added value from a partnership that covers a wide array of fields; and demonstrates how we are constantly striving to improve the lives of the most needed people across the developing world.

Together we have witnessed developing countries making significant progress towards meeting the MDGs. Together we have seen economies suffering from rising inequalities. Together we have observed the struggles and conflicts in several countries in transition.

## President of the European Commission

And together we have responded. Cooperating with the UN and drawing on its expertise is crucial to the EU's role as a major development actor. In this sense I am very satisfied that our relationship goes even further. Our partnership for human rights, peace and development also extends to valuable policy dialogue and technical cooperation in a broad range of areas – from environmental sustainability, health and combating drugs and crime, to anti-terrorism, transport, and nuclear energy.

We share a forward-looking focus and a desire to respond to new and emerging challenges which require global answers and comprehensive actions. The EU remains committed to empowering developing countries to lift themselves out of poverty and we are keen to continue our cooperation with the UN in the years to come. Indeed, with 2015 just around the corner and global efforts to shape a post-2015 framework well underway, we have a great opportunity to make good on those aims and make sustainable development processes work for poverty reduction.

Finally we recognise that even successful partnerships like ours can always do better. That is why presenting our key achievements and giving significant visibility to our cooperation, the report provides a welcome spotlight on those areas in which we can do even more to help developing countries and their people.



Jose Manuel Durão Barroso

## High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy



It's a great pleasure to introduce this report, which highlights key parts of the European Union's partnership with the United Nations.

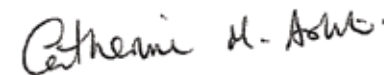
The EU and UN cooperate across the world in pursuit of our objectives. Our work is built on shared attitudes and the principle that relations between states should be subject to the rule of law and based on universal values and mutual respect.

As a unique organization created through decades of negotiation and consensus, the EU believes in a multilateral approach to world affairs.

That is why we will continue to work closely with the UN to push for basic living standards and sustainable use of natural resources. Our work is guided by the desire to strengthen human rights, justice, equality, democracy and the rule of law. One particular strength of the EU's external action is our ability to use the full range of instruments and policies for conflict prevention and management, post-conflict transition and sustainable development. This 'comprehensive approach' fits well with the work of the UN.

Through the creation of the External Action Service, the EU has enhanced its diplomatic capabilities and become an even more effective partner for the United Nations. In February 2014, the Security Council welcomed the close cooperation between the UN and the EU, and urged us to strengthen further our partnership.

In doing just that, we will remain a steadfast partner of the United Nations in the years to come.



Catherine Ashton



## United Nations Director in Brussels



The United Nations Team in Brussels is pleased to present the ninth Annual UN-EU Partnership report on the results of our collaboration with the European Union. The report represents in a concise and pictorial manner the width and the range of our joint actions across the world. Our partnership, as these annual publications demonstrate, continues to save and improve the lives of millions of people in the developing world every year.

For instance, in 2013, as the Syria conflict continued to intensify, we jointly provided vital support to those most impacted by the crisis, both within the country and in neighbouring countries. Working together, we also provided life-saving assistance to 12 million refugees across the world, and enabled the registration of over 233 million people so they could participate in elections held in 10 countries. These are just a few examples of where practical cooperation between the EU and the UN is making an impact where it counts most: in the lives of people.

The United Nations remains highly appreciative of the valuable support received from the European Union and the citizens of Europe. We look forward to further strengthening this collaboration in the years to come for the benefit of the most vulnerable people across the world.

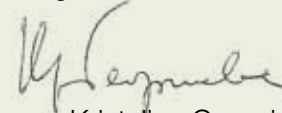


Antonio Vigilante

## EU Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response



2013 has seen an unprecedented number of mega-emergencies, from Syria to Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines and from the Central African Republic to South Sudan. Having to cope with multiple emergencies on a record scale, all happening at the same time, makes it even more important to work together to bring life-saving assistance to the affected men, women and children. The United Nations is in the front line of getting vital assistance to people, but also plays a central role in coordinating the international humanitarian response. The European Union, for its part, is the world's largest donor of relief assistance - in 2013, the European Commission alone contributed almost €577 million to the UN's humanitarian work. In an ever more fragile world, humanitarian needs will keep growing – but the resources available are unlikely to keep pace. This makes it more important than ever to have strong coordination, solid information from the field and common assessments – and on all of these, the UN's leadership is crucial. We also need to look beyond emergency response, at prevention, boosting preparedness and helping communities become more resilient – areas where partnership between the UN and the EU is starting to make a real difference on the ground.



Kristalina Georgieva

## EU Commissioner for Development Cooperation



The UN is a strategic and relevant partner for the EU. Our long history of fruitful cooperation has seen us undertake some very successful development projects all over the world and engage together in policy dialogue on major development issues.

I'm pleased that our cooperation is going from strength to strength. Solid development partnerships like ours are exactly what the world needs – especially now, as the international community works together to shape a post-2015 framework. The EU believes that action to end poverty must go hand in hand with action on sustainability. To this end we have advocated a single, comprehensive and universal framework, pursued through a genuine global partnership bringing together all people, governments from all countries, international organisations, civil society and the private sector.

We highly value our partnership with the UN, founded on a shared vision of how development policies should be applied to generate prosperity and achieve a better life for the people in our partner countries. The EU is committed to pursuing its ongoing work with all UN partners, improving and building on our partnership wherever possible, so that we continue delivering efficient and effective development assistance worldwide.



Andris Piebalgs

## EU Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy



EU-UN cooperation is essential to increase efficiency of the international response to complex crisis. This partnership has notably been crucial in the frame of the Syrian crisis, where the EU has been the world's main donor responding to the consequences of the crisis. UN agencies have been one of the main partners of the EU's attempts to mitigate the dramatic consequences of the crisis on the population in Syria and in the region. Apart from covering the basic humanitarian needs, this partnership has allowed to provide education to displaced Syrian children and has helped neighbouring countries and host communities coping with the enormous economic and social pressure resulting from the influx of refugees from Syria.

Štefan Füle



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# Rights for All

Human rights and fundamental freedoms are the birthright of all human beings; their protection and promotion is the first responsibility of Governments. All human rights - civil, cultural, economic, political, and social - are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated.

The EU contributes to UN initiatives that support Governments in meeting their international human rights obligations. The partnership helps to develop and strengthen national human rights institutions and justice systems. It also supports the translation of international human rights standards into national laws and practices, and encourages countries in their efforts to ground their national development programmes and policies in human rights so that they further the realization of rights for all people. The partnership also supports rights-holders to claim their rights and to participate in the development process.

The UN-EU partnership  
helps countries ground  
their development policies  
in human rights

## Q&A India

A young woman from a fishing community in West Bengal in eastern India. She comes from a village that is known for high levels of trafficking of women and girls to other major cities.



In 2013, with UN-EU assistance, **Kyrgyzstan** established a preventive mechanism against torture, and continued to reform its penitentiary system towards global standards; **Moldova** strengthened its anti-discrimination legal framework; and **Costa Rica** approved a national action plan against racism and racial discrimination.

The UN and the EU also advocated for the abolition of the death penalty. The UN advised over a dozen countries on the implementation of international standards guaranteeing the rights of those facing the death penalty. This led, for example, to the reintroduction of a moratorium on the death penalty in **Pakistan**.

In **Lao PDR**, a joint UN-EU initiative was agreed in 2013 to support the development of a more effective, transparent and responsive legal system that protects citizens' rights and access to justice.

To address the legacies of human rights abuses, the UN-EU partnership supported transitional justice processes in countries such as **Cambodia**, the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**, **Guatemala** and **Yemen**. In **India**, we established community-based prevention mechanisms to reduce trafficking in women and children in three States. Also in the **DRC**, the UN is strengthening the military justice system and helping prosecute cases of human rights violations. So far, the courts have made 31 convictions against armed forces personnel. UN assistance also ensured the recruitment of trained legal defenders for the accused.

In 2013, an EU-funded global programme helped 73 countries strengthen the efforts to combat human trafficking and smuggling of migrants. In addition, visits by independent experts, under the UN human rights special procedures mechanisms, led to positive changes, such as reinforcing the legislative framework on human trafficking in **Thailand**.

#### **Cambodia**

A distribution of information booklets on the Extraordinary Chambers of the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) at a public forum in Anlong Veng.



Her ID  
is her  
right

## Advancing women's and girls' rights

Numerous international instruments draw attention to women's rights and gender equality, but despite significant efforts, further commitment and action are essential. In 2013, only 20.9 per cent of national parliamentarians were female.

According to a 2013 global review of available data, 35 per cent of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual violence by intimate partners and non-partners. In 2013, girls still stood as child brides, and both women and girls were victims

of gender-based violence, and trafficking into forced labour. In addition, they often still do not have access to quality education and health services.

The EU continues to collaborate with the UN to advance women's rights, in line with its human rights guidelines and the EU Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Development 2010-2015, and the EU Strategic Framework and Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy.

### **Egypt**

In Egypt, around 5 million women are without ID cards, including up to 80 per cent in some rural areas. Without this card, officially, you do not exist and you cannot exercise your rights, such as accessing the services provided by the State or financial institutions. The UN will issue two million ID cards by end-2014, made possible through deployment of mobile registrars to remote areas where many of the women without such cards live.

Fatma is happily showing her new national ID card at a distribution ceremony.





In many countries, we support institutions and strengthen national legal and policy frameworks in order to promote women's rights. For example, in 2013, **Bolivia** adopted a comprehensive law to guarantee women a life free of violence; and **Egypt** established a National Observatory for Women that gathers and analyses information, helping the country pursue gender-sensitive legislation and policies. In **Montenegro**, our partnership contributed to the development and implementation of a National Action Plan for Gender Equality for 2013-2017.

In parallel, the UN-EU collaboration protects the rights and improves the lives of women and girls on the ground. In the **Middle East**, we provided human rights education to 250,000 Palestine refugee girls.

In **Liberia**, access to training for literacy, business skills, and entrepreneurship transformed the lives of 20,000 conflict-affected rural women. In **Egypt**, we contributed to a decrease in the incidence of Female Genital Mutilation through community sensitisation activities. With EU support, the UN conducted the most comprehensive and up-to-date global analysis of Female Genital Mutilation worldwide and examined its social dynamics in **Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Senegal** and the **Sudan**. Through a vibrant policy dialogue and advocacy initiatives, we will continue to advance the agenda for the elimination of Female Genital Mutilation and combating the violence against girls and women, both within the EU and across the world.

### **Mali**

A woman counsels a young girl who has suffered from serious complications of female genital mutilation.





## Protecting children's rights

Millions of children worldwide from all socio-economic backgrounds, across all ages, religions, cultures and minorities suffer violence, exploitation and abuse every day.

The EU has been a strong supporter of a global advocacy campaign to end violence against children, raising awareness on the issue among millions of Europeans.

At country level, the UN-EU partnership works to ensure that children can fully enjoy their rights. For example, an EU-supported project is strengthening

the civil registration system in all 266 municipalities of **Niger** to ensure birth registration for all children. In Mindanao, in the **Philippines**, over 2,000 households of indigenous communities benefitted from mobile birth registration.

In **Azerbaijan** and **Georgia**, we promoted justice sector reforms to guarantee access and reduce cases of ill-treatment of children in conflict with the law. In **Myanmar**, the UN continued to report human rights violations to prevent the recruitment and use of children by armed forces.


### **Pakistan**

Young boys and girls are playing in Jalozaï camp in the province of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.





## EU “Children of Peace” initiative



In 2012, the EU received the Nobel Peace Prize and dedicated the prize money to projects assisting children in conflict situations with education under the EU ‘Children of Peace’ initiative. This initiative has already benefitted 28,000 conflict-affected boys and girls in various countries across the world. UN-projects in **Colombia** and **Ecuador** contributed to provide scholarships, school uniforms and materials for many children affected by conflict, while activities to fight discrimination and promote tolerance were organised for over 1,400 Ecuadorian refugee children.

In North-western **Pakistan**, support to 15 primary schools at the Jalojai camp for internally displaced people meant that 4,000 children were provided with education. They also received health and hygiene lessons, psycho-social support and opportunities to play and grow in a safe environment.

In 2014, the ‘Children of Peace’ initiative will continue as a symbol of the EU’s commitment to assist children caught in armed conflicts. The aim is to support 80,000 children.

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### **Pakistan**

Young girls attend a math class in a UN-supported school in Jalojai camp in the province of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.






# Tackling hunger and malnutrition

The right to food is a human right. It protects the right of all human beings to live in dignity, free from hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. The right to adequate food is realised when every man, woman and child, alone and in community, have physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement.

There is sufficient capacity in the world to produce enough food to feed everyone adequately. Nevertheless, in spite of progress made over the last two decades, 842 million people, or around one in eight people worldwide, still suffer from chronic hunger. The vast majority of hungry people, 827 million, live in developing regions.

The EU has for many years played a leading role in tackling hunger and providing adequate nutrition, and the issue remains at the top of the EU development agenda. The UN-EU partnership supports developing countries in increasing the availability of food; providing households with better access to food; improving the quality of food and ensuring adequate intake; and preventing and managing crises.

The world could feed everyone adequately – yet still 842 million people are chronically hungry

 **Niger**  
Women making peanut paste balls to be fried and sold for income.



UN  
continues  
cash  
transfer  
for Somali  
refugees in  
Ethiopia



## Combating hunger in emergencies

In 2013, the UN and the EU combined their strengths to provide life-saving food assistance to tens of millions of vulnerable people in over 35 countries. As the conflict in **Syria** worsened, we were reaching, by the end of the year, almost 5 million people on a monthly basis with food inside the country and in the region. UN's voucher programmes also injected over €220 million into the local economies of Syria's neighbouring countries.

In the **Sahel region**, we provided monthly food rations to more than 500,000 beneficiaries affected by the crisis in northern **Mali**; while in **Chad**, we distributed food and vouchers for vulnerable households during

the lean season, reaching 400,000 beneficiaries. In **Gaza**, 80 per cent of the population (1.2 million) continues to be dependent on UN delivered food aid and other basic services.

With EU assistance, the UN started cash distributions to Somali refugees in the Sheddar refugee camp in **Ethiopia** in 2013. Providing cash can help empower beneficiaries, as they can decide what their family needs, and their spending benefits the local economy. The cash transfers supplement the monthly food rations, which includes wheat, rice, pulses, corn-soya blend, oil, sugar and salt.

### **Ethiopia**

A young woman in Sheddar refugee camp near the border with Somalia receives 100 Ethiopian birr (approximately €4) for each member of her family. This replaces 6 kg of wheat grain in their usual monthly ration, which refugees often traded for less than its market value.



## Increasing food availability

Our partnership has adopted innovative approaches across the agriculture sector, such as involving the participation of smallholders, women, and marginalised groups. This has helped to increase food productivity, conserve natural resources, and use agricultural inputs sustainably and efficiently.

At global level, an UN -EU Alliance for improved global governance for hunger reduction has enhanced the capacity of 20 countries to generate hunger-related statistics, and enabled 50 **African countries** to launch a process of integrating nutrition into their agriculture investment plans. EU support to another global initiative, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, is helping to generate and share agricultural knowledge and research worldwide.

In **Burundi**, UN support for rice intensification techniques and rice variety experimentation led to yield increases from 2.5 to 4 tonnes per hectare. In **Myanmar**, the UN-managed multi-donor fund supported by the EU increased income from agriculture for 125,000 people and improved agricultural practices for 29,000 farmers (including through participation of volunteers). In **Swaziland**, the UN-EU partnership helps to establish a vibrant agricultural sector, training farmers in good agricultural practices, linking them to the market and recommending policy reforms when relevant.


### Niger

In half of Niger's farmer villages, yields have doubled thanks to a five-year EU-funded initiative. The programme is supporting shops – run by farmer organizations – selling agricultural inputs. Here, a manager of a local input shop keeps track of agricultural inputs distributed to villagers.





## Building the African Green Wall



To address issues of land degradation and desertification, African Heads of State and Government endorsed in 2007 the ‘Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative’. This initiative has since been supported by the UN, the EU and other partners. From an idea of erecting a line of trees through the desert, the vision for a Green Wall evolved into a science-based approach founded on interventions adapted to local ecosystems.

Ibrahim Dan Ladi, a farmer in **Niger**, remembers when a thick forest surrounded his village. Trees started to disappear with the famine of 1984-85. Overgrazing and excessive felling then transformed the forest into barren land. Fortunately, however, precious soils can be restored. Therefore, when authorities in **Niger** won back a hundred hectares of degraded land they added this to a mosaic that stretches across the Sahel and the Sahara aimed at tackling desertification. Local community and authorities have identified areas for restoration and planted vegetation. These types of initiatives are crucial for sustainable land usage and livelihood development.

In **Senegal**, the planting of 11 million trees contributed to restore 27,000 hectares of land, while multi-purpose gardens enabled women to produce food for their families. In **Burkina Faso, Niger** and **Senegal**, technology inspired from traditional practices helped restore 50 000 hectares of agro-silvopastoral systems. In **Niger**, farmers rehabilitated the productive qualities of 5 million hectares of land with low-cost techniques that were also promoted in **Burkina Faso, Ethiopia** and **Mali**.

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### Niger

Great Green Wall Project. Farmers walking in the lowlands of Tibiri







## Improving nutrition

Beyond food access, the UN-EU partnership also worked together to improve nutrition security, especially for the most vulnerable. Globally, one in four children under the age of five (165 million) are stunted. Around 80 per cent of them live in 14 countries in **Sub-Saharan Africa** and **South Asia**.

Stunting and other forms of under-nutrition reduce a child's chance of survival and hinder optimal health and growth. Improving nutrition for pregnant and nursing women is essential because good nutritional status around conception and throughout pregnancy plays

a pivotal role in early foetal development and growth, infant survival, and birth outcomes.

In 2012, the World Health Assembly adopted a target to reduce the number of stunted children under the age of five by 40 per cent by 2025. The European Commission's communication on enhancing maternal and child nutrition in external assistance also committed to help partner countries reduce stunting in this age group by at least 10 per cent (seven million).

### **Somalia**

A UN- trained social worker measures three-year-old Hodan Mohamed's mid upper arm circumference during door-to-door visits in Hargeisa, Somaliland, to check on the health of the neighbourhood's children.



The UN-EU partnership has ensured nutrition security in emergency contexts; supported community programmes focusing on children's survival; delivered micronutrients to enhance nutritional value of food; and improved family early care practices. For instance, after Typhoon Haiyan struck the **Philippines** leaving people homeless and infrastructure in ruins, EU funding helped to reduce mortality, morbidity and malnutrition. With EU donations, we reached over 105,000 people with nutrition interventions, targeting children aged between six and 23 months.

To help fight under-nutrition in Southeast and South Asia, a Maternal and Young Child Nutrition Security initiative was launched in 2011 covering **Bangladesh, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Nepal** and the **Philippines**. By scaling up high-impact nutrition interventions for women and children, particularly during the first '1000-

day window of opportunity', this initiative will have reached 9 million children under the age of five, as well as four million pregnant and nursing women by the end of 2014.

In the **Sahel region** the UN expects that around five million children will suffer from malnutrition in 2014. Tackling this continues to be a major focus of the UN-EU partnership. In **Chad**, the UN supported 426 nutrition centres to reach 127,300 children suffering from acute malnutrition. In **Mali**, the UN provided nutrition services to around 107,500 malnourished infants and in **Niger**; we strengthened health services to treat 270,000 undernourished children under the age of five, and nearly 117,000 nursing women.

#### **The Philippines**

The UN was among the first organizations to reach beneficiaries in Tacloban after Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines in November 2013.





# Preventing and overcoming crises

The number of people affected by humanitarian crises has almost doubled over the past decade – a statistic that the UN expects will rise. The cost of humanitarian aid has more than trebled in the last ten years, and humanitarian agencies need to do more with limited resources.

In early 2014, international organisations aimed to assist 52 million people in crisis, worldwide. Over the last decade, there was an average of 320 severe natural disasters recorded per year, compared with 290 in the previous ten years. At the same time, although the number of armed conflicts has declined over the past two decades, the nature of conflicts has changed, leading to increased displacement of civilians. Global trends, including climate change, population growth, and rapid and unplanned urbanisation, are also increasing the risk of humanitarian crises and the displacement of people.

The UN works to prevent conflict, prepare for disasters, and respond to humanitarian emergencies.

We need to continue to increase resilience to future shocks

## Philippines

Geoffrey's home was destroyed by one of these ships, when it was brought aground by the typhoon. "I forget my horrible experience when I play with my friends around the boat", he says.





## Responding to humanitarian emergencies

As the world's largest provider of humanitarian aid, the EU is a long-standing partner of the UN in its mandate to coordinate humanitarian assistance. In 2013, with EU funding, we provided advocacy and coordination support, managed information, and mobilized resources in response to emergencies in over 20 countries. A good illustration of the coordinating role of the UN is in **Sudan**, where we facilitated effective and timely relief efforts by providing coordination services to 22 Government departments; 3,800 national NGOs; 26 UN Agencies; 26 donor countries and regional organisations; and 125 international NGOs.

In 2013, UN Agencies benefitted from 42 per cent of the European Commission's humanitarian aid budget (over €576 million). Through this generous support, we secured food, clean water, shelter, and emergency health and education services in over 40 countries, including **Central African Republic, Chad, DRC, Mali, Niger, Pakistan, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen**. The EU also continued to support the UN Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS), which made it possible for the UN to provide urgently needed relief items and cargo to isolated people.

### **Somalia**

A Somali girl walks down a road at sunset in a camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) near the town of Jowhar.





## The world's largest humanitarian crisis

By end-2013, some 2.3 million Syrians had fled to neighbouring countries, with a further 6.5 million displaced within **Syria**. Over 5.5 million children were also in dire need of humanitarian assistance. Across the region, EU assistance allowed the UN to provide vital support to those most impacted by the crisis. While the needs were immense, it was difficult to get access to the victims. Nevertheless, we were able to deliver vital aid, including food aid, basic hygiene items, essential lifesaving medicines and reproductive health services, ensuring they reached displaced families in isolated areas.

## Help from Syria's Neighbours

In **Jordan**, the partnership supported refugees in Zaatari camp with tents, food, basic household items, and services in the areas of health (including reproductive health), water, sanitation and hygiene, child-protection and gender-based violence. The refugee camp has become the fifth largest settlement in **Jordan**, hosting over 120,000 people. In **Lebanon**, refugees, spread over 1,700 places, made up one fifth of the population. The influx placed a huge burden on hosting communities and public services. The UN-EU partnership strengthened the social and economic tissue of communities through community-based projects. It enabled the enrolment of 35,600 Syrian and vulnerable Lebanese children in formal and non-formal education during the 2012/2013 school year. The partnership also provided safe and child-friendly spaces, as well as psychosocial support to 928,000 children, outside and inside **Syria**, helping them to cope with the witnessed atrocities.

### **Jordan**

Trucks pull pre-fabricated homes through the centre of Zaatari camp. The UN relocated refugee families to these homes, which provide better protection and insulation in winter.







## Protecting refugees and internally displaced people

The EU is a long-standing advocate of the UN's role to support people who are forced to flee their homes. Our partnership aims to protect the basic human rights of refugees and displaced persons, and covers a wide range of assistance including improving sanitation as well as access to drinking water, shelter, health, and education.

In 2013, EU contributed to UN programmes helping over 12 million refugees and nearly 3.2 million internally displaced persons. These numbers were higher than in previous years due to a rising displacement trend, with major conflicts raging in countries like **Central African Republic, Mali, South Sudan** and **Syria**.


In the **Middle East**, the EU continued to back UN efforts in support of nearly 5 million Palestine refugees. In **Kenya**, 450,000 refugees and asylum seekers were helped. Most of them were Somalis living in Dadaab, the world's largest refugee camp. In **Thailand**, we assisted some 150,000 refugees from **Myanmar**, and in the country, 205,000 persons displaced by conflicts received protection, basic services relief and shelter in UN-supported camps. Together, we also helped 410,000 people return home after the cooling of the conflict. In the **Middle East**, we provided human rights education to around 250,000 **Palestine** refugee girls.

### **Central African Republic**

Conflict, communal tensions and the collapse of the state have plunged millions of people into a deep crisis in the Central African Republic.



## A protracted crisis



Escape from the rebels was a matter of life or death: “They slaughtered every person they saw on the way”, one refugee said to a UN team, describing the flight from the **DRC**. After walking for hours, carrying mattresses and cooking pots, the family arrived at an UN-run reception centre in **Uganda**.

Refugees from the vast eastern part of **DRC** have sought shelter in neighbouring countries. Their situation and needs differed – while in 2013, tens of thousands escaped fresh fighting and needed to be sheltered in UN-supported refugee camps, mainly in Uganda and Rwanda, others needed help to return as fighting had stopped in their areas of origin. Again, others had remained in camps and urban areas for years, not daring to return. The UN-EU partnership was active in the entire region (**Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda**) helping nearly 156,000 refugees only in 2013. The focus was on providing basic services, such as water and medical treatment, and protection. The partnership also assisted survivors of sexual violence, and helped unaccompanied children to be traced and reunited with their families.

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### **Uganda**

A Congolese boy shields his eyes from the sun amid the bustle of life in Bubukwanga. He will soon be heading to the Kyangwali refugee settlement with his family.







## Recovering from conflicts and disasters

The UN-EU partnership helps communities sustain livelihoods and revitalise economies, access essential services, and reinforce their capacities to build a better future.

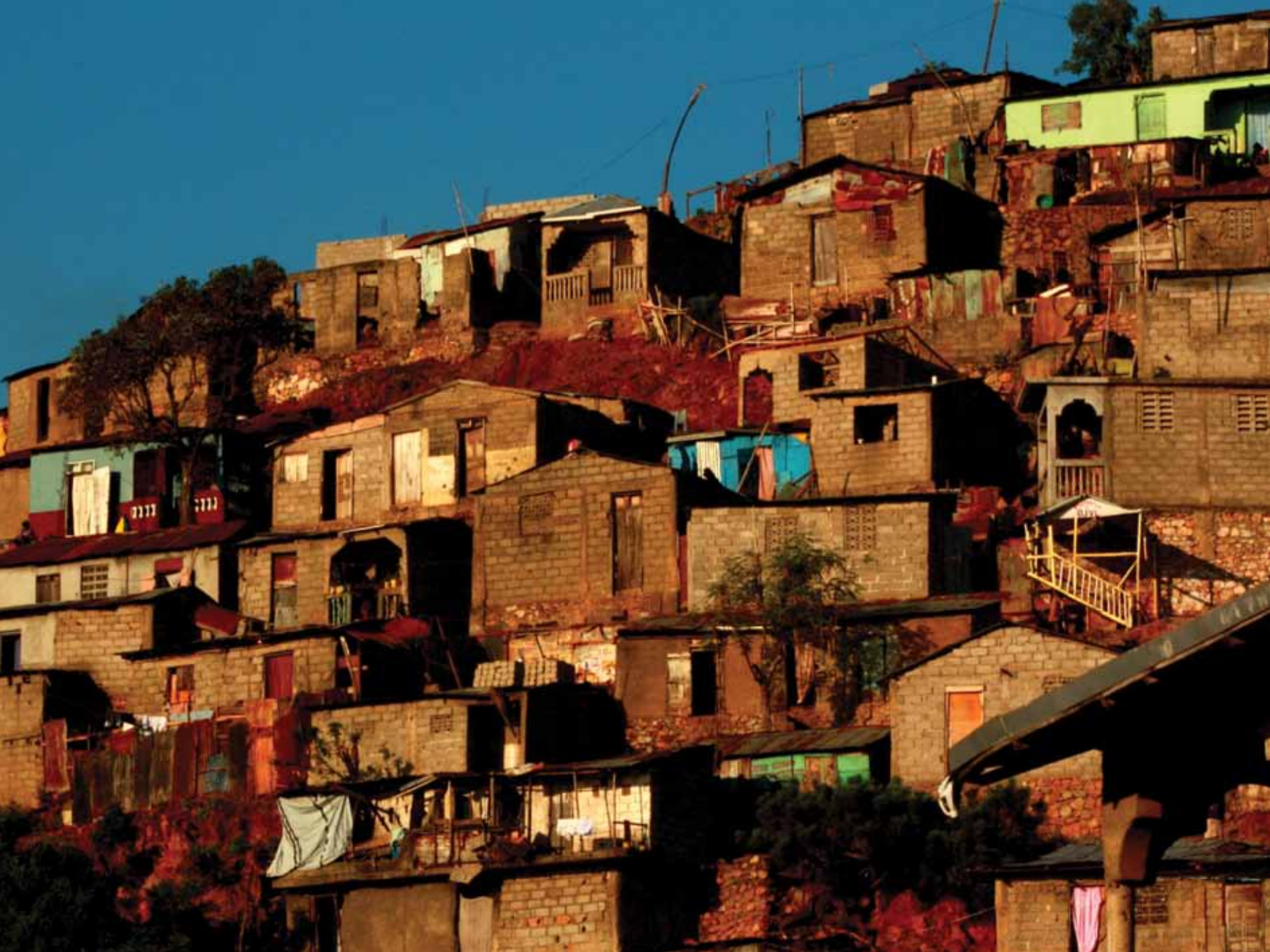
The partnership is also a strong supporter of the Women, Peace and Security agenda that aims to enhance women's protection from violence and to strengthen participation of women, including in mediation dialogue at the cessation of a conflict. This acknowledges the key role that women play in processes of conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peacekeeping and peace building. In 2013, **Kosovo\*** approved an Action Plan and **Georgia** and **Timor Leste** agreed to take similar actions on the implementation of UN Security Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. In **Liberia**, we transformed the lives of 20,000 conflict-affected rural women by promoting women's literacy, business skills, entrepreneurship and savings.

An illustration of how the UN-EU partnership works in countries at risk of natural disaster is the work undertaken in **Cuba**, where we helped in the recovery efforts following Hurricane Sandy that hit the region in late 2012. The partnership helped rehabilitate housing for 80,000 people while also taking care of immediate water and sanitation needs.

In **Pakistan**, around 1.45 million people – Afghan refugees and host communities – benefitted from socio-economic development and environmental rehabilitation in areas where there was a large influx of refugees. In **Burundi**, a joint UN programme provided 17,000 ex-combatant and returnees with short-term employment to repair destroyed infrastructure. After this initial employment, workers used savings to establish producer associations and businesses to meet other long-term needs.

### **Burundi**

Jean-Marie spent many years exiled in Tanzania following the horrors of war. He has now been able to open his own hair salon, thanks to the money earned through a UN employment creation programme aiming to promote the reintegration of returnees in war-torn Burundi.



## Enhancing resilience

The UN-EU partnership shares the view that investing in resilience today is more cost effective than responding to a crisis tomorrow. Together, we have strengthened institutions, and piloted and replicated community-based approaches for risk reduction. These include promoting safer schools, hospitals, and urban resilience in disaster-prone countries like **Bangladesh, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Haiti, Pakistan, Paraguay, and Sri Lanka.**

At global level, the EU supported the last cycle of monitoring of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action for Disaster Risk Reduction (DDR). Results show that 89 Governments had set-up multi-stakeholder national platforms for DDR, while 66 countries had established disaster loss databases by 2013. In Africa, five countries (**Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique and Uganda**) had made such databases available to the public on-line, and other countries are currently developing similar databases.

Our initiatives in conflict prevention and peacebuilding included support for the strengthening of a Crisis Response Centre at the League of Arab States. In **Moldova**, we promoted local confidence-building measures between the protracted conflict area in the **Transnistria region** and the rest of the country. Projects benefited 205,000 people in business development, social community infrastructure, health, environment and civil society development.

In **Cyprus**, we built bridges between communities by rehabilitating urban infrastructure, developing communities and the private sector, preserving the cultural heritage and assisting the Committee of Missing Persons. In the Great Lakes, a multi-agency UN programme mitigates conflicts over natural resources by involving civil society organisations in the management of these resources. Together, UN agencies also tackle the environment-security nexus in **Caspian region** and the **Central Asia**, contributing to regional cooperation on natural resources.

### **Haiti**

After the earthquake, the UN launched a series of labour-intensive initiatives in affected communities to assist them in rebuilding their livelihoods.







## Building a safer and more secure world

Living in an environment of peace and security is fundamental to human dignity and development. The UN and the EU increasingly work together in close partnership to foster and maintain a peaceful environment in many countries, and the UN Secretary-General frequently engages with the EU leadership on his preventive diplomacy and crisis management efforts. For example, in **Mali**, the EU is training the national army, while the UN operation MINUSMA has the broader task of helping the Malian government to stabilise the country.

EU Member States provide almost forty per cent of the funding for UN peacekeeping operations. They are active supporters and participants in UN-mandated peacekeeping operations and other relevant activities, contributing with troops, civilian police and other

personnel. The EU is implementing the Plan of Action on CSDP Support to UN peacekeeping to establish different modalities for cooperation, such as EU bridging missions.

Existing mechanisms, such as the UN-EU Steering Committee on Crisis Management, the Desk to Desk dialogues on conflict prevention, and the High-Level Dialogue on Political Affairs. In December 2013, the European Council, which focused on security and defence issues, highlighted the importance of the UN-EU partnership. Such collaboration not only benefits the people in the countries where we are active, but also allows both organisations to support each other's work and do more with the same funds. This holds true not only in places that we help recover from conflict, but also where we work on conflict prevention.

### **South Sudan**

A UN police officer serving with the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) shares a laugh with women residents of Pibor near a water bore at a compound of the Mission.



For instance, the EU is a contributor to the UN Standby Team of Mediation Experts, which provides invaluable expertise to peace processes throughout the world, and the EU has built up its own mediation expertise and structures that are closely cooperating with the UN. On Women, Peace and Security the EU member states' taskforce works closely with the UN on implementing UNSCR 1325.

In 2013, EU-UN collaboration also provided valuable support and vehicles to the OPCW-UN Joint Mission responsible for removing and destroying chemical weapons stockpiles in **Syria**. In **Mali**, the EU is training

the national army, while the UN operation MINUSMA has the broader task of helping the Malian government to stabilise the country. In **Yemen**, the UN has benefitted from EU support to advance the political transition process. A joint high level visit to the **Sahel** by the UN Secretary General, the EU and other institutions in November 2013 drew attention to the persisting instability in that region - addressed by complementary strategies from the UN and the EU. The partnership is also cooperating to enhance security capacities in Africa.

#### **Syria**

The UN addressed the needs of 440,000 Palestine refugees in urgent need in Syria. The EU also funded the UN Educational Satellite TV, allowing children to continue their education through home-based learning materials.







# Building democratic and inclusive societies

Democracy, human rights and good governance are essential for sustainable development and the eradication of poverty. Being responsive and accountable to its citizens and respecting the rule of law are essential for setting countries on a sustainable development path and creating inclusive growth.

Both EU and UN development policies recognise the interconnectedness between the objectives of development, democracy, human rights, good governance, security and gender equality. Democratic governance therefore constitutes a core area of the UN-EU partnership. Working together, we have helped countries to strengthen electoral and legislative systems; improve access to justice and public administration; and develop a greater capacity to respond to citizens, including through the delivery of basic services to those most in need.

The partnership leads to better public services, progressive laws, peaceful elections, respect for human rights and better opportunities for women

 **Bangladesh**  
Local authorities form a vital bridge between national governments, communities and citizens.



## Supporting free and fair elections

In 2013, we supported 22 countries in the entire electoral cycle – from pre-electoral planning and voter education, through the polling day, until the post-election period. We provided support for the reinforcement of independent national electoral management bodies; helped reform electoral laws; supported organisation of voter and civic education as well as voter registration; promoted the role of media and civil society in independent reporting and electoral

observation; and encouraged the participation of women in elections both as candidates and voters.

We also assisted the conduct of elections in ten countries: **Bangladesh, Georgia, Guinea Conakry, Jordan, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Nepal, Pakistan and Togo**. Over 233 million people registered in these countries to vote in elections.

### **Mali**

Citizens of Mali voted in parliamentary elections held November. This voter casts his ballot at a polling station in Bourem, a small village in Gao Region.



# GO TO VOTE





## Promoting credible elections in Georgia



The UN-EU partnership places a great emphasis on increased and informed participation of youth in electoral processes. In Georgia, we introduced first-time voter workshops in universities together with civil society partners. These workshops helped young voters to learn about voting rules and procedures, which in turn enabled their engagement to be both responsible and informed.

Since 2010, we have also supported the civil society in monitoring the media coverage of elections. During the 2013 presidential elections, the UN monitored the performance of around 40 Georgian print, TV, radio and online media. In recent years, Georgian media has shown modest but sustained improvement in their coverage of electoral processes.

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### Georgia

Students attending a public awareness campaign ahead of the 2013 presidential elections.



জনগোষ্ঠী ক্ষমতায়ন প্রকল্প  
কান্দুলী বাগ পাকা উন্নয়ন কমিটি  
১৩শ, মাদার্স ইন্সটিটিউট, ঢাকা।  
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সহসভাপতি ১: পাতোপালী  
সহসভাপতি ২: SAS & CHTDF-UNDP

## Renewing the social contract

To renew the social contract between citizens and authorities, our partnership goes beyond electoral assistance and includes, for example, support to inclusive constitutional processes. With our assistance, **Tunisia** adopted a new democratic constitution opening up a new chapter in the country's democratic transition. In **Zimbabwe**, we helped the country prepare, through a nation-wide consultation process, a new constitution signed by the President in May 2013.

Our partnership also promotes rule of law and access to justice. In **Somalia**, we contributed to the establishment of mobile courts to increase access to justice for populations outside main urban areas, while

providing training to over 14,000 civilian police officers and increasing the number of recruited female police officers.

In **Sri Lanka**, an integrated-approach for community action helped to improve access to quality social services for vulnerable groups; increase local participation in governance; promote human rights; and strengthen the capacities of local entities to carry out their duties.

### **Bangladesh**

Village level development committees are helping each other foster local commerce, create emergency community funds, and deliver basic services such as safe drinking water.







## Strengthening institutions and public participation

In 2013, our partnership contributed to the building and strengthening of institutions, at both national and local level, as well as increasing citizens' ability to engage with authorities.

For instance, in **Somalia**, our support has allowed key Federal, Somaliland and Puntland institutions become more efficient in providing services to the population. In Somaliland, a Civil Service Institute built with EU funding had trained more than 2,800 civil servants by 2013. Further, a joint UN Programme on Local Governance and Decentralised Service Delivery, sponsored by the EU, supports service delivery and participation in communities across the country.

In **Ukraine**, a community-based local development initiative made around 3,000 community projects in health, water supply, environment, energy and environment possible by 2013, improving living conditions of nearly one million people in over 1,000 villages. In the **West Timor** region of **Indonesia**, the UN reached over 90,000 households through trainings aimed at strengthening local governance as well as the participation of vulnerable women and communities affected by conflict.

In **Zimbabwe**, around 400,000 people benefitted from a programme to strengthen civic and public participation in four major cities.

### **Afghanistan**

A female community group is brainstorming and preparing to become actively involved in decision making processes.



## Fighting global criminal threats

Criminal networks are increasingly converging in the world's most vulnerable regions, fuelling instability and undermining development and security. With EU assistance, we helped states in the fight against cross-border smuggling of illicit drugs, weapons, natural resources, counterfeit goods and human beings.

For example, with support from an EU-funded initiative in 17 **Latin American** and **Caribbean** countries, Governments included the monitoring and control

of drug precursors (substances used to make illicit drugs) in their counter-narcotics agenda. Our partnership also advanced the practice of Integrated Border Management, facilitating lawful trade and transit between countries in various areas (**Central Asia, Afghanistan/Tajikistan, Armenia/Georgia, and Moldova/Ukraine**).

### **Eastern Europe**

The EU supports many countries with border management advisory services.







# Delivering essential services

Enhancing access to basic essential services, such as health, education, and water and sanitation, (especially gender responsive service delivery) lies at the heart of the Millennium Development Goals and constitutes one of the cornerstones of the UN-EU partnership.

Basic, essential social services are the building blocks for human development. Indeed, they constitute fundamental human rights. At the same time, far too many people face serious deprivation in health and education, with progress hampered by significant inequality related to income, gender, ethnicity, disability, age and location. The human cost for the lack of basic services include lives lost, children out of school, millions of undernourished people, and billions without safe water and sanitation.

To support people in their aspirations towards a decent life, the UN-EU partnership works around the world with the aim of increasing access to health services, education, and water and sanitation.

Clean water and sanitation,  
basic health services, and  
education are human  
rights, and form the  
foundations for a decent  
life

 **Mali**  
Young girls  
at a safe  
water point.

©UNICEF/  
Harandane Dicko



## Improving health

In 2013, our partnership combined actions at the global level with actions on the ground to improve health. EU assistance enabled the UN to prevent and respond timely to epidemics; deliver basic health services; and strengthen health systems capacities towards universal health coverage. It also increased the access to quality health care to populations. The UN-EU collaboration also paid special attention to sexual and reproductive health, including family planning, and maternal health, and to the promotion of linkages between HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health policies, systems and services.

Together, we contributed to reduce mortality and morbidity in populations affected by humanitarian crises. For instance, in **Sudan**, we successfully prevented a

yellow fever outbreak through vaccination of 2.1 million people in an emergency campaign. In **Syria**, by 2013, we reached over 1.9 million people with medicines and medical supplies, while establishing 137 disease surveillance sites. In the **DRC**, we provided reproductive health services to around 100,000 women.

Immunisation is a highly effective health intervention, which prevents debilitating illnesses and saves millions of lives. In 2013, the EU continued to support UN actions to reach children through vaccination campaigns. For example, in **Nigeria**, one of only three countries in the world with endemic wild polio, EU-backed immunisation campaigns led to a 56 per cent decrease in reported cases as compared to 2012.

### **Nigeria**

A young boy receiving the oral polio vaccine.





In 2013, the UN-EU partnership assisted 55 countries to develop expertise for the design and implementation of robust and comprehensive National and District Health Plans and Strategic Plans. We also worked closely with 46 countries to provide reliable access to reproductive health supplies, such as contraceptives, medicines or equipment for family planning, HIV prevention and maternal health.

In **Georgia**, we contributed to making sure that health and social policies were evidence-based and gender-sensitive. Special focus was on the priorities and needs of some excluded groups, such as women from ethnic minorities, imprisoned women, and women residing in isolated mountainous settings.

UN-EU collaboration also continued in over 45 **African countries** on pharmaceutical policies as well as child, maternal and newborn health. We helped to strengthen regulatory mechanisms and improve both availability and affordability of essential medicines for priority diseases.

In **Myanmar**, we provided rapid malaria diagnostics and treatment to more than 9 million people, and ensured that skilled health personnel supported nearly 23,000 births. We also made it possible to construct and improve health infrastructure in for example **Iraq, Serbia, Somalia** and **Zimbabwe**. With EU funding, the UN was able to provide health care to 3.1 million **Palestine** refugees, including parental and family planning advice to 90,000 women.

#### **Burkina Faso**

A community health worker promoting family planning in the village of Sablogo in the east of Ouagadougou.



## Enhancing access and quality of education

In the area of education, UN-EU collaboration ranges from providing policy support that enables Governments to reform their education systems, to concrete interventions on the ground. We work together with countries to increase their enrolment levels, especially for girls, and improve the learning outcomes for children.

In 2013, the EU continued to support the strengthening of the educational system in **Myanmar**, by seeking to reach disadvantaged children and communities and

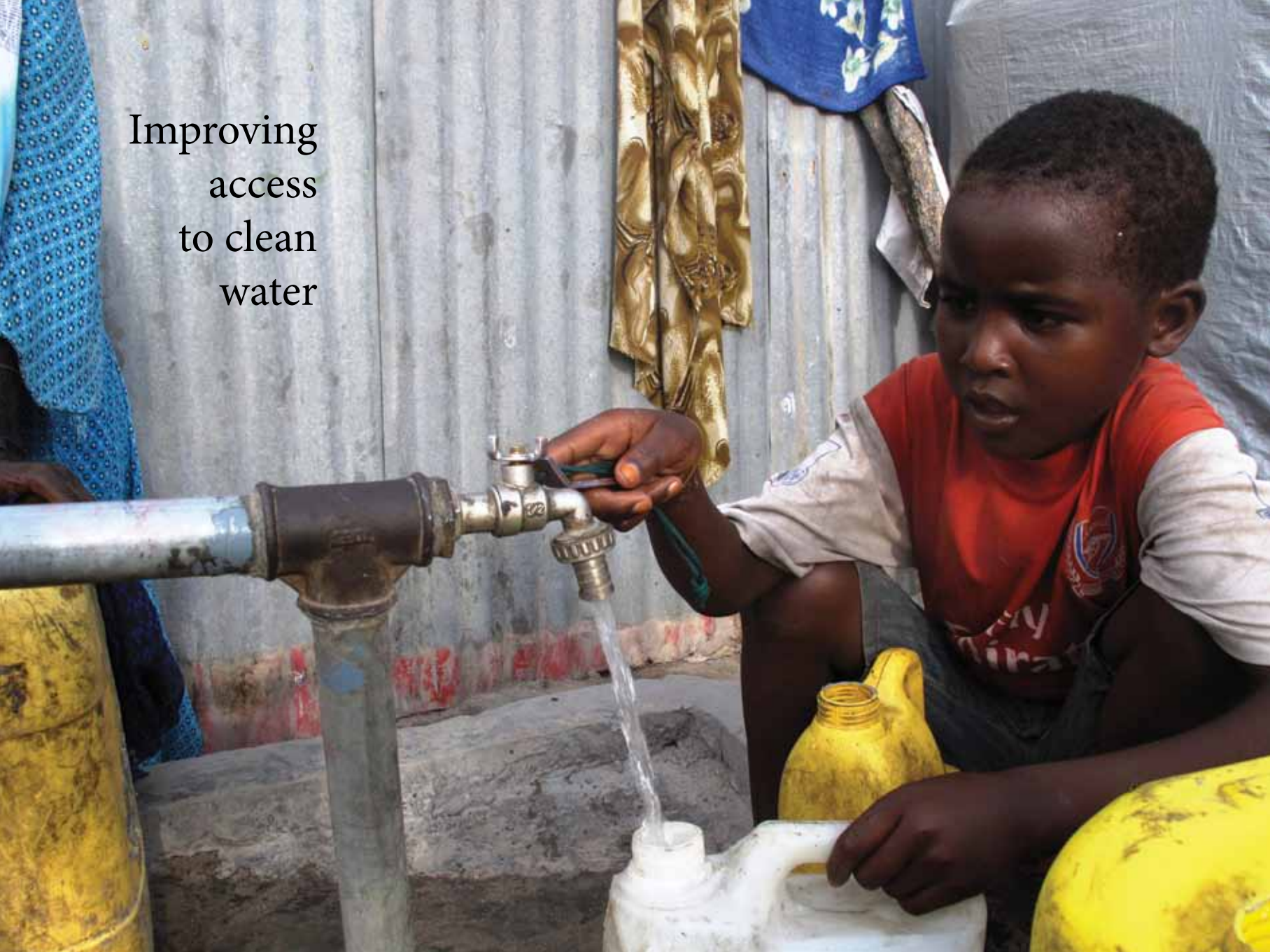
contribute to reducing disparity in both access to and quality of learning. Annually, this four-year programme benefits around 650,000 children. In the **Middle East**, our partnership continued to provide primary education to 491,000 **Palestine** refugee children through a network of hundreds of schools. Thanks to the partnership, the UN extended education for children in **Cambodia, Jordan, Lebanon, Madagascar, Somalia, Sudan, Turkey** and **Zimbabwe**.

### **Jordan**

A young Syrian boy painting at the youth mentoring programme implemented in Zaatari Camp.



Improving  
access  
to clean  
water



## Water and sanitation for all

Over the last two decades, more than 2.1 billion people have gained access to improved drinking water sources, and the proportion of the global population using such sources went up from 76 per cent in 1990 to 89 per cent in 2010. Improvements in sanitation are also impressive, but challenges still remain. From 1990 to 2011, 1.9 billion people gained access to a latrine, flush toilet or other improved sanitation facilities.

In 2013, the UN-EU partnership contributed to the provision of water supplies to 500,000 rural people in **Nigeria** through the construction and rehabilitation of water supplies. Hygienic behaviour was also improved, and people were provided with better access to means of excreta disposal. In **Bolivia**, we implemented comprehensive water and sanitation projects in 63 isolated communities, benefitting over

18,000 rural inhabitants; and in **Sri Lanka**, we improved waste management practices in 81,000 households, leading to a better management of health risks. In over 50 countries, some 1,300 highly toxic polluted sites threatening the environment and health of vulnerable communities were identified for remediation. Further, the EU cooperates with the UN to support the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership on water affairs and sanitation.

In **Somalia**, only 40 per cent of the population of the city of Hargeisa have access to clean water supplied by the local Water Agency. The remaining population pay four times as much for their water from unreliable resources. A joint UN-EU project is addressing this inequality by rebuilding Hargeisa's decaying bulk-water transmission system and pumping millions of extra litres every day to the city.

### **Somalia**

House water treatment is nowadays rarely used in Mogadishu.





# Inclusive, green growth and decent jobs

**Economic growth and access to global markets generate jobs and economic opportunity, as well as the resources countries need to address development challenges.**

Across a number of economic sectors, there are significant opportunities to increase the quality of work and improve working conditions to arrive at a more sustainable economy.

The UN and the EU continue to work together to create jobs and economic opportunities, while promoting a greener, more balanced, fairer and sustainable global economy. In 2013, our partnership advanced labour rights and supported specific interventions on the ground, leading to greater employment opportunities and better working conditions for the most vulnerable.

Sustainable green growth  
and decent jobs are high on  
the agendas of both the UN  
and the EU

## Gaza

In 2013, the EU and UN mitigated the effects of the protracted economic crisis on vulnerable Palestine refugee households by providing short-term employment opportunities and much needed income for thousands of Palestine refugees in Gaza.





## Linking to the global economy

With the aim to unlock economic opportunities and increase access to global markets, we helped countries in their work to meet relevant international standards and controls. In **Bangladesh**, we facilitated the accreditation of over 50 laboratories to ensure that textiles and fisheries meet international quality standards for export. We also trained over 9,500 people on food safety practices control and quality assurances. In **Fiji**, communities established a national crop and livestock council and trust, enabling an increasing number of farmers, agri-food processors and livestock enterprises to access services and meet food safety standards.

We contributed to improving long-term competitiveness and international marketability of **African** cotton by

promoting linkages between various countries and implementing coordinated regional strategies for the cotton-to-clothing value chain. In **West Africa**, we facilitated the adoption of a regional quality policy as well as eight national quality frameworks; the improvement of 105 laboratories; and the upgrading of 120 companies. In **Mozambique**, we helped to develop a strategy that will support the establishment of business advisory centres and industrial parks. Our partnership also helped to upgrade 12 laboratories.

At global level, EU funding in 2013 improved global trade transparency and enabled data on customs tariffs and market access conditions for 191 countries to be available.

### **Fiji**

Beneficiaries are being trained in market analysis tools in Fiji.





## Advancing labour rights

The UN-EU partnership contributes to effective implementation at country level of international labour standards, such as combating child labour and forced labour, and reducing discrimination in employment.

For instance, a global initiative supported by the EU contributes to the reinforcement of legal frameworks against child labour in 12 **African, Caribbean and Pacific states**. At the same time, this initiative helps to prevent children from entering into employment by offering alternative education opportunities to nearly 15,000 children.

In **Nepal**, our partnership improved the rights and labour conditions of women migrant workers. We also

trained local government and civil society members on safe foreign labour migration, which strengthened the implementation of foreign labour legislation.

In **Myanmar**, the UN supports the implementation of the national strategic plan for the elimination of forced labour by 2015, by raising awareness and enhancing access to a forced labour complaints mechanism. This mechanism helped verify 196 new complaints of forced labour in 2013 across the country, leading to the identification of 96 perpetrators. In **Vietnam**, we contributed to the improvement of working conditions and the formalisation of labour contracts through the adoption of Corporate Social Responsibility measures.

### **Bangladesh**

Harvesting shrimps in a hygienically managed shrimp farm.





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## Migration for development

Approximately one billion of the world's seven billion people are migrants. Some 214 million are international migrants, while another 740 million are internal migrants. Migrants are instrumental for the development of both sending and receiving countries. Communities of origin, in particular, benefit from migrant remittances, which account for a significant share of the GDP of many developing countries.

The UN-EU partnership strengthens networks of migrants' associations, diaspora and local government actors to harness the potential of migration

development. For example, through an EU-funded multi-donor Financing Facility for Remittances, we supported over 50 innovative and sustainable initiatives in 40 countries, ensuring that migrant workers had more affordable and secure options to send their money home. We also promoted productive rural investment of migrants' capital in their countries of origin.

In Africa, our partnership supports a joint regional initiative enabling post offices in rural areas to offer remittances at a reduced cost and transaction time, as well as a wider range of financial services.

### **Malawi**

Together with Opportunity International, the Financing Facility for Remittances (FFR) provided access to remittances to rural people in Malawi using a smartcard that enabled them to withdraw money through local point of sale devices with their bank account.







## Emerging from the ruins of Rana Plaza



Following the collapse of the Rana Plaza building in **Bangladesh** in April 2013, the UN joined forces with the EU to improve the construction and fire safety in factories.

At the same time, taking care of the victims is equally important.

Mijanur Rahman was a technician and had his right leg crushed in the collapse of the building. He wanted to return to work in a factory but was unable because he cannot stand for long periods or walk for long. He is now an apprentice in an EU-funded UN vocational training programme that helps survivors of the tragedy develop new skills and jobs. Mijanur is learning to repair mobile phones, a useful trade in a country with over 100 million mobile phone users.

While trapped in the building, he thought he would never be able to get out. Now, he looks forward to new skills, a new job and a new career path. “I wanted to return but it was impossible, so I am happy that I have a way to make money. I am learning a lot from the shop owner here. If there is any problem in a mobile phone set, we can repair it,” he says.

Many other victims like Mijanur are supported by this project. The skills training programme is based on an apprenticeship model, which was adapted to include Rana Plaza survivors.

### Bangladesh

Skills training is one of the rehabilitation approaches being used for the survivors of the Rana Plaza building collapse.



## Moving towards a green economy

Mounting evidence suggests that transitioning from a 'brown' to a 'green' economy has sound economic and social justification. There is a strong case for a redoubling of efforts by both governments and the private sector to engage in such an economic transformation to prompt sustainable growth, combat climate change and environmental degradation, and create decent work in a low-carbon world.

With the EU, we worked on a variety of green economy policy support programmes at global, regional, sub-regional and country levels. We have provided partner Governments and regional organisations with the right tools, instruments and measurement frameworks, while piloting specific initiatives on the ground – in particular supporting green business development. For instance, several countries in **Africa**, including **Burkina**

**Faso, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Morocco, Rwanda, Senegal and South Africa** have developed or are in the process of designing green economy strategies, plans and other actions for mainstreaming green economy into their national development plans.

Regional green economy, green industry and sustainable initiatives in **Latin America, Asia, the Mediterranean region** and **Eastern Europe** also support countries to create enabling conditions and relevant policies towards sustainability and poverty eradication. In addition, small and medium enterprises get support through a worldwide network of Resource Efficient and Cleaner production centres, thereby contributing to creation of decent jobs, competitiveness, eco-innovation including green technology transfer, and trade promotion.

### **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**

Gold-diggers working along the Chibungu River in Kasai Occidental. Alluvial mining leads to vegetation and soil removal and subsequent washing of the gravel, resulting in increased river turbidity and siltation.





# Climate action and sustainable management of natural resources

Environmental degradation, climate change, and lack of access to clean and affordable energy services disproportionately affect poor and vulnerable people. Collaboration at international level is necessary to tackle environmental challenges of global nature, including their potential security implications.

The UN-EU partnership helps countries strengthen their capacity to address environmental and energy challenges at the global, national and community levels. We seek out and share best practices, provide innovative policy advice, and link partners through pilot projects. The EU has also contributed to improving environmental governance worldwide. It has supported the implementation of international agreements to address climate change, desertification, chemical and waste management, and biodiversity conservation, including for instance the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change or the Convention on Biological Diversity.

To tackle global environmental challenges, partnerships at the international level are key

 **Kenya**  
Local communities volunteer to support efforts to protect the forest.

© UN-REDD/  
Ricardo Gangale







## Mitigating and adapting to climate change

Despite a growing number of climate-change mitigation policies, greenhouse gas emissions grew more rapidly from 2000 to 2010 than in each of the previous three decades. Greater action will help reduce emissions and keep global warming below the internationally agreed 2°C target.

Our partnership continues to strengthen Governments' capacities to address climate change. In 2013, with EU support, the UN made advances to the global climate change agenda through various initiatives. Notably, the 'Climate Technology Centre and Network', a facility focusing on technology transfer to developing nations, officially opened for business. While the facility focuses on long-term impact of climate change, the UN-EU supported 'Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Pollutants' aims to reduce its short-term impact, by contributing to a decrease of harmful particles in the air.

A UN collaborative programme on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (UN-REDD) supports national REDD+ readiness efforts in 49 countries in **Africa, Asia-Pacific, the Caribbean and Latin America**, representing 56 per cent of the world's tropical forest.

Since 2011, a Low Emission Capacity-building programme helps 25 countries develop greenhouse inventory systems, nationally appropriate mitigation actions, and measuring, reporting and verification systems. Under the Global Climate Change Alliance, interventions in **Belize, Benin and Cambodia** promoted climate-resilient and low-emission development. In the framework of the 'Clima East' programme in **Russia and Eastern Neighbourhood countries**, pilot initiatives to restore and protect peatlands and boreal forests reduce emission of around 170,000 ton CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent per year.

### **Burkina Faso**

A woman cooking with an energy efficient cookstove.



## Ensuring a sustainable use and protection of our natural resources

Ecosystems provide opportunities for local communities, businesses and governments to innovate for the benefit of communities, economies and the global environment. They are however under unprecedented pressure, threatening prospects for sustainable development.

The UN-EU partnership has embarked on innovative initiatives and programmes to assist countries to manage their natural resources, while harnessing their potential to improve livelihoods.

For example, an EU-funded 'Poverty Environment Initiative' that supports country-led efforts to mainstream poverty-environment linkages into national developing and planning and budgeting has led so far to the 'greening' of over 80 development plans and policies, including those of **Burkina Faso, Dominican Republic, Lao PDR, Mali, Mauritania, and Mozambique** in 2013. Working with the UN, the EU also helped around 30 countries in the **Asia, Caribbean and Pacific region** to comply and enforce multilateral environmental agreements related to biodiversity, chemicals and waste at national level.


### **Sudan**

Aerial shot showing the Wadi El Ku, one of the largest seasonal water courses in North Darfur.





## Conservation going hand in hand with local livelihoods



The vicuña's extremely fine fibre, which for thousands of years has been so highly regarded by the Andean cultures, is considered one of the most superior natural fibres in the world. When knitted together, the product of the vicuña's wool is very soft and warm. In 1975, when this fibre was listed under the 'Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna' (CITES), the vicuña was hunted close to extinction. However, latest estimates put the population at close to 320,000.

Engaging with CITES, the community of Lucanas, in **Peru**, could earn a profit from the sustainable management of vicuñas population and use of its fibre. This did not only lead to the creation of sustainable livelihoods and progress, but also empowered the community to build a health centre, a primary school and jobs created along the value chain of the fibre. Poaching is no longer a problem for the vicuñas.

Máximo Rojas, member and administrator of the community, puts it: "A vicuña sheared is a vicuña saved". Many countries have taken Lucanas as an example for their own work for biodiversity conservation.

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### Peru

In the past, vicuñas were hunted close to extinction.







## Promoting access to sustainable energy

The EU is committed in both policy and programmatic terms to increase access to energy services for the most disadvantaged populations worldwide. It has also been a strong supporter of the ‘Sustainable Energy for All’ (SE4ALL) initiative. The UN-EU collaboration has ranged from support to enhance Governments’ capacities in this field, to the provision and management of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency.

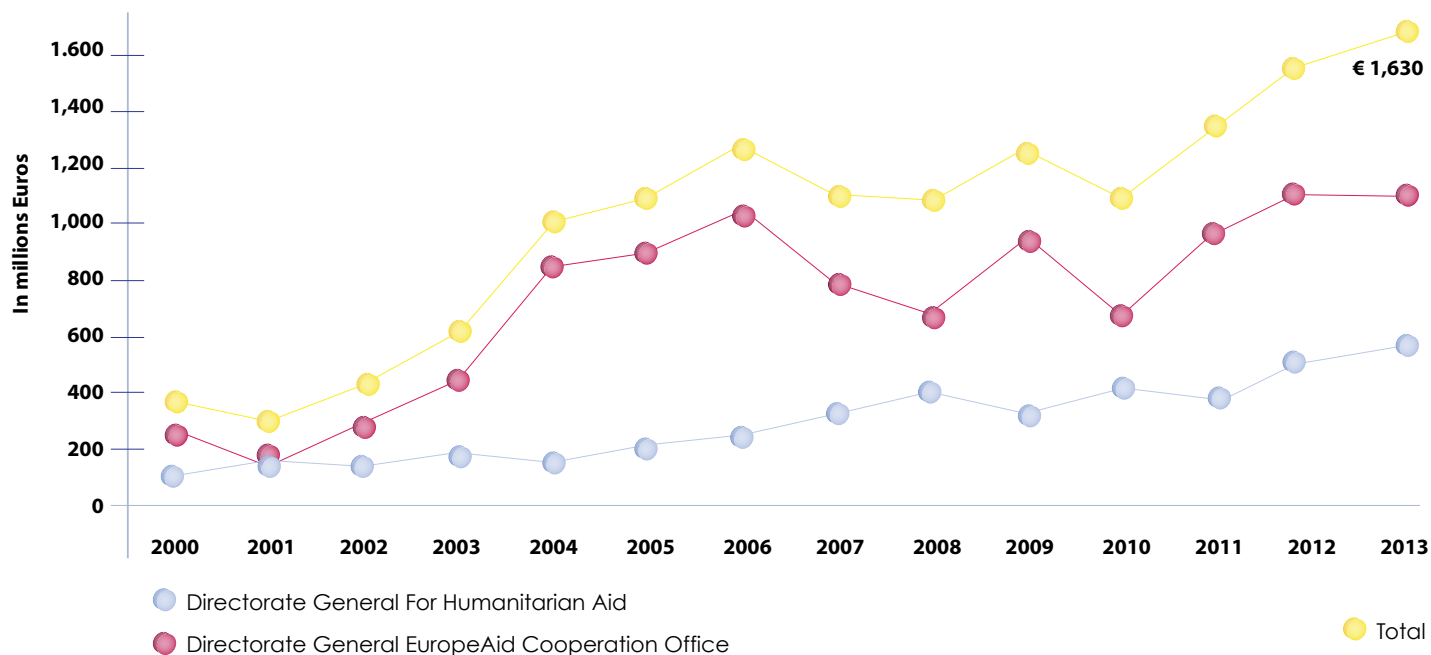
A good example is **Afghanistan**, where our partnership over the last four years has supported the construction of 127 micro-hydro power plants, enabling 150,000 people in isolated areas to have lighting and access to energy to start businesses. In **Moldova**, an Energy and Biomass initiative means there is heating in more than 130 kindergartens, schools, medical centres and public institutions.

### **Afghanistan**

A boy outside a micro hydroelectric power plant in the Sia-Khak district.



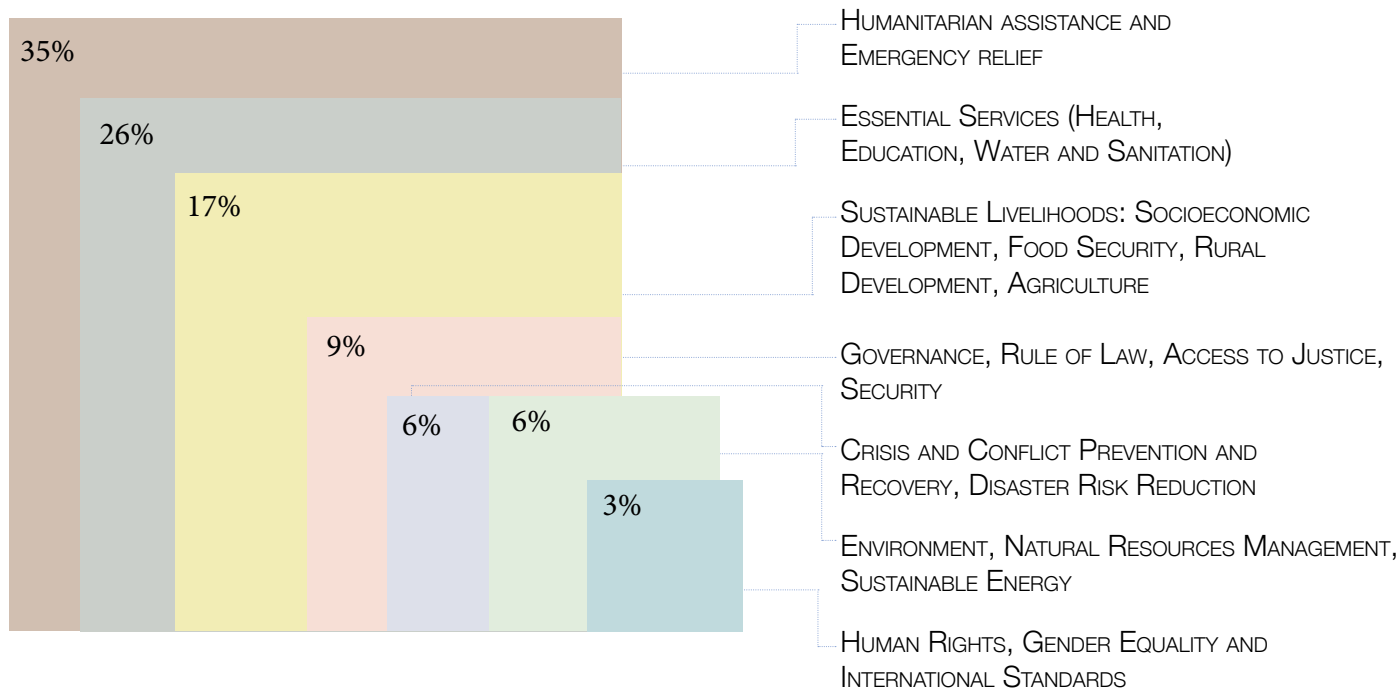
# EU financial contributions to activities of the UN, 2000-2013



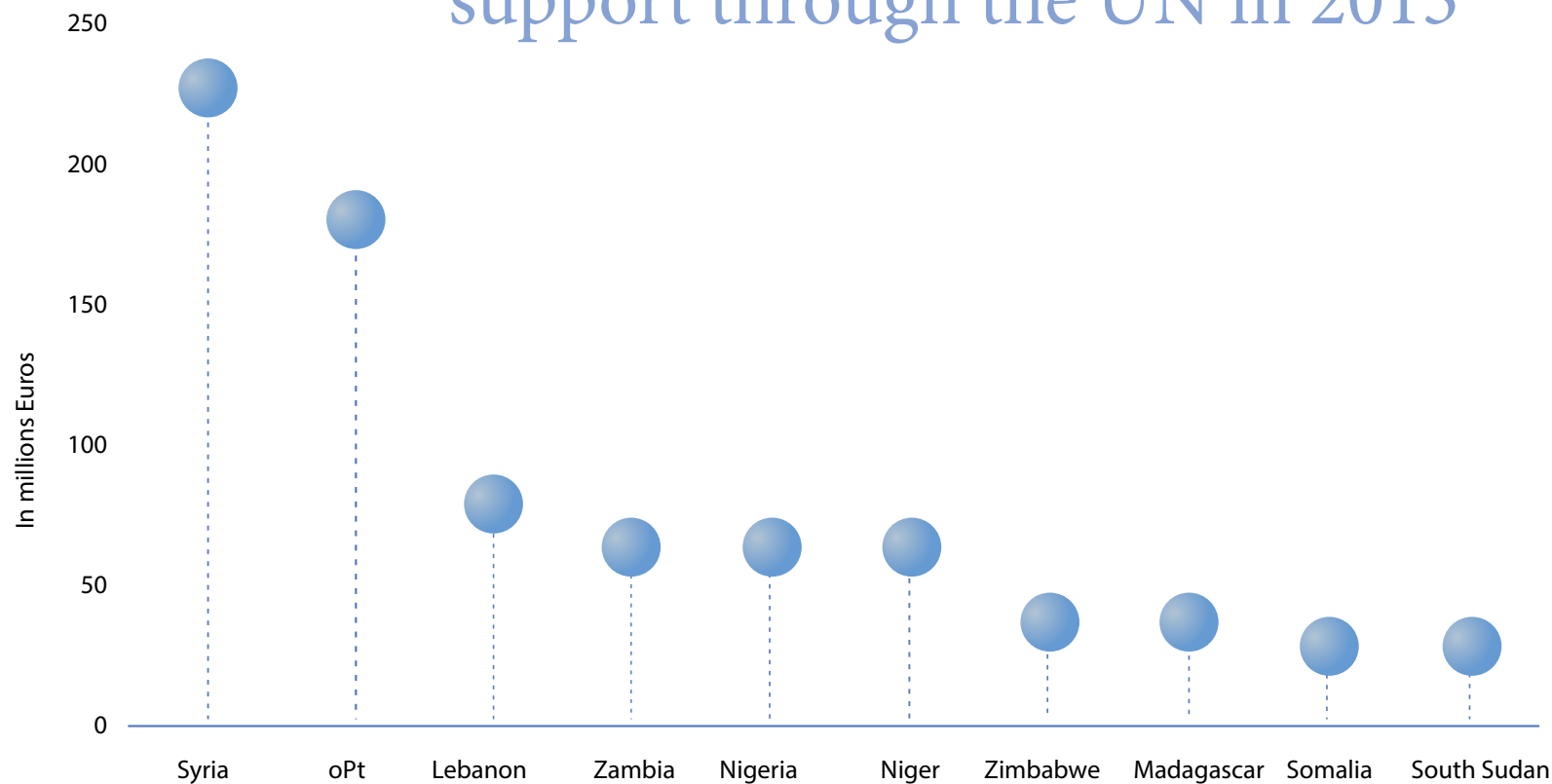




# Thematic breakdown of EU contributions to UN activities, 2013



## Top 10 countries benefitting from EU support through the UN in 2013











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