

BULLETIN

United Nations Development Programme
Washington Liaison Office



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The UNDP Washington Bulletin is a regular update by the Washington Office of UNDP activities and events. We invite you to share the Bulletin with interested colleagues.

LIBERIA'S PROMISE, UNDP'S WORK

In mid-February, the Liberia Partners' Forum, co-hosted by the World Bank, the UN, the IMF and the US government was held in Washington, DC. Enthusiasm is high as the country continues its progress under its year-old democratically elected government. In her opening address, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf thanked the international community for its strong support.

UNDP has been a steady and effective presence in Liberia. Following the support UNDP provided to the October 2005 parliamentary and presidential elections that marked a defining moment in the process to end years of war, UNDP's focus has turned to helping to stabilize Liberia's democratic government, aid reconstruction, and establish a functional state based on the rule of law.

UNDP has a broad program, working on disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation, and reintegration; community-based recovery; governance; HIV/AIDS/tuberculosis and malaria; human rights; and environment. In addition, UNDP leads the UN's Early Recovery Cluster focusing on basic rehabilitation of infrastructure, income generation, skills development activities, and support for rule of law activities.

UNDP operates in all 15 Liberian counties, with four active field offices in Bong, Lofa, Grand Gedeh, and Maryland Counties.

Illustrating the breadth and efficacy of our work, in cooperation with our partners on the ground, recently UNDP has:

- Helped revise the roles and mandates of three government ministries and agencies; with plans to support the same exercise in the remaining 15 ministries
- Supported the creation of a code of conduct for public servants and the revision of the rules and regulations for civil service
- Undertaken a needs assessment on local governance, providing recommendations for local government reform
- Disarmed and demobilized nearly 101,500 ex-combatants
- Collected more than 20,800 pieces of ammunition, 200 guns, and 270 unexploded ordnance
- Helped develop a national youth policy and the articulation of a national leadership development program. Also worked on the creation of a National Youth Volunteer Service.
- Spearheaded the development of microfinance, including creating a Microfinance Unit at the Central Bank of Liberia, conducting the country's first Microfinance National Stakeholders' Workshop, and providing micro-credit to 420 women in two counties
- Spurred community-based recovery by establishing 73 District Development Committees in the 15 counties composed of women, men, and youth and trained in basic social mobilization and project management skills.
- Supported the development of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The Commission now is fully functional and UNDP has provided requisite technical, managerial, financial, and logistical

support

- Supported the development of the act establishing the Independent National Human Rights Commission
- Provided assistance to the Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia to disseminate the act that establishes rights of inheritance for spouses of both customary and statutory marriages
- Helped two local NGOs (ZODWOCA and LIWOMAC) to create mass awareness on sexual and gender-based violence in Lofa and Montserrado counties
- Provided technical assistance to assist the Ministry of Justice in prosecuting sexual and gender based violence, including rape
- Trained 210 participants from two counties (Cape Mount and Bong) in the handling, use, and security of solar energy.
- Served as principle recipient of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria financial support in Liberia. This means that UNDP is the main executing agency for the fund – a partnership among governments, civil society, the private sector, and affected communities that has attracted \$4.7 billion in resources worldwide. As a result, UNDP coordinated the training of more than 6,200 health workers in malaria case management and 400 health workers in diagnosis and management of tuberculosis; the treatment of more than 595,000 malaria cases; the distribution of nearly 174,000 insecticide-treated bed nets distributed to pregnant women and children under five; and the establishment of 19 voluntary counseling and testing centers

For more information on UNDP's work in Liberia, go to www.lr.undp.org

LEBANON: EARLY RECOVERY CRUCIAL, UNDP ON THE GROUND

At the donors conference held at the end of January in Paris, the international community committed to a total of \$7.6 billion in support of efforts to recover from last summer's conflict.

At the conference, UNDP Administrator Kemal Derviş underlined the need for continued international attention and financial aid. Below are excerpts from his speech, which highlighted UNDP's role in Lebanon's recovery.

"...As the government sets forth in its program, good governance is central to the success of the structural reforms, recovery of economic growth, and the sustainability of the process of reconstruction and development. Driven by this conviction, UNDP has focused a substantial part of its program on strengthening governance in Lebanon, in particular with support to administrative reform that seeks to make the country's public institutions more efficient and transparent. In this sphere, UNDP has aided the Government to establish Policy Advisory Units in several ministerial departments responsible for the economic and financial sectors as well as the social sectors. Furthermore, and to the same end, the support provided by UNDP also covers assistance to Parliament in its legislative and oversight functions..."

"...The UN Development Group has already established, at the government's request, a Multi-Donor Trust Fund to gather financial resources to support the projects and programs of economic recovery and reconstruction. This fund, managed by UNDP, is already operational and could constitute a financial support mechanism for the proposed program, making it possible to accelerate the rate of disbursement of funds."

Management of the resources that will be offered as a result of this conference will require strong and efficient coordination. Here, the Development Aid Database, set up in the Office of the Prime Minister with support from UNDP, should play a driving role. This will doubtless assist in achieving the objectives of harmonization and simplification of the procedures for managing public aid, set forth in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness..."

In addition to UNDP's support to governance and resource management as more long-term recovery moves forward in Lebanon, UNDP's critical early recovery initiatives immediately following last summer's conflict involved removal of rubble and debris; repair of access roads; and rehabilitation of public schools, clinics, electricity, and water supplies. UNDP provided funds to reactivate the infrastructure and services of 101 municipalities in Southern Lebanon, the four municipalities of Beirut's southern suburb (Dahya), and the Bekaa -- enabling them to assist IDP resettlement. UNDP, in partnership with the Lebanese government and others, also assessed environmental damage caused by the bombing of the Jiyeh Power Plant led to 10,000-15,000 tons of fuel oil spilling across the Lebanese coastline and participated in a comprehensive clean-up operation.

For more information about UNDP's work in Lebanon, click [here](#).

IN EIGHT COUNTRIES, ONE UN ***Albania, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Pakistan, Rwanda, Tanzania,*** ***Uruguay, and Viet Nam pilot UN reform***

UNDP Administrator Kemal Derviş, in his role as the Chair of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), announced in February that the UN will explore new ways of enhancing greater cohesion at the country level in Albania, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Pakistan, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uruguay, and Viet Nam. The governments of these countries each volunteered last year to become pilots in what has been labeled "One UN."

The One UN pilots will test how the UN family can deliver in a more coordinated way at the country level. The objective is to ensure faster and more effective development operations and accelerate progress to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by establishing a consolidated UN presence - with one program, one budgetary framework, and an enhanced role of the UN Resident Coordinator - while building on the strengths and comparative advantages of the different agencies of the UN system. The aim of this initiative is to reduce duplication and transaction costs so that the UN can use resources more effectively to support countries' development goals.

The eight pilot countries reflect a broad spectrum, both in terms of size and level of income, and all host a wide range of UN activities. "These pilots show the UN's commitment to bring together the expertise, experience, and capacities of the entire UN family to support national development strategies," said Derviş. "The specialized agencies have a wealth of knowledge and commitment to offer, and much closer cooperation...can yield great benefits."

Over the next year, the UN Development Group and member states will evaluate the pilot programs and discuss the possible extension of the approaches to a larger number of countries.

The United Nations Development Group (UNDG) is an instrument for UN reform, created by the Secretary General in 1997, to improve the effectiveness of UN development at the country level. The UNDG brings together the operational agencies working on development. The group is chaired by the Administrator of UNDP on behalf of the Secretary General.

MARIA SHARAPOVA APPOINTED UNDP GOODWILL AMBASSADOR

Maria Sharapova, the world's top-ranked women's tennis player, was appointed a Goodwill Ambassador for UNDP in February.

At the appointment ceremony, she announced a donation of \$100,000 to UNDP to benefit eight youth-oriented projects in rural communities in Belarus, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine that still suffer the

after-effects of the Chernobyl disaster of 1986. Sharapova's donation from the newly created Maria Sharapova Foundation will fund projects aimed at improving computer access, promoting ecological awareness, and restoring sports facilities and hospitals. These projects complement a broad portfolio of UN work helping Chernobyl-affected communities regain a sense of self-sufficiency, build new livelihoods, and bring a once-blighted region back to life.

"My first step [as UNDP Goodwill Ambassador] is to focus on the Chernobyl-affected region, where my family has roots," said Sharapova. "Today, it is poverty and lack of opportunities that pose the greatest threat for young people in the Chernobyl region."

Thereafter, Sharapova's work with UNDP will include promoting international efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Maria Sharapova was born in Nyagan, Siberia, after her family fled the city of Gomel in Belarus in the wake of the Chernobyl accident. The family lived in Nyagan for two years and then moved to the Black Sea town of Sochi, where Sharapova's parents had been born and raised. She made her first WTA tournament appearance in 2002 and won her first Grand Slam title at Wimbledon in 2004. In 2006 she won the U.S. Open. She is currently ranked No. 1 in the world in women's tennis.

UNDP NAMES OLAV KJØRVEN AS HEAD OF THE BUREAU FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY

In February, Secretary-General Ban appointed Mr. Olav Kjørven from Norway as Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP's Director of the Bureau for Development Policy. The Bureau for Development Policy gives practical policy guidance to UNDP's country offices and partners in the field.

Since 2005, Olav served as Director of the Environment and Energy Group of the same bureau, where he promoted sound environmental management, access to energy for poverty reduction, and tapping into new financial mechanisms for development -- such as carbon finance.

Prior to joining UNDP, Olav worked for the government of Norway, where he held the position of State Secretary for International Development from 2001 to 2005. Together with the Minister of International Development, Olav was responsible for policymaking and the overall management of Norwegian international development efforts, including a major reorganization of aid administration. Olav also held the post of Political Adviser to the Minister of International Development and Human Rights from 1997-2000.

Olav was Director of International Development at ECON--Centre for Economic Analysis in Oslo, from 2000-2001. He also held the position of Environmental Specialist at the World Bank (1992-1997); in particular, he was involved in the development of the World Bank's environmental and social quality assurance system for lending operations.

Olav holds a Master of Arts in International Affairs from George Washington University.

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UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.

For additional information on the above news, please contact communications officer Cara Santos Pianesi at **UNDP's Washington Office** at 202.331.9130 or cara.santos@undp.org.

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