



U N N E W S

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The Newsletter of the United Nations in Namibia

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A note from the editors...

'A little rain never hurt anyone' as the saying goes, but the same cannot unfortunately be said of the recent torrential showers, which have been the cause of widespread flooding in northern and northeastern parts of the country. The floods, which President Hifikepunye Pohamba has described as one of 'unprecedented proportions', have affected a large part of the Southern African region. The northeastern region of Namibia consisting of Caprivi and Kavango, while generally prone to annual flooding, has been the most affected by the flood phenomena emanating primarily from the Zambezi River. The northern region on the other hand comprising of Oshana, Omusati, Oshikoto and Ohangwena has also experienced been a hotbed of extensive flooding this year due to unprecedented water levels recorded on the Cuvelai delta coming from southern Angola.

Speaking at a press conference at State House, President Pohamba lamented that "people of my age are saying that this is the (most) serious flood experienced in many years." Indeed, one cannot underestimate just how

serious the situation has become. Homes, livelihoods and even lives have been lost in a flood so great it has caused entire communities to be displaced. The thousands forced into displacement camps are faced not only with homelessness, but also the outbreak of diseases like malaria and cholera. The destruction of crops and death of livestock due to flooding has also created a serious threat to food security.

Considering the gravity of the situation, the United Nations alongside the Government of the Republic of Namibia, has been actively engaging in post disaster relief and rehabilitation of the flood affected population. This edition of UN News details the role of the UN in their efforts to support the Government, and features stories about those impacted by the floods. In this issue, we seek to answer many questions about UN involvement in disaster management but, more importantly, we hope to give a face to the floods by highlighting the human impacts. Ultimately it is the Namibian people, the victims and the survivors, who are the heroes of this tragedy.

>>> KEEPING KIDS IN SCHOOL "WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO OUR FUTURE" ?

"I came on my own here. Our house was under water. This water came at night," says Maria Nehemiah a 37 year-old mother of three. "We are used to seeing water in the Oshanas but this time it was worse. It was raining heavily, and at the same time, running water came into the homestead. We tried to save what we could but there was not much time."

Around 260 people, including Maria and her son Naftali, occupy a tented relocation camp near Oshikango, a town on the border with Angola, about 800 kilometres from Windhoek, Namibia's capital city.

"There is nothing left now in the homestead," Maria says, "the only thing left there are zinc roofing sheets."

Her husband and two daughters had already left for another village after waters began rising in surrounding areas. After the flood, Maria stayed for two days with a relative nearby. Then she heard an announcement on the radio about the relocation camp. She said she couldn't stay with the relatives any longer because there were so many other people staying there, who also lost their houses and belongings.

Since February, floodwaters have inundated thousands of square kilometres of rural north-central Namibia. According to the Namibian Government, over 71 000 people have been affected by floods in some way.

Over 4 600 have had no option but to move into relocation camps.

Maria's 12 year old son, Naftali, looks a bit overwhelmed by the presence of so many



FAR FROM HOME: Maria Nehemiah explains that her children's education is the first priority for her in helping her family recover from the floods in Northern Namibia.

people asking questions. He says quietly that he wants to be a teacher. He was in Grade 6, but stopped going to school.

The school was closed completely as it was surrounded by flood waters. "This makes me very unhappy", Maria says. "We have lost everything, and now our children are missing school. What will happen to their future?"

Asked what help she would like the Namibian Government and the international community to provide, Maria says, "They need to start a school here for children to attend. Also, I'm worried about what the future holds; how we are going to survive. It's too late in the year to plough now, so we cannot harvest crops."

Over 40 primary schools have been closed

since the floods began, either flooded or cut off by fast-flowing water. This, combined with the displacement of families, has left scores of children wandering around the resettlement camps with little to do. There is now a need to provide young children with safe spaces at the camps, where they can learn and play without fear of harassment.

UNICEF is in the process of procuring tents and recreational kits to form the basis of kindergartens, to be run by volunteers taken from among each camp's residents. It is also involved with other UN agencies and the Namibian Government in developing plans to help residents of the affected regions rebuild their livelihoods after the water has receded, and to get assistance in the meantime.



A TRAILER THAT TEACHES

Namibia has virtually unlimited natural energy resources but there is a lack of knowledge about the many benefits it offers. An answer to this problem could be a new innovation called the Energy Demonstration Trailer, developed by the Desert Research Foundation of Namibia (DRFN), as one of the innovations from the Namibia UNDP/GEF Small Grants Programme.

"It is time to address the problems of climate change and use renewable energies to our benefit", said Mr Simon Nhongo, UNDP Resident Representative. "The first step on this long journey starts with educating the people. We all need to learn about renewable energies and the Energy Trailer is a leader in this regard".

This simple contraption can easily pass for a camping trailer. But, in addition to being camping equipment, the trailer has a wide range of appliances and innovations. A solar water pumping system, a solar cooker, a fridge, a PC and even a sound system with disco lights can fit in the trailer. With the aid of the trailer it is possible to drive to remote areas and demonstrate all of these technologies...without using locally-installed electricity.

This innovation may seem a little different from a conventional classroom or exhibition hall but it gets the job done. The trailer can easily be turned into a demonstration area where different demonstrations can take place at the same time. Alex, the field facilitator who usually goes out with the trailer, has

many stories of faces lighting up as they stand under the disco lights and listen to the latest music on the PC. "Where is the fire coming from?" was one of the questions from someone who witnessed a solar stove demonstration.

The Energy Demo Trailer project has received funding from GEF through the Small Grants Programme. This project cooperates closely with the UNDP/GEF-funded Namibia Renewable Energy Programme (NAMREP). The Energy Trailer frequently supports NAMREP's awareness and training campaigns, through leasing the trailer. The income from the leasing covers maintenance and repair when needed, but mostly allows for up-grading the on-trailer demonstration and training equipment.

The first trip with the prototype trailer was on the 2nd of April 2006. Since that trip to Okondjatu, the trailer has had numerous educational excursions to different regions of the country. The prototype Energy Trailer has performed a total of 44 demonstrations to rural and peri-urban communities during the project period. This means that the overall and immediate objectives have been achieved in full. During these demonstration visits, an estimated total of 3,000 to 4,000 people have seen the opportunities offered by renewable energies.

Two additional Energy Trailers have subse-



HIGH INTEREST: Young minds exploring the trailer.

quently been constructed and are being used by the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Institute (REEEI) and the DRFN.

Not only is this trailer a teacher, but it is also a winner. The Energy Demonstration Trailer was awarded first prize in the national category of the annual Energy Globe Awards in 2007. The trailer has been recognized internationally for raising awareness and disseminating information about Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Technologies and practices in rural and peri-urban Namibian settlements in promoting the use of these technologies. The staff complement of 5 technicians, of whom 2 go out with the trailer, are happy with their prize and are working hard to improve the trailers.

The project has a bright future with a possibility of 2 more trailers to be produced. The trailer will help to make sure that when renewable energies are widely available people already know about them.



FLOOD FOCUS

>>> THE UN AND THE FLOODS

INTERVIEW: SIMON NHONGO, UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR

What are your general impressions of the flood situation in Namibia?

It has been very difficult watching the country go through this national emergency. People have lost their homes, livelihoods and some have even lost their lives due to the consequences of the flood. It has affected over 70 000 Namibians but the repercussions and aftermath will likely affect many more. However, this flood emergency has also allowed Namibians to show their true colours in terms of coping abilities. In these trying times, I have witnessed incredible strength and resilience in the people of this nation, and I have seen the great spirit of those working in disaster management. Namibia will not only survive this emergency, but will emerge even more prepared in the event of another disaster striking.

What is the United Nations in Namibia currently doing to support relief efforts to mitigate the impact of the floods in northern and north-eastern parts of Namibia?

All of our UN agencies have been prepared since the beginning to respond where needed. Right from the onset of the flood, we had staff and experts on the ground to conduct assessments and determine the needs of those affected. Based on these assessments, and other ongoing ones, the UN has undertaken a number of field missions alongside the Government to address these needs. UNICEF, for example, has put their own staff and additional experts on the ground to provide assistance in making sure the needs of women and children (especially those who are displaced) are addressed. WFP has also been active in determining food security needs at the household level in the North. These are only two examples of the many many projects that the UN has undertaken alongside the Government.

Is the United Nations in Namibia providing financial assistance to assist with relief efforts?

Assistance coming from the UN side is mainly in the form of human and material resources, with some direct funds where possible. The human resource assistance, as I have mentioned, is made up of experts and specialists who are qualified to thoroughly assess what is happening on the ground. Some of our material resources include: school kits (distributed by UNICEF to ensure that children remain interested in school throughout their displacement), as well as hygiene/dignity kits and condoms (distributed by UNFPA), to name only a few. The Government of Namibia is fronting the response efforts. Our contributions seek to address any gaps left after the Government's efforts. They add up to an approximate equivalent of well over US\$ 550,000.

What kind of mechanisms does the United Nations in Namibia have in place at present for emergency preparedness and response?

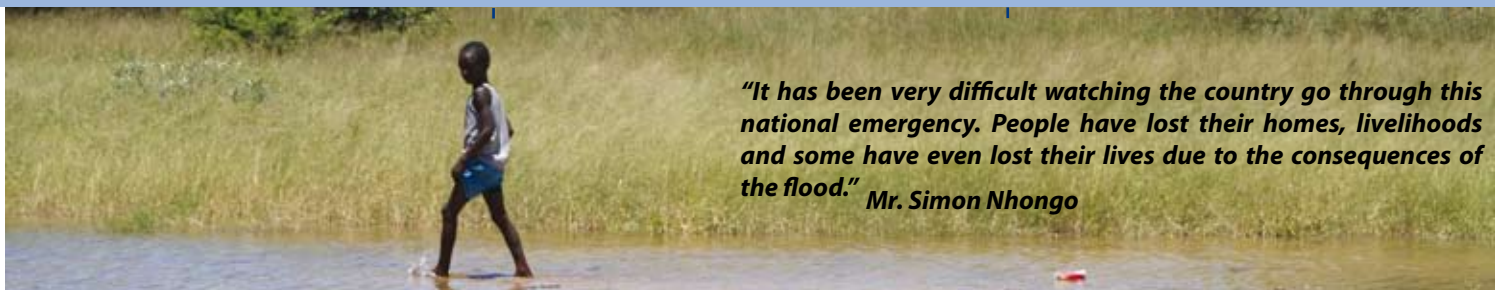
The UN assisted the Government last year in creating a Disaster Risk Reduction National Action Plan aimed at identifying priorities in the area of capacity building, as well as any gaps that may exist. This plan was based on a Capacity Needs Assessment conducted in 2005 by both the UN and Government. The plan was created with the intention that it would help those working in disaster management in Namibia to better coordinate responses before, during and after an emergency. The decision to devise the plan was made because of the increase in the frequency of disasters all over the world. Little did we know, at the time, that it would become this relevant so soon after its creation!



Can Namibia recover from this disaster?

Since the UN became active in Namibia, we have witnessed a few national emergencies, but none as cross-cutting as the floods have turned out to be. The flooding of land and displacement of people has touched almost every development area from food security to gender and health. The country will take some time to heal from this blow. However, thanks to vigorous responses and the strength of resilient communities, the aftershock of the floods will not completely derail development in Namibia. In fact, the emergency has provided us with the opportunity to learn many disaster management lessons that will hopefully lead to better and faster preparation, mitigation and response. With this new knowledge, we must work harder than ever to enhance community resilience and make sure that the means of response are always in place. Currently, we are in the process of finalizing a Disaster Risk Management Policy, which looks at these very issues and sets the parameters for disaster response throughout the country. The policy will prove extremely instrumental in dealing with future emergencies.

Alongside the Government, the UN in Namibia will remain committed to this issue and to the protection of Namibian citizens and their livelihoods. We will also help to ensure that the impacts of the current flood are fully addressed and that the displaced communities are cared for.



"It has been very difficult watching the country go through this national emergency. People have lost their homes, livelihoods and some have even lost their lives due to the consequences of the flood." Mr. Simon Nhongo

>>> RELIEF EFFORTS FROM UN AGENCIES

The magnitude and scope of the flood sadly took the UN family by surprise. In the face of such an unprecedented crisis however, UN agencies have pulled together and rapidly mobilized their manpower, expertise and resources to assist the Government in alleviating the worst impacts of the floods and engaging in post disaster recovery. This section highlights some of the initiatives currently being undertaken by individual agencies as part of the UN response to the flood emergency.

UNDP

"Disaster relief is necessary – disaster preparedness is essential. We must review our actions at every stage of the recovery process and the lessons that can be learnt from our interventions to build better disaster relief and risk reduction mechanisms for future challenges. Namibians have every right to expect an effective response in times of emergency", Lebogang Motlana, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative

On behalf of the UN System in Namibia, the United Nations Development Programme has been taking the lead in planning, coordinating and monitoring relief and recovery support to the flood affected regions. UNDP began its initial intervention by participating in a joint flood assessment mission, led by the Government in early March 2008. The purpose of this mission was to gather information on the magnitude of the disaster and assess the impact of the flood on both the affected population and infrastructure of the regions in order to make recommendations for short- and longer-term relief.

Following the situation and needs assessments, emergency funds made available by the UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) for recovery efforts were used, in collaboration with UNICEF, to support the recruitment of a Regional Emergency Coordinator, who has been actively engaged alongside the Directorate of Emergency Management (DEM) from the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) in the Oshikoto and Caprivi regions. Thanks to the support of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and the United Nations Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT), UNDP has also overseen the production of more than 15 detailed maps of the affected areas, providing the Government

with essential assistance for recovery activities. With the flood subsiding, the UN plans to convene a workshop whose purpose will be to evaluate the various UN interventions that have been and continue to be implemented in response to the flood emergency, gather information on lessons learnt and most importantly, examine disaster recovery and risk reduction efforts for the future.

UNICEF

"The floods have made me realize that one cannot afford to be complacent. We must step up our level of preparedness and response for future emergencies", Madhavi Ashok, UNICEF Acting Representative.



The United Nations Children's Fund has been carrying out critical interventions in the flood affected regions in the areas of child protection, nutrition, water and sanitation, hygiene and psychosocial support. UNICEF commenced emergency response planning and actions with support from 2 emergency experts from Mozambique. The office prepared operational plans in the area of child protection, health and programme communication, and provided supplies to relocation camps, such as tents, school kits (books, stationery and play materials), inflatable boats, and hygiene kits. It also facilitated the establishment of child-friendly areas in the camps and is providing psychosocial support for both children and care givers, and relevant training to child care providers.

Experts in the areas of nutrition, water and sanitation, logistics and emergency coordination have been recruited to provide assistance in the affected regions. In-house capacity is being utilized to promote hygiene-related issues and protection of chil-

dren specifically in relation to Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVCs), and childheaded households. Support from the UNICEF Regional Office has also been requested to assist with education particularly schooling for young children until school systems are regularized.

UNFPA

"In times of crisis, while food and shelter obviously remain priority issues, there is a tendency to overlook reproductive health needs; a pregnant woman cannot postpone the delivery of her child even if she is in the middle of an emergency situation; HIV/AIDS also continues to threaten the lives of flood affected people and provision of condoms should remain an utmost priority. In the same vein, when 10 households are living together in a confined space, provision of hygiene kits is important. We must be cognizant of these facts when planning our response to disaster relief", Nuzhat Ehsan, UNFPA Representative.

The United Nations Population Fund has been providing crucial support to the Government in the flood affected regions in the areas of reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, gender and gender-based violence. UNFPA has recruited 2 experts for gender and HIV/AIDS respectively in order to address some of the gaps in the coordinated UN response to the flood. UNFPA has also contributed US\$ 20 000 for the purchase of solar powered units requested by the Ministry of Mines and Energy to supply lighting in relocation camps and facilitate the preparation of meals, while concurrently helping to reduce violence against women, especially pregnant women by easing the lives of those displaced by the crisis. In addition, UNFPA has contributed a number of material resources to ensure that flood victims have access to critical reproductive health services, such as delivery kits, hygiene/dignity kits and condoms, which are often overlooked and given limited consideration, but remain essential in times of crisis.

WFP

"The main objective of the assessment is to build upon the findings of the Government led rapid assessment of March 2008, and to provide a detailed and comprehensive analysis of the food security situation at the household

FLOOD FOCUS



assessment, jointly planned by the Directorate of Emergency Management (DEM) and the WFP, is scheduled for 26 May – 4 June 2008, in areas which were affected by floodwaters and excessive rain. Seven teams comprising of team leaders and enumerators will collect information on the food security situation at household level and will also make same basic anthropometric measurements of children under five years of age and mothers in order to obtain valuable information on their health and nutritional situation. In addition, members of the assessment team from WFP and Directorate of Emergency Management will meet with key Government, and other officials at the regional and constituency level as well as conducting focus group interviews with community leaders and other key informants.

Following the assessment itself, a five day training on Emergency Food Security Assessment techniques is planned to take place between 30 June and 04 July, 2008, with experts from WFP Regional Office in Johannesburg and participation from the Government (DEM and other relevant line ministry staff from both Windhoek and the regions) NGOs and NRCS.

WHO

“Strengthening the surveillance system and building local capacity to respond to health needs are of vital importance in order to be most effective in emergency situations”, Dr. Desta Tiruneh, WHO Disease, Prevention and Control Officer

The World Health Organization has been providing ongoing support to the Ministry of

Health and Social Services (MoHSS) through the National Health Emergency Management Committee (NHEMC) and regional teams to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated health response to the flood emergency. This has in particular focused on strengthening the surveillance and coordination system in dealing with the outbreaks of cholera and malaria at the regional and national level. Four missions were undertaken by WHO experts to carry out assessments and provide technical support in the areas of emergency coordination; nutrition; epidemiology and laboratory expertise. The findings and subsequent recommendations of the various assessments are currently being implemented and are complementing the Government effort in responding to the emergency situation.

UNAIDS

“Emergency situations like the flood in the North of Namibia force people out of their normal livelihoods. They make them more vulnerable to diseases including HIV infection. For those on antiretroviral treatment, food insecurity and limited access to health facilities could mean treatment interruption. Emergency responses need to include HIV prevention programs and interventions to facilitate continued treatment”, Salvator Niyonzima, UNAIDS Country Coordinator

The United Nations Joint Programme on AIDS has been ascertaining needs related to HIV/AIDS in the flood affected regions in accordance with its mandate. Specifically, UNAIDS has recruited a multi-sectoral technical adviser to work with the UN Response Team and other relevant partners in ensuring that HIV prevention, care and mitigation is integrated into all areas of assistance for those infected and affected.

level in the flood affected areas of northern Namibia. This should help concerned stakeholders define what, if any, nutritional responses may be required during the post flood recovery period”, John Prout, WFP Representative

The World Food Programme was among the key UN agencies to be invited by the Government to be part of the joint rapid impact and needs assessment mission conducted in February-March 2008. The mission recommendations included careful monitoring of the situation and a follow-up assessment in May/June 2008 to review the food security situation in flooded areas at the end of the harvest period. This follow-up assessment will focus on household level food security and the possible need for ongoing food assistance to particularly vulnerable flood affected populations through to the 2008/09 harvest. The

>>> SURVIVING DISEASE BROUGHT ON BY FLOODS

Linea Ndipwashimwe, a 23 year-old single mother of two, felt something could be seriously wrong when her two year old daughter, Lipitwa's temperature kept rising. When that was followed by diarrhea and vomiting, she knew she had to get help.

She walked in the 30-degree-plus heat to Engela hospital, about two kilometers from her homestead in Ohangwena Region, Northern Namibia, where her daughter was diagnosed with Cholera. Engela is more than 800 kilometers from the Namibian capital, Windhoek, close to the bustling town of Oshikango

on the border with Angola.

Since floods inundated thousands of homesteads in Northern Namibia in February, 958 cases of Cholera have been reported to the Namibian Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS).

Engela hospital has been so inundated with cases that it has had to set up a cholera treatment centre a few kilometers away from the main hospital. Lipitwa is among the nine children that were admitted at the treatment centre.

Linea explained the symptoms to the nurse, who immediately recognized the child was suffering from Cholera. She was transported by ambulance to the treatment centre. Asked what type of treatment Lipitwa got, she said the child received six IV drips in three days.

It took about two weeks for her to see that Lipitwa was getting better.

We asked Linea if she now knows about cholera. She said, “Yes, I have been well informed and educated during my stay at the centre, by

>>> A PARTNERSHIP FOR CHANGE

DRR MEDIA WORKSHOP

"Africa, and indeed the world, is facing more natural disasters today than at any time in recent history."

This was one of the key revelations of the keynote address presented by Mr. Simon Nhongo, UN Resident Coordinator at the recent Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Media Partnership Workshop, held in Windhoek between 13-14 March 2008. One doesn't need to look further than at the statistics for 2006, which point to 427 reported natural disasters that killed more than 23 000 people, affected almost 143 million others, and were the cause of more than US\$ 34.5 billion in economic damages worldwide. Floods, one of three categories of hazards known to afflict Namibia, are one of the two major causes of economic damage worldwide and account for 55% of all disasters registered in 2006. Furthermore, there is increasingly conclusive evidence to suggest that global climate change will impact on the occurrence and magnitude of future disasters. These impacts, Mr. Aseem Andrews, UN Disaster Risk Management Specialist explains, "will not only endanger the most vulnerable groups in the world, but also threaten years of economic growth and sustainable development".

Why do disasters happen? How should we prepare for them? How can we deal with them effectively? These are the questions that people are asking more and more. The role of the media is indispensable in providing the answers. Effective media strategies can play a vital role in creating invaluable networks among key stakeholders at times of crises and in helping the general public

to understand not just the raw facts of a flood or a drought, but to grasp the whole process of disaster cause and effect to facilitate preparedness and response. Consequently, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) attaches great importance to working closely with the media to promote disaster risk reduction strategies.

Against this background, UNDP in partnership with the Directorate of Emergency Management (DEM), Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) organized and facilitated a two-day disaster risk reduction (DRR) Media Partnership Workshop on the premises of NICE restaurant in Windhoek. The main objective of the workshop, chaired by UNDP Deputy Representative Lebogang Motlana, was to "engage the media in a partnership with relevant stakeholders in disaster risk reduction to improve preparedness at all levels as well as reduce the impact of disasters through effective communication", explained Mr. Andrews, who has been working closely with the DEM in implementing a Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) National Action Plan (NAP). Helping the media to better understand the NAP was therefore one of the key objectives of the workshop.

The workshop was officially opened by Advocate Nangula Mbako, Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister who emphasized that "effective implementation of the NAP has become a national priority for us as reducing risk and increasing community resilience to disasters will help achieve Namibia's Vision 2030 and the Mil-



lennium Development Goals". This however, she noted, cannot be successfully achieved without the input of key stakeholders such as the media. Mr. Simon Nhongo reiterated Ms. Mbako's call for linkage-building with the media when he emphasized the importance of the media in contemporary society in his keynote address, remarking that "when disasters strike, information has the ability to save or destroy lives".

Bringing together representatives from an array of backgrounds in the media, the Government, the development sector and the UN, participants were encouraged to use the workshop as an opportunity to share knowledge, foster learning and strengthen linkages amongst themselves. It is hoped that as a result of the workshop, members of the media will have emerged with a clearer understanding of the NAP and the role they can play within it, while Government representatives and development partners will have come out with a better grasp of how to engage the media more effectively in the future. The possibility of creating a media network for DRR is also being explored.

the nurses and the Red Cross volunteer, who are distributing information about Cholera."

Already four people have died in the outbreak so far, and because homesteads are spread far apart in the affected regions and floodwaters make it hard to get to some places –the numbers of both cases and deaths could go up.

Cholera can kill in less than a day, especially if it infects children. But if they receive treatment on time, over 99 per cent of patients will survive.

UNICEF Namibia recently assisted the Namibian Government in training the first group of community health activists who will then be involved in training others. They include Government health workers and volunteers from the Red Cross and the charity Development Aid from People to People (DAPP).

UNICEF is also supporting Government and other partners in producing radio spots on cholera prevention, and in distributing water purification tablets, necessary in a place where flooding has already exacerbated already bad sanitation.



A MOTHER'S DISTRESS: Linea Ndipwashimwe with her daughter Lipitwa who recovered from cholera at a treatment centre.

>>> MINISTERS VISIT THE UN HOUSE

UN FAMILY THANKS THE GOVERNMENT OF NAMIBIA



A HEARTY WELCOME: LEFT: UN Resident Coordinator Simon Nhongo welcomes Right Hon. Prime Minister Nahas Angula and other cabinet representatives. RIGHT: UNHCR Representative Joyce Mends-Cole chats with Minister for Foreign Affairs Hon. Marco Hausiku.

A radiant sun, crisp blue skies and not a speck of rain provided the perfect setting for the UN family in Namibia to welcome its senior partners in Government for a much anticipated tour of the new UN premises, followed by a welcoming cocktail reception on the splendid Thursday morning of 6 March 2008.

Most generously gifted by the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN) to the United Nations in October 2007, the modern-design UN House building was graced by the presence of the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Mr. Nahas Angula and ministers, deputy ministers and associated senior colleagues from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Gender Equality & Child Welfare; Home Affairs & Immigration; Information & Broadcasting; Justice; Trade & Industry; Youth, National Service, Culture & Sport; Works, Transport & Communication and the National Planning Commission. The honourable guests were greeted on arrival by Mr. Simon Nhongo, UN Resident Coordinator who subsequently led them on a short tour of each UN agency and affiliated UN departments.

In the course of the tour, the honourable

guests had the opportunity to meet with the staff and representatives of the UN agencies who welcomed them to their respective unit and provided an overview of their agency's mandate and activities in Namibia. After a lively session of touring, the Honourable Mr. Nahas Angula and his colleagues in Government were ushered to the UN House balcony overlooking the scenic beauty of Windhoek for a well-deserved cocktail reception.

During the reception, Mr. Nhongo expressed his delight to be hosting members of the Government at what is now the official UN residence in Namibia and conveyed his sincere thanks to his Government counterparts for bringing together the UN family under one roof. "We can now truly proclaim to be 'One United Nations' in Namibia residing together in one house as any family ought to be", he said, "albeit blocking Mr. Angula's view of the beautiful sunset in Klein Windhoek", he added humorously, referring to the one-block proximity of the Prime Minister's home to the new building. Continuing on a more serious note, Mr. Nhongo praised the strong working relationship between the UN and the

GRN and reiterated the UN's commitment and determination to support the Government in its endeavours to fight poverty and raise living standards in Namibia: "We are proud to have cultivated a partnership based on trust, reliability and friendship and we continue to offer our unwavering support in Namibia's efforts to overcome its challenges and build a sustainable future for all its citizens", he said.

Mr. Nhongo concluded by informing the honourable guests of the official inauguration of the UN House later this year, which he hoped would be graced again by their esteemed presence. His remarks were enthusiastically received by the guests and with sincere appreciation from Hon. Mr. Nahas Angula who promised to pay a lengthier visit to UN agencies and the staff the next time. The official and public inauguration of the UN premises is anticipated to take place during the second quarter of 2008.

>>> DIVERSITY IN DEVELOPMENT

LOOKING AT THE LINK BETWEEN CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT

"Differences within and between societies should be neither feared nor repressed, but cherished as a precious asset of humanity."

– 2000 Millennium Declaration

A glance through the postcard rack of any tourist shop in Namibia gives a good indication of how the country views its own culture, and how this culture is presented to the world. The iconic images of Himba women in goatskin skirts, San people carving wooden pipes or Herero women in their signature dress are presented as the Namibian identity – rich in tradition and culture. The UNDP-Spain MDG Achievement Fund has recognized this diversity and accepted a concept paper to enhance the role of cultural tourism in Namibia.

Although particularly widespread in Namibia, cultural diversity and its preservation is a global issue. The 2004 Global Human Development Report found that over 300 million people worldwide belong to indigenous groups within their home country, representing some 4,000 distinctive languages. Despite the effects of Globalization (or Westernization), the report found that the inhabitants of Planet Earth remain incredibly diverse, not to mention unequal. It was also specified that this diversity should be cherished, preserved and promoted in all of its forms.

Naturally, such richness in culture is valued for what it offers on the surface – an interesting and cherished diversity. It can also, however, be valued for the opportunities it provides through creativity and innovation, which can be captured and used to create economic growth. In other words, a rich culture has the potential to create a richer society – if the right tools are in place.

The United Nations together with the Government of Namibia attach great value to the preservation of cultural diversity. Namibia's richness in cultural and natural heritage provides the basis for developing cultural tourism policies. Such policies allow Namibia to capitalize on its growing tourism market, while at the same time promoting and encouraging its existing indigenous cultures.

The UN was therefore extremely delighted to hear that Namibia was among 18 successful countries out of a total of 45 to receive funding from the

MDG Achievement Fund in the framework of the Fund's thematic window on 'Culture and Development'. The MDG-F was established by UNDP and the Government of Spain in December 2006 to help countries reach their MDG targets and to support UN reform at the country level. Approximately US \$95 million has been set aside for the 18 projects selected, of which US \$6 million will be allocated to Namibia for its concept paper on 'Sustainable Cultural Tourism in Namibia'. UNESCO was the agency responsible for coordinating this proposal and also recently drafted a joint-programme document based on Namibia's priorities outlined in Vision 2030 and various UN



RICH IN CULTURE: A Himba adolescent plays with his younger brother in a village near Epupa.

development plans and frameworks.

"This document really emphasizes the participation of local communities, especially indigenous groups," said UNESCO Namibia Representative Dr. Claudia Harvey. "We are looking at raising awareness about cultural heritage and creating a solid base for how we look at the link between culture and development".

"The Government will continue to lend its full support," said Hon. Dr. Becky Ndjaze-Ojo at the stakeholder's meeting held on January 11, 2008. "We are optimistic that tangible results will be visible through improved livelihoods of the Namibian people."



COLOUR CRAFT: The craft in the south reflects the colourful culture of its people.

>>> PARLIAMENT TO THE PEOPLE

PARLIAMENTARIANS VISIT ERONGO AND HARDAP REGIONS

Through an innovative project supported by the United Nations (UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF) Namibian parliamentarians are reaching out to local communities and seeing the situation on the ground.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resources, Social and Community Development which focuses on Gender, HIV & AIDS, OVCs and Reproductive Health, among others, visited the Oshikoto region in 2006 and Otjozondjupa and Karas regions in 2007. In 2008 the outreach visits resumed with the Erongo region from 10th-17th May 2008. During the visit 9 parliamentarians interacted with communities in the towns of Swakopmund, Walvisbay, Hentiesbay, Usakos, Karibib and Omaruru. The following week of the 18-25 May 2008 the same Committee visited the Hardap region. In the Hardap region they interacted with the communities of Mariental, Aranos, Hoachanas, Maltehohe, Rehoboth and the settlement of Klein Aub.

The visits play a very important role other than giving the community a chance to rub shoulders with people they usually only see on television. Parliamentarians get an opportunity to learn about the situation on the ground from the people on the ground. The members of Parliament meet with Governors, regional and municipal councillors, local NGOs dealing with HIV & AIDS and Gender Issues, Community leaders and activists, and with community members.

Though the situation on the ground differs from one town to another, many towns share certain social concerns. For example, in most of the towns the police are experiencing the same problems/challenges in dealing with Gender Based Violence. For example, women, who lay charges against their boyfriends or husband or partners, usually withdraw the cases, mainly due to coercion by the perpetrators or family, but also due to economic dependency on the perpetrators. Police officers in the different towns all echoed that these assault cases, however minor, can lead to the more serious cases such as murder.

Other problems were unique to certain towns. For example, Walvisbay at the coast does not have large informal settlements but instead it has backyard shacks. The danger in this is

that there can be health risks due to lack of sufficient sanitation. The town of Karibib, on the other hand, is experiencing problems with water and electricity bills not being paid. Part of the problem is due to the majority of inhabitants being pensioners and not having enough money to pay for the services. In addition, the town, despite having mining companies, is facing employment problems.

The Parliamentarians also assessed the state of the health centres with a focus on the response to the HIV & AIDS epidemic. HIV & AIDS along with food insecurity and the weakening institutional capacity have been identified by the United Nations as part of the Triple Threat. During the visit interesting observations were made with regard to the HIV testing procedures. In some cases there is only once entrance to the health centre or clinic, which leads to people using the same door after getting their results. Sometimes this leads to lack of confidentiality, especially in cases where people react emotionally to their HIV+ status. A recommendation was made that the infrastructure on Health Centres/clinics should be conducive to protecting confidentiality and privacy of patients, especially in relation to addressing stigma attached to HIV and AIDS.

Some health centres appealed for more assistance in terms of staff. In Hentiesbay, for example, the nurses do the administration as well as the treatment of the patients.

The situation of orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) was a concern for the region and the parliamentarians emphasized the need for better collaboration and cooperation between different partners. The committee urged the different stakeholders to work toward trying to find solutions to this mammoth task of caring for OVCs. The programme also included visits to different homes for orphans. The basic questions were: What are the challenges with working with OVCs? Are the eligible children getting the social grants from the government? How are the different stakeholders working in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender and Child Welfare?



ON THE GROUND: Snapshots from the parliamentarians' visit to the Erongo and Hardap regions.

>>> ACTING COOL

THE COMBI WAY

"Do nothing, make no t-shirts, no posters, no pamphlets, no videos... Do nothing, until there is a clear, sharp sense of intended desired behavioural outcomes" is the first mantra of 'COMBI' – Communication-for-Behavioural Impact, an innovative approach developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) to achieve behavioural results in health and social development.

Guided by this dynamic strategy, on 2nd November 2007, the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) launched the 'COOOL' (Condom; Protection from unwanted pregnancy; Protection from HIV/AIDS; Protection from STIs and Love) Behaviour Campaign in Otjiwarongo. The aim of this campaign is to promote one of three selected behaviours targeted by MoHSS/UNFPA for HIV/AIDS prevention. The three behaviours which have been selected are: Consistent Condom Use, Delaying Sexual Initiation and Sticking to One Partner. For 2007, the focus was on the first of the three, namely Consistent Condom Use with the ultimate message of the campaign being: "Every time. Use a condom, every time".

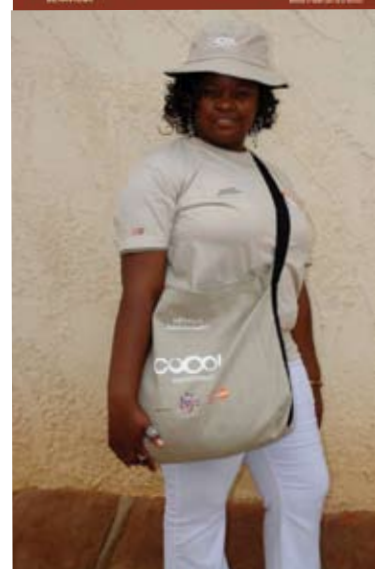
HIV/AIDS continues to be the single most acute threat to development in Namibia. According to MoHSS, as of 2006, the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate is reported to stand at a staggering 19.7 %. Efforts made by the Government, development partners and NGOs to increase knowledge and raise awareness about the pandemic have been quite successful. According to the preliminary findings of the 2006 Namibia Demographic Health Survey (NDHS), 90% of Namibians have the necessary knowledge about HIV/AIDS. However, as Dr. Everold Hosein, pioneer of the COMBI approach explains, "an educated individual is not necessarily a behaviorally responsive individual", which is particularly pertinent in the case of Namibia where knowledge of HIV/AIDS has unfortunately not translated into responsible behaviour, as evident from the high statistics.

The COOOL Behaviour Campaign aims to bridge this gap between knowledge and behaviour by using the COMBI approach to change behaviours

positively. While traditionally IEC (Information, Education and Communication) programmes have focused on the HIC (hear-inform-convince) dimension of communication to influence behaviours, COMBI attempts to prompt the next steps towards behaviour adoption and maintenance known as DARM (decide-act-reconfirm-maintain). In focusing on behavioural change, COMBI involves a strategic blend of five integrated communication action areas, namely administrative mobilization; community mobilization; personal selling or interpersonal communication; point-of-service promotion and sustained appropriate advertising. This innovative approach ultimately aims to mobilize individuals into taking the necessary measures to adopt new and recommended behaviours, such as the compulsive use of condoms – within or outside of a relationship.

The COOOL Behaviour Campaign in Otjiwarongo formed part of the advertising component of the COMBI approach and was conducted as a large-scale communication campaign to convey the key message of Consistent Condom Use. Various communication strategies were employed in this regard such as posters, billboards, newspapers, and television and radio adverts, while 820 local volunteers, known as life-style ambassadors, trained in the 13 GRN-UNFPA focus regions, made house-to-house visits promoting HIV/AIDS prevention behaviour through consistent condom use. The campaign was conducted intensely over a 3-week period and repeated every 4 weeks on 3 occasions for maximum behavioural impact.

The COOOL Behaviour Campaign compliments the efforts of the Take Control Campaign coordinated by the Ministry of Broadcasting and Information as part of Namibia's National Strategy on HIV/AIDS. The campaign is expected to be repeated after 4-6 months to reinforce and maintain behavioural impact with a number of slots planned for 2008. In doing so, it is hoped that COMBI messages will be infused into existing HIV/AIDS prevention strategies at all levels.



COOOL



>>> MAKING MOTHERHOOD SAFER

Pregnancy and childbirth are among the most natural and life-changing experiences that a woman goes through in her life. Bringing new life into the world is a unique and transitional event for the mum-to-be, often associated with joy and happiness, but also frequently a cause of trauma and sadness. This is particularly true in the developing world where childbirth continues to pose a needlessly dangerous and life-threatening risk for women. Obstetric complications are in fact the leading cause of death for women in developing countries.

In Namibia, maternal health remains a high priority as the country has been witnessing rising maternal mortality rates since the turn of the century; in fact, according to the preliminary findings of the 2006 Namibia Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS), maternal mortality has increased from 271 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2000 to 449 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2006. "While this is rather alarming, we should not allow ourselves to just feel disheartened, but see this as a call to redouble our efforts in this area" explains UNFPA Representative, Nuzhat Ehsan.

Protecting maternal health is therefore not only essential to reduce maternal mortality, but is also a human rights imperative that has ramifications beyond the mother's life per se. "A mother's death can be devastating to the children left behind, who are more at risk of falling into poverty and becoming objects of exploitation", says Dr. Richard Kamwi, Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services. Ensuring the mother-to-be and her family access to free and comprehensive maternal health services, such as pre- and post-natal care, access to a skilled birth attendant at delivery and effective emergency

care for obstetric emergencies, are therefore vital to reduce maternal mortality and protect future generations. Providing access to contraceptives could also further help in reducing maternal mortality rates by allowing couples to plan their families.

While maternal death is often caused by factors related directly to pregnancy such as bleeding, eclampsia, sepsis and obstructed labour, existing medical conditions aggravated by pregnancy, for instance anaemia, malaria, tuberculosis, hepatitis and HIV/AIDS, as well as violence directed at pregnant women also contribute towards higher rates of maternal mortality.

As critical as the challenges may be, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has been making concerted efforts to reduce maternal mortality rates and improve maternal health in Namibia. For the past 2 years, UNFPA has been supporting interventions by the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) geared towards strengthening Essential Obstetric Care (EOC) and maternal health services. In doing so, the focus has been not just on upgrading health facilities by providing equipment and transport, but has also focused on strengthening the capacity of service providers to provide high quality maternal health services and sensitizing the community, in particular men as husbands and partners to be actively involved in the childbirth process.

For most of 2006-2007, UNFPA has been mainly focusing its efforts on the Oshikoto region, where not only has it donated equipment and vehicles for improved maternal health and EOC services, but has also made great strides

in strengthening the capacity of service providers. In particular, UNFPA has successfully established a cadre of EOC trainers resulting in an increase in the number of skilled birth attendants from 33% to 79%, while the number of births attended by skilled birth attendants has increased from 50% to 68%. Traditional Birth Attendants (TBA) have also been trained on how to refer high risk pregnancies to health facilities.

Assistance has also been provided by UNFPA to MoHSS at the policy level through technical support to the National Task Force on Maternal Health and Newborn Care in the development of Emergency Obstetric Care (EmOC) guidelines and the Maternal and Newborn Health Roadmap and assistance in the revision of family planning and reproductive health policies. To sum up, UNFPA's interventions at policy, health facility and community have successfully ensured the "increased availability of high quality maternal and newborn health services and Essential Obstetric Care (EOC) in the Oshikoto region" as intended by the country programme.

In 2008, UNFPA will extend its focus to the Caprivi region and implement an intervention similar to what it has been doing in Oshikoto. UNFPA is also in the process of producing a video documentary on safe motherhood to serve as an advocacy tool for both the general public and policy makers to improve maternal health standards in Namibia.

>>> HUNGER

BENEATH THE HEADLINES

When asked about the face of starvation and hunger, most people will picture the victims of high-profile disasters; be it an earthquake in Pakistan, war in Sudan, or famine in Ethiopia. They probably won't know that 92% of the ten million people that die every year of hunger without making headlines are the not victims of such highly publicized crises, but of a more subtle form of crisis – daily, prolonged under-nourishment.

Children are particularly vulnerable to the risk of acute or chronic hunger, making up 25% of the hungry population worldwide and costing 5 million lives annually at a rate of one death every five seconds. Namibia has a growing number of orphans and vulnerable children (a situation which is exacerbated by the HIV/AIDS pandemic) for whom chronic food insecurity is a daily fact of life. According to the preliminary findings of the 2006 Namibia Demographic Health Survey and the 2001 Census projections for 2006, orphans in Namibia currently amount to some 155,000 while 29.9% of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) under the age of 5 have stunted growth.

Given the situation faced by OVC, in January 2006, Namibia became the seventh country to be included in the World Food Programme's (WFP) Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) entitled 'Assistance to Populations in Southern Africa

Vulnerable to Food Insecurity and the Impact of AIDS'. Within the framework of this regional PRRO, the primary objective of the two-year operation in Namibia was to help expand the coverage of Government child welfare grants by using the food aid programme to help identify very vulnerable children and catalyze their uptake into the Government's social safety nets. The project was carried out successfully in close partnership with the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare (MGEWCW) of the Namibian Government and closed at the end of April 2008 when the final month's food rations were distributed to needy children in the north.

As part of the operation, WFP provided a monthly take home ration to each child registered with the programme, which included maize meal, corn-soya blend, cooking oil and pulses. In total, WFP provided some 16,400 metric tons of food valued at approximately US\$ 9.5 million (NAD\$ 72 million) to 90,000 OVC. Along with supplying vital assistance to food-insecure children in Namibia's six northern regions, the programme has also helped to accelerate the uptake of eligible children into the Government's Child Welfare Grant system, particularly in the regions supported by the project.

"This programme has helped to keep thou-

sands of hungry and vulnerable children healthy over the past two years thanks to combined efforts of the Namibian Government and WFP," said John Prout, WFP Country Director in Namibia. "By working closely together, we have also moved thousands of eligible children from food assistance to the Government's child welfare grants much more quickly than would otherwise have been possible."

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare has significantly increased grant coverage for orphans and vulnerable children in the six northern regions, from 28,000 at the beginning of the food assistance programme in April 2006 to 65,106 in April 2008 representing an increase of more than 37,000 children. In total, 91,983 children are now receiving Government Child Welfare Grants nationwide.

"With the successful social mobilization campaign around the food assistance programme, the Ministry was able to more than double the number of children enrolled onto grants in these six regions over the past two years" said Sirkka Ausiku, the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, noting the success of the WFP supported programme.



WORKING AGAINST HUNGER: Scenes from the WFP distribution sites.



A WARM WELCOME



Mweutota Mkwetu joins UNDP as the new Environment Programme Officer with the Environment Unit. Prior to joining the UN family, Mweutota held posts at the University of Namibia as a Research Assistant and Project Administrator, and at GTZ (*Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit*) as a Hydrology Assistant. She holds a Master of Science (MSc) Degree in Water Resources and Coastal Management from the University of Bergen, Norway and a Bachelor of Science (BSc) Degree in Natural Resources and Conservation from the University of Namibia.



Obert Chinhamo joins the UN family as the new UNV Programme Officer. Prior to joining the UNV Programme in Namibia, he worked as the UNV Programme Manager in Uganda and as a Consultant for the UNV Programme in Ethiopia.



Deogratias Tibanyendera joins UNICEF as the new UNV Communications and Development Officer in the Special Protection of Vulnerable Children (SPVC) section. Prior to taking up his assignment, Deogratias worked with Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) as a HIV/AIDS/Psychosocial Support Adviser in Mozambique, with Uganda Women's Effort to Save the Orphans (UWESO)-NGO as a Regional Manager and with the United Nations Integrated Mission in East Timor (UNMIT) as an Electoral Adviser during the Parliamentary and Presidential Elections in 2007. Deogratias holds a Bachelor of Arts (BA) Degree from Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda and is currently completing his Master of Arts (MA) Degree in Development Studies with the World University in Australia.



Benedicta Namboga joins UNDP as the new national UNV NamInfo Administrator. Prior to joining the UN family, Benedicta worked with the National Planning Commission for 6 years as a Contract Surveyor. She completed her studies in Namibia and holds a vocational qualification as a computer technician from the Windhoek Vocational Training Center.



Anne Wood joins the UN on a short-term assignment as a Regional Emergency Coordinator to provide recovery and rehabilitation support to the ongoing flood emergency. Having worked as a humanitarian aid worker in numerous disaster regions in Africa and Asia for over 15 years, she brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the post. Anne will be with us for approximately one month and we wish her a very pleasant and productive stay in Namibia.



Bunmi Makinwa joins the wider UN family as the new Director of UNFPA's Africa Division. He joins UNFPA from UNAIDS where he has held several high level positions over the past eleven years, including as the Director of the New York Office of UNAIDS and as UNAIDS Representative to the African Union Commission. He has also worked for over 13 years with several international organizations, including WHO, Family Health International and PATH. Bunmi holds a Master of Public Administration (MPA) Degree in Policy Studies and Management from John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and a Master of Arts (MA) Degree in Political Philosophy from the University of Ibadan in Nigeria.

THE UN FAMILY GROWS

We would like to extend our heartiest congratulations to our colleagues Gebhard Henok (UN IT Associate), Catherine Odada (UNDP Environment Programme Officer) and Blessing Kabasa (UN IT Specialist) who are all proud new parents. Baby girls were born to Catherine and Gebhard on April 20 and 23 respectively while a baby boy was born to Blessing on May 10. Best wishes to the parents and our new UN family members!

OBITUARY



It was with deep shock and sadness that the UN family recently said goodbye to a most valued colleague and friend with the passing away of Johannes Hendrik Stephanus. Johannes had been with the UN since 2000; first as an Administrative Clerk at UNHCR and subsequently joining UNAIDS as an Administrative Assistant and Secretary. A very good team-player, Johannes was a very popular staff member at the UN. His sudden death at the age of 42 came as a shock to everyone. He will be sorely missed by all his colleagues and friends and we would like to use this opportunity to once again extend our sincere condolences to his family.



With regret and sadness, the United Nations in Namibia also announces the passing of Dr. Musunuru Sam Rao, Senior Advisor to the National Planning Commission Secretariat for the United Nations Development Programme. An internationally renowned and experienced advisor on issues of poverty and development, Dr. Rao (a citizen of Canada) was stationed in Namibia as an advisor to the Government on the creation of the National Development Plan III (NDP3). "Dr. Rao was a personal friend, as well as an inspiration, to many of us at the United Nations in Namibia," said UN Resident Coordinator Simon Nhongo. The UN family in Namibia would like to extend its sincerest condolences to the family of Dr. Rao.

UN MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight goals to be achieved by 2015 that respond to the world's main development challenges. The MDGs are drawn from the actions and targets contained in the Millennium Declaration that was adopted by 189 nations and signed by 147 heads of state and governments during the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000.



MDG 1

**ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY
AND HUNGER**

MDG 2

**ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY
EDUCATION**

MDG 3

**PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND
EMPOWER WOMEN**

MDG 4

**REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY**

MDG 5

**IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH**

MDG 6

**COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND
OTHER DISEASES**

MDG 7

**ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY**

MDG 8

**DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR
DEVELOPMENT**



UNITED NATIONS IN NAMIBIA IT'S YOUR WORLD.



The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations leads international efforts to defeat hunger. Serving both developed and developing countries, FAO acts as a neutral forum where all nations meet as equals to negotiate agreements and debate policy. FAO is also a source of knowledge and information. We help developing countries and countries in transition modernize and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices and ensure good nutrition for all.



As the food aid arm of the UN, the World Food Programme uses its food to meet emergency needs and support economic & social development. The Agency also provides the logistics support necessary to get food aid to the right people at the right time and in the right place. WFP works to put hunger at the centre of the international agenda, promoting policies, strategies and operations that directly benefit the poor and hungry.



UNICEF is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. UNICEF is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and strives to establish children's rights as enduring ethical principles and international standards of behaviour towards children. UNICEF insists that the survival, protection and development of children are universal development imperatives that are integral to human progress.



United Nations Volunteers is the United Nations focal point for promoting and harnessing volunteerism for effective development. UNV is a strategic source of knowledge and advice about the role and contribution of volunteerism and the benefits of civic engagement in development programmes. UNV is dedicated to using Volunteerism for Development (V4D) to make distinctive contributions to the effectiveness of development.



UNAIDS
JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS

UNHCR
UNICEF
WFP
UNDP
UNEP
UNFPA
UNODC
ILO
UNESCO
WHO
WORLD BANK

UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, brings together the efforts and resources of ten UN system organizations to the global AIDS response.

Cosponsors include UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World works on the ground in more than 75 countries world wide.



UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.



WHO's goal is the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health. The World Health Organization is the United Nations specialized agency for health. It was established on 7 April 1948. WHO's objective, as set out in its Constitution, is the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health. Health is defined in WHO's Constitution as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.



UNDP is the UN's global development network, an organization advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. UNDP is 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.



UNHCR: The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was established on December 14, 1950 by the United Nations General Assembly. The agency is mandated to lead and co-ordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees. It strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another State, with the option to return home voluntarily, integrate locally or to resettle in a third country



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

UNESCO - the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was founded on 16 November 1945. For this specialized United Nations agency, it is not enough to build classrooms in devastated countries or to publish scientific breakthroughs. Education, Social and Natural Science, Culture and Communication are the means to a far more ambitious goal: to build peace in the minds of men.



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E D I T O R I A L

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