

July 2003

# COORDINATION



# HIGHLIGHTS

UN Development Group Office

ECOSOC

## on Simplification & Harmonization

**At the meeting of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** in Geneva (30 June – 25 July 2003), the members congratulated the UNDG on its progress in simplification and harmonization so far, and encouraged us to work even harder to ensure full implementation by end 2004.

Particularly well-received was the UNDAF results matrix which, the council agreed, should be submitted by Executive Committee agencies to their Executive Boards, along with their country programme documents.

In the next triennial comprehensive policy review (TCPR) in 2004, members also want to set new targets for both increased coherence and further harmonization.

[See Draft ECOSOC Resolution, July 2003](#)

S&H

## Moving Ahead for 2004

**The five** country teams starting the implementation of a new UNDAF in 2004 (Benin, Ecuador, Kenya, Niger and Pakistan) are hosting country level workshops this year, introducing new simplified and harmonized procedures for programme planning and implementation. Workshop participants include UN staff and national government officials with support provided by UNDG resource persons and UNDO staff.

While the main objective of these workshops is to prepare the UNCTs for the implementation of the new tools, they also provide valuable feedback to the S&H Task Force. Information and support to countries implementing a new UNDAF in 2005 will follow shortly, based on lessons learned from the "roll-out" countries. Watch the website.

UNDAF

## Prioritization Retreats

**Six** country teams (Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Madagascar & Tajikistan) have selected their strategic UNDAF priorities through retreats with participants from UN agencies, civil society, donor governments, facilitated by resource persons trained by the UN System Staff College in the January Trainers Training.

ECOSOC

## on Transition

Transition from relief to development was one of the two main themes of an official panel under this year's humanitarian segment of ECOSOC, moderated by Carol Bellamy, Chair of the UNDG/ECHA Working Group.

A preceding informal briefing brought together development and humanitarian experts from ECOSOC member state delegations. This discussion centred on concrete ways to strengthen the strategic integration and coherence of the UNCT's response to transition situations, HQ guidance and support, funding mechanisms, as well as issues of national ownership.

In September 2003, a report on the UNDG/ECHA's findings on transition issues will be finalized and key recommendations will be submitted with an Implementation Plan to the SG for approval.

IRAQ

## Needs Assessment

**The UNDG, working in collaboration** with the World Bank, IMF and the office of the Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq, began preparations for planning reconstruction needs assessment in Iraq. This is a first step toward a seamless transition to post-conflict recovery and reconstruction as the oil-for-food programme is phased out.

In the coming months, 13 UNDG members, working with the World Bank, will undertake integrated and coordinated needs assessments in 14 sectors that were identified in consultation with the Iraqi members of the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA). The joint endeavour will also address cross-cutting issues such as gender, human rights and environment. These needs assessments will be critical to the October 2003 donor conference on the reconstruction of Iraq and will shape the elaboration and implementation of reconstruction priorities in post-war Iraq.



## UNDAF Guidelines Updated

**In line** with the undg Programme Group 2003 workplan, a Working Group was tasked with updating the CCA & UNDAF Guidelines.

The UNDAF section of the guidelines were updated in June 2003, based on lessons learned in 2002, the new S&H tools and outcomes, along with background material from the May Interagency workshop on implementing a Human Rights-based approach to development in the context of the UN Reform (Stamford).

The updated guidelines, endorsed by the undg Programme Group, will be used for countries preparing their UNDAFs within the next six months. French, Spanish and Russian translations will be available by September 2003. The CCA section will be updated by October 2003. [See the updated guidelines](#)

## Coordination Officers

### Latin America Workshop, Panama

The second UN Coordination Officers workshop was held in June this year for Latin America.

The main objectives were to enable participants to work more effectively as coordination officers, thereby strengthening coordination support for UNCTs and, secondly, to help participants work together more effectively as part of a network of Coordination Officers.

Five Danish Special Assistants from different regions also participated. Coordination Officers in Asia and the Pacific met in June 2002; next will be for Africa in November. [See workshop materials.](#)

## CCA & UNDAF Training the Trainers

**Thirty-two** resource persons from undg member agencies were trained at the CCA/UNDAF Trainers Training (Turin, 29 June-4 July). Training focused on UN Reform, Millennium Declaration and the MDGs, UNDAF strategic prioritization, simplification & harmonization and the UNDAF Results Matrix. There are now nearly 60 resource persons who can facilitate country team UNDAF Prioritization Retreats, so now we should be able to respond to your requests even better.

## Good Practices

### Mauritania

**B**uilding on its experience with the establishment of common premises, the UNCT Mauritania inaugurated last month a UN Documentation and Information Center. All seven resident agencies reached a cost-sharing agreement to combine the libraries of UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, and UNHCR. Development partners and the public now have access to the facility's 12,000 publications which includes a unique collection of over 3000 analytic documents on Mauritania, a multi-media section, various journals and periodicals, as well as FAO and WHO reports. A consolidated on-line, key-word searchable database will be ready soon. [Visit the UNCT Mauritania's re-designed website for more details.](#)

### Viet Nam

The Viet Nam UNCT recently published two new publications in a series of UN discussion papers on key development topics. *Health Care Financing for Viet Nam* looks at the challenges of the rising inequities in the Vietnamese healthcare system in the context of achieving the MDGs. *Challenges to Youth Employment* looks at the causes and impact of under and unemployment among young people and makes policy recommendations. The papers are on the [UNCT's website.](#)

### Panama

As an advocacy tool to mobilize public debate on the MDGs, the Panama **Millennium Development Goal Report** is right on target. The report helps to benchmark the position of Panama vis-à-vis the MDGs. The simple format of the report and clear messages makes it reader-friendly and easily understood by a wide audience. A communications and advocacy strategy to share the publication is being created. [See the Panama MDGR.](#)

## WELCOME

### RC

Mr. Aurelien Agbenonci (Congo, PRC); since 5/03  
Expected shortly:

- Ms. Giuseppina Mazza (Comoros)
- Mr. Richard Lette (Malaysia)
- Mr Tegegnetwork Gettu (Nigeria)
- Mr. Rene Mauricio Valdes (Ecuador)
- Mr. Aeneas Chuma, (Zambia)
- Mr. Samwiri Wakhakha (Botswana)
- Ms. Flore Mirielle Bampoutou (Congo, PRC)
- Ms. Simran Singh (India)
- Mr. Massoud Hedeshi (Mongolia)
- Ms. B. Anudary (Mongolia)
- Ms. Jennifer Diane Bohn (Namibia)
- Mr. Haroon Shah (Pakistan)
- Ms. Sylvie Bertrand (South Africa)

## Coordination Support