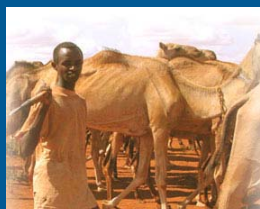


June 2005



Areas of Concern ►

UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM ETHIOPIA

In Promotion of the 2005 World Summit



Photo: UNICEF

Public awareness on the importance of the 2005 World Summit has been steadily growing as the Secretary General pushes ahead in his agenda that the time is ripe for reforms within and beyond the UN system. Without reinventing the wheel, concrete decisions have to be taken combined with sustainable follow-up about the essential building blocks of the common endeavor to strengthen the UN system to the greater benefit of all. Since the mid-1990s reform discussions have constantly been on the UN's agenda. Rivalries among states have frustrated many initiatives whilst the UN's budget is too small to afford some of the more fundamental innovations requested. In September 2005, the UN will host the 2005 World Summit to evaluate the progress made since the United Nations Millennium Declaration was adopted in September 2000 by 150 state leaders at the Millennium Summit. In the 2000 summit the heads of state reaffirmed their faith in the organization and resolved to meet eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) including halving the proportion of people living in poverty and hunger by 2015, ensuring universal primary education, and combating HIV/AIDS, as well as other major diseases.

However, the slow response over the past five years prompted the UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan to lay out a far-reaching reform package in his report "*In Larger Freedom: Towards development, security and human rights for all*". In this report Annan urges world leaders to turn their promises made in the Millennium Declaration into action and outlines achievable proposals organized around four topics of policy commitments and institutional reforms. Larger freedom implies that men and women all over the world are **free from want** – or free from extreme poverty and infectious disease – and **free from fear** – i.e. free from violence and war – and that they can **live in dignity** – with a right to security and to development. Dividing the freedoms into three categories does not imply that they are not related – in fact development, security and human rights are mutually independent concepts, with parallel

NEWS ►

Disease Outbreaks

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Swarm of Desert Locusts in Tigray and Amhara

In mid June, swarms of matured desert locusts were seen in Western zone (Kafta Humera, Tsegede and Wolkait woredas); North Western Zone (Tselemt, Asegedestimbela and Medebayzana woredas) and Central zone (Kolatemben, Tahtaymaychew and Naederladet woredas) in Tigray Region. Similar incidents were also reported in North Gonder (Tacharmachew, Debark and Aderkay woredas) in Amhara Region. ►

2005 Food and Non-Food Contribution Update ►

agendas that complement one another. The fourth and no less important issue in the Secretary General's report relates to **strengthening the United Nations** itself and adopting practices that meet the needs of today. In the September Summit this whole reform package will be presented to the member states for their approval.

Africa's Special Needs

From Africa's point of view the problems discussed in the report are of utmost importance as almost all of them affect Africa disproportionately. Accordingly, both the Millennium Declaration, as well as the Secretary General's report place emphasis on meeting the special needs of Africa. At the same time it should not be neglected that there have been many positive developments in Africa over the past five years. There are more democratically elected African governments than ever before. Some long-standing conflicts, like in Angola and Sierra Leone have been resolved. Several countries have experienced sustained economic and social recovery and throughout the continent more and more ordinary people make their voices heard whilst African States have been building a new architecture of institutions, including the African Union and New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

However, this progress should not lead to complacency as much of Africa continues to suffer from persistent violent conflict, extreme poverty and disease. 2.8 million refugees and half of the world's 24.6 million internally displaced people (IDPs) are Africans. Three quarters of the world's HIV/AIDS deaths occur in Africa, which is a human tragedy and major obstacle to development as it is much more than a public health crisis, undermining economic and social stability, education, agriculture and social welfare systems. Similarly, malaria remains a major scourge on the continent, with 90% of the one million people killed by malaria every year being sub-Saharan Africans and most of them under five years old. This is particularly disturbing as there are highly effective measures for the prevention and treatment of malaria. Further special attention must be focused on the need to step up efforts to meet the goal of universal primary education. In Africa tens of millions of children are out of school. Education protects children in many ways, it is relevant from a peacebuilding perspective and is a strong indicator for development success. The pervasive gender bias also has to be overcome by increasing primary school completion and secondary school access for girls.

In Larger Freedom ...

In the first section of the report – **freedom from want** – the Secretary General convincingly demonstrates why the international community must respond to the special needs of Africa and why the 2005 World Summit offers a unique opportunity to undertake this major step. In an increasingly interconnected world everyone shares the responsibility for each other's development and security so that collective strategies, institutions and action have become indispensable. In the spirit of mutual responsibility and accountability of the Monterrey Consensus in 2002¹, developing countries should take responsibility in their own development by elaborating comprehensive national development strategies by 2006, strengthening governance, combating corruption and putting in place the policies for allowing investments to boost their economies. Countries putting forward sound, transparent and accountable national strategies should receive sufficient increase in aid to meet all the MDGs by 2015.

¹ The MDGs concerning the freedom from want section are consonant with the conclusions of Monterrey Consensus on Financing Development, Mexico (2002) and the World Trade Organization Doha Round (2002-2005) on multilateral trade negotiations.

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Developed countries, on the other hand, share the responsibilities to support these efforts through increased development assistance, a more-development oriented trade system and wider debt relief. Developed countries that have not already done so have to establish timetables to earmark 0.7% of their gross national income (GNI) for official development assistance (ODA) by 2015. Currently, the average ODA stands at 0.25% of GNI. Furthermore, the Secretary General calls for revised practices in the distribution of aid which should be linked to local needs identified in countries' national strategies, and to MDGs, not to the interests of suppliers in donor countries. It is also in the interest of donor countries to set monitorable targets and design effective aid delivery mechanisms in order to convince their taxpayers of the benefits of ODA.

The Secretary General further promotes a number of relatively inexpensive, high-impact measures including free mass distribution of malaria bed nets and antimalaria medication, an expansion of home-grown school meal programmes, and the elimination of fees for primary education and health services. These 'quick wins' would save millions of lives and generate early success stories that could broaden the international commitment to the MDGs. The report also calls for an expanded and more comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS led by UNAIDS and its partners, and for the full funding of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Whilst the concerns raised in the first section of the report affect Africa disproportionately, the issues of the second part – **freedom from fear** – are more collective in nature. The threats to collective security today include not just cross-border wars but also civil violence, organized crime, terrorism, weapons of mass destruction and also poverty, disease and environmental degradation. In a globalized world the threats we face are interconnected, and no state can protect itself acting in isolation. Therefore there is an acute need for a new security consensus and unless a common understanding about the obligations of addressing threats emerges, the UN will lag in providing security to the people of the world. No security agenda and no development plan will be successful unless it shows full respect to human dignity which is the topic of the third part of the Secretary General's report. The time has arrived for governments to be held accountable to their citizens and to respect the dignity of the individual. There is a need for moving from an era of legislation to an era of implementation and institutions must be better equipped to strengthen the rule of law. The responsibility lies first and foremost with each individual state to protect its population. Yet in many places governments continue to violate the rule of law with impunity. and where national authorities are unable or unwilling to protect their citizens, the responsibility shifts to the international community to use humanitarian and other means, including sanctions and the use of force if need be, to protect human rights.

Ironically, some of the most violent incidents during the 1990s occurred just after the settling of peace agreements – Angola in 1993 and Rwanda in 1994 – and half of the countries emerging from war fall back into violence within five years. Hence, effective conflict prevention must ensure that peace agreements are implemented in a sustainable way. Therefore it is of utmost importance to create an Intergovernmental Peacebuilding Support Office within the United Nations Secretariat which, in the immediate aftermath of war, would focus on establishing the necessary institutions, help to ensure predictable financing, improve coordination of the post conflict activities of UN funds, programmes and agencies and provide a forum for interlocutors, periodically reviewing progress, and attract political attention to post-conflict recovery. The

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transition and the road to democracy is delicate and difficult. The United Nations has to engage not only in norm-setting activities but also provide better coordination and more effective resource mobilization. Therefore, the Secretary General supports the creation of a Democracy Fund to provide assistance to countries seeking to strengthen their democracy.

The final part of the report discusses strengthening the United Nations itself to make it a more effective instrument for pursuing its priorities. The Secretary General hopes that Member States will be ready to keep the idea alive that gave birth to the organization and are ready to ensure that the UN keeps abreast of new developments and change. In order to strengthen the work on human rights within the UN system the report envisions the creation of a new Human Rights Council. The new council has to follow up recommendations in a more consistent manner, it has to use better monitoring procedures and respond more effectively to human rights' violations. It is crucial that the new body undertakes to abide by the highest human rights standards – a key to distinguishing the new Council from the existing Commission.

Humanitarian Response System

The report also calls for more system-wide coherence. Most of the organizations working in the humanitarian field must understand from first hand experience that there is a strong need for member states to protect humanitarian efforts in all circumstances and make sure that humanitarian workers have safe and unimpeded access to populations in need. There is an urgent need to strengthen the inter-agency and country-level responses to the requirements of internally displaced persons, as well as greater clarity on mandates given to the UN agencies and programmes to act on the plight of IDPs. Rapid progress on several fronts is needed to improve the international response to all humanitarian emergencies. The UN's response has to become more predictable and more capacity is needed to ensure that the UN at the country level operates as a team with a common program and a strong resident coordinator. Field coordination structures have to be strengthened by better preparing and equipping country teams, strengthening the leadership of the humanitarian coordinator and ensuring sufficient and flexible resources. Furthermore, funding has to be more predictable and the engagement with new donor governments and the private sector has to become more systematic.

Special attention is made to the growing problem of internally displaced persons. Unlike refugees, who have crossed an international border, those displaced within their own countries by violence and war are not protected by established minimum standards. Yet this acutely vulnerable group now totals roughly 25 million, more than double the estimated number of refugees. Unlike refugees, who are looked after by UNHCR, internally displaced persons and their needs often fall into the cracks between different humanitarian bodies. Recent steps have been taken to ensure that agencies provide assistance to such groups within their respective areas of competence, on a collaborative basis. But, as seen most recently in Darfur, more is needed. The UN intends on further strengthening the inter-agency response to the needs of internally displaced persons, under the global leadership of the OCHA, and at the country level through the humanitarian coordinator system.

Conclusion

Despite the widely acclaimed adoption of the MDGs in the year 2000, the gap between poor and rich has continued to widen as many governments have failed to act on their promises. When political leaders gather this

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coming September in New York for the 2005 World Summit, they will hopefully show generosity and commitment to seize the historic occasion of the 60th anniversary of the San Francisco Charter and provide the UN with the necessary impetus to face the global threats and challenges of our time. The problems are of an interdependent nature and call for complex and coherent responses where a common approach has the maximum impact. There cannot be a hierarchy between threats as all cause insecurity, impede development and nurture the risk of conflict. The response by the world community must be based on a shared responsibility and international solidarity respecting human rights and the rule of law within the framework of a rules-based multilateral system.

The Millennium Development Goals should no longer be a floating target. The September Summit must be the catalyst for a pact for action to which all nations can subscribe and their performance can be measured. The cost of missing this opportunity is obvious: millions of lives that could have been saved and the freedoms that could have been secured will be denied. This is the time for immediate action to focus national efforts along the lines proposed by the Secretary General and to positively and constructively respond to his proposals as there will not be another opportunity for global agreement on these challenging matters for years to come.

The full report can be downloaded at www.un.org/largerfreedom

News

Areas of Concern

Teams assessing the recent *belg/gu* season and other areas of concern will return to Addis this week and will provide an update on the situation across the country. Until then, hotspot areas of the country are summarized below.

In SNNPR, good *belg* rains and continued food distributions have improved food security in most parts of the region. However, the food security situation in Boloso Sore district of Wolayita zone and Shebedino district of Sidama zone and lowland parts of Silti zone and Alaba special district is still of concern. According to an International Medical Corps (IMC) nutritional survey conducted between the 18-20 June, the situation in Boloso Sore woreda is deteriorating (12.6 percent GAM, 1.7 percent SAM and 2.2 deaths of children under five per 10,000 per day (U5MR). There is an immediate need for a TFC in the area. In Shashego district of Hadiya zone and Arba Minch district of Gamo Gofa zone flood victims have lost their crops and need to be closely monitored and provided with assistance until crops can be harvested. In Oromiya Region, all lowland areas of East Hararghe zone needs intensive monitoring and follow up of the implementation of crisis response.

The situation of IDPs in Fafan and Hartisheik camps is also concerning. Two months ago a SC-UK nutritional survey indicated critical malnutrition levels with 24.2 percent GAM, 5.1 percent SAM and 4.7 U5MR in Hartisheik IDP camp and 15.5 percent GAM and 1.2 percent SAM in Fafan. The IDPs say they have received no food assistance in the past eight months and longer. UNICEF staff supporting a therapeutic feeding centre in Hartisheik camp said that admissions had been rising in recent weeks. A total of 55 children were treated in the centre this month. UNICEF backs two supplementary feeding centers in Hartisheik and Fanfan IDP camps, each reaching 1,000 mothers and children. A team

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representing UNCT visited the camps (28 June - 3 July) to look into possibilities of returning the IDPs to their place of origin in Degahabur zone and their report with recommendations will follow.

Preliminary findings from a SC-UK recent nutritional survey, in Wag Hamra zone, Amhara Region indicated a 14.8 percent GAM and 0.9 percent SAM in Sekota and 16.1 percent GAM, 1.1 percent SAM in Dehana woredas. Reports also indicate the situation in Sayint woreda, South Wello zone is deteriorating due to irregular distributions, poor targeting for the Safety Nets programme and an increase in price of cereals. DPPC has now dispatched one month worth of food to cover immediate needs for emergency beneficiaries. SCUUK is conducting a nutrition survey in Sayint woreda and the region has requested an increase in emergency beneficiary numbers.

Disease Outbreaks

MSF reports an outbreak of the rare and fatal disease *Kala Azar (Leishmaniasis)* has struck the small rural community of Bura, Libo Kemkem woreda in South Gondar zone of Amhara. So far, the disease has infected 230 people amongst Bura's population of 6,000. There are also reports of an unconfirmed number of casualties. World Vision Ethiopia (WVE) indicates that treatments will be required for 2,000 people. According to WVE, traditional beliefs which prevent people from seeking medical help and very poor health services are not helping to alleviate the situation. Furthermore, the disease is often confused with malaria. To combat the outbreak MSF has set up a treatment unit in the nearby Addis Zemen health centre with the capacity to treat 12 patients in five tents. In addition, WVE is preparing a three month emergency response programme which will start in July. The intervention aims to increase the centre's treatment capacity through the provision of extra shelter, food, mattresses, blankets and other related items. WVE has also proposed a thorough assessment looking at the prevalence of the disease in order to prepare a strategic plan for dealing with the problem in long-term development programmes.

In Goro woreda, Bale zone in Oromiya, 200 people have been diagnosed with scurvy, a disease caused by vitamin C deficiency and malnutrition. The disease is characterised by swollen, bleeding gums and the opening of previously healed wounds. The local Catholic church and Regional Health Bureau are providing assistance.

There has also been an outbreak of malaria in Segag woreda of Fik zone, Somali Region. There is an urgent need for 9,000 bed nets. 700 cases have also been reported in the last fortnight in Raya Azebo woreda of Southern zone, Tigray Region.

Swarm of Desert Locusts in Tigray and Amhara

In mid June, swarms of matured desert locusts were seen in Western zone (Kafta Humera, Tsegede and Wolkait woredas); North Western Zone (Tselemt, Asegdestimbela and Medebayzana woredas) and Cental zone (Kolatemben, Tahtaymaychew and Naederladet woredas) in Tigray Region. Similar incidents were also reported in North Gonder (Tacharmachew, Debark and Aderkay woredas) in Amhara Region. According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoARD) close monitoring and surveys are underway to control the spread of this pest before it causes any significant damage to standing crops and vegetation. Desert Locust Control, an NGO, has also deployed an aircraft for MoARD to conduct a wide-area survey out of Axum.

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Desert Locusts

June 2005

2005 Food and Non-Food Contributions

Total food Requirements (464,385 tonnes)		US\$194,577,315
2004 carryover stocks and 2005 contributions:		
Grand Total (442,760 tonnes)		US\$185,410,552
Unresourced Amount (21,625)	(5%)	US\$ 9,166,763
Total non-food Requirements		
		US\$ 115,077,821
2005 contributions:		
Agriculture		US\$ 2,557,219
Health and Nutrition		US\$ 49,219,648
Water and Sanitation		US\$ 6,866,304
Disaster Response / Capacity Strengthening		US\$ 123,414
Overall Coordination		US\$ 1,055,172
Grand Total		US\$ 59,821,755
Shortfall	(48%)	US\$ 55,256,064

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