



NEW FUND FOR MDGs

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DOSSIER OF THE MONTH: FROM HUMAN RIGHTS TO POVERTY REDUCTION AND PEACE

Significant international events regarding human rights, poverty reduction and development, and global peace took place in the last month of the year, December 2006, within the United Nations system. World AIDS Day was commemorated on 1st December; International Human Rights Day celebrated on the 10th. UN General Assembly adopted the first human rights treaty of the 21st century, the "Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" on 13th December; and the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to an economist for his outstanding contributions to poverty reduction, Dr. Mohammed Yunus. [More >>](#)

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AIDS CONTINUES TO GROW



Latest figures show that nearly 40 million people worldwide live with AIDS today. Last year approximately three million people died of AIDS-related diseases. [More >>](#)

DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES FOR FOOD SECTOR

Two conferences were held in December in the Southeast of Turkey in order to discuss the development strategies in organic farming and food sector. The first one was the Şanlıurfa Organic Farming Conference, organized on 7 December, 2006, by GAP Entrepreneur Support Centre (GIDEM) within the scope of "Organic Agriculture Industry Development Project." [More >>](#)



CONVENTION ON DISABLED ADOPTED



The first human rights treaty of the 21st century, 'Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities', was adopted by UN General Assembly on 13 December 2006. Five years after the General Assembly's resolution of December 2001 to establish a committee "to consider proposals for an international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities", the Assembly adopted the Convention which covers rights to education, health, work and other protective measures for disabled people, in a vote by consensus on 13 December, 2006. [More >>](#)

"ENVIRONMENT REFORMS MUST ACCELERATE"



Egypt, Peru, Vietnam and Mongolia are among a number of countries taking the lead in putting the environment at the heart of their plans to cut poverty by 2015, according to a new report launched by the UNDP in

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE GOES TO MICROFINANCE

2006 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded in equal parts to Mohammed Yunus (of Bangladesh) and his Grameen Bank that extends micro-finance banking facilities to poor people, "for their efforts to create economic and social development from below". [More >>](#)



partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme. However, unless more governments take more ambitious steps to protect the natural world, overall development goals will be jeopardized, stressed the Report.

“A healthy, sustainable environment is a vital national asset and when it is eroded, the poorest people suffer the most,” said UNDP Administrator Kemal Derviş in his introduction. “This report highlights the progress of some countries towards more environmentally sustainable development planning, but it also presents a harsh reality: If our delicate ecosystems are not firmly at the heart of all national plans to reduce poverty, then all other efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 will be undermined,” he added. [More >>](#)

“OBLIGATION, NOT CHARITY” MARKS POVERTY PRACTITIONERS' MEETING

The National Community of Practice for Poverty met on 8 December 2006, in Ankara. The community of practice is a group of loosely associated experts and managers of poverty programmes, who are networked through a Poverty E-Discussion portal (www.yoksulluklamucadele.org), supported by the UNDP and the Social Assistance General Directorate of Turkey. [More >>](#)

Editor: Aygen Aytaç

News Writer: Canan Sılay

Web Designer: Simetri Yazılım



NEW FUND FOR MDGs

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Spain today launched a new fund to boost efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Spanish Secretary of State for International Cooperation Leire Pajin and Kemal Dervis, UNDP Administrator, signed the agreement establishing the Fund at the United Nations in New York. José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, Spain's Prime Minister, and Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General, witnessed the signing.

With the agreement, Spain reinforces its commitment to the MDGs, broader international cooperation and multilateralism. Spain is contributing €528 million (about US\$700 million at current exchange rates) to establish the United Nations Fund for the Achievement of the MDGs, to be managed by Spain and UNDP, which coordinates UN development activities in developing countries.

The Spanish Secretary of State for International Cooperation, Leire Pajin Iraola, recalled that in "his first visit to New York, the President of the Spanish Government conveyed to Secretary General Kofi Annan the Spanish Government's willingness to be at the forefront of the fight against poverty, and notably to increase Spanish contributions in support of the United Nations development system. Today, we are back in New York, and pleased to say that our multilateral commitment, which has already been raised from €93 million in 2005 to more than €481 million in 2006, will be further increased through our new €528 million contribution of this Fund. We are doing all this with the confidence of knowing that we are working together with an effective instrument, the United Nation System, and in particular, UNDP. Only through a common effort— that of multilateral institutions, led by the UN, together with bilateral donors—will it be possible to realize the noble obligation assumed by all of us in 2000, the Millennium Development Goals." The MDG Fund will focus on the following:

- Democratic governance
- Gender equality
- Basic social needs, including youth employment
- Economic development, including the role of the private sector
- Environment and climate change
- Conflict prevention and peace-building
- Cultural diversity and development

"UNDP thanks the Government of Spain for this contribution which confirms its leadership in multilateralism and international cooperation and highlights its confidence in the United Nations. While UNDP will manage this fund, Spain's contribution will bolster the entire UN system by strengthening the reform process," Dervis said. "Focussing on seven key development areas, widely acknowledged as central to the achievement of the MDGs, this contribution will better position the UN to help countries achieve their national development objectives."

With the establishment of this Fund, Spain is making UNDP the strategic interlocutor for its multilateral action for development while creating a decision-making framework for Spanish contributions to the UN. Spain's Master Plan for International Cooperation for 2005-2008 provides for a significant increase in multilateral development assistance, giving particular priority to the UN system. The Millennium Declaration is one of the main planks of Spain's development policy. The Spanish contribution to the Fund is based upon the Act Regulating the Administration of External Debt, approved by the Spanish Parliament on 22 November 2006, which authorizes the use of some of the external debt payments collected by Spain.

The Fund will be managed by a steering committee made up of representatives from the Government of Spain and UNDP, together with independent development experts. Additionally, thematic advisory sub-committees will review the projects submitted by developing countries in collaboration with the UN system.

Through this contribution, Spain intends to support the efforts of the United Nations system to coordinate and streamline its work on the ground. The Fund will be used to strengthen the UN reform process; at the country level, UN Country Teams, under the leadership of UN Resident Coordinators—who often serve as UNDP Resident Representatives—will be invited to submit consolidated proposals, thus reinforcing and strengthening the coherence of UN development activities. In addition, the Fund will support a number of global MDG activities of UN funds and agencies.



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The theme of the Human Rights Day this year was appropriately chosen as "Fighting poverty: A matter of obligation, not charity". As UNDP's *Human Development Reports* indicate overall development of a country is not only linked to and judged by its level of income and GNP. Using political determination and will (as in the sense of "obligation") in addressing gender inequalities, health and education issues, and the elimination of regional disparities also play a very significant role in human development. Some countries perform better in converting wealth into social progress. (For example, Saudi Arabia has a much higher average income than Thailand, but a similar Human Development Index ranking: 77th and 73rd respectively. Guatemala has almost double the average income of Viet Nam, but is lower on the Human Development Index: 108th vs. 117th).

Turkey's performance in education and health issues, as well as in social inclusion and gender equality, is lower than what would be expected of its national income level. With a per capita income of 7,753 (PPP), Turkey's place in GDP ranking (Gross Domestic Product) is 70th among 177 countries, which makes it a "medium development" country. However, taking into account other crucial social development factors, its overall ranking falls down to 92nd place in Human Development Index, calling for more human rights-based policies and implementation.

Derviş's Human Rights Day Message

International Human Rights Day this year presented an opportunity to bring some light to bear on poverty through this crucial human rights lens, as UNDP Administrator Kemal Derviş explicitly stressed in his 10 December message below: "Global economic growth has never been as rapid as in the last five years, and yet the distance between the poorest nations and the richest is widening. Inequalities within nations are also increasing almost everywhere. In too many countries, rising national GDP has failed to 'lift all boats'; some prosper, but too many others are left in extreme poverty. It is clear that economic growth alone does not guarantee wider human development.

It is within this context that we need to implement the values enshrined in the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and reiterated so compellingly in the internationally agreed Millennium Declaration, to make globalization a more equitable and inclusive process that fortifies human security rather than undermines it. One of the greatest challenges of our time is this need to work together to address the un-equalizing nature of current global growth if we are to reduce poverty, enhance human security and achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Poverty and social inequality persist because many people lack their universally-guaranteed human rights and fundamental freedoms. The 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights emphasized that human rights are inherent to all people regardless of their race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Freedom from poverty is a basic human right and tackling poverty should, therefore, be addressed as a basic human right, not as an act of charity. Real success in tackling poverty requires giving the poor a political voice in the societies where they live. This year's Human Rights Day theme, "*Fighting Poverty: a Matter of Obligation, not Charity*", reaffirms the commitment to this approach. Our work in development should empower people to articulate their needs, rights and concerns, to demand better social services, and to exercise their universal human rights by holding governments to account. Development strategies must focus on inclusive growth and democracy must work for the poor.

UNDP emphasizes that a human rights-based framework is essential in bringing about more equitable development. The UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel report, *Delivering as One*, published last month argues that actions to integrate human rights into all aspects of the UN's work will help to make our development efforts significantly more effective.

Human rights are not a luxury that exist only after a certain level of development is achieved; instead they are integral to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Almost sixty years have passed since the Universal Declaration and the words and values contained therein remain essential for defining and progressing towards human development for all."

Related Links:

- [AIDS CONTINUES TO GROW](#)
- [CONVENTION ON DISABLED ADOPTED](#)
- [NOBEL PEACE PRIZE GOES TO MICROFINANCE](#)
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Forthcoming local administration training programmes will be delivered in 19 regional centers and each will last a week. The local administrations around these 19 regional centers will benefit from the training. Started in Antalya on 12-16 December and continued in Konya on 19-23 December,, the training programmes will continue in Ankara, Aydın, Uşak, Bursa, Kocaeli, Diyarbakır, Gaziantep, Van, Adana, Samsun, Trabzon, Kars, Malatya, Erzurum, Kastamonu, Tekirdağ and Kayseri, thus reaching at least one personnel from special provincial administrations,, metropolitan and district municipalities in all 81 provinces.

The programmes will provide solutions to the problems encountered after the enactment of new legislation in the field of local administration. These trainings will be the first implementation towards the establishment of a Local Administration Training Expertise system, which is one of the objectives of the Project. These programmes will also serve as the first step taken towards building of the infrastructure for the continuous delivery of similar programmes by training experts in their respective regions. The trainings are delivered by the Local Administration Controllers of the Ministry of Interior and by the experts on the subject matter. The programme also benefits from the certified experts who have successfully completed the "training of trainers" programme, which was provided in cooperation with 'Turkey and Middle-East Public Administrations Institute' (TODAIE).

Support to Local Administration Reform Programme is financed by the European Union and implemented by the Ministry of the Interior, with the technical support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The project was launched in August 2005 and will be completed by December 2007.

Target Group

The local administration training programme targets mainly two groups:

1. Secretary generals and deputy secretary generals of the special provincial administrations and metropolitan municipalities, and deputy mayors responsible from financial affairs at the district municipalities.
2. Financial service staff at the special provincial administrations, and metropolitan and district municipalities

Topics to be covered

The training programme is composed of two modules; an "Overall Local Administration" module for the first group and "Financial Management" module for the second group. The specific issues to be covered are as follows:

Overall Local Administration

- The New Local Administration Approach
- New Institutions at The Local Administrations
- Strategic Planning and Tools of Strategic Planning at Local Administrations
- Development of Project Proposals For EU
- The New Approach for Local Financial Management
- Internal and External Control at Local Administrations
- Budgetary Processes at Local Administrations
- Human Resources Management and Norm Cadre at Local Administrations
- Procurement Legislation
- Concession Agreements
- Multi-Year Investment Planning at Local Administration

Financial Management

- The New Local Administration Approach
- New Institutions at The Local Administrations
- The New Approach for Local Financial Management
- Internal and External Control at Local Administrations
- Analytic Budget Classifications
- Multi-Year Budgeting at Local Administration
- Performance-based Budgeting at Local Administration
- Accrual-based Accounting at Local Administrations
- Multi-Year Investment Planning at Local Administration
- Accounting Implementations
- Financial Reporting
- Procurement Legislation
- Human Resources Management and Norm Cadre at Local Administrations

Training Programmes in Antalya and Konya

The training programme delivered in Antalya (12-16 December) covered the local administrations in Antalya, Isparta and Burdur.

Konya programme (19-23 December) covered the local administrations in Konya, Karaman, Aksaray and Afyon. With these two trainings, a total of 170 local administration staff, from 7 provinces and 95 districts, was reached.

The programme in Antalya was inaugurated by Mr. Fikret Toksöz, Key Expert of the Project; Mr. Erdal Öner, Vice-President of Mediterranean Union of Municipalities and Mayor of Kepez Municipality; Dr. Hasan H. Can, Deputy General Director of Local Administrations; and Ms. Umut Özdemir-Tsarouhas, Sector Manager in the Delegation of the European Commission to Turkey. The training programme in Konya was inaugurated by Mr. Toksöz; Tahir Akyurek, President of Konya Union of Municipalities and Mayor of Konya Metropolitan Municipality; Atilla Osmançelebioğlu, Governor of Konya; Mr. Ercan Topaca, General Director of Local Administrations; and Mr. Şahabettin Harput, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior.

For more information on the Support to Local Administration Reform Programme in Turkey:

<http://www.undp.org.tr/Gozlem2.aspx?WebSayfaNo=25>



DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES FOR FOOD SECTOR

Two conferences were held in December in the Southeast of Turkey in order to discuss the development strategies in organic farming and food sector. The first one was the Şanlıurfa Organic Farming Conference, organized on 7 December, 2006, by GAP Entrepreneur Support Centre (GIDEM) within the scope of "Organic Agriculture Industry Development Project."

The aim of the conference was to review the developments in Turkey and the world in organic agriculture and related industries, discuss the strategies to increase the competitiveness of the GAP region in this sector, and draw the attention of governmental authorities to the region. Şanlıurfa Governor Yusuf Yavaşcan delivered the opening speech of the conference, in which Chairman of GAP Regional Development Agency Muammer Yaşar Özgül, Harran University Rector Prof. Uğur Büyükburç, Delegation of the European Commission to Turkey/SMEs and Private Sector Programmes Director Mustafa Fazlıoğlu, Chief Advisor to the Chairman of KOSGEB Halil Özgökçe, Şanlıurfa Mayor Ahmet Eşref Fakibaba and Chairman of Şanlıurfa Chamber of Agriculture Halil Dolap also participated with a speech.

"Organic Agriculture Industry Development Project" aims to expand production by using organic agriculture techniques, contribute to the increase in product diversity and volume and the number local farmers, and as a result, raise the market share of Şanlıurfa and the GAP Region in the exports of organic products.

The project, which covers Şanlıurfa (as the focal city) and the nearby towns, has adopted the "Clustering methodology" that the European Commission recommends to the member and accessing countries as an appropriate instrument for local economic development.

Within the context of the project, started in mid 2003, various training, informing and awareness-raising programmes, such as seminars or conferences, have been organized for the target group. The project supervised the establishment of the "Organic Agriculture Advisory Board" in Şanlıurfa, to which all related parties (universities, private sector companies, chambers of agriculture, agricultural development associations, farmers and Provincial Directorates of Agriculture) contribute. Within the framework of the project, several visits were arranged to various agricultural and industrial production plants in the Aegean Region, which is the most developed region of Turkey in this sector. The project also contributed to the publication of a study, entitled "Market Conditions and Marketing of Organic Products", and the establishment of 'GAP Development and Social Solidarity Association for Ecological Agriculture (GAP-EKODER)', under the leadership of Şanlıurfa GIDEM. Approximately €110.000 has been granted to this association, within the context of the European Union's Regional Development Supporting Funds.

Mardin Food Sector Forum:

Another meeting organized by GAP Entrepreneur Support Centres (GIDEM) within the context of the "Food Sector Development Strategies" project, and supported by UNDP Turkey, was the Mardin Food Sector Forum. The meeting was held on 8 December, with the participation of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs and representatives from public and private sector establishments.

Started in June 2005 by Mardin GIDEM office as a local economic development activity, "Food Sector Development Strategies" project aims to increase the local, national and international economic power of the GAP Region in food industry and its sub-sectors, and to contribute to the region's, particularly Mardin's, pioneering role in these areas. Within this framework, the project analyzes the import structure, export facilities, threats and opportunities regarding the sector, especially in the production of pasta, pounded wheat and semolina; prepares a comprehensive strategy and short, medium and long term plans to trigger local economic development, in order to increase the competitive edge of the food sector in Mardin (focal city) and Diyarbakır, Batman, Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa.

Mardin's food sector development strategy and the subsequent short, medium and long-term plans have been determined with the participation of all related parties operating in this sector. In this respect, the food sector development strategy, as part of Mardin province's overall development plan, is "a project in which local governance principles are applied".

Mardin Food Sector Forum of 8th December shared the latest outputs of the project with the target groups, and drew the attention of governmental bodies and state institutions to the region, in particular to Mardin, regarding the recommendations for the development of the food sector.

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Dr. Mehmet Mehdi Eker made the opening remarks of the Forum, where Mardin Governor

Mehmet Kılıçlar, Chairman of GAP Regional Development Agency Muammer Yaşar Özgül, Delegation of the European Commission to Turkey/SMEs and Private Sector Programmes Director Mustafa Fazlıoğlu, Chief Advisor to the Chairman of KOSGEB (Small and Medium Industry Development Organization) Halil Özgökçe, Mardin Mayor Metin Pamukçu and Chairman of Mardin Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mehmet Ali Tutasi each delivered a speech.

Following the opening session, a panel was held, conducted by the Agricultural Production and Development General Manager Hüseyin Veliöğlu. The panelists were Turkish Union of Chambers and Stock Exchanges/Food Sector President and Bahcivan Gıda Company's Head of Executive Board Erdal Bahcivan, Hedef Alliance's Head of Executive Board Ethem Sancak, Filiz Food Industry's Deputy General Manager Murat Bozkurt and Karaboğa Group of Companies' Head of Executive Board Bedrettin

Karaboęa. The panelists discussed the current status, problems and the future of the food sector in the GAP region.

For more information on the "Gap-GIDEM-Small and Medium Enterprise Development in Southeast Anatolia" project:

<http://www.undp.org.tr/Gozlem2.aspx?WebSayfaNo=30>



"ENVIRONMENT REFORMS MUST ACCELERATE"

Egypt, Peru, Vietnam and Mongolia are among a number of countries taking the lead in putting the environment at the heart of their plans to cut poverty by 2015, according to a new report launched by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). However, unless more governments take more ambitious steps to protect the natural world, overall development goals will be jeopardized, stressed the Report.

"A healthy, sustainable environment is a vital national asset and when it is eroded, the poorest people suffer the most," said UNDP Administrator Kemal Derviş in his introduction. "This report highlights the progress of some countries towards more environmentally sustainable development planning, but it also presents a harsh reality. If our delicate ecosystems are not firmly at the heart of all national plans to reduce poverty, then all other efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 will be undermined," he added.

The report, entitled "Making Progress on Environmental Sustainability: Lessons and recommendations from a review of over 150 MDG country experiences" charts the progress of developing countries' efforts to make the environment a priority in their national plans to reach the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The environment is very much a part of efforts to reduce poverty. While the role of the environment in poor people's lives varies from country to country, the Report's authors stress that the best progress is made when countries first adopt the principle of environmental sustainability, and then adapt their development plans to their own specific ecosystems.

Deforestation is a major challenge in Kenya, for example, where the poor chop down trees as their only source of fuel for cooking and heating. As part of its plan to reach the MDGs, the Kenyan Government proposes to protect at least 3.5 percent of its forested area by 2008 and introduce renewable options like solar energy to the rural population.

The conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina left behind a different set of environmental challenges: Between 75 and 80 percent of identified minefields, accounting for approximately five percent of the country's overall land surface, have yet to be cleared. The mines are incredibly damaging to the environment and their presence means that access to safe, productive land on which the country's citizens can earn a living is restricted. As part of their MDG planning, the Government is working to increase the percentage of de-mined land from five percent of the minefields in 2000 to 36 percent in 2007 and 80 percent in 2015.

In Egypt, where protecting the environment is a priority for the country's eco-tourism industry, the Government is already actively monitoring and reporting progress on water access, waste management and land degradation, with a view to ensuring it understands what still needs to happen to reach the MDGs, and sets targets accordingly.

Albania, Bhutan, Lesotho, Nepal, Syria, Thailand and Vietnam were also cited among the leaders of environment reforms by the Report. Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director, said: "Achievement of environmental sustainability is not only a national concern but one with significant international dimensions. Countries, by mainstreaming environment into poverty reduction and development strategies, can achieve a great deal. However, national environmental degradation and conversely environmental sustainability are also inextricably linked with trading regimes, economic instruments and the values placed on 'nature-based' goods and services within a globalised world".

"Together and as part of UN reform, UNEP and UNDP can be a catalyst for drawing together and weaving these national and international threads into a seamless whole. Together we can play a big part towards achieving environmental sustainability and the realization of the Millennium Development Goals," he added.

The Report, which drew support from the governments of Canada, Sweden and the United Kingdom, is part of a wider "toolbox" of services designed by UNDP to help developing countries prepare national plans to reach the MDGs on time.

For the report:

report: <http://www.energyandenvironment.undp.org/undp/indexAction.cfm?module=Library&action=GetFile&DocumentAttachmentID=1996>