



SAVING AND EMPOWERING LIVES
PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS
AND THE EUROPEAN UNION IN 2014-2015

Cover: Simiso and Malindane Sacolo are among thousands of farmers in Swaziland who benefited from UN-EU support that helped them boost their farm output and access new markets for their products. Photo: FAO/Rodger Bosch

Inside Cover: Children miss their schoolmates and friends when schools are closed. Here, a group of children in a Guinea classroom with their new educational kits. Photo: EU/ECHO/Jonathan Hyams





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The foundation of the UN-EU partnership is the UN Charter of 1945

The United Nations marked its 70th anniversary in 2015. This was an opportunity to spotlight where the UN and the international community need to redouble their efforts to meet current and future challenges across the three pillars of UN's work — peace and security, development and human rights — and to reaffirm the words of the original UN Charter:

“We the peoples of the United Nations determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war To reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights To establish conditions upon which justice and respect ... for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained ... To promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.”

From MDGs to SDGs



Since 2000, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have guided the work of the United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU) around the world. In 2015, world leaders adopted an ambitious and universal agenda for sustainable development – the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – which will guide development for the next fifteen years, offering a chance to meet the global citizenry’s aspirations for a more peaceful, prosperous and sustainable future.

“We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet.” — SDGs Declaration





The first European Year for Development 2015 showcased the UN-EU global partnership through success stories, exhibitions and awareness events on the post-2015 development agenda.
Photo: UNRIC



In 2014-2015, the UN and the EU worked together to support governments and civil society in over 170 countries.

This report reflects the humanitarian and development cooperation between the United Nations and the European Union, and our coordinated work on peace and security, development and human rights.

The EU supported many of the country-led, UN-coordinated multi-donor arrangements that enabled — through the hard work of countries, their governments and people — progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through 2015.

The results included here are not exhaustive; they do, however, illustrate key UN-EU partnership achievements and highlight our work together around the world in 2014-2015.



Foreword

**Ban Ki-moon,
Secretary-General of the United Nations**

The European Union (EU) has been a long-standing supporter of the United Nations across the international agenda. Over the past 15 years, we worked together towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and joined forces to shape an inspiring successor framework: the 2030 Agenda and its universal set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which aim to steer the world onto a path of peace, prosperity and dignity for all on a healthy planet.

There has been significant progress in areas targeted by the MDGs — advances that would not have been possible without the EU's support and engagement. Millions of people around the world have benefitted from our collaboration, which has saved lives in times of crisis, ensured access to health and education and

addressed the impacts of climate change. The first-ever European Year for Development in 2015, and the annual European Development Days, showcased key accomplishments of our partnership.

As the international community now scales up its efforts to implement the SDGs, the United Nations family strongly values the EU's commitment to the UN Charter and the three pillars of the Organization's work — peace and security, human rights and development. Together, with wisdom and will, we can achieve a safer, more equitable and sustainable future for this and future generations.



Foreword

**Jean-Claude Juncker,
President of the European Commission**

In our turbulent times, multilateralism and collective action are needed more than ever. In 2015 the international community has adopted a series of landmark agreements — the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change — which decidedly call for global action and partnerships to address global challenges. The United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU) together have played a key role in spurring forward this ambition, as natural partners for peace, human rights and development.

Our collective focus is now on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We all have a responsibility to act; we all have a role to play.

The EU remains fully committed to living up to its responsibilities as the leading global player in development, and to the spirit of global solidarity at the heart of the 2030

Agenda. The European Commission recently set out a strategic approach for achieving sustainable development in Europe and around the world, including a shared vision and framework for development cooperation for the EU and its Member States fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda. The EU will continue its cooperation with developing countries to help eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development. In this endeavour, the UN is a key partner.

This tenth edition of the UN-EU Partnership report showcases the strength of our cooperation in delivering concrete results and having a real impact on the lives of some of the poorest people — in particular the growing number of people displaced due to conflict.

Together, we have helped countries to develop and strengthen their human rights institutions. We have provided food assistance to the most vulnerable people in least developing countries — feeding nearly 1.3 million people in South Sudan. We have deepened our cooperation in conflict prevention, post-conflict resolution and peace-building — in Syria, our projects

have benefited 3 million people, including over 600 000 children. We have provided electoral assistance, allowing citizens to exercise their democratic right to elect their governments — contributing to peaceful transfers of power in Afghanistan and Nigeria. We continue to collaborate to provide access to basic health, education, clean water and sanitation services. And we invest in longer-term innovative projects, such as the women's gardening cooperative in Mali or powerful youth networks in northern Africa and the eastern Mediterranean.

I wish to thank the United Nations for this report. It demonstrates that together, we play a complementary role within the global development architecture. The strength of our partnership resides firmly at country level, where we have benefited from our respective comparative advantages. I look forward to strengthening our relationship even further, cooperating with our developing partners and their citizens to build a better world for all, leaving no-one behind.



Palestinian youth celebrated 2015 International Youth Day by gathering over 60 young artists to paint a mural that showcases the potential and willingness of youth to take part in their community's decision-making and development. Photo: UNESCO



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Equal Rights for All

Everyone is entitled to their human rights and fundamental freedoms. These human rights — cultural, economic, political and social — are universal, interrelated, interdependent and indivisible, with governments responsible to protect and fulfil them.

Together, the UN and the EU work with Governments to meet their international human rights obligations and integrate human rights in their development plans. We help countries like **Iraq, CAR, Lebanon, Thailand, Ukraine** and **Colombia** develop and strengthen their human rights institutions and justice systems and align their laws and practices with international human rights standards.

The EU has constantly supported the UN to pursue its goal of ensuring equal rights for all by providing an annual voluntary contribution to the budget of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, with the aim to reinforce its leadership in

this area within the UN and strengthen the treaty body system, including through the webcast of its public meetings.

Across the globe, women remain under-represented as voters and in decision-making at all levels. Our partnership supports government and civil society initiatives to expand women's voting rights and increase their political participation, leadership and representation. For example, "Ra'edat" (Pioneers), the Arab Women Parliamentarians Network for Equality to promote women's rights and gender equality across the region, was created after the UN and the EU brought together women parliamentarians from **11 Arab States** at a European Parliament conference.

In 37 countries, the UN and the EU partner to improve protection for millions of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), mainly by working with and building the capacities of civil society organisations (CSOs) and national authorities.

At a festival to rally against violence against women in Timor-Leste. Photo: UN Women/Christina Yiannakis

In **Syria and Jordan**, the UN and the EU continue to work closely to secure human and reproductive rights for Syrian refugees and IDPs there. In 2014-2015, UN-EU initiatives provided reproductive health services to 169,449 refugee women and confidential gender-based violence prevention and response services to 209,390 women refugees in violence-prone areas.

Guided by international commitments on gender equality and the empowerment of women, the UN and the EU promote efforts around the world to protect and advance women's and girls' rights and eliminate discrimination against women, gender-based violence, and harmful practices against women and girls, such as child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM).

We supported training that prepared the Government of the **Solomon Islands** and CSOs for 2015 discussions on the Pacific nation's first-ever national Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) implementation report.

In **Timor-Leste**, we worked with the Ministry of Education and local CSOs to train Dili taxi drivers, students, parents, teachers and officials to combat gender-based violence.

Worldwide, millions of children suffer violence, abuse and exploitation every day. The UN and the EU support initiatives that protect children, ensure their legal and human rights and help them gain full access to health, education and justice.

In **Moldova**, we worked with parents and CSOs to promote inclusive education, allowing 60 children with disabilities to enter mainstream schools — a landmark achievement part of a larger anti-discrimination programme seeking open access to education for all.

To guarantee human rights for all, the UN and the EU gave trainings of trainers to border guards from EU Member States and other countries to fight human trafficking and on international human rights standards related to migrants.

In Moldova, a UN-EU anti-discrimination initiative seeking access to education for all allowed 60 children with disabilities to enter mainstream schools. Photo: OHCHR





Tackling Hunger and Malnutrition

Everyone has the right to food and to be free from hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. Despite sufficient food for all, an estimated 793 million people, the majority in developing countries, are under-nourished. Tackling hunger and providing adequate nutrition is a critical part of the UN-EU partnership. We work together to purchase food and deliver it in emergencies, and with developing countries to increase access to food, improve food production and enhance food quality and nutrition.

In 2014-2015, the UN and the EU provided food assistance to tens of millions of the most vulnerable people in 49 countries, including lifesaving food in war-torn **Syria, Iraq, Central African Republic, Yemen** and **South Sudan**. In **South Sudan** alone, we fed nearly 1.3 million vulnerable people, including malnourished children, and

pregnant and nursing women. Our emergency cash assistance enabled 160,567 **Palestine** refugees in **Syria** meet immediate food, shelter and household needs.

In 2015 alone, we treated over 1.75 million severe acutely malnourished children in **Burkina Faso, the Gambia, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal** and **South Sudan** and provided nutrition-rich supplements to 70,404 malnourished children in **Yemen**.

The UN and the EU bought 2.2 million metric tonnes of food, 81 per cent of it from developing countries, enabling a quick response after the **Nepal** earthquake and the **Ebola disease outbreak in West Africa**. In **South Sudan**, our logistics support included 13 aircraft — each able to move 300-400 metric tonnes of food a day into the country's most remote areas.

Linking nutrition, water, sanitation, agriculture and social protection, UN-EU nutrition support in **sub-Saharan Burkina**

In 2014-2015, the UN-EU partnership provided food assistance to tens of millions of the most vulnerable people in 49 countries, including lifesaving food in war-torn Syria, Iraq, Central African Republic, Yemen and South Sudan. Photo: WFP

Faso, Ethiopia, Mali and **Uganda** continues to benefit 25 million children under five and 5.5 million pregnant or lactating women.

In **Bangladesh, Indonesia, Lao PDR**, the **Philippines** and **Nepal**, a five-year UN-EU maternal and young child nutrition security initiative improved the nutritional status of 30.2 million children under five and 5 million pregnant or lactating women.

In **Egypt**, a UN-EU project launched in 2014 to combat child labour and increase school attendance, keeps children in school by providing daily nutritious snacks and take-home food rations to 100,000 children.

A women's vegetable gardening cooperative in **Mali** and 20 environment-friendly, market-oriented farmer groups in **Armenia**, 40 per cent of them led by women, are among innovative UN-EU efforts involving women, marginalised

groups or small stakeholders to increase food production, conserve natural resources and promote sustainable agriculture.

UN-EU support to beekeepers in **Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, occupied Palestinian territory** and **Tunisia** strengthened regional food security and biodiversity, developed national honey producer networks and advanced beekeeping research. In **El Salvador's** Torola River Basin, a UN-EU initiative brought together local communities, government, civil society and the private sector and has become a national model for water management and improved local community access to water.

Sekouba, 10, washes his hands with soap before entering his classroom as a preventive measure to stop the spread of Ebola at Ecole Primaire Forécariah Centre, Guinea. In this school, hand washing facilities have been supplied by UNICEF with EU support. Photo: EU/ECHO/Jonathan Hyams



A UN-EU initiative promotes sustainable consumption and production by providing green entrepreneurship grants. Photo: UNIDO







The UN and EU-supported Children of Peace Initiative helped 1.5 million uprooted children in 26 countries — forcibly displaced inside their country, refugees and others in need of international protection — to gain access to safe schools and receive psychological support. Photo: UNHCR

Preventing and Overcoming Crises

At the end of 2015, there were more than 65 million people uprooted from their homes globally. The risk of humanitarian crises and the number of people displaced are increasing due to the changing nature of armed conflicts, as well as global trends that include climate change, population growth and rapid, unplanned urbanisation.

The UN and the EU continued to work closely to prevent conflict, respond to humanitarian emergencies and strengthen disaster recovery and preparedness. We protected the human rights of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), and assisted them with initiatives that improved protection, sanitation and provided access to clean drinking water, food, shelter, health care services and education.

The UN-EU partnership coordinated contributions from donors, international organisations, civil society and national authorities to inter-agency response plans

to address the needs of refugees and IDPs arising from crises in **Burundi, Central African Republic, Europe, Nigeria, South Sudan** and **Syria**.

The **Syrian conflict** has resulted in an estimated 6.5 million internally displaced people (IDPs) with neighbouring countries such as **Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon** and **Turkey** offering refuge to significant numbers of Syrians, with many more living there unregistered.

UN-EU projects have benefited 3 million people in **Syria**, including 620,000 school kids who were provided with school bags and supplies in **Back to School** and **Back to Learning campaigns**.

The UN and the EU have consistently promoted innovative initiatives that use private sector partnerships and new technologies like biometrics and ATMs to provide effective assistance quickly to refugee and local populations, with 95 cents of every Euro ending in refugees' hands.

In **Lebanon** and **Jordan**, over 550,000 persons in 110,000 Syrian refugee households received one-off 200 EUR cash

grants to sustain livelihoods affected by harsh weather, while another 300,000 people in 60,000 households got multi-purpose cash transfers of up to 1,000 EUR for rent, food and school supplies and fees.

In **South Sudan**, 3 million people benefited from UN-EU Initiatives that included life-saving measles vaccinations for 858,600 children and access to drinking water and improved sanitation for 1.4 million people.

The UN-EU Children of Peace Initiative helps more than 1.1 million forcibly uprooted children in 12 countries in **Africa, Asia, Europe, Central and South America** recover and get a new start in life. In 2014-2015, the initiative helped thousands of young people fleeing gang violence in Central America's Northern Triangle (El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras) to Mexico access shelter, protection, psychosocial support, education and recreation.

UN-EU initiatives promote resilience and coordinate rapid responses to disasters and crises.

The UN and the EU expanded their humanitarian-development cooperation

with innovations such as the open forum Solutions Alliance in April 2014 to more effectively address protracted displacement situations.

The Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS) is a widely used joint online UN-EU platform that alerts disaster and humanitarian managers in real time. Close UN-EU disaster cooperation was evident in rapid responses in **Nepal, Vanuatu, Cape Verde, Bangladesh** and in **Guinea, Liberia** and **Sierra Leone**, where the UN and the EU mobilised medical and technical experts and delivered more than 5,500 metric tonnes of life-saving supplies for the **Ebola** outbreak.

In 2014-2015, the platform was used in 16 emergencies, including the early rapid response phase of the Nepal earthquake, by some 2,900 disaster managers from 115 countries.

In 2014, after the worst floods in 120 years hit **Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)** and **Serbia**, a two-pronged UN and EU initiative first worked on immediate flood recovery, then flood risk prevention and management to avoid future devastation.

UN-EU Partnership in Peace and Security

The UN Secretariat continued to deepen its partnership with the EU and its Member States on issues relating to peace and security.

In line with the main recommendations of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (HIPPO), issued in 2015, High Representative/Vice President Federica Mogherini stressed the importance of the UN-EU partnership on peace and security, and the UN as the anchor of multi-lateralism in the international system, during her annual briefing to the Security Council. The EU also contributed with structured input to the three UN reviews on Peacekeeping, Peacebuilding Architecture and UNSC Resolution 1325 on Women Peace and Security.

Throughout 2015, the Secretary-General, his Deputy, his Special Envoys and Special Representatives, as well as the heads of the Departments of Political Affairs, Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support regularly briefed EU leaders and EU bodies. These high level exchanges enabled the EU to closely coordinate its engagement in specific crises with the Security Council, the organ with primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

The EU has provided steadfast support to UN prevention, mediation and peacekeeping efforts, including in Mali, Central African Republic, Libya, Syria, and Yemen. The financial support the EU provided to the UN Standby Team of Mediation Experts and the activities of UN Peace and Development Advisers, among others, enabled the UN Secretariat to undertake important engagements to prevent, mediate and resolve violent conflicts.

On the strategic level, the UN-EU dialogue mechanisms ensured continuous information

exchange and close coordination across the wide spectrum of activities, including through interactions between the Security Council and the EU Political and Security Committee, the biannual Steering Committee on Crisis Management, the UN-EU High Level Political Dialogue, and the annual partnership meeting on conflict prevention.

In 2015, the EU and the UN agreed on priorities for 2015-2018 for strengthening the EU-UN strategic partnership on peacekeeping and crisis management.

The priorities include cooperation in areas such as rapid response, support to African Union, information exchange, support and logistics, and facilitating EU Member States contributions to UN peacekeeping.

With support from the UN Liaison Office for Peace and Security (UNLOPS) in Brussels, the UN worked with key European actors at all stages of the planning, deployment and conduct of the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions and operations, thus ensuring both coordination and coherence with UN peace operations. In the Central African Republic, for example, the EU and the UN coordinated closely on how to best support stabilisation and peace in the run up to elections.

The EU participated in the Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping in September 2015, pledging support in a range of areas. Participation of European troop contributing countries to UN peacekeeping operations gained momentum, especially in Mali. In 2015, the EU remained a main funder of African Union's peace operations, including in Somalia.

In **BiH**, where the floods affected one million people — 27 per cent of its population — and half of its local governments, we restored 4,640 homes, 133 public buildings, 145 communal infrastructure sites and revived local agriculture and economies in the 24 most-affected municipalities. In **Serbia**, we helped protect drinking water for 15,000 people and rebuild 315 houses, 15 schools, and 11.5 km of road used by 547,500 people a year.

Investing in long-term resilience, planning and disaster risk reduction is key. Our support for the **Hyogo Framework for Action: 2005-2015** review of 185 countries' disaster risk prevention activities led to the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030**, a global disaster risk reduction plan that emphasises resilience and strengthened disaster risk governance and prevention.

In 2014-2015, the UN and the EU supported ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction demonstration projects that promoted sustainable ecosystems in **Afghanistan, DR Congo, Haiti** and **Sudan** and wetlands management and climate change adaptation in the **Philippines**. In **Sudan**, 7,000 acres (2,800 hectares) of wadi land were rehabilitated, boosting agricultural production for 30,000 residents in five villages.

The UN-EU work to protect cultural heritage in conflict zones and stop the global trade in stolen artefacts saw us restore destroyed mausoleums and manuscript libraries in **Mali**, while in **Syria**, we trained 123 heritage professionals, police and customs officials to safeguard Syrian cultural heritage and prepare priority post-conflict actions.

A UN-EU performance-based cash grants initiative in Bangladesh generated 1,508 service projects and improved public service delivery for 2 million people. Photo: UNCDF





In 2014-2015, the UN-EU partnership provided electoral assistance to 22 countries, allowing millions of voters to exercise their right to freely elect their leaders. Photo: UNDP

Building Democratic and Inclusive Societies

Promoting democracy, the rule of law, human rights and good governance is at the core of the UN-EU partnership. We

help countries hold peaceful elections, deliver public services, fight criminal threats and create better opportunities for all so they develop inclusive societies with stronger institutions, greater public participation, sustainable growth and secure borders.

In often challenging conditions, we provided electoral assistance in 2014-2015 to 22 countries, allowing millions of voters to exercise their right to freely elect their leaders. This support included electoral law reform, strengthening independent national election bodies, voter education and registration, promoting independent reporting and monitoring of results by media and civic organisations, and encouraging women to vote and run as candidates.

In 2014-15, the UN and the EU provided crucial support to key polls that led to peaceful transfers of power in

Afghanistan and **Nigeria** and were important steps to restoring civilian rule in **Fiji** and **Guinea-Bissau**. In 2015, we focused significant attention on the **Central African Republic**, where it is hoped that recently held elections will contribute to the peace process.

The UN and the EU supported greater citizen participation in governance, particularly by the young, with initiatives that promoted rule of law, access to justice and inclusive constitutional processes. We helped establish powerful youth networks in **Algeria, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, occupied Palestinian territory** and **Tunisia** that raised public participation by youth and promoted their concerns to decision-makers.

To strengthen institutions and improve delivery of public services, we trained 3,000 judges, prosecutors and police officers in **Bolivia** on human rights principles and international laws and helped introduce financial management systems in seven **Lesotho** government ministries. The UN-EU performance-based cash grants to the best performing Union Parishads, the lowest level of government in **Bangladesh**, generated

1,508 service projects and improved public service delivery for 2 million people.

UN-EU assistance helped **Bangladesh**, **Guinea-Conakry** and **Somalia** hold national censuses that collected accurate data that will be used to better assess needs and deliver improved food, education, health and shelter services.

In 2014-2015, the UN and the EU continued to work closely to fight terrorism and cross-border smuggling of people, arms, endangered species, illicit drugs and sub-standard goods and medicines. Our initiatives strengthened criminal justice systems and anti-terrorism financing laws in **Cambodia**, **Indonesia**, **Lao PDR**, the **Philippines** and **Viet Nam**, built counter-terrorism capacity in **Nigeria**, promoted international cooperation between **Mexico** and six **Central America** states to fight migrant smuggling, and bolstered efforts by the Governments of **Egypt** and **Tunisia** to recover assets stolen through acts of corruption.

In **Nigeria**, we supported integrated government responses to drug issues, the setting up of a national drug treatment data collection system, and training of doctors, data collectors and police. We established real-time international law enforcement operational communications to fight drug and other illicit trafficking between international airports in **Africa**, **Latin America** and the **Caribbean** and strengthened criminal investigative and judiciary capacity to fight trafficking in **Colombia** and the trade in illicit drugs in **Bolivia**, **Colombia**, **Ecuador** and **Peru**.

The UN-EU partnership provides short-term employment opportunities to Palestine refugees in the Gaza Strip. Photo: UNRWA/Shareef Sarhan





The UN and the EU work together to achieve and deliver universal access to essential health services.
Photo: WHO

Delivering Essential Services

Access to basic health, education, clean water and sanitation services is a human right, essential for a dignified, decent life and just, resilient societies. Across the globe — often in conflict or post-conflict zones with significant refugee, IDP and returnee populations — the UN and the EU work together to deliver essential health services, education, clean water, sanitation, non-food items and shelter. In Daadab, **Kenya**, one of the world's largest refugee camps, more than 330,000 Somalis benefited from UN-EU partnership supported protection and assistance programmes. By October 2015, a cash assistance programme provided access to essential services for 108,193 of the 635,000 Syrian refugees registered in **Jordan**.

By the end of 2015, the UN and EU-supported **Children of Peace Initiative** had helped 1.5 million children in 26 countries gain access to safe schools where they can receive psychological support for traumatic war experiences. Launched in 2012, the initiative will be reinforced

in 2016 by the EU's Education in Emergencies.

In 2014-2015, UN-EU initiatives delivered basic health care to millions, combated epidemics, TB, malaria and HIV/AIDS, promoted sexual and reproductive health, and supported universal health coverage in **Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, DR Congo, Guinea, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Viet Nam** and **Zambia**.

To strengthen **Myanmar's** health care system and help its poorest and most vulnerable, the UN and the EU supported efforts to deliver quality maternal and child healthcare services and fight TB, malaria and HIV/AIDS. This has led to 64 per cent of 36,400 births being delivered by skilled health professionals, an 8 per cent increase from 2013.

During the **Ebola** outbreak in 2014, the UN and the EU coordinated the international response and ran Emergency Operations Centres. We supplied mobile laboratories to **Guinea, Liberia** and **Sierra Leone**, hired epidemiologists, contact tracers and operations staff, distributed 250,000 PPEs (personal protective

equipment) to protect health workers and doubled safe burial team capacity, resulting by 1 January 2015 in 100 per cent safe burials.

In 2014-2015, the UN-EU's continued support for supplemental polio immunisation activities in high-risk northern **Nigeria** states resulted in a significant reduction of wild poliovirus (WPV) type 1 to six cases (from 53 in 2013) and the complete disappearance of the WPV type 3.

The UN and the EU continued to promote family planning and sexual, maternal and reproductive health. In 2014-2015, we worked with 46 developing countries to enhance access to family planning and reproductive health services and strengthen health supply chains.

As part of our work in conflict areas, in 2014-2015, the UN and the EU delivered medical supplies to 370,000 people in **Ukraine's** conflict zones, provided emergency care to 32,000 IDPs and food to 30,000 children under the age of two to prevent malnutrition, and imported 4.8 million doses of polio vaccines. We delivered quality education to 500,000

Palestine refugee children in 626 schools in **Jordan, Lebanon, the occupied Palestinian territory** and **Syria**.

To enhance access to quality education, we supported education reforms and initiatives to increase enrolment levels for girls and children from the poorest and most vulnerable groups. In **Malawi**, UN-EU cash transfers to 665,594 beneficiaries in 150,341 households improved school enrolment among the poorest and most vulnerable. In **Cambodia**, nearly 2.1 million children received better quality education after a UN-EU initiative trained 3,969 teachers.

As of 2015, 2.5 billion people still do not use a sanitation facility and 1 billion people, mainly in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, still defecate in the open. The strong UN-EU commitment to safe, clean water and hygienic behaviours included UN-EU cash grants and technical support to rebuild homes and infrastructure, including 35 wells in **Sri Lanka** and in **Afghanistan**, where 22,600 households saw improved infrastructure in their neighbourhood.

In 2014-2015, the UN-EU partnership supported 46 developing countries to enhance access to family planning and reproductive health services and strengthen health supply chains. Photo: UNFPA





A UN-EU initiative helped create tree nursery in North Darfur, Sudan, to produce seedlings for reforestation of the degraded dry lands.
Photo: UNEP

Inclusive, Green Growth and Decent Jobs

To create jobs and generate economic opportunities, expertise and sustainable economies, the UN and the EU continued to support initiatives that advanced labour rights, improved working conditions and provided valuable job training to the most disadvantaged and the young.

In 2014-2015, the UN-EU Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) provided training and policy support to **Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mauritius, Mongolia, Peru, Senegal** and **South Africa** as they developed and invested in green technologies and human capital.

The UN and the EU helped 35 countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific develop urban slum upgrading strategies that include alley paving, improving drainage and sanitation and building community centres.

In **Tunisia**, 13 labour-intensive infrastructure projects created jobs in poor regions and improved local access to schools, health care, water and labour

markets. In **Ivory Coast**, the UN and the EU supported vocational training for 3,965 youth and ex-combatants and created 16,300 short-term jobs to benefit 81,500 Palestine refugees in **Gaza**.

The UN and the EU continued to support entrepreneurial green economy and income-generating initiatives at all levels around the world.

The UN-EU **SWITCH-Med initiative** helped 21 Mediterranean countries shift their economies to sustainable consumption and production and protect their waters and coasts. In 2015, the project opened country hubs in **Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, the occupied Palestinian territory** and **Tunisia** to support policymakers and civil society as they finalise national action plans for the 2016 Barcelona Convention. In **Algeria, Morocco** and **Tunisia** alone, more than 1,300 groups applied for green entrepreneurship training grants.

In **Iraq** and **Jordan**, UN and EU education and training initiatives gave 600,000 young people and refugees skills that allowed them to enter national and international labour markets.

A UN-EU initiative that included an innovative credit system allowed small-holder farmers obtain bank loans and contributed to opening 750 seed shops. Over half of **Niger's** agricultural villages received affordable quality seeds and fertilisers which allowed farmers to double their yields.

A UN-EU supported investment fund linked thousands of small farmers to new markets, helping move **Swaziland** from subsistence to commercial farming. A UN-EU project to raise **Kenya's** quality assessment capacity to international standards trained 200 people and resulted in strategic public-private business partnerships. In South Sudan, the UN and the EU joined efforts to design 120 km of feeder roads to be built in 2016 that will provide access to local and external markets.

The UN and the EU work together to combat child and forced labour, reduce job discrimination and bring national laws into compliance with international labour standards. In **Lebanon**, a UN-EU initiative helped create the country's first domestic workers' union and **Argentina** passed a law that gives domestic workers

similar labour rights as other workers. In **Thailand**, the government will review its national laws and policies to make them compliant with international standards and 100 seafood processing firms now use UN and EU-supported good labour practices to fight illegal labour practices in the fishing and seafood industry.

UN-EU initiatives support migrant workers' human and labour rights and promote local alternatives to irregular and risky migration. In **Senegal**, a UN-EU project gave local authorities technical and financial support so that returnees could set up businesses and migrants abroad could invest in local development. Migrant-led **Nepalese** communities set up Homestay tourism services while in **El Salvador**, towns engaged Salvadorans abroad to support entrepreneurial agriculture, handicrafts and fishing activities by youth and women.

In 37 countries, UN and EU advocacy and projects facilitated refugees' access to jobs and livelihoods. In **Mali** and **Afghanistan**, our programmes contributed to a sustainable and dignified return of forcibly displaced populations.



The UN and the EU work together to combat unacceptable forms of work in the Thai fishing and seafood industry. Photo: ILO/N. Sathiensotorn



A UN-EU programme helps build disaster-resistant houses in Pakistan. Photo: UN Habitat



UN-HABITAT
PAKISTAN



Climate Action and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources

The UN and the EU had a key contribution to the historical Agreement on Climate Change in Paris by helping countries to develop their national climate plans.

Together, we promoted action on climate, environmental degradation and access to clean energy and improved environmental governance and supported national efforts to implement international climate, desertification, waste and chemical management and biodiversity conservation agreements.

A UN-EU programme helped over 40 countries enhance their climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction capacity by collecting disaster loss data and risk projections and assessing development plans to ensure that public investments are risk-informed.

The UN and the EU worked closely during the Nepal earthquake response to facilitate the arrival and coordination of incoming relief and civil protection staff. Photo: UNOCHA

The UN and the EU's focus on resilience also guided the discussions towards the adoption in March 2015 of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and its targets, particularly the one that aims to increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020.

Building awareness of climate change and sustainable development is a key part of UN and EU advocacy activities. In a 2015 **Iceland** photo contest, the winner collated photos of a glacier taken 10 years apart to show the impact of climate change.

In 2014-2015, the UN-EU's Action Against Desertification, which promotes land management to restore dry, degraded land in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, helped restore land in 120 villages in **Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger**.

In drought-affected countries, the UN and the EU work to overcome the devastating economic and social impacts of water shortages. In southern **Iraq**, where water shortages threaten 2 million people, we support sustainable exploration and groundwater resource management efforts.

In 2014-2015, the UN-EU's Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL) gave climate resilience grants to 53 local governments representing 4.5 million people in Asia (**Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Nepal**) and Africa (**Benin, Ghana, Mali, Mozambique and Niger**).

The UN and the EU screened 772 polluted sites and toxic hot spots (264 in **Africa**, 227 in **Latin America** and 281 in **former Soviet Union states**) and helped neutralise 48 metric tonnes of explosive substances to avoid a disaster in **Ukraine's** Donetsk region.

We continued to support initiatives that promote energy efficiency and increase access to sustainable, renewable energy sources for all. In **Moldova**, UN-EU green technology initiatives reduced annual CO2 emissions by 60,000 metric tonnes, helped 90,000 people and 161 public institutions gain access to secure biomass energy supplies and created 300 jobs.

In Africa, the Middle East and South Asia, the UN-EU's Parliamentary Action on Renewable Energy (PARE) works with Members of Parliaments (MPs) on domestic renewable energy laws and

policies. In 2014-2015, PARE-supported MPs helped more than double **India's** 2020 renewable energy target to 15 per cent of electricity and made **Tunisia** the first Arab country with a constitutional commitment to preserve a safe climate. After PARE workshops, the **Pan-African Parliament** committed to integrate renewable energy into national plans and increase clean energy investments.

The UN-EU **Poverty and Environment Initiative (PEI)** supports integrated approaches by developing countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). PEI supported governments in **25 countries** to sustain natural resources management and **23 countries** to include poverty and environment objectives in development plans. Another **17 countries** addressed poverty and the environment in budget and spending reforms and **18 countries** added poverty-environment indicators to their monitoring and evaluation systems.

The UN-EU supported **Low Emission Capacity Building Programme (LECB)** assists 25 countries to develop low-emission, climate-resilient development plans and helped 22 countries prepare

their so-called Intended Nationally Determined Contributions or INDCs, which provide countries' goals and targets to address climate change priorities. More than 130 countries benefited from the program's regional INDC dialogues and technical guidance products as well.

The UN-EU's **Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN)** helps governments cost, plan and pay for biodiversity conservation. In 2014, BIOFIN began work in **Botswana, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Fiji, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, the Philippines, the Seychelles, South Africa, Thailand, Uganda** and **Zambia**. In 2015, **Peru** adopted new biodiversity investment guidelines; **Kazakhstan, the Seychelles** and **South Africa** National Biodiversity Action Plans; and **Malaysia** integrated biodiversity finance in its Development Plan.

We helped 64 countries move towards results-based financing to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+). Focusing on empowering countries to fulfil UN

Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) requirements so they can receive payments for verified emission reductions, UN and EU initiatives quantified forests' contribution to **Kenya's** economy, mapped forest ecosystem services in **Paraguay** and provided tools to select priority REDD+ areas in **Viet Nam**.

Launched in 2015 with EU support, the **UN Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (InforMEA)** helps countries implement multilateral environmental agreements by providing them with information and knowledge on environmental laws.

The UN and the EU played a key role in the October 2015 **Nansen Initiative Global Consultation** that saw 109 governmental delegations endorse the Protection Agenda, a voluntary agreement to protect people displaced across borders by natural disasters and the impacts of climate change. Emphasising international cooperation, treatment standards for the affected and operational responses, the Protection Agenda offers a comprehensive approach to disaster displacement and presents effective practices.



Investing in long-term resilience, planning and disaster risk reduction is key. The UN-EU support for the Hyogo Framework for Action: 2005-2015 review of 185 countries' disaster risk prevention activities led to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, a global disaster risk reduction plan that emphasises resilience and strengthened disaster risk governance and prevention. Photo: UNISDR





The UN and the EU helped strengthen Myanmar's health care system and improve access for the poorest and most vulnerable to quality maternal and child healthcare services. Photo: UNOPS

Looking Forward

The UN and the EU partnership was key to the unprecedented gains in health, prosperity, education and empowerment brought about by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This report provides great examples of our joint efforts and illustrates the impact we made around the world on people's lives.

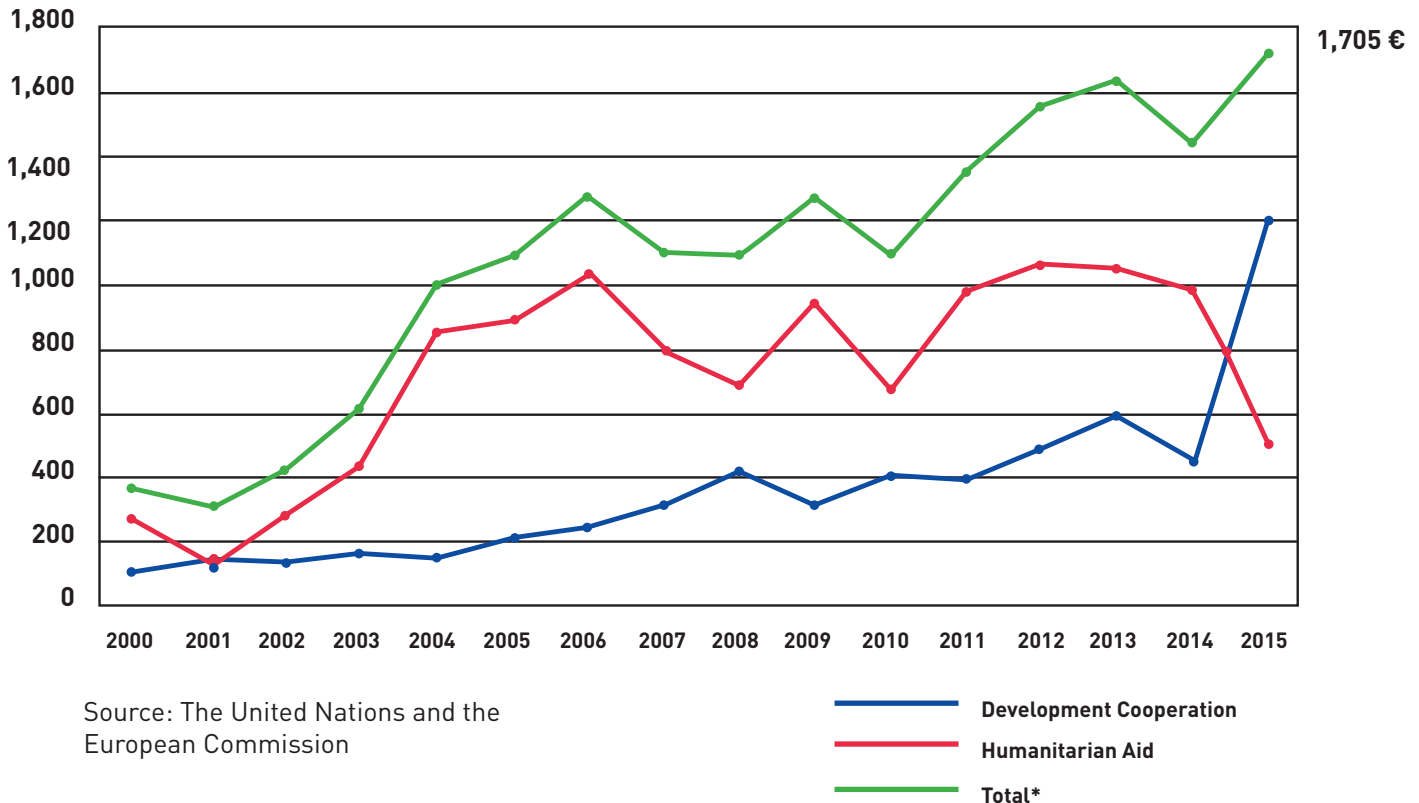
In 2015, the world took landmark steps for sustainable development: first, with the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and then in the historic Paris Agreement on climate change. Linking them is the historic 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for all countries — rich and poor alike —

which will guide development for all countries over the next 15 years and address the core human development challenges of our time by fully integrating the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainability.

Every actor, every country, every international and regional organisation has a responsibility to translate the SDGs into practice. To succeed, sustainable development must become integral to all policies and decision-making. Only through strong partnerships like the UN and EU's can the SDGs be achieved. Together, the long-standing UN-EU partnership will build a better future for all of humanity — for people, planet, peace and prosperity.



EU Financial Resources Channelled Through the UN System, 2000-2015, Million EUR



A UN-EU initiative in Kyrgyzstan on crime prevention and criminal justice reform helped create a sewing workshop to generate income in a women's prison.
 Photo: Maksim Shubovich/UNODC



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon meets young people in Brussels to discuss their role in achieving the post-2015 development agenda. Photo: UNRIC

UNITED NATIONS IN BRUSSELS



The United Nations (UN) Team in Brussels brings together different UN entities spanning across the wide spectrum of UN's work on peace and security, human rights and development. A core mandate of the UN Team is to foster its partnership with the European Union (EU) in line with the UN Charter (1945) and the Treaty of Lisbon (2009), which together with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, provide an overarching framework for the UN-EU partnership.

Over the past decade, the UN and the EU have been working together in over 170 countries to help them protect human rights for all, reduce hunger and malnutrition, prevent and overcome crises, build democratic and inclusive societies, deliver essential services, promote green growth and decent jobs, and ensure the sustainable management of natural resources.



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