

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR PARTNERSHIPS (UNOP)

Support to NEPAD

Period of Report: July 2008 to June 2009

The United Nations system has been partnering with the private sector and civil society in a variety of ways for over 60 years. Using business skills, smart philanthropy, and the rigor of the marketplace, partnerships can develop and deliver system-changing solutions. Public-private partnerships are important now more than ever, and many organizations in the private sphere are coming forward to join efforts with the UN and other public entities. From competitions and prizes to investments in human capital and local populations, organizations are stepping up to the challenge and engaging other corporations, foundations and civil society to contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), especially in the African region.

The UN Office for Partnerships (UNOP), working under the leadership of the UN Deputy Secretary-General, serves as a gateway for partnership opportunities with the United Nations family. It promotes collaboration and alliances in furtherance of the MDGs and provides support to initiatives of the Secretary-General. The Office manages three innovative mechanisms: Partnership Advisory Services and Outreach to a variety of entities, including academic institutions, companies, foundations, government agencies, and civil society organizations; the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP), established by the UN Secretary-General in March 1998 to serve as the interface in the partnership between the UN system and the UN Foundation – the public charity responsible for administering Ted Turner’s US\$1 billion contribution in support of UN causes; and the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) established by the Secretary-General in July 2005 to support democratization throughout the world, which is focused on supporting democratic institutions, promoting human rights, and ensuring the participation of all groups in democratic processes.

The United Nations Fund for International Partnerships Focus on Africa

An important part of UNFIP projects are in African countries. Between 1998 and 2008, the UN Foundation and UNFIP made grants totaling US\$347,348,878 in African-specific projects out of a total of US\$1,214,487,811. In addition, 45 per cent of the total, or US\$561,577,694, was spent on projects with a global focus, some of which included Africa. In 2008, US\$16,268,349 out of a total of US\$28,345,169 was spent on projects in Africa, which represented a share of 57.4 per cent (please see the table below).

UNFIP projects in Africa

Year	Africa		Percentage share of projects in Africa compared to total number of projects and total value of projects	
	Number of Projects	US\$ (in millions)	Number of Projects	US\$
2006	13	50,8	26.5%	19.2%
2007	9	7,2	32.1%	17.6%
2008	9	16,5	26.4%	57.4%

The UN Democracy Fund in Africa

To implement its projects in Africa, UNDEF often works with other UN agencies, such as UNDP and UNIFEM, in the field, which provides oversight for the CSO/NGO implementing the project. As an example, in its first funding round, about 80 per cent of the projects were executed by a UN agency. In the second round, only 40% of the projects were executed by a UN agency.

So far, approximately a third of UNDEF implemented projects (both regional and local) were located in Africa. The projects received about a third of the total amount for each round as shown below:

1. Projects funding data

2006: First round data

Region	number of projects funded	% of total number of projects funded	Approved Amount	% of total Approved Amount
Sub-Saharan Africa	36	29.5%	10,732,367	30.5%
Total	122	100.0%	35,201,216	100.0%

2007: Second round data

Region	number of projects funded	% of total number of projects funded	Approved Amount	% of total Approved Amount
Sub-Saharan Africa	28	33.7%	8,125,000	34.0%
Total	83	100.0%	23,895,000	100.0%

2. Cooperation with UN entities data

2006: First round data for Sub-Saharan Africa: UN-Executed Projects

Executing Agency	number of projects funded	% of total number of projects funded	Approved Amount in US\$	% of total Approved Amount
CSO/NGO	7	19.4%	2,207,337	20.6%
UNDP	26	72.2%	7,664,530	71.4%
UNIFEM	3	8.3%	860,500	8.0%
Total	36	100.0%	10,732,367	100.0%

2007: Second Round data for Sub-Saharan Africa: UN-Executed Projects

Executing Agency	number of projects funded	% of total number of projects funded	Approved Amount in US\$	% of total Approved Amount
CSO/NGO	17	60.5%	4,800,000	59.0%
UNDP	6	24.0%	1,825,000	22.5%
UNIFEM	4	14.0%	1,100,000	13.5%
UNODC	1	1.5%	400,000	5.0%
Total	28	100.0%	8,125,000	100.0%

Partnership Advisory Services and Outreach in Support of Africa

UNOP is currently working on various projects with the private sector, foundations, and civil society focused on Africa's development needs. Specifically, UNOP is working closely with the African Union (AU) to develop long-term capacity in Africa in the area of Public-Private Partnerships. UNOP has proposed the establishment of a Regional Centre for Partnerships in Africa, which is a joint venture of the AU, UNOP, and the US State Department to promote multi-stakeholder partnerships and which would serve as a Centre of Excellence for training within the Region. The Centre would play a leadership role in facilitating strategic public-private partnerships at the national, regional and global levels across all sectors in support of the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document. It would further act as a Knowledge Network to link prospective partners with communities of practice regionally and internationally and to facilitate the development and dynamic expansion of networks, alliances and coalitions that further support the achievement of the MDGs. Key activities will include an Annual African Forum on Partnerships, regular training programmes on partnership building covering technical assistance on procedures and best practices, as well as programme and project design, the establishment of multi-stakeholder partnerships and an annual report prepared by the Centre. The AU and UNOP plan to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to provide a framework for cooperation.

As an example of concrete initiatives, UNOP, Nestle and the Swiss Permanent Mission to the United Nations co-hosted a High Level Global Forum entitled “Creating Shared Value: Business and Development” in New York in April 2009. During the Forum, Nestle leaders announced the opening of the Abidjan Research and Development Centre in the Côte d’Ivoire, which aims to help increase agricultural productivity and the safety of foods by developing and improving local crops. Nestle also works directly with 600,000 farmers throughout the world and provided over US\$26 million worth of microfinance in 2008.

Other recent projects include the following:

AfricaInvestor High-Level Lunch Event: AfricaInvestor (Ai) in collaboration with the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), the NEPAD Business Group, UNOP, OSAA and NYSE Euronext is co-hosting a high-level working lunch on investing in the MDGs in Africa. The special event will be held at the New York Stock Exchange on 21st September 2009. The objective is to provide a discussion platform on the impact of the current financial crises on investments in Africa. It will engage African Heads of State, Business Leaders of African companies and companies that operate in Africa, UN representatives, as well as civil society and foundation leaders around practical investment partnerships that support the pursuit of the MDGs in Africa. The event will be part of a whole day event titled the “AfricaInvestor Index Series Summit”, which combines the Ai Summit, the Ai Initial Public Offering Summit, and the Investor-Issuer Roundtable, focused on Capital Market developments in Africa.

Peacebuilding Commission:

At the request of the Chairman of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), and the Peacebuilding Support Office, UNOP is developing a new strategy for engagement of the private sector, foundations and civil society organizations in peacebuilding efforts, leading to economic development of countries under the PBC mandate.