

**UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS
(UN-OCHA)**

Support to NEPAD

Period of Report: 2003-2004

Orientation of work in support of NEPAD

In general, OCHA does not work directly with NEPAD or organize joint programmes with NEPAD. The only formal link that OCHA has with NEPAD is the meetings of the six AU/NEPAD-UN clusters, at which OCHA representatives attend and make presentations in areas of concern. OCHA addresses and supports NEPAD priorities through working with sub-regional organisations, particularly Southern African Development Community (SADC) and ECOWAS.

OCHA supported some of these initiatives, not by directly working with NEPAD, but through collaboration with regional organisations. On resource flows, OCHA tracked the flow of humanitarian aid through the Financial Tracking System and co-hosted the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAPs) in February 2003 and March 2004 with the SADC. On human resources development, in particular on HIV/AIDS, OCHA and SADC collaborated in a presentation at the International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa (ICASA).

Areas of support for NEPAD

OCHA is active in:

1. Supporting and strengthening sub-regional consultation mechanisms:

OCHA participated and addressed humanitarian issues in the AU/NEPAD-UN clusters meeting. OCHA established regional offices in Nairobi, Dakar, and Johannesburg. These offices have facilitated communications between OCHA and the sub-regional organizations. The Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Support Office (RIACSO) is now a major platform for interaction between OCHA and SADC.

2. Supporting and strengthening regional and sub-regional organizations:

OCHA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with ECOWAS on February 2004 with the goal of enhancing the latter's capacity in humanitarian action and conflict management. OCHA has also deployed staff in 2004 to support ECOWAS' newly formed Department of Humanitarian Affairs. OCHA is currently working with SADC to establish partnerships on the consolidation of existing databases for vulnerability analysis and mapping. Finally, OCHA representatives attended and gave their input in a disaster reduction conference organised by NEPAD and United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN-ISDR) in June 2004.

Recommendations for strengthening NEPAD implementation

NEPAD is becoming an important force with increased resources but its own

mechanism is relatively new and not very well-established, and it may be difficult for UN agencies to engage. Operation with sub-regional organizations could be difficult because they are sometimes under-resourced. NEPAD may formulate plans on how to engage other bodies in their programmes, including UN agencies.

NEPAD may want to incorporate disasters response and management as a criterion of its African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). In this respect, OCHA will be able to assist or partner with NEPAD whenever possible.