



Progress in the Implementation of UNPPA

Introduction

1. The High-Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council in 2003 took up the theme “Promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development.” Building upon a key recommendation in the related report of the Secretary-General ([E/2003/51](#)), the Council in its Ministerial Declaration ([E/2003/L.9](#)) highlighted the importance of alliances among all stakeholders to achieve the aims of rural development. As was stated:

“We underline the importance of partnerships at the national and international levels in order to foster collaboration in different sectors. At the national and local levels, we will encourage local authorities, civil society, the private sector and local communities to launch partnerships that support and promote rural development. At the international level, we will facilitate and nurture alliances of governments, donors, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector for promoting integrated rural development.”

2. The United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development responds to this mandate, and the recognition that reducing rural poverty is a key to achieving the [Millennium Development Goals](#) (MDGs) in many developing countries, because of their heavy dependence on agriculture and the fact that most of their populations are rural.

3. The UN [Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#) (DESA), in cooperation with other UN entities, notably IFAD, FAO, WFP and UNDP, and members of civil society, created the UN Alliance, with Madagascar as the first pilot country, owing to the interest of the Government and the leadership of its Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN in New York.

4. At its substantive session of 2004, the Council adopted a resolution which specifically endorsed the UN Alliance ([E/2004/L.32](#)), and welcomed the initiative of Madagascar, setting this into the context both of its own Ministerial Declaration and of the General Assembly resolution “[Towards global partnerships](#)” (resolution 58/129 of 19 December 2003).

Functions

5. The UN Alliance is part of a growing family of efforts within and outside the United Nations system that focuses on the positive role business can play in promoting development. It promotes pro-poor business, stimulates entrepreneurial capacity-building and encourages investments, commerce and related activities for sustainable rural development. Important related efforts within the UN System include initiatives such as the Global Compact (UN), Growing Sustainable Business (UNDP), and the International Alliance Against Hunger (FAO).

6. The mission of the UN Alliance is to identify, highlight and promote replication of successful business policies and practices that are both profitable and promote social and

economic advancement of poor people in rural areas. Results of this win-win approach are brought to the attention of the international community through the UN Economic and Social Council.

7. By engaging government entities, the business sector, civil society, UN Member State delegations, and agencies of the UN System, the Alliance develops multi-stakeholder partnerships, and helps to address the Millennium Development Goals. The purpose of the UN Alliance is to bring together different actors and interests, so as to seek to accomplish together more than what can be done separately.

8. The objectives of the UN Alliance are fourfold:

- To work principally as a catalyst and facilitator for the creation of partnerships;
- To identify and promote business and commercial relations in various identified opportunities and activities;
- To provide a platform for collaboration between the public sector and other rural development actors; and
- To bring the results of these efforts to the attention of the international community, especially through the UN Economic and Social Council ([ECOSOC](#)).

9. As was emphasized in the recent report to the UN Secretary-General by the Commission on the Private Sector and Development ("[Unleashing Entrepreneurship: Making business work for the poor](#)") the often-found environment of fractured and even confrontational relationships between the public and private sectors needs to be replaced by one of collaborative partnerships, as the main actors increasingly work together toward common goals.

10. Internationally and locally the UN Alliance encourages networking and matchmaking -- it is not a funding body. Priorities include agribusiness, microfinance, value-added exports, rural investments, computer technology, and protection of biodiversity through sustainable enterprise. Innovation and collaboration efforts range from large to small -- from encouragement of market-oriented rural development plans and investments, to helping channel a company-matched personal donation to a community business in one village.

Madagascar, First Pilot Country

11. In Madagascar, a public-interest organization has been created, recognized by [government decree](#) and statute. The Prime Minister chairs meetings of the high-level participants from the four stakeholder groups -- government, business, NGO and financial/technical communities -- who comprise the General Assembly and [Board of Directors of "Alliance-Madagascar"](#). Two members of the UN country team participate in this, namely the Resident Coordinator / UNDP Resident Representative and the FAO Representative. A management team of stakeholders, with supporting staff, assure regular collaboration in the implementation of an annual work plan. The work of Alliance-Madagascar fits within priorities already enunciated in the vision of the country's President to stimulate economic activity and overcome poverty.

12. Activities to accomplish these broad purposes include:

- Provincial workshops that bring together representatives of the stakeholder groups and build collaboration that augments existing efforts within the country for “PPP” (public-private partnership);
- Collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and FAO in developing “bankable projects” in several value chains of products.
- Facilitation of greater access to rural credit through micro-finance and micro-insurance;
- Support to local handicraft producers associations to help promote exports to the USA;
- Provision of computers to local government and schools in Antananarivo Province; and
- Cooperation with an international mining operation to help achieve priorities of the Alliance.

13. In the latter case, plans are being made to establish an advisory panel from the four stakeholder groups to help to assess and shape the socio-economic and environmental impacts of the undertaking, in order to promote maximum benefits for all through a combined focus on profitability, poverty reduction and sustainable development.

14. Funding and other resources for the work of the UN Alliance come from many quarters, internationally and in Madagascar. In addition to the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Government of Madagascar, these include -- FAO; UNDP; Columbia University; the Madagascar Committee for Support to Enterprise; Land O’Lakes, Inc.; Strategies for Development, Inc.; Non-Profit Computing, Inc.; Rotary District 7250; the Bank of Africa; MineCore, Inc., the Deutsche Bank Microcredit Development Fund; and other organizations and individuals. The services of members of the Management Team and friends of “Alliance-Madagascar” are important contributions, as these are from senior members of the Madagascar Entrepreneurs Association, the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, the Professional Association of Microfinance Institutions, the Union of Fruit and Vegetables Producers, and others such as the handicrafts producers’ association “Madagascar Magic Fingers”. This is a wide range of support, and it is growing.

15. Recently the UN/DESA Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination (OESC) has helped mobilize new support for “Alliance-Madagascar” from several UN system entities and NGO/civil society organizations. This includes plans for cooperation from the Tokyo International Conference on African Development ([TICAD](#)) Office of UNDP in two key areas: (i) to help set up a web-based AFRASIA Exchange desk to help promote business between companies in Madagascar and Asian countries, and (ii) to facilitate participation by entrepreneurs from Madagascar in the Asia Africa Business Forum that is scheduled for 2006.

16. Also the DESA/OESC co-organized with the University of Oklahoma, USA, and the Observatory for Cultural and Audiovisual Communication ([OCCAM](#)), Italy, the [Fifth Infopoverty World Conference](#), which was held at UN Headquarters, 12-13 May 2005. The Conference in its Declaration decided ‘to enhance support for global partnerships and in this context take special efforts to promote the UN Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development’. A significant outcome of the conference is the proposal by the organizers to establish an Infopoverty IT Village in Madagascar.

17. In addition, DESA/OESC and [Franciscan International](#) have held discussions on possible support in the struggle against extreme poverty in Madagascar. Discussions are also underway with the [International Movement ATD Fourth World](#), a Paris based NGO, to strengthen its current work in-country through cooperation with “Alliance-Madagascar”.

New possibilities

18. The Government of the Dominican Republic, through its Presidential Commission on MDGs, and the Ambassador to the UN in New York, has indicated interest to include the priorities and modalities of the UN Public-Private Alliance in its focus on steps to achieve the MDGs, including those for rural development. The Dominican Republic is one of the pilot countries for the UN Millennium Project, and the Government has recently prepared a national MDG Needs Assessment – among the first to do so. Further steps in relation to the country's participation in the UN Alliance are currently under discussion.

ECOSOC 2006

19. All the above-mentioned programmes and activities, and their outcomes, will be fully reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on the UN Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development that is scheduled to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council in 2006.
