

REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



Initiatives taken by the Cyprus Government towards achieving
the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

1. Cyprus after its accession to the European Union has redefined its Development Cooperation policy to fall in line with the EU priorities in the matter.
2. The government has increased the national aid-budget for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
3. It firmly supports the efforts of the European Union for strengthening the development of partner countries that receive aid, in a way that safeguards a more equitable and just distribution of the world's wealth, while at the same time preserving the environment and the rights of future generations to a habitable, environmentally sound planet.
4. Cyprus ascribed to the determination of the World Community in promoting good governance in partner countries, the strengthening of domestic procedures, the combating of corruption, the enhancement of accountability, the inclusion of Civil society in decision making and especially the strengthening of the role of women.
5. In the framework of action to fulfill all Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitments and the ensure that the increase in aid is continuous, the Republic of Cyprus has offered to African countries during 2007 the amount of \$870,000 as bilateral assistance of which 75% was channeled through the implementation of development projects. The remaining 25% was spent on technical assistance, micro-grants and repatriation expenses of asylum seekers. It is noted that the assistance allocated to the African region, has increased gradually over the years. In 2005, the bilateral assistance offered to Africa was \$522,923, in 2006 \$674,570 and in 2007 was \$870,007 – showing an increase of 66% compared to 2005 and of 2007. All commitments made to the African region had an implementation deadline by the end of 2007 which was met, and those of longer implementation period are expected to be completed in due time.
6. The effort of the Republic of Cyprus to increase the flow of new and additional resources for the financial development in Africa is ongoing and the commitment to reach this goal firm.

7. Furthermore, the Cyprus Government has committed to contributing to a number of International Funds/Initiatives that have as main purpose the support of the development of African countries, i.e.:
- (a) an amount of 400,000 Euro is committed for contribution for six consecutive years (beginning from 2008) to the International Drug Purchase Facility (UNITAID).
 - (b) The Council of Ministers on the 5th of December, 2007, decided the participation of Cyprus as a donor in the International Development Association (IDA) 15 replenishment. The contribution of Cyprus to IDA totals 4.46m/n Euro, from Fiscal Year 2009 to Fiscal Year 2017 and consists of 3.98 m/n Euro as basic IDA contribution. With the same decision the Council of Ministers also decided to contribute to Millennium Development Replenishment Initiative (MDRI) with the amount of 1,435 mln Euro.
 - (c) Projects are already implemented in six priority countries among them two in Africa, Lesotho and Mali. In Lesotho, in cooperation with Ireland, the construction of a boarding house for high school girls. The cooperation with Ireland is institutionalized through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), drafted and approved by the two countries concerned. The total cost was 350.000 Euro.
 - (d) In Mali Cyprus cooperated with Belgium through the same procedure, for the purchase and delivery of equipment under the wider project "Sustainable Waste Management." The value of this project was 171.000 Euro. For the 2008-2009 Cyprus and Belgium have signed a new MOU for the construction of four small bridges of a total cost 400.000 Euro.
 - (e) In Yemen Cyprus cooperated with Germany in building a maternity ward in a state Hospital, a project that was completed in 2007 and now operates quite successfully.