

## **The United States**

### **The United States - UNDP partnership**

#### *Key areas of partnership*

The U.S. was the largest contributor to UNDP's regular (core) resources in 2004 with a total pledge of \$101.4 million resulting in a net contribution that year of \$98.7 million. The U.S. pledge to regular resources will go up to \$108 million in 2005. The US will then be the second largest core contributor, behind Norway.

Preliminary non-core figures for the U.S. in 2004 amounts to \$144.67 million (\$94.08 million in cost-sharing; and \$50.59 million in trust funds), which places the U.S. second in rank among the donors to other (non-core) resources.

The focus of U.S. non-core contributions, provided primarily by the State Department and USAID's thematic and regional Bureaus and resident missions, vary both regionally and thematically. Areas of particular interest include post-conflict reconstruction, humanitarian assistance, and electoral assistance.

Examples of strong U.S. support include: reintegration of demobilized soldiers in Angola; food monetization in Rwanda; assistance to the electoral process in Mozambique; support to the peace process in North Mali; African training and management services; combating poverty and hunger in Africa; assistance to the Palestinian People; clearance of UXO; crisis, post-conflict and recovery; support to the Afghan Interim Authority Fund; and support to peacebuilding in El Salvador.

UNDP has been actively engaging with the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) and the President's Emergency Plan for HIV/AIDS, the two key autonomous development initiatives established by the Bush Administration. So far, the cooperation has involved visits by the Administrator to the two offices, briefings and exchanges of information, as well as staff visits in New York and Washington. In the case of the MCC, UNDP, with the support of the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), has provided advice and technical support to the Governments of Mali, Benin, Senegal, Mongolia, Bolivia and Nicaragua in the preparation of their MCC proposals. The support was provided at the request of the Governments in question.

#### *How the U.S. Government sees UNDP*

UNDP's work is followed particularly closely by a large number of Administration offices and Congressional committees including: the White House National Security Council and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB); various thematic regional offices at the State Department, especially the Bureau for International Organizations Affairs (IO), which determines the Administration's annual request for the U.S. contribution to the UNDP core budget; and the U.S. Congress' House International Relations Committee and Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and House and Senate Foreign Operations Subcommittees, which oversee UNDP.

The U.S. Government's overall opinion of UNDP appears to have improved in the past few years, in part because of UNDP's management reform efforts; greater focus on crisis prevention and recovery, democratic governance, and poverty reduction; and the publishing of high profile reports such as the Arab Human Development Reports.

UNDP's higher profile with the U.S. Administration was reinforced and confirmed by the good results of an OMB-led [Program Assessment Rating Tool \(PART\) management and programmatic assessment of UNDP](#) in 2005. The OMB uses this tool to assess and improve program performance of US Governments departments, as well as

international organizations to which U.S. Government resources are allocated. UNDP received the highest possible rating of "effective", and a 91% overall percentage score for the following items: purpose of the organization (100%), planning (88%), management (100%), results/accountability (84%).

The OMB assessment states: *"UNDP has adopted five core goals...[that] are consistent with and supportive of U.S. strategic interests in democracy, prosperity, and security....UNDP has cooperated with the U.S. in the reconstruction of Afghanistan, Iraq, and Liberia....UNDP's role is unique in providing overall coordination of UN operational activities for development in the field. ... UNDP has increasingly provided leadership in harmonization and coordination of UN development activities and in focusing individual country programs on overall UN agreed upon development priorities, i.e., good governance, democratic principles, sustainable development, improved health and education services, partnership with the private sector, improving the attractiveness of developing countries to investors, poverty reduction, mainstreaming women."*

### **U.S. Foreign policy and development priorities**

The principal foreign-policy aims of the U.S. Government are anchored in President Bush's 2002 National Security Strategy and its three underlying and interdependent components - diplomacy, development and defense.

The National Security Strategy elevated development to be the third pillar of U.S. foreign policy - on par with diplomacy and defense. The National Security Strategy led to the development of the following strategic objectives and related goals:

- Achieve Peace and Security (e.g., avert conflicts);
- Advance Sustainable Development and Global Interests (e.g., advance democracy and good governance, strengthen world economic growth and development, minimize costs of displacements, conflicts and natural disasters); and,
- Promote International Understanding.

Some of the related key priorities to be pursued jointly by the Department of State and USAID include:

- A stable and democratic Iraq;
- Democracy and economic freedom in the Muslim world;
- A stable and democratic Afghanistan;
- Strengthened alliances and partnerships;
- A more effective and accountable United Nations;
- HIV/AIDS Prevention, Treatment and Care, and,
- Accountable development assistance-the MCA.

### *Overview of Key Agencies and Initiatives relevant to UNDP*

**USAID** has been the principal U.S. agency to extend assistance to countries recovering from disaster, trying to escape poverty, and engaging in democratic reforms. USAID is an independent federal government agency that receives overall foreign policy guidance from the Secretary of State. USAID's work supports long-term and equitable economic growth and advances U.S. foreign policy objectives by supporting: economic growth, agriculture and trade; global health; and, democracy, conflict prevention and

humanitarian assistance. USAID currently has four regional bureaus and three thematic bureaus. Regional bureaus include: Sub-Saharan Africa; Asia and the Near East; Latin America and the Caribbean, and; Europe and Eurasia.

*New Initiatives*

**Millennium Challenge Account (MCA)** - in March 2002, in Monterrey, Mexico, President Bush called for a "new compact for global development", which links greater contributions from developed nations to greater responsibility from developing nations. The President proposed a concrete mechanism to implement this compact -- the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) - through which development assistance would be provided to those countries that rule justly, invest in their people, and encourage economic freedom. The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) was established on January 23, 2004 to administer the MCA.

For guidance and assistance, please write to [cosupport@undp.org](mailto:cosupport@undp.org).

**Prepared by the Bureau for Resources and Strategic Partnerships (BRSP) of the UNDP**

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