



EUROPEAN UNION

~FACTSHEET~

FOCUS ON AFRICA

ADDRESSING DEVELOPMENT AND THE CHALLENGES OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

In sub-Saharan Africa 198 million people are suffering from hunger; 25,000 people die of hunger in the world every day. In sub-Saharan Africa, 30 million people are living with AIDS; 2.5 million of those living with AIDS are under the age of 15. The number of deaths has risen to 25 million. 11 million children are orphans because of AIDS. Nurses and teachers are dying from AIDS faster than they can be trained.

The EU considers the development of Africa a priority and will strengthen its efforts to support African countries to reach the Millennium Development Goals. To that end, the EU will strengthen its cooperation with the UN and other international partners.

- Europe is the biggest aid donor in the world, contributing 55% of the aid. We are the world's biggest provider of trade related aid, worth around €750 million per year. We are giving trade and quota free access to our markets for all products from the Least Developed Countries, apart from arms. Europe is also the biggest source of foreign investment on the continent.
- Moreover, the EU has recently taken the decision on more ambitious development aid commitments regarding Official Development Aid (ODA) volumes: a new collective EU target of 0.56% ODA/GNI by 2010 and 0.7% by 2015 were agreed upon. These should result in €20 billion more ODA per year by 2010 and € 45 billion more per year by 2015. The Council decision was taken in light of speeding up the progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals set by the international community in 2000. The EU is strongly committed to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, which have become the central theme of global development cooperation efforts. In September 2005 the UN General Assembly will review progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.
- The EU will increase its financial assistance for sub-Saharan Africa and will provide collectively at least 50% of the agreed increase of ODA resources to the continent while fully respecting individual Member States' priorities in development assistance. This will translate into €10 billion more per year as of 2010 and €22 billion more per year as of 2015. All measures taken as regards policy coherence and quality of aid will be applicable to sub-Saharan Africa as a priority.
- The EU, in partnership with other donors, proposes to establish a Europe-Africa partnership on infrastructure, based on the AU/NEPAD strategies, including to support

the establishment of sustainable trans-African networks essential for the interconnectivity of the continent.

Confronting HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis in Africa

- As part of its external action, the EC and the EU Member States contributes to confront HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB in high-burden countries, including in Africa. Support is being provided through EC bilateral programmes, through the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, co-funding with NGOs, funding for Public Private Partnerships working on new products, and EC research programmes. In 2003-2006, the EC contributed €259 million annually to the fight against the three diseases. The EU is also the largest donor to the Global Fund.
- In April 2005, the EC adopted a new Programme for Action which puts stronger emphasis on joint actions with the EU Member States, at country and global level, to confront these diseases. The Programme for Action also highlights “new” aspects of the diseases, including measures to address human security concerns linked to HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB. In this context, the EU will ensure that guidelines are developed and awareness-raising, information, training and prevention tools are provided for participants in conflict-resolution, peacekeeping and post-conflict operations. The EC will also analyse the impact of HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB on human security, including the impact on governance and institutional performance to develop an appropriate response strategy to support the countries affected.

More information can be found on the following websites:

EU Development cooperation: http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/index_en.htm#

The Commission's package on the Millennium Development Goals:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/communications/communications_en.htm

The Commission's policy on health, AIDS, population and development:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/theme/human_social/pol_health1_en.htm

June 2005