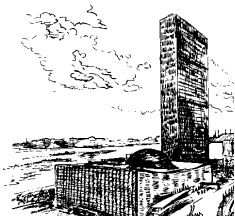


Part 4



Development and Humanitarian Relief Activities

UN Development Program (UNDP)

The UN Development Program (UNDP) coordinates UN development activities and manages the world's largest multilateral program of grant technical assistance. Mark Malloch Brown (United Kingdom), the UNDP Administrator since 1999, also chairs the UN Development Group (UNDG), of which UNDP, the UN Children's Fund, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and the World Food Program form the Executive Committee. The UNDG is charged with encouraging coordination and integration of UN development activities at headquarters and at the country level. UNDP is manager of the UN Resident Coordinator System and coordinates UN development and, where appropriate, humanitarian field activities in this capacity. UNDP actively pursues partnerships with the World Bank, bilateral donors, and the private sector at the operational level.

Funded entirely through voluntary contributions, UNDP's activities center on six aspects of sustainable human development: poverty eradication, democratic governance, crisis prevention and recovery, energy and the environment, information and communications technology, and HIV/AIDS. Good governance, institutional capacity building, and the advancement of women are crosscutting themes across the six focus areas. With strong support from the United States and in response to changing requests from program countries, UNDP has refocused its corporate and personnel structures to make it a leader in governance assistance. It has made a vigorous effort to leverage its development assistance by engaging in strategic partnerships with bilateral donors, multilateral financial institutions, and the private sector. UNDP has offices in 134 countries and programs in 170, giving it near-universal presence in the developing world. The United States has always been a member of the 36-state UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board.

Examples of UNDP's programs in 2001:

- At the request of the United States and other donors, UNDP set up and managed the donor-funded Afghan Interim Authority Fund that assisted the Afghanistan Interim Authority meet its start-up expenditures and pay civil servants salaries according to certified payrolls;

- In East Timor, UNDP's assistance to the electoral process, as part of its effort to build accountable and transparent institutions, helped produce an election, held on August 30, 2001, that was free and fair and unanimously praised by UN Security Council members and others. The Acting U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations termed the results "a rare example of good news";
- UNDP formed a partnership with Cisco Systems, Inc. in July 2000 to launch the Networking Academy Program, aimed at helping people in the least developed countries (LDCs) to develop computer skills. By the end of 2001, some 70 academies had been established in 34 countries, including in 28 of the 49 LDCs, with 165 instructors trained. The U.S. Agency for International Development is a partner in this undertaking; and
- UNDP, through its affiliate the UN Capital Development Fund, promotes access to micro-financing for women, especially those in poor communities.

Administrator Brown has initiated wide-ranging changes in UNDP. He accelerated reforms that transformed the organization from a stand-alone project management and financing entity into one that assists developing countries in enhancing their own capacity to deal with global and national challenges both in terms of policy advice and institutional capacity building. His *Business Plans, 2000-2003*, outlined new policy and management proposals, including a welcome emphasis on indicators to measure impact and relevance of the proposals. Although UNDP's overarching goals remained human development and poverty reduction and its programs continued to be country driven, they were smaller in scope and more focused on policy and institutional development. UNDP cut head-quarter staff by 25 percent and reconfigured country office staffs to decentralize decision-making and place expertise at the national level. The Administrator's targets for UNDP were in line with overall U.S. objectives.

Of particular interest to the United States was progress made in implementing the Secretary-General's 1997 reforms that require improved coordination and harmonization of the UN system's operational activities. UNDP exerted much influence in this area through its position as chair of the UNDG and its management of the UN Resident Coordinator system in the field. Greater coherence in operational activities was enhanced through the Common Country Assessment and the UN Development Assistance Framework, instruments that forced greater coherence in planning, programming, and implementing UN development assistance. The harmonization of program and budget cycles is almost complete and will reduce transaction costs to the recipient country. Common premises or UN houses have been established in 41 countries to cut back on administrative costs. The Resident Coordinator system was strengthened by the introduction of a competency assessment and by widening the pool of prospective

candidates to other UN agencies and by encouraging the candidacies of women.

In the early 1990s, the United States usually provided more than \$100 million annually to UNDP. In 1996, the U.S. contribution dropped to \$52 million. U.S. levels subsequently have increased as UN reforms took hold. The fiscal year 2001 contribution to the regular budget was \$84.37 million, or 13 percent. The U.S. Government pledged \$97.1 million for 2002, ensuring a top rank position among contributors. In 2001, the total UNDP budget was \$2,627 billion, derived from contributions to the regular budget, cost-sharing arrangements, and trust funds. Its administrative expenditures were \$405 million or 15.4 percent of the total.

UNDP employs 4,836 people, of whom 4,051 are in the field. Some 11.4 percent of UNDP's professional staff is American. The highest-ranking American is Julia Taft, former Department of State Assistant Secretary for Population, Refugees, and Migration. Ms. Taft is Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR). She joined UNDP in October 2001 and has already energized a heretofore low-profile bureau. One of its most important tasks is to ensure a smooth transition between emergency assistance and long-term development. The BCPR demonstrated its value in Afghanistan, when it was able to put into place office furniture, computers, vehicles, and supplies for all ministers on December 22, 2001, the day the Interim Authority assumed power.

UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)

The UN General Assembly created the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) in 1946 to meet the emergency needs of children in the wake of World War II. UNICEF continues to provide emergency assistance for children and mothers affected by natural and human-made disasters in countries such as Afghanistan, Sudan, and Sierra Leone. Since the mid-1950's, however, UNICEF has been primarily a development agency. Operating from approximately 5,600 posts in 161 developing countries, UNICEF programs address the health, sanitation, nutrition, basic education, and protection needs of children, wherever possible through low-cost interventions delivered at the community level. Since the Fund's inception, the United States has been represented on the Executive Board, now comprised of 36 members serving three-year terms. The current U.S. term ends in 2002.

Carol Bellamy (United States), UNICEF's Executive Director, has made management reform one of her top priorities since her appointment in 1995. In December 2001, after extensive consultation, the Executive Board approved a Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) that reflected Bellamy's reform efforts. The MTSP presented five organizational priorities: girls' education; integrated early childhood development; "immunization plus;" fighting HIV/AIDS; and improved protection of children from violence, exploitation, abuse, and discrimination. This evolving plan, with adaptation for local conditions, will guide country programming,

partnerships with other UN entities and nongovernmental organizations, fund-raising (by the National Committees), monitoring, and advocacy.

UNICEF is a strong international advocate on behalf of children, particularly “the most disadvantaged,” i.e., those who are victims of conflict, extreme poverty, discrimination, abuse, exploitation, and those with disabilities. To raise awareness of the problems children face and to muster political will for positive change, UNICEF served as the substantive secretariat for the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children (SS/C). The SS/C planned to review the 1991 World Summit for Children’s agenda, to consider new priority issues such as HIV/AIDS and armed conflict, and to develop a plan of action for the next decade. During 2001, U.S. delegations actively participated in a series of meetings to prepare the SS/C’s outcome document, “A World Fit for Children.” Originally scheduled for September 19–21, 2001 the SS/C was rescheduled for May 8–10, 2002 in the aftermath of attacks on the World Trade Center.

With two decades of on-the-ground experience in Afghanistan, UNICEF coordinated intensively with other UN agencies to deliver humanitarian assistance and participate in reconstruction efforts. Undeterred by the evacuation of its international staff from Afghanistan following September 11, UNICEF conducted mass campaigns for immunizations (polio and measles) and vitamin A supplements, and took the lead in providing water, sanitation and primary education in refugee camps in border areas and neighboring countries.

In 2001, UNICEF provided emergency assistance to refugees and the internally displaced, mainly in the Balkans and Africa. UNICEF takes the lead on immunizations, maternal and infant health care, nutrition supplements, water and sanitation, and education. The United States provided \$28 million through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Department of State (Population, Refugees and Migration Bureau).

There is close consultation between the United States and UNICEF on many policy and technical matters of common interest. Health and education specialists from UNICEF, the U.S. Government (USAID and Center for Disease Control), and American nongovernmental organizations work together on child survival and development activities, both at headquarters and in the field.

In 2001 the UNICEF budget totaled \$1.14 billion, (including \$200 million for emergency assistance), provided through voluntary contributions. Of this amount, governments contributed \$719 million. An additional \$389 million came from nongovernmental/private sector sources. The UNICEF program budget is allocated to country programs according to three criteria: under-five mortality rate, income level (GNP per capita), and the size of the population under 18 years. In 2001, the United States, as the largest single donor, contributed \$110 million to regular (core) resources. It also provided an additional \$106 million to “other resources”

for special earmarked projects funded by USAID, and for UNICEF emergency programs.

World Food Program (WFP)

The World Food Program (WFP) is the UN system's front-line multi-lateral food agency, mostly providing emergency food intervention, followed by recovery assistance and to a far lesser extent, related grant development assistance. Established in Rome in 1961 under UN and Food and Agriculture Organization auspices, WFP uses commodities and cash to support social and economic development, protracted refugee and displaced persons projects, and, most of all, to provide emergency food assistance in natural disasters or human-made crisis situations. WFP has a regular staff of 2,355, augmented by 2,893 temporary staff assigned mostly to emergency operations. It used its \$1.7 billion annual budget to send 4.2 million metric tons of food to feed more than 83 million persons in 82 countries in 2001. To facilitate coordination of emergency responses, the United States strongly encouraged the development of WFP's formal working relationships with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the UN Children's Fund, and key nongovernmental organizations that often act as distribution partners in the field.

WFP operates exclusively from voluntary contributions (commodities and cash) donated by governments. The total U.S. contribution of \$1.1 billion was by far the largest. WFP spent 62 percent of its resources in 2001 on emergency programs, 25 percent on other humanitarian relief projects, and 13 percent on development activities. WFP development projects relate directly to its food aid mission and seek to improve agricultural production, rural infrastructure, nutrition and the environment. Food-for-work projects helped build infrastructure and promote self-reliance of the poor through labor-intensive programs. WFP is the largest provider of grant assistance to Africa within the UN system.

About 16 million persons were affected by humanitarian consequences of armed conflict combined with drought in the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes Region. Six million Africans were either refugees or internally displaced. WFP's current primary enterprise is feeding the hungry through emergency operations. The largest number of hungry poor was in Asia and the Pacific, where 17 percent of a total population of 3 billion suffer from under-nourishment. The worst conditions, however, were in Africa, where one-third of the population in sub-Saharan Africa, some 180 million people, was undernourished. In the Horn of Africa, WFP provided emergency rations for more than nine million people in Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, Somalia, and Eritrea, where insufficient rains in 2001 compounded the problems caused by drought in 2000. One of Malawi's worst floods ever hit in 2001, displacing about 130,000 people. WFP borrowed food from its development program to fill the gap before emergency appeals brought in more food. WFP's regional bureau for eastern and southern Africa monitored the developing drought situation and raised the

alarm about the deteriorating food situation in Zimbabwe, paving the way for an emergency appeal in December.

About a dozen African countries remained embroiled in varying degrees of armed conflicts, from Angola to Sierra Leone. Because of war in Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), WFP gave emergency assistance to 600,000 people, including more than 100,000 refugees and 250,000 internally displaced persons. WFP also fed malnourished war-stricken groups in the Equateur and Katanga provinces in the DRC and the Nuba mountains in southern Sudan.

The highest profile operation in 2001 was the emergency program in Afghanistan. Throughout the year, the WFP worked assiduously to avoid famine in Afghanistan, with only a brief interruption in October for staff security reasons. WFP delivered nearly 1,500 tons of food per day to assist some 6.6 million Afghans and in the end, played a major role in averting a much predicted famine. At year's end, the Afghan relief project remained in full force. The WFP continued to also deliver crucial relief in 2001 to such diverse food-insecure places as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Balkans, the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly Haiti, Nicaragua, Bolivia, and Honduras.

For Catherine Bertini, WFP's first American and first woman Executive Director, 2001 marked the last full year of her second term, which ends in April 2002. Ms. Bertini showed imagination and leadership during her tenure, including by stressing the importance of gender as an issue in the food aid equation. In addition, Ms. Bertini implemented internal reforms that increased the efficiency and effectiveness of the organization. The most far-reaching reform was decentralizing regional program direction and setting up a new financial management system that enabled easier tracking of contributions and expenditures. WFP's overhead averages nine percent. Its budget is performance based. The WFP has the largest budget, the smallest permanent staff, and the lowest percentage of administrative costs within the UN system.

The United States is a member of WFP's governing body, the Executive Board (EB). Declining donor resources, especially for development, pose a formidable challenge for WFP as it works to meet the needs of increasing emergency and refugee populations. The United States encouraged the organization to focus on its comparative advantage in relief and rehabilitation and place less emphasis on development, an area the United States believed could be handled more appropriately and effectively elsewhere in the UN system. During its meetings in 2001, the EB approved a series of management improvement measures to refine even further WFP's overall capabilities. In addition, the board and WFP Secretariat encouraged nations that have risen above the poverty level to assume WFP's work within their borders, so that WFP's development assistance could be targeted to the poorest of the world's hungry poor. An example of this kind of transition is Vietnam, where the WFP decided to end its

assistance operations after 25 years. As the world's second-largest rice exporter, Vietnam is now able to feed its own people; its government has agreed to continue the development programs that WFP initiated.

The United States contributed \$300 million in 2001 to the new Global Food for Education Initiative (GFEI), marking an increase in resources available to WFP for development activities. The GFEI brought new resources to a familiar and traditional field of work for WFP, which has many years of experience and much expertise in school feeding programs. Like all in-kind contributions, the U.S. contribution, primarily in the form of surplus commodities, will be given to WFP, on a full cost recovery basis.

WFP continued to explore alternative resource mobilization strategies in 2001, seeking assistance from non-traditional donors, such as India, and organizations such as the U.S. Friends of WFP.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Established in 1950, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has a mandate to lead and coordinate international action for the worldwide protection of refugees and for durable solutions to their plight. In 2001, the total population of concern to UNHCR numbered 21.1 million refugees, returnees, and other displaced persons worldwide, down from 22.3 million persons of concern in 2000.

The United States monitored UNHCR operations in the field through its State Department-based program officers and its refugee coordinators located in the field. The United States and UNHCR continued their cooperation on resettlement, not only as a solution for refugees unable to return to their countries, but also as a means of protection. The United States resettled over 69,000 refugees in 2001.

Africa, Afghanistan, and the Balkans remained areas of key concern, accounting for a majority of those under the care of UNHCR. While some of UNHCR's programs focused on meeting longer-term refugee needs and seeking durable solutions to their plight, UNHCR also responded to emergencies in West Africa, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the Afghan region during the year. Both in West Africa and in South Asia, regional U.S. refugee coordinators worked closely with UNHCR field personnel after the September 11 attack on America and the May 15 peace and disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration agreement in Sierra Leone. The refugee coordinators monitored developments on the ground in Afghanistan and Sierra Leone and communicated with relief staff and the State Department to fashion an effective response.

Each fall, UNHCR's Executive Committee (EXCOM) meets to discuss protection, policy, management, financial, and program issues. UNHCR also holds three standing committee meetings throughout the year. In 2001, UNHCR additionally held a series of Global Consultations, the aim of which was to address key protection concerns and to strengthen international commitment to the 1951 Refugee Convention and 1967 Pro-

TOCOL. As a member of the UNHCR's EXCOM and the largest donor country, the United States played a key role in each of these discussions.

At the EXCOM, the U.S. plenary statement focused on key topics: the potential emergency in the Afghan region; the need to respond to refugee needs elsewhere in the world; the importance of the international community's commitment to the 1951 Refugee Convention; concern over UNHCR's continuing funding shortfall; the need for UNHCR to focus on its core mandate; the priority of strengthening UNHCR's emergency response mechanism; the necessity of ensuring the security of refugees and humanitarian workers; concern about refugee food aid shortages; and U.S. appreciation for the contributions of refugee-hosting countries.

In 2001, the United States introduced a new initiative to help advance U.S. priorities within UNHCR by establishing a Framework for Cooperation with UNHCR. The Framework identified priorities that the United States and UNHCR agreed to address in 2001. Priorities included better protection of refugees, especially for women and children; enhanced safety of UNHCR personnel; a strengthened refugee registration mechanism; enhanced emergency preparedness and response; an increase in American staffing in UNHCR; and a strengthened evaluation role. Progress was made on staff security, evaluation, and emergency preparedness.

At the beginning of the year, former Netherlands Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers replaced Sadako Ogata as the High Commissioner for Refugees. Soon after coming on board, Mr. Lubbers launched an organization-wide review to ensure that UNHCR's core mandate activities would be carried out despite continuing budget shortfalls. UNHCR's EXCOM initially approved a 2001 Annual Program budget of approximately \$899 million. This budget was reduced later in the year to \$808 million to owing to an expected funding shortfall. However, contributions fell short of this reduced budget. In addition to the Annual Program budget, UNHCR appealed for \$117 million for Supplementary Programs to meet needs for activities unforeseen at the beginning of the year, including the exodus from Afghanistan after the September 11 attack on America and the large refugee return to Sierra Leone.

UNHCR is funded almost exclusively through voluntary contributions, with 2 percent of its budget coming from the UN regular budget, and 98 percent coming from voluntary sources. With UNHCR facing serious funding shortfalls once again in 2001, the United States encouraged other donors to contribute their fair share and fully fund the program of work that they endorsed during the EXCOM meeting. In 2001, the United States contributed over \$244 million to UNHCR's Annual and Supplementary Programs. This amount constituted 30 percent of the money UNHCR received, slightly higher than the U.S. average over the past 15 years of 26.8 percent.

In 2001, UNHCR maintained offices in 120 countries worldwide, with 1,200 professional staff, including 116 American citizens. Personnel were

engaged in both protection and assistance activities. In 2001, UNHCR managed 33 substantial assistance operations (operations with budgets greater than \$5 million). The majority of the actual delivery of assistance was conducted by nongovernmental organizations working in partnership with UNHCR.

Disaster and Humanitarian Relief Activities

A key U.S. priority over the last several years has been to enhance coordination of UN emergency relief efforts, including by the establishment of an Emergency Relief Coordinator and the creation of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), as recommended in the Secretary General's 1997 Track II Reform proposals.

The number of casualties and the cost of property damage from natural disasters has increased over several years, thus a U.S. priority is to enhance the coordination of UN disaster management. The United States supported several UN natural disaster General Assembly resolutions, including responding to the El Nino and Belize crises, and minimizing the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster; helping to redefine the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR); and supporting the unprecedented cooperation of Turkey and Greece in assisting the former to respond to major earthquakes.

The El Nino resolution (56/194) supported efforts to reduce the impact of this phenomenon, which had a profound effect on the economies of the Americas and Africa. The United States cosponsored this resolution, which reaffirmed the importance of international cooperation and of regional associations like the Inter-American Institute for Global Research, set up by the Montevideo Agreement. The resolution also stressed the global nature of El Nino. In addition, the United States emphasized the importance of working with the ISDR program (see section that follows on ISDR), the World Meteorological Organization, and other UN agencies in the furtherance of these efforts. The resolution also supported the establishment of the International Center for the Study of the El Nino at Guayaquil, Ecuador.

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

The United Nations established OCHA in 1998 pursuant to the adoption of the Secretary-General's program for reform. OCHA is part of the UN Secretariat and has a mandate to coordinate UN assistance in humanitarian crises. It carries out this mandate by coordinating international humanitarian responses, providing the humanitarian community with support in policy development, and advocating humanitarian issues. OCHA's activities include monitoring humanitarian developments, making contingency plans, preparing needs assessments, establishing field coordination mechanisms, and preparing consolidated appeals.

In 2001, OCHA led talks on creating a binding convention on Urban Search and Rescue (USAR). After intensive consultations, however, the

United States successfully argued that seeking a convention was premature. While the United States left open the possibility of supporting a Convention in the future, the United States also proposed as an immediate alternative the drafting of a UN General Assembly resolution to develop a consensus on how to handle USAR issues, especially an expanded mandate for the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group, a body of experts that focuses on USAR standards, hosted by OCHA. The resolution, drafted by Turkey at the request of the nations engaged in negotiations on the Convention, is based on a consensus agreement on its contents. The draft resolution will be considered at the 57th General Assembly. OCHA has been helpful in fostering briefings on the resolution.

U.S. support for OCHA, through the State Department's Bureau of Population Refugees and Migration (PRM) and Bureau of International Organization Affairs (IO), as well as the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) totaled approximately \$10.34 million in fiscal year 2001 out of a total OCHA budget of \$63.27 million, or 16 percent. Of this amount, PRM provided \$6.8 million, and included \$1 million for emergency response and \$500,000 for security coordination, in addition to funding for information exchange through ReliefWeb and a military-civil defense unit. PRM also offered grants to help strengthen OCHA field coordination units in Africa and Europe, including through support for the Kosovo humanitarian coordination center, protection and security initiatives in the North Caucasus, and OCHA programs in Tajikistan, Georgia, Ethiopia and Eritrea, and the Great Lakes Region of Africa.

The State Department contributed \$1.11 million to OCHA, including for a Global Disaster Information Network (GDIN) and for a Working Group on Emergency Telecommunications (WGET). Since the 1994 Rwanda crisis, the Department of State and the United Nations have cooperated in developing better ways of locating information needed by disaster managers. Projects have included Relief Web, Integrated Regional Information Network (IRIN), and GDIN. Equally important was to ensure that disaster managers had access to emergency telecommunications. In 2001, the Department of State worked with WGET, the body that developed the Tampere Convention on Emergency Telecommunications. WGET assisted the disaster community in the creation of basic standards and crafted specific services to disaster managers who needed new telecommunications personnel on an urgent basis or required the repairs of their communications gear in the field.

OFDA funding to OCHA for the 2001 fiscal year totaled approximately \$2.43 million. This amount included a grant to the UN Humanitarian Coordination Unit to support a security and coordination cell in Ethiopia, as well as grants to support IRIN, a humanitarian news service, for its activities in East and Central Africa. OFDA provided significant contributions to OCHA's activities in Afghanistan for relief coordination and provision of emergency supplies via air support. OFDA also provided

grants to OCHA to support field coordination in emergency responses for Angola, Kenya, Somalia, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

At the beginning of 2001, there were 37 Americans out of a total staff of 271, or 14 percent. Professional staff totaled 198, with Americans comprising 26 slots, or 13 percent.

Convention on the Safety of UN and Associated Personnel

In January 2001, the Administration submitted the Convention on the Safety of UN and Associated Personnel to the Senate for advice and consent to ratification. Hearings on the Convention had not been scheduled by the end of 2001. The United States signed the Convention on December 19, 1994, and it entered into force in January 1999 with the 22nd ratification. There are currently 55 parties. States party to the Convention are required to provide criminal jurisdiction for attacks on UN peacekeeping personnel or others associated with UN peacekeeping operations, or other designated UN operations.

Demining

The United States has provided mine action assistance to mine-affected countries since fiscal year 1989, beginning with Afghanistan. In October 1997, the United States increased its efforts in the field of humanitarian demining, adopting the goal of eliminating the threat of landmines to civilians and assisting survivors of landmine accidents. During 2001, the United States continued to build effective international coordination and sustainable support from both public and private sources to reach this goal.

The Department of State supported over three dozen public-private partnerships, some of which involved the United Nations. The Department of State also worked closely with other donor governments through the UN Mine Action Support Group, which meets regularly in New York to coordinate assistance among donors, and with the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS). UNMAS is the coordination focal point for all mine-related issues and activities. It coordinates the mine action efforts of 11 UN departments and agencies. UNMAS is part of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the UN Secretariat. Several mechanisms exist for channeling donor funds to UN mine action efforts:

- The Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action (VTF) managed by UNMAS;
- Country-specific trust funds, generally managed by the UN Development Program (UNDP); and
- The United Nations Fund for International Partnerships.

The activities of UNMAS are not funded by the regular budget. UNMAS publishes annually its Portfolio of Mine-related Projects, which provides information on all UN mine action programs and projects, funded and looking for funds. Since its establishment in 1994 (through

September 17, 2001), 42 donor governments, the European Union, and private donors have given the VTF over \$78 million in contributions.

During fiscal year 2001, the U.S. Government contributed over \$7.7 million to UN organizations engaged in support of humanitarian mine action objectives worldwide. The UN Children's Fund received \$1.5 million for mine risk education initiatives in several countries—one of the most effective, life-saving components of overall mine action programs. UNOCHA (Afghanistan) received \$1.7 million for its internationally recognized mine-detecting dog program and mine clearance operations. In addition to direct bilateral U.S. assistance, U.S. funds also supported UNDP for important landmine clearance programs in Azerbaijan, Chad, Cambodia, and Laos. With U.S. support, UNDP developed ground-breaking curricula through Cranfield University for educating mid-level and senior managers destined to work in their national mine action centers. Finally, the U.S. Government also supported the UNMAS in its efforts to deploy the Information Management System for Mine Action to additional mine-affected countries and to prepare a program management handbook for use by project management staff.

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)

The U.S. Government has long supported the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) and its predecessor, the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR). The ISDR has a UN Inter-Agency Task Force that oversees the implementation of the Strategy, and a Secretariat that promotes implementation of the Strategy and supports the Task Force. They are located in Geneva, Switzerland, and led by a Director who reports to the Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs. The ISDR was created by General Assembly Resolution 54/219 (1999) as the successor arrangements to the IDNDR.

The Department of State worked closely with the ISDR Secretariat to develop a U.S. National Committee/Platform, which was essentially an expression of U.S. views on disaster reduction. This "platform" will be beneficial to the Yokohama Plus Ten Conference in 2004 by guiding the conference to adopt practical positions. Yokohama Plus Ten, as well as collaboration with ISDR in general, is essential, as it will provide the United States with a unique forum and opportunity to strengthen international standards, which will not only help bolster the international community's defense against natural disasters, but will also protect U.S. commercial and other interests abroad.

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Consideration

The humanitarian affairs segment of the ECOSOC took place in July 2001, in Geneva. Its theme was "Special Economic, Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Assistance: Strengthening the Coordination of the Emergency Humanitarian Assistance of the United Nations." The Council held two panel discussions, one on "Natural Disaster Preparedness and Response Measures," the other on "Emergency Humanitarian Assistance for Groups with Special Needs."

The U.S. Representative to ECOSOC delivered a statement in which she focused on the need for improved access to vulnerable populations including internally displaced persons, the need to mainstream a gender perspective in humanitarian assistance, the plight of children in humanitarian emergencies, the safety and security of UN and humanitarian personnel, and the desirability of developing a universally accepted “standard” response to natural disasters.

General Assembly Consideration

The General Assembly adopted several resolutions on humanitarian affairs and disaster relief, including assistance to specific countries or regions. All were adopted by consensus.

The United States cosponsored and joined consensus on several resolutions. Among them were ones dealing with natural and environmental disasters. The United States joined consensus on Resolution 56/11 on emergency assistance to Belize adopted in response to Hurricane Iris, which went through that country on October 8, 2001. The United States cosponsored Resolution 56/109 aimed at strengthening international cooperation to study, mitigate, and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, and marking its 15th anniversary. The United States agreed on the need to continue assisting the region in rebuilding the lives and communities, but stressed that the most effective aid is often bilateral. The United States joined consensus on the International Strategy of Disaster Reduction Resolution 56/195. The objective of this resolution was to enable all societies to become resilient to the effects of natural hazards and related technological and environmental disasters, in order to reduce human, economic and social losses. The United States cosponsored Resolution 56/99 in response to the earthquakes in Greece and Turkey, which marked an unprecedented level of cooperation between the two countries through the Joint Hellenic–Turkish Standby Disaster Response Unit. The same level of cooperation has also been seen on the related topic of USAR. USAR experts often are used to extract victims from earthquake–damaged buildings.

Several of the resolutions that the United States supported dealt with countries in crisis or transition. Among them were “Emergency International Assistance for Peace, Normalcy, and Rehabilitation in Tajikistan” (56/10), which encouraged member states and others to continue to provide humanitarian and other assistance to Tajikistan; “Humanitarian Assistance for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia” (56/101), which called for humanitarian and other assistance; “Economic Assistance to the Eastern European States Affected by the Developments in the Balkans” (56/110), which expressed concern at the persistent special economic problems confronting Eastern European states affected by the developments in the Balkans; “Assistance for Humanitarian Relief, Rehabilitation and Development for East Timor” (56/104), which encouraged continued collaboration to address the remaining longer–term vulnerabilities of East Timor; and “The Situation in Afghanistan and its Implications for Interna-

tional Peace and Security” (56/220A) and “Emergency International Assistance for Peace, Normalcy and Reconstruction of War–Stricken Afghanistan” (56/220B).

Population Activities

The UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the multilateral donor for population assistance, conducts programs in 160 countries. Executive Director Thoraya Obaid (Saudi Arabia) was appointed by the Secretary–General in 2001. Its focus areas include reproductive health, advocacy on population issues, and activities linking population issues with concerns regarding sustainable development and the status of women. UNFPA projects aim to create awareness among policymakers and the public at large about the adverse effects of rapid, unsustainable population growth on economic development, the environment, and social progress. UNFPA seeks to promote the principle of voluntarism in population programs and to oppose coercive population measures. It neither funds nor advocates abortion.

UNFPA’s China program operates in 32 Chinese counties, which have agreed to exclusively voluntary family planning practices. However, in late 2001, concerns were raised over whether UNFPA programs were supporting coercive family planning practices in China. The Administration will be closely examining this issue in 2002 in the context of the Kemp–Kasten amendment, which prohibits U.S. funding to any organization or program that, as determined by the President of the United States, supports or participates in the management of a program of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization.

As one of 36 members of the UN Development Program/UNFPA Executive Board, the United States participated actively in the governance of UNFPA over the past year. For example, in 2001 it helped design a new multi–year sustainable funding strategy, which will provide UNFPA with a more predictable, assured, and continuous funding basis while maintaining the voluntary nature of contributions. The United States also supported full UNFPA engagement in UN–system reform efforts. In the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks and the U.S. response to unseat the Taliban regime in Afghanistan and its al–Qaida supporters, the United States worked with UNFPA to coordinate the Fund’s response to emergency reproductive health needs in Afghanistan by providing safe delivery kits and sanitary supplies to Afghan women.

An important U.S. policy objective is to help achieve the principal 2015 goals adopted in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Program of Action. Among these goals is to make reproductive health accessible to all individuals of appropriate ages through the primary health care system and to significantly reduce maternal mortality. UNFPA is guided by the principles of the ICPD Program of Action, and is the lead UN organization for implementing the recommendations of the ICPD’s five–year review (“ICPD+5”). Also, UNFPA is working in collaboration with UNAIDS and the World Health Organization to address the HIV/AIDS pandemic, a key U.S. national interest.

Some examples of program achievements in 2001:

- UNFPA worked with civil society organizations and the Guatemalan Government to pass the Social Development and Population Law. Guatemala has the highest fertility rate in Latin America. Maternal mortality is extremely high, due in part to the young age of many first-time mothers. The new law will make reproductive health part of a national policy and no longer subject to varying levels of voluntary contributions.
- In Bangladesh, UNFPA is contributing to strengthening the national technical capacity to collect, analyze, and disseminate socio-demographic data to help in carrying out population policies and achieving reproductive health and family welfare goals.
- UNFPA's program in Botswana supports government efforts to combat HIV in the military, police and prisons by providing reproductive health information, education, and communication materials and by training service providers.
- UNFPA provided emergency assistance in many different parts of the world. In the aftermath of major earthquakes in Gujarat, India and El Salvador, for instance, it provided resources and personnel to equip health clinics, including tools for safe blood transfusions and HIV prevention.

The United States contributed \$21.5 million to the UNFPA regular budget in fiscal year 2001 out of a total of \$258.3 million or 8.3 percent. This made the United States the sixth largest donor to the organization. (Although fiscal year 2001 funding for UNFPA was authorized up to \$25 million, a dollar-for-dollar withholding equal to the \$3.5 million that UNFPA spent in the People's Republic of China during that year resulted in a net U.S. allocation of \$21.5 million.) UNFPA has 905 employees of which 6.5 percent are U.S. citizens. Its professional staff of 235 includes 23 Americans or 9.8 percent.

Human Settlements

In December 2001, the UN General Assembly changed the name and status of the 58-member UN Commission on Human Settlements (established in 1977) to the UN Human Settlements Program (UN-HABITAT), an organ of the General Assembly. UN-HABITAT's mission is to promote the socially and environmentally sustainable development of human settlements, with the ultimate objective of adequate shelter for all. UN-HABITAT's Governing Council meets every two years, with its next meeting scheduled for February 2003. States are elected to the Governing Council on a regional basis for four-year terms. The United States has been a member since 1977 and the current term expires in 2002.

The UN Center for Human Settlements, headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, performs two valued roles. Its analytic work promotes best practices in a variety of fields related to human settlements and the role of

local authorities. Its technical arm directly assists local authorities in providing services, and national governments in developing a more decentralized power structure. UN-HABITAT implements two global campaigns—one advocating improved urban governance, the other promoting secure housing tenure. UN-HABITAT also seeks to advance the role of women in decision-making in all its activities.

In 2001, UN-HABITAT managed over 200 technical assistance projects in 63 countries throughout the developing world, including challenging regions like Iraq (through the Oil-for-Food program), Kosovo (to establish the land registry system), and Afghanistan (working to shelter the thousands in camps and assist their return to dwellings and communities in need of rebuilding). UN entities contributed \$330 million in the biennium 2000–2001 budget for technical assistance activities—including the Oil-for-Food program in Iraq. UN member states provided another \$12.5 million in voluntary contributions. In fiscal year 2001, the United States contributed \$500,000 to UN-HABITAT.

UN-HABITAT suffered from poor fiscal and personnel management in the mid-1990s, and as a consequence the United States suspended voluntary contributions in 1996. A “revitalization” of the Program—led first by Acting Executive Director Klaus Toepfer, then by current Executive Director Anna Tibaijuka (appointed in October 2000)—resulted in a top-to-bottom restructuring and a more focused mandate over the past five-six years. In 2001, the UN General Assembly recognized the success of reforms when it elevated UN-HABITAT to a Program in the UN Development Group.

In 1999, UN-HABITAT became the focal point for UN activities aimed at the Millennium Declaration goal of achieving significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020. During 2001, U.S. delegations participated in a process leading up to the UN General Assembly Special Session for an Overall Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Habitat Agenda (the original plan of action set out in 1996 in Istanbul). This global conference in June 2001 (“Istanbul + 5”) produced the “Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium.” Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Mel Martinez led the delegation of HUD, U.S. Agency for International Development, and Department of State officials at the conference.

UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)

The UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has been providing essential services to Palestinian refugees in the Middle East since 1950. It provides services to nearly 4 million refugees in 59 camps throughout UNRWA’s 5 fields of operations: West Bank, Gaza, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. UNRWA is headed by Commissioner-General Peter Hansen (Denmark). UNRWA has 22,700 employees, of whom 121 (including 18 U.S. citizens) are international staff. The

majority of the local staff are Palestinian. About 52 percent of UNRWA's regular budget supports its education programs, which include schools and teachers in the Agency's five fields of operations. Another 18 percent is spent on health services, and 10 percent on relief and social services. Approximately 12 percent of UNRWA's budget covers administration and overhead costs.

The United States is a strong supporter of UNRWA's programming because an effective UNRWA that meets humanitarian needs of Palestinian refugees is a force for stability in the region. The United States contributed \$123 million to UNRWA in fiscal year 2001. This represented 29.7 percent of UNRWA's total 2001 funding of \$412.76 million. The State Department contributed \$101 million from Migration and Refugee Assistance funds, of which \$86.9 million went to the organization's General Fund to provide relief and social services, health care, and education to Palestinian refugees. The remainder of the U.S. contribution came from Economic Support Funds administered by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). U.S. contributions to the General Fund also made possible UNRWA special projects, including the renovation of health clinics, a school, and vocational training centers in all five UNRWA fields of operation; expansion of a micro-credit and poverty alleviation program; the continuation of UNRWA's Computer Information Technology Initiative; and the first steps of an innovative shelter rehabilitation project for Palestinian refugees in Syria. Of the total U.S. contribution, \$14.1 million in State Department funds and \$10 million from USAID-administered Economic Support Funds were provided in response to a series of UNRWA-issued emergency appeals for emergency programs in the West Bank and Gaza.

The 56th General Assembly adopted a group of seven resolutions on UNRWA, voting in the Fourth Committee on November 9, and in plenary on December 10. The United States voted in support of the resolution on offers by member states of grants and scholarships for Palestinian refugees, and joined consensus in adopting the resolution on the Working Group on Financing of UNRWA. The United States abstained on the resolution on assistance to Palestinian refugees and opposed the remaining four resolutions (displaced persons, UNRWA operations, revenues from Palestinian refugee property, and the University of Al Quds) because they attempted to prejudge issues that the Israelis and Palestinians have agreed to settle in permanent status negotiations.

