

A UN peacekeeper in camouflage and a blue helmet is aiming a rifle from a military vehicle. The scene is set in a desert environment under a clear blue sky. The vehicle is white with blue accents. The peacekeeper is wearing a blue helmet and camouflage uniform. The rifle is black and has a magazine with a blue and white pattern. The overall image has a blue tint.

VOICES
INTERNAL

13th Edition
27 May 2011

THE UN IN THE FIELD

INTERNAL VOICES

The voice of the United Nations interns
13th Edition

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Internal Voices is a 100% UN interns' magazine giving all UN interns the opportunity to network, express opinions and share knowledge, points of view and experiences. Everything from articles to layout and editing is done by UN interns. If you want to get involved, the intern team at UNRIC in Brussels would love to hear from you!

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VOICES

INTERNAL



BRUSSELS

CONTENT

- ▼ 4
EDITORIAL
- ▼ 5
MEET THE TEAM
- ▼ 6
NEW WEBSITE PREVIEW
- ▼ 7
MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS
- ▼ 8
SHARING INFORMATION,
MAINTAINING PEACE
BY JULIA MANDIL
- ▼ 10
HOW INFORMATION CENTERS
HELP THE UN BE HEARD
BY MIRIAM ACED
- ▼ 12
UN PROJECTS IN SUB-SAHARAN
AFRICA, MILLENNIUM VILLAGES:
A NEW STRATEGY TO FIGHT POVERTY
BY MARION OULDBOUKHITINE
- ▼ 14
MINURSO AND WESTERN SAHARA:
AN ENDLESS AFFAIR
BY GONZALO PEREZ DEL ARCO
- ▼ 16
THE WORLD BANK IN ANGOLA:
ONGOING PROJECTS AND
ANGOLA'S FUTURE PERSPECTIVE
BY MAURO SANTOS
- ▼ 18
INTERNATIONAL DAYS
- ▼ 19
INTERNATIONAL YEARS
- ▼ 20
UNICEF 2011 BUILDING RESILIENCE:
THE MOST EFFECTIVE DEFENCE
AGAINST DISASTER
BY SCOTT SUTHERLAND
- ▼ 22
HELPING COMMUNITIES
HELP THEMSELVES
BY JENNIFER VIBERT
- ▼ 24
WOMEN ACROSS BOUNDARIES: A
BRIDGE BETWEEN TWO CULTURES
BY SERENA NATILE
- ▼ 27
UNITAR: UNITED NATIONS
INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING
AND RESEARCH
- ▼ 28
WORLD WATER RESOURCES
BY PRISCILLA NZABANITA
- ▼ 30
UNRWA AND ITS MULTIPLE ROLES
BY MIRIAM ACED
- ▼ 32
INTERVIEW OF ELENA
MANCUSI-MATERI
BY ROBIN DE WOUTERS
- ▼ 34
QUIZZ & GAMES
- ▼ 36
INTERVIEW OF FORMER INTERNS
- ▼ 37
INFERNAL VOICES



**ROBIN
DE WOUTERS**
Editor

UNRIC
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Nationality
Belgian - American

As you may have noticed, this edition of *Internal Voices* not only has a new topic, but also a completely remodelled template, as well as a brand new website. All change for a fresh start.

Every edition of *Internal Voices* has focused on a specific subject; one general topic, no matter where the author was based or which part of the UN they worked for. In this way, our readers were well informed on the twelve topics we have covered in the twelve editions we have published.

After editing and publishing the previous edition, I asked myself which topics the magazine had yet to discuss. It occurred to me that instead of having a common subject, we could give more liberty to the authors and allow them to decide what they would like to write about, as long as the issue remains within the UN mandate.

The 13th edition of *Internal Voices* therefore focuses on the following topic: the UN in the field, allowing for a wider range of subjects and for the reader to learn what UN agencies are doing in the field.

From UNICs in Australia and Brazil to peacekeeping operations in Western Sahara, from the work of the World Bank in Angola

to the actions taken by UNICEF to help protect children around the world, the 13th edition offers a wide range of subjects with one aim only: to increase public knowledge of the United Nations and its work across continents.

As an intern here at the United Nations Regional Information Center, I have had the amazing opportunity, among other tasks, to be the editor of this magazine, written by interns worldwide, put together by interns here at UNRIC and distributed to interns and other staff members of the UN worldwide.

As I will be leaving UNRIC soon, this will be my final edition and I wish to truly thank all the people who contributed to *Internal Voices*. Thank you to my wonderful editorial team for their work, help and support; thank you to Veronica, our IT intern, without whom this new template would not have been possible; thank you to all the authors without whom there would be no magazine; and thank you to all you readers, who make this adventure possible.

I invite you all to comment on any of the articles of this edition or any previous ones on our website or on our Facebook page.

MEET THE TEAM



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For its 13th Edition, the editorial team of the Internal Voices Magazine decided it was time to freshen it up a bit.

For this reason, the template was remodelled as you can see to make it simpler and easier to read. For instance, every article has a logo of the related UN agency, which is a hyperlink to their website.

We will soon also have a brand new website. It is visually clearer and any user will find what he or she is looking in a “click of a second”...

This preview is a snapshot taken from its homepage.

The website will be available soon.

I hope you all enjoy our magazine and website...

THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs)



ERADICATE EXTREME
POVERTY & HUNGER



ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL
PRIMARY EDUCATION



PROMOTE GENDER
EQUALITY AND
EMPOWER WOMEN



REDUCE CHILD
MORTALITY



IMPROVE MATERNAL
HEALTH



COMBAT HIV/AIDS,
MALARIA AND
OTHER DISEASES



ENSURE
ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY



DEVELOP A GLOBAL
PARTNERSHIP
FOR DEVELOPMENT

SHARING INFORMATION, MAINTAINING PEACE



JULIA MANDIL
UNIC Brazil

Nationality
Brazilian

Topic article
UN promotion
in Brazil



[UNIC Rio](#)

As the Brazilian economy grows stronger in an unprecedented way, the country assumes an increasingly important role in international politics. However, the Brazilian population still has to deal with serious problems, especially those related to inequality, poverty and violence. In this context, UN agencies play a key role to help local initiatives face the challenges ahead and continue moving forward. To promote a greater public understanding and support for those aims and initiatives, the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) for Brazil works as the main source of information about what the UN is doing in the country. Acting since 1947 in the city of Rio de Janeiro, it was the first UNIC established in Latin America. As an Information Centre, it reaches the media and educational institutions and engages in partnerships with governments, local civil society organizations and the private sector.

Highlighting international issues

A part of UNIC Rio's work is to organize events to highlight issues or observances. Therefore, the information centre is always looking for new partners to participate in events that could be of interest to the Brazilian public. In 2011, the Information Centre organized two events to mark International Days included in the UN agenda. In January, it held a ceremony, in partnership with the Israelite Federation of Rio de Janeiro, to mark the International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Local authorities, in-

cluding the Minister of Human Rights, as well as civilian and religious representatives gathered to discuss the theme "Women and the Holocaust: courage and compassion". The second event, held in April, consisted in a series of activities to observe the 17th commemoration of the genocide in Rwanda. Organized along with the International Relations Institute of the Catholic University of Rio, the event brought together students and professors to discuss the role of the UN and the international community during the genocide in 1994.

From peace to war scenarios

But the Information Centre for Brazil doesn't only promote the UN activities through events and activities. The main educational outreach activity for university students is a three-week course called University for Peace, created in partnership with the Law School of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. The course, which is called "*The United Nations and the Contemporary International Questions*", has a different theme each year. In its previous editions it discussed Peace and Security, Environment and Climate Change and Human Rights. This year's theme will be Gender, Race and Ethnicity, and the course will take place in July, during the Brazilian winter vacations. According to the Information Officer of UNIC Rio, Valéria Schilling students learn during this course about the work of the UN and participate in seminars on specific subjects related to the year's theme. More than 200 university students at graduate

and undergraduate levels already attended the University for Peace.

Another course provided by UNIC Rio is the “Brazilian Training Course for Journalists Covering Peacekeeping Missions and Conflict Areas”. The initiative is carried out in partnership with the Joint Centre for Peacekeeping Operations in Brazil (CCOPAB), responsible for the training of the military belonging to the three Brazilian forces - air force, navy and army - who participate in peacekeeping missions. During the five-day course, the participants attend lectures on various subjects such as the United Nations System, human rights and humanitarian international law, Brazilian foreign policy and defense policy, the MINUSTAH mission in Haiti and the role of communication in peacekeeping operations. In addition to the lectures, the participants are taught how to act in a hostile environment through practical simulation activities in the field, including security training in conflict situations, first aid notions, identification of mines, use of GPS and hostage negotiation, among others.

All the participants live on the premises of the CCOPAB, in the western zone of Rio, sleeping in containers and in tents, in a fictional country – Tudistan – where Brazilian Army units are deployed in a fictional UN peacekeeping mission. During the course the journalists work as embedded journalists in a Brazilian unit and are exposed to meticulously reconstructed risk situations such as mortar shelling and a car bomb suicide attack. The five-day intensive course, which will this year take place at

the end of May, has already been attended by 100 journalists – civilian and military - both Brazilian and from other Latin American countries.

A new home for the UN in Brazil

To promote the great number of activities and initiatives, not only from UNIC Rio, but also from all UN agencies working in the country, the Information Centre is launching a new website this month, called [UN in Brazil](#). As a result of a joint project created by UNCG Brazil, the UN Communication Group in the country, and currently coordinated by UNIC Rio, the website aims at making an even better promotion of the activities carried out by UN agencies for the Brazilian public. According to the In-

formation Assistant of the Information Centre, Gustavo Barreto, the new website will reunite the UN principles, documents, photos and all the main initiatives of the UN agencies working in Brazil, all of them translated into Portuguese. According to Barreto, this will be, along with UNRIC’s Portuguese desk, one of the main entry gates to the UN for the Portuguese community; a great initiative since they represent worldwide nearly 240 million people.



UNIC Rio - Gustavo Barreto

HOW INFORMATION CENTRES HELP THE UN BE HEARD



MARIAH
MERCER
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Nationality
American

Topic article
UN promotion in
Australia



[UNIC Canberra](#)

Building bridges, feeding children, brokering peace deals, fighting HIV/AIDS and malaria, and other infectious diseases – these are just some of the ways the United Nations change lives in the field through its peace and development programmes. Though such efforts are the primary focus of UN work, this work is supported by a number of organisations within the UN system, including the United Nations Information Centres (UNICs) around the world.

The UNIC office for Australia, New Zealand, and the South Pacific, situated in Canberra, is part of a network of 63 United Nations Information Centres (UNICs), which fall under the Department of Public Information. UNICs support the UN by serving as a public voice, promoting global awareness and a greater understanding of the work of the United Nations. UNIC Canberra does this in three primary ways: offering information, building partnerships, and promoting UN priorities and events.

Providing new information

As part of its informational capacity, UNIC staff serve as a reliable source of up-to-date information about the UN to a number of people, including journalists, government officials, civil society, students, and the general public. When the UN releases one of its many useful and valuable reports, such as the annual MDG report or the UNDP Human Development Report, UNIC offices help journalists obtain and understand the conclusions. Broadly, UNIC Can-

berra works with the media to help the UN message reach as many people as possible. UNIC staff members develop and implement communications plans, utilising radio, television, print, Internet and other information technology, in a way that has special resonance in their respective regions. Locally, UNIC Canberra's staff keeps tabs on the Australian press (who's who, what sort of stories each journalist is interested in) as well as pouring over the pages of local press, watching the daily give and take of the news cycle.

The centres often work with civil society to distribute information and promote issues through seminars, exhibits and other activities. For example, UNIC Canberra recently coordinated an exhibit entitled "Lessons from Rwanda," aimed at the commemoration of the Rwandan Genocide. UNIC Canberra is currently working with Model UN participants to support the Asia Pacific Conference in July. University students will learn about the politics of the sea, the UN Security Council, and public diplomacy.

Building partnerships

UNIC offices are responsible for building partnerships, to support both connecting less developed nations to programming and keeping the general public informed about UN projects. UNIC staff works with government offices, non-governmental organisations, and the general public, trying to bring all stakeholders together. One example is the UNIC Canberra collaboration with the Canberra Institute of Technology and the National Botanic Garden to pro-



UNIC OFFICES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

mote the International Year of Forests through a photographic competition and exhibition on the themes of biodiversity and threatened species. Winners of the 2010 contest received photographic internships with the United Nations Mission in Timor Leste, the Australian National Botanic Gardens, ACT Government and the Canberra Times.

Partnerships at the individual level are also essential – after all, as the bumper stickers say, it's *your* world. For many years, UNIC Canberra has hosted a booth at Australia's National Multi-Cultural Festival, often partnering with UNDP representatives. There, UN staff talks one-on-one with visitors about UN values, programs and opportunities to help. UNIC also tries to introduce children to global citizenship early by marking United Nations Day with visits to area schools, engaging students in an educational programme called UN4U.

Promoting events

Finally, UNIC officers promote UN priorities and events, often through the observances of international days, years and decades. Our commemorations can include presentations with national or local dignitaries, workshops, educational programmes, and more. UNIC Canberra has marked the International Day of UN Peacekeepers with a march, invocation and ceremony, International Day of Peace with a soccer (or football to most of the world) match, a drumming session to mark the International Day of Remembrance of Victims of Slavery and the Slave Trade, and testimonials from Auschwitz survivors to mark Holocaust Remembrance Day. UNIC efforts on the ground help the UN commemorate, raise awareness, and promote its priorities among the general public.

Global problems may require global solutions, but they also need strong local roots. UNICs – along with many organisations within and without the UN system – nurture those roots all around the world and help the UN bloom.



UNIC Canberra

UN PROJECTS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA, **MILLENNIUM VILLAGES**: A NEW STRATEGY TO FIGHT POVERTY



MARION
OULBOUKHITINE
UNRIC Brussels

Nationality
French

Topic article
Water resources



[Millennium Villages](#)

In September 2000, the Eight Millennium Development Goals were set by the United Nations and adopted by 147 heads of state gathered in New York to improve human well-being by reducing poverty, hunger, child and maternal mortality, ensuring primary education for all, preventing the spread of diseases, tackling gender disparity, promoting sustainable development and pursuing global partnerships. These goals are expected to be achieved by 2015. The experience of the past 10 years shows that attaining them will be hard but not impossible.

The countries of Eastern Europe, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean are fulfilling many of the MDGs.

Nevertheless, few African countries are likely to meet most of them and sub-Saharan Africa lags far behind other regions in reaching the MDG's.

The challenges of the UN Project Management in Africa

Africa currently concentrates the highest proportion of people living in extreme poverty; more than 300 million people live with less than \$1 a day; 31% of sub-Saharan Africa's population is chronically undernourished and 1 in 16 women die in pregnancy or childbirth in sub-Saharan Africa.

Sub-Saharan Africa comprises 48 heterogeneous states at various stages of social, economic and political development.

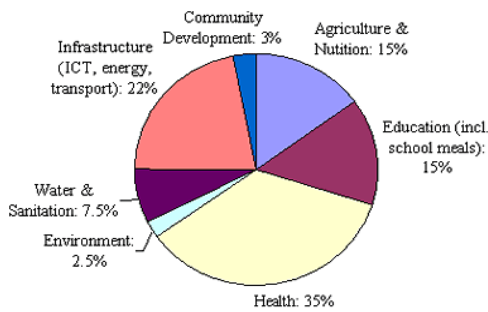
The continent must deal with new challenges inherent to the 21st century like achieving peace and security, sustaining economic growth and creating employment

in the face of new global actors, rising food and fuel prices, a new global trading regime, climate change and environment degradation. In sub-Saharan Africa, project managers working in the field must take some national factors into account to fully implement their plans and meet human needs in an appropriate way; they have to face poor political and economic governance, infrastructure issues, poor leadership and policy inconsistency that do not foster progress towards the MDG's and even have a strong negative impact on it.

Adopted strategies

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) launched the Millennium Villages Project (MVP) designed to demonstrate how the eight Millennium Development Goals can be achieved in rural Africa within five to ten years through community-led development. The UN has implemented the ambitious initiative in 10 countries: Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda.

The MVP network includes a full range of technical, scientific and operational tasks at various levels. In each country, highly qualified project staff links the community with governments, NGOs, intergovernmental organisations and development professionals. MDG advisors, from the Development Programme office act as a bridge between the MVP and national policy-makers. Moreover, two Regional Centres situated in Nairobi and Bamako provide scientific and technical support to the governments and



More than 1/3 of the MVP budget is granted to Health projects.

other stakeholders. Finally, a team of scientists and managers based in New York, from The Earth Institute, Millennium Promise and UNDP coordinate the technical and operational dimensions of the project. Half of the financial contributions comes from Millennium Promise (60 million dollars), the rest being funded by local and national governments (30 millions), partners organizations (20 millions) and the local communities (10 millions). This project supports simple solutions like providing treated bed-nets, fertilizers, materials to build school rooms and clinics among others which are supposed to lift the inhabitants above the threshold of extreme poverty and lead them to sustainable development and growth.

UN Project in the field : the concrete example of the Millennium Village cluster in Mayange, Rwanda.

When the MVP project was implemented in 2006, the local population of that country, called “land of a 1,000 hills”, was facing famine because of a lack of rainfall and a disastrous harvest the year before. At the time, the Health Centre was experiencing a severe lack in staff, medicine, equipment, and had no electricity or running water. HIV prevalence was 13%, the highest in the country and almost 1/5 children died before the age of 5.

Thanks to simple and cost-effective interventions such as the utilization of insecticide-treated bed nets, the construction of

new rooms and the training of staff members in reproductive health as well as malaria treatment program for households, the Mayange Health Centre, which had a total of 6,146 outpatient visitors in 2005, succeeded in consulting more than 4,000 outpatients in one month. These measures have helped dramatically reducing under-5 mortality.

“Africa as a whole has made some remarkable achievements in some targets of the MDGs, such as primary education, gender parity at primary level, fight against HIV and AIDS. However, it is unfortunate that poverty reduction has not been commensurate with the strong economic growth before the crises. Also, maternal mortality continues to take a heavy toll on African women of childbearing age and African children and infants still have abnormally high mortality rates.”

Mr. Emmanuel Nnadozie,
Director of Economic Development a
NEPAD Division at the ECA (EDND).

African countries have made real efforts to integrate the MDGs into their development plans and budgets. Africa will indeed not

meet most of the MDG targets by 2015, but significant progress has been made:

HIV/Aids prevalence rates in sub-Saharan Africa has dropped in the two past years according to the 2011 annual report of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. Sub-Saharan countries have managed to reduce the number of starving people by at least 25 per cent and some of these countries have achieved more stable and growing economies coupled with investment in socio-economic policies.

The task to be addressed in Africa remains considerable, but all these national initiatives, in collaboration with major stakeholders, show that the continent has the will to face major challenges step-by-step to attain the MDG’s on the long term.

After all, Rome was not built in a day.



UN Photo - Eric Kanalstein

MINURSO AND WESTERN SAHARA: AN ENDLESS AFFAIR



GONZALO
PEREZ
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Nationality
Spanish

Topic article
Peacekeeping
mission in Western
Sahara



MINURSO

The MINURSO (Mission of the United Nations for a Referendum in Western Sahara) is one of the longest field missions of the United Nations. It started in 1991, and there is unfortunately no reason it will come to an end soon. On April 30th 2011, the mandate of the mission was over and was extended. Many meetings and discussions to vote for the extension of the MINURSO mandate took place at the United Nations in New York.

Decolonization and arising problems

Western Sahara is a former Spanish colony, situated between Morocco, Mauritania and Algeria. The conflict started in 1976 after the Spanish withdrawal that was agreed in the Madrid Tripartite Agreement of November 1975. Spain left its colony to a provisional shared administration composed of Morocco, Mauritania and the “Yemaá” (the Saharan authority), which had political interests in this area and wanted to incorporate it to their territory. Spain should have taken into account and followed the position of the United Nations in the negotiation of this agreement as Western Sahara had been added by Spain to the UN list of Non-Self-Governing Territories whose decolonization was pending, according to the United Nations General Assembly Declaration 1514 for the Independence of the Colonial Countries and People of 1960. The fact of adding a territory to this list by an administering Power of a Non-Self-Governing Territory means that all the decisions that have to do with the decolonization of a territory

need to be discussed and approved at the United Nations and such a decision cannot be taken unilaterally by the administering Power as Spain did in this case.

The United Nations got involved in 1985 after a war that had started in 1976, when forces from Morocco and Mauritania fought against the POLISARIO Front (the Western Saharan pro-independence movement that). Mauritania signed a peace treaty in 1979 and abandoned its claims on Western Sahara. An agreement was reached among the POLISARIO, Morocco and the UN in 1989 and a ceasefire was implemented in 1990.

The agreement aimed at organizing a referendum of self-determination for the people of Western Sahara, and the MINURSO was to be in charge of its organization. However, all frameworks proposed to organize the referendum were systematically rejected by one part or another and there have not been any significant improvements since.

Today, Western Saharan territories are mainly occupied by Morocco; the POLISARIO occupies a part of the territories that are considered the free Western Sahara, and there are four refugee camps of Western Saharan people in the Algerian desert. The most important one is in the city of Tindouf (165.000 refugees). These people have now been waiting for 30 years for the conflict to end, and to be able to go back to their homes.

UN in West Sahara

The MINURSO is composed of 232 military staff, 99 international civil staff, 164 local staff members and 22 United Nations

Volunteers. It is led by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General Hanni Abdel-Aziz from Egypt, and the military staff is under the orders of General of Division Zhao Jingmin from China.

Among its main tasks are the monitoring of the ceasefire and the organization of the referendum in Western Sahara for which a census of the people living there must also be conducted. The MINURSO supervises the reduction of Moroccan troops in the territory of Western Sahara, makes sure the POLISARIO and Morocco don't have troops in some marked areas; it also works on freeing war prisoners and supervises along with the Red Cross their exchange between both parts. 15 members of the Mission have died in the field so far. The budget of the Mission was about \$60 million for the period July 2010- June 2011.

Not only the MINURSO but also UNHCR, the Red Cross and many non governmental organizations are currently in the field, performing very important tasks. UNHCR is aware of all the problems these refugees are facing and tries to improve the conditions of the camps where there is almost no water. Its main problem is budgetary. It would take US\$ 4.6 million to cover the needs of the refugee camps of Western Sahara, but only US\$ 1.6 million has been raised so far. Spain and Angelina Jolie, the UNHCR Good will Ambassador, have been the most important donors. More help is needed.

UNHCR has been working on various aspects to make the life of the Western Sahara people easier. One of its programs is to facilitate the visits of separated Saharan families that reside in the camps near Tindouf (Algeria) or Western Sahara. This program, called "Building Confidence Measures", is strictly humanitarian and apolitical. Its aim is to support Saharan families who have been separated for more than 34 years. The program has started with a first flight that carried some 30 people of El Aaiún (Western Sahara) to the camp of Saharan refugees in Smara, near Tindouf (Algeria), and 33 other people travelled from Smara to El Aaiún. All of them would spend five days with their families before going back

to their home. A total of 12.635 Saharans have benefited from these visits to their families since the start of the program in 2004, while other 31.058 have registered and are waiting for a chance to meet with their families. UNHCR carries out this program in collaboration with the Moroccan and Algerian Governments and the POLISARIO Front. The MINURSO, for its part, contributes by providing the aircraft and by operating the flights.

A frozen conflict

The situation in Western Sahara and the process that could bring independence to these territories have tended to be quite a forgotten conflict mainly because the media (except for the Spanish ones) don't talk so much about it. Perhaps because this is a frozen situation whose solution does not really interest many implicated nations as it could compromise their stability and their relations in the Maghreb. Even if all the implicated nations want a solution to this problem, the positions that have traditionally been held by Algeria, France, Spain, Morocco or the United States have not always been the same. France is a traditional ally of Morocco and it defends its interests; Morocco wants the integration of the Western Sahara into its territory; Algeria defends the independence of Western Sahara; and Spain would like a solution in accordance with international law which would be led by the United Nations and that would respect the will of the Saharan people. But what about the people of Western Sahara? What do they want? Independence or integration into Morocco, within a particular

regime of autonomy, are the two main solutions that were proposed and agreed as the possible ones by all the implicated parts in the conflict. And that is what the referendum that is intended to be organized by the MINURSO needs to solve. However, the main problem about organizing the referendum is to be able to conduct a census of the people of Western Sahara. This is where Morocco and The POLISARIO are opposed, as Morocco wants to include in the census all Moroccans who now live in Western Saharan territories, and the POLISARIO only wants to take a census of the native Western Saharans.

Forces must be joined

Collaboration among United Nations entities in the field and among non-governmental organizations has been very important during all these years. The progress that has been made, the dialogue, the agreements that were reached in fields like the protection of human rights, the collaboration of Algeria, Morocco and the POLISARIO with programs such as the one described above, should be seen as positive things. However, the political positions of these parts have to be brought together in order to be able to reach a solution to the conflict. The United Nations, France, Spain and the United States, which are the main external actors that have influence in Morocco and Western Sahara, should play a key role and share the same position in order to implement pressure on both parts to find a solution. For the time being, it does not seem it will happen so far.



UN MINURSO - X

THE WORLD BANK IN ANGOLA: ONGOING PROJECTS AND ANGOLA'S FUTURE PERSPECTIVE



**MAURO
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UNRIC, Brussels

Nationality
Portuguese

Topic article
UNICEF
in the field



[The World Bank](#)

To start this article we must first run through the country's history, and for that we must also know the current life style of the population and the country status on the international scenery.

After winning its independence from Portugal in 1975, Angola went through 27 years of civil war. When the ceasefire was finally achieved in 2002, the country was facing a severe lack of basic infrastructures, such as water and electricity facilities, roads and many more. Nowadays, the country, a big oil supplier for the world, especially for the US and China, is a great "target" for Foreign Direct Investment from all around the world. That derives from facts such as the natural resources in which the country is rich, like oil, natural gas, gold, iron, wood, diamonds and many others. Another economically important fact is that lack of basic infrastructures, which attracts investors and many major companies that are willing to invest in a country where everything must be redone, and where the market is very prosperous.

Enlisting investors would be an enormous task as the list is too long, ranging from private to public investors, from banks to companies and even governments. The investments cover every area, such as factories, basic facilities, roads, schools, hospitals, water barrages, agriculture, industry, housing, pipes, oil, extracting industry, airports, ports, and oil refineries. Investments in Angola have reached billions of dollars every year for the past ten years, and it is still growing every year. And these facts

don't elude the attention of the greater banks, such as the Exim Bank of China, the African Development Bank, and of course the World Bank, which has provided funds for many projects dedicated to increase the living standards of the Angolan population. There are currently six great projects active in the country with loans from the World Bank:

1. MUNICIPAL HEALTH SERVICE STRENGTHENING: the objective in this project is to improve the quality of the maternal and child health care services as well as the population's access to it.

2. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT: the main objectives of this project are to improve access of poor householders to basic services and economic opportunities, and enhance the local institutional capacities.

3. WATER SECTOR INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT; this project aims at strengthening the institutional capacity and efficiency of agencies in the water sector to improve access and reliability of water service delivery.

4. MARKED ORIENTED SMALL-HOLDER AGRICULTURE PROJECT: the objective of this project is to increase the agricultural production by providing better services and investing in smallholder farmers in a few of the provinces.

5. ANGOLA EMERGENCY MULTI-SECTOR RECOVERY – phase 2: this project's objective is to initiate a long-term process of economic rehabilitation and reconstruction.



THE WORLD BANK HAS RAISED ITS FORECAST FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE REGION TO 5.3 PER CENT IN 2011 AS THE GLOBAL ECONOMY RECOVERS AND OUTLOOK IMPROVES FOR OIL PRODUCERS SUCH AS NIGERIA AND ANGOLA”, IN AFRICA’S ECONOMIC RECOVERS, BY SCOLA

6.HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND TB CONTROL PROJECT: the objective of such a program is to reduce the spread of these diseases and to increase the access to better treatment, diagnosis and support to its population.

These 6 projects received over 549 million dollars of investments. Their closing dates vary between 2011 and 2016. On March 17 2011, the newspaper *Sol* announced that the World Bank would donate 80 million dollars to fight poverty.

According to a World Bank report for Angola, 2011 would be a great economic year for the country, although the rate wouldn’t be the same as in the previous years when it

reached 15% in economic growth. But the current events in the North-African countries increased the oil prices, which gave a great advantage to all the oil exporting countries with big shares in the oil market. As the oil prices increase, so do the amount of money that converges to these economies and the amount of guaranties that these countries provide to obtain even more credit funds, loans and donations from all around the world. These economies indeed become interesting for all developed countries as well as the BRIC group (Brazil, Russia, India, China), which are interested in acquiring all kinds of raw materials.

Although the World Bank is one out of many investors/donators for Angola, the projects that are presently in motion have a great chance of improving the access for a better way of life for all Angolan people. On

the long-term, these projects will give a better opportunity to increase the quality of life and economic capacity of the country and of the Angolan population. The World Bank along with other investors is providing the country with the basic infrastructures and resources for a better economic growth, as well as a social growth.

With all these funds converging into the country in the various forms, it is possible to see that the many existing projects are taking form and provide the basis for the population to start believing in a better and more condign way of life.



UN Photo - M Grant

SELECTION OF INTERNATIONAL DAYS

27 January	International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust
4 February	World Cancer Day [WHO]
20 February	World Day of Social Justice
8 March	International Women's Day
21 March	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
22 March	World Water Day
7 April	Commemoration of the Genocide in Rwanda
22 April	International Mother Earth Day
3 May	World Press Freedom Day
25 May	Africa Day
29 May	International Day of UN Peacekeepers
5 June	World Environment Day
20 June	World Refugee Day
26 June	International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
11 July	World Population Day
18 July	Nelson Mandela International Day
9 August	International Day of the World's Indigenous People
12 August	International Youth Day
19 August	World Humanitarian Day
15 September	International Day of Democracy
16 September	International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer
21 September	International Day of Peace
1 October	International Day of Older Persons
2 October	International Day of Non-Violence
14 October	(2 nd Wed. in Oct.) International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction
16 October	World Food Day
17 October	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
24 October	United Nations Day
20 November	Universal Children's Day
25 November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
29 November	International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People
1 December	World AIDS Day
2 December	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
3 December	International Day of Persons with Disabilities
5 December	International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development
10 December	Human Rights Day
18 December	International Migrants Day
20 December	International Human Solidarity Day

INTERNATIONAL YEARS

International Year of Youth (12 August 2010 - 11 August 2011)

Launched on International Youth Day, the Year continues to focus on encouraging dialogue and understanding across generations, cultures and religions. There are more than 1.2 billion young people aged between 15 and 24 years in the world, accounting for about 18 per cent of the world population. The International Year of Youth presents an opportunity to highlight the contributions that young people make to society and to advance their full and effective participation.

Lead Agency: [United Nations Programme on Youth, DESA](#)



International Year of Forests

The International Year of Forests 2011 (Forests 2011), proclaimed by resolution 65/229, offers the dual opportunity to raise public awareness of the challenges facing many of the world's forests and the people who depend on them, and to celebrate the central role people play in their management, conservation and sustainable development. Forests 2011 aims to highlight the multifaceted values of forests: they provide shelter to people and habitat to biodiversity; they are a source of food, medicine, fresh air and clean water; and they play a vital role in maintaining a stable global climate and environment.

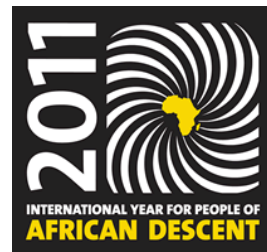
Lead Agency: [United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat, DESA](#)



International Year for People of African Descent

The year 2011 will be celebrated as the International Year for People of African Descent. The International Year aims at strengthening national actions and regional and international cooperation for the benefit of people of African descent in relation to their full enjoyment of economic, cultural, social, civil and political rights, their participation and integration in all political, economic, social and cultural aspects of society, and the promotion of a greater knowledge and of respect for their diverse heritage and culture.

Lead Agency: [OHCHR](#)



BUILDING RESILIENCE: UNICEF'S 2011 HUMANITARIAN ACTION PLAN



SCOTT
SUTHERLAND
UNICEF, Brussels

Nationality
Canadian

Topic article
UNICEF
in the field

unicef 

[UNICEF](#)

According to UNICEF's annual *Humanitarian Action Report*, every year UNICEF responds to over 200 hundred emergencies around the world, to meet urgent needs, protect children's rights, and alleviate suffering of those caught in dire situations. The Humanitarian Action Report has information and guidelines on how the organization will proceed with humanitarian efforts in emergency situations. The focus of the report shifts from year to year as the organization tries to adjust to certain political, economic, environmental situations. This year the focus of UNICEF humanitarian efforts are on preparation, planning, and response outlined in its annual policy report titled *Building Resilience*.

Building resilience is preparing and planning for potentially devastating disasters, both natural and manmade. Challenged by global climate change and an increased frequency of natural disasters UNICEF has focused its attention on preparing communities to better withstand, cope and bounce back from disaster. With recent events such as the earthquake in Japan, UNICEF's 2011 Resilience Building is more relevant than ever.

Why Build Resilience

In 2010, the world was witness to an unprecedented scale of natural disaster that shattered the lives of millions of children and their families. Flooding in Pakistan submerged a large part of the country, and the earthquake in Haiti destroyed its capital city and continues to impact the entire

country taking a heavy toll on lives and spirits. Extreme weather conditions fuelled by climate change is but one of several interrelated global trends that create destruction and disaster putting added stress upon weak governments particularly in the developing world. As a result, armed conflicts and violence can arise, compounding and complicating an already desperate situation. Many of these countries are simply ill-prepared to deal with both natural and man-made disasters. As a result it is often children who are most dramatically affected, and at risk of becoming chronically malnourished or losing access to education, and ultimately, the hope of a better life. This is why UNICEF believes building resilience is such an important program, because it focuses on preparing communities for disaster situations, rather than simply responding to such events.

Understanding Resilience

Building Resilience generally describes the ability to anticipate, withstand and bounce back from disaster, natural or manmade, in a way that prevents fundamental loss of life, property and resources. In its tangible form, Resilience can be best described as the ability of vital physical infrastructure to absorb or withstand disasters. For example, the development of appropriate sanitation technologies for flood-prone areas can reduce the risk of infectious disease in the wake of weather disasters such as heavy rain or floods. These same communities can also protect their local water supply by creating a raised platform for the community water



IT IS COMMUNITY PLANNING AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT DOWN TO THE SMALLEST FAMILY

well, as to prevent drinking water contamination by floods. Also, by having minimum standards regulating how much steel is required to reinforce concrete in buildings in earthquake prone regions, communities would make important infrastructure dependable in the face of strong earthquakes. Nevertheless, resilience is not only physical but also brings with it a fundamental social element. In its social form it is the concept of individuals, families, schools, and communities collectively guarding against risks and managing threats. It is teaching children in school at a young age what to do in case of an earthquake. It is having a community action plan where members of the community are assigned specific tasks in the case of emergencies. It is the introduction of early warning systems that can alert the country or community to an impending hurricane or tsunami. It is community planning at the highest level of government down to the smallest family, by creating early warning systems, search and rescue strategies, relief camp plans, and the monitoring and implementation of progress in these areas.

Taking the ideas to the field

UNICEF has always been involved in the education sector and the main area of implementing the Resilience policy will be in the learning sector. UNICEF is there to facilitate, develop policy, and oversee Resilience Building, but ultimately the responsibility falls upon the local communities to build on best practices and learned experiences. No one is better equipped to Build Resilience like the local communities themselves. UNICEF country offices and their government counterparts, mainly from the national education and emergency departments, are implementing a range of Resilience Building tactics aimed at the policy, institutional and operational aspects. Schools are the learning hub of any community and are the most effective institution to develop and build upon good practices. UNICEF will

provide specific recommendations on integration of Resilience Building in the school system such as the creation of new textbooks and materials that will include training techniques. By developing and building Resilience, UNICEF is staying true to its core values of education and at the same time reducing the risks of disaster.



HELPING COMMUNITIES HELP THEMSELVES



JENNIFER
VIBERT
UNICEF Brussels

Nationality
Canadian

Topic article
Work of UNICEF



[UNICEF](#)

In the world of development and aid delivery, one of the paramount goals is to facilitate positive changes that are truly sustainable. The term ‘sustainable development’ is often thought of in relation to environmental impacts, and while environmental conservation is an important part of sustainable development, it has come to be recognized that it is not the only part. Sustainable development encompasses a wide range of ‘sustainabilities’ – social, political and cultural sustainability, and economic stability. If we generally think of sustainability as the ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising future generations’ abilities to do the same, multi-dimensional sustainability takes on a whole new meaning.

Community driven aid

How do we ensure aid is used for projects that are truly sustainable? How do we make sure that, for example, post-crisis recovery programs do not collapse once funding runs out? A growing school of thought suggests that, in order to be sustainable, aid strategies must be driven by the communities they are designed to help. Numerous emergency and development aid programs have failed because they are imposed by the outside, and not developed from within. In such cases, they often miss out on essential cultural practises, fail to take into account the most marginalized members of a community, or are geared only towards the short term. In an era of increasing focus on tangible results of external assistance, especially as far as domes-

tic taxpayers are concerned, projects that make a community dependant on aid for survival are not only cost-ineffective, they are dangerous for the community and for the future of development aid.

Recognizing this, various grassroots NGOs and UN agencies such as UNICEF have begun to focus on the importance of not only involving a community in aid processes, but taking their cues and direction from the community itself. In order to ensure that the results of aid are truly sustainable, and will facilitate development and the continuation of positive outcomes after funding runs out, many humanitarian actors are increasingly realizing that a community needs to have ownership over a project. Community members are best placed to understand their own assets, needs, priorities, and cultural practises, and the whole community must be engaged if a program’s success is to be ensured. This means involving *every* member of the community, including elders, parents and children. Therefore, it is crucial that the next generation must be involved in planning and executing strategies for aid.

Child-friendly spaces

In the case of emergency preparedness and recovery, the same principles apply. A community is best placed to understand what will happen during an emergency, what systems are already in place to deal with it, and often in the case of natural disasters, what has worked in the past and what hasn’t. Sylvie Fouet, Humanitarian and Transition Senior Policy Advisor at

UNICEF PARMO Brussels, explains what UNICEF does to empower communities and youth and enables them to take ownership over emergency projects. One of the most successful initiatives that UNICEF has engaged in during emergency response is the establishment of child-friendly spaces within the community. These places, which could be buildings or simply open spaces, provide a protected environment where children can have some semblance of a return to normality, and where they can find refuge for safety and security. According to Ms. Fouet, everything gets lost in an emergency. When everything that you are familiar with goes away, child-friendly spaces provide a feeling of belonging. They also allow children and teenagers to begin feeling empowered again, as they are involved in the project in all aspects, from the design to the selection of equipment, and to establish a sense of ownership that has vanished with a disaster or conflict. For example, in an establishment of a child-friendly space in the Gaza strip, teenagers and children were put in charge of its maintenance and care. As Ms. Fouet explains, “We never closed the space, but nothing ever disappeared.” Giving youth ownership over their own spaces not only contributes to their empowerment, but also contributes to the overall security and stability of an area. Instead of becoming disillusioned or turning to counter-productive actions, child- (and youth-) friendly spaces help them develop a sense of responsibility, and garner respect for their accomplishments.

However, the benefits of child-friendly spaces reach far deeper into the community. Often, child-friendly spaces suddenly become gathering points for more community members. Children want to show their spaces to family and friends, and gradually mothers and fathers begin to visit. As more community members arrive, the spaces become focal points for healthcare, education, water distribution, psychosocial support,

women’s groups, inter-religious dialogues, and many other positive recovery elements. In short, they become catalysts for community re-development in the aftermath of an emergency. As Ms. Fouet notes, “They started out with just child protection, but became community areas.”

By putting children in charge of their own space, UNICEF helps facilitate the gradual reconnection of the community. These child-friendly spaces have become enormously successful not only in emergency situations, but in all development areas, with the development of ‘child-friendly cities’. Tools for child-friendly space set-ups are now included in all UNICEF emergency preparedness kits, and can be transported quickly wherever they are needed.

Local expertise

In emergency planning and preparedness, UNICEF also strives to make use of the community’s resources and abilities to help itself. During contingency planning, UNICEF taps into the resources and assets of the community in determining emergency preparedness strategies. It utilizes the expertise and input of community members like teachers and local leaders in a participatory process to both plan and communicate emergency procedures. UNICEF employs

an asset-based approach, where community members determine and communicate the resources available for utilization in the case of an emergency, and coordinate information sharing amongst community members. Of course, as Ms. Fouet points out, UNICEF’s emergency planning has to work on two levels simultaneously, as both the government and the community play important roles during an emergency. However, utilizing a participatory approach helps ensure that if an emergency arises, community members will be as informed and prepared as possible.

Community and especially children’s involvement in emergency preparedness and response is essential to the success of any program. After all, as Ms. Fouet states, “The more children, the better. Once you give children and youth space and options, they will never want to live without them.” If the goal is truly sustainable development, then this seems to be a perfect recipe for success.



UNICEF - X

WOMEN ACROSS BOUNDARIES: A BRIDGE BETWEEN TWO CULTURES



SERENA NATILE
UNDP

Nationality
Italian

Topic article
Situation of migrant women



[Migration for development](#)

I recently asked some of my friends what is the first word that comes to their mind when they think about the UN and about the role played by the UN in the lives of people all over the World. The most recurring words were: cooperation, development and peace. Apart from demonstrating that my friends are all idealistic people, these answers show the hopes of people, and that these people believe in the work of the United Nations. I looked back at my first month at the [EC-UN Joint Migration and Development Initiative \(JMIDI\)](#) and thought about what I really liked about this work. After a quick mental journey, the topic for my article suddenly came up: an example of how the JMIDI work is viewed through the eyes of some migrant women. The JMIDI is a programme funded by the European Commission and implemented by United Nations Development Programme in partnership with IOM, ILO, UNFPA and UNHCR. It supports civil society organizations and local authorities in implementing projects related to migration and development, reinforces networks of actors working in this field, and identifies good practices that will also be made available to policy-makers. The JMIDI funded Project that I will use to give you this particular gender perspective is named [“Entrepreneurial Knowledge: Towards German-Egyptian Women Development Experience”](#).

Women, Migration and Development

The field of migration has been male dominated for a long time. The image of the ad-

venturesome male seeking new opportunities abroad, joined later by wife and family or returning to hearth and home with cash in hand has always prevailed in reflections on migration. For many years, women had been largely invisible in this field, and even when they were present they were generally treated as passive followers and dependent or only worthy of consideration in their role in the private sphere. In the last few decades, however, more attention has been directed towards migrant women as a result of the general interest on women’s position in society, their increasingly visible economic weight and the recently growing presence of high-skilled female migrants. Migration can provide new opportunities to improve women’s lives. On the one hand, it gives them a greater degree of autonomy and the opportunity to challenge restrictive gender roles. On the other hand, it gives them the possibility to play a role in the economic and social development of their countries of origin through fairer flows of money, skills and knowledge, but also through the creation of networks and partnerships. Migration, in this sense, can represent a “pathway of development” and women are the means of achieving development.

The Project: “Entrepreneurial Knowledge: Towards German-Egyptian Women Development Experience”

The rationale behind all the JMIDI projects is that linking migration and development can create triple wins: migrants’ countries of origin, countries of destination, and mi-



DEVELOPMENT CANNOT BE ACHIEVED IF FIFTY PER CENT OF THE POPULATION IS EXCLUDED FROM THE OPPORTUNITIES IT BRINGS

grants themselves.

Migrants, in fact, can enjoy more opportunities to improve their own condition, but also to advocate and act for the development of their countries of origin. For countries of origin, migration can be an important leverage to combat poverty and to strengthen social cohesion. Countries of destination, can experience a substantial contribution of migration to local wealth, labour market needs, local consumption and human capital. The purpose of this particular Project is to enhance the level of Egyptian women's participation in the economy through acquiring knowledge and skills from female Arab migrant businesswomen in Germany. The project functions as a "knowledge chain" and "gender" is used to create a "bond" between migrants and beneficiaries: the project first teaches German-Arab business women in Germany on how to transfer their entrepreneurial skills to others. These women then travel to Egypt and train a

number of trainers who in turn train the final beneficiaries – 500 current and potential small-business women in Egypt. This "knowledge chain" shows that the link between migration and development can be successful even when it does not rely on a direct tie between migrant sending and receiving communities.

However, the most powerful aspect of this project is the "solid bridge" that has been created between the two countries: one-on-one learning visits, links between business associations in the two countries, sustainable networking and, above all, the overall happiness of the participants in cooperating and exchanging experiences.

Egypt: Women and Democracy

As mentioned before, the main beneficiaries of this Project will be 500 current and po-

tential small-business women in Egypt. The regional areas of focus are Cairo and Upper Egypt, namely the least-developed regions of Egypt with high unemployment, particularly women.

The choice to deal specifically with this country derives from the presence of the Arab League and its representation within the Arab World: it will help in disseminating this experience to all Arab countries.

Women beyond the boundaries: so different, so equal

One of the objectives of this project is to gain a better knowledge of Egypt and of the Arab world in general. This does not mean only to acquire an idea of the economic situation and the investment opportunities in Arab countries, but also to get an overall picture of the Arab culture. For instance,



UN Photo - X

while German business women can distinguish between the private sphere and the business sphere, in Arab communities it is much more difficult to draw a line between these two spheres. This can be a really interesting comparison opportunity and each culture can learn something from the other. Furthermore, the success of this Project so far is reinforcing the deep feeling of belonging of the German-Arab women to the Arab world: their excellent Arabic language in spite of living in Germany for 20 to 30 years, their happiness in participating in this experience and their willingness not only in transferring skills and knowledge, but also in sharing experiences and difficulties of being business women, wives and mothers. All in all, the Project is revealing itself as

beneficial to both sides: the Egyptian women have the possibility to acquire entrepreneurial knowledge and business skills; while the German-Arab women have the opportunity to be aware of how they might become a role model, developing in this way their best business model possible. Generally speaking, this Project demonstrates that the contribution of migration is much wider than the economic sphere, including language, cultural and political life. Women are relevant subjects of migration and in many cases they represent a means to stimulate the debate over multiculturalism (e.g. political debate on headscarf, polygamy and excision, etc.). Their presence also promotes a dialogue that respects both the fundamental values of receiving societies

and the original culture of immigrants. Although the migration experience may not always live up to their hopes and expectations, as many barriers remain when attempting to transfer skills from one country to another, their efforts and aspirations for the future represent a step forward towards the realization of a world where the doors of opportunity are open to all and where the principles of universality, equality of rights and multiculturalism are not only beautiful-empty words.



UN Photo - X

UNITAR: UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH



GONZALO
PEREZ
DEL ARCO
UNRIC, Brussels

Nationality
Spanish

Topic article
UNITAR



[UNITAR](http://www.unitar.org)

WHAT UNITAR IS AND HOW IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR INTERNS.

UNITAR delivers innovative training and conducts research on knowledge systems to increase the capacity of its beneficiaries to respond to global and constantly evolving challenges.

UNITAR is an autonomous body within the United Nations. It is an e-learning platform of online courses whose main goal is to improve the capacities of people all around the world.

It offers trainings in many fields: Environment, Peace, Security and Diplomacy, Governance, International Law, Finance, Protocol...

Its courses can be done in English, French or Spanish (depending on the course).

UNITAR is mainly addressed to people whose jobs are related with the United Nations, international organizations or non governmental organizations.

Is it also useful for interns who want to know more about some specific fields of competency of the United Nations. UNITAR courses can improve interns' knowledge in some interesting and specific fields. As an online platform it will give the opportunity to mix theory with practice and to share experiences with the other participants from whom a lot of things can be learnt as many of them are professionals who want to improve their knowledge in a specific field in which they already work.

Interns who look forward to applying to the United Nations in the future should have a look on it as it can be useful for their résumé.

There are two important details to know:

1. You will have to pay for the courses (\$400-\$600).
2. Were you to do one of them, you should be sure to know a few things on the topic, as many things that come on the course are focused on people who already have basic skills or knowledge in the related field. It is important to be aware of that in order not to spend money for nothing.

A new UNITAR centre opened on 23 May 2011 in Antwerp. The Antwerp International Training Centre on Corporate Opportunities will be a centre of excellence on Corporate Social Responsibility supported by the United Nations.

More info at www.unitar.org

WORLD WATER RESOURCES



**PRISCILLA
NZABANITA**
*The Millennium
Project*
Nationality
Ugandan

Topic article
Making water
accessible to all



The Millennium Project

[The millennium
project](#)

On 22 March 2011 the World celebrated World Water Day. The theme this year was urbanization, “Water for Cities”, reflecting the growing urbanization of the world. It is estimated that by 2030 over 60 percent of the population will be living in cities, with most of the increases taking place in the inner city slums and squatter settlements in the developing world. Cities are growing because of the natural increases in urban population, reclassification of rural areas as urban areas and rural-to-urban migration. The exploding urban population growth is creating unprecedented challenges, among which provision for water and sanitation have been the most pressing and felt when lacking. These problems related to water supply and sanitation are particularly exacerbated because of the lack of investment in new and existing systems, particularly in cities in sub-Saharan Africa. The lack of safe drinking water and sanitation results in fecal-oral diseases such as diarrhea and outbreaks of malaria and cholera. In the developing world, diarrheal disease in children under 15 has a greater impact than HIV, malaria, and tuberculosis combined. Moreover, about 2 million tons of sewage, industrial and agricultural waste is annually discharged into the world’s waterways.

Human activities have become the primary drivers affecting our planet’s water system, so much so that our requirements for water to meet our fundamental needs and our collective pursuit of higher living standards have led to water becoming a unique challenge. Thus unless major political and technological changes occur, global water demand could be 40% more than current supply by 2030. This could potentially cause conflicts over tradeoffs among agricultural, urban, and ecological uses of water, along with mass migration and wars. The UN estimates that \$50-60 billion annually between now and 2030 is needed to avoid future water shortages; moreover the WHO estimates that every dollar invested in improved sanitation and water produces economic benefits that range from \$3 to \$34, depending on regions and technologies applied. Agriculture accounts for 70% of human usage of fresh water, however, this figure will increase with the need to feed growing populations with increasing incomes. With the increase in food demand, and a likely increase in demand for energy, drastic changes in water management will be required. Global demand for meat may increase by 50% by 2025 and double by 2050, further accelerating the demand for water per capita.

Without clean water

It is estimated that about 900 million people still lack access to clean water. By 2025 about 3 billion could face water scarcity, which is defined as fewer than 1,000 cubic

The Millennium Project and Water Research

The Millennium Project has been carrying out research on water resources for over 15 years. Founded in 1996, the Millennium

Project is a global research think tank. Its participants are futurists, scholars, business planners, and policy makers who work for international organizations, governments, corporations, NGOs, and universities. For more than a decade the Millennium Project has continuously been engaged in activities dedicated to finding solutions to water-related problems by emphasizing the use of technology to solve current and future problems of water. Furthermore, the Millennium Project from the beginning recognized that an integrated approach was key to identifying coherent sets of policy and management actions, which would lead to a more sustainable use of the water resources. Therefore, collaborating with the World Water Assessment Program (WWAP) a UN-Water flagship program that is housed by UNESCO, the Millennium Project carried out research to formulate possible factors (scenarios) that could impact future global water use. As an initial step in formulating these scenarios, a number of postgraduate researchers carried out reviews on drivers that could impact world water resources and their uses. These reports were then used to compile important future developments, which might be considered for inclusion in the WWAP's water scenarios. Between June and September 2010, five separate Real Time Delphi studies (RTD) were carried out in topics that included: technology, economy, security, agriculture, ethics, politics and governance. These new scenarios are needed to incorporate new factors such as climate change, globalization and security issues and to update the information they are based on.

Future Considerations

Having established that the world needs to pay more attention to water-related problems, world leaders, including all stakeholders, must recognize the importance of water and plan accordingly. UN-Water suggests that as the pressures on water resources increase, there is greater urgency to adopt integrated water resources management (IWRM) approaches and a need to invest in infrastructure and human resources in order to improve the efficiency of water use in all sectors. These approaches should take the form of:

- Investment in water infrastructure and technology
- Improving agricultural practices in low-income countries, and emphasizing reforestation
- Constructing eco-friendly dams, pipelines, and aqueducts to move water from areas of abundance to scarcity
- Investment in household sanitation and water storage particularly in growing urban cities
- Task forces have to be created that focus on country and regional level coordination, which will be critical to achieving adequate water resource management.

It is imperative that there is regular monitoring and reporting on the world water scenarios. To this end the WWAP, which monitors freshwater issues provides recommendations and develops case studies that inform the decision-making process. The WWAP produces a periodic report, the World Water Development Report (WWDR), which is a

comprehensive review providing an authoritative picture of the state of the world's freshwater resources. The 4th edition of the WWDR will be published in March 2012 with its theme as "Managing Water under uncertainty and risk". The report will involve various decision makers and stakeholders, including the general public, in order to ensure that it is relevant and produces solutions to water-related issues.

For more information on the WWAP and the WWDR, please visit <http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap/>

To learn more about the Millennium Project, please visit <http://www.millennium-project.org/>



UN Photo - Water Day

UNRWA AND ITS MULTIPLE ROLES



MIRIAM ACED
UNRWA Brussels

Nationality
German

Topic article
UNRWA

UNRWA



The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East – UNRWA – was established following the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict. According to UNRWA, the consequence of the conflict left 726,000 displaced Palestinians without their homes and land to seek refuge either in the neighboring countries of Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, or in the remaining part of British mandate Palestine not conquered at the time by Israel (i.e. what then became known as the West Bank and Gaza Strip). Since the creation of the Agency, these have been the five fields of its operations. UNRWA was born through United Nations General Assembly Resolution 302(IV) in 1949 as a temporary organization and began fulfilling its mandate, which is to provide services to Palestine refugees, such as education, health care, relief and social services, the following year.

Sadly, December 2009 marked the 60th anniversary of the Agency, with the official UNRWA Palestine refugee count having

now swollen to a daunting 4.8 million people. According to the Agency's [eligibility and registration instructions](#), an UNRWA refugee is a person "whose normal place of residence was Palestine between June 1946 and May 1948, who lost both [his or her home] and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 [conflict]". In addition, descendants of UNRWA refugees who live in the Agency's areas of operation are also eligible to register with UNRWA and receive its services.

This article aims to prove that UNRWA's scope of responsibility is further reaching as compared to other UN organizations because of its specific and geographical mandate – thus creating a deeper connection between the Agency and the people it serves. In addition, it aims to establish that in certain areas of operation, namely Lebanon, the Agency holds yet another role due to the wars and conflicts that have taken place within the country, as Palestine refugees' conditions may be seen as similar to third class citizens'.

No clear end date for UNRWA's mission

Agencies such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), whose [mandate](#) is to provide international protection to any individual who falls within the [definition](#) of a refugee, laid out in the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, have a definite end to their relationship with the targets - asylum seekers or refugees. In UNHCR's case, there is a certain refugee problem as the Agency is responsible for helping individuals to either

return to their original place of residence, or seek asylum and find refuge in a safe country. When this is done, the Agency has carried out its duty. UNRWA, on the other hand, differs because it is not only the only UN agency which has a mandate to serve a specific group of people – Palestine refugees – in a specific region – Gaza, the West Bank and the three neighboring countries – but also because the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is so protracted that the Agency has served its victims for over 60 years and the relationship between it and the people has no clear end date. Thus, both UNHCR and UNRWA's basic mandates could be considered their "tangible" roles.

Playing a role in identity formation

The second role specific to UNRWA is "intangible" which ensues from the consequences of UNRWA's specific mandate. Palestine refugees have not had any single care-taker or provider dedicated to their cause who has been by their side since the *Nakba* (the Arabic term used to mark the expulsion of Palestinians from their homes and land in the late 1940s). Due to UNRWA's long-term and geographically specific presence, the Agency has to some extent taken on this intangible role of Palestine refugee caretaker in a psychological sense. UNRWA, although having a non-political mandate, is perhaps not only caretaker of Palestine refugees, but the Agency does clearly play a further protracted role as compared to a simple service provider. It can even be argued that UNRWA has played a large role in the formation of a contempo-

rary Palestine refugee identity and in the mental well-being of Palestine refugees. It is interesting to note here that some Palestine refugees continue to register with UNRWA even if the Agency's services are not needed. Therefore, one could see the symbolic value that this registration could serve. In addition, of the approximately 28,000 staff that the Agency employs, only around 200 people are not individuals from the region, i.e. international staff. This means that Palestinians themselves work for UNRWA and thus the Agency has a deep link with the population it serves. This, of course, is a positive feature in the eyes of many, but it also serves as a problem for an Agency whose main mandate is not to advocate for any specific course of action as regards a solution to the problem.

Palestinian refugees in Lebanon

In areas of operation such as Lebanon, the Agency takes on an additional third role, which is situated somewhere between being tangible and intangible. Approximately 425,000 refugees reside in Lebanon, many of them directly in the fifteen camps set up there. Like all other fields of operation, UNRWA continues to provide services (fulfilling its tangible role); it continues to serve as an element of permanency which directly affects the refugees' psyches (its intangible role); but it also has to overcome the fact that Palestine refugees are not particularly welcome in this host country and the fact that the country has faced numerous armed conflicts (some as a result of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and some because of other internal issues). Thus, not only does the Agency (and first and foremost the millions of refugees face the largest refugee problem in the world which is directly linked to an enormous political and humanitarian problem for which no durable solution has been found for over half a century, but it also faces serving a people who have a less than desirable future in the host country, a country which has also often been a battle ground since the *Nakba*.

Palestine refugees have not been integrated into Lebanese life, neither socially, eco-

nomic, civically, politically nor culturally, despite making up 10% of Lebanon's population. They are treated as third class citizens because they do not possess the nationality of a State and thus cannot rely on the rights and privileges that other foreigners in Lebanon possess. Palestine refugees are denied a colossal amount of human rights such as the right to employment, to own property, to health care, to social security, to education, to freedom of movement and the list goes on. This has had a direct effect on the severe poverty of refugees. According to UNRWA, which categorizes some households as "Special Hardship Cases" (i.e. people experiencing a particular combination of economic hardship, family and socio-demographic characteristics), out of all fields of operation, the proportion of refugees in this category is the highest in Lebanon. In [*Palestinian Refugee Camps in Lebanon - Laboratory of Indocile Identity Formation*](#), Sari Hanafi writes, "The majority of the Lebanese vehemently oppose the permanent resettlement of Palestinians in the country...[this position] is sometimes used to justify discriminatory policies against the Palestinian refugees." The treatment that the refugees have and continue to receive is of course inexcusable. UNRWA's role in this is difficult as its mandate does not call for political action. Palestine refugees' treatment in Lebanon is as such through no fault of UNRWA; however, it does make serving a refugee population which is forced to live in closed refugee camps (some have even referred to camps as military zones) with no nationality and thus no rights and no future or even hope of a sustainable future for their children difficult.

Held responsible for civil war and conflict

To double the immense troubles faced by refugees in Lebanon, one must also remember that the country suffered from a fifteen year civil war from 1975 to 1990 for which the Palestinians are often held responsible (due to some Palestinian faction involvement in the war). Numerous other violent conflicts have taken place. Perhaps one of

the most recent conflicts, one that directly affected refugees, was that of 2007 in which the three-month fighting between the Lebanese Armed Forces and Fatah Al-Islam, a radical militant group, in Nahr el-Bared refugee camp destroyed the entire camp forcing, yet again, 27,000 Palestine refugees to flee their demolished homes. For situations such as these, UNRWA provides emergency relief which includes temporary housing, food, water, sanitation and basic healthcare. Despite a severe financial shortfall, UNRWA's reconstruction of the camp has begun and will be carried out in phases over the next few years. UNRWA's role in emergency situations (its third burden) is thus tangible because it remains the main provider of relief and social services, but it is also intangible because many of the refugees displaced are UNRWA staff themselves and because the Agency is forced to deal with another plight (as compared to the original reason for the for Palestinian plight – the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict).

Going beyond the role as service provider

It is clear that UNRWA's role is further reaching than a simple service provider. Within the framework of such a politically sensitive environment such as the Israel-Palestine conflict, some have even called the Agency an "advocator" of Palestine refugees. This humanitarian organization may at times find it challenging to separate the labels *Palestinians in need of humanitarian aid* and *Palestinians in need of political support*. In this regard, former Commissioner-General Karen Koning AbuZayd [said](#), "We are fully aware that the legitimacy of our advocacy role rests on remaining within the boundaries of our humanitarian mandate. We are cognizant of the fact that the boundaries that separate the humanitarian from the political are indistinct at best, but nevertheless real. We have no illusions about how high the costs would be if we were to stray too far, and we have no desire whatsoever to jeopardize the international credibility we have worked so hard to create and maintain. That would be a price we are not prepared to pay."

INTERVIEW

WITH ELENA MANCUSI-MATERI



ROBIN
DE WOUTERS
UNRIC Brussels

Nationality
Belgian

Topic article
Work of UNRWA



[UNRWA](#)

UNRWA is a relief and human development agency that provides education, assistance, protection, health care, emergency aid and advocacy for some 4.8 million registered Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the occupied Palestinian territory. It is the only agency dedicated to helping refugees from a specific region or conflict. It is separate from [UNHCR](#), the UN Refugee Agency dedicated to aiding all refugees in the world.

What is your current post at UNRWA?

I joined the UNRWA Representative Office to the European Union in February this year as a Senior Liaison Officer.

What are your tasks?

I am primarily tasked with enhancing Agency relations with EU Member States representatives in Brussels. My work complements those of other colleagues, whose functions focus more on relations with EU institutions themselves. Overall, we aim to ensure that an adequate recognition is attained – of UNRWA's mandate, role and activities – among EU Institutions, EU Member States, European think tanks, NGOs and civil society. We highly value our partnership with the EU and its Member States, who together contribute to over 60% of UNRWA budget.

Our presence in Brussels outlines the importance of this relation, and the significance of EU support to the welfare of Palestine refugees in the Near East.

Could you tell me more about your five-year experience in Jerusalem?

I worked at the UNRWA West Bank Field

Office in Jerusalem from 2002 to 2007. The posting initially started as a JPO assignment (Junior Professional Officer), and was an incredibly enriching experience both in terms of professional development and human value. In this light, I think the role of JPO supervisors is essential, in providing the space and tools for the exercise of substantial responsibilities. I am still very grateful for the respect and trust I received since the onset of my work; the high level of involvement in office discussions, which gave me a solid background on the rationale and implementation of Agency operations; and the good balance of guidance and independence, which allowed for the development of a highly interesting assignment.

Was this your first experience in the field?

The five years spent in the West Bank were my first long-term mission in the Field. In the past however, I had completed work assignments in Nepal, India, Brazil and Tanzania, among others.

What were your tasks in Jerusalem? What did your work consist in?

I was tasked with the establishment of a Research Unit in the UNRWA West Bank Field Office. Our main tasks were the design and conduction of research on policy and operational issues. We monitored and assessed the socio-economic conditions of refugees in the Field, according to relevant indicators and for appraisal of emerging needs. This required regular visits to refugee camps and participation in activities with refugee groups. The Unit analyzed qualitative and quantitative data for pro-

gram evaluation, or thematic assessments. We also engaged in the design of inter-Agency surveys, completion of studies and dissemination of adequate information on UNRWA's outreach, programs and approaches. We participated in inter-Agency planning processes and related document drafting, compiled regular Field reports, and contributed to the articulation of specific management-support activities. In addition, Field representation functions were often accomplished, in dialogue with other UN Agencies, the Palestinian Authority, the PLO Department of Refugee Affairs, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, etc., for specific coordination or research purposes. Other ad hoc activities included the participation into internal boards of investigation, the delivery of lectures to university students on UNRWA's mandate and work, the facilitation of workshops and support in interaction with specific donor countries.

Would you be willing to return to the field?

Plans often entail a number of considerations – spanning from personal character and aspirations, to expectations of both personal and professional fulfillment. I believe this is true for most professional domains, and even more perhaps among international officers. Mobility, for instance, can be a very stimulating factor at some stages of life – and not too easily practicable in other periods. Family issues may play a role, which is something that I think should be taken into adequate consideration by all those desiring to undertake an international career. Having said that, I believe that both

field and non-field UN work have their specific and mutually complementing value, as well as extraordinary charm. I think it is quite important to have acquired field experience in order to make the best contribution to one's Organization. Therefore, a good professional profile should include the ability to appreciate, enjoy, balance and grasp opportunities offered by both field and non-field experiences.

Would you have any advice to give to future interns or people interested in working for UNRWA in the field?

I realize it is becoming increasingly difficult for youth nowadays to find work opportunities, including very highly qualified, talented and motivated youth who wish to join international Organizations. I think as a starting point, a solid academic base in the field of their major interest is to be attained. Internships and/or admission to the JPO program are very good ways to advance one's skills and competence and contribute to the work of an international organization. With respect to UNRWA's work in the field, this is generally a very engaging experience, for the humanitarian and human development character of the Agency work; the close contact one can establish with a large local workforce (29,000 staff); and the direct implementation of Agency operations, which entails close interaction with the refugee population. We have five Field Offices, located in Gaza, Jerusalem, Amman, Beirut and Damascus. In addition, the presence of our Headquarters in the region can offer an interesting combination of HQ work based in areas generally considered as

“field”. Overall, working for UNRWA is a very rewarding experience, for the direct impact the Agency has on maintenance and amelioration of refugees' living, health and educational standards.

UNRWA recently launched the [Peace Starts Here campaign](#), underlining that “Peace starts with people, education, opportunity, employment, good health, food, equal rights, respect, security, dignity and justice”. We consider our work with Palestine refugees to be a significant contribution towards these goals, for dignified livelihoods, empowerment and capacity building, until a just solution is found to their plight.



UN Photo - X

Did you know?

1. What is an MDG?
2. VAW costs the EU 16 billion € annually. But for every 1 € spent how much do they get in return?
 - A) 59 €
 - B) 74 €
 - C) 87 €
 - D) 103 €

3. Who and When ??

Today Ban Ki-Moon is Secretary-General of the United Nations. He took office on 1 January 2007. Do you know the previous Secretary-Generals? Match the pictures with the names, countries and the dates during which they were Secretary-General.



A: Kurt Waldheim
B: Dag Hammarskjöld
C: Trygve Lie
D: Javier Perez de Cuellar
E: U Thant
F: Kofi A. Annan
G: Boutros Boutros-Ghali

α: Norway
β: Egypt
γ: Peru
δ: Ghana
ε: Sweden
ζ: Austria
η: Burma

I: 1997-2006
II: 1992-1996
III: 1982-1991
IV: 1972-1981
V: 1961-1971
V: 1953-1961
VII: 1946-1952

4. Find the Security Council member countries in the table below, and discover the hidden word...

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| France | China |
| United States | Mexico |
| Brazil | Uganda |
| Russia | Nigeria |
| Turkey | Austria |
| Bosnia | United Kingdom |
| Gabon | Japan |
| Lebanon | |

Surprise word (could you find it?)

A	D	F	T	A	I	R	E	G	I	N	L	Y	A
C	D	R	L	I	Z	A	R	B	T	E	E	G	T
V	A	S	D	A	D	U	R	U	F	D	B	F	R
B	N	C	P	F	C	S	G	O	C	V	A	P	A
N	E	J	H	F	A	T	E	Y	R	B	N	O	A
G	M	A	A	I	R	R	D	E	U	L	O	R	D
A	R	P	E	A	N	I	V	K	S	A	N	T	N
B	F	A	I	O	U	A	O	R	S	N	E	U	A
O	T	N	M	L	E	A	C	U	I	D	A	G	G
N	U	N	I	T	E	D	S	T	A	T	E	S	U
R	A	B	L	A	N	I	E	R	U	S	M	E	M
E	B	O	S	N	I	A	T	S	U	A	E	N	U
C	A	L	L	E	M	A	G	N	R	T	X	U	C
X	M	O	D	G	N	I	K	D	E	T	I	N	U
I	E	B	A	N	K	I	M	O	O	N	C	E	M
N	R	S	R	I	L	A	N	T	R	O	O	O	P
A	R	F	F	R	A	N	C	E	A	R	T	H	I

5. Where is the HQ of the following UN Agencies?

 UNESCO HQ Rome Paris Madrid	 WHO HQ Geneva Paris New York	 UNICEF HQ San Francisco Nairobi New York	 WFP HQ New York Nairobi Rome
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ANSWERS

1) Millennium Development Goals

2) 87¢ return

3) 6 – Arabic, Chinese, English, Spanish, Russian

4) ANSWER WHO AND WHEN

VI	β	4	F	2	a	1
VI	β	7	G	6	B	7
V	γ	1	D	3	E	1
IV	δ	5	A	5	A	5
III	α	1	E	3	D	1
VI	β	9	B	7	G	6
I	a	2	C	4	F	2

5) Crosswords: the surprise word is Ban Ki-moon
 6) City HQ: UNESCO, Paris; WHO, Geneva; UNICEF, New York; WFP, Rome

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Interview with former UN interns

INTRODUCTION

Education
&
Work Experience



Jamie Morris
Age: 28
Master of Laws from the University of Otago in New Zealand ; Bachelor of Arts majoring in Japanese.

Prior EU lawyer in Brussels; internships for the President of the European Parliament and for the Director at UNRIC Brussels; Chief Judge's Clerk in New Zealand's indigenous truth and reconciliation tribunal for 2 years



Lynne Goldberg
Masters in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School; Juris Doctorate from the Benjamin N. Cardozo Law School and a Bachelor

of Arts from the University of Wisconsin.

Human Rights Officer in Haiti (MICIVIHI) and Rwanda (UNAMID) in 1993; Electoral Officer in South Africa (UNOMSA) in 1994; UN Secretariat in a variety of functions during eleven years at Headquarters ;



Bessma Moura
Age: 30
Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies at the University of Santa Cruz, California; Master of Science in Energy

and Resources at the University of Berkeley, California

Global Fund for Women, Program Associate for Middle East and North Africa in San Francisco, USA ; Center for Environmental Health, Development Manager / Executive Assistant in Oakland, USA

INTERNSHIP

Which UN agency did you work for as an intern?
How did you come across that internship?

UNRIC

At a Cine-ONU event

Centre For Human Rights, UNOG, Geneva (1990)

A professor at law school

UNEP, Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch

While in graduate school, I contacted the Branch. I was offered a Research Assistant position the following summer.

What tasks did you have during your internship?

Working on UNRIC's campaign leading up to the COP15 climate change negotiations; editor of Internal Voices, representing the UN at external events, working on a human rights education campaign etc.

Analyze "states of emergency" for the Special Rapporteur on States of Emergency, assisted in preparation for the Sub-commission on Human Rights, took notes at meetings among judges drafting the Declaration of Disappeared Persons

I worked on three main reports: (i) forthcoming policy report on Environmental Diplomacy for conflict prevention, conflict management and peace building; (ii) desk study on climate change, migration and conflict in the Sahel; and (iii) a guidance note on renewable resources and conflict.

What did you gain from your internship?

It was a great entry point to the UN. I got an excellent overview of agencies and the Secretariat & met amazing people.

Substantive knowledge about Human Rights and the UN system, life-long friends from all over the globe and a commitment to the work of the UN.

Having worked primarily with NGOs, I gained great perspective into how the UN functions, namely the role it plays within international governance, as well as the challenges and limitations it faces.

TODAY

What is your current occupation?

I work at UNEP in charge of communications for the Brussels office.

Human Resources Officer in the Outreach Unit of the Office for Human Resources Management at the UN

Project Advisor, Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch, UNEP

In what way did you think the internship helped you in your career?

The most important aspect was seeing things from the inside, and developing a network of colleagues – both of which have been invaluable in starting a job at UNEP.

It provided the foundation for a life long commitment to the UN as a viable organization.

It allowed me to build my relationship with UNEP/PCDMB, and gain experience within the UN system.

Most of us are aiming for a career within the UN, in specific departments or in general. Do you have any "tips" to follow to achieve our respective goals within the UN?

Be open to trying anything – people often move around, and the experience you get anywhere will most likely be useful, even if you can't imagine how so right now. It's important to go with the flow and have multiple plans and options at all times.

Yes. Go to <http://careers.un.org> and read the stories of the more than 150 staff profiled on that site. It will provide insight into how different people, across the globe in diverse occupational groups began their careers.

Talk with as many people as possible, and make connections with those who are working on topics of interest. It seems as though often times it's through such connections, opportunities are realized.

INFERNAL VOICES

In Sweden, a seven year old boy called the police because he was hit by another child during a fight. "He hit me," cried the little boy, but the operator did not find it necessary to send a patrol car to the crime scene.

(Belgium - Metro)

A Brazilian tribunal authorized a 36-year old mother to masturbate every 2 hours at work, as she suffers from a rare neurochemical syndrome, compulsive orgasm.

(France - Le Figaro Blog)

An Israeli couple decided to name their daughter "Like" according to the feature on the social network Facebook.

(UK - The Telegraph)

An armed bank robber sued the German police for having arrested him with his pants down to his ankles.

(UK - Metro)

A 24-year-old psychology from New York conducts online therapy sessions naked to encourage patients to sincere themselves. The therapist's unique approach helps people solve their issues , she says.

(USA - www.bossip.com)

A book having only blank pages (Entitled "What men think other than sex") became a bestseller. The 4.69 pound item, which was intended as a novelty gift, is being used by students as a notebook.

(UK - www.rediff.com)

During the last municipal elections in South Africa, a village in the North was impeded to vote due to alligators blocking the way to the election office. It took 2 hours for the army to secure a safe passage.

(www.gentside.com)

A Brussels restaurant offers a one-week trip to Spain, all expenses paid, to the person who will manage to eat 2 of their 1.2 kg hamburgers. Since the beginning of the bet 6 years ago, only 2 people managed so far.

(Belgium - www.cityplug.be)

INTERNAL VOICES

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