



Press Release

ITALIAN MONEY TO BOOST RECOVERY EFFORTS IN SOMALIA

Nairobi/Rome 15 May 2008 – The Italian Cooperation has given €5million (\$7.7million) to three UNDP projects in Somalia, which aim to provide employment opportunities, help the government manage its key functions, and to boost district-based peace building efforts in the troubled Horn of Africa nation.

The Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGCS)/Italian Cooperation is the department within the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs responsible for the coordination and implementation of the government's aid programmes. The funds were announced at a meeting last week between UNDP Somalia and the Italian Cooperation in Nairobi, Kenya.

€2.5million (\$3.85million) will go to assist the start-up package of support to the institutions of Somalia's Transitional Federal Government (TFG). This package of measures implemented by UNDP is the international community's framework of operational assistance to the TFG, developed by UNDP and international partners and funded through a consortium of donor countries. The overall objective is to give key federal institutions the means to better administer and manage core government functions, and to enable the gradual and phased relocation of Somalia's Transitional Federal Institutions to the capital Mogadishu.

A further €1.5million (\$2.3million) will go to the district-based peace building component of the UN Joint programme on local governance and decentralized service delivery, which aims to encourage local peace and reconciliation efforts by consulting with civil society and traditional elders to convene representative district and regional councils. The project has seen tensions between local communities reduced and an increase in both community capacity to manage local level conflict and in understanding of the roles and responsibilities of local and national government.

UNDP's quick employment project – in collaboration with ILO - will also benefit from €1million (\$1.54million) of the Italian Cooperation funds. The project addresses the urgent issues of income generation and job creation in South Central Somalia through a community-based approach to a wide variety of community priorities, ranging from labour-intensive rehabilitation of infrastructure such as irrigation works, roads, marketplaces etc, to vocational training.

UNDP Somalia country director, Bruno Lemarquis welcomed the funding, which he said would help to maximize the impact of these vital projects.

“Sustainability is the most important factor in the success of any development project. The strength of our fundamental approach combined with these funds will help cement the gains of these ambitious projects and ensure the Somali people see the benefits.”

United Nations Development Programme

Pasqualino Procacci, Director of the Italian Cooperation in Nairobi, said, “Our contribution to UNDP underlines our strong commitment to Somalia, which is to ensure basic services, including health, education, sustaining infrastructure and employment activities for the Somali people, while at the same time supporting the reconciliation process in the country”.

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Note to editors

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