



## MEMORANDUM N° 119/2011

20/07/2011

**Note to Members and Readers** – *Due the actual Summer break period, our Memorandum will not be issued every day.*

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## ONE) – AID FOR TRADE

On 19th July, European Development Commissioner, Andris Piebalgs, represented the European Commission at the World Trade Organisation's Third Global Review of Aid for Trade in Geneva. The meeting was a key opportunity for donors and developing countries to come together to look at how Aid for Trade (AfT) is helping people across the world to trade and what has been achieved since the launch of the Aid-for-Trade Initiative at the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong in 2005. The focus of the Third Global Review was on showing results, drawing lessons about the impact on the ground and considering how best to maximize the potential of AfT in the future. The EU is the world's largest provider of Aid for Trade.

- **What is Aid for Trade?**

One in six people in the world today live on less than a dollar a day. Poor people need decent jobs, in order to make a living and provide for their families. Governments need tax revenue to invest in social services and encourage economic growth. Increasing trade and investment is one important way of achieving this and is part of the strategy for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The EU already grants the poorest countries in the world complete duty and quota free access to its markets, and recently, the Rules of Origin that determine whether a product is eligible to that free access were also relaxed, thus ensuring that developing countries really benefit from the trade preferences on offer to them.

But market access alone is not sufficient to generate trade, especially in the poorest countries. Many countries also face internal "behind the border" constraints such as a lack of productive capacity and ability to meet standards in high value export markets, excessive red tape, or poor infrastructure; all of which make it difficult for developing countries to export their products and undermine the potential benefits of increased imports. Targeting these constraints is what Aid for Trade (AfT) is all about, along with strengthening countries' capacity to negotiate and implement trade agreements to their benefit.

- **How does the European Union implement Aid for Trade?**
- **The joint EU AfT strategy**

The EU is a longstanding provider of development assistance to support increased international and regional trade. To build further on this experience, the EU and its Member States adopted a joint AfT Strategy on 15 October 2007 to enable them to support all developing countries - particularly the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) - to better integrate into the world trading system and to use trade more effectively to help eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development.

AfT embraces "classical" trade-related assistance (trade policy and regulation, trade development), as well the other areas identified by the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) Aid for Trade Taskforce: productive capacity building, trade-related infrastructure, trade-related adjustment and "other trade-related needs".

- **Focus on volumes and quality**

The EU AfT initiative could be considered as a success, with AfT numbers increasing substantially in all regions and in all sectors. In 2009, the EU and its Member States allocated more than €10.5 billion, to help countries compete better in international markets (€7.1 billion came from EU Member States and €3.3 billion from the EU) - almost doubling the volumes (based on an annual average of the 2000 - 2005 period.) The EU and its Member States accounted for 37% of global AfT in 2009. The EU on its own is the world's second largest donor of AfT, representing 11.4% of the world's total.

- **Quality**

AfT is delivered like all other EU aid, following agreed Aid Effectiveness principles, which means it has to go through policy dialogue, needs assessments, inclusion of priorities into national and regional development strategies (such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers), and formulation of response strategies on this basis. This is the only way to ensure ownership, coherent programmes and sustainability.

Aid for Trade is also subject to the same accountability measures as the rest of our aid. Rigorous systems of control are in place in each recipient country to make sure money is properly spent, and this money is carefully scrutinised by the Court of Auditors and the European Parliament.

- **Where does the EU provide Aid for Trade the most?**

EU AfT covers all developing country regions, and commitments have increased for all regions.

Africa accounts for the largest share of AfT from the EU and its Member States: commitments amounted to €4.1 billion, corresponding to 41% of total AfT in 2009. There were substantial increases in Sub-Saharan Africa. This region received by far the largest amounts of EU AfT.

Asia received the second largest share of AfT (22% of total in 2009), followed by America (11%), Europe (7%) and Oceania (1%).

## **Stories from the field - how the EU is making a difference through its work on Aid for Trade**

### **Helping cocoa producers in Ivory Coast**

The project Market-oriented Promotion of Certified Sustainable Cocoa Production (PPDC) in Ivory Coast was designed as a public-private partnership between the German Development Cooperation, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and private partners Kraft Foods and the cocoa trader Armajaro.

The main objective of the project was to improve the living conditions of cocoa farmers through the production of sustainable 'Rainforest Alliance Certified' cocoa. The public-private partnership made sure that the cocoa production followed the direction needed by the market. In addition, it allowed the producers to be assured of market access beforehand, based on the commitment made by the private partners to purchase the product, provided it was of the required quality.

This gave farmers the security to invest their time and money in improved production technology. Due to the success of the project, this model has subsequently been repeated in Ecuador (Rainforest Alliance certification) and in Ghana and Nigeria.

### **Supporting coffee and tea production in Rwanda**

This AfT programme supports the government of Rwanda in its agricultural programme. Funding provided by the Commission helped to stimulate market-oriented agriculture and local initiatives and, through the privatization process, makes use of different kinds of assistance (including technical assistance, infrastructure and capacity building) to help farmers in Rwanda to export their tea, coffee and pyrethrum (used as a natural insecticide).

### **Improving Quality Standards in Bangladesh**

Historically, Bangladesh has been reliant on a narrow range of goods (principally garments, textiles and foodstuffs) for most of its foreign exchange earnings. In order to try and diversify the country's export base and help to contribute to growth and alleviate poverty as a result, the European Commission supported the Bangladesh Quality Support Programme (BQSP) between 2006 and 2010.

The BQSP programme aimed at helping the private sector understand the quality and packaging requirements in export markets (especially in European markets) and to apply the value chain approach in order to enhance competitiveness.

In order to address the problem of limited facilities and infrastructure for conducting internationally-accepted safety, quality and performance tests in Bangladesh, the programme helped to set up a National Metrology Institute in 2009 which ensures the accuracy and traceability of a wide range of products; from foodstuffs to engineered goods.

The programme also initiated the setting up of the Bangladesh Accreditation Board, which works to ensure the country's certificates are internationally-recognised.

This approach has already enabled several industries to improve their exports. It has helped Bangladesh's light engineering sector to bring its quality management systems (its export packaging and supply chain operations for example) to a level acceptable to international buyers.

Similarly, the programme has helped to strengthen the competitiveness and innovation of the textile and garment industry in Bangladesh by strengthening institutions such as the National Institute of Textile Training Research and Design and the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) Institute of Fashion and Technology.

In the frozen fish industry, the new testing and control process have brought exports (particularly shrimp exports) into line with international export standards, helping the industry to develop and create new jobs as a result.

Now, thanks to follow up on the success of the programme, in 2010 the European Commission put in place Better Work and Standards Programme, which will run until 2014 and help to continue to boost economic growth and reduce poverty by increasing protection of both workers and consumers and taking advantage of global market opportunities.

## **TWO) - EC TRYING TO SHIFT FOCUS TOWARDS SOURCES OF DEVELOPMENT FINANCE BEYOND ODA**

Last week, with little fanfare, not even a press release, the European Commission's 2011 [Annual Report](#) and [accompanying staff working paper annex on the European Union's development and external assistance policies and their implementation in 2010](#) and the 2011 [EU Donor Atlas](#) were posted online. No reference was made to these communications either in this week's European Parliament Development Committee discussions with EC officials and ECDPM. Instead, the focus of debate was on EC efforts to address the broader perspective on development effectiveness, beyond aid. The EC's efforts to also talk about improving domestic resource mobilisation, remittances, trade capacity, investment and innovative financing and to deal with climate change issues, external debt and policy coherence as ways to contribute to the transformation of societies and achieve development is a positive sign. .

## **THREE) – EU BUDGET SUPPORT TAKES SHAPE**

At a time when more and more 'budget support' needs to be made available to members of the euro zone, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on [the future of EU budget support to developing countries](#). The resolution concerns a rich and detailed response to the [Commission's Green Paper on budget support](#), published in October 2010. Through the resolution, the EP essentially takes a welcoming and positive stance towards it. Important elements in the resolution include a call on all donors to consult one another to avoid inconsistent conditionalities as well as an emphasis on the need to use sectoral budget support wherever appropriate. The resolution also looks at related issues such as the recommendation that budget support should incorporate measures to combat tax havens, tax evasions and illicit capital flight, as well as the need for developing countries to step up domestic resource mobilization. The EP recommends the Commission use a percentage of budget support funds to develop the capacity of parliaments and civil society in developing countries to strengthen their engagement in monitoring public expenditure. Through this rather comprehensive resolution, the EP not only presents its views for the future of EU budget support, for which the EC will publish a proposal sometime this autumn, but in fact also sheds some light on the direction of its upcoming response to the long awaited and upcoming EC Communication on modernising the overall EU policy on development cooperation.

## **FOUR) - EAST AFRICA: MILLIONS STARE DEATH IN THE FACE AMIDST RAVAGING DROUGHT**

While Kenya struggles to cope with the influx of refugees fleeing the drought in Somalia, it is estimated that about 1,300 people arrive daily at the Dadaab refugee camp, the country is facing its own crisis of malnutrition and starvation.

It takes on average nine days in 50-degree Celsius heat for Somali's fleeing the drought in their country to travel the 80 kilometres of the sandy, expansive desert that separates Dadaab in Northern Kenya from Somalia.

The journey to Dadaab is a treacherous one, made even more perilous as it snakes through territories of lawlessness where armed bandits and even police harass the refugees.

And when those who survive the journey finally reach Dadaab, they soon realise that the camp is far from the haven they hoped it would be.

In Kenya an estimated five million people across the country are facing starvation because of drought, according to Abbas Gullet, the secretary general of the Kenyan Red Cross.

In the northern part of Kenya, the local Turkana community is facing starvation, just like the refugees at Dadaab.

According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), from a population of about 850,000 people in Turkana, more than 385,000 children and 90,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women are suffering from

acute malnutrition. This has increased the number of new admissions of children suffering from malnutrition to a staggering 78 percent.

"This is a very serious situation, across the region (Horn of Africa) more than 10 million people are affected. Of this, two million children are severely affected with half a million of them suffering from severe acute malnutrition and (many are) on the brink of death," UNICEF executive director, Anthony Lake, says. This comes less than two months after Kenya's President Mwai Kibaki declared the drought a national disaster as the lives of people in Moyale, Turkana, Wajir, Marsabit and Mandera hang in the balance because of a lack of food and water.

"On my visit to Turkana, one of the drought-stricken regions, I saw a mother putting powdered palm nuts in her mouth in order to moisten the grains before putting the mixture in the mouth of her baby because of the lack of water ... this is a crisis," says Lake. He was speaking at a press briefing in Nairobi on Jul. 17. The ministry of special programs and the Kenya Red Cross have been providing food aid to those most affected by the drought, but with the arrival of a high number of refugees, locals say that the aid focus has shifted to Dadaab.

"These are difficult times for both the refugees and the host communities who are facing similar hardships, and things are going to get worse because the rains have continued to fail," explains Fatima Billow, a social worker in Mandera, Northern Kenya, which is near Dadaab.

Those asylum seekers who succumb to the heat and lack of water along the way to Dadaab are buried not far from the camp, in a makeshift graveyard. The graveyard serves as a reminder to the living that unless circumstances improve, death may also soon be their fate. "Dadaab in Northern Kenya was built for a maximum of 90,000 refugees, the numbers are now at 423,000 and counting, with 50,000 more building makeshift camps around the refugee complex," explains a source at the Kenya Red Cross. The camp was officially declared full in 2008.

And that is not all.

"More refugees are on their way," says Doctors Without Borders nurse, Nenna Arnold. "We are already at bursting point, but the figures keep growing. This situation is a humanitarian emergency."

As more and more people crowd the three camps that make up the Dadaab complex, the availability of essential services like water, food and basic sanitation is becoming inadequate to serve the numbers living there.

While speaking after a tour across drought-stricken Kenya, Andrew Mitchell, British secretary of state for international development, says that millions of people are staring death in the face as the Horn of Africa faces the most severe humanitarian crisis in the world.

UNICEF confirms that one in every three Somalis is living through a humanitarian catastrophe. Somalis have endured a long drawn socio-political crisis for about 20 years, which has led to the escalation of poverty, food insecurity and instability.

The situation in Somalia has spilled over to the neighbouring countries, particularly Kenya and Ethiopia, which are also dealing with millions of people who require urgent food and water relief.

This has led to a feeling of animosity from the host communities who feel that the refugees are competing with them for scarce food aid.

"The host community is now expressing frustration for what they see as negligence as the government and aid agencies rush to the rescue of the refugees," explains Lake.

"The locals are wondering why there is a lot of attention to help refugees while our people in Turkana, Wajir, Mandera, Marsabit and other regions are suffering the same fate," wonders Mohammed Abdi, a cattle trader who is counting his losses as more of his livestock succumb to the drought.

"We understand that the refugees need help. But we in Northern Kenya are not fairing any better. We are feeling very neglected, who feeds visitors in their home while his own children are starving?" asks Abdi.

## **FIVE) – EGYPT EMBRACES OIL MONARCHS, DUBIOUSLY**

With the nation's economy in tatters from the uprising that ousted its dictator of 30 years, Egypt's transitional government has turned its back on the Western lending institutions that once propped the Mubarak regime. But its decision to accept the massive aid packages dangled by the oil-rich Arab Gulf states has raised suspicions about their intentions, as well as its own.

In May, Egyptian officials estimated that the populous Arab country would need between 10 billion and 12 billion dollars in international aid to plug a budget gap following the uprising that toppled former president Hosni Mubarak in February. They said the political turmoil resulted in enormous losses to Egypt's tourism

sector, capital markets and economic production.

In a surprise move, Egypt's military-run government declared last month that it would not tap the 3 billion dollars loan facility it had secured with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), nor a contingent World Bank offer of 4.5 billion dollars in assistance. Instead it said it would slash government spending and turn to the Arab Gulf monarchies for the rest.

"Borrowing from our wealthy Arab neighbours makes economic sense," says Alia El-Mahdi, dean of the Faculty of Economics and Political Sciences at Cairo University. "But these are countries that were strongly opposed to Egypt's revolution, so we must treat their (display of benevolence) with suspicion."

Egyptian officials attributed their decision to refuse the IMF and World Bank offers to unacceptable lending conditions and concern over the country's debt level. Central bank figures reveal domestic and foreign debts in excess of 190 billion dollars, or about 90 percent of GDP.

"There is a high level of discomfort with the idea of borrowing from outside," explains Amr Hassanein, chairman of MERIS, a regional affiliate of Moody's credit ratings agency. "At one point, (before the first Gulf War), Egypt was riddled with debt and wasn't able to handle it so it had to pay a high political price."

IMF officials rejected accusations that its loan facility would have come with hidden strings attached such as a government commitment to reduce subsidies and carry out privatisations. They said the lending agency had offered unusually lenient terms with the aim of helping the battered Egyptian economy get back on track as quickly as possible.

But even the scent of conditionality was too much for Egypt's interim government, which reportedly saw the soft loan as a political hot potato.

"This was more of a political decision than an economic one," explains El-Mahdi. "The government is not in a strong position right now, and it is under intense pressure from public opinion not to accept any aid from the IMF or World Bank, regardless of the conditions."

Many Egyptians exhibit a deep distrust of the two international lending institutions, which they blame for pushing neoliberal economic policies that resulted in high unemployment and glaring income disparities. Protesters who continue to gather in Cairo's Tahrir Square have opposed any lending that would lock Egypt into a particular economic model before an elected government is in place. Many are calling for an economy based on "social justice," with an emphasis on subsidy programmes, job security and robust social welfare programmes.

By contrast, the prospect of Gulf aid would appear to enjoy wide acceptance on the Egyptian street. Nearly two million Egyptians work in the Arab Gulf states and the country shares a common cultural bond with its Islamic neighbours.

So far, Arab Gulf states have dangled over 17 billion dollars in loans, grants and new investment. The offers include 4 billion dollars in financial assistance from Saudi Arabia, 3 billion dollars from the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar's pledge to invest 10 billion dollars in Egyptian projects and provide a 500 million dollar grant.

Hassanein speculates that the Gulf states view their aid packages as investment in the region's stability that will protect their investments in Egypt. They may also hope to garner support for various political issues, including opposition against Iran.

El-Mahdi suspects darker motives. She finds it suspicious that Gulf monarchs who have suppressed the democratic ambitions of their own people would generously lend support to Egypt's attempt to build a democracy. "It is not in their interest for Egypt's revolution to succeed, and the absolute rulers of these countries are afraid (the dissent) may spread to their own," she says.

Saudi Arabia in particular has shown unswerving support of embattled Arab dictators, going so far as to send troops to neighbouring Bahrain to crush anti-government protests there. The Saudi government provided asylum to Tunisian ex-president Zine al-Abdine Ben Ali after he was deposed by a popular uprising in January, and reportedly extended an offer to host Mubarak after his ouster.

Nervous Arab rulers are suspected of funneling money to remnants of the former Mubarak regime in an attempt to destabilise Egypt and undermine its revolution.

"There appears to be an organised effort to create strife, and many people suspect that Gulf Arab countries are financing it," said El-Mahdi. "These states want our revolution to fail."

In recent months, armed "thugs" have attacked protesters demanding faster reforms and the prosecution of former regime officials. At the same time, Salafists who practice a Saudi brand of radical Islam have been blamed for instigating attacks on minority Christian churches and monasteries that threaten to ignite simmering sectarian tensions.

This has led to an unsettling question: is Egypt's military-run government turning to traditional Arab monarchies for support to avoid the stringent lending conditions of Western institutions, or to leverage the financial clout of wealthy Gulf nations in order to undermine the country's transition to democracy and

protect the interests of the former regime?

Disillusioned activists who participated in the 18-day uprising that led to Mubarak's ouster see the ruling Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) as an obstacle to change. Some charge that the military, headed by long-time Mubarak ally Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi, is corrupt and unwilling to implement reforms, making just enough concessions to mitigate the wrath of protesters.

"The SCAF is part of the old regime," charges Gamal El-Sayed, a café manager. "It is trying to protect the former regime by mobilising people against the revolution to discredit it."

In this scenario, the decision to tap opaque Gulf financial assistance would be a way to avoid the demands for greater transparency and accountability that typically accompany IMF and World Bank aid packages. The two lending institutions have already urged Egypt to pass a freedom of information law, reveal hidden assets, and disclose secret funds in the state budget, according to rights groups.

Ahmed Sakr Ashour, an expert in public administration, sees no duplicity on the part of Egypt's military rulers, just better economic policy. He takes the government's decision to impose austerity measures to avoid unnecessary IMF lending as an indicator that it intends to rationalise expenditure and break the debt cycle.

"I think the current government is very aware of the political risks in accepting Gulf aid, and I expect any borrowing will be short-term until the economy has a chance to recover," he says.

Ashour adds that Egypt appears ready to do away with loans altogether and claim sovereignty over its economy. But to do so it will need to end the profligate budgets characteristic of the Mubarak era.

## **SIX) – EU REVISES CONDITIONS FOR A FULL RESUMPTION OF COOPERATION WITH GUINEA**

The European Union today revised the conditions for fully resuming EU cooperation with the Republic of Guinea. Today's decision acknowledges Guinea's progress towards constitutional rule and democratisation and eases the conditions for a full resumption of EU support.

Following the military coup on 23 December 2008, the EU partially suspended development cooperation with Guinea. To accompany the return to constitutional order and democracy, a roadmap for gradual resumption of EU aid was set out in July 2009.

The EU considers that the Republic of Guinea has significantly progressed on this roadmap, in particular through the democratic election of a new president and the establishment of a civilian government. Today's decision acknowledges these important milestones and facilitates full resumption of cooperation.

Accordingly, programming documents can be signed once the Guinean authorities have adopted an electoral calendar leading to parliamentary elections before the end of 2011. Also, preparations for new programmes will start and funds for basic social services will become available. Cooperation will be fully resumed once Guinea has held free and transparent parliamentary elections.

## **SEVEN) - ZIMBABWE-EU: MORE OF THE SAME?**

Can one not be forgiven for having a feeling of *déjà vu*? Zimbabwe and the European Union are set to reactivate dialogue expected to explore ways of normalising relations between the two sides that soured in the last decade after Zimbabwe embarked on its land reform programme to address colonial land ownership imbalances.

In 2002, the European Union imposed sanctions on Zimbabwe against the tenets governing relations between the EU and African, Caribbean and Pacific countries espoused in the Cotonou Agreement. A report compiled by a team of EU countries established that the EU wanted to effect regime change in Zimbabwe given the impending 2002 elections. The EU says it slapped sanctions on Zimbabwe because of the latter's poor human rights record and alleged breakdown on the rule of law. [...] Essentially, the sanctions remain, as does their grave intent to torpedo the status quo that seeks to consolidate the gains of the land reform and the greater liberation of the country from European domination. [...]

And if one were to believe for a moment the reasons of sanctions according to the EU as relating to human rights, then the current attitude of the EU and its Western allies towards Zimbabwe's diamonds provides a clue of what to expect of the meeting. The EU and its allies have been blocking consensus by the Kimberley Process and Certification Scheme on the unconditional sale of diamonds from Marange. They

have imposed sanctions on Zimbabwe's diamonds and some reports suggest that EU banks have been urged not to deal with cash from Zimbabwe diamonds. (All Africa/The Herald)

## **EIGHT) – AFRICA: THE STRUGGLE FOR WOMEN TO OWN LAND**

Even at the best of times, obtaining a title deed from the ministry of lands is a difficult process. But as the minister of lands admitted on Jul. 13 that his office is rife with corruption, the disorganisation of this office means Kenyan women are no closer to owning land.

"It has become impossible to reclaim illegally-acquired land as powerful individuals collude with corrupt officials in my ministry to acquire illegal title deeds," said James Orengo, the lands minister.

But, right's experts say, Orengo should have addressed corruption a long time ago and it only delays women's access to land.

"It was very progressive for the minister to admit that corruption is rife in the ministry. But that has a negative impact on the struggle to have more women own land. Fighting corruption will take centre stage while land ownership for women will seem like a non-issue," said Grace Gakii, a gender expert in Nairobi.

"The ministry should have already moved forward to address other key issues such as women and land ownership. Already the constitution states that women too can own land and even inherit, but unless the ministry throws its weight behind the clause, the number of women owning title deeds will not improve," said a source from the non-governmental G10 alliance, a coalition of 10 women organisations who campaign for gender-sensitive policies, particularly through land decentralisation

The situation is worse for poor women who lack the economic muscle to fight for land ownership against a backdrop of gender-insensitive customary laws that continue to sideline them. Consequently, women still hold a negligible percentage of land title deeds. In Kenya, only a paltry three percent of women have land title deeds and in Tanzania only one percent own land.

"The economy of most African countries depends on women who are deprived of the right to own land. They toil all day on land that they have negligible control over. They sustain the breadbasket regions of many countries that are dependent on agriculture but their labour is unacknowledged and poorly remunerated," says Mwanahamisi Salimu, from Oxfam, Tanzania.

According to Elizabeth Nzioki, who has conducted research on women and land in Kenya: "A key development in Kenya land tenure reform was the issuing of title deeds in the name of the "head of the family". The problem with the legislation is that the titled land is being transferred almost exclusively to male individuals."

The situation becomes very complicated when a married couple separates because in Kenya, the Marriage and Property Act is silent on how land should be divided under these circumstances. In a separation or divorce, because title deeds are in a man's name, he is usually awarded ownership of the property.

"In Tanzania the situation is not any different, with only about one percent of women with title deeds. It means that the rest of the female population, who form the bulk of the labour force in agriculture, break their backs but have no say in proceeds from the farm," Salimu expounds.

She further says that the situation is worse among conservative tribes such as the Chagga who reside in the Kilimanjaro region in Tanzania. Among the Chagga land is only exclusively allocated to men and this has grave cultural implications.

"A piece of land is also a burial place. If a woman dies unmarried she is buried in the public cemetery, which basically means she will be 'forgotten'. (It is) a possibility that most Chagga women will do anything to avoid, including getting married for it and withstanding unimaginable levels of abuse from their husbands," Salimu says. For the Chagga, being 'forgotten' in death is akin to being buried like an animal, and people who are buried in public cemeteries are perceived as outcasts.

But even in countries where the number of women who own title deeds is high, like Zimbabwe, the situation is not ideal.

"In Zimbabwe where 20 percent of women own land, women rarely profit from it. One needs capital to earn money from land," explains Elizabeth Mpofu the chairperson of the Zimbabwe Small Organic Farmers' Forum (SOFF).

Across Africa, there are highly progressive statutory laws that allow individuals, including women, to own and profit from land. However, traditional practices and laws override them.

"Traditional laws rule, especially in countries like Malawi and Tanzania where the greatest percent of land, as high as 80 percent in Malawi, is owned communally," explains Maggie Banda, a lawyer with the Women's Legal Resources Centre in Malawi.

In Kenya women with no male children are traditionally barred from owning land, as was the case with Miriam Njoki.

"A woman owns land through her male children. Giving birth to six girls and no boy was like an abomination among my in-laws and I was subjected to insults and ridicule. My husband left me for another woman and my girls got nothing from his three acres (over one hectare)," Njoki says.

Although there are a vast number of cultural reasons that have continued to bar African women from controlling and profiting from land, women are no longer accepting harmful traditional practices and attitudes as the norm. In Kenya, the concept of 'Chama' has revolutionised the financial situation of thousands of women. Chamas are group saving schemes where women save money to buy land for members.

"Through this strategy, I now have half an acre (about 2,000 square metres)," explains Njoki.

In Zimbabwe, women have joined the SOFF and use affordable organic inputs, which allow them to make a profit.

"We use indigenous seeds, manure, anthills and so on. In fact, we are now at a point where we are developing indigenous seed banks for sale. We will also soon begin selling other organic inputs, such as anthills, to make money," Mpfu explains.

In Tanzania, there are extensive campaigns with various stakeholders to ensure that all women, especially in rural areas, are aware of their right to own land. "These women are slowly exploiting various means of controlling land by negotiating with their partners for more say," Salimu says.

In Malawi, women are working in groups and together are able to control and profit from land by leasing the land or owning it.

Of course these strategies pose various challenges. "Management is an issue because most of the members do not understand the concept of running a farm like a business. They have grown used to running a farm as if it were just a way of life; tilling, attending to the crops and harvesting without thinking of money matters because the men handle that aspect," Banda says.

## **NINE) – ZIMBABWE: MENDING THE CITY'S WATER LEAKS**

Thomas Njini is used to working with burst sewers and water pipes. It is a daily experience for him to respond to calls where he has to shovel human waste to clear blocked sewers. It is a job he continues to do with unenviable dedication in this city of two million people.

"It's my job, what can I do?" asks Njini who is one of the municipality's staff who work around the clock to clear blocked water and sewer works around the city.

But, according to municipality officials, the work is slowly easing a year after the city embarked on the ambitious Bulawayo Water and Sanitation Emergency Response (BOWSER) project.

The BOWSER project was launched in 2010 under the Australian government's overseas aid programme, AusAid. The 4,6 million dollar grant has been used to replace and also unblock old pipes that were built before Zimbabwe's independence in 1980 and which have become part of the urban landscape here.

Raw sewage and flowing treated water have, over the years, become a daily occurrence, and there are constant concerns about the spread of waterborne diseases. In 2008 a cholera outbreak claimed around 4,000 lives across the country.

According to council officials and implementing partners, World Vision, the city was losing up to 50 percent of its purified water due to leaks and burst pipes. But thanks to the project this has been reduced to around 20 percent as of April. In a statement earlier this year, World Vision's national director Edward Brown said sewer blockages in the city had decreased from about 250 per day to around nine a day in the first quarter of this year.

"The project seeks the removal of excrement from blocked sites for appropriate disposal and we will clear the blockages through mechanical jetting. We will also seek to clean water through the city's piped water system," said council spokesman Bongiwe Ngwenya in a statement to local journalists.

The project is located in high-density areas that have been the most affected by burst sewers and old water mains, Ngwenya said.

While the municipality has not quantified the cost of the water lost through leaks, the mending of leaks and replacement of old pipes is welcome news for a city that remains under water stress. Supply dams are constantly under threat of running dry and are unable to provide enough water to residents of the city.

For Njini and those on the frontline of dealing with these water, sanitation and hygiene challenges, this is a positive step forward. "I think this is welcome news, as honestly, not many people love a job where contact with human waste is part of the job," Njini said.

"This is a long term exercise as we hope this (the replacement of old pipes) to stretch beyond the 18 months BOWSER is expected to run," said a municipality official who did not wish to be named.

"Bulawayo is an old city and working on a complete rehabilitation of water works and sewer systems will

need much more than the Australian grant," the official said.

City Mayor Thaba Moyo says the city will need around 100 million dollars for a total overhaul of the city's water and sewer works. It is money that the local authority can only source from donor agencies.

Bulawayo is one of many African cities that the United Nations Settlements Programme, UNHABITAT, says have seen an exponential growth of urban populations in the past few years. But this has not been matched by infrastructure development. An audit by the Bulawayo municipality notes that constant burst sewers are a result of the stagnant development of sewer networks despite the continued growth of the city.

And it has created problems for town planners who seek to develop new housing projects for home seekers.

Over the past two decades the city of Bulawayo has seen the creation of new residential areas. But the council has issued housing lots in areas where there are no sewer and water works. It has forced new homeowners to turn to the bush for ablutions and to neighbouring residential areas for water.

Burst sewers and water works have, however, become a nationwide problem as municipalities struggle to maintain ancient infrastructure amid low budgets and long-running disputes with ratepayers.

Residents say the mending of Bulawayo's sewers is overdue as they have been living with the threat of diseases, such as cholera, for a long time.

"This has always been one of our major concerns with the municipality – that they demand rates from us when we continue to live with burst sewers right on our doorsteps. We hope this project is indeed making a difference," said Tholani Mkhwananzi of the Bulawayo Progressive Residents Association.

"Residents will only pay for a service they are getting, and it is our hope that the city saves water from these leakages from old pipes as water is something this city cannot continue losing," he said.

The project is yet to be replicated across the country.

#### **TEN) – RESUMPTION OF AID FOR NIGER: COMMISSION RELEASES €25 MILLION**

The European Commission has released €25 million in budgetary support for Niger, the first such payment since the investiture of the new president, Mahamadou Issoufou, in April 2011 and since the EU resumed in full its cooperation with Niger on 20 June. With these funds the government will be able to step up its fight against poverty, in particular by concentrating on the social sectors (education and health).

The funds have been released following an in-depth analysis of the eligibility criteria for budgetary support: macro-economic stability, a coherent and sustainable policy for fighting poverty and improved management of public finances. The very encouraging progress observed in these three areas made it possible to respond to the Nigerien authorities' request payment to be made as soon as possible.

Part of this payment (€10 million) is also linked to specific conditions in the area of education. During the evaluation the European Commission noted the significant work done by the government to prepare the action plan for the Quality Initiative in the area of education. President Mahamadou Issoufou is aiming to make school attendance compulsory and free of charge for all up to the age of 16. He has promised to dedicate a quarter of the budgetary resources to education over the next five years, in particular to build 2500 new classrooms and to train 2500 extra teachers each year.

The EU suspended its cooperation with Niger in 2009 following former president Mamadou Tandja's unconstitutional attempt to remain in office beyond his second term. Since 2010 the European Commission has gradually resumed its cooperation, providing support for food safety, rural development, transport infrastructures and the elections. The investiture of the new president, Mahamadou Issoufou, in April 2011 signalled the completion of the country's democratic transition. The European Union confirmed the full resumption of development cooperation with Niger on 20 June 2011.

Niger will receive financial assistance amounting to €458 million between 2008 and 2013 under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF). The main priority areas for cooperation during this period are rural development, improving food safety, transport infrastructures and good governance.

#### **ELEVEN) – UGANDA: SELF MEDICATION BLAMED FOR INCREASED DRUG RESISTANCE**

In pharmacies in the heart of Kampala men and women line up to buy drugs that you usually need a prescription for, like Coartem, a drug used to treat malaria.

Edna Nakyanzi had malaria symptoms, so she bought the antimalarial drug, Fansidar, without a

prescription. According to Dr. Emmanuel Semugabi of Hope Clinic, Fansidar should only be prescribed to patients after the first line treatment of Coartem fails.

But Nakyanzi said that she prefers this drug because she has to take fewer doses of it. "I only take three tablets of Fansidar and go to bed and the next day I am fine. But with Coartem you have to swallow many tablets and I hate that," said Nakyanzi.

But Nakyanzi's story is a common one. In Uganda patients can easily buy drugs you normally need a prescription for over the counter as government has been lax in stopping the illegal practice. Under the Pharmacy and Drugs Act of 1970 sale of prescription drugs over the counter is prohibited. Those doing so could lose their pharmacy license and also face a jail term. While National Drug Authority inspectors are mandated to regulate this, they have never been effective.

And increasingly people are resorting to self-medication to treat themselves for malaria and other ailments, either to save the money they will have to spend on costly doctors fees, or because some areas lack health officers.

Thelma, another advocate of self-medication, said she regrets spending the equivalent of 10 dollars in consultation fees when she was ill recently because doctors could not adequately diagnose what was wrong with her.

"They told me that I was suffering from fatigue because of over work and advised me to rest and gave me some painkillers. Imagine, I spent close to two hours there after a day at work," Thelma said. The Uganda Medical Association warns that this commonplace unregulated self-medication is responsible for growing drug resistance in the country. "Some drugs, like antibiotics, are (bought over) the counter and abused, which causes serious problems. Really those loopholes should be checked," said Dr. Margaret Mungherera president of the Uganda Medical Association and a member of the Medical Council.

In many cases patients use strong combinations of drugs for minor illnesses, sometimes drugs are taken in inappropriate doses and sometimes the incorrect drugs are used.

Dr. Peter Langi of the malaria control unit at the Mulago National Referral hospital said self-medication is one of the reasons why the fight against malaria has not succeeded.

"When people self-medicate, they fail to take the adequate doses they need to cure malaria, which causes some to develop resistance against the drugs and hence (results in) their eventual death," said Langi. A report by the ministry of health says that in some districts resistance to malaria treatment is more than 60 percent. However, the national average of resistance to malaria treatment stands at 11.7 percent.

Aggrey Mubaale said he often suffers from bouts of malaria but swallows several doses of antimalarial tablets without going to a doctor.

"When I was still studying I would carry some antimalarial tablets just in case and still do, even after I left school. It (taking antimalarial tablets) has become a part of me," said Mubaale.

Mungherera said her association has now teamed up with the Pharmaceutical Society of Uganda, the National Drug Authority and the Association of Nurses and Midwives to address the growing problem. They intend to inspect pharmacies to find those that are dispensing prescription drugs over the counter. Those found to be doing so will have their licenses withdrawn or could face arrest.

"Most of the people dispensing medicine (in) most pharmacies are not trained and will not insist on getting a prescription. In fact, some cannot even read or understand the documents," said Mungherera.

But this does not mean that all pharmacies in Uganda sell prescription medication over the counter. John Mukama, a dispenser at a pharmacy in Kampala, insists they do not sell prescription drugs to people without a doctor's prescription.

## **TWELVE) – INDUSTRIALIZATION NEEDED IN AFRICA, BUT MUST NOT HARM AGRICULTURAL SECTOR**

Africa accounts for about 1% of global manufacturing and thus needs to foster industrial development to induce economic transformation and reduce poverty, a new report by UNCTAD says. The [Economic Development in Africa Report 2011](#), published jointly with UNIDO, calls for new industrial policies based on country specific circumstances and on consultations with businesses and entrepreneurs. Building effective state-business relations is one of the recommendations given in the report, however, the authors emphasize, government support to private firms in critical industries should not be open-ended and needs to be terminated if results are not achieved. The study also stresses that promotion of manufacturing development must not be achieved at the expense of the agricultural sector and continuing attention must be paid to the latter.

## THIRTEEN) – BURKINA FASO: BIG BOOST FOR SMALL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

The government of Burkina Faso has responded to long-standing demands of farmers for greater support for small family producers with the launch of "Operation 100,000 Ploughs". Smallholder farmers say this will strengthen the country's food security.

"The operation is welcomed by the Confédération Paysanne du Faso," said Bassiako Dao, who is president of the country's largest smallholder farmer organisation. "Because today, the difficulty facing our agriculture sector is that it is not mechanised. Mechanisation would allow us to quickly reduce the labour time needed. "Instead of having five people working year-round on two hectares, with an animal-drawn plough, just one person can work two hectares in four days, covering half a hectare per day. The four others are freed up to do something else," said Dao.

The operation, launched in June, will make 20,000 ploughs available to the poorest rural households in each of the next five years, half of them to be given to women. According to Dao, the ploughs will be made affordable thanks to an 80 percent subsidy from the government.

Access to such equipment varies widely across Burkina Faso. The agriculture ministry says that half of the farmers in the cotton-producing regions of the country have access to some level of mechanisation, but in other zones this falls to just one or two percent.

### ***Agriculture vital***

The agriculture sector generates 40 percent of the gross domestic product of Burkina Faso and the authorities hope that with funding for agricultural mechanisation over the next four years, it can raise the proportion of farmers who are mechanised country-wide from the present 20 percent to 75 percent in 2015. According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Water, draught power is the most widespread form of mechanisation in Burkina, where 30 percent of households own at least one draught animal; 30 percent of these households also possess a tool for tillage and 20 percent have a cart.

Alfred Sawadogo, head of the non-governmental organisation SOS Sahel, also welcomed the announcement of the programme which, he says, responds to the demands from smallholder farmer organisations for the improvement of family-based production.

"The government must support family farms and help them to modernise and improve their productivity. In the west of the country, the availability of land allows family operations to expand to up to 50 hectares from a base of five or seven hectares," said Sawadogo.

Farmers also say that tilling with a plough allows the soil to better absorb water, preserving moisture far longer than a field tilled with a traditional hoe, known in Burkina Faso as a daba. Sawadogo also explains that animals provide a natural fertiliser in the form of manure.

"This is why the programme is attractive, because it will allow small agriculture to develop itself," says Dao. Women, who constitute an important part of the agricultural labour force will receive half of the ploughs. "They will till more than the usual quarter of a hectare - they'll be able to cultivate as much as four hectares," says Dao. "The sight of women bent over, working in a field, babies on their backs; that will be finished, thanks to this initiative."

"We have been waiting for this operation to boost our farming for a long time, because with the daba, we couldn't do much better. More than 70 percent of producers use hoes," says Nimbnoma Sawadogo, president of the Regional Agriculture Chambers of Burkina Faso.

### ***Food security***

At the G20 summit held last June, the president of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Kanayo Nwanze, warned that to neglect small producers risks aggravating food insecurity and instability of the prices of staple foods.

According to IFAD, the current increase in food prices had pushed 44 million people into poverty worldwide, creating a new and explosive situation.

Since the demonstrations against the high cost of living in the country in 2008, the government has provided around 15.7 million dollars of support to farmers in the form of agricultural inputs.

The investment is in line with the idea that agriculture is a particularly sound investment: according to numerous studies, GDP growth arising from agriculture is twice as effective in reducing poverty than growth in other sectors.

"We have to encourage this initiative which will benefit families. On the other hand, we are opposed to those who have plenty of money, and buy 150 hectares and a Caterpillar and then strip the land of trees and plant cotton or maize," says SOS Sahel's Sawadogo, who is critical of authorities' encouragement of agri-business operators in recent years.

"It's a bad form of agriculture which will destroy our environment and our soils which cannot support work with tractors for a long time. If there is not adequate support so that there is organic fertiliser with livestock to enrich the soils, the tractors will turn our soil into sand," warned Sawadogo.

#### FOURTEEN) – SOUTH SUDAN: BORN INTO CRISIS – VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN CONTINUES

Violence against women is rampant, devastating and tolerated in South Sudan and the new country needs to address these gross human rights violations and train people, especially soldiers, to respect women's rights. This is according to rights activists in the country.

"I have worked with many women and girls who have been abused. They are beaten by their husbands, raped by the rebel soldiers and they suffer in silence," says Loise Joel, a human rights activist who runs the non-governmental organisation Human Rights for the Vulnerable, in Central Equatorial State in South Sudan.

In a civil war that lasted over 21 years, women and young girls have been the victims of the worst human rights abuses. And as South Sudan and the world celebrate the birth of a new nation, it is incumbent on the new government to speedily address the gross human violations to cultivate hope among the survivors.

"Violence against women and girls is pervasive, devastating, and a tolerated problem in Sudan, a legacy of Sudan's brutal civil war, during which it was commonplace. As violence increases in the region, so will rape and sexual abuse, yet assistance for survivors and prevention services are critically scarce," says Susan Purdin, who oversees International Rescue Committee (IRC) programmes in South Sudan.

Violent conflicts continue to rage between North and South Sudan in the contested border states of South Kordofan and Abyei. But there are also internal threats to the safety of women and girls in South Sudan, including ethnic and tribal fighting, and even the Southern army, which is known for its use of excess force to wipe out rebels.

"Southern Sudan is being born into crisis. Widening violence is triggering more displacement, threatening the lives of vulnerable civilians and hampering access to communities in need while an existing humanitarian emergency grows worse," Purdin says.

Anim Yei was abducted by rebel soldiers and forced to live in the bush for two years while the soldiers repeatedly raped her before she escaped. She says government should set up a tribunal to gather information on the extent of human rights abuses against women and to punish the perpetrators.

"It is dehumanising to talk about what happened to me and others who fall victims to violence in our country. The government should set up a commission where security of the victims is guaranteed so that we can speak out not fearing for our lives," Yei says.

Yei is not the only one. Of the many women that Joel has worked with, most fear for their lives and do not report abuse.

"They have no avenues to report as they fear more violence from their husbands or the soldiers. Society also looks down on them. They need to be taught that these are human rights violations and that courts exist to prosecute the offenders," Joel says.

A report by Leora Ward of IRC's Women Protection and Empowerment Technical Unit, found that violence against women is highly prevalent in South Sudan and most victims suffer in silence. Almost 52 percent of victims of violence do not report the crimes. Psychological violence is the most reported at 31 percent, followed by physical violence at 29 percent.

According to the report, violence against women is also due to tribal clashes and cattle raiding. "In the past, tribal clashes in the (Lakes State) region resulted in the burning of villages, displacement of families, rape and beatings. The killing of women and children may result in greater retaliation and higher death tolls," Ward says.

She adds that now violence against women has taken a turn. "Women have pointed out that high bride prices has resulted in high violence against women," Ward says.

Ward explains that men who are unable to pay high bride prices may rape women in order to marry them. She says that men are also angry about paying high bride prices and as a result treat their wives as property and may beat them out of anger and resentment.

The IRC report says that safety and security problems identified by women in the Lakes region include economic violence, early or forced marriage, domestic rape, sexual violence, cattle raiding and tribal clashes.

The research notes that there is an overall lack of health services available to the victims and clinics cannot adequately respond to rape, unwanted pregnancies, STI and HIV infection.

Purdin says government should prevent, deter and respond to violence and threats against women.

"There should be gender-specific laws protecting women and girls. Education for women and girls needs to be a priority so that it can be part of the economic and community development taking place in the new Southern Sudan. Access for education for women and girls will address the power inequality or imbalance between women and men," Purdin says.

Fikru Abebe, director of the Sudan Southern programme at Plan International, says his organisation supported post conflict rebuilding development work that assisted children and youth.

"Enhancement of girl child enrollment in schools and youth skills development remain a focus programme that significantly contributes to stabilisation and peace building as many of the youth engaged in skills development are demobilised soldiers," Abebe says.

Fernando Matos Rosa

Brussels

