EYD2015

THEMATIC FACTSHEET ON PEACE AND SECURITY

European Year for Development in 2015

2015 is a landmark year for international aid and development cooperation as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) come to their conclusion. Based on these, the world will come together to agree on a new course of action and a post-2015 development agenda. Each month, the EYD2015 will focus on a different development theme, to raise awareness of the benefits of the EU's development cooperation in that field, and encourage direct involvement, critical thinking and active interest of EU citizens.

MAY, THE MONTH OF PEACE AND SECURITY

Today, approximately 1.5 billion people live in fragile and conflict-affected countries. Over the last decade, the concept of fragility has emerged to describe the situation of countries that have gone through recurrent cycles of violence, conflict and lack of development. Conflict and violence can have different root causes including injustice, inequality, ethnic tensions or extremism. Moreover, instability can result from state institutions being weak, failing to meet the basic needs of citizens and upholding human rights.

Conflict and violence at a national scale weaken state structures and can reverse a country's development progress by more than 20 years. It is the weakest in society who suffer from instability. Currently, the number of people that have been forced from their homes is at the highest number since World War II, with over 51 million refugees and displaced people worldwide.

Insecurity and violent conflict are amongst the biggest obstacles to achieving development goals. As a group, fragile states have lagged behind other developing countries in making progress towards reaching the MDGs. Only one in every three fragile states is expected to reach the goal of halving poverty by 2015 according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). On current trends, the goal of eradicating poverty and other development goals will remain beyond the reach of many fragile states, well into the future.

Child in a rebel camp in the north-eastern Central African Republic

THE EU'S COOPERATION IN ACTION

• The EU works with over 50 countries affected by conflict and fragility.

• The EU each year helps over 120 million victims of conflict and disasters worldwide.

• **African Peace Facility (APF):** Since 2004 the EU has provided €1.3 billion through the APF to back African efforts in the area of peace and security on the continent. This has enabled a number of African-led peace operations to take place, such as the AU Mission to Somalia (AMISOM), the International Support Mission MISCA in the Central African Republic (CAR) and six accomplished missions in Sudan, the Comoros, the CAR and Mali.

• **Ukraine:** Since the beginning of the crisis in Ukraine 1.2 million people were forced from their homes. The EU is funding support centres for those people affected by the crisis so they can find shelter, warm clothes, and medical, legal and psychological aid.

• **Myanmar:** The EU is working to bring an end to the long running civil war in Myanmar. The Myanmar Peace Centre was established two years ago with EU support. The Myanmar Peace Centre supported the peace process which helped bring about bilateral agreements between the government and 16 ethnic armed groups. On 31 March 2015 the government and the groups agreed on a text for a nationwide cease fire agreement for Myanmar.

Light a symbol of peace: Deradicalised youth in Pakistan vowing to work towards peace in their communities. Read their story on europa.eu/eyd2015

EU and Peace and Security

Ensuring a safer and more equitable world is a matter of mutual interest for both developed and developing countries alike. Peace and security have long been recognised by the EU as essential for development and vice versa, as encapsulated in the European Consensus on Development from 2005: *"Without peace and security, development and poverty eradication are not possible, and without development and poverty eradication no sustainable peace will occur."* This development-security nexus is one of the challenges which the EU seeks to address in order to promote sustainable development. Development is also the most effective long term response to forced and illegal migration and trafficking of human beings.

The EU pursues a comprehensive approach to peace and security, integrating its full range of external policies and tools, to better respond to external conflicts and crisis from early warning and prevention to early recovery, stabilisation and peace-building. The EU works to promote peaceful and inclusive societies and the building of viable state institutions. To ensure this process is inclusive, the EU engages all groups in partner countries, including women and at risk groups.

Security is a vital element of the EU's comprehensive approach towards re-establishing peace and development in a country. One way in which the EU addresses security is through security sector reform, which includes all relevant actors of the security system (i.e. army, police, justice, oversight bodies and civil society). The EU also tackles threats of a global or transregional nature such as organised crime, terrorism, cybercrime, and many more, which undermine the development and human security of millions worldwide.

During humanitarian emergencies, the EU provides emergency assistance and relief to the victims with particular attention to the most vulnerable. Aid is channelled impartially to the affected populations, regardless of their race, ethnic group, religion, gender, age, nationality or political affiliation.

DID YOU KNOW THAT?

The importance of addressing conflict and instability in the post 2015 development agenda has been recognised with the proposal of a specific Sustainable Development Goal (SDG): Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

THEMATIC MONTHS

Each month during the campaign will focus on a different theme involved in development around the world:

January: **EUROPE IN THE WORLD**

February: **EDUCATION**

March: **WOMEN AND GIRLS**

April: **HEALTH**

May: **PEACE AND SECURITY**

June: **SUSTAINABLE GREEN GROWTH, DECENT JOBS, BUSINESSES**

July: **CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

August: **HUMANITARIAN AID**

September: **DEMOGRAPHY AND MIGRATION**

October: **FOOD SECURITY**

November: **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION**

December: **HUMAN RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE**

SPREAD THE WORD!

Join the EYD2015 campaign online!

Join the EYD2015 campaign online! Stay up to date with information and news on the official campaign website, join the conversation on Twitter (#EYD2015) and have your say on Facebook.

Infographics, online banners, campaign trailers and more materials can be downloaded from the EYD2015 website. You can also join the group "European Year for Development 2015" on capacity4dev.eu to join the debate and get the latest news.

To get more involved, you can join us at events across the EU, and spread the impact of the campaign by co-branding with the EYD2015.

europa.eu/eyd2015

facebook.com/EuropeanYearForDevelopment2015

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