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# International Humanitarian Cooperation and Development of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Annual Report 2008



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Cover page:  
Food distribution by the World Food Programme for Horebo camp in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

# Editorial



2008 was shaped by rapidly increasing food prices, the real estate crisis in the United States, and the resulting worldwide banking and financial crisis. In the first half of the year, food prices exploded: they rose by an average of about 50% between 2007 and 2008. Hit particularly hard by this situation are all those people already living below the poverty line and unable to further reduce their standard of living. For millions of indigent people, especially in Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Central America, urgently needed basic foodstuffs have become unaffordable. These people are now at risk of falling into abject poverty. In many areas, the danger of social unrest is rising.

But 2008 was also a year of natural disasters: a whole series of tropical storms, including Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar and hurricanes in Haiti, the earthquake in China, and other natural disasters partially due to climate change caused at least 220'000 deaths and damage in the range of USD 200 billion. The people who lost everything they owned, had to abandon their homes, and are still in fear of the future have not even been counted yet.

For more than 40 years, Liechtenstein has been engaged on behalf of people hit by crises, disasters, and other threats. Various public authorities, the Liechtenstein Development Service (LED), and the Liechtenstein aid organizations work hand in hand, demonstrating great commitment to people in distress. Not only public resources for International Humanitarian Cooperation and Development have nearly doubled over the last ten years – private donations by the Liechtenstein population, which are regularly contributed to the Liechtenstein aid organizations after appeals and are supplemented by the Government, as well as many private initiatives demonstrate the sustained and growing solidarity of Liechtenstein with disadvantaged persons.

I am pleased to present you the first annual report on Liechtenstein's IHCD jointly prepared by all involved public authorities and the LED. The report summarizes the most important facts and figures as well as the strategic foundations of IHCD and provides insight into the wide range of Liechtenstein's activities in the field.

I would like to express my thanks to the Liechtenstein population, the non-governmental organizations, and the public authorities for their solidarity and engagement, and I wish all of you an interesting and stimulating read!

*Foreign Minister Aurelia Frick*



Liechtenstein IHCD is based on the principle of solidarity with disadvantaged people or people affected by disasters. It accompanies them on their path toward a self-determined and autonomous life.

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# Foundations

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## Principles and goals

International Humanitarian Cooperation and Development (IHCD) encompasses all forms of humanitarian and development policy engagement by the State of Liechtenstein and the Liechtenstein Development Service (LED). These forms are set out in the Law on International Humanitarian Cooperation and Development of 2007.

### Solidarity

IHCD is based on the principle of solidarity with disadvantaged persons or persons affected by calamities. The goal of IHCD is to protect the interests of these people, improve their circumstances of life, and create new prospects for the future. Together with other States, Liechtenstein thus bears responsibility for shaping a peaceful and secure world worth living in for all people.

### Self-responsibility

To improve the life situation of disadvantaged persons in a sustainable way, self-responsibility and participation are prerequisites. IHCD offers support and know-how for the solution of problems and the promotion of development. Main responsibility lies with the local population, however, which advances its own development with its own effort and will. In this way, culturally rooted knowledge, the willingness to change, and responsibility for life in one's own society are promoted and dependencies avoided. Only in this way can the gulf between poor and rich be reduced in a sustainable way.

### Equal opportunity

The activities of IHCD follow the principle of non-discrimination. All people, regardless of origin, language, skin color, religion, gender, or other characteristics should have the same chances and opportunities to develop their potential. The focus is in particular on vulnerable groups such as women and children, older or socially disadvantaged people, people with disabilities, and refugees and displaced persons.



IHCD is especially concerned with the well-being of vulnerable groups: women and children, older or socially disadvantaged people, people with disabilities, refugees and displaced persons.

## Effectiveness

IHCD resources should be employed as effectively as possible and to the greatest possible benefit for all persons affected. A careful allocation of resources according to purpose is achieved through cooperation with reliable partners, regular reporting, and the personal review and surveillance of projects on-site. Problems of global development policy and humanitarian problems can only be solved for the long term by way of coordinated effort on the part of all areas of policy. For this reason, IHCD advocates recognition of humanitarian and development policy aspects in all areas of influence of Liechtenstein's international environmental, trade, and economic policy.

## Core responsibilities

IHCD focuses on the following five core responsibilities:

1. Assistance for victims of disasters, political crises, and armed conflicts
2. Combating hunger and poverty
3. Improvement of the social, economic, cultural, and political development in disadvantaged and marginalized regions of the world
4. Engagement on behalf of peace, freedom, and security for all persons and the protection of their human dignity
5. Preservation of the environment and promotion of a responsible and sustainable approach to natural resources

## Partners

To fulfill these core responsibilities, Liechtenstein works closely together with the affected population and local organizations, the aid and development organizations in Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Austria, and Germany, and European and international organizations. In total, IHCD maintains working relationships with more than 100 partners. The bulk of Liechtenstein's support is provided in the form of financial resources. In parallel, Liechtenstein engages in active knowledge transfer by providing specialists from Liechtenstein. These specialists work on projects on-site, as seconded personnel at international organizations, or as ad-hoc experts and are funded by Liechtenstein.

## The most important IHCD partner organizations

### **Multilateral organizations and funds:**

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA); United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Council of Europe; Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA); International Centre for Asset Recovery (ICAR); International Organization for Migration (IOM); Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSZE); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF); United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS); Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFVT); World Trade Organization (WTO); World Food Programme (WFP).

### **Governmental or quasi-governmental organizations:**

Austrian Development Agency (ADA); Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC); Swiss Federal Office for Migration (FOM).

### **International non-governmental organizations (NGOs):**

BioVision; Geneva Call; Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC); International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); Millennium Institute; Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW); Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT); World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT); Refugee Education Trust (RET).

### **National or local non-governmental organizations:**

Central Asian Mountain Partnership (CAMP Alatau); Caritas Liechtenstein; Caritas Switzerland; Caritas Vorarlberg; Caritas Banja Luka; Christian Service for Peace; German Development Service (DED); Swiss Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL); Werk der Frohbotschaft; Helvetas; Liechtenstein Aid Society; Hilfswerk Austria; Horizont 3000; Inter Aide; Liechtenstein Red Cross; Medienhilfe Switzerland; Mission 21; Nouvelle Planete; Planet Finance; Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (REC Caucasus); Regional Environmental Centre for Russia (REC Russia); Swiss Workers' Aid (SAH); SolidarMed; Pestalozzi Children's Foundation; Swisscontact; Swissaid; Terre des Hommes; Association for Humanitarian Assistance; Watson Institute.



## Competences

IHCD falls within the scope of responsibilities of the Liechtenstein Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Foreign Minister is supported and advised on strategic questions by the Development Policy Commission, which is composed of international experts in development cooperation, migration policy, and international economics. The Development Policy Commission will take up its work in 2009. The operational tasks of IHCD are carried out by the Office for Foreign Affairs, the Immigration and Passport Office, the Office of Forests, Nature and Land Management, and the Liechtenstein Development Service (LED). Coordination is the responsibility of the Office for Foreign Affairs.

## Role of civil society

The Liechtenstein population has always been actively involved in development cooperation and humanitarian assistance. The origins of the Liechtenstein Development Service (LED) – still the central organization for Liechtenstein development cooperation – go back to the engagement of civil society in the 1960s. The IHCD Act promotes solidarity of the Liechtenstein population, allowing donations by the Liechtenstein population to be supplemented by public IHCD funds.

## Categories

### Emergency and reconstruction assistance

Emergency and reconstruction assistance encompasses measures aimed at *immediately saving human lives* during and after political crises, armed conflicts, and natural disasters and at alleviating the suffering of the people affected. In addition, the *establishment of infrastructure and social structures* creates the preconditions for further social and economic development in these regions. Urgent measures include the provision of food, tents, blankets, and ovens. The repair of houses, schools, hospitals, water supply lines, and similar elementary infrastructure already serves the purpose of reconstruction.



Saving human lives and reconstructing homes and elementary infrastructure are the goal of emergency and reconstruction assistance.

Emergency and reconstruction aid also seeks to prevent acute emergency situations by way of targeted *preventive measures*. This goal relies on the insight that many disasters and crises already become apparent before the actual outbreak of the acute emergency situation, and that aid is more effective and less costly at that stage. Emergency and reconstruction aid is primarily provided according to the criterion of urgency. It is not subject to thematic or geographic restrictions.

Emergency and reconstruction assistance pays special attention to so-called *forgotten conflicts and emergency situations*. These concern regions which for various reasons – such as where the situation has remained the same for many years or where it has been eclipsed in the media by an even greater disaster or crisis – are not or no longer the focus of international interest.

### International refugee and migration assistance

Migration pressure on Western countries has increased steadily in recent years. Therefore, Liechtenstein has been contributing to projects aiming to solve the associated problems since several years. In cooperation with the surrounding countries, Liechtenstein makes a *contribution to alleviating international refugee and migration problems as an expression of solidarity*.

International refugee and migration assistance is not limited to persons accorded the status of refugees under the UN Refugee Convention of 1951, but also includes internally displaced persons, returnees, stateless persons, and other persons abroad who are in need of international protection.

The central concern of international refugee and migration assistance is to *support affected persons* in improving their living conditions and promoting the self-responsible conduct of their life and the optimal utilization of their potentials. It includes measures for integration of returnees including education, health, municipal and community development, protection of minorities and reconciliation. Worldwide, international refugee and migration assistance advocates on behalf of an *improvement of refugee and migration regimes*. It supports countries of origin and destination in their search for permanent solutions and the development of appropriate structures to improve the long-term situation of refugees and migrants. Immigration and migration assistance also promotes *compliance with international legal, human rights, and humanitarian standards in connection with migration* and combats inhuman practices such as people smuggling and trafficking.



Liechtenstein's international refugee and migration assistance shows solidarity by contributing to alleviation of the worldwide problem of refugees and migration.

## Development cooperation



Development cooperation focuses especially on rural and structurally weak regions.

Development cooperation seeks to achieve sustainable and comprehensive development in disadvantaged and marginalized regions of the world. *Bilateral development cooperation* focuses on the development of rural regions in 12 focus countries and is carried out by the Liechtenstein Development Service (LED), a foundation under private law, on the basis of a service agreement with the Liechtenstein Government. *Multilateral development cooperation* is employed to counter problems whose complexity, political sensitivity, or global or cross-border relevance necessitate the joint engagement of countries, peoples, and organizations.

Development cooperation focuses on *rural and structurally weak regions*, since these suffer especially from lack of infrastructure, supply bottlenecks, but also the consequences of disasters, political crises, and armed conflicts (e.g., landmines) and are in general difficult to access.

Promotion of the basic supply of *food and healthcare*, including access to essential resources for all members of society where possible, is a central concern of development cooperation. Lack of basic healthcare, which also includes lack of nutrition, is probably the greatest obstacle for the development or reconstruction of a society.

Analphabetism, lack of basic education, and lack of vocational training in the general population are also important obstacles to the development of a society. One goal of development cooperation is therefore to promote universal access to *basic schooling* (i.e., primary and secondary level through school-leaving) and basic vocational training.

Economic growth is generally seen as an engine of all development and as an indicator of a country's prosperity. Too often, it is overlooked that not all parts of a population are able to benefit from this development. Especially *pro-poor growth*, i.e., growth with which especially the income of poor people increases, is one way out of the poverty trap for developing and emerging countries. A key precondition for economic progress among poorer strata of the population is their access to microcredits. By promoting *microcredit services* in a targeted manner, IHCD seeks to improve the development opportunities of these people, who previously have had no or only little access to financial markets. The Microfinance Initiative Liechtenstein ([www.microfinance.li](http://www.microfinance.li)) promotes microfinance services through activities in the three areas of research, technical assistance, and investment.

Another necessary precondition for broad economic growth is the possibility for the poor population to produce the goods it manufacturers under good working conditions and at fair wages and to sell them on the (international) market at fair prices. By advocating *market access under fair conditions* for products from economically disadvantages regions, IHCD can also contribute to a fairer distribution of income and broader, pro-poor growth.

An intact environment and the *sustainable development and use of natural resources* are necessary preconditions for the social and economic development of a region. Not only the shortage of certain natural resources, but also lack of access to these resources constitutes a growing problem for many poor regions. IHCD seeks to protect the environment and natural resources as a basis of life also for coming generations.

Finally, crucial for the development of a country is *good governance*, which guarantees a minimum level of personal and legal security on the basis of human rights, the rule of law, and democratic principles and seeks to maintain the peaceful coexistence of the country's population. Promoting good governance is therefore also one of the key concerns of development cooperation.

The Microfinance Initiative Liechtenstein promotes microfinance services for people who have no or only limited access to the financial market, giving them the opportunity to advance economically.

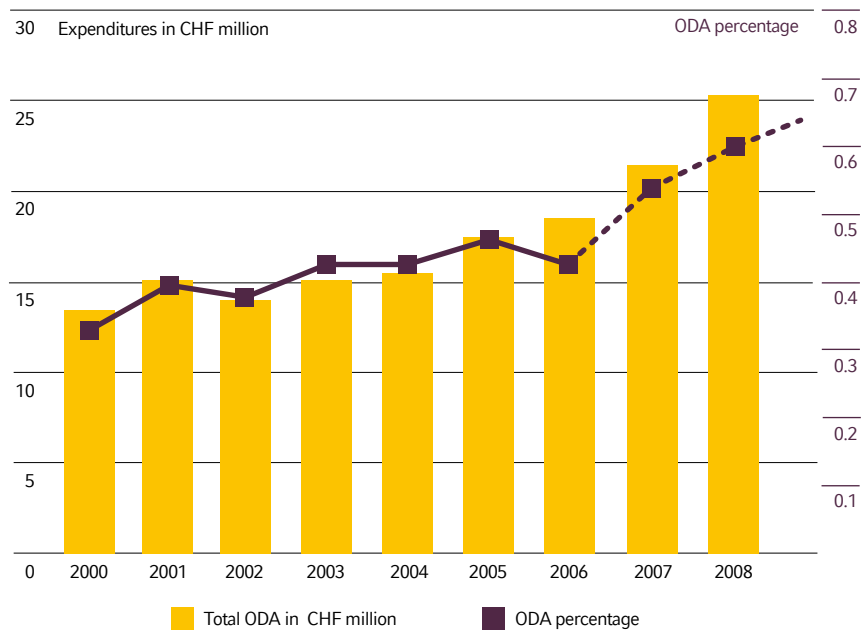


## Expenditures

Official development assistance (ODA) encompasses all disbursements of a State for its development cooperation and humanitarian assistance according to the criteria of the Organisation for Economic Development and Co-operation (OECD). To compare ODA among States, an indicator is commonly used to measure ODA as a percentage of gross national income (GNI) of a given State. The international ODA target is 0.7%. To achieve this goal in Liechtenstein, resources for ODA have been nearly doubled by the Government since 2000. While ODA was 0.32% of GNI in 2000 and 0.43% in 2006, it will exceed the 0.6% threshold in 2009 already, so that realization of the 0.7% target in 2015 seems realistic.

In the 2008 reporting year, IHCD had resources in the amount of CHF 25'502'309. The total ODA amount, which includes the disaster funds of the municipalities and care for asylum-seekers in Liechtenstein, was CHF 25'984'138.

### ODA expenditures 2000-2008

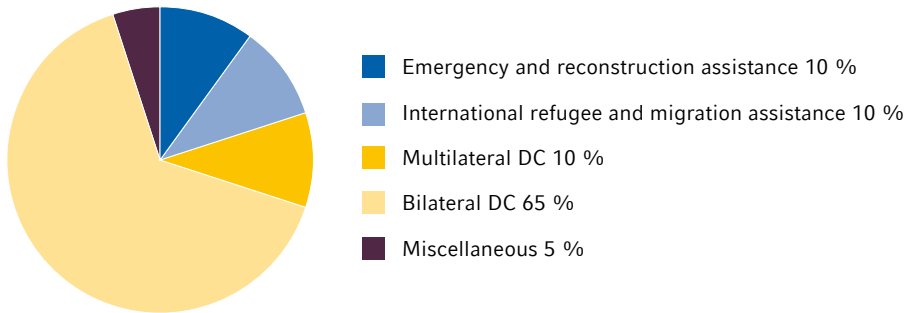


**Allocation of resources by category**

Bilateral development cooperation is the most significant pillar of Liechtenstein’s IHCD. Two thirds of all resources are allocated to bilateral development projects. 10% each of resources are distributed via the other categories.

**Allocation of resources by category**

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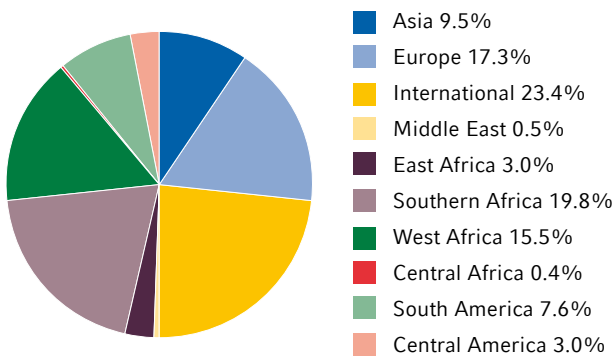


**Allocation of resources by region**

More than one third (38%) of Liechtenstein IHCD resources go to Africa. One third (17%) is used in Europe, especially for projects in the Balkans and the Republic of Moldova. The activities in Asia (10%) are still being built up. Only recently, projects were launched in the new focus countries of Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan. One quarter of resources are not allocated to specific projects or are invested in transnational programs. These contributions – listed under «international» – are essential for supporting cross-border activities or underfunded programs and for covering the basic costs of development organizations.

**Regional distribution of IHCD resources, 2008**

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Activities in Asia, especially in the focus countries of Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan, are still being built up.

# Activities

16 | In the reporting year, Liechtenstein made financial contributions to 210 projects, programs and organizations. The following examples show a representative extract of Liechtenstein's IHCD. A complete list of all projects is published in the annual report of the Government to the Parliament (Rechenschaftsbericht).

## Emergency and reconstruction assistance

Emergency and reconstruction assistance provides short-term and urgent preventive and aid measures to preserve human life and to alleviate the consequences of natural disasters, political crises, and armed conflicts. It also includes the medium-term development of social structures and infrastructure in regions affected by disasters, political crises, and armed conflicts.

2008 was a year of major challenges in the humanitarian field. Natural disasters such as Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar, the devastating earthquake in China, floods in India and Brazil, and the hurricanes in the Caribbean once again made clear the dangers and consequences of unbridled forces of nature. Moreover, politically complex crises and unresolved conflicts in many places (e.g., in various African countries, Afghanistan, and Iraq) impeded improvement of the precarious humanitarian situation of the local population. Aggravating factors included the financial and food price crisis, which elevated costs of humanitarian assistance and reduced the generosity of donors. Against this backdrop, Liechtenstein's emergency and reconstruction assistance was engaged on behalf of improving the humanitarian situation in various regions of the world and especially in countries affected by «forgotten» conflicts. During implementation of this engagement, great importance was attached to long-term cooperation with proven partners. Two examples of such support in the year 2008 are discussed below.

### Support for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The ICRC is traditionally one of the most important partner organizations of Liechtenstein in the field of emergency and reconstruction assistance, and it receives the most financial support in this category. In 2008, Liechtenstein made a total of CHF 700'000 available to the ICRC. In addition to a contribution to the ICRC headquarters in Geneva (CHF 200'000), aid programs of the ICRC in Israel/Palestine, the Philippines, Uganda (CHF 100'000 each), the Democratic Republic of Congo and Colombia (CHF 75'000 each) were supported. Additionally, funds (in the amount of CHF 50'000) were donated to the ICRC's activities supporting victims of landmines.





In an ICRC camp in Goma in the Democratic Republic of Congo, volunteers of the local Red Cross society are preparing food distribution.

In *Uganda*, the situation and engagement of the ICRC in the reporting year presented itself as follows: Although the security situation in the northern part of the country improved thanks to the truce between the government and the Lord's Resistance Army rebel group in August 2006, the need for humanitarian assistance is still substantial. A very high number of people in Uganda continue to be limited in their security, access to basic supplies, and with respect to economic opportunities. This is especially true of the large number of persons displaced as a consequence of the long-lasting conflict, who have meanwhile returned to their regions of origin or are on their way there. In light of this situation, the ICRC – which has been active in Uganda since 1979 already – continued its humanitarian assistance in 2008. It is primarily engaged on behalf of the several hundred thousand internally displaced persons, whom it is supporting in their return home. The ICRC also took measures to promote the economic security of the local population, such as «cash-for-work» projects, which are of particular importance to the many returnee families. The aid activities of the ICRC in Uganda have been co-funded by Liechtenstein already since 2007.

Another focus of the ICRC engagement in Africa consists in the aid activities in the *Democratic Republic of Congo*. After an outbreak of fighting between the DRC army and armed groups in the east of the country in August 2007, a truce was agreed in January 2008. However, violent clashes erupted again already at the end of August 2008 in the province of North Kivu, resulting in the displacement of more than 250'000 people. The eruption of violence had a devastating effect on the population (including in the areas of healthcare and protection from violence), so that the situation in North Kivu must now be considered one of the most serious humanitarian crises worldwide. Against this background, the ICRC boosted its presence in the region in 2008 and concentrated its aid activities primarily on vulnerable groups affected by the conflict (such as IDPs and families). The ICRC is trying to secure the survival of these people and at the same time to promote their self-sufficiency. The ICRC's engagement is undertaken in cooperation with the UN authorities and other organizations. This approach seeks to eliminate redundancies and gaps in aid.

### Contributions to financing mechanisms

In addition to support for operations of humanitarian organizations, Liechtenstein's emergency and reconstruction assistance makes financial contributions to mechanisms and funds helping to secure the immediate provision of resources in humanitarian crisis and to alleviate underfunding of humanitarian assistance in cases of forgotten emergency situations. The most important of these mechanisms include the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the Immediate Response Account (IRA) of the World Food Programme (WFP). Both were supported with substantial contributions by Liechtenstein in 2008.

*CERF*, founded in 2006, received a total of approx. USD 450 million in aid resources in 2008 and is structurally a hybrid between loans and donations. The fact that the fund makes a large share of the funds available without an obligation to repay has the advantage that humanitarian organizations – in the case of CERF, organizations belonging to the UN system (e.g. WFP, UNICEF, and UNHCR) – do not have to deal with risky capital repayment questions before employing resources in a crisis situation. In 2008, a total of 55 countries benefit from CERF aid money. About half of these resources were used for aid activities in Sub-Saharan Africa (e.g., Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, and Kenya), and about one quarter for activities in Asia (e.g., to alleviate the consequences of Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar). The rest of the money was distributed to aid operations in Latin America and the Caribbean as well as the Middle East. Liechtenstein supported CERF in 2008 with a contribution of CHF 200'000.



A woman in a village of Province North Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo is waiting for a Red Cross message.

Micheline feeds mash to her 1 ½-year old daughter Merline in the WFP nutrition center, the only meal the girl receives. Micheline and her husband lost all of their property to several hurricanes that hit the west coast of Haiti in autumn 2008.



A second mechanism to which Liechtenstein has contributed funding for several years is the *Immediate Response Account (IRA) of the World Food Programme (WFP)*. Against the backdrop of the food price crisis, Liechtenstein increased its contribution to the IRA to CHF 100'000 in 2008. The funds from the IRA help the WFP react immediately to a new crisis situation. Within just a few hours, funding for emergency aid operations can be initiated, and already existing operations can be boosted in the short term as a response to additional need.

In 2008, the WFP mainly used the IRA to react to natural disasters. In Myanmar, for instance, urgently necessary resources could be made available relatively quickly as a reaction to Cyclone Nargis. Also in Laos, Nepal, and Haiti, the WFP was able to help flood victims on short notice thanks to IRA funds. Major WFP operations, such as the WFP programs in Sudan, Ethiopia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, which had to react to increasing food shortages, were able to continue urgently needed emergency aid thanks to financial support from the IRA. In total, the WFP made more than USD 140 million from the IRA available in 2008.

*Andrea Hoch and Dominik Marxer  
Office for Foreign Affairs*

## **International refugee and migration assistance**

International refugee and migration assistance follows a sustainable and comprehensive approach to manage the global refugee and migration problem and seeks worldwide protection for the rights of refugees, internally displaced persons, returnees, stateless persons, and other persons abroad in need of international protection.

Due to the consequences of the civil war, international refugee and migration assistance (IRMA) has focused on the Western Balkans in recent years. In the years after the war, the reintegration of returnees was promoted via extensive projects in the fields of infrastructure (reconstruction of houses, school, and infrastructure), health, and education. In addition, organizations receive financial support which are engaged internationally on behalf of projects to alleviate the problems associated with migration. The focus areas of IRMA are protection of minorities, peacebuilding, and combating human trafficking and irregular migration.

### **Participation in Swiss migration partnerships with countries in the Western Balkans**

Since spring 2007, Swiss engagement on behalf of return assistance in the Balkans is the responsibility of the Interdepartmental Steering Group on Return Assistance (ILR), which participates in the Swiss-Western Balkans 2007-2010 migration partnerships. This long-term, participatory approach to migration partnerships is essential for the sustainable reconstruction of the affected societies and for stabilization of the participating regions. The migration partnerships help regulate and channel the migration flows that have also been felt and continue to be felt in Liechtenstein since the conflicts in the 1990s. For this reason, the partnerships have also been co-funded by Liechtenstein for several years now.

The most important goals of the migration partnerships are:

- Contributing to the development of migration partnerships with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and Kosovo;
- Promoting the voluntary return especially of members of minority groups and vulnerable persons as part of the Western Balkan return assistance program as well as individual return assistance;
- Strengthening the migration management capacities of the participating States;
- Preventing irregular migration through social and economic structural assistance.

Three thematic project lines were established for structural assistance:

- Capacity-building for migration management by the competent local authorities;
- Social and economic development for specific population groups under high migration pressure;
- Reintegration assistance for returnees and migration information services.

The thematic focus areas of the structural assistance projects are identified and agreed within the framework of the bilateral migration dialogue with the country in question. The budget of a total of CHF 13.5 million for the structural assistance projects is made available via the Federal Office for Migration (CHF 12 million) and via Liechtenstein IHCD (CHF 1.5 million). Swiss aid organizations are able to participate in the Swiss-Balkan migration partnerships and – if their projects correspond to the ILR strategy in terms of objectives, target groups, and thematic and geographic focus – receive financing contributions (up to a maximum of 50%) from the State resources allocated for that purpose. Liechtenstein regularly participates in the meetings of the Balkan project team at which the detailed projects are discussed. The visibility of Liechtenstein's contribution is ensured in the project contracts, in talks with the authorities, in publications, and at public events.

#### **State registration of vulnerable Roma groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Funded by the Swiss Federal Office of Migration and Liechtenstein IHCD, the Interdepartmental Steering Group on Return Assistance (ILR) supports the UNHCR project to support vulnerable Roma groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a focus on State registration, with an amount of CHF 780'000 for the period 2008-2011.



About 20% of the Roma population in Bosnia and Herzegovina are not registered by the state and therefore enjoy only limited civil rights.

Although Roma constitute the largest group of about 17 national minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, approximately 20% of the Roma population is lacking registration as Bosnia citizens, which results in civil rights deficits. Internally displaced Roma and Roma returnees to Bosnia and Herzegovina must also overcome greater obstacles to registration and reintegration than other minority groups. Persons without identification documents have no access to civil rights such as social services or educational opportunities and risk becoming stateless. Only about 10-15% of Roma children have access to schooling. Poverty, unemployment, and social exclusion are the consequence. UNHCR received the mandate from the UN General Assembly to promote the reduction of statelessness and the protection of stateless persons, and it therefore already has gathered experience with Roma in this regard in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The UN supported access by Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Roma Decade Programme, and in June 2006, together with the Council of Europe and Bosnia and Herzegovina, it organized the Conference on the National Strategy on Roma in Bosnia and Herzegovina – Development of Action Plans on Employment, Housing and Health Care. As a consequence of this conference, the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees appointed three working groups with the goal of developing

action plans for Roma. The NGO Vasa Prava, as the implementation partner of UN-HCR, has substantial expertise in the field of State registration and is responsible within the project for the identification and registration of non-registered Roma and for making contact with various partners such as authorities at the regional, federal state, and national level, hospitals, and NGOs. The State organizations do not yet have the capacities to take on the topic of State registration.

The goals of the project are:

- Providing legal advice to stateless Roma and support in the registration process;
- Raising the awareness of Roma and the authorities for the need to register;
- Strengthening national capacities for registration.

### **Prevention of irregular migration in the Western Balkans**

Via the Interdepartmental Steering Group on Return Assistance (ILR), the Swiss Federal Office for Migration and Liechtenstein contribute EUR 100'000 to the regional project on capacity development, information, and sensitization with regard to the promotion of regular migration from and within the Western Balkans.

One of the most important goals of this project is to prevent irregular migration by providing information to migrants in 22 information centers set up in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Montenegro, and the Republic of Serbia. In these centers, potential migrants are offered information and counseling on the risks of irregular migration, the opportunities and possibilities of legal migration, and prospects for work in Europe and the Balkans. Via a website maintained in English and the local languages, addresses of the centers, information sheets on the destination countries, and newsletters can be accessed ([www.migrantservicecentres.org](http://www.migrantservicecentres.org)). Another project goal is competence transfer and exchange of experiences at the national and regional level by way of targeted training events on the effective steering of labor migration.

### **Peacebuilding and prevention of human trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

The peacebuilding project of Caritas Switzerland is carried out in ethnically mixed villages in Eastern Bosnia. Fundamental principles – such as mutual respect and tolerance – are conveyed and show a good success in achieving the goals set out by the community. The project promotes trust between former war rivals and supports multiethnic teams chosen by the village community in the implementation of small projects (milk collection point, sports field, street lighting) that benefit the entire village population. The village communities are networked with each other and with the local political authorities. At the same time, the communities are supported in including their citizens in administrative and financial decisions in a sustainable way. Representatives of the village communities are trained in dealing with community policy and their civil rights. For instance, they call for transparent action by the community authority, whether through institutionalized information on council decisions, questioning time, or inclusion in budget planning.

The project launched by Caritas Switzerland on peacebuilding and the prevention of human trafficking seeks to give new perspectives to people affected by war in Bosnia and Herzegovina and to protect them from the dangers of human trafficking.

Through awareness-raising campaigns and the development of alternative income options (sewing courses, computer courses, vegetable and honey production), the project for the prevention of human trafficking seeks to strengthen especially young women in rural areas, but also minorities such as Roma, to take them out of the sphere of influence of potential human traffickers.



### **Sustainable integration of ethnic minorities and school projects in Kosovo**

Since 2003, Caritas Switzerland with financial support by Liechtenstein has supported the various ethnic minorities in the three towns of Prizren, Dragash and Strpce in southern Kosovo. Significant minorities of Roma, Ashkali, Egyptians (RAE), Bosniaks, Gorani and Serbs live in the three communities. Caritas Switzerland enables the local communities to organize themselves and to formulate priorities for their development in the areas of village infrastructure, youth, women, education, and agriculture. The communities receive support for the elaboration and realization of these projects. Caritas Switzerland also calls for the municipality to support the project financially. Especially successful projects concern the repair of roads and sewage systems in the poorer Roma neighborhoods in Prizren, improvement of the water supply for the Bosniak village Recane, as well as in the Serbian-Albanian village Vica in the municipality of Strpce. By supporting local youth and women's

24 | groups, by establishing meeting points in the villages, and by training the directors of these meeting points, communication and cooperation in the villages can be significantly improved. In this way, peace and stability in these three towns is promoted.

Much action is needed in the field of education. Only every third child has access to kindergarten, even though especially children with war or migration experience have a special need for qualified pedagogical support.



In Prizren, Kosovo, new kindergartens in the Roma neighborhoods are being established to increase the opportunities for scholastic integration of Roma children.

With financial contributions by Liechtenstein, Caritas Switzerland supported about 30 kindergartens in Kosovo in the reporting year. In this way, it secured quality-oriented part-time training of local kindergarten teachers, their pedagogical training, and appropriate facilities for the various kindergartens. In Prizren, the Roma community together with Caritas Switzerland is especially committed to ensuring that kindergartens are established in Roma neighborhoods, since such kindergartens substantially increase the chances for scholastic integration of Roma children. Also with financial help by Liechtenstein, Caritas Switzerland has established a vocational school in Gjakova offering about 500 students qualified vocational training.

*Thomas Gstöhl, Immigration and Passport Office*



## Bilateral development cooperation

Bilateral development cooperation concentrates on the development of rural regions in twelve focus countries, with special priority in all activities given to the promotion of women, social justice, and the environment. Bilateral development cooperation is carried out by the Liechtenstein Development Service (LED), a foundation under private law, on the basis of a service agreement with the Liechtenstein Government.

This report provides more detailed insight into two areas of the LED. Project work in the focus area «Rural Development» will be illustrated with four selected projects. In the secondment program, 14 persons worked for a total of 112 months. The interview with Dr. Heinz Frick portrays a life in development cooperation.

In the first half of 2008, the hunger crisis and the rising food prices were the focus of public interest. With unsettling pictures of riots and looting in numerous African cities, the crisis made the cover pages of daily newspapers. Chronic hunger in the countryside remained largely unnoticed, however. This type of hunger continued at the end of the year, even when the financial crisis had long displaced the hunger crisis from the news.

What does the LED do as a development organization under private law seeking to achieve long-term improvements in the field of rural development and food security? The focus of the LED is on the agricultural-economic activities of small farms, which in most developing countries are the backbone of society. For complex problems, simple patent remedies are rare, even for seemingly simple situations like hunger. The distribution of food serves to alleviate symptoms in acute cases. Fighting the root causes must begin elsewhere, however: with the trading structures established by human being, with legal certainty, access to agricultural land, and in the heads of farmers. The LED primarily invests in people, i.e., in the development and dissemination of know-how for everyone. This means knowledge that is made available and can be used by everyone. Instead of industrial high-tech agriculture, intelligent cultivation practices close to nature are promoted which protect and improve the soil.

The short descriptions of four project examples show that the LED is pursuing new paths in the field of food security with geographically definable target groups, in addition to classical projects such as the one in Niger. Where the knowledge of agricultural advisors does not reach or no longer reaches the farms, alternatives are necessary. One is the radio, the mass medium of poor people. Another is the Internet, which in the wake of mobile telephony is penetrating further into rural areas. What is crucial is that up-to-date, scientifically proven knowledge is offered, free of the interests of agrochemical companies. In recent decades, much knowledge about

26 | agriculture close to nature has been lost. For this reason, the LED is a partner of the long-term study of cultivation methods in three countries on three continents carried out by the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture.

The responsibilities of the LED also include public outreach and awareness-raising in Liechtenstein. The topic has been taken up repeatedly and in many different ways. The first edition of *Blickwechsel*, the semi-annual LED magazine distributed to all households, was entitled «The Green Vision». At the same time, the LED in collaboration with the BioVision Foundation and the Association of Farming Organizations sponsored a lecture at the Theater am Kirchplatz with a podium discussion entitled «A Vision for Africa». High-caliber experts presented the distress of farming families and the opportunities afforded by agriculture close to nature on small farms. For World Nutrition Day, the LED together with the World and Home Association and Terre des hommes organized the traditional «Fair Brunch» event, which met with an excellent response. At the turn of the year, the LED was a co-sponsor of the exhibition on potatoes, which illuminated local and global, historic and current aspects of these nutritious spuds. Four LED projects relating to food security are presented below.

Farmers use the BioVision information platform for the sustainable fight against plant pests and disease-carrying insects.



BioVision makes the findings of the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) in Nairobi available to all farmers free of charge.



#### **Information platform on plant pests and disease carriers**

Project description	Infonet-BioVision – Information platform for the ecological control of plant pests and disease carriers for humans and animals in East Africa
Country, region	Kenya, East Africa
Executing institution	BioVision Foundation, Zurich, Switzerland
Duration	Phase 1: 2005-2008
Total costs	2005-2008: CHF 755'099 / 2008: CHF 346'500
Contribution by LED	2005-2008: CHF 646'500 / 2008: CHF 346'500

Plant diseases and pests have a substantial negative impact on food production. At the same time, preventable diseases limit the productivity of humans and farm animals. Examples are the Anopheles mosquito (malaria carrier), the tsetse fly, and ticks. The International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) in Nairobi is continuously developing new methods for the sustainable fight against plant pests and disease-carrying insects.

The Internet platform Infontet-BioVision prepares this knowledge for the local population and makes it available to everyone free of charge. It was developed on the initiative of farmers and is very user-friendly. Research shows that farmers in fact use it every day. In 2008, a workshop was held with more than 150 stakeholders to evaluate the work so far, to improve Infontet-BioVision, and to broaden the base of sponsors.

### A radio for promoting organic farming

Project description	TOFRadio - The Organic Farmer Radio Programme
Countries	Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda
Executing institution	BioVision Foundation, Zurich, Switzerland
Duration	July 2008 – June 2009, with option for additional two years
Total costs	2008-2009: CHF 73'488 / 2008-2011: CHF 217'728
Contribution by LED	2008-2009: CHF 73'488

TOFRadio is an extension of the media and information work of the farmer's newspaper *The Organic Farmer (TOF)*, which launched in April 2005 with a circulation of 10,000 and has grown steadily since. The farmer's magazine primarily targets small Kenyan farmers, providing concrete information on ecological and sustainable farming. The newspaper is distributed to farmer's groups who meet once a month and exchange the newspaper with each other. In this way, *TOF* – as it is called by farmers – reaches an estimated readership of approximately 100'000 farmers. Since the demand for the newspaper among farmers exceeds the supply, a pilot radio program with *TOF* content was already launched in April 2007. The pilot program was very successful and showed the enormous interest of farmers in agriculture close to nature.

TOFRadio launched in 2008 and can also be received in the neighboring countries of Tanzania and Uganda. It is an ideal supplement to the Internet platform Infonet-BioVision.



TOFRadio is an expansion of the media and information work of the farmers' magazine *TOF* in Kenya. It was launched in 2008 and can also be received in the neighboring countries of Tanzania and Uganda.



The farmers' magazine *The Organic Farmer (TOF)* is addressed to small Kenyan farms and provides concrete information on ecological and sustainable farming.

### **Agricultural long-term system comparison in the tropics**

Project description	Agricultural long-term system comparison in the tropics
Countries	Bolivia, Kenya, India
Executive institution	Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), Frick, Switzerland
Duration	Phase 1: 2005-2008 / Phase 2: 2009-2013
Total costs	2009-2013: CHF 4'096'000
Contribution by LED	2009-2013: CHF 1'796'000 / 2009: CHF 359'000

Sustainable food security in developing countries is one of the great challenges of our time. High-tech agriculture alone will not be able to overcome it. Organic agriculture serves as an alternative, combining the protection of natural resources with low production costs and additional income thanks to higher product prices.

So far, however, there has been no systematic long-term study on how efficient organic farming in the tropics and subtropics actually is in comparison to conventional approaches. There is also a lack of technologies adapted to the various climatic circumstances in developing countries.

Together with local partners in Kenya, India, and Bolivia, the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) began to develop long-term field studies in 2005 and to compare organic and conventional farming. This research pursues the following goals:

- to conduct an unbiased study of the long-term economic and ecological performance of organic farming in developing countries, and
- together with the farmers, to develop locally adapted technologies to solve concrete problems relating to organic farming in developing countries.

### **Food security in Niger**

Project description	Food security through the expansion and development of vegetable farming in the Dallol Bosso valley, Niger
Country	Niger
Executing institution	SWISSAID, Berne, Switzerland
Duration	July 2008 – June 2010
Total costs	2008-2010: CHF 227'633 / 2008: CHF 113'817
Contribution by LED	2008-2010: CHF 227'633 / 2008: CHF 113'817

The project area is in the region of Boboye about 100 kilometers south of the capital, Niamey. The municipality of Harikanassou encompasses 32 villages with 22'513 inhabitants spread out across an area of 322 km<sup>2</sup> in the middle of the Dallol Bosso valley. Thanks to the many semi-permanent watercourses, the groundwater level is high, so that the valley is one of the few areas of the country with irrigation potential and suitable for vegetable farming. Nonetheless, the basic foodstuffs cultivated through rain-fed agriculture (millet, sorghum) are not sufficient to feed the families for the entire year. For this reason, many men emigrate to neighboring countries



(Nigeria, Benin, etc.) during the dry season to find income. As a countermeasure, irrigation has been promoted in recent years in the Dallol Basso valley, where men primarily invest in cash crops (sugarcane, mango, onion, and potato) and women in vegetable farming (lettuce, cabbage, potato, onion, etc.).

In 2002, inhabitants of the municipality of Harikanassou founded the development organization ADD WAAFAKAY. This organization supports inhabitants establishing village groups for agricultural production, income promotion, and environmental protection. Cooperation with SWISSAID began in 2005. In the first project phase, the harvest yield in all villages rose by at least 25%.

The second project phase targets the population of eight villages (8'021 inhabitants) and especially nearly 1'100 farmers, about 90% of whom are women.

In the first phase of the agricultural project, the harvest yields of the basic foodstuffs cultivated in Niger have increased by at least 25% in all participating villages.

## Heinz Frick – a life in the service of development cooperation

Heinz und Regula Frick spent about 40 years in Indonesia. Heinz Frick is especially engaged on behalf of the promotion of building biology and environmentally friendly building.



*Mr Frick, you have spent more than half your professional life as an architect in the services of the LED at various locations in Indonesia. Why development cooperation, why Indonesia, and what have you done?*

Heinz Frick: I worked in Indonesia for more than 23 years, almost 22 of which on behalf of the LED. It became clear at the end of secondary school that I wanted to work in development cooperation someday. A vocational counselor suggested I learn a building trade: school of applied arts, draftsman for building construction, carpenter, architect at technical evening college.

Finding work in development cooperation was difficult at that time without experience. While I was studying English in London, I suddenly received an offer by the Basel Mission to work as an architect and instructor for carpenters during the establishment of an apprenticeship wood workshop in Central Kalimantan (Borneo). The Liechtenstein Development Service (LED) accepted me as a volunteer. We waited two years for our visa and traveled for the first time in 1970 to Indonesia, which never let us go.

At this apprenticeship workshop, I built my first pile dwelling houses and taught carpenters with my minimal language skills. When we wanted to leave there after three years, the governor asked me to build three large wooden bridges. They became the largest free-spanning wooden bridges in Indonesia. For three years, I was a construction engineer, project leader, construction supervisor, and foreman in one person.



Heinz Frick's work in Indonesia focused on ecological building. Together with the education center «Environment-People-Buildings», he developed a holistic, internationally recognized curriculum for future Indonesian building ecologists.

We then wanted to return to Liechtenstein, which we had to postpone because of the recession, however. Thanks to good connections with a Swiss Jesuit, who directed an apprenticeship workshop for wood in Semarang, I found new work as an instructor for draftsmanship, structural engineering, and wood construction in the newly founded Institut Teknologi Katolik (ITK) in Semarang. During this time, I wrote my first architectural textbooks in the Indonesian language.

In May 1979, we moved to Ruggell for our two children's schooling. I opened an architecture office and taught apprentice carpenters at the vocational school in Wetzikon part-time. My outlook on life, which had been shaped by Asia, was difficult to reconcile with the circumstances in Liechtenstein, so that I again turned to Indonesia. Almost every year, I spent two months in Indonesia for lectures, seminars, or courses. At ETH Zurich, I completed post-graduate studies for developing countries in 1984/85 and subsequently wrote a doctoral dissertation on the structural forms of Indonesian construction techniques under Prof. Peter Schmid at the Technical University in Eindhoven.

In March 1996, we again moved to Semarang. At the ITK, which meanwhile had become the full university of Soegijapranata with the academic focus of «eco-settlement», I was tasked with establishing building ecology as a central element in the architecture curriculum. «Eco-settlement» at the time was a promising but still empty vessel that needed to be filled. In parallel, I wanted to revise, supplement, and reissue by old architecture textbooks. Until our return in November 2008, I wrote new textbooks on structural design, material science, ecological construction, bamboo construction, and building physics, while I totally revised and updated the textbooks on construction theory, wood construction, and subsistence level housing. I motivated an instructor colleague to work on each of the books as well, so that they would continue to be in good hands upon my return to Europe. Together with the LMB journals, 30 volumes are now on the market. Nearly 300'000 copies of my books have been sold so far.



*You have always been concerned with rooms and structures that promote humane cohabitation. You called your institute at the university in Semarang «Environment-People-Buildings». How is this to be understood?*

My collaboration with Prof. Peter Schmid, the renowned building biologist, opened my eyes to the connections between health, construction, and the environment. Already in 1984, I held lectures in Indonesia on building biology. From that point on, I only worked on building biology tasks in my architecture office.

My responsibility at Soegijapranata University was primarily the continuing education of instructors. There was a lack of guidance for research and thesis papers, and the instructors hardly had any basic knowledge of building biology. Looking for a suitable partner, we found the Building Biology and Ecology Institute (BBE) in New Zealand. In a two-year correspondence course, we trained ten instructors as certified building biologists.

The original plan of creating an architecture department with an ecological building orientation could not be realized for various reasons. Instead, the newly trained building biologists founded the Environment-People-Buildings (LMB) education center, which reported directly to the rector. LMB then developed its own comprehensive, internationally recognized course of studies for future Indonesian building ecologists. Unfortunately, there is so little environmental awareness in Indonesia that this program could only be conducted a single time. We therefore switched to publishing smaller journals with environmental focus areas and also offered our services to the public. For instance, LMB was asked to help with reconstruction after the Aceh tsunami and the Yogyakarta earthquake.

*You and your wife Regula have been back in Ruggell for four months now. How much do you already feel at home?*

After my retirement in November 2008, we are now back in Ruggell. We enjoy the rural environment, the peace and quiet, and especially the clean air and the comfort that everything functions smoothly. Until our son and his family moved into their own home, we shared our house with them for the first three months. Now our project is to decorate it so we feel completely at home. Only then will we be able to expand our circle of experiences to the outside. We want to avoid a setback like in the 1980s. This last winter was still hard for us, and we hope to at least warm up for two months in Indonesia next winter.

*Rudolf Batliner, Liechtenstein Development Service*

## Multilateral development cooperation

Multilateral development cooperation addresses problems that, due to their complexity, political sensitivity, or global or cross-border relevance, necessitate the joint engagement of countries, peoples, and organizations.

In its multilateral development cooperation work, Liechtenstein focuses on three areas: The first focus area is the protection and preservation of the environment. In this area, which is administered by the Office of Forests, Nature and Land Management, Liechtenstein as an Alpine country is especially engaged on behalf of the development of mountain regions. A second focus area of Liechtenstein is good governance. This area includes promoting and protecting human rights, strengthening the rule of law and democracy, and fighting international crime. This focus area is an example of how multilateral and bilateral development cooperation complement each other, since good governance is an essential precondition for sustainable development in the target countries and contributes to greater effectiveness of the other forms of development cooperation. As a third focus area, Liechtenstein is engaged in the fight against HIV/AIDS: Here again, the complementary character of multilateral development cooperation and bilateral development cooperation of the LED can be seen, since the LED is also engaged in the fight against HIV/AIDS within the framework of basic health programs. The two multilateral focus areas on good governance and HIV/AIDS are administered by the Office for Foreign Affairs.

In 2008, Liechtenstein allocated funds in the amount of CHF 2.45 million for multilateral development cooperation. With a total IHCD budget of about CHF 25 million, this corresponds to approximately 10% of total resources.

Liechtenstein's partners in multilateral development cooperation include international organizations, primarily the UN and its specialized agencies, the Council of Europe, the OSCE, and the WTO. Liechtenstein also engages to a considerable extent in multilateral development cooperation with international non-governmental organizations.

## Preventing and combating torture as part of Liechtenstein's engagement in the focus area of good governance

I 35

The protection of human rights is one of the foreign policy priorities of the Liechtenstein Government. It is thus a logical consequence that Liechtenstein advocates strengthening of human rights within the context of international humanitarian cooperation and development. The expansion of the protection of human rights is a key element in development, since the threat of physical violence, discrimination, humiliation, and powerlessness deprives people of the opportunity to improve their situation without help from the outside.



«No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.» Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In this context, Liechtenstein is engaged on behalf of preventing and combating torture. Liechtenstein supports both the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and two non-governmental organizations, namely the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) and the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT). This engagement is part of the focus area on good governance.

The contributions to the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and the World Organisation Against Torture are non-earmarked resources granted to the organizations for their free disposal. The advantage of such general contributions is that the organizations can use them where they are needed most urgently, and that they can use them to fund their administrative infrastructure indispensable to on-site realization of their projects. The UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture was created by the UN General Assembly in 1981 to provide victims of torture and their families with psychological, medical, social, legal, and economic support. The fund contributes to non-governmental organizations providing help to victims of torture in these areas. Liechtenstein has supported the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture for many years, in 2008 with an amount of CHF 25,000. The World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT, [www.omct.org](http://www.omct.org)) is a coalition of non-governmental organizations fighting against torture, summary executions, enforced disappearances, and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment. OMCT began in 1986 with 48 members; today, the network includes 290 member organizations. OMCT's International Secretariat in Geneva offers help to hundreds of victims of torture and reacts to acute violations of human rights through torture by disseminating urgent appeals to the international community. The World Organisation Against Torture has also received support from Liechtenstein for many years – in 2008, it received a contribution of CHF 15'000.

Liechtenstein also grants specific project contributions within the area of torture prevention: For instance, Liechtenstein supported the non-governmental Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT, [www.appt.ch](http://www.appt.ch)) in the reporting year with CHF 100'000 for a prevention program in Latin America. The goal of this program is to accompany Latin American States over the coming years in their ratification of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture. The protocol is an international instrument with the goal of subjecting all places of detention to international and national monitoring. The program in Latin America offers support in developing and implementing the national prevention mechanisms and in training corrections staff, judges, and prosecutors. Over the last few years, APT has worked very actively on the development of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. Liechtenstein has ratified the Convention against Torture and the Optional Protocol.

### **HIV/AIDS – a global problem**

HIV/AIDS destroys the social structure of entire regions and is a substantial obstacle to their sustainable development. Due to the continuing high HIV infection rates in many developing countries and the global relevance of the fight against HIV/AIDS, international and multilevel engagement is a key component of Liechtenstein IHCD. With its engagement in this area, Liechtenstein also makes a contribution to achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals: One of the goals set out in 2000 is that all persons affected by HIV/AIDS should have access to medical care by 2010 and that the spread of HIV/AIDS should be stopped by 2015 and then further reduced.

Within the context of multilateral development cooperation in 2008, Liechtenstein made the largest contribution in this area, in the amount of CHF 202'000, to The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria ([www.theglobalfund.org](http://www.theglobalfund.org)). The establishment of this fund was decided at the Special Session of the United Nations on HIV/AIDS in June 2001, at which Liechtenstein participated at the ministerial level. The goal of The Global Fund, operational since 2002, is to procure, administer, and disburse financial resources for HIV/AIDS programs around the world. The Global Fund's programs have a subsidiary character, i.e., they do not replace already existing initiatives in the target countries, but rather supplement or strengthen them.



According to estimates of the The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, 33.2 million people lived with the HIV virus worldwide in 2007, about 2.5 million people were newly infected, and 2.1 million people died of AIDS.



Counseling and awareness-raising are important components of the UNICEF HIV prevention project in Albania.

In addition to the contribution to The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, CHF 25'000 were allocated in the reporting year to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS, [www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org)). This program was established in 1996 with the goal of providing technical assistance to countries in the implementation of their national plans to combat HIV/AIDS. A UN specialized agency associated is responsible for the assistance, depending on the topic area.

Finally, Liechtenstein again supported a multiyear UNICEF project for young drug addicts in Albania with a contribution of CHF 53'000 in the reporting year. The goal of the project is to improve the access of young drug addicts to counseling and information material and to raise their awareness of risky behavior, in order to contribute to a decrease in new infections among this risk group.

*Christine Lingg and Andrea Hoch  
Office for Foreign Affairs*

## Sustainable development of mountain villages in Central Asia and the Caucasus

In connection with the protection and preservation of the environment, Liechtenstein as an Alpine country is particularly engaged on behalf of the development of mountain regions. Under the umbrella of the Alpine Convention ([www.alpconv.org](http://www.alpconv.org)), Alpine countries cultivate a partnership with mountain regions in the Balkans, the Carpathians, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. The guidelines articulated by Mountain Partnership, an international partnership for the sustainable development of mountain regions ([www.mountainpartnership.org](http://www.mountainpartnership.org)), specify the fields of action: Joint activities of the contracting parties in the fields of governance and capacity building or to promote cross-border cooperation are supported, as are bilateral and multilateral projects to promote sustainable development. The responsible Office of Forests, Nature and Land Management works with international organizations, local and regional government and administrations, and non-governmental organizations for this purpose and supports the development or strengthening of on-site networks active in these fields.

Together with other partners, especially the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety ([www.umweltministerium.de](http://www.umweltministerium.de)) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC, [www.admin.deza.ch](http://www.admin.deza.ch)), Liechtenstein several years ago supported the establishment and development of the Alliance of Central Asian Mountain Communities (CAMP Alatau, [www.camp.kg](http://www.camp.kg)) along the lines of the municipal network, Alliance in the Alps. Members of this alliance include local self-administration units in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan. These serve as contact points for CAMP, with whose assistance the villages undergo an entire village development process (planning, democratization, project implementation, mobilization, education, awareness-raising). Two project examples are presented below.

### **Energy and resource management in Kyrgyzstan**

The electricity supply in Central Asian mountain villages collapses with increasing frequency – especially during the winter. Since electricity is also one of the main energy sources for heating, food preparation, and communication, the shortages have an increasingly dramatic impact. Entire families live without energy during the winter months, when outside temperatures drop to  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Under these conditions, people who do not heat their homes in the winter, eat at least one warm meal a day, and have access to hot water for hygienic purposes at least once a week, suffer from serious health and social consequences in time. Energy expenses are an immense burden on many families' household budgets. To avoid this cost trap, many house-

holds use «home-grown» energy sources, i.e., they resort increasingly to burning dried dung (up to three tons per household and winter). Over the long term, this leads to serious harvest losses, since the supply of mineral fertilizer is also no longer adequate. Shrub and tree resources, already sparse, are further deforested, which leads to erosion and interference with the water supply.

Building on the experiences of a pilot project, Liechtenstein has promoted a broad campaign since 2002 in the field of energy and resource management, especially specific projects to insulate dwellings and to improve their stoves and ovens. These projects are connected with information and training programs and relevant aids for learning and practical implementation.

An old stove and oven in the yard of a house. The project supported by Liechtenstein seeks to improve stoves and ovens in Kyrgyzstan.



In 2002, Liechtenstein and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety initiated the project «Sustainable Development in the Mountain Regions of the Caucasus – Local Agenda 21» in the Caucasus countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and the Russian Federation. The Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus ([www.rec-caucasus.org](http://www.rec-caucasus.org)) established in 2001 by decision of the ECE Ministerial Conference «Environment for Europe» ([www.unece.org](http://www.unece.org)) serves as regional partner and coordinator. The Centre was supported with a contribution of CHF 315'000 in the reporting year.

Despite difficult political circumstances, mountain villages undergo a self-evaluation with the participation of broad segments of the population, consider a wide range of development scenarios, set out strategies and measures for sustainable development, and plan concrete implementation projects. These mountain villages, all of which are in border regions, do this not least of all with a view to future exchange of information and experiences as part of a cross-border municipal network to be established. The resources for development planning and concrete implementation of 14 small projects currently underway or recently concluded were contributed by: the State of Liechtenstein, the Medicor Foundation Liechtenstein, the International Lottery Foundation Liechtenstein, and VP Bank Liechtenstein.



Insulation work is an important component of the project to improve energy and research management in the Central Asian mountain village alliance «CAMP».

*Felix Näscher, Office of Forests, Nature and Land Management*



## International solidarity as a priority of Liechtenstein foreign policy

The concept of international solidarity is set out specifically in the goals and priorities of Liechtenstein foreign policy. It encompasses engagement on behalf of peaceful coexistence of peoples, alleviation of suffering and poverty in the world, respect for human rights, and promotion of democracy. Liechtenstein's foreign policy is therefore not merely a policy of interests, but also of solidarity.



Through its IHCD, Liechtenstein contributes to the creation of a world that offers all its inhabitants a dignified life full of joy in peace and security.

Within the framework of International Humanitarian Cooperation and Development, Liechtenstein stands up for all persons, regardless of their gender, origin, skin color, religion, or other characteristics. Together with trusted partner organizations, Liechtenstein is engaged in sustainable projects in the field as well as internationally networked thematic programs. It strives toward further development and improved application of human rights, especially the rights of vulnerable groups such

42 | as refugees, internally displaced persons, and migrants. IHCD is dedicated to the fight against poverty and human trafficking as a modern form of slavery and to the prevention of torture and other inhuman treatment. It is engaged on behalf of sustainable use of resources and long-term preservation of the environment.

In terms of absolute figures, Liechtenstein's IHCD is unlikely to achieve decisive changes with its limited resources – in the 2008 reporting year, approximately CHF 25.5 million –, but the same principle applies to IHCD as to Liechtenstein's entire foreign policy: global problems can ultimately only be overcome and the vision of a better world realized in cooperation with other countries – and the engagement of everyone is crucial in this regard. Due to its long-standing efforts in IHCD, Liechtenstein is recognized and respected as a reliable and credible partner within the international community.

*Ambassador Roland Marxer  
Director of the Office for Foreign Affairs*

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