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Annual Report 2011



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Cover page:  
Under the mosquito net: LED project partner Inter Aide has a participatory approach in Nampula Province (Mozambique) for example in the fight against malaria.

# Editorial

Foreign Minister Aurelia Frick in the CONCORDIA «City of Children» in Pirita during her project trip to the LED priority country of the Republic of Moldova in December 2011



Last year the seven billionth inhabitant of planet Earth was born. This child – let's assume it's a girl – will most probably grow up in poverty. She can consider herself fortunate if she doesn't grow up hungry and has a roof over her head. She will be even more privileged if she can go to school and learn a vocation. Sadly, many of the children and young people on our planet don't have that opportunity.

This Annual Report on Liechtenstein's International Humanitarian Cooperation and Development (IHCD) focuses on children and young people. We would like to present to you, dear readers, selected projects and partner organizations that Liechtenstein has accompanied and supported for several years. In many different political and economic environments, these projects and organizations help give children and young people a future.

The IHCD Act, adopted in 2007, expressly states that vulnerable groups should be given special consideration within the context of Liechtenstein's development cooperation. Children and young people belong to these groups in need of strong protection. Accordingly, the people and organizations engaged in Liechtenstein IHCD attach special importance to them in their work. It goes without saying that development projects only have a sustainable impact if the interests and needs of young people are taken into account.

I would like to thank everyone involved for their active participation over the past year and for the preparation of this report. Special thanks are due to Marie-Pierre Poirier of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), who agreed to write the guest article. You will find current news updates and comprehensive background information on IHCD at [www.llv.li/ihze](http://www.llv.li/ihze). It's definitely worth a click.

I hope you enjoy reading this Annual Report!

*Foreign Minister Aurelia Frick*



Two eager girls which benefit from the programme for intercultural, bilingual education for the indigene population by LED project partner TAREA in Peru

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# UNICEF and Liechtenstein

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## Joint efforts for a generation without HIV/AIDS

**In Eastern Europe, hundreds of kilometres away from Liechtenstein, an epidemic continues to ravage the lives of young people. HIV/AIDS in Eastern Europe and Central Asia is the fastest growing epidemic in the world and yet it remains largely invisible. Children, young people and mothers are its missing face.**

For the past three years Liechtenstein and UNICEF have been partners in an ever widening response to this tragedy, and although the situation is grim it is not without hope.

Take Angelina. She's 16 and lives in Svetlogorsk, a city in Belarus. She lives with HIV and she receives anti-retroviral vaccine treatment. Like a lot of young people confronted with being diagnosed with HIV, she felt alone, powerless and without a future. Angelina told UNICEF she dreamed of a simple life, about getting married, having a child – a healthy child – and to forget about HIV. «But I have to live with HIV and I have to learn every day to accept this reality.»

UNICEF recognized that young people living with HIV desperately needed to be able to talk about their situation, in particular with other young people living with HIV. This was acute in social environments where HIV carried the heavy burden of stigma and discrimination – where silence aided the spread of this epidemic.

With funds from Liechtenstein, UNICEF supports the East European and Central Asia Union of People Living with HIV (ECUO) regional adolescent network, where thousands of young folk living with HIV could get together and talk, face to face, over the telephone or online. Angelina took part in a UNICEF leadership course and went on to establish a network in her home town.

«I discovered that life with HIV is possible and can be filled with ordinary happiness: family, kids... I now believe everything is possible,» she says.

In the Region of Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CEE-CIS) the number of people living with HIV has increased by more than 250% since 2001. The Region leads the world in terms of prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT), yet the absolute annual number of HIV positive pregnant women has tripled since 2001. And while much of the world has benefitted from anti-retroviral treatment (ART) for persons living with HIV, coverage of ART in CEE-CIS is the second lowest in the world, resulting in high levels of AIDS-related deaths. In fact, the CEE-CIS region has now a prevalence that is twice as high as that of the industrialized world and Latin America. This is the result of low levels of coverage of key populations with effective prevention interventions.

In most countries of the CEE-CIS Region, injecting drug users (IDU) have been the principle drivers of the epidemic. In fact, the region is home to 3.7 million IDU, one-quarter of the world's total. Also affected are women involved in sex work. The sexual exploitation of adolescent girls is common, in some countries, up to 20% of those involved are girls under the age of 19. Another group impacted badly by HIV is children who live and work on the streets. Recent studies have found rates of prevalence

**Marie-Pierre Poirier**  
Regional Director for Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)



as high as 40% among cohorts of street children in the region. Finally, epidemics of HIV among men who have sex with men have been identified, affecting over 5% in many locations.

Many of those affected by HIV in the CEE-CIS region are criminalized and neglected. Authorities and service providers frequently see those affected or infected as «undeserving» of care. For example, pregnant HIV positive women who use drugs are routinely denied access to treatment that could help them give birth to HIV negative children. Strong stigma and discrimination keep many of those affected by HIV in the shadows of society. This is especially true for adolescents most-at-risk of HIV, who are reluctant to seek prevention, care and treatment services due to a combination of factors, including past negative experiences at health and social services. Health care providers also often lack the skills to work with at-risk adolescents or are constrained by parental consent legislation from providing support, care or treatment. Adolescents living with HIV are consistently stigmatized, socially marginalized and denied their rights to education and other social services.

Only the joint action of states, civil society and donors can improve the situation of homeless children and young people: A social worker speaks with street children in Kiev about safe behaviour.



Funding from Liechtenstein is helping us to support innovative programmes aimed at addressing the inequities linked with HIV/AIDS and reducing the spread of HIV in CEE-CIS in particular by supporting women, adolescents and children.

- **Prevention of mother-to-child-transmission** – UNICEF programming supported by Liechtenstein has contributed to the goal of ensuring that the most vulnerable and socially excluded women, in particular those engaging in high risk behaviours such as injection drug use, are reached early with quality services. UNICEF and partners have supported mobilization for political support, capacity building and development of strategies and innovative models of service provision, integrating

8 | ante-natal and post-partum care for drug-using pregnant women and their infants in several countries, including Ukraine, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan.

- **Support to Paediatric AIDS** – UNICEF initiatives funded by Liechtenstein and other partners have aimed at increasing the proportion of HIV-infected children receiving paediatric care, treatment and social support services. UNICEF has developed a training course and built the capacity of over 600 primary health care workers in 7 countries to provide specialized care for children living with HIV.
- **Preventing HIV among Most-at-risk Adolescents** – Prevention work by UNICEF and partners in over 10 countries of the region has helped to clarify the risks and life circumstances of adolescents engaged in high-risk behaviours, including those with street connections, those selling sex, using substances and injecting drugs. Funding from Liechtenstein has helped UNICEF advocate among policy makers and service providers to better ensure more effective provision of HIV prevention, health, social and child protection services to most-at-risk adolescents.
- **Empowering Adolescents Living with HIV** – UNICEF recently established a joint initiative with the East European and Central Asia Union of People Living with HIV (ECUO), to build leadership and advocacy skills of adolescents living with HIV. Working through networks of HIV adolescents, using workshops, coaching, internet and social networking forums the programme is reaching adolescents, like Angelina, in 14 countries. For the first time, adolescents living with HIV have been empowered to speak openly about their lives at public events and in interviews with the press. The first collection of personal stories of adolescents living with HIV from CEE-CIS has been shared, giving voice to these courageous young people. To read their stories, visit: <http://www.ecuo.org/>

UNICEF and Liechtenstein share the same dream to see the rights of children realized everywhere. HIV/AIDS remains one of our biggest challenges. It will be met. We have the knowledge, the science and the power to achieve an AIDS-free generation. We can do this – and because we can, we must. And together, we will.



# A future «sponsored by» Liechtenstein

Heribert Beck  
Immigration and  
Passport Office



«Education is our only resource» – a phrase often cited in reference to Liechtenstein. But this is just as true, or even more so, of countries in the Western Balkans, where Liechtenstein's International Refugee and Migration Assistance (IRMA) supports numerous projects in the field of education.

«I have the best teacher in the world, because she tells me fairy tales about princesses,» says a girl from the Dielli kindergarten in Drenas (Kosovo) when asked why she likes to go to kindergarten. «I love preschool. This is where I built a palace of wooden blocks for the first time,» answers a boy from the Mollekuqet kindergarten in Prizren.

## Only room for every second child

But especially at the preschool level, the educational landscape in Kosovo is not nearly the fairy tale the two children talk about. The country has a very young population: about one third of its inhabitants are younger than 15. Primary schools are in very bad shape, and most importantly, there isn't enough room. Many schools teach in two or even three shifts. The average class size is 40 pupils. Heating, water and toilets are in a precarious state. In rural areas and in large families, children have especially few opportunities to attend school. Preschool is offered only in very few locations, mainly in cities. According to estimates of the Ministry of Education, so far at most every second child is able to attend a public kindergarten.

## Modern education for 750 children

Including with support by Liechtenstein, Caritas Switzerland implemented a kindergarten programme that was expanded between 2002 and 2010 from a pilot kindergarten centre in the municipality of Drenas to 21 kindergarten centres in the municipalities of Drenas, Prizren und Gjakova. Since the 2010/11 school year, it has offered 750 children a preschool and peace pedagogy rooted in modern European standards. Based on the good experiences of Caritas and the persistently great need for new kindergartens with good toys and material and qualified kindergarten teachers, the kindergarten work in Kosovo is now being consolidated in a new project phase and further expanded.

This is where an important part of Liechtenstein's IRMA comes into play. Since the beginning of its engagement in preschool education in Kosovo in 2006, the contribution has steadily been increased, so that a total of approximately CHF 570,000 has been contributed in this area. Of a total of CHF 2.2 million used by the Immigration and Passport Office to support projects in Eastern Europe last year, more than 10% went to such preschool projects in Kosovo – either to support the infrastructure of already existing kindergartens or to open up new centres or train urgently needed kindergarten teachers.

### 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.

## «I've improved my self-esteem»

For the last-mentioned purpose, Caritas Switzerland has developed and tested a modern part-time teacher-training programme, which was successfully evaluated in 2006 and 2009. The programme employs new methods to link practical training with research and theoretical reflection. The project currently underway is intended to make the proven training concept even more useful, in order to meet the great demand for qualified preschool educators. The Dielli pilot kindergarten centre is to be further developed into a kindergarten competence centre in 2012 and the education concept is to be accredited in Kosovo.

This benefits many young women both professionally and personally, as a survey of trainees and new teachers shows: «The Caritas project helped me become more independent and improve my self-esteem,» says Florentina Halilaj, who is now a teacher at the competence centre in Dielli. And trainer Hidajete Mehmeti is convinced: «We have contributed to an improvement of the situation of women in society.» The newly trained teachers are very committed and contribute ideas from their leisure time to enrich class instruction. Many teachers have already gained prospects for the future thanks to their training in Dielli – and at the same time, they help increase the number of preschool classes and ensure that every child in Kosovo can attend kindergarten in the medium term.



Dedicated kindergarten teachers-in-training: The part-time teacher training course is very popular in Kosovo.

## Offering a future for Roma children

While the education system in Bosnia and Herzegovina is far more progressive and better developed than in Kosovo, there are still children who have no access to education and are thus largely deprived of prospects for the future. These children mainly belong to the Roma minority. This grievance is also being addressed by Caritas Switzerland with the help of Liechtenstein's IRMA. Over the past few years, CHF 180,000 have been contributed by Liechtenstein to the project «School attendance for Roma children», for instance.

Roma children, especially girls, often do not attend school – despite compulsory schooling – and generally do not graduate from primary school. To change this, Caritas Switzerland is raising awareness among parents, who must first understand the importance of good education for their children. This task is undertaken by a Roma assistant – who is himself or herself Roma – and a social worker. The task is made easier by the fact that children participating in the project are given free food at school and access to medical care.



A happy day in school: Roma children at the «Treća osnovna škola» in Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) on a field trip with their teacher

## Better education, more hygiene, more tolerance

In addition to practical class instruction, the Roma children in the school participating in the project take part in «catch-up classes». These offer supplementary instruction in various primary school subjects, in which the social workers and Roma assistants may also be included. In this way, pupils in different age groups can make up for deficits they may have in any area.

«This improves the willingness to learn, mastery of the curriculum, and compliance with rules of hygiene. The involvement of the social workers also improves communication with the Roma families,» says Aida Mikic, director of the Osman Nakas School in Sarajevo, which takes part in the project. «The pupils also participate more actively in normal class instruction and are better socialized,» confirms teacher Faruk Uzalic. And his colleague Sanela Ljevakovic says that the Roma children have made unbelievable progress in education and behaviour – which in turn is of enormous importance for tolerance in a multicultural society.



A journey into fairy tales: Playing children in a kindergarten centre in Kosovo established by Caritas Switzerland with support from Liechtenstein

## More self-confidence for everyone involved

The project is supported not only by teachers, however, but especially also by the local authorities. «We are convinced of the value of the project, since everyone involved is integrated into it,» says Dina Borovina from the Pedagogical Institute of the Canton of Sarajevo. «The children receive support in their supplementary classes, the teachers receive advanced training in special seminars, and parents' education improves as well thanks to numerous thematic parent conferences.» And Nihada Colic from the Cantonal Ministry of Education says, «The special significance of the project lies in strengthening the self-confidence of the Roma pupils. Without this aspect, it would be impossible to integrate them into daily schooling.»

This improved self-confidence is also seen in statements by pupils, who see prospects for their future thanks to the supplementary instruction. For instance, nine-year-old Ganimeta plans to be a hairdresser. Bener, who is also nine, wants to become a mechanic, since he likes to fix cars, and Lejla, who is 14, aspires to be a cook in order to support her parents. For Liechtensteiners, these goals may not seem particularly ambitious or difficult to achieve, but for the Roma children, they have become possible only thanks to the school project.

## Making it easier to use the resource of education

True, these are only two locally restricted examples that by themselves cannot change much about the education and therefore the future of the vast majority of children and young people in the Western Balkans. But they impressively show how great the interest is among both pupils and teachers in achieving the best possible education, and they give hope that the resource of education in these countries can in future be utilized even better thanks to their own initiative and support from the West.

# Growing up in a destroyed environment

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## Help along the path to normality

**Armed conflicts and wars, but also natural disasters, leave a path of destruction in their wake in many regions of the world. Children and young people are affected by the consequences of these events especially often, whether because they lose their parents and relatives or because their schools are destroyed.**

Almost daily, the media supply us with news and images of earthquakes, floods, storms or other kinds of natural disasters that cause suffering to many people around the world. Often, such suffering is not caused by forces of nature, but rather by people, such as in armed conflicts and wars. These images motivate us to help and donate, especially when children are affected by the consequences of such catastrophes. But catastrophes may quickly vanish again from the eyes of the media, so that the willingness of the public to donate may swiftly diminish. Engagement in forgotten conflicts and disasters is a focus of Liechtenstein's Emergency and reconstruction assistance, since help in such situations can be particularly efficacious. This engagement will be outlined below using the example of several projects targeting children and young people in particular.

## Reconstruction of schools in Myanmar

On 2 May 2008, Cyclone Nargis caused massive landslides along the coast of Myanmar and destroyed wide swaths of the Ayeyarwady Delta. Winds stronger than 190 km/h tore down houses, felled trees, and destroyed many power lines. The catastrophe left behind more than 130,000 dead and 2.5 million in need of aid. 95% of homes were heavily damaged or destroyed. While the region had already been poor before the disaster, basic supplies for the population collapsed as a consequence of the storm. Among the destroyed buildings, there were more than 1,200 schools.

The situation in Myanmar has meanwhile largely disappeared from the media radar, but the situation has improved only minimally since the disaster. There is still a great need for action. Many of the destroyed schools have still not been rebuilt. The access of children and young people to education thus continues to be very limited.

In light of these facts, the Liechtenstein Government decided to co-finance a project of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) to reconstruct schools with a contribution of CHF 240,000. This project aims to rebuild a total of 18 schools in the Ayeyarwady Region. These schools are to have 46 classrooms and space for 2,300 pupils. The buildings are constructed in such a way as to withstand future tropical storms. In addition to their function as schools, the buildings are also intended to serve as shelters for the population in the event of natural disasters. In emergencies, each building can securely shelter between 760 and 1,024 people. Water supply is guaranteed both by running drinking water as well as additional tanks and water filters. The school buildings are designed for multifunctional use. The concept can therefore also be employed for other buildings. Ecological sustainability was also incorporated into the designs, in that the construction materials are from the region, there is no



**Panagiotis Potolidis-Beck**  
Office for Foreign Affairs

### 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.

Cyclone-safe school in the Ayeyarwady Delta, of a similar type to the project co-financed by Liechtenstein



artificial lighting or air conditioning, and the roof can serve as a reservoir for the drinking water of the surrounding neighbourhood. The project is therefore not merely a reconstruction project, but rather also a measure for disaster risk reduction. With a contribution of CHF 240,000, Liechtenstein is covering the costs for the construction of one complete school.

EFACAP de Sacré-Coeur school in Petit-Goâve, Haiti



## Participation in reconstruction of a school in Haiti

After the serious earthquake in Haiti on 12 January 2010, which killed several hundred thousand people and made more than 1.5 million homeless, the Liechtenstein Government decided already in 2010 to participate in the SDC project for reconstruction of a school in Léogâne.

The situation in Haiti has meanwhile also been somewhat forgotten, even though there is still a great need for reconstruction of schools destroyed during the earthquake. For this reason, the Liechtenstein Government participated in the reconstruction of another school in Miragoâne in 2011.

This school is to offer space for about 860 pupils on approximately 1,600 m<sup>2</sup>. The SDC estimates the project costs to be USD 900,000. Construction is scheduled to begin in March 2012. Liechtenstein's contribution in the amount of CHF 210,000 covers a significant share of the total project costs.

## Care for children traumatized by war in Kyrgyzstan

In June 2010, ethnically motivated, bloody unrest between Kyrgyz and Uzbek ethnic groups broke out in the south of Kyrgyzstan. Within just a few days, hundreds of people were killed, and businesses, schools, and homes were burnt down. As a consequence, about 10,000 people fled to Uzbekistan. Similar unrest had occurred in Kyrgyzstan already in the 1970s and 1980s. However, the Kyrgyz Government largely ignores the ethnic tensions and the consequences of the resulting conflicts.

During the unrest in June 2010, large-scale shooting and arson occurred, while the police and the army largely just stood by. This has led to a climate of uncertainty, distrust, and mutual accusations in Kyrgyzstan. The result has been psychological trauma affecting especially children who witnessed the violence. Since the unrest, a substantial number of children affected by violence have been suffering from symptoms such as sleep disorders and anxiety attacks. Extremely aggressive behaviour of traumatised children has also been observed. Under these circumstances, psychological care of such children is especially important to restore a sense of trust to society. The Liechtenstein Government supported a project of Caritas Switzerland for the psychological care of children traumatized by violence with a contribution of CHF 30,000. The project plans to help 500 children affected by violence to overcome their trauma. The care ranges from consultations to an analysis of the social environment as well as drawing and play therapy.

### Paying special attention to children

The effects of natural disasters and armed conflicts on children are diverse, as these three examples show. In all cases, however, they interfere with the development of children and rob them of their chance for a happy and successful future. In emergency situations, special attention must be paid to these weakest and most vulnerable of victims.

# IHCD 2011 in figures

**Andrea Hoch**  
Office for Foreign Affairs



## Expenditures and allocation of resources

In 2011, the State of Liechtenstein expended a total of CHF 26.3 million on International Humanitarian Cooperation and Development (IHCD). About two thirds of these resources were spent on bilateral development projects. This area, administered by the Liechtenstein Development Service (LED), is the largest pillar of Liechtenstein's IHCD. About 10% of the total budget was expended on each of the remaining categories.

## Priority countries and regions

About two fifths (41%) of Liechtenstein IHCD resources went to Africa. To accompany projects with Southern partners in the African priority countries, LED maintains an office with a local staff member in Harare, Zimbabwe.

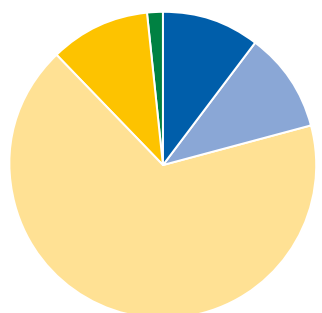
A bit more than an eighth (13%) of the budget was used in Europe, especially for projects in the Balkans and the poorest country in Europe, the Republic of Moldova. LED likewise maintains its own office in the capital, Chisinau. In the other countries of the Balkans, especially Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Macedonia, the Immigration and Passport Office (IPO) is engaged on behalf of International Refugee and Migration Assistance.

The third LED representation abroad is in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Another priority country of the LED in South America (total of 13% of resources) is Peru.

Liechtenstein's engagement in Asia is limited mainly to the LED priority countries of Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan. It amounts to 13%.

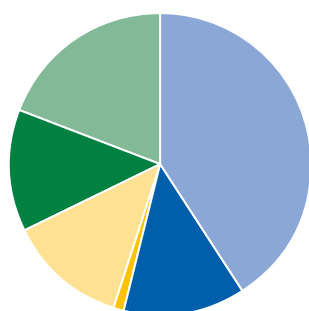
Nearly one fifth (19%) of resources were not allocated to specific projects or were invested in transnational programmes. These contributions – listed under «International» – are essential for supporting cross-border activities or underfunded programmes and for covering the basic costs of development organizations.

Allocation of resources by category



- Emergency and Reconstruction Assistance 10.5%
- Int. Refugee and Migration Assistance 10.5%
- Bilateral Development Cooperation 67%
- Multilateral Development Cooperation 10.5%
- Miscellaneous 1.5%

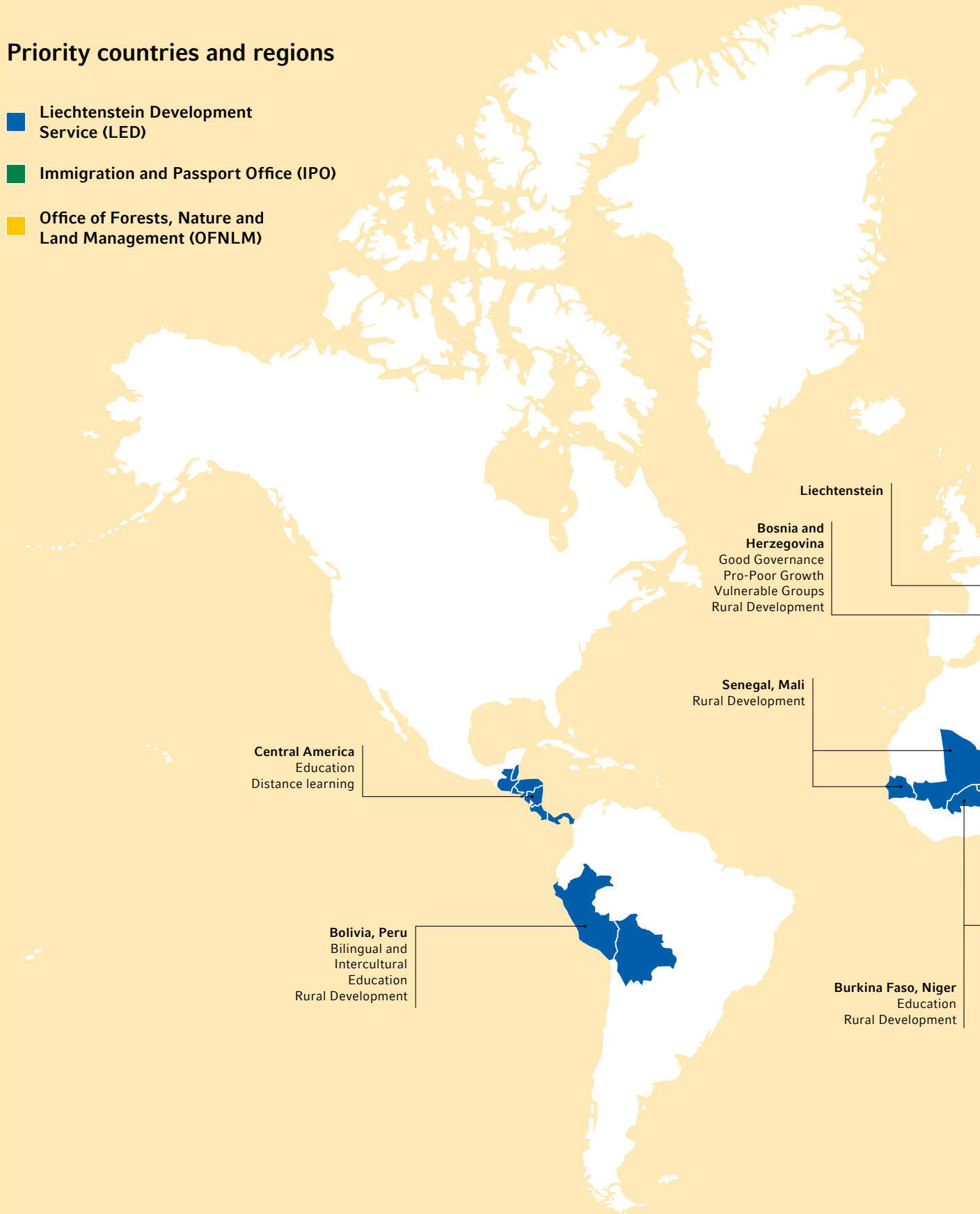
Allocation of resources by region



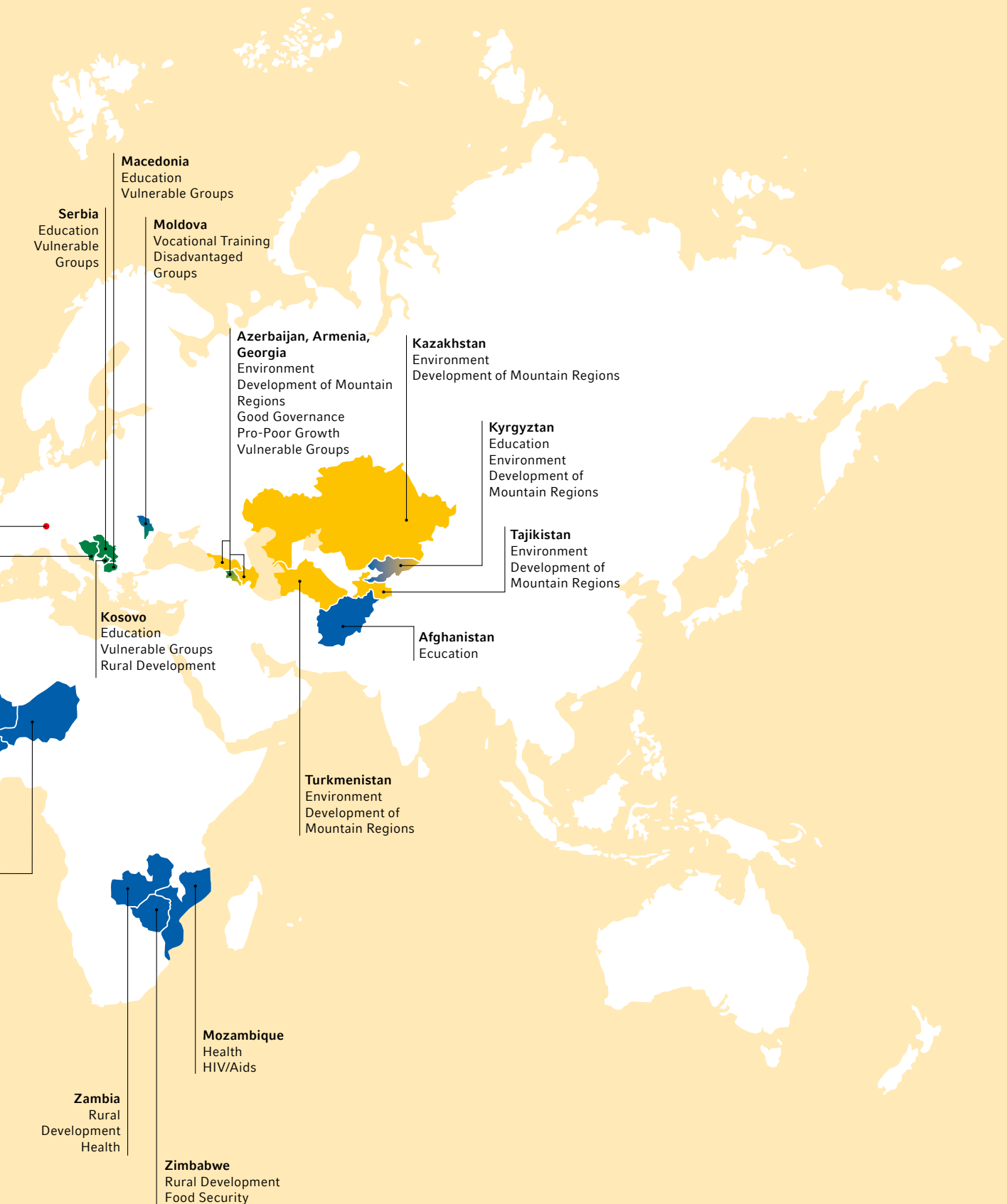
- Africa 41%
- South and Central America 13%
- Middle East 1%
- Asia 13%
- Europe 13%
- International 19%

## Priority countries and regions

- Liechtenstein Development Service (LED)
- Immigration and Passport Office (IPO)
- Office of Forests, Nature and Land Management (OFNLM)



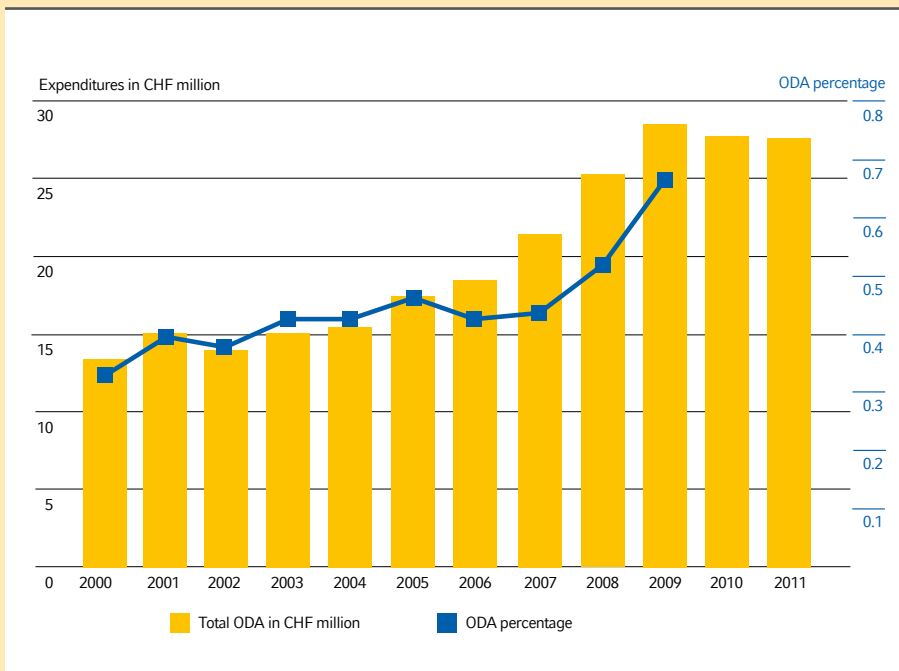




## ODA development

Official development assistance (ODA) encompasses all disbursements of a state for development cooperation and humanitarian assistance according to the criteria of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). To compare ODA among states, an indicator is commonly used to measure ODA as a percentage of gross national income (GNI) of a state.

### ODA expenditures 2000-2011



The international ODA target is 0.7%. The Liechtenstein Government has repeatedly underscored its commitment to achieving this target as soon as possible. The currently available ODA percentage for 2009 is 0.67.

Total ODA expenditures, including the disaster fund of the municipalities and the costs for taking care of asylum-seekers in Liechtenstein, amounted to CHF 27.6 million in 2011. The definite GNI for the reporting year – and accordingly also the ODA percentage for 2011 – will be available only in autumn 2013.

# A childhood lost

## Liechtenstein's contribution to the protection of children in armed conflict

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**Manuel Frick**  
Office for Foreign Affairs



Many children know nothing other than war. They were born into war and grow up in war. Their playgrounds are streets that can turn into battlefields in seconds. In the past ten years alone, about two million children have lost their lives due to violent conflicts. The number of injured children is many times higher. Civilians – and especially children – are the main victims of violent conflicts. Excessive experiences of violence, flight, displacement, and torn-up families severely traumatize children. Many are completely on their own due to the consequences of war. The destruction of schools and hospitals has an especially strong impact on children.

### Children misused as soldiers

An estimated 250,000 minors are misused worldwide as child soldiers and workers by armed forces and groups. Many of them are forced to commit atrocities. Children are less demanding and cheaper than adult soldiers and are easier to manipulate. Often, children are violently forced into becoming soldiers, but many also voluntarily join an army or armed group because they see no other prospects for themselves and their lives. Child soldiers are deprived of their right to normal development. Violence, sexual abuse, deprivation, and social isolation traumatize the children. Nearly all of them suffer serious emotional problems – often for the rest of their lives. The situation of girls, who make up about 40% of all child soldiers, is especially bad. In addition to the burdens described above, they often become victims of sexual violence in the armed forces and rebel groups. Girls therefore need special help to free themselves from the social isolation of being a child soldier and to find their way back to a normal life.

### Naming and shaming list

«Children and Armed Conflict» is a priority area of Liechtenstein's foreign policy engagement. At the United Nations, Liechtenstein is an active member of the Group of Friends of Children and Armed Conflict, which has nearly 40 members advocating on behalf of the interests of children in armed conflict at the UN Security Council. Thanks to the pressure of this Group of Friends, the Security Council has established a monitoring mechanism on this topic that is unique in this form. Warring parties are condemned who send children into the field as soldiers, abuse them sexually, mutilate them, or kill them. Anyone deemed a perpetrator is entered on the «naming and shaming list». The perpetrator's assets can be frozen and their travel to other countries prohibited. These tough sanctions have an impact. Recently, the monitoring mechanism was expanded in 2011 to include attacks on schools and hospitals in the list of offences.

#### 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.



Children – like these in Sudan – are usually the main victims of violent conflicts.

To focus public attention on the topic of Children and Armed Conflict and to advance inclusion of attacks on schools and hospitals in the list of offences, Liechtenstein, together with the German Federal Foreign Office, the German Federal College for Security Studies, and the Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, hosted a two-day workshop in Berlin in May 2011. At the conference, questions concerning the functioning and implementation of the monitoring mechanism as well as other developments were discussed.

## Supporting the work of NGOs

Within the framework of multilateral development cooperation, the non-governmental organization (NGO) Geneva Call was supported already for the fourth time in 2011. This NGO advocates for the compliance of non-state armed groups with internationally defined standards. The goal of the Children and Non-State Actors programme supported by Liechtenstein is for non-state actors to rethink their use of children for conflict purposes.

Since 2010, the NGO Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict has been supported. This NGO compiles country-specific information on child soldiers which is brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and other interested UN member states in monthly reports. In 2011, the development of an iPhone app on the topic of children and armed conflict was co-financed.

Together with the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Radhika Coomaraswamy, a benefit CD was funded, the proceeds of which benefit children in armed conflict. Specifically, the NGO Play31 is supported, which organizes football games for former child soldiers and tries to give them the opportunity to play freely and without coercion, thus helping to overcome the trauma of conflict.

In 2011, the NGO Child Soldiers International was supported for the first time. This NGO combats the recruitment of children as soldiers and calls for the release, rehabilitation, and reintegration of child soldiers.

## Much still needs to be done

Even though some progress has been made internationally, there still is a very great need to protect children in armed conflict. Conflicts are still very prevalent, and any improvement of the situation of the main victims – children – moves in the right direction.

## Combating the worst acts of violence against children

*Special Representative, what have you achieved since you were appointed in 2006?*

We achieved that the Security Council placed the issue of children and armed conflict on its international peace and security agenda – which was the vision of my predecessor. In 2005, the Security Council established a functioning monitoring and reporting mechanism on violations against children in armed conflict – the so-called six grave violations. They include the killing and maiming, recruitment and use of children, sexual violence against children, denial of humanitarian access, abductions, and attacks on schools and hospitals. There is also a Security Council working group on children and armed conflict that meets regularly and makes recommendations on how to stop these violations. In cooperation with our partners, my Office has negotiated 17 agreements with armed forces and groups to halt the recruitment and use of children. These agreements have led to the release of thousands of child soldiers. This system is now in place and used as a model for other mandates.

*What still needs to be done?*

Over the past ten years, we have made progress in ending impunity of perpetrators. For example, the Security Council adopted sanctions against commanders in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Côte d'Ivoire. But more needs to be done to punish those who violate the rights of children. The second issue is prevention. We have done a lot of work on reintegration, but it is time to also address the root causes of these violations.

*Why is it necessary to have a Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict?*

Most of the United Nations' humanitarian work in the field is programmatic. Many agencies feel that there is a need to have an independent moral voice for some of the more political and controversial issues. We take the political heat. That is the added value of a Special Representative.

**Radhika Coomaraswamy**  
Special Representative of the  
Secretary-General for Children  
and Armed Conflict



22 | *You have recently been to South Sudan. What was the main progress you could witness and what remains the major challenge for the future?*

The main purpose why we went to South Sudan was to sign an action plan with the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) to release children from their ranks. Since 2009, when a previous agreement was signed, about 3,000 children were released. We estimate that there are about 2,000 left and we hope that in the next year, these children will be released. It is really important that we implement that plan and reintegrate these children back into society by providing basic skill training. Social infrastructure remains the major challenge for South Sudan. Only 4% of South Sudanese children go to secondary school. South Sudan needs to develop social infrastructure to empower children and to ensure that children have a future.

*What does Liechtenstein's support mean to you?*

Liechtenstein has always been very supportive of the mandate and I am grateful for the many initiatives it has undertaken to strengthen this agenda. For example, we have worked closely with Liechtenstein with regard to the International Criminal Court (ICC). Liechtenstein has been a very important ally in the United Nations policies on children and armed conflict. Vaduz has also convened important conferences on the issue.

# Networks and partnerships

## Pillars of effective cooperation

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



Twenty years ago, the Rio Conference promised hope for better living conditions worldwide – through conventions, programmes of action, and financial promises, as well as a very significant increase in funds for public development cooperation. An overall assessment of the global impact of the Rio commitments now shows, however, that only insufficient progress has been made along the path toward a worldwide change in trend leading to sustainable development – in some regions, this change in trend is even further away than it was then.

### The weaknesses of twenty years ago indicate possible solutions now:

- The role of agriculture as a significant means to combat hunger and poverty must be strengthened through the promotion of infrastructure development and security of land use rights.
- The existential importance of water in the development of economic growth, poverty reduction, and health care must be taken into account through a prudent and balanced resource policy.
- The key role of energy on the path toward achieving economic, ecological, and social development goals must be recognized, and the current, non-sustainable patterns of energy production, distribution, and consumption must be redesigned accordingly.
- Sustainable and universally accessible health systems must be promoted to ensure a life in dignity.

As different as the envisaged standards of living in the various regions of the world may be, a life in dignity must be ensured everywhere and for everyone: at every level of decision-making, ecological, economic, and socio-cultural milestones must be established and respected. Of course we all know it and we hear and see it everyday:

Renovation of the outpatient wing of the Telavi children's clinic: The Telavi children's clinic services an area about one quarter the size of Switzerland with about 400,000 inhabitants. Especially disabled children and those requiring long-term treatment and therapies are treated. Thanks to a partnership of local authorities and NGOs and the support of the Medicor Foundation Liechtenstein and the Government of Liechtenstein, a comprehensive renovation of the children's outpatient clinic was realized.

Telavi children's clinic:  
inpatient wing – not renovated;  
outpatient wing – renovated



What sounds so nice in practice and convincing in principle is far from being put into practice – even in the most highly developed countries. But the goal is in fact merely, at the global level,

- to secure subsistence: protection of life and limb from both natural disasters and war, as well as satisfaction of elementary basic needs;
- to make it possible to earn a living: production of goods beyond one's own needs and the possibility of using markets;
- to hold out the prospect of advancement: filling promises and hopes with real life, as in: «Our children should have a better life than we do.»

Despite all the difficulties: recognition of the need and the will to embark on a sustainable path of development are widespread. Partnerships and networks are called upon to implement effective and at the same time durable development policies as envisaged: partnerships and networks that encompass both governments and civil society for the benefit of both. Public-private partnerships, with their potential to mobilize private capital and expertise for the fulfilment of government tasks and to make use of the different strengths in this regard, will have to play a much more dominant role in successful environmental and development policy than they do today.

In absolute figures, Liechtenstein is a small partner in international development cooperation, but in terms of contribution per capita, it is a remarkable giant. This is not least of all because cooperation as partners and the unobtrusive cultivation of networks both internally and externally are put into practice – as the survival strategy of a small state, so to speak, which is also reflected in its relationship to developing countries and the realization of development projects without superficial motives. Accordingly, those development projects will most likely have the greatest and longest-lasting impact that are borne by as broad a group of partners as possible, from the maturation of the idea until its completion.

Relying on networks and partnerships, the Office of Forests, Nature and Land Management again supported about a dozen projects in 2011, borne by all significant interest groups in the Caucasus and Central Asian countries as well as in the Carpathians, which implement concrete initiatives on the basis of Agenda 21 developed by partners in the spirit of the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992. Thematically, these projects encompass good governance and the strengthening of existing structures, the revival of old land use forms and techniques, irrigation, reforestation to remedy natural hazards, the creation of school structures in border regions and refugee camps, the improvement of health care, waste management, and support for educational programmes.

Renovation of a kindergarten in the Maltakva refugee settlement: For the Abkhaz refugee children, the energy-efficient renovation of a kindergarten (180 pupils in 6 classes) was realized in cooperation with local authorities and NGOs and the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Liechtenstein.



Above a classroom, in the middle a resting room and below a school class



# Prospects for coming generations

**Peter Ritter**  
Director of the  
Liechtenstein Development  
Service (LED)



**Half of the people on our blue planet are younger than 29 years old. While this statistical average age has risen to more than 40 in Central Europe, those under 15 make up nearly half the population of the less developed countries in Africa. The group of children there is accordingly three times as large as in the industrialized countries of Europe and North America.**

These demographic challenges also become visible in the projects of the Liechtenstein Development Service (LED), since about half of all LED projects focus on children and young people. Education plays a dominant role in this regard. School attendance and vocational training give young people the opportunity to improve their individual conditions of life. By helping them help themselves, young people are also able to make valuable contributions to the development prospects of their families and the population and also to take responsibility for the future of their region.

LED supports projects in several priority countries. The following examples in Bolivia, Burkina Faso, and Moldova show how institutions are supported which give young people hope for a better life.

Intercultural, bilingual education with adapted school materials and teachers who teach in the native language of the children is unfortunately not yet common for the majority of indigenous children in South America.



## «Educar es Fiesta» – a Bolivian educational institution in Cochabamba, Bolivia

**The institution «Educar es Fiesta» supported by LED is dedicated solely to children and young people growing up in a difficult social and economic environment.**

They are especially vulnerable to violence and exploitation. The main goal of the institution is to show new possibilities for peaceful coexistence and to promote the potential and talent of the children so that they can overcome traumatic experiences. The



After performing a piece on parents' migration, Edson Quesada, project leader of «Educar es Fiesta», and members of his theatre group answer questions from the interested audience.

organization advocates on behalf of children's rights and promotes equal opportunities for boys and girls. There are hardly any state programmes for children and young people in Bolivia.

**In an interview, project leader Edson Quesada says:**

*What are the circumstances of children and young people living in the marginal neighbourhoods of Cochabamba?*

The family situation of many young people in Bolivia is characterized by migration of their parents. More than 70% of fathers and mothers in the marginal areas of Cochabamba emigrate, mainly to Europe or other countries of Latin America. This means that the children are placed in the care of relatives and acquaintances and must often take responsibility for their younger siblings. Physical and psychological abuse constitutes a serious violation of children's rights. The reasons are diverse: alcoholism, unemployment, and the lack of political will to protect children. The uncontrolled influence of the mass media, such as the Internet and video games disseminating violent, pornographic, and destructive content, also has a significant adverse affect on peaceful coexistence.

*How does «Educar es Fiesta» support these children and young people?*

Thanks to the support of LED, «Educar es Fiesta» has designed a strategy allowing children to develop personally and socially. This minimizes the risk of becoming a victim of violence. Through creative activities such as theatre, music, dance, juggling, and the visual arts, the children and young people learn to express themselves and improve their self-confidence.

*What effect does this work have?*

The children gain a perspective on life that is characterized by optimism and that contains positive and creative actions. They feel more secure and are emotionally more stable. Interactions with these children reveal that they are happier, more present, and more active. An important side effect of this pedagogical approach is improve-

ment in their scholastic achievement. The children learn to contribute actively, and so more attention is paid to them.

**Daniela Alejandra Daza, 12, and Claudia Guadalupe Aguilar, 13, have taken part in the programme for more than a year and talk about what «Educar es Fiesta» has done for them.**



Awareness-raising campaign of «Educar es Fiesta» in the streets of Cochabamba

**Daniela:** «I learned to express myself better, and I am no longer ashamed when I talk to people. I used to be very shy. I was afraid to say hello to people and hardly had any friends. Now I am more open and friendlier. I experience how violent behaviour by parents is often copied by children. Children fight and brawl on the street or in school. We deal with this problem in a theatre play, which we present to children, parents, and teachers at the circus and in schools. I hope they learn something from it!»

**Claudia:** «Since I've become involved in 'Educar es Fiesta', I've learned to take responsibility and to take school more seriously. Only now do I know that I have good ideas, which are taken seriously by my friends and family. I learn new skills like juggling or acrobatics. I found it difficult to ride a unicycle. The circus performances took away my fear of performing in front of a lot of people. It was made clear to us that men must respect women. Men are not allowed to touch a woman without her consent. All people are valuable and must be respected. But there are also duties we must fulfil to take part in the programme. This includes doing our homework.»

## Educating instead of exploiting, Terre des hommes in Burkina Faso

**In Burkina Faso, LED supports a programme of Terre des hommes with the goal of offering protection to children and young people and giving them the chance of a new future.**

The children's charity Terre des hommes headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland, has been working in the West Africa Sahel country of Burkina Faso already since 1987. Its many years of engagement began with nutrition and health projects to support undernourished children and mothers in the Sahel zone. Since 2002, Terre des hommes has also been engaged in the protection of children exploited through work or trafficking. LED supports this work with steady annual contributions. Over the last four years, the LED contribution was invested primarily in allowing children and young people to develop prospects through school and vocation.

Many years of work and support have resulted in numerous successes: ten years ago, many children and young people worked in the stone quarry of Pissy to produce small pebbles out of huge boulders for the construction industry. This dangerous work, which also resulted in many injuries, did not allow the children time for education or leisure. Through intensive awareness-raising among quarry operators, parents, and authorities, Terre des hommes and UNICEF were able to get all the children out of the quarry and provide them with education thanks to LED financing.

### Bilateral development cooperation

Bilateral development cooperation concentrates on the development of rural regions in twelve priority 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.

Today, Terre des hommes focuses mainly on the gold mines that have been established in recent years in Ganzourgou province. Children here are employed to crawl through narrow underground shafts to prospect small quantities of gold. The shafts, which are dug by the land worker families themselves, are often not sufficiently secure, and the work during the day is extraordinarily tough. Due to the lack of knowledge of the families working there, the children panning for gold come into contact with highly toxic mercury and suffer serious health problems.

Another example from the programme work of Terre des hommes involves young housemaids who move from the poor rural areas to the city to work in other people's households. Teri Amenata, a housemaid in Ouagadougou, talks about her work: «My everyday work is very tough, but I would like to earn enough money so I don't have to go home empty-handed. To take care of the whole household, I get up every day at 4 o'clock. My work includes washing cars, going to the market, cooking all the meals, doing all the laundry, and cleaning the entire house. After working for nearly 16 hours, I fall into bed exhausted at 8 o'clock in the evening.»

LED and Terre des hommes do not condemn help or work performed by children in developing countries in general. But children's work must take account of their development and the rights of the child (right to health, education, leisure, etc.). The programme in Burkina Faso protects the children from abuse, exploitation, and violence.



Above:  
The goal of this project is to permit young people to leave the inadequately secured and narrow shafts and enter a life offering education and a vocation.

Left:  
When washing the sand containing gold, the children come into contact with mercury without any form of protection.

## Child rights expert in Moldova



Smiljana Frick,  
LED staff member in Moldova

**LED staff member Smiljana Frick has been in the Republic of Moldova since March 2011 and works together with two local organizations on child rights. This gives her the opportunity to apply in practice the expertise she acquired during her master's studies in children's right. There is much to do.**

The first organization is the Child Rights Information Centre (CRIC). The focus of the centre is on the protection of children and on strengthening their participation in areas of relevance to them. The children are supported in asserting their own rights, e.g. by systematically capturing the situation of child rights in Moldova. CRIC works directly together with social orphans and children affected by poverty, but also with persons working with children, such as teachers, social workers, police officers, and local officials. Smiljana Frick supports the CRIC in strategic matters, helps conduct background work, and compiles project documentation. She is currently developing an internal child protection guideline for the CRIC. Smiljana says about her work, «It's very complex, and sometimes you're confronted with difficult situations. But work on behalf of children's rights is a fulfilling activity.»



The organization CRIC helps children analyse and report on respect for their rights.

The second organization is Tarna Rom, a young and small Roma organization primarily concerned with improving the integration of Roma children in the school system. Through supplementary instruction, children are supported in their successful completion of primary school. Roma community mediators establish contact between the Roma community, the schools, and local authorities. Smiljana Frick supports the mediators in examining implementation of the right to education in their communities and in reporting on specific problems: lack of kindergartens, corruption, financial obstacles, and discrimination. This concrete analysis in various Roma communities, substantiated with data, helps counter official portrayals that are often euphemistic or inaccurate.

These three examples from the project partnerships of the Liechtenstein Development Service show the diversity of the levels of intervention. The focus is on sustainable improvement of living conditions.



Education prevents girls from becoming mothers too early.

**Education strengthens young people, gives them foundations for shaping a better future, promotes the development of community, and creates understanding for interconnections at the local and global level.**

# Closing words

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## Liechtenstein's international engagement on behalf of children and young people

The majority of the seven billion people on this planet live in poverty. Children and young people are hit especially hard by this poverty. Poverty diminishes their chances in life. These children and young people are often denied their fundamental rights.

Children and young people have certified rights. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, for instance, ensures their right to health, education, and vocational training, and the right to leisure, play, and recreation.

Liechtenstein attaches great importance to the protection of children and young people and to the implementation of their rights. It calls for the promotion of these rights in international bodies. These rights are not abstract principles. Rather, the goal is to ensure that children and young people can grow up in a safe and beneficial environment. Only then will they later be able to master their own lives and take on responsible roles in their family and society.

The projects presented in this Annual Report are examples of how our project work makes a future for children and young people possible. A future they might not have without the contribution of international development cooperation.



**Ambassador Martin Frick**  
Director of the  
Office for Foreign Affairs



Liechtenstein's engagement makes a future for children and young people possible, for example in the LED priority country Mozambique.



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