



Italian National Day



The Italian Ambassador to Kenya, H. E. Enrico de Maio, meets President Mwai Kibaki as Health Minister Charity Ngilu and Mr. Raila Odinga, among other dignitaries, look on.

Message from the Ambassador

The relations between our two countries are an example of co-operation between a European and an African nation aimed at promoting development, growth and welfare also in the whole region of the Horn of Africa, where Italy has sat beside Kenya in the long and difficult negotiations for peace in Somalia and Sudan.

We work hand in hand not only in the area, but also in the multilateral arena, for instance in the reform of the United Nations. Kenya is playing a key role within the African group. Its intelligent and fruitful efforts will be a cornerstone to gather wide consensus for a proactive and effective United Nations Organisation, including the Security Council.

Italy, the fifth largest contributor to the United Nations, a member of the G8 and one of the founding members of the European Union (next year we will celebrate half a century of its life, begun in Italy with the Treaties of Rome in 1957), is ready to accompany Kenya along its way to the internal revamping and to the international rescue it is entitled to. This country possesses vast resources, a precious natural and human capital. The task is to assist in using this capital better and more productively, through a fair redistribution of wealth, an enhanced governance, the eradication of corruption, the independence of the Judiciary, the creation of a safe milieu (I mean security), the development of adequate infrastructure networks (I mean roads telecommunications, etc.).

The resources are there, as the Economic Survey for 2005 shows us: a growth of 5.8 per cent, with a particularly brilliant performance of some sectors, such as tourism (+20 per cent), where Italy is proud of its contribution in Malindi. Our hope is that in a near future Kenya will do it by itself, as next budget proves: as you know it does not include any foreign support. This aid comes from our taxpayers who have the right to be protected. Beside that, Italy has been "interfered in" - I mean dominated - for centuries; so it does not like to interfere; it does not give lessons ex cathedra to any country: we just provide some advises for an efficient and honest administration of the res publica.

The Italian and Kenyan governments are jointly, and successfully, carrying out many co-operation programmes and high-level scientific activities. Just three examples: the Agro-Hydraulic Project in Sigor (Kerio Valley), where 215 families have turned from pastoral economy to agriculture, multiplying by six their revenue in the last five years, the upgrading of the National Polytechnics; the San Marco Base, a unique example of co-operation in the space field which has successfully continued for more than 40 years and is likely to be revamped through a resuming of launches and the creation of a Regional Earth Observation Centre in Kenya.

Italian volunteers, engineers, geologists, agricultural experts, medical doctors, daily add their contribution to the invaluable work of hundreds of Italian missionaries. All of them are living evidences of our consistent commitment to a sustained partnership with this country. To them all I wish to convey my vote of thanks and my sincere congratulations.

To conclude, let me forward the warmest salutation of the new President of the Italian Republic, H.E. Giorgio Napolitano, to H.E. Mwai Kibaki, President of the Republic of Kenya.

— H. E. Enrico de Maio,
Ambassador of Italy to the Republic of Kenya

KENYA

The following are some of the projects that the Italian Government is funding in Kenya, Somalia and The Sudan:

Support to the Formulation of the National Technical Training Strategy and Upgrading of the National Polytechnics

With the aim of supporting the Government's efforts to provide better education and create new employment opportunities for Kenyans, Italy funded a project to boost the quality of technical and vocational training.

The project which started in April 2004 for a total amount of 2.2 million Euros has two major components:

- The upgrading of The Kenya and Mombasa Polytechnics to degree awarding institutions and internationally recognized technical training centres.
- The provision of technical assistance for the development of a TIVET strategy in line with the Sessional Paper No. 1 of 2005 and the investment programmes of KESSP.

To this aims, the project has dealt with a comprehensive range of issues: legal framework, strategic/development plans, curricula of training programmes, human resources development, infrastructure, equipment, and benchmarking with foreign institutions. Moreover, studies have been carried out in order to ensure the linkages with the Kenyan industry and private sector, with whose involvement the activities of the project have been carried out.

The provision of state of the art training equipment for the Electrical and Electronic Engineering Departments of the Kenya and



Mr. Muthwale, the Principal of The Kenya Polytechnic, shows the newly equipped labs.

Mombasa Polytechnics has been recently completed. The new laboratories will be soon officially inaugurated by Dr. Noah Wekesa, Minister for Science and Technology and the Italian Ambassador to Kenya, paving the way for the polytechnics to offer Bachelor of Technology programmes in a very near future.

The Wei-Wei river Agro Hydraulic Development Project in Sigor, Kerio Valley, West Pokot District

Since it became operational 13 years ago, the irrigation programme in Sigor is giving encouraging results in terms of socio-economic impact and sustainability, thanks to the appropriateness of technical design and to the remarkable commitment of the beneficiary population in undertaking a leading role in the action.

The newly irrigated area, amounting to 265 hectares assures two harvests per year, which are mainly dedicated to seed production, following contracts with the main Kenyan Seed companies. In the last five years, the irrigation scheme has thus multiplied by six the local revenues of the 215 assignee farming households and the associated laborers and services providers. Besides, the programme can be considered as a successful example of desertification control, as it provides sound water and soil management with increase of vegetation cover, and in fact it has deserved an important reward at the 1999 NEP International Conference in Rio de Janeiro.



Maize field in Sigor

"Contribution to the fight against poverty and prevention of the spreading of HIV/Aids and other sexually transmitted diseases in the Narok district"

In accordance with both Italian and Kenyan Government priorities, and in addition to its annual contribution to the Global Fund, Italy is funding a nine projects package on HIV related issues in different districts of Kenya for a total amount of about 12 million Euros.

One of these projects is implemented by the International Committee for the Development of Peoples (CISP) in the Narok district since August 2004 in collaboration with the local CBO Olmarei Lang Self Help Organization (OLSHO) and the Narok district authorities. The three-year project aims at preventing the spread of HIV/Aids in Narok district through a concerted media campaign for awareness and education reinforcement, as well as reducing the social and economic vulnerability of HIV/Aids affected/ infected families by supporting their income generating capacity.

During the first 22 months of the project, these are some of the results already achieved:

- an Orientation and Counselling Centre has been activated in Narok town. The centre is a reference point for HIV/Aids related issues for the people of the District;
- over 70 families have been identified for support and 20 of them are already receiving micro-grants;
- a programme of health education and behaviour change was initiated in 11 schools of the District, and 14 teachers trained;
- over 130 health workers of the district have been trained on HIV/Aids and other sexually transmitted diseases;
- an Education/Awareness campaign against HIV/Aids has been organised in Central Mau and Mara divisions, which lasted four months and culminated in the celebration of the World Aids Day on December 1st 2005 in Talek (Mara division).

SOMALIA

District Based Peace-Building and Reconciliation Project

After 15 years of instability Somalia has had, in 2005, the chance to start walking back from the brink. The appointment of a new President, the Transitional Federal Parliament and its Speaker as well as a Government and its Prime Minister have raised new hopes for the Somali people. Italy, also as co-Chair of the "IGAD Partners Forum" (regrouping Donors to IGAD), has always been a key partner to Somalia and has continued to play a prominent role in supporting its stabilization together with the IGAD Countries.

Substantial support was granted to the newly born Somali Institutions from their very inception and constant assistance was ensured to foster the recovery of Somalia.

Italy is currently supporting, among other initiatives, a locally-driven institutional and peace-building process aimed at setting up local administrations at both district and regional level.

The "District Based Reconciliation" Project - funded (2 million Euros) by Italian Development Aid through UNDP/UNOPS - is aimed at bringing the outcome of the Somalia National Reconciliation Conference (held in Kenya, 2002-04) to the concrete fruition of local communities throughout the Country.

Started at the end of April in the region around Baidoa, the Project will bring to the people's doorsteps the fruits of a Somali-owned reconciliation and the positive outcomes of newly formed local Administrations where local communities will regain their voice in handling their



Dr. Nino Procacci

Word from the Director

It is with great honour that I accepted to be posted in Kenya as the new Head of Italian Development Co-operation Office. I have been here for only two months but I have already had the opportunity to appreciate this country, its invaluable cultural and natural resources and its friendly and welcoming people.

I am also starting to acknowledge the needs of this country, the government's efforts to address them and the work that my team has been carrying out in order to support these efforts.

In this context, I wish to reaffirm the strong commitment of my Government and my personal dedication to strengthen this fruitful and long-lasting collaboration. My Office is also in charge for Somalia and South Sudan, countries that recently concluded long and difficult peace processes, where both Italy and Kenya played an important role.

My Government's commitment goes also to these two neighbouring countries to support peace in the whole region and to provide some relief to the populations.

— Dr. Nino Procacci,
New Head of Italian Development
Cooperation Office

own affairs.

The district-based reconciliation will contribute to consolidate peace building at grass-roots level through the establishment of action mechanisms at the federal as well as regional and district levels.

These will enable the integration of federal policy with grassroot priorities and initiatives to allow the people to discuss, consult and understand the structure of local government as well as the task and responsibilities of the structures and offices, with the ultimate goal of implementing the Federal structure agreed upon in the Transitional Federal Charter.

SUDAN

Emergency Programme 2005

After more than 20 years of civil war, on the 5th of January 2005, a Comprehensive Peace Agreement was eventually signed, starting a new era for Sudanese people. Italy played a major role in the peace process and is now committed to provide assistance to facilitate the implementation of the CPA.

The Italian Co-operation, in agreement with the Southern Sudanese authorities, decided to fund a substantial Emergency Programme to improve the living conditions of the people victim of the prolonged civil war. The programme which lasted 12 months for a total amount of 1.1 million of Euros funded NGOs already operating in the states of Lakes, Unity, Jongley and the transitional area of Southern Blue Nile.

Among the interventions funded, some deserve to be mentioned for their impact, dimension or relevance to the needs of the local population, like the support that, through the work of the NGO CCM and CISP/DoR, was given to the Rumbek State and the Mapuodit Hospitals which infrastructures were rehabilitated and capacity to respond to health emergencies.

In Nyal, Nyadin and Old Fangak, the Italian Co-operation funded a consortium formed by the NGOs COSV and CESVI/UNA, which was able to ensure the continuous provision of safe water and the establishment of sanitation facilities, and the NGO COOPI to rehabilitate the water system supply in Kurmuk.

Considering the success of this initiative, the Italian Co-operation is now working to prepare a second phase of the programme for a total amount of 3.5 million Euros that could consolidate the good results obtained so far.

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