



Morocco

**Thematic Group on
Food Security and
Sustainable
Rural Development**
Established: 1998

MEMBERSHIP

UN: FAO; Office of the UN Resident Coordinator; UNDP; UNESCO; UNFPA; UNICEF; UNIFEM; WFP; WHO

Government: Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Forests; Ministry of Social Economy; Ministry of Infrastructure; Federation of Chambers of Agriculture; Federation of Chambers of Fisheries.

NGOs: Coalition of African Organizations for Food Security and Sustainable Development; Femmes Action; Moroccan Association of Agro-economists; Moroccan Association for the Promotion of Rural Women; Moroccan Society for Nutrition; National Union of Moroccan Women; Network of Moroccan Associations for the Environment; Social and Economic Observatory for Renewable Natural Resources

Donors: Islamic Development Bank (IDB)

Activities: Consultative forum for analysis and debate on food security issues.



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Contributing to UN country programming

Greater collaboration and coherence in UN action at the country level is at the heart of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), a strategic document that maps out the course of common UN action in a given country within a certain timeframe.

But what role does the UN System Network and its national Thematic Groups play in this programming?

The Network Thematic Groups can and do play a key role in the preparation for and launch of the UNDAF in a given country. Indeed, the guiding principles and

objectives of the Network Thematic Groups are compatible with those of UNDAF: both stress the importance of strengthening inter-agency cooperation; increasing information and knowledge sharing; promoting common programming and joint activities in the pursuit of common goals; and involving the participation of all the main development partners at the country level, including civil society.

Many national Thematic Groups are already proving pivotal mechanisms for this country programming as they possess the combined experience, resources and partnerships at the national level to

// Rural development must be considered as an absolute priority in national development, if not the priority; because development cannot be achieved when there is such a large social gap; a weak participation of consumers in the national market growth; and a very large part of the population excluded from the process of growth.

FROM THE FEMME ACTION SYNTHESIS REPORT, 'STRATEGY 2020 FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT'





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The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the Common Country Assessment (CCA)

What is the UNDAF?

The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) is the planning framework for the development operations of the UN system at the country level. It consists of common objectives and strategies of cooperation, a programme resources framework and proposals for follow-up, monitoring and evaluation.

The UNDAF lays the foundation for cooperation among the UN system, government and other development partners through the preparation of a complementary set of programmes and projects. As a consequence, it enables the UN system to achieve the 'goal-oriented collaboration, coherence and mutual reinforcement' called for by the UN Secretary-General and endorsed by the UN General Assembly in resolution 53/192.

As of March 2002, 53 UNDAFs have been completed worldwide.

What is the CCA?

The Common Country Assessment (CCA) is a country-based process for reviewing and analysing the national development situation and identifying key issues as a basis for advocacy, policy dialogue and preparation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). The findings emerging from this exercise are described in a CCA document.

The process is participatory, dynamic and continuous; it ensures learning from prior experience, brings in the UN system organizations' combined knowledge, know-how and new ideas, advocates new approaches, reaches new or revised consensus and updates the CCA document accordingly.

The Common Country Assessment is undertaken by the United Nations system with key partners, in particular with the close involvement of the government.

As of March 2002, 101 CCAs have been completed worldwide.

provide consolidated input and make an impact. Such is the case of the Thematic Group in Morocco.

After helping to gather data and key indicators for the Common Country Assessment (CCA), the Group worked closely together with Government and civil society partners in various phases of the preparation of the country's UNDAF II (2002-2006).

The Thematic Group is well-placed to perform this function: it is increasingly recognized as the principal consultative body in Morocco in which UN agencies can collaborate on common strategies and interventions related to food security, food safety, integrated rural development and the sustainable management of natural resources. The Group also has a comparative advantage in having first-hand knowledge of the country's development dossier as it relates to the economic and social sectors.

In order to focus adequately on the development situation in Morocco, the Thematic Group on Food Security and Sustainable Rural Development formed two joint bodies: a Sub-group 1 on 'Food Security and Rural Development' – coordinated by the WFP Country Representative for Morocco; and a Sub-group 2 on 'Management of Natural Resources and Environment' – coordinated by the Assistant Resident Representative of UNDP. The Thematic Group held regular weekly meetings during the nine-month UNDAF II preparatory process (October to May 2001), in order to review and exchange information and experiences in common initiatives planned or underway in the agricultural sector



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and to define key elements and priorities impacting on rural development and food security that were to be considered in the UNDAF II.

Throughout this UNDAF II preparatory process, the Group forged multidisciplinary partnerships: it collaborated closely with civil society and donors, and interacted with UNDAF working groups such as the Theme Groups on Governance and Law (UNDP and World Bank); Education Training and Literacy (UNICEF, UNESCO); HIV/AIDS and Health (WHO and UNFPA); Poverty and Employment (UNDP); and Gender and Promotion of Women (UNIFEM and UNFPA).

The resultant UNDAF II for Morocco – finalized in May 2001 – focuses on improving living conditions, taking into account geographical disparities in the country, urban and rural issues, gender and the promotion of governance. The inclusion of many of these issues reflects the outcomes of Group meetings, discussions and debate.

For example, the Group reviewed the commitments made at the World Food Summit (1996), and debated the issues raised and missing in the National Report for follow-up to the WFS Plan of Action. They agreed that the social dimensions of development, the role of rural women and small-scale enterprises were not included and were in need of priority attention and focus. The views of NGOs in the country were also voiced at Group meetings: for example, a representative from the NGO,

Femme Action, made a presentation on the 'Strategy 2020 for Rural Development' which underlined the need for the rural development sector to be integrated in any national development strategy for Morocco.

The Group's work has helped to ensure that agriculture and the rural sector are recognized as engines for development in Morocco. Furthermore, the partnerships it has fostered in the UNDAF II preparation process promise to add impact to common development efforts in the future.

UN programming across the regions

National Thematic Groups have been actively involved in the UNDAF/CCA country programming processes – from coordinating the inputs of UN agencies to participating in the development of indicators – in Bangladesh, Bolivia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Nepal, Philippines, Samoa, Thailand and Turkey.

