IFAD
INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
Executive Board – Eighty-First Session
Rome, 21-22 April 2004

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE
IFAD/NGO EXTENDED COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ECP)

I. BACKGROUND

1. The IFAD/NGO Extended Cooperation Programme (ECP) was established by the Executive Board at its Thirty-First Session in September 1987. Operational procedures for the implementation of the ECP were subsequently submitted to and approved by the Executive Board at its Thirty-Fifth Session in December 1988. Revised procedures, following an audit and an evaluation of the programme, were submitted to and approved by the Executive Board at its Seventy-Second Session, in April 2001.

2. The programme’s overall goal has been to provide direct grant financing to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for pilot and experimental activities that will enhance IFAD’s capacity to design and implement participatory and community-based rural development and poverty reduction interventions. Another objective has been to encourage recipient governments to dialogue and collaborate with NGOs in order to build on their experience and know-how. The ceiling of any single grant to an NGO, established at USD 75 000 in 1987, was raised to USD 100 000 in 2001.

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For IFAD, the term “non-governmental organization” generally refers to a non-profit, voluntary organization, either international or national, that is independent of government and pursues activities to relieve poverty, hunger and human suffering; promotes the interests of the poor; protects the environment; provides basic social and economic services; or undertakes community development. An NGO operates under private rather than public law, and it is duly organized as an NGO or non-profit organization and officially registered with the appropriate government authorities. IFAD tends to interact with two main categories of NGOs: (i) operational NGOs, whose primary purpose is the design and implementation of poverty reduction and development projects and programmes; and (ii) advocacy NGOs, whose purpose is to defend and promote the cause of rural poverty reduction and seek to influence government policies and practices.
3. NGO activities supported by the ECP have focused primarily on three areas:
   • identifying, testing and disseminating innovative technologies appropriate to the agro-
     ecological and socio-economic conditions of IFAD beneficiaries;
   • identifying and testing appropriate/innovative institutional approaches and mechanisms in
     various sectors and subsectors of interest to IFAD to ascertain their relevance, acceptability
     and sustainability; and
   • carrying out knowledge gathering, dissemination activities and training programmes
     for improved resource management through, inter alia, the creation of more effective systems
     of organization based on viable grass-roots models (such as farmers’ groups, water users’
     associations and other forms of grass-roots networks).

4. Work in these areas may also involve advocacy activities and processes of identification and
   capacity-building of potential NGO partners, including support for NGO networking activities.

5. ECP support has increased steadily, from an initial allocation of USD 350 000 in 1988 to
   approximately USD 2.2 million in 2003 (see tables on pages 9-10 for details by region, country
   and grant number). As at 31 December 2003, a total of 273 ECP grants had been extended to
   NGOs, representing a total commitment of about USD 18.6 million. Over the last ten years, 20-30
   ECP grants have been approved annually. In addition, the ECP has financed ten IFAD/NGO
   consultations on policy and operational issues pertaining to rural poverty reduction and rural
   development.

6. The present progress report is the last of its kind to be submitted to the Executive Board. The
   recent IFAD Policy for Grant Financing (document EB 2003/80/R.5/Rev.1) does not envisage that
   the ECP will continue to operate as a separate grant category. However, civil-society organizations
   will still be eligible recipients of IFAD grant financing for activities in line with the strategic
   objectives of the IFAD grant programme as articulated in the policy. This is very much in line
   with the fact that, while the ECP has contributed to the Fund’s corporate and regional priorities,
   objectives and strategies, the boundaries of the Fund’s partnerships with civil society have expanded
   considerably over recent years and therefore the requirements of such partnerships necessitate different
   institutional arrangements and financial mechanisms. At the same time, the competitive access of NGOs to
   the Fund’s overall grant programme is also in line with the evolution of these organizations and their
   increasing capacities, experience and expertise.

II. OVERVIEW OF THE EXTENDED COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ECP) IN 2003

7. Twenty-six ECP grants were approved in 2003 for a total of USD 2 251 580. Overall, the
   projects financed focused on IFAD’s strategic areas of intervention, namely, capacity-building of
   rural poor people and their organizations to enable them to manage their natural resources more
   effectively; enhance their access to finance, technology and markets; and develop their knowledge
   and networks for advocacy and policy dialogue activities.

Western and Central Africa Region (PA)

8. In 2003, the ECP in Western and Central Africa focused on capacity-building of small rural
   producers to improve their natural resource management and access to markets, savings and credit,
   and to help them resume economic activities in post-conflict situations.

9. Centre Ecologique Albert Schweitzer (CEAS) (Albert Schweitzer Ecological Center) in
   Burkina Faso received USD 75 000 for Support to Small-Scale Irrigation, which will help develop
   boreholes and shallow wells to improve local food production during the dry season and thus decrease
   the population’s vulnerability to the erratic and limited rainfall. CEAS is a well-established NGO and
has worked in Burkina Faso since 1978 in collaboration with the local branches of French, German and Swiss organizations.

10. In Cameroon, a grant of USD 80 000 was provided to the Conseil pour le Développement et L’environnement (COLDEN) (State Environmental and Development Council) for Small-Scale Dairy Production in the Department of Mayo Rey to increase the income of dairy producers through increased market access and the use of improved technologies. Specific project activities include capacity-building and training of dairy producers in the use of new technologies and in the collection, processing and marketing of dairy products.

11. In Chad, Secours Catholique et Développement (SECADEV) (Catholic Help for Development) received a grant of USD 75 000 for to build the capacity of members of self-managed savings and credit schemes (CLAs) and thus pave the way for the implementation of IFAD’s forthcoming Kanem Rural Development Project. Specific project activities include: (i) a socio-economic study in the project area; (ii) training of CLA officers; (iii) preparation of basic operational manuals in line with the microfinance schemes; (iv) exchanges and visits; and (v) sensitization of members of economic interest groups.

12. In the Democratic Republic of The Congo, a USD 75 000 grant has been extended to the Centre de Développement Integral – Bwamanda (CDI-Bwamanda) (Center for Integrated Development) for a community development project aimed at restoring agricultural production in the Bumba province. Specific activities include setting up (i) a sustainable farm tools delivery system managed by the communities themselves; and (ii) a sustainable seed multiplication and delivery system. The project is expected to improve the production of rice, cassava, maize and groundnuts, and increase communities’ organizational and management capacities. The community-managed delivery systems for implements and seeds will contribute to the forthcoming IFAD project in the Equateur province.

13. In Mauritania, an ECP grant of USD 65 000 was provided to the NGO Association Nationale pour le Développement Local Participatif (ANADELP) to carry out, over one year, activities that will build on the achievements of the IFAD Oasis Development Project – Phase II and pave the way for the implementation of the Oasis Sustainable Development Programme approved in December 2003. Activities include: an organizational and operational assessment of some 70 oasis development associations and about 67 decentralized financial institutions established during the Oasis Development Project – Phase II. This assessment will then inform the capacity-building activities of the forthcoming programme.

14. In Togo, an ECP grant of USD 50 000 was extended to Communication pour un Développement Durable (CDD) (Communications for Development) to continue to build the capacity of farmers’ organizations promoted under the IFAD Support to Village Groups in the Eastern Savannah Region Project, which closed in 2001. More specifically, the proposed ECP project will seek to improve means of communication for farmers’ organizations. A number of innovations are proposed to this end. An ‘info-bus’ equipped with audio-visual devices will produce and disseminate relevant information. Other community media, such as information leaflets in local languages and travelling village libraries, will be used as information exchange and sharing forums. Centres d’expression plurielle with access to the Internet will be established as spaces for information and culture in rural areas. Ongoing literacy programmes will be strengthened by the development of post-literacy programmes, including technical training and the teaching of French.

Eastern and Southern Africa Region (PF)

15. Most of the ECP grants in Eastern and Southern Africa in 2003 focused on promoting efficient and equitable marketing linkages; developing rural financial systems; and creating better knowledge,
information and technology systems. These areas are very much in line with the overall strategy of IFAD in this region.

16. **In Burundi**, a grant of USD 100 000 was provided to Twin for a Fair Trade Coffee Processing and Marketing Pilot Project. The project’s overall purpose is to exploit the opportunities provided by the diversification of consumer demand in favour of high-quality products and organic production, and to ensure that producers receive a high percentage of the benefits. To that end, Twin will design a feasible pilot project for high-quality coffee production, processing and innovative marketing in one of the provinces covered by the IFAD-funded Rural Recovery and Development Programme. The implementation of the ECP project will immediately and directly affect the ongoing Rural Recovery and Development Programme. It will prepare the way for the construction of coffee processing plants in the area, accompanied by the development of coffee growers’ cooperatives. It will also help build the capacity of cooperative leaders to operate and manage the industrial coffee processing facilities and to handle the relationships with the Fair Trade Organizations that will help market their products. If successful, the pilot scheme will be replicated on larger scale in other areas potentially suitable for top-quality and/or organic coffee production in Burundi.

17. Another grant of USD 100 000 was extended to the NGO **Kenya Gatsby Charitable Trust** to participate on behalf of IFAD in a “Rural Finance Knowledge Partnership for Eastern and Southern Africa” – a collaborative programme also involving the project MicroSave-Africa supported by the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development and the French organization *Centre International de Développement et de Recherche* (International Development Research Centre) promoted by the French Government, the European Economic Commission and the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor. The collaborative research activities supported by the ECP grant will: (i) strengthen IFAD’s capacity to engage in policy dialogue with its member governments in the region (on issues such as regulation/supervision, and the specific status of rural finance institutions) both directly and through the programmes it supports; (ii) inform the design and implementation of proposed and ongoing rural financial service programmes and, ultimately, enhance their impact; and (iii) guide the Eastern and Southern Africa division specifically, but IFAD more broadly, as it further refines its regional and rural finance strategies. The proposed cooperation framework will also provide an important opportunity for improved donor coordination.

18. **In Kenya**, a grant of USD 100 000 was extended to **Promotion of Rural Initiatives and Development Enterprises (PRIDE AFRICA)** for an innovative Pilot Initiative for Market Access, Rural Finance Deepening and Bank Linkages in the Central Kenya Area. Two IFAD projects are now operating in this area: the Central Kenya Dry Area Smallholder and Community Services Development Project; and the Mount Kenya East Pilot Project for Natural Resource Management. Both projects include activities to pilot better marketing arrangements for smallholder producers and have mobilized a number of farmer and women’s groups. The NGO project will assist these producers with a range of services (market access, pricing information, transportation coordination, financial services, and institutional linkages with public and private operators) on a decentralized and cost-effective basis. Services will be made available through a fee or commission.

19. An ECP grant of USD 100 000 was extended to the **Cooperative League of the USA (CLUSA)** to develop, and provide support to, farmers’ groups linked to a locally based and partially farmer-owned producer company, IKURU, in Nampula province in Northern Mozambique. The project will provide technical assistance to producer organizations in various technical aspects along the production chain so as to improve output and facilitate farmers’ access to markets. These aspects include: high quality seeds; cultural practices and new varieties; pest control; seed banks; access to market information; grading methods; storage management training; and financial management.

20. **In Rwanda**, two NGOs, **Eglise Presbytérienne au Rwanda (EPR)** (Presbyterian Church of Rwanda) and **Eglise Épiscopale au Rwanda (EER)** (Episcopal Church of Rwanda), received a
USD 100 000 ECP grant for activities aimed at socio-economically empowering households affected by HIV/AIDS by promoting income-generating activities and supporting information, education and communication on HIV/AIDS prevention, mitigation and management and on the reduction of stigmatization.

Asia and the Pacific Region (PI)

21. In line with IFAD’s strategy in the region, in 2003 the ECP focused on the promotion of innovative grass-roots institutions and the establishment of conditions that will be conducive to the creation and maintenance of such institutions.

22. In China, a grant of USD 90 000 was provided to Plan China to implement activities to build the capacity of its partner organizations, in particular the All-China Women’s Federation, in microfinance services, especially for self-managed women’s credit groups at the village level. The strategy is to build up a network of women’s community-based microfinance organizations at village and township level that will federate into larger microfinance organizations, in line with the legal and regulatory framework of the country. This project will provide useful insights for IFAD’s forthcoming Rural Finance Sector Programme, which will aim to support the country’s current reform process of the rural cooperative banking system.

23. Appropriate Technology (AT) in India received a grant of about USD 96 000 for a pilot project to integrate livelihood activities with natural resource conservation in the Garhwal Himalayas. The project approach will be to work with the villagers and village organizations to protect the region’s biodiversity, particularly its forests and adjoining pasture lands; to create or enhance the community’s economic benefits from these forests and pastures through the development of natural resource-based enterprises; and to strengthen the capabilities of village organizations to manage their natural resources in an environmentally sound and economically beneficial way. Enterprises that are based in communities and managed and owned by them will be the mechanism through which biodiversity conservation activities and economic benefits will be sustained after the project ends.

24. To create conditions conducive to the formation and sustainability of grass-roots institutions of tribal people in India, IFAD has extended a grant of USD 64 000 to the Sahayog Community Coordination Network (CCN). The grant will support activities to sensitize tribal communities on the importance of institutions that cater to their needs and to build those communities’ capacities to organize and form groups to pursue collectively agreed activities. The project will establish a tribal-friendly community resource centre in Laxmipuram, which will act as a platform for tribal community members to share their views, decide on activities jointly and plan together for their development. The centre will contribute to strengthening local groups by providing training and skills development through seminars and workshops. It will be manned by experienced and skilled personnel from the health, education, agriculture, horticulture, engineering and forest departments together with traditional village elders. The project is expected to contribute to a better understanding of the tribal institutions in central India and will provide valuable inputs to the design and implementation of future IFAD projects.

25. In Sri Lanka, a grant of USD 100 000 has been extended to two NGOs, the Power Foundation and the Uva Community Development Centre, to fund a series of coordinated and joint activities that will strengthen various integrated community organizations (ICOs) established in the Badulla district by the recently closed IFAD-funded Second Badulla Integrated Rural Development Project. Towards the end of the Second Badulla Integrated Rural Development Project, it was widely acknowledged that the sustainability of the project’s achievements at grass-roots level would largely depend on the institutional maturity and independence of ICOs. Out of the many ICOs established during the project’s ten-year life span, 286 have remained and continue to function at various degrees of maturity and competence. The present NGO project will be a two-year endeavour to bring about
the institutional and financial sustainability of these ICOs. Activities will include capacity assessments, training, microfinance support and establishment of ICO federations.

**Latin America and the Caribbean Region (PL)**

26. In 2003, the ECP in the region focused on increasing access to knowledge, expanding the capacities of people to grasp opportunities or overcome obstacles, and strengthening partnerships and institutions with particular attention given to indigenous peoples and women. Enhancing access to niche markets was also an important objective.

27. In Brazil, the *Organização Geral dos Professores Ticuna Bilingües* (OGPTB) (General Organization of Ticuna Bilingual Teachers) received a grant of USD 80 000 to improve the quality of Ticuna schools in the region of Alto Solimoes through a threefold approach: (i) training of Ticuna teachers to upgrade their skills and knowledge; (ii) improvement of the facilities of the existing training centre for Ticuna teachers, including the construction of new classrooms; and (iii) enhancing the value of the oral literature of the Ticuna people through the publication of stories, in both the Ticuna language and Portuguese, organized by teachers and storytellers.

28. In Chile, the NGO *Comité Nacional Pro Defensa de Fauna y Flora* (CODEFF) (National Committee for the Defence of Flora and Fauna) received a grant of USD 100 000 to consolidate, with a strong gender perspective, the results of its previous ECP-supported project, Capacity-Building in Formulation of Procedures and Implementation of Projects to Combat Desertification in 30 Rural Communities in Chile. The project aims at controlling the process of desertification by strengthening rural women’s land management skills through better planning, improvements in the plant coverage of the soil, establishment of water-collection and improved irrigation systems, introduction of soil management and conservation techniques, and training and technical assistance for improved use of natural resources.

29. The *Associacion Cubana de Técnicos Agrícolas y Forestales* (ACTAF) (Cuban Association for Agro and Forestry Technicians) received a grant of USD 100 000 to improve the productive infrastructure and marketing of 16 farms devoted to the cultivation of medical plants and herbs. The project will directly benefit over 300 households on 16 farms, and it is expected to help increase income per household by 40%. It is in line with IFAD’s regional strategy and is part of a wider programme of cultivation of herbal medicines, which is already working in El Salvador. Cultivation of herbal medicines could possibly become a niche for small rural producers in the region, and these ECP-financed experiences are thought of as pilot programmes to test results for subsequent replication and scaling up.

30. In Guatemala, *Coordinadora de Asociaciones para el Desarrollo Integral del Quiché* (CADIQ) received a grant of USD 100 000 for a livestock and forestry development project in the Quiché department. The project will improve the population’s food security and nutritional standards and will create better marketing opportunities for local products. It complements the ongoing IFAD-financed Programme for Rural Development and Reconstruction in the Quiché Department, which was designed to support the peace accords of 1996 and which has obtained significant results in reconstructing the department’s social fabric and in increasing production and marketing. Quiché department is located in the highlands of north-western Guatemala, and the communities involved are composed of indigenous households with very small plots of land.

31. The *Mexican Association of Social Sector Credit Unions* (AMUCS) has received a grant of USD 97 000 to create a network of rural microbanks, which could provide financial services and intermediation to the marginalized rural indigenous and non-indigenous producers of the states of Michoacan, Oaxaca and Puebla, and to link these microbanks with government programmes as appropriate. The project is in line with the key objectives of the *Strategic Framework for IFAD 2002-*
2006 and with IFAD’s strategy in the country, which focuses on integrating marginalized rural populations into the mainstream of the economy.

**Near East and North Africa Region (PN)**

32. In 2003, ECP’s focus in the region was on capacity- and institution-building for natural resource management, and on the provision of financial services, with particular attention to the needs of rural women.

33. A grant of USD 100 000 has been extended to Care International to help set up a small unit of trainers with the project management units of the Badia Rangelands Development Project in Syria and of the National Programme for Rangelands Rehabilitation and Development – Phase I in Jordan. The objective of this ECP grant is to enhance the expertise of core project/programme staff in participatory natural resource management and conservation in order to counteract the overexploitation of rangelands by individual livestock owners. Training subjects will include participatory and community rangeland management and water resource management.

34. In Somalia, the Somaliland Participatory Sustainable Development and Rehabilitation Agency (SPSDRA) received a grant of USD 100 000 to implement a number of activities to reduce land degradation and thus increase farm productivity and the availability of pastures. Some problems requiring attention are heavy erosion of cultivable land, poor vegetation cover and poor farming practices. The ECP project will protect the cultivated land from further degradation by adopting appropriate surface-water management measures. It will cover two communities within the area of the North-Western Integrated Community Development Programme financed by the Belgian Survival Fund (BSF).

35. The Women’s Economic Empowerment Association (WEEA) in Yemen received a grant of USD 100 000 to build its technical expertise in microfinance in order to promote women’s savings and credit groups in the Al-Khala governorate and to help rural women generate and diversify their incomes. The grant will contribute to a long-term objective: the institutionalization of Sondouk, a traditional microfinance system practised by rural communities in Yemen for centuries and widely used in several countries of the Near East and North Africa.

**External Affairs Department (EAD)**

36. The Department’s ECP projects addressed the processes of globalization and trade liberalization, poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs) and post-conflict interventions.

37. The Third World Network (TWN) received a grant of USD 100 000 for research on, and analysis of, the impact of globalization and trade liberalization on poor rural producers. Activities have included collection of evidence from the field, including from IFAD projects and experience. Case studies and an overview paper were prepared. Two seminars were organized with IFAD staff to bring together the Fund’s knowledge from the field and the Network’s expertise on trade negotiations in the context of the Doha Agenda, especially agricultural trade. In addition, TWN organized the Forum on the Impact of Trade Liberalization and Globalization on Poor Rural Producers as a side event to the Twenty-Seventh Session of IFAD’s Governing Council. This event supplemented the Governing Council’s panel discussion on trade and rural development.

38. Another grant of USD 100 000 was extended to the Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC) to undertake activities to improve the capacity of NGOs and other civil-society organizations (CSOs) in Cambodia and Viet Nam to participate effectively in monitoring the implementation of PRSPs in their countries and to engage in policy dialogue and advocacy regarding the strategies. It is widely recognized that NGOs and CSOs need to build up
knowledge and capabilities to engage constructively in policy dialogue, including facilitating public policy dialogue between poor people and their organizations and policy-makers. The ECP project will build on the 2001 initiative of ANGOC and its partners to review the roles and capacities of all stakeholders, the nature and quality of relationships among them, and the implications of the existing environments for a meaningful PRSP process. A regional workshop will be organized to share the experience and results with NGOs and CSOs in other countries in Asia and to disseminate a guidebook prepared for NGO/CSO engagement in advocacy and monitoring of PRSP processes.

39. Finally, Common Futures Forum (CFF) received a grant of USD 5,000 as a contribution to the organization of the workshop Preventing and Resolving Conflicts – Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Peace Building, which took place in Zagreb and Bukovar, Croatia, in June 2003. The purpose of the workshop was to provide a forum for the exchange of knowledge and experience among CSOs on diverse projects aiming to foster economic and social development in post-conflict areas. The grant is in line with the ECP’s objective to build the capacities of CSOs in the South. The event was also of specific interest to IFAD in the context of its planned engagement in post-conflict interventions.
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<tr>
<th>Grants Approved in 2003 by Region, Country and Grant Number</th>
<th>USD</th>
<th>SDR</th>
<th>NGO Co-Financing USD</th>
<th>Beneficiary NGO/Country</th>
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<td>Burkina Faso: Support to Small-Scale Irrigation (No. 271)</td>
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<td>75 000</td>
<td>54 812</td>
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<td>SECADEV – Chad</td>
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<td>D.R. Congo: Gestion Communautaire de l’Approvisionnement en Semences et Outils pour la Relance Agricole dans le Territoire de Bumba (No. 262)</td>
<td>75 000</td>
<td>51 564</td>
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<td>CDI-Bwamanda – D.R. Congo</td>
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<td><strong>AFRICA II: EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</strong></td>
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<td>China: Capacity-Building in Microfinance in Shaanxi Province (No. 269)</td>
<td>90 000</td>
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<td>India: Integration of Livelihood Activities with Natural Resource Conservation (No. 252)</td>
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<td>Power Foundation and Uva Community Development Centre – Sri Lanka</td>
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Note: SDR = Special Drawing Rights
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<td>Jordan/Syria: Capacity-Building for Participatory Natural Resource Management (No. 258)</td>
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<td><strong>EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Impact of Globalization and Trade Liberalization on Poor Rural Producers: Evidence from the Field and Recommendations for Action (No. 251)</td>
<td>100 000</td>
<td>71 820</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>TWN – Malaysia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capacity-Building for NGO/CSO Participation in Monitoring Implementation of Poverty Reduction Strategies in Cambodia and Viet Nam (No. 257)</td>
<td>100 000</td>
<td>70 230</td>
<td>18 000</td>
<td>ANGOC – Regional – Global</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learning for Action Programme: Preventing and Resolving Conflict/Post-War Reconstruction (No. 254)</td>
<td>5 000</td>
<td>3 536</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>CFF – Croatia</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>2 251 580</td>
<td>1 564 967</td>
<td>387 400</td>
<td></td>
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Note: SDR = Special Drawing Rights