

## **Official Development Assistance 2005**

ODA continued to be a critical component of the financing plan for the private sector investment programme. It provided support for the Government's development objectives through a portfolio of project and programmes estimated at US\$1.5 billion (\$93.9 billion).

New ODA for the year amounted to US\$257.4 million (\$16.1 billion), an increase of 31.2 per cent compared with 2004. Bilateral cooperation programmes contributed the largest quantum of resources, US\$189.1 million (\$11.1 billion) for projects mainly in the Economic and Social Infrastructure sectors. Belgium was the largest single source, providing €50.0 million (\$3.9 billion) in loan and €50.0 million (\$3.9 billion) in grant resources.

Total disbursement to ongoing projects and programmes amounted to US\$167.8 million (\$10.5 billion), a decrease of 21.6 per cent compared with 2004. This was mainly attributed to the provision of increased resources in 2004 in response to the Hurricane Ivan reconstruction effort. Disbursements from bilateral sources amounted to US\$52.7 million (\$3.3 billion) while disbursements from Multilateral Financial Institutions and Multilateral Technical Cooperation agencies were US\$101.8 million (\$6.4 billion) and US\$13.4 million (\$838.8 million), respectively.

During the year, several International Development Partners (IDPs) prepared new country strategies in consultation with the Government. The strategies will provide the framework for their cooperation programmes for the next 3–5 years. The areas of focus include early childhood development, inner-city and rural development, security, justice, public sector modernization, health, poverty and private sector development. Seven thematic working groups comprised of Government, non-state and International Development Partners, were established to monitor the progress towards achieving the development goals of the Medium Term Socio-economic Framework (MTF) as well as to provide policy advice.