



Belgian Development Cooperation .be



**Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs,
Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation**
DGDC - Directorate-General for Development Cooperation



Belgian Development Cooperation

If improving the lot of millions of children, women and men is everybody's business, development cooperation definitely is too. But what is Belgium doing to combat poverty? This brochure is your guide to Belgian Development Cooperation.

Belgian official development assistance (ODA)

Belgian ODA is 95% funded by two Federal Public Services (Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation and Finance), and 5% by Belgium's Communities, Regions, provinces and local authorities. Most assistance takes the form of non-repayable donations.

In 2005, Belgian official development assistance totalled **€1.58 billion**, or **0.53% of the country's gross national income (GNI)**. This places Belgium sixth in the world rankings of donor countries.

Legal framework

The law on international cooperation dated 25 May 1999 stipulates that development aid must aim to foster sustainable human development. This is to be achieved by reducing poverty and based on a partnership between developing and donor countries. The law limits the number of privileged partner countries and international partner organisations involved.

Sustainable development is concentrated in **five key areas**: basic education and training, basic healthcare and reproductive health, agriculture and food security, basic infrastructure, and community building and conflict prevention.

Every development action must take account of **four topics**: gender equality and the empowerment of women, protecting the environment and promoting a social economy. Children's rights also became a mandatory focus of interest following the law's amendment on 19 July 2005.



General orientation

Development policy is defined by the Belgian federal government and its minister for Development Cooperation, but always closely shadows the European and international development agenda.

The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the EU's European Consensus on Development, both dating from 2005, serve to guide Belgium's policy, which pursues the following objectives:

- **To allocate at least 0.7 % of GNI to development aid by 2010** . This commitment is enshrined in a law dating from 2002.
- **To make development aid more effective**, by enhancing the coherence between all Belgian development actions, harmonising Belgian development policy with European and international development policies and by aligning development aid with partner countries' priorities.
- **To ease the burden of debt**, enabling developing countries to allocate more financial resources to combating poverty. In 2003, Belgium waived €644 million of debt owed by the Democratic Republic of Congo, Belgian development cooperation's largest debt cancellation ever.
- **Entrepreneurship for development**: Belgium is fostering economic development by supporting the microfinance sector that offers poor families local financial services, promoting fair trade and providing direct financial support for the private sector via the Belgian Investment Company, BIO, founded for this purpose in 2001.
- **To provide new forms of assistance**: Belgium is increasingly offering its partner countries financial assistance that flows directly into their national budget. Such "budget support" gives the government of the partner country more responsibility for defining its poverty reduction strategy and setting its own development policy priorities.

The federal administrative body for development aid, the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation (DGDC), is responsible for managing 55 to 60% of Belgian official development assistance.

Development cooperation programmes

Governmental development cooperation is agreed at government level between Belgium and its 18 partner countries. The government aid provided accounts for roughly 20% of the DGDC's budget. The lions' share goes to Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC) is responsible for implementing the development programmes.

Belgium's 18 partner countries are: Algeria, Benin, Bolivia, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Palestinian territories, Peru, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Vietnam.

European and multilateral development cooperation consists of financial assistance for development programmes run by the European Union, the United Nations System, the World Bank and the IMF. Belgium is working together with 23 international partner organisations. This cooperation accounts for 45% of the DGDC's budget.

Non-governmental development cooperation entails government subsidies for development programmes run by NGOs, development projects run by universities, scientific institutions, educational non-profit organisations, trade unions, towns and local authorities. Government support can total up to 85% of the programme budget. Also, local NGOs in partner countries receive financial support for their projects. On average, 25% of the DGDC budget is spent on co-financing non-governmental development programmes.



FPS Foreign Affairs - M. Sengooris

The Belgian Survival Fund (BSF) was set up in 1983 at the initiative of the Belgian parliament and funds long-term projects designed to improve food security in sub-Saharan African countries suffering from chronic food shortages. The BSF finances projects carried out by BTC, 19 Belgian NGOs and 4 international organisations. The Fund's resources stem from Belgium's National Lottery.

Belgian development policy in Central Africa



Since peace is a prerequisite for sustainable development, in those African countries ravaged by conflict Belgium is focusing its development policy on restoring peace and security. Belgium's efforts to demobilise adult troops and child soldiers in seven Central African countries has earned international recognition.

However, the top priorities are reconciliation, the promotion of democracy, and the reconstruction of State and social structures in **the fragile States in the Great Lakes Region: the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi and Rwanda.**

The country that receives most Belgian government aid is **Rwanda**. Of the €140 million pledged until 2010, almost a half is going to **rural development** in the form of support for agriculture and drinking water and power supplies. €40 million is being spent on the **health sector**: Belgium coordinates all development programmes in this sector at the request of the Rwandan government. Good governance is being supported through institutional and logistical strengthening of the **judicial system**, Ministry of Justice and the network of traditional Gacaca tribunals.

After a decade of civil war, **Burundi** is receiving consistent Belgian development assistance thanks to a new cooperation agreement that runs to 2009. A total of €60 million is to be spent on enhancing the capacity of its new public institutions, training the country's national police force, expanding technical education and combating leprosy and tuberculosis. A further €15 million is going to the **emergency programme** through which the Burundian government is hoping to clearly improve the quality of its roads, its power supply and the national employment situation.

Migration and Development for Africa: the MIDA - Great Lakes programme:

Belgian Development Cooperation is supporting highly educated immigrants from Congo, Rwanda and Burundi who invest their knowledge and experience in the socioeconomic development of their home country, by financing the MIDA programme run by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). www.midagrandslacs.org

For information on Belgian Development Cooperation:

www.dgdc.be

www.btcctb.org

Information on ODA

The criteria for Belgian Official Development Assistance (ODA) are laid down by OECD/DAC, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's Development Assistance Committee

www.oecd.org/dac

Information on European Development Cooperation

www.europa.eu

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Belgian Development Cooperation in DR Congo

In the **Democratic Republic of Congo** a **Belgian partnership for peace and development** is leading to solid cooperation between the Belgian, Congolese and international partners in support of the peace process and the country's socioeconomic recovery.

Over €100 million of government aid is being spent on the **Action plan for the Transition Period 2004-2007** to increase the capacity of the central and local administrative apparatus and strengthen Congo's civil society. An additional €25 million is being spent on the **DRC Emergency Plan 2006-2008** which aims to directly improve living conditions and create jobs. Clean-up operations, the supply of drinking water to the country's major cities and repairs to minor roads and harbour facilities are being taken care of by the Congolese population.

The Flemish and French-speaking university councils are joining forces to help Congolese universities in the domains of education and scientific research. Some 30 Belgian NGOs are actively involved in extending basic healthcare provision.

Belgium's Institute of Tropical Medicine is using its international expertise to combat AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and sleeping sickness. The city of Liège is helping Lubumbashi, and Brussels is helping Kinshasa, with their administrative duties and provision of social services.

Belgium is the biggest donor, actor and coordinator of the UN's multilateral programme aimed at

combating sexual violence against women in war-torn eastern Congo. The programme provides victims with medical care, psychological support and legal protection to the victims. The international conference in 2006 on Sexual Violence in Conflicts and Beyond was held at the initiative of Belgian Development Cooperation.



The Millennium Campaign

To eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by 2015:

this is a commitment made by the 3,000 Belgian development projects being implemented in over 85 different countries by our various development partners.



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«The Bridge of Solidarity, building a future for everyone»

This is the slogan under which the DGDC has been running a national awareness-raising campaign on the Millennium Development Goals via articles in the press and radio and TV advertisements. Eight posters were designed, one for each goal. The mobile information exhibition on Belgium's efforts to attain the Millennium Development Goals is freely available to schools, local authorities and associations.

Here are some examples of strong Belgian development programmes run by the DGDC contributing to the Millennium Development Goals. The titles reiterate the slogans on posters from the Millennium Campaign.

You have to eat to stay alive

The Belgian Survival Fund helps to ensure food security in 20 African countries by attacking food-related problems in the long term in numerous domains. A reliable water supply is a prerequisite for developing arable and livestock farming. Shoring up the capacities of local authorities and supporting good governance can also help to improve basic social facilities.

The Millennium Campaign

One billion people today are without safe drinking water

Numerous Belgian projects set out to provide potable water in our African partner countries. At the express request of the governments in Morocco, Algeria and Senegal, Belgium is investing most of its governmental aid there in the provision of drinking water and the improvement and solid management of the water sector.

Prevention is better than a cure

To boost local healthcare services in Ecuador, Belgium is financing health projects that are being carried out by local authorities, such as the municipal social security system in the capital, Quito, and the city of Esmeraldas' action plan to combat sexually transmissible diseases.

Where international efforts to combat AIDS are concerned, over the past decade the budget has risen from €1 million to €30 million. A substantial portion of this money goes to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

I want to go to school too

Belgium's most tangible contribution towards achieving the Millennium Development Goal of providing free primary education for all boys and girls is the purchase and distribution of schoolbooks for primary education and teacher training for all 23,000 of Congo's primary schools.



Teaching people about equality between men and women

Thanks to Belgium's financial support of the innovative Gender Responsive Budgeting Programme run by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the governments of 20 developing countries are taking real account of women's interests in their national budgets and poverty reduction strategies. The success of this new budget instrument in securing equal rights for women and fight female poverty has attracted new financial backers, enabling the programme to be extended.

Pregnancy doesn't have to be a life-threatening illness

Improving health care for pregnant women and mothers is part of most of the Belgian health projects being implemented by Belgium's development partners. For example, the Institute of Tropical Medicine has been awarded €500,000 in subsidies for its research in Burkina Faso into the treatment of malaria and nutritional habits during pregnancy.

Any child under 5 has the right to a future

In Bolivia the scientific research conducted by Belgian universities into the transmission of the infectious Chagas disease from mothers to children has led to reliable diagnostic models and a treatment for newly born infants. The World Health Organisation has recognised these models and recommended their use in the national healthcare system in South America.



Belgian Development Cooperation also funds **humanitarian aid** for the victims of natural catastrophes and military conflicts. Emergency aid includes actions taken during crises to meet the vital needs of food, water, shelter and medical support. After the crises, rehabilitation assistance helps get the country back on its feet and fosters the resumption of development. At the humanitarian level, Belgian Development Cooperation works closely together with NGOs, humanitarian UN organisations and the International Red Cross.