

Annual report

2018



Belgium

partner in development



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Introduction

For the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (DGD), 2018 was both an exciting and challenging year. We faced important issues that are at the heart of the international agenda: climate change, migration, poverty and injustice. Thanks to the continuous efforts and commitment of the DGD staff, as well as those of our partners, the Belgian Development Cooperation is (internationally) recognised as a solid actor. Just think of our policy which is fully in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and our efforts for increased results and transparency.

However, as an administration, we have to constantly adapt and sometimes reinvent ourselves. It is no secret that the development budget and staff of the DGD are under pressure. Nevertheless, 2018 was a satisfying year for us. For example, 99.8% of our budget was reached - an exceptionally high figure that could only be achieved thanks to the efforts of all services. 2018 was also a special year in other areas. For example, the "upgrade" of four development bureaus into fully-fledged embassies, the launch of a new management contract with the Belgian development agency

Enabel and the creation of a new service for relations with the private sector. In addition, we are expanding our knowledge in collaboration with the Belgian academic world, continuing our good practices in multilateral and humanitarian partnerships, weighing everything we do (and how we do it) against the SDG framework, and improving our transparency thanks to a user-friendly data portal.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to making 2018 a successful year for the DGD and the Belgian Development Cooperation.

Bruno van der Pluijm
Director-General DGD

Foreword

Belgium's development policy has undergone a remarkable metamorphosis in recent years. The traditional North-South approach was abandoned and replaced by a single overarching framework, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals for both the South and the North. The idea that all problems occur in the southern hemisphere and that we in the North have all the solutions no longer holds. Sometimes countries in the South even lead the way: while we try in vain to pay for a coffee with our smartphones in Brussels, this is possible anywhere in Nairobi.

Traditional development cooperation, which was based on giving, dependency logic and unbalanced relationships between donor and recipient instead of investments, is passé. From now on, we strive for partnerships and equivalence between equal partners. These innovations reached cruising speed in 2018.

"Empower women and the rest will follow", as philanthropist and investor Warren Buffet advocates. Better educated women who earn their own income and healthier girls who decide about their own bodies are the perfect levers for development. Since Belgium put its weight behind the She Decides movement in 2017, women's rights have been a common thread throughout our development policy. Gender equality is an integral part of the 2018 cooperation programmes with Guinea, Benin, Burkina Faso and Senegal.

As the challenges of the 2030 Agenda require a great deal of resources, maximising funding for development constitutes a second priority. We decided not to grant tax exemptions. Together with the International Committee of the Red Cross, we launched the very first Humanitarian Impact Bond to build rehabilitation centres in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali and Nigeria. By making the capital of the Belgian Investment Company for Developing Countries (BIO) accessible to private investors who are not only concerned with investment return but also with the impact of their investments on development, BIO was able to set up a first fund that allows private money to be co-invested with BIO. In addition, we encouraged the Belgian development agency Enabel to include initiatives to support the private sector, often in agriculture, in every cooperation programme with our partner countries.

Belgium joins forces with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Institute of Tropical Medicine of Antwerp, the Belgian development agency Enabel, a big pharmaceutical company and a number of leading technology companies to eradicate sleeping sickness. The partnership with the Belgian chocolate sec-

tor, Beyond Chocolate, unites the cocoa processing industry, chocolate producers, supermarkets, impact investors and civil society to sustainably improve the living conditions and increase the income of cocoa farmers.

The efforts to modernise Belgian development policy are starting to pay off. In recent years, Belgium has risen from the 49th (2014) to the 18th position in the Aid Transparency Index. We are now the 7th bilateral donor where transparency is concerned. With the new data portal openaid.be, we will be aiming even higher in the future. And according to the renowned Overseas Development Institute, Belgium is the second-most efficient donor to combat extreme poverty, after Ireland. In doing so, we are leaving the Scandinavian countries, the UK and the Netherlands well behind us.

Finally, a modern development policy goes hand in hand with an efficient foreign policy. Diplomacy and development can reinforce and complement each other. Just look at our focus on Africa. After the decision to concentrate our governmental cooperation on Sub-Saharan Africa, the development bureaus in Mali, Niger, Benin and Guinea were upgraded to fully-fledged embassies in 2018. Our country is now better represented in West Africa and the Sahel, regions that are of crucial importance to Belgium, including in the fight against terrorism and irregular migration.

Another example is our university cooperation, which has proven to be an excellent instrument for keeping our country on the map, for example in South Asia and Latin America, two regions where governmental cooperation was withdrawn and where our diplomacy is less present. This cooperation also creates a group of alumni who will remain ambassadors for our country throughout their lives and careers.

We have moved away from the stagnant silo approach in which we were ingrained for decades and which rejected any synergy with our foreign and trade policy. Whereas cooperation used to be mistrusted, it is now the starting point. United we are stronger, also in a contemporary development policy.

Alexander De Croo

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and International Development



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Accents of the Belgian development policy

New logo

The Belgian Development Cooperation has a new logo with the following baseline: "Belgium, partner in development". The new visual identity completes a major reform process. Belgium is nowadays embracing a more innovative and effective approach in its development cooperation. With specific attention to human rights (She Decides, for example), digitisation and strong partnerships (also with the private sector).

The idea of partnership is central in the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. The new baseline reflects this philosophy of partnership, embedded in the Sustainable Development Goals. The new visual identity will promote this renewed Belgium approach in the field.



Belgium

partner in development

New managing director for Enabel

In September 2018, Jean Van Wetter was appointed managing director of the Belgian development agency Enabel. He succeeds Carl Michiels who successfully led the agency for 14 years.

Van Wetter has a lot of experience in the development sector. He was CEO of Handicap International Belgium and country representative for international NGOs in Cambodia, China and Tanzania. In addition, he has a great deal of international experience in the corporate world and a wide professional network. The board of directors is therefore convinced that Jean Van Wetter is the right man at the right place to shape the Belgian development policy.

Van Wetter takes office at a crucial time. After a substantial reform of the Belgian Development Cooperation by Minister Alexander De Croo, the scope of Enabel has been broadened. It will not only continue to execute the governmental cooperation, but it will also execute and coordinate the Belgian policy for international development.

“**The Belgian development policy chooses unequivocally for change and I am eager to contribute to that.**”

Jean Van Wetter

Enabel worldwide

The Belgian development agency Enabel has about 150 projects in 14 partner countries of the Belgian Development Cooperation (Morocco, Senegal, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Benin, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, Mozambique and Palestine). The yearly budget amounts to EUR 200 million, half of which goes to fragile states. The agency has 1500 staff members and 70% of them are locally hired.

Reform of BIO

A first legislative amendment in 2016 opened up BIO's capital to private investors who are not only looking for a return, but who are also concerned about the social and environmental impact of the projects in which they invest. This enabled BIO to prepare a first fund in 2018 that allows private investors to invest alongside BIO.

In October 2018, the Chamber of Representatives approved an amendment that is the final element of a thorough reform of the Belgian Investment Company for Developing Countries (BIO). Thanks to this new legislative amendment and the new management contract, the investment company will be better embedded in the Belgian development policy, strengthen the link with the private sector and increase the impact of the development initiatives in Belgium's partner countries.

In this way, BIO will also be able to make smaller investments with a higher development impact in the future. This allows BIO to invest more in the least developed countries where the risks are often higher. Apart from that, BIO will have more opportunities to grant subsidies to stakeholders of companies like small farmers or local professional associations, for example. From now on, the investment company can carry out specific assignments for third parties, such as training and the management of funds for the European Union. Finally, the Belgian government will now be able to entrust specific assignments to BIO and to call upon its expertise, for example in the management of participations in development banks as in Rwanda or Burundi.

Collaboration with Benin, Guinea and Senegal



The next five years (2019-2023), Belgium and **Benin** will join forces to strengthen the rights of women and to create sustainable local economic growth. The new cooperation programme covers a total of EUR 60 million and has three priorities:

- rural entrepreneurship;
- capacity building in the port sector;
- sexual and reproductive health and rights.

In order to strengthen local economic growth in a sustainable way, Belgium and Benin will work together to improve the pineapple value chain. Benin produces 400 to 450,000 tons of pineapples each year, making it the country's third largest agricultural product. Belgian-Beninese cooperation in the field of port activities should also lead to more economic growth. For example, the port of Antwerp will help the port of Cotonou to further modernise itself. The port is the economical heart of Benin with a yearly freight volume of 12 million tons.

In Benin, one in ten girls marries before the age of 15. Women have an average of five children. 15% of maternal mortality is due to unsafe abortions. The programme offers better access to health services and family planning, as well as the digitisation of health data.





In December 2018, Belgium and **Guinea** signed a new cooperation programme that runs from 2019 to 2023. Belgium will invest EUR 45 million in the programme that focusses on:

- urban and rural entrepreneurship (focus on women);
- sexual and reproductive rights (She Decides).

The programme wants to stimulate **entrepreneurship** in the pineapple, potato and mango sectors. The objective is to create 12,000 new jobs, of which more than 40% will go to women. By stimulating the competitiveness of women entrepreneurs, the programme aims at increasing their net income by 50%.

'She Decides' - **the promotion of sexual and reproductive rights and health** - is the second pillar of the programme that is closely related to the economic empowerment and social emancipation of women and youngsters.

The collaboration follows a first cooperation agreement (2016-2019) worth EUR 15 million. Only in 2015, after the Ebola crisis, Guinea became a new partner country of the Belgian Development Cooperation.



In June 2018, Belgium and **Senegal** signed a programme for governmental cooperation for the period 2019-2023. This new programme has three components:

- promoting sustainable entrepreneurship and creating jobs;
- sexual and reproductive rights;
- training.

Implemented by Enabel, the Belgian development agency, the programme benefits from a Belgian contribution of EUR 45 million for a period of 5 years. The ambition is to achieve inclusive and sustainable growth through a rights-based approach, such as equal opportunities and women's empowerment.



#ShelsEqual

On June 5th, together with the NGO Global Citizen, the government of Luxemburg, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Procter & Gamble, Minister De Croo launched #ShelsEqual. This international campaign focuses on gender equality, women empowerment and women's health.

#ShelsEqual aims to improve the sexual and reproductive health of women, tackle gender discrimination in legislation and promote the economic empowerment of women. The goal was to raise more than EUR 500 million to improve the lives of 20 million girls and women.

Against child marriage and for contraceptives

At the launch of #ShelsEqual, Belgium pledged EUR 3 million to UNFPA Supplies and a joint programme of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and the UN Children's Fund UNICEF. This programme fights against child marriage particularly in Burkina Faso, Niger, Mozambique and Uganda.

Thanks to Belgian support, UNFPA Supplies will be able to purchase and distribute contraceptives. In 2017, the organisation gave more than 12 million women in 46 countries access to modern contraceptives and reproductive health services. Some 7.1 million unwanted pregnancies and 2.2 million unsafe abortions were avoided.

#ShelsEqual builds on the global She Decides movement that Minister De Croo, together with his then Dutch colleague Ploumen, set in motion in 2017 after US President Trump cut off financial support for international organisations working on women's rights through family planning.

Some figures

- Around the globe, almost 15 million girls younger than 18 get married every year. This amounts to 37,000 child marriages a day. Globally more than 750 million girls and women get married before they reach the age of 18.
- In 18 countries men can prohibit their wife to go out to work; in 39 countries girls don't have the same inheritance rights as boys; in 49 countries there is no legal framework to protect women from domestic abuse.
- Globally, the percentage of women in Parliaments is only 23.7%. Only in 46 countries that number is higher than 30%.
- Women contribute for 37% to the gross world product. If women would have the opportunity to contribute as much to the economy, the gross world product would rise with EUR 23.8 billion.



Sustainable companies

Over the next 5 years, the Belgian Development Cooperation will invest EUR 12 million in a partnership with sustainable companies. This new **Business Partnership Facility** will support business projects working with local entrepreneurs, NGOs and the academic world on meeting at least one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The projects must produce positive social, economic and ecological innovations that will benefit local populations.

The investment fund wants to encourage international partnerships to jointly realise the SDGs. Financial support is granted on the basis of a call for projects via the King Baudouin Foundation.

Strategic dialogues: taking a closer look at non-governmental cooperation

In 2018, the quality of strategic dialogues has improved considerably. The dialogues are organised once a year with non-governmental actors in various countries of intervention.

Through strategic dialogues, the Belgian Development Cooperation wants to improve the coherence and exchange of knowledge and experience. They help to solve inevitable problems that arise during the implementation of funded programmes. Moreover, connections are forged with other important actors in the field, such as the European Union and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The strategic dialogues have shown their relevance in difficult situations such as political instability in Burundi, Nicaragua and Haiti.

The quality of the strategic dialogues improves every year thanks to demanding surveys that address all those involved. In 2018, the rich content and the greater flexibility of the dialogues in particular were evaluated positively.

“ Many Belgian companies are ready to embrace the SDGs. This benefits not only development policy but also businesses themselves. Businesses that take sustainable development at heart are stronger because of it.”

Alexander De Croo

Migration and development

The Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development acknowledges that migration is a central component of development. Target 10.7 of SDG 10 (reduce inequality within and among countries) aspires to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies."

As part of its international commitments and in particular Agenda 2030, the Belgian Development Cooperation supports initiatives maximizing the positive impact of migration on development. Some examples:

- helping partner countries to develop their governance on migration and international protection;
- supporting diaspora investment initiatives to develop countries of origin;
- reducing the costs of remittances;
- addressing the root causes of illegal migration;
- supporting and facilitating regular migration as a lever of development for countries of origin, transit and destination.

By adopting the UN Global Compact for Migration (Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration) in September 2018, Belgium took a step towards achieving SDG 10.

In addition, in 2018, our country was very active in various regional dialogues on migration and development (the Valletta Framework, the Rabat Process, the Khartoum Process, etc.). In May 2018, under the Belgian Presidency, the partner countries and organisations of the Rabat Process (bringing together more than 60 European and African nations) adopted the "Marrakesh Declaration and Action Plan 2018–2020". The Declaration comprises 10 objectives and more than 20 commitments promoting an effective migration management in the Rabat Process region (West and North Africa). This Action Plan sets out a human rights-based approach and fights against xenophobia, racism and discrimination.

As part of the Valletta commitments, the Belgian Development Cooperation met its commitments by paying a third instalment of EUR 3 million (a total of EUR 10 million has been allocated) into the Trust Fund for Africa. This fund was set up in response to the migration crisis at the end of 2015 to implement the Valletta Joint Action Plan.



Policy coherence for development

In the context of the implementation of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals, increasing importance is being attached to maximizing policy coherence for sustainable development as part of a coherent and efficient foreign policy. Particular attention is paid to:

- ensuring synergy and complementarity between the actions of the various government departments in the field of sustainable development in developing countries;
- continuing to reflect on the most efficient cooperation and organisation of the various advisory bodies;
- following up relevant work within the EU and OECD, in particular in the context of the OECD network of Policy Coherence for Development Focal Points;
- focusing on interconnections and coherence between the SDGs in the context of the policy supporting research 'SDGs as a compass'.

Mid-term peer review

In March 2018, the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) carried out a midterm peer review of the Belgian Development Cooperation – halfway between the 2015 and 2020 peer reviews.

The review highlights that Belgium has taken clear actions in response to the recommendations of the 2015 peer review. The OECD/DAC welcomes Belgium's focus on fragile states as well as its focus on the results. Our country has made significant progress in the areas of humanitarian aid and gender mainstreaming. Nevertheless, the OECD/DAC reminds us that our development assistance must be adapted to the risks associated with interventions in these countries.

Peer review

Peer review is internationally regarded as one of the most important evaluation systems for development cooperation. Each member of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) undergoes a peer review every five years. It evaluates the members of the OECD/DAC on how they are meeting their international commitments and encourages them to adopt the best practices of other members into their own modus operandi. The peer review allows donors to learn from each other and to ensure that the assistance remains sufficiently relevant.

New embassies in Africa

In 2018, Belgium opened 4 new embassies in Africa. The existing diplomatic bureaus in Cotonou (Benin), Conakry (Guinea), Bamako (Mali) and Niamey (Niger) have been upgraded to the rank of embassy. In doing so, our country shows the importance it attaches to its relations with these countries, as well as to the situation in the region. The upgrade reinforces all fields of the Belgian foreign policy in a comprehensive approach: bilateral cooperation, diplomacy, development cooperation, defence, security and justice. All these policies will be better aligned.



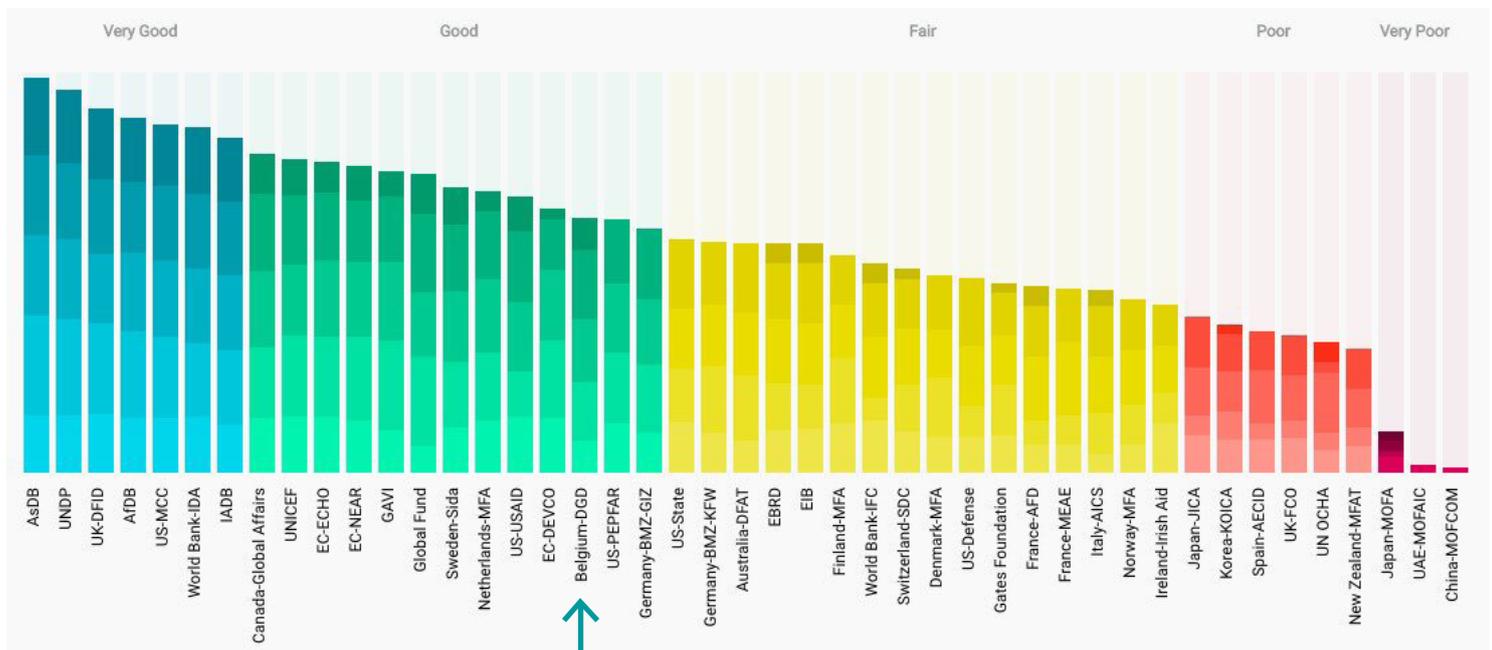
Belgium is climbing the Aid Transparency Index

Belgium has moved up from the 27th to 18th place in the Aid Transparency Index. Within the European Union, our country has climbed to 7th place. The transparency index is produced by Publish What You Fund and indicates the extent to which donors transparently communicate on their development efforts. This matters for the accountability of development efforts as well as for the effectiveness of aid and the cooperation between different development actors.

Belgium's climb on the Transparency Index is inter alia due to the more frequent publication of data and the increase of reporting on results. As from May 2018, all NGOs report according to the standards of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI).

“ We are glad to see that Belgian efforts are also being noticed internationally. At the start of the legislature, Belgium was at the bottom of the ‘weak’ category. Today, we are climbing to the ‘good’ category.”

Alexander De Croo



Integrity charter

What is integrity?

"Acting with integrity" means adhering at all times to the values and standards of integrity and applying the appropriate rules.

In other words: the internal system of integrity and anti-corruption refers to the aspects of organisational management related to integrity and corruption risks, including prevention and sanction measures. Integrity includes both financial aspects (corruption and fraud) and moral aspects (abuse of power, discrimination, sexual harassment, abuse and exploitation, among others).

Integrity is a fundamental value in the Belgian development policy. This is illustrated by several initiatives:

- the integration of the principle of integrity into the Royal Decree of 2016 on non-governmental cooperation;
- in 2017, a policy management guideline on integrity was issued;
- in January 2018, an Integrity task force was set up, bringing together all Belgian Development Cooperation actors;
- an action plan was drawn up on the basis of the OECD recommendations;
- all Belgian development actors must sign an integrity charter.

The charter binds the 92 signatories to adopt an ethical code, to invest in awareness-raising and integrity formations, to set up a confidential contact point, to take preventive measures to control risks, to carry out regular inspections and finally, to report annually on the follow-up of complaints.

At the same time, Belgium has committed itself to intensifying the fight against sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment in the international aid sector. For example, our country signed 22 commitments made by 22 donor countries, representing 90% of global aid, at the Putting People First Summit taking place in London in October 2018.

Belgian director at the World Bank

Since November 2018, Nathalie Francken has been representing Belgium at the World Bank. For several years, our compatriot worked as a consultant for the World Bank and as an economist at the African Development Bank. She was chairwoman of Enabel, the Belgian development agency, as well as researcher and lecturer at the KU Leuven. As an expert in agriculture and food security, she also worked for several years at the FPS Foreign Affairs.

The World Bank fights poverty by providing loans to developing and middle-income countries. The Bank has 25 executive directors (with deputies), each representing a group of countries. Belgium is part of a constituency, together with Luxembourg, Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Kosovo, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey and Belarus. This electoral group has been led by an Austrian since November 2018, with Nathalie Francken as deputy director.

VLIR-UOS celebrates its 20th anniversary

At the end of December 2018, VLIR-UOS looked back on 20 years of university development cooperation. Success stories were discussed at a reception in Centre for Fine Arts (Bozar), followed by stimulating debates.

With the support of the Belgian Development Cooperation, VLIR-UOS supports partnerships between Flemish universities or colleges and the South, searching for innovative solutions to global and local challenges.

Wehubit

Digital technologies can promote development, push forward vulnerable populations and provide citizens with better services. In other words, they contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). That is why, in 2018, the Belgian Development Cooperation launched Wehubit, a new programme that supports digital development initiatives.

Projects from the private sector, non-profit organisations or the public sector in the partner countries of the Belgian Development Cooperation are eligible. BIO provides the private sector with loans, while Enabel offers grants to non-profit organisations. Wehubit is not part of bilateral development cooperation. It supports projects that have already proven their effectiveness and need funding to take the next step. Wehubit does not finance start-ups, but supports the upscaling of D4D initiatives. The best initiatives are selected through calls for projects according to a specific theme. The first call focused on women's and youth rights, inclusion and empowerment.



Belgian development assistance budget

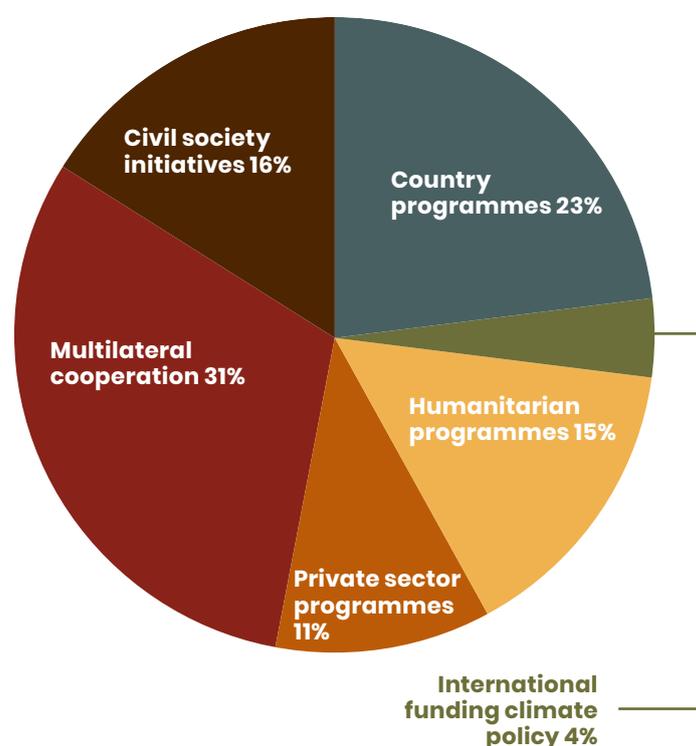
What does Belgian official development assistance consist of?

- funding via the development cooperation budget (about two thirds of the total official development assistance);
- funding via other federal governments and via the European Commission;
- part of the costs for the reception of refugees and the costs for students from developing countries studying in Belgium;
- contributions from regions, communities, provinces and municipalities;
- debt cancellation agreed at the international level.

In the 1970s, it was internationally accepted that **official development assistance (ODA)** from rich countries should amount to at least **0.7% of their Gross National Income (GNI)**. Belgium has also included this standard in the law on Belgian Development Cooperation. However, due to the financial crisis and the difficult budgetary circumstances, this goal is not yet within immediate reach. After a strong growth in the period 2008–2010 (0.64% of GNI in 2010 – the highest ODA figure ever), Belgian development assistance gradually fell back to 0.45% in 2017. According to a position agreed within the EU, the member states should reach the 0.7% norm by 2030.

In 2018, total Belgian development assistance accounted for approximately 0.43% of GNI.

The budget for development cooperation was set at **EUR 1,235 million** (settlement loans). Due to the strict measures to keep the government budget balance under control, a block amounting to EUR 109.543 million was imposed. As a result, **EUR 1,124 million was settled, compared to EUR 1,106 million in 2017.**



Settlement loans realisations 2018	In thousand EUR	In %
0. Livelihoods programme	2,170	0%
1. Country programmes	257,905	23%
2. Civil society initiatives	178,306	16%
3. Multilateral cooperation	347,005	31%
4. Private sector programmes	123,678	11%
5. Humanitarian programmes	169,931	15%
6. International funding climate policy	45,033	4%
Total	1,124,029	100%

Overview of Belgian development aid per channel (in EUR million)

Directorate-General Development Cooperation (DGD)	2015	2016	2017	2018
Governmental cooperation				
Belgian Development Agency (Enabel)	153.62	182.83	153.40	169.30
Actions NGAs in synergy	2.45	1.13		
Society building and good governance	1.77	68.65	16.91	22.26
Delegated cooperation	9.54	14.66	14.30	10.25
Regional cooperation (from 2017 onwards via Enabel)	0.20	0.44		
General and sectoral budget support	16.88	13.01	21.01	7.66
Local civil society	0.30	0.74	0.03	
Management costs Enabel	22.67	22.96	21.45	22.44
State-to-state loans	19.92	14.61	18.41	20.00
Belgian Fund for Food Security	12.45	12.77	10.49	6.20
Subtotal governmental cooperation	239.80	331.80	256.00	258.11
Non-governmental cooperation *				
Subtotal non-governmental cooperation	228.68	246.30	168.79	170.94
Multilateral cooperation				
Compulsory multilateral contributions	10.96	10.48	13.50	13.51
Voluntary multilateral contributions	115.79	100.56	81.68	83.50
European Development Fund and Bank	120.02	95.13	160.60	146.92
World Bank Group	12.50	13.26	42.17	59.40
Regional development banks	48.47	47.22	11.95	11.90
Environmental conventions ("Climate policy" from 2017 onwards)	20.20	45.21		
Multilateral debt waiver	16.50	17.27	19.60	21.19
Subtotal multilateral cooperation	344.45	329.14	329.51	336.42
Entrepreneurship, science and technology (from 2017 onwards)				
Science, technology and innovation: Belgian actors			65.01	75.90
Science, technology and innovation: international actors			2.50	2.50
Local entrepreneurship, fair trade, BIO			44.29	44.67
International knowledge centers			0.35	0.61
Support to the private sector, BIO	42.23	46.18		
Humanitarian programmes	149.49	177.14	170.00	169.93
Climate policy (from 2017 onwards)			45.20	45.03
Awareness-raising in Belgium (excl. NGOs)	4.18	5.06	5.03	3.02
Administration, evaluation, others	1.68	1.89	1.46	2.17
Total DGD	1,010.52	1,137.51	1,088.15	1,109.30

EU funding

In 2018, Belgium provided 4.17% of the total EU development cooperation budget, that corresponds to **EUR 377.08 million**. In addition, EUR 153.42 million was allocated to the European Development Fund. This fund provides support to the ACP countries (African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States) within the framework of the Cotonou Agreement. This brings the total amount of Official Development Assistance (ODA) provided by Belgium via the EU to EUR 530.5 million in 2018.

Belgium is not only involved in the programming and monitoring of funding, but also in discussions about future mechanisms. The first negotiations for the next financial framework (2021-2027) took place in 2018. This should lead, among other things, to a unified mechanism with a budget of almost EUR 90 billion. Belgium would contribute about 4%. What is new is the greater involvement of private investors through blending and the provision of guarantees. Belgium defends themes that are at the heart of our development policy, such as women's rights and digitisation.

The European Commission together with the member states spend EUR 76 billion per year (EUR 1.5 billion a week), accounting for more than 50% of global development assistance. From now on, there will no longer be any reference to Joint Programming, but to European Partners Working Better Together in which non-EU countries such as Switzerland and Norway can also play a role. By joining forces, the impact of aid is all the greater. The Working Better Together initiative currently runs in about 60 countries, including a large number of Belgian partner countries.



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EUROPEAN PARTNERS

WORKING BETTER

TOGETHER



Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals

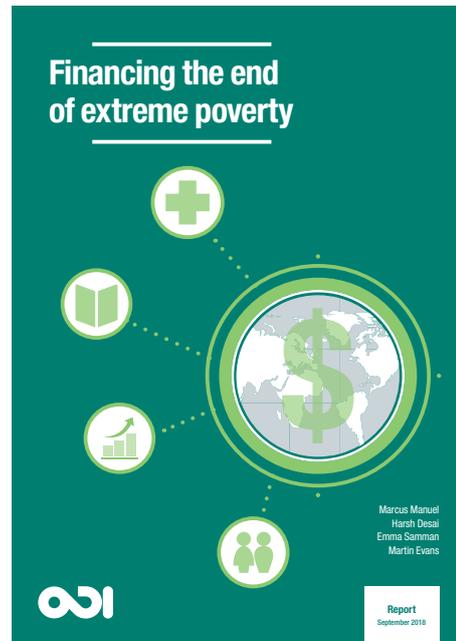


#EndPoverty

Belgium is the second most efficient donor in the fight against extreme poverty. This is the conclusion of the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) in its report 'Financing the end of extreme poverty'. The ODI-index looks into the efforts made by donor countries in sectors which are critical to eradicate extreme poverty such as education, health, food security and social protection.

It is no coincidence that Belgium scores so high. In 2015, we explicitly chose to focus our international development policy on least developed countries and fragile states. Eleven of the fourteen Belgian partner countries are least developed countries. By choosing so, our country was going against the tide at the international level.

The ODI report indicates that, in order to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030, more countries must focus their efforts on the least developed countries, like Belgium does. Middle income countries actually have more options to finance their own development, for example through income tax, foreign investments and remittances.



Potatoes on the menu in Cusco



In May 2018, the 10th World Potato Congress (WPC) took place in Peru, cradle of the potato. Worldwide, 341 million tonnes of potatoes are harvested every year, making the potato the third most important crop in the world after rice and wheat.

As the potato country par excellence, Belgium was strongly represented. The Belgian Romain Cools chaired the congress. He is the CEO of Belgapom, the professional association of the Belgian potato trade and processing.

The **biodiversity** of the potato was at the heart of the congress. After all, it will be crucial in tackling environmental and climate challenges of the future. The NGO Trias highlighted its activities in the potato sector, presenting a world first: a traditional factory producing freeze dried potatoes.

To conclude, a number of Belgian scientists, affiliated with the International Potato Center (CIP), were also present.



Quality medicines

3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



Did you know that one in ten medicines in poor countries is fake or of poor quality? Millions of lives are at risk. Together with its partners, the Belgian Development Cooperation strives to use quality medicines in the countries where they operate. In 2017, they signed a declaration of commitment on quality medicines. By doing so, Belgium was the first donor country to commit itself to guaranteeing the quality of medicines at the level of cooperation with other governments.

Access to quality medicines has been a Belgian priority for a while: for the past 10 years, the Be-cause Health Charter on Quality of Medicines has been guaranteeing that humanitarian and development programmes deliver high-quality products. To mark this anniversary, Belgium organised a conference in November 2018. International experts evaluated Belgium's initiatives and looked ahead at the challenges in the 10 years to come hindering universal access to quality medicines.

Belgium also advocates for quality medicines at the international level, for example within the European Union and the World Health Organization. Moreover, our country has a law that obliges pharmaceutical companies to produce medicines of guaranteed quality, also when intended for export.



Quality education for all



Some figures from UNESCO

- 750 million youth and adults cannot read and write;
- 262 million children and youth are out of school;
- 1 in 5 adolescents drop out of high school too early;
- 1 in 11 children do not go to attending primary school.

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In recent years, access to education has improved significantly. But the quality of education could be improved, according to the very first World Development Report on education of the World Bank. The report warns of a learning crisis in global education. After all, learning is not the same as 'going to school'. After several years in school, millions of children cannot read, write or do basic math.

In order to achieve SDG 4 (access to quality education and lifelong learning), the Belgian Development Cooperation supports the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) with EUR 26 million for the period 2017-2020. It is active in 65 countries and contributes to the development and implementation of sectoral plans for the education sector.

In addition, Belgium supports UNICEF - the most important partner in the field of children's rights - with a contribution of EUR 15 million per year. UNICEF strives for access to quality education for all, regardless of gender, age, social class or disability.

In December 2018, UNESCO's Ministers of Education met in Brussels. In the Brussels Declaration, they reaffirm the right to inclusive, quality education for all and commit themselves to eradicating illiteracy, ensuring access to education in crisis situations and strengthening development education as well as education focusing on sustainable development.

One year She Decides



In January 2018, exactly one year after the launch of She Decides, we count EUR 450 million extra financing for sexual and reproductive rights and health for girls and women. In 2017 Belgium, together with the Netherlands, which took

the initiative, launched She Decides in response to US president Trump's decision to halt all financial support for foreign organisations in the South which are supporting safe abortion, contraceptives and family planning.

“ The battle isn't over. Too many girls and women still don't have the freedom to decide for themselves when, with whom and how many children they want.”

Alexander De Croo

In the coming years, Belgium will invest an additional EUR 43 million in the rights of girls and women around the world. EUR 12.4 million will be allocated to the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNICEF for the fight against child marriage and better access to contraception. In addition, Belgium is paying particular attention to sexual and reproductive rights and family planning in its bilateral cooperation programmes, mobilizing a total amount of EUR 30.5 million.

Water platform



The Belgian Development Cooperation closely monitors the multiple dimensions of water, such as drinking water, transboundary water management and sanitation. On the basis of an interuniversity policy supporting research

(Water nexus), DGD will draw up a new water strategy, including all areas in which water plays a role (energy, food, etc.).

In collaboration with the NGO Protos ('Join for Water' as from 2019), the directorate MD8 has set up a water platform 'SDG 6'. All Belgian actors working on water can meet each other through this platform. It should help to tackle water issues in the South in a more coordinated way.

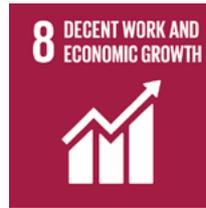
Solar energy in Senegal



The Belgian Investment Company for Developing Countries (BIO) invested EUR 16 million in a solar energy project in Senegal. The 83-hectare site will host one of the largest solar power stations in West Africa with no less than 92,000 solar

panels. It will generate enough electricity to cover the energy needs of more than 200,000 inhabitants and will drastically reduce CO2 emissions. That means less pollution, i.e. clean energy from which our planet can benefit.

Sustainable chocolate



In December 2018, Minister De Croo launched a partnership for sustainable Belgian chocolate. Through Beyond Chocolate, governmental and non-governmental organisations, major retailers, trade unions, impact investors and universities commit themselves to working together on tackling child labour, combating deforestation and ensuring a livable income for local cocoa producers.



In concrete terms, this means that all Belgian chocolate produced

or traded in Belgium meets a relevant certification standard or is produced with cocoa products from company-specific sustainability programmes by the end of 2025 at the latest. The agreements between governments and private partners that fall under the Cocoa & Forests Initiative must also be fully respected by the end of 2025 at the latest. This mainly concerns ending deforestation in Ghana and Ivory Coast, the two largest cocoa producing countries. Deforestation as a result of cocoa production for the Belgian chocolate sector must end by 2030. By then, all cocoa producers must earn at least a living income.

Beyond Chocolate builds on the Belgian SDG Charter for International Development. It was launched two years ago and brings together the private sector, civil society and government around the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Belgium is the second largest chocolate exporter in the world. Each year, Belgian chocolate makers export almost 600,000 tonnes to EU countries, the US and Japan.

The Belgian chocolate sector accounts for an annual turnover of almost EUR 5 billion. About 500 companies are active in the cocoa processing industry and chocolate sector, varying from large multinationals to SMEs and artisanal chocolatiers.

Belgium is one of the largest importers of cocoa beans. Every year, more than 300,000 tonnes of cocoa beans enter our country via the port of Antwerp.

HACK THE GOALS

Hack the goals



In October and November, the Belgian development agency Enabel organised 'Hack the Goals', a series of 6 hackathons in five countries. Creative teams in Senegal, Niger, Palestine, Morocco, and Uganda looked for new and innovative solutions for development challenges.

In Senegal, for example, they want to facilitate the registration of newborns in the town hall. In Palestine, the municipal authorities want to better identify the concerns of their inhabitants. And in Niger, the quality of health care must improve through citizen participation.

“ The future is digital. The digital revolution offers so many new opportunities to solve development challenges in a different and better way.”

Alexander De Croo

The hackathons are unique because they gather participants with very different backgrounds: health experts, IT professionals, youngsters, education experts, civil servants, civil society or businessmen... A local jury in each country selected the best or most promising idea. During the closing ceremony in Brussels, Minister De Croo awarded the winning team the first prize worth EUR 5,000. The prize is an encouragement to actually put their proposed idea into practice.

And the winner is... **Niger, with Team Zokaji**

Their challenge: How can we improve access to information, especially for young people, on (sexual and reproductive) health, taking into account the low literacy rate in Niger?

Their solution: a mobile phone application that provides information and games on a range of topics related to sexual and reproductive health (STDs, adolescence, pregnancy...) in multiple languages (French, Hausa, Zarma and sign language) and through audio (for illiterate users).

Strengthen LGBTI rights



In far too many countries, people still live in fear only because of who they are or whom they love. The Belgian Development Cooperation has therefore decided to support organisations who stand up for LGBTI rights in the South.

Minister De Croo provided a total of EUR 500,000 to support organisations who are working to improve the rights of the LGBTI community in developing countries. Strategies to tackle the underlying factors provoking violence against LGBTI and leading to repression are also eligible for support.



© Belgium MFA

“ It is our duty to promote equal rights and combat discrimination”

Alexander De Croo

Even in Europe there is still a gap between the fundamental rights of the Charter of the European Union and the reality that the LGBTI community is facing. Too often, these people are still victims of discrimination, hate speech and physical violence. Belgium has always been one of the leading countries on the subject of LGBTI rights. We will continue to take on this role, also internationally.

Prize D4D



On October 4th, the award ceremony of the Prize D4D (Digital for Development), a biannual initiative of the AfricaMuseum with the support of the Belgian Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (DGD). The prize rewards initiatives that use digitisation as a lever for development. The selected projects and ideas harness the potential of (new) technologies in an innovative way to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The three winners of 2018 each make a difference in their own way: an online video platform for farmers, mobile health campaigns via games and an app for mobile money.

Category iStandout (success story) Access Agriculture

Through training videos in this online platform, farmers from the South learn from each other about sustainable agricultural technologies. Some 1300 videos are currently available in 76 languages. They are being watched in more than 100 countries.

Category iStartUp (innovative idea) WisePocket

Using gamification, this mobile app wants to make healthcare campaigns more effective through games. It is a spin-off of the VUB & Universidad de Oriente in Santiago de Cuba.

Category iChoose (public prize) EIGHT

This app provides residents of a village in Uganda with mobile money transfers without conditions. This makes them an actor of their own change.

“**The digital revolution links people, breaks through boundaries and creates new opportunities. Also in the development field, we see new breakthroughs we couldn't even imagine ten years ago. The three D4D-laureates of 2018 show that our country leads the way on this**”

Alexander De Croo



Climate and environment



Climate financing

Climate and environment remain important themes for the Belgian Development Cooperation. For example, Belgium supports the **Global Environment Facility (GEF)**, an international fund dedicated to improving environmental policy and sustainable development. During the 6th General Assembly taking place at the end of June in Vietnam, experts and policy makers discussed topics such as food security, land use, sustainable cities, circular economy and plastic pollution. Over the next four years, our country will provide the GEF with a total amount of EUR 60 million.

The **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** is another important partner to which Belgium contributes EUR 4 million per year. UNEP carries out projects and programmes related to climate change, biodiversity, environmental disaster resilience, management of pollutants and waste, environmental management, sustainable consumption and production, air quality and monitoring of the state of the environment.

Belgium also continues to support the least developed countries in their fight against climate change. Both to set the course towards a low-carbon green development and adapt to the consequences of global warming. Every year since 2009, Belgium has allocated a significant proportion of its international climate financing to the **Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF)**. This fund helps least developed countries adapt to climate change. We are now the 4th largest donor with a total contribution of EUR 93.6 million. In 2018, the Belgian Development Cooperation gave EUR 8 million to LDCF. Thanks to this fund, the partner countries from the least developed countries group have already been able to realise one or more projects. Particularly in the following areas: agriculture, management of natural resources and coastal zones, climate information systems, water management, disaster risk management, infrastructure and health. Moreover, a capital increase of EUR 20 million was given to the Belgian Investment Company for Developing Countries (BIO) in order to further increase the proportion of climate investments in its portfolio.

2018 was also the year in which the **Green Climate Fund** was further operationalised. Numerous countries, including many partner countries of the Belgian Development Cooperation, were able to count on support of the Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme. This programme should prepare developing countries to mobilise financial resources from the Green Climate Fund so that they can, in due course, submit their own programmes to reduce carbon emission and adapt to climate change.

Climate policy vision

In 2018, the directorate "MD8 Environment and Climate" worked on a new vision for a future-oriented climate policy for the Belgian Development Cooperation. This climate vision is based on three axes:

- Systematically integrate climate into all programmes and projects. Both in the development, follow-up and implementation by Enabel and non-governmental actors, as well as in our European and multilateral cooperation;
- Prioritise climate actions, also in the field of research, the role of the private sector and the synergy with humanitarian aid;
- Pursuing policy coherence by working more closely with actors at different levels.

Biodiversity and the SDGs

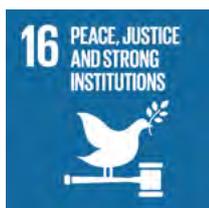
CEBioS, the programme of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, works together with the Belgian Development Cooperation to strengthen capacity in the South when it comes to biodiversity and poverty reduction. In 2018, training courses in taxonomy and knowledge of ecosystems in the North and South were organised. The Institute worked with scientific institutions in Benin, Burundi, Cambodia and Vietnam to train local scientists. In May, CEBioS organised a colloquium on the contribution of biodiversity protection in achieving the SDGs.

In addition to climate and biodiversity, the fight against desertification is also a major environmental problem in several partner countries. DGD follows up on this theme within the framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and issued a report in 2018 on Belgium's contribution to the Convention during the period 2012–2016.

Within the framework of **ACROPOLIS** (policy support for development cooperation), a new programme was launched with **KLIMOS** in 2017. Scientists using this platform want their research to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the field of environment and climate. The researchers organised various seminars for policymakers, in particular on the role of the private sector, NGOs and governments in green energy and environmental protection.



Seat on the UN Security Council



As of 1 January 2019, Belgium will once again be a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. We will focus on peace, human rights, sustainable development and consensus.

“ The fate of civilians suffering from conflict, women and children first and foremost, should be of primary concern for the UN Security Council.”

Alexander De Croo

The humanitarian aspects of the many crises around the world (Syria, Yemen, South Sudan, DRC...) are an important focus of the Belgian membership. In line with this concern, our country will focus on:

- Children and Armed Conflict;
- Women, Peace and Security (Resolution 1325);
- Sexual and Gender-Based Violence;
- Protection of Civilians.

Belgium increased its participation in the UN's peacekeeping efforts, in particular in MINUSMA, and will contribute to the adoption of mandates for UN peacekeeping missions. Priority should be given to the protection of civilians.

The best preventive tool against violence and instability is sustainable and inclusive development. That's why Belgium will continue to partner with least developed and fragile countries, mainly in Sub Sahara Africa.

Humanitarian aid

Belgium is a modern partner with a great ability to adapt to changes and the evolution of the humanitarian world. As a humanitarian donor, our country wishes to foster a **culture of innovation** within humanitarian organisations. In 2018, our country allocated **EUR 20 million** to innovative projects of NGO's and international organisations:

WFP

- Develop Blockchain Technology for cash distribution in refugee camps.
- Use of drones to improve access to vulnerable populations.

UNHCR

- Installation of solar panels in a refugee camp in Sudan.
- Support to a fund that aims to promote the development of innovative projects in the field.

FAO

- A mobile application to support the fight against the Fall Armyworm in Africa through monitoring and early warning (FAMEWS).
- Installation of solar power stations in Gaza in order to prevent power shortages, which are putting agricultural production and thus food security at risk.

UNICEF

Setting up a system for information exchange and digital reporting with vulnerable populations in Nigeria.

HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL

Using drones in combination with new detection methods and a mobile interface to collect data for mine clearance activities in Chad. By doing so, the local population can cultivate agricultural land again.

PLAN BELGIUM

An innovative approach to money transfers, child welfare and data analysis responding to the needs of girls and boys in the Central-African Republic who are separated from their families.

BELGIAN RED CROSS

Develop a mobile application to strengthen surveillance at the community level.

OXFAM

Hydroponics to meet the returning food crises in the Sahel region.

CARITAS

Using digital resources for humanitarian aid in the Kasai region.

TEARFUND

Strengthen the capacity of confessional organisations to respond to humanitarian crises.

In addition, in April 2018, Belgium and Mozambique organised an event in New York on humanitarian innovation. This happened in the presence of Minister De Croo and UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Marc Lowcock and in participation with UNICEF, WFP, ICRC and DFID. Numerous examples of how new technologies can improve humanitarian aid were presented.

Belgian humanitarian aid in figures

In 2018, Belgian humanitarian aid amounted to a record budget of EUR 170 million. Four instruments enable to implement this budget:

- **Contributions to general resources** (core) of international humanitarian organisations;
- **International humanitarian donor funding** (flexible funds) providing rapid financial resources to humanitarian organisations in the case of a humanitarian crisis;
- Multi-annual **programmes** (2 years) in response to complex crises. Four new programmes were launched in 2018;
- Annual **projects** in response to sudden or forgotten crises. In 2018, 32 projects were funded: 13 with thematic targeting of innovation in humanitarian action.

Humanitarian aid	Achievements 2018
Core	30,000,000
Flexible funds	60,000,000
Programmes	32,000,000
Projects	47,995,088
Total	169,995,088

As a result of the commitments made by Belgium in the framework of the World Humanitarian Summit and the Grand Bargain, our so-called 'non-earmarked' support has increased. In 2018, the contribution to general (core) resources was increased, allowing **53%** of Belgian humanitarian aid to be **flexible**.

Partner organisations

Three types of organisations can benefit from Belgian humanitarian aid:

- Belgian and international humanitarian NGOs;
- international humanitarian organisations;
- international humanitarian organisations managing international humanitarian donor funds (flexible funds).

In 2018, Belgian and international NGOs received **EUR 23.5 million**. This represents 14% of the total humanitarian budget. International organisations (including flexible funds) received more than **EUR 146 million**, or 86% of the total humanitarian budget. Given the migration crisis and the number of humanitarian crises generated by armed conflict, it is not surprising that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the World Food Programme (WFP) received the most important funding among the international organisations. They received approximately EUR 23.4 million, EUR 20 million and EUR 19.6 million respectively.

Geographical distribution of the budget

Regarding the geographical distribution of the budget, the **Middle East** region received the most resources: more than **EUR 56 million**. Most of the funding was allocated to the crises in Syria (more than EUR 25 million) and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (almost EUR 11 million), followed by Yemen (more than EUR 8 million) and Iraq (more than EUR 5 million).

The **Great Lakes** region received **almost EUR 35 million**. Particular attention was paid to the crisis in **DRC**, with an amount of EUR 22.7 million. The countries of the **Sahel** and the **Horn of Africa** received a total of **EUR 13.4 million** and **EUR 5.8 million** respectively. In addition, our country allocated **EUR 1 million** to the reconstruction of the most severely affected islands in the Caribbean after the passage of Hurricane **Irma**.

Saving more lives through innovation

In order to save more lives, humanitarian aid setor must be more on innovative. That is why more and more humanitarian organisations are trying to find solutions. Platforms such as the Global Humanitarian Lab (GHL) are helping them. GHL unites creative minds, looks for best practices and finds common innovative solutions.

At the beginning of 2018, Belgium officially joined the GHL as a Governing Board member. The partnership is based on a shared desire to encourage cross-sector collaboration, accelerate innovative solutions and increase the impact and effectiveness of humanitarian actions. Thanks to a Belgian contribution of EUR 300,000 GHL can focus on humanitarian innovation.

Blockchain technology for cash-based transfers in refugee camps

The World Food Programme (WFP) provides millions of tonnes of food assistance per year. The assistance comes increasingly through cash-based transfers allowing refugees to buy food themselves. This approach improves the self-sufficiency of refugees, maximizes the number of people that can be reached and strengthens the local market. The largest programme for cash-based transfer is the one for Syrian refugees.

By using blockchain, WFP aims to make the cash-based transfers for food assistance more efficient, safer and more transparent. This technology also lowers the payment cost. Last year, a large-scale pilot programme was rolled out in the Azraq refugee camp in Jordan. More than 330,000 transactions for 100,000 beneficiaries were processed via blockchain. With the support of Belgium, WFP will roll out the use of blockchain for the 500,000 Syrian refugees who are residing in refugee camps in Jordan.



Raising awareness

Evaluations underline the importance of global citizen education

2018 was marked by several evaluations: for instance, with regard to the actions on development education financed by the Belgian Development Cooperation between 2014 and 2017, the impact of global citizen education in schools, the programme 'Kleur Bekennen', the impact of pleadings and citizen mobilisation, etc. These evaluations stress the importance of global citizen education and prove that this sector is entirely in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Furthermore, the reports underline the fact that audiovisual productions supported by DGD reach a very wide audience. And that the programme 'Kleur Bekennen' is important for the quality control of the educational curriculum and digital accessibility. The programme allows insights to be shared with the education sector and guarantees innovation. In other words, the impact of global citizen education in schools should not be underestimated.

She Decides at festivals

In 2018, the Belgian Development Cooperation granted EUR 200,000 to film and music festivals on the theme of sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls, fully in line with Minister De Croo's She Decides campaign.

The Millennium Festival (Brussels) organised various activities for secondary school students. The Afrika Filmfestival (Leuven) addressed the issue through the screening of the film 'The Fruitless Tree'. The panel of the subsequent debate was composed entirely of African or Afro-descendant women. The theme of La Nuit africaine (Ottignies) was: 'They decide! My body my rights, here and in Africa'. The Esperanzah music festival (Florefe) and the Film Festival of Namur (FIFF) also highlighted the importance of women's rights. Thanks to these music and film festivals, more people are aware of these essential rights.

25^e Nuit africaine





Reopening of the AfricaMuseum

On December 9, the brand-new AfricaMuseum reopened its doors. It unveils its Central African treasures to the public in a renovated and redesigned setting. But the AfricaMuseum is more than just a museum. It is a world-class research centre for Central Africa. To this end, it receives EUR 3 million funding from the Belgian Development Cooperation. It is used primarily to support the partner institutions in Africa, finance training of African scientists and for awareness-raising activities among the Belgian public.

The AfricaMuseum is first and foremost a scientific institution working with 200 scientific institutions and universities in 20 African countries. 80 researchers work in the areas of geology, biology, anthropology and history. In addition, the AfricaMuseum is training 130 African scientists who are following courses in Belgium, in the areas of archive management, fish taxonomy, geological map development and the management of scientific collections. Finally, 30 African scientists, doctoral students at a Belgian university, carry out research at the museum.

The collections are vast: 10 million zoological species, 130,000 ethnographic artefacts, 4 kilometres of historical archives. The museum takes part in 25 to 30 exhibitions around the world every year, mainly by lending out items.

Social role

The AfricaMuseum has a social role to play and wants to make a significant contribution to a fair and sustainable world. That is why it offers an awareness-raising programme that is in line with global citizen education. On the one hand, disseminate knowledge in order to better understand the African continent and, on the other hand, strengthen cultural and natural diversity in order to promote sustainable development.

The museum organises, among other things, guided tours, workshops, activities for families and training for teachers. Each year, about 40,000 young people participate in workshops on history, cultural practices, biodiversity and the environment.

“ **With the reopening of the AfricaMuseum we are writing a new chapter. This can help us to better understand the past and build a better future.**”

Alexander De Croo

Audiovisual activities

In 2018, the Belgian Development Cooperation financed documentaries, films, TV series and events for a total amount of approximately **EUR 650,000**. They all related to global citizen education, meaning they encourage the Belgian spectator to understand global challenges and to position themselves as global citizens.

The Democratic Republic of Congo was at the centre of a number of productions released in 2018:

- The documentary **La lucha** follows the members of the Congolese youth movement of the same name standing up for the rights of the population of their country.
- The RTBF documentary **Totems & tabous** discusses the major challenges related to the reopening and the colonial past of the AfricaMuseum.
- In the six-part Canvas series **Kinderen van de Kolonie**, 20 Belgians and Congolese testify about life under the Belgian colony and its consequences.

Programmes for children and young people are a priority for audiovisual funding. In 2018, Ketnet, VRT's youth channel, broadcast the second season of **Goed Gezien**. The programme presents a series of creative solutions to problems in developing countries. This gives children and their parents an idea of the living conditions in developing countries. Both the first and the second season were co-financed by the Belgian Development Cooperation.



Scholarships

Between January 2017 and April 2018, an evaluation of the Belgian university development cooperation was carried out in order to determine the impact of individual scholarships. The outcome: the individual scholarship programmes of ARES (federation of higher education institutions of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation/ French Community) and VLIR-UOS (Flemish university development cooperation) contribute effectively to the development of their country or region. Trained students come up with new ideas to tackle development challenges and often hold positions of responsibility thanks to the skills they have acquired.

Scholarships in figures

VLIR-UOS

During the academic year 2017–2018, 252 scholars studied at a Flemish university. Top 5 countries of origin: Ethiopia, Uganda, Philippines, Indonesia and Kenya.

Add to this the scholarships that were awarded within the framework of the South programmes and the annual number of scholarships hit the 1,000 mark. The scholarship budget represents one third of the total VLIR-UOS budget.

ARES

In 2018, approximately 600 scholarships were granted to students from the South thanks to the ARES cooperation programme. Top 5 countries of origin: DRC Congo, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Vietnam.

Belgian students in the South

Belgian scholars who go to the South also contribute to sustainable development. After their stay, these students are better able to analyse global issues and feel strongly involved in North-South matters. They respect diversity and are more likely to take action in favour of international solidarity with the South.

Candidates receive in-depth preparation on topics such as intercultural skills, their role as trainee/volunteer/researcher, communication about the South, the fight against poverty and inequality, etc. The information sessions are provided by NGOs and partners of the Belgian university development cooperation.

Glo.be wins bronze

Glo.be
FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD

Every year, the FeWeb Excellence Awards highlight the best Belgian websites. The Glo.be website won bronze in the non-profit category.

Glo.be, the former magazine of the Belgian Development Cooperation, went fully digital in 2017. Since then, Glo.be has been reporting on the activities undertaken by Belgium to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) via different communication channels (website, Facebook and Instagram) in English, French and Dutch. In short, Glo.be is the **information hub** for Belgian **international cooperation**.

As icing on the cake, the Glo.be website won the bronze FeWeb award in the non-profit category at the end of 2018. Every year, FeWeb – the professional organisation of the digital sector – publishes the best websites made in Belgium. Criteria such as speed, link quality, SEO, user-friendliness, accessibility and legal compliance play a decisive role in selecting the winners.



Colophon

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Global Citizen Mandela 100

The #ShelsEqual campaign raised a total of EUR 780.4 million. The climax of the campaign took place in Johannesburg with a large-scale benefit concert 'Global Citizen Mandela 100'. The presence of celebrities such as Beyoncé and Chris Martin not only generated worldwide attention, but also plenty of financial commitments from companies, political leaders and the non-profit sector.

"This result exceeds my wildest expectations. With this money, #ShelsEqual can now make a difference for more than thirty million girls and women. For example, by keeping them in school longer, or by giving them access to contraceptives so they can decide for themselves when to become mothers."

Alexander De Croo



STAND UP FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT #SHEISEQUAL



KINGDOM OF BELGIUM
Federal Public Service
Foreign Affairs,
Foreign Trade and
Development Cooperation

DGD - DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
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