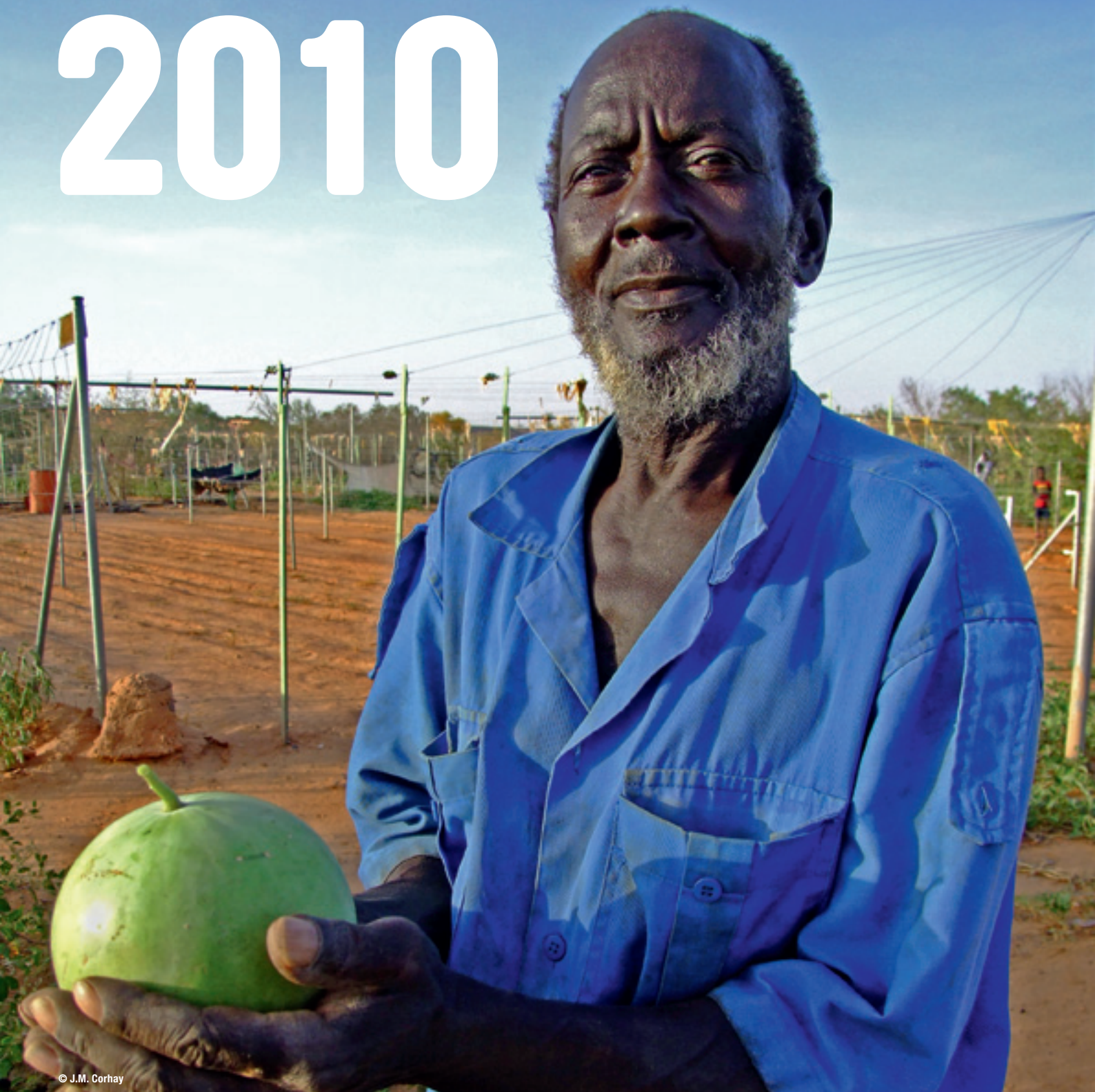


Annual Report

2010

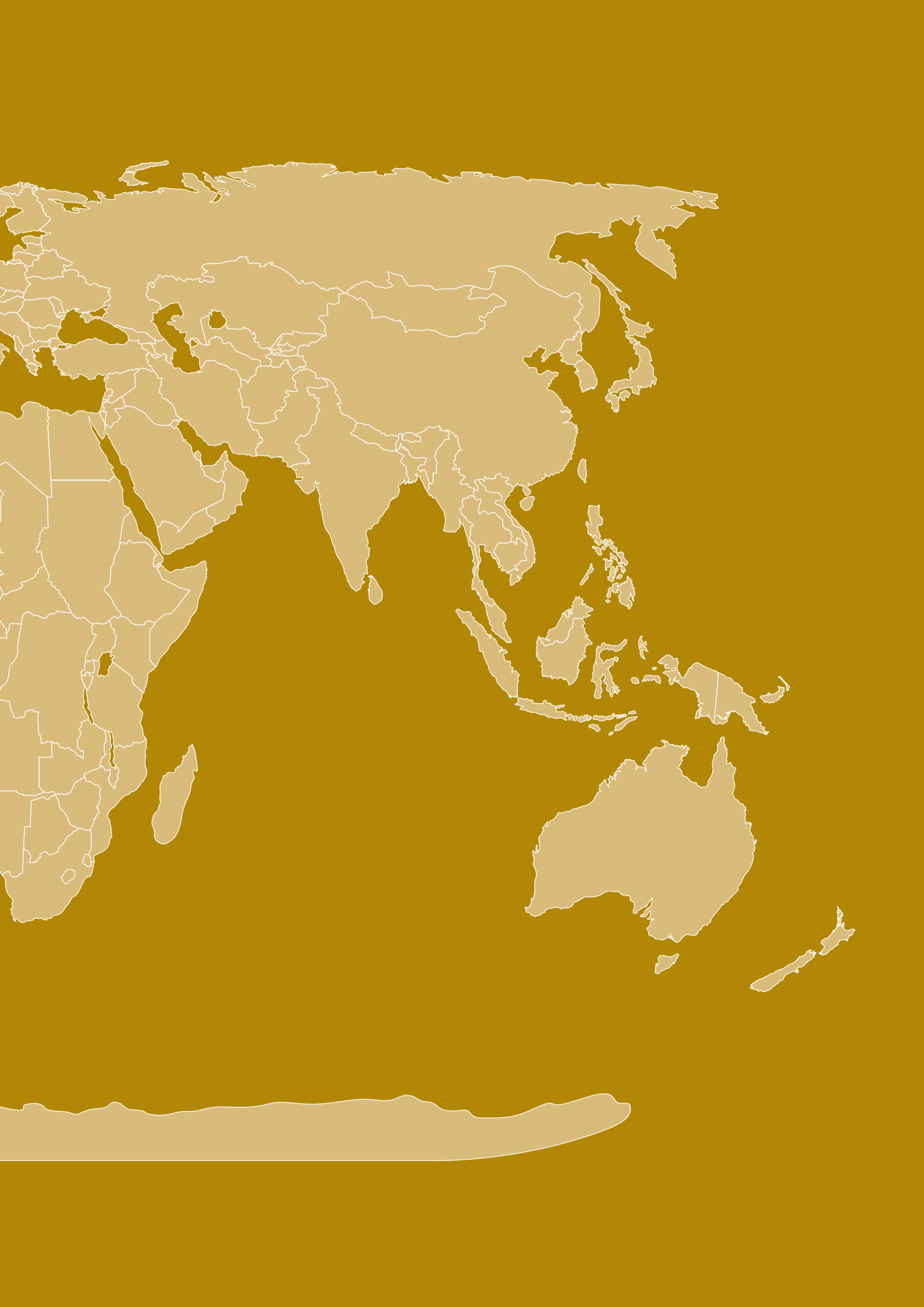


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**THE BELGIAN
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION**







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Preface

Over the past few years, Belgian Development Cooperation has undergone radical changes. The implementation of numerous reforms has brought with it better aid efficacy for all our cooperation vectors, and has distinctly raised the impact of our international solidarity efforts.

Bilateral Belgian cooperation takes place within the context of the European Code of Conduct regarding aid effectiveness: henceforth, sector specialisation and delegated cooperation are our main cooperation principles. Regarding indirect players, a number of processes and structures have been developed to enable an appeal to be made, both in the field and in Brussels, to their specificity and complementarity and to avoid the dilution of efforts.

At multilateral cooperation level, the current concentration policy will be followed. Since 2009, contributions allocated to particular projects have been systematically transposed into contributions to the general functional means of multilateral partner organisations: this increases our country's influence in the bodies of dialogue with partner institutions and allows these organisations to work more autonomously and reduce transaction costs.

Likewise, in 2010, Belgian humanitarian aid saw the establishment of major reforms intended to lead to a global strategic and regulatory framework and to allow optimum management of the different types of funding.

In addition to improving our aid quality, Belgian development cooperation increased from 0.48% of GNI in 2008 to 0.64% in 2010, with a view to achieving the growth objective which, in terms of the law of 2002, is set at a limit of 0.7% of GNI for development cooperation expenditure. Even though the aim of 0.7% has not yet been achieved, this result is the best that our cooperation has achieved since this objective was put in place.

I am all the more delighted because the panel of the OECD, which audited our development cooperation at the end of 2009, congratulated our country on the efforts it had achieved. The OECD considers Belgian development cooperation an example to be followed by other donors, in a variety of different fields. The OECD draws particular attention to the increase of means, reforms and determined commitment to the benefit of the least developed countries and of fragile States.

Belgian development cooperation has resolutely opted to play the African card in the context of the fight against poverty. It seems that these efforts are starting to bear fruit: since 2005, poverty in Africa has fallen by 1% per annum. In addition, the impact of the financial and economic crisis has remained relatively limited in a number of African countries, thanks to strongly improved public management which has brought excellent macro-economic variables and adequate resistance to external shocks. Direct external investments in our partner countries in Sub-Saharan Africa have multiplied five-fold, from USD 6 billion to USD 30 billion, in the last ten years: the pursuit of support measures which benefit the investment climate must allow the private sector to become the engine of sustainable development in Africa.

As regards the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), the United Nations summit in New York in September 2010 bore witness to considerable progress in education and the fight against poverty and famine. On the other hand, little progress has been observed in the MDGs on health. Global results likewise disguise the difference between countries: several African countries will not achieve the MDGs by 2015.

It is our duty to remain available as a donor, and support the poorest. Our country will play an active role during the fourth international conference on the least developed countries, to take place in Istanbul in May 2011, and supports an international agenda that targets the needs and specific challenges of this group of countries.

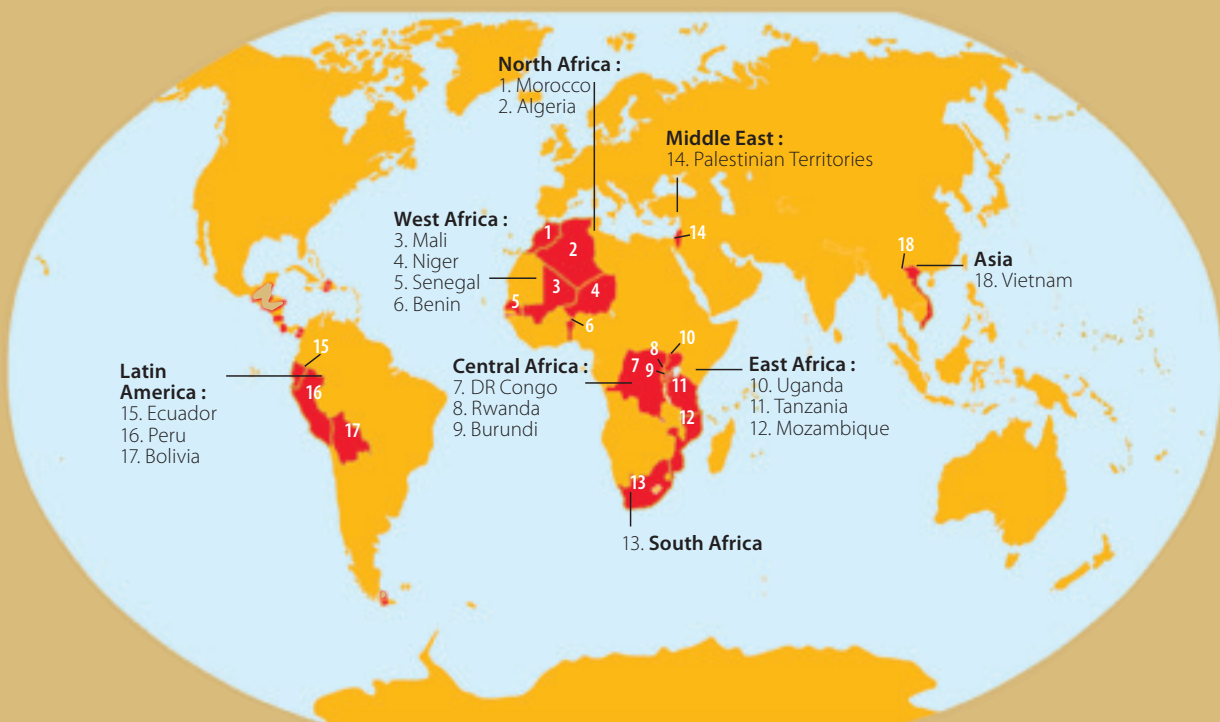
Furthermore, during the summit on the Millennium Development Goals and during its Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2010, Belgium endeavoured to focus enhanced attention on innovative funding mechanisms for the benefit of development and, in particular, for a tax on exchange rate transactions. Given that global economic growth does not adequately translate into financial means that allow globalisation challenges to be overcome, we are confronted with a solidarity dilemma. If the international community does not respond to this, we risk being confronted by economic and political instability, which endangers world development.

At the same time, the world will be confronted by enormous climate change challenges, which will hit the most vulnerable populations in the poorest countries first. The Belgian delegation contributed to the positive results of the climate summit in Cancún in December 2010. During 2011, preparations for the Rio+20 Summit of 2012, which will focus on the creation of an institutional framework for sustainable development, will commence, and Belgium will continue to play an important role in this regard.

Finally, the last big meeting of this year will be the forum in Busan, South Korea, on aid effectiveness. The community of donors will consider the question of converting the aid effectiveness principles of the Paris Declaration into concrete development results. This allows me, in conclusion, to draw attention to the shared responsibility of the donor community, on the one hand, and the partner countries, on the other hand, in achieving the development aims. A study by the World Bank has shown that countries with failing institutions are generally found in the group of countries furthest removed from achieving the MDGs. Good governance, the fight against corruption, and the reinforcement of public institutions in partner countries will therefore continue to be policy priorities in 2011, and these priorities will continue to be able to count on the support of Belgian Development Cooperation.

Olivier Chastel
Minister for Development Cooperation

Belgium's 18 partner countries for governmental development cooperation



Introduction

This annual report is intended to show that Belgian development aid can contribute towards the results in the fight against poverty. The report is in fact a combination of two reports: the DGD annual report and annual reporting to Parliament on the Belgian contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The intent of the report is, first and foremost, to be a results report. It aims to give an account of the manner in which development campaigns can have a positive impact on people's lives and well-being. However, the report also wishes to point out the complexity of development aid and its environment, which is why rigorously planned aims do not always achieve the results planned for in advance.

The first part of the report outlines the major dossiers, trends and changes within which the main Belgian development cooperation activities took place in 2010. What was Belgium's specific contribution to the Millennium Summit in New York? What points did Belgium put on the international agenda within the context of the EU Presidency? In what way does Belgian development cooperation learn from evaluations and knowledge platforms? What does it aim to achieve with internal reforms? How does it use its particular expertise?

The second part specifically concerns the eight Millennium Development Goals. After a brief outline of the current world state of affairs, the report describes Belgium's effort in this regard for each Millennium Development Goal. It is not realistic to set out in black and white the extent to which Belgium has contributed to any one Millennium Goal. For this reason, this report aims to show Belgium's contribution through an example-based, non-exhaustive approach, which offers a real insight into the functioning and results of Belgian development cooperation.

Various different cases from various different partner countries are intended to illustrate this. Proposed projects, programmes and interviews aim above all to let the people in the field speak, people who personally experience the impact of development aid or actually put development cooperation into practice. Here, the focus is on Bolivia, Mali, Uganda and Mozambique, four of the eighteen Belgian partner countries, while extensive attention is paid to the different forms and channels of aid. For example, in a dedicated section, the contribution that Belgium makes by way of International Financial Institutions is described in further detail.

Finally, the third part shows an overview of a number of activities in order to raise Belgian public awareness of development cooperation. Indeed, a world partnership for development, the ultimate aim of the Millennium Development Goals, relies to no mean extent on the support of the Belgian populace.

The Millennium Development Goals

What are the Millennium Development Goals?

In the Millennium Declaration of 2000, the international community endorsed eight “Millennium Development Goals”, Millennium Goals or MDGs for short. They jointly constitute an ambitious plan to improve living conditions in developing countries by 2015. Because the MDGs are a clear indication of the direction for and result of an international commitment, Belgium has adopted them as central frame of reference.



**Eradicate
extreme poverty
and hunger**



**Achieve universal
primary education**



**Promote gender
equality and
empower women**



**Reduce child
mortality**



**Improve maternal
health**



**Combat HIV/AIDS,
malaria and other
diseases**



**Ensure
environmental
sustainability**



**Develop a global
partnership for
development**

PART I

The Belgian Development Cooperation in 2010

1. The Millennium Development Goals: progress and obstacles

In 2010, there were still 5 years left in which to achieve the MDGs. This gave cause for the international community to look back on the past decade and to record the progress made towards the Goals. We know that the world is on schedule for some MDGs, but that it is seriously failing in others. This interim evaluation was therefore also a good point in time to determine what is still required to achieve all goals and how progress can be accelerated.

A general consensus exists that, overall, the economic and social well-being of large parts of the world population has dramatically improved during the past decade. Millions of people have climbed out of the depths of poverty, gained access to education and health care and succeeded in participating in policy. The economic progress was most apparent in Asia, where strong growth figures clearly led to improved living conditions. The South also survived the recent economic crisis reasonably well. Once again, African countries are recording growth figures of which the West can only dream.

Yet it cannot be denied that not all regions and populations have benefited equally from these developments. There is also no guarantee that the progress will be achieved once and for all. There are also questions on cross-border phenomena such as globalisation and climate change for a differentiated approach and innovative solutions by policy makers around the world.

Progress made on certain MDGs is definitely inadequate. Belgium finds this disturbing. At the UN Millennium Summit in New York in September 2010, our country worked intensely to elicit strong political commitment in eradicating poverty and promoting human development (see page 13). Even though the outcome statement was vaguer than hoped for, Belgium will still continue to endeavour to achieve each of the eight MDGs.

Increasing inequality

There are a few lessons to be learned from 10 years of MDGs. One of the most important lessons is that progress was concurrent with growing **inequality**, both globally and locally in many countries. Education, health care and proper work are now even more unevenly distributed than 10 years ago. Moreover, the same groups are often the ones who are worst off: women, ethnic minorities and rural populations. Our aid must therefore continue to aim at creating equal opportunities and sustainable development.

A *one-size-fits-all approach* will not work for this purpose. Development cooperation must, more than in the past, consider the **particular context** of every country, region and population. Every development issue requires its own approach and resources. We must further diversify the solutions that we propose.

Collective responsibility

The Millennium Declaration calls the upholding of the principles of human dignity, equality and equity the “collective responsibility” of all countries and societies. This principle cannot be emphasised enough. It is at the same time important to continue to point out the developing countries’ own responsibility. The majority of the aid is, after all, of hardly any use without **targeted governmental policy**. Governments must use domestic resources effectively. Effective policy is also linked to good governance, peace, safety and the fight against corruption. Belgium assists its partner countries in achieving such a policy.

However, donor countries also bear responsibility. The changes in the South can only be sustainable in a **favourable international climate** regarding trade, technology transfer, migration policy, etc. It is the donor community’s task to aim at achieving this and to create conditions required for this purpose. This is actually explicitly stated in the eighth MDG.

Belgium also supports MDG 8. That is why our country continues to aim at achieving a development budget of **0.7%** of the GNI. But development cooperation goes beyond the 0.7% standard for Belgium. That is why there is a plea to **tax** international financial transactions, which is a possibility that has not been sorted out enough to generate large development budgets.

Policy coherence is crucial in achieving sustainable results (see page 80). The policy conducted in fields such as agriculture, commerce, migration and energy has a great deal of impact on development in the South. A coherent policy must therefore prevent us from mowing what development cooperation has tried sowing.

“In today’s globalised world, the challenge of developing the Least Developed Countries is not just a moral obligation. It is directly linked to the issues of international peace, security and stability.”

Madhav Kumar Nepal, Prime Minister of Nepal
European Development Days, 6-7 December 2010

Paris Declaration

Executing what is stated in the Paris Declaration is an essential contribution to more effective aid (see page 21). Developing countries must take control themselves in this regard. This must create greater ownership and sustainable results.

Another important principle is **results-based management** (RBM - see page 20). This means that interventions are placed in a broader framework of result orientation. It does not suffice to aim at achieving the accumulation of short-term *outputs*: for example, a bridge that was built. One now has to look broader and further: *why* was the bridge built? This means that there must be some reflection and review at regular intervals: e.g. in the short and medium terms (*outcome*) to enable people to find work in the city on the other side of the river. In the long term (*impact*), so that people acquire higher income to buy more and better food for the family, or to be able to send their children to school. A long-term perspective is essential.

Belgian contribution

Can Belgium make a substantial contribution towards achieving the MDGs? Belgium is a relatively small donor. In addition, achieving the MDGs also depends on other factors such as good governance, efficient and democratic institutions, redistribution of wealth, private investments, etc. Both the international community and the developing countries play a crucial role in this.

One can assume that it is plausible that, together with the partner country, other donors and in coherence with a multitude of other factors, Belgium makes a practical contribution to the MDGs.

Rendezvous in New York

From a development perspective, 2010, in particular, was a year in which the Millennium Goals were evaluated. The international community met in New York in September, recorded the interim results and examined what is still to be done.

Hundreds of reports were made, debates conducted and policy documents written in the run-up to this UN summit. This resulted in greatly improved knowledge of “what works and what does not”. For example, the Summit made the approach to achieve the MDGs much more efficient.

Yet it still appeared that it is not easy to compile a strong outcome text. There was a major difference between standpoints of the North and the South on crucial points such as human rights, gender equality and additional development aid. The summit therefore also produced a rather vague outcome document. Nevertheless, Belgium aimed at achieving a short outcome statement including a strong political commitment.



Positive turning points

Does this mean that the Summit was a flop? The Belgian Development Cooperation thought not. Let us pinpoint **six positive results**:

- all 192 Member States went to New York to express their explicit support for the MDGs. This means that poverty eradication is now the focal point on the development agenda. In that sense, the meeting was historically important because this was definitely not the case 10 to 20 years ago;
- the atmosphere in New York was exceptionally constructive, which is no comparison with the confrontational atmosphere that sometimes prevailed at other recent summits. Rather than hammering on the fact that donor countries did not meet their obligations for aid, the developing countries worked out their own efforts. It now seems to be a generally accepted fact that achieving the MDGs is a collective responsibility;
- gender was, justifiably, the most recurrent theme. The outcome document “*Keeping the Promise: united to achieve the MDGs*” also repeatedly discusses gender inequality and women as indispensable actors in development;
- the Summit paid a great deal of attention to what works in the field and what does not. The debate clearly states that progress is best served when countries translate MDGs into strategies adapted to their own situation;
- the link between peace, safety, respect for human rights and development no longer appeared to be a taboo in the South. As a matter of fact, the outcome document explicitly discusses human rights as a vital factor in achieving MDGs;
- our country’s active support caused a great deal of attention to be paid to new funding systems. A team of experts has already been able to show the world that, technically, it is perfectly possible to tax international financial transactions.

2. Belgium leads EU presidency

The theme of the EU presidency was the smooth transition to the new “post-Lisbon” institutional structure. The Treaty of Lisbon stipulates, in particular, that the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs, Catherine Ashton, presides over the Foreign Affairs Council and determines its agenda and, therefore, that this is no longer done by the rotating presidency. 2010 was therefore a year in which boundaries were repositioned and new relationships tested.

Meetings and Councils



At the end of October, the Belgian Development Cooperation organised the first **informal Council** of Ministers of Development Cooperation since the Treaty of Lisbon came into effect. This was done under the presidency of the high representative, which was an important indication that development cooperation constitutes an important EU policy cornerstone. Belgium paid particular attention to two dossiers: general budget support and innovative sources of funding. In November, the **formal Council** of Ministers of Development Cooperation considered the European Commission’s Green Papers, which form an approach to the future of the European development policy.

International summit meetings

Belgium participated in a few important international summit meetings. The UN Summit on MDGs took place in New York in September. In October, there was the World Summit on Biodiversity in **Nagoya** (Japan), which examined the Convention on Biological Diversity. Our country, lead by the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, played an important role there. At the Climate Summit in Cancun in December, the delegation of the Belgian Development Cooperation also helped to ensure a good outcome for climate negotiations.

2010 European Development Days

The European Development Days are organised every year, at the European Commission’s initiative. From the time they were created in 2006, the European Development Days have developed into the annual meeting par excellence for professional collaborators in the sector. It was Belgium’s turn to help organise the 2010 meeting. To do this, our services collaborated closely with the European institutions.

The European Development Days are a **unique forum** to exchange ideas on current development issues. Five thousand people from all around the world came to debate and learn about controversial issues on international cooperation.

In Brussels

The European Development Days took place in Brussels on 6 and 7 December. Guidelines for the debates were the following: the European Commission’s *Green Paper on Development*, the *Aid Effectiveness Agenda* and the institutional reforms pursuant to the coming into force of the Treaty of Lisbon.

Belgium organised two high-level political panels:

1. The **Post-Lisbon panel** on the impact of the Treaty of Lisbon on European aid;
2. The **LDC panel** on the need to continue to focus attention on the least developed countries (LDCs) and, in particular, on Africa.

In addition, Belgium organised two technical seminars on topics important to Belgium: *Aid Effectiveness and Domestic Accountability* (being accountable to citizens) and *Child Labour in the Cocoa Sector*.

For the general public

Citizens were offered ample opportunity to enjoy approximately 10 **socio-cultural events** related to international solidarity by way of the European Development Days *Public Programme*. There was a fashion show, concerts, films, workshops, exhibitions, dance performances or competitions - mostly free of charge - in and around Brussels. This programme was compiled and funded by the Belgian Development Cooperation.

The forum's open format made it possible for everyone to participate: NGOs, business leaders, universities, politicians, members of parliament, international institutions, local authorities, representatives of the media and young people, etc. The debates were composed in a balanced way as far as gender and geographic origin were concerned.



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European Development Days in figures

- 5,000 participants from 125 countries
- 2 days to exchange ideas and to debate
- 250 speakers
- 15 high-level panels and 35 seminars
- 110 exhibition stands in the "Development Village", trade fair for professionals
- 10 days of socio-cultural events in Brussels



3. Reforming, evaluating, learning... for more effective aid

Belgium has made considerable efforts to improve the quality of aid during the past decade. The needs of the developing countries themselves are the focal point of this evolution. This is apparent from matters such as the three new research platforms supporting the knowledge and policy preparation of our services. Results-based management (RBM) increasingly became the leitmotiv in the operations in 2010. In addition, the OECD assessed the Belgian Development Cooperation, and we have noted improved strength during humanitarian actions. Belgium acted as *sector lead donor* for the donor community in 13 of our 18 partner countries.

Peer review by the OECD

The OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) evaluates a Member State's development cooperation every four years. This results in recommendations to improve the operation of the aid policy. Canada and Switzerland assessed the Belgian Development Cooperation in 2010. The *peer review* lasted 9 months and, in addition to an intensive programme in Brussels, also included an on-site visit in Burundi.

The DAC is pleased with the great diligence with which Belgium wishes to raise its aid to 0.7% of the GNI, and that it wishes to improve the **quality** of this, particularly in times of global economic crisis. The reforms that Belgium has recently implemented enjoy a great deal of support in political circles and in civil society. In this way, the aid is first and foremost beneficial to Belgium's poorest partner countries. Modernisation of the cooperation was started two years ago. This entails more strategic multilateral support, programmes that are more in line with partner countries' priorities, new contracts to cooperate closer with non-governmental actors and more effective ways to send aid to the intended places.

Recommendations

The review pays a great deal of attention to Belgium's intervention in vulnerable States. It recommends that Belgium outlines an interministerial approach, and therefore, aims at achieving greater **coherence** between the different policy fields (commerce, migration, climate, etc.) that influence the development of vulnerable states. The DAC is satisfied that Belgium has increased its humanitarian budget by 71% since 2004. When Belgium reforms its legislation, it will be in a better position to determine priorities for its humanitarian action and in that way make a more important contribution to development in the long term.

According to the review, Belgian aid would gain in effectiveness and efficiency if a large number of development actors were to develop a more **common vision**. The position of the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation, DGD for short, must be reinforced so that it can adequately fulfil its strategic and coordinating role.

The *peer review* also stated that we must allow the lessons learned in the field to weigh more upon development policy. By delegating more decision-making authority to local offices, policy is better able to take the local context into account and improve the effectiveness of its administrative services.

Reforming humanitarian aid

Humanitarian aid differs from other types of aid offered by the Belgian Development Cooperation. The only humanitarian aid objective is to provide an urgent response to an emergency situation independent of the place where the need arises or the interests there that are defended by Belgium. European consensus on this is based on lessons learned from previous crises and guides Belgian action.

Belgian humanitarian aid is in the middle of a fully **transitional** process. DGD was once again made responsible for managing all the humanitarian aid streams in 2010. The budgets were restructured and a new regulatory umbrella context, based on the *peer review*, evaluations and consultations with local and international *stakeholders* and experts, was developed. Magnitude, strategy, funding and management are adjusted step by step.

Based on an evaluation of the severity of the crisis, the population's needs and the capacity of the humanitarian multilateral partners and NGOs, countries experiencing on-going crises are allocated the most aid. The humanitarian dramas in DR Congo, Afghanistan and Sudan could again count on Belgian assistance this year. A framework within which Belgium can **prepare** populations for disasters was also put into operation this year.



Watchful efforts when disasters strike

Regarding the speedy response to natural disasters, Belgium continued to invest in projects that enable vulnerable populations to handle disasters better. Our country increased its contribution to **funds** that could be deployed as soon as disaster strikes. This is why our contribution to the *UN Central Emergency Response Fund* and the *Red Cross Disaster Response Emergency Fund* made it possible to release money for the earthquake in Haiti and the floods in Pakistan, the most important crises in 2010.

In addition, investments were also made in **specific projects** when certain needs exceeded the capacity of the other tools. For example, the Pakistan crisis gradually grew worse, and contributions were therefore also made according to the evolving needs and using transparent allocation processes. The earthquake in Haiti caused immediate destruction, whereby Belgium flexibly responded to immediate needs and, with competent partners, developed a coordinated reconstruction agenda for the next three years.

European Working Group

The theme of the Belgian Presidency of the European Working Group on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA) was, in particular, the improvement of its **power**. Additional attention was paid to reinforcing the humanitarian message as input for political policymakers in times of important humanitarian crises. The work group's activities were particularly important for the European coordination and exchange of information on the crises in Haiti and Pakistan. Furthermore, agreements were made concerning a fast European response to crises and on the negotiation of a new Food Aid Convention.

Knowledge and development policy hand in hand

Since 2009, three new university **research platforms** have been providing the Belgian Development Cooperation with assistance in knowledge and development preparation. This resulted in the following specific projects during the course of 2010.

KLIMOS, the Research Platform Climate Change and Development Cooperation, developed a handy analysis tool that will henceforth be used to monitor the impact and risks of development projects and adapt them where necessary. The tool was tested with case studies in Limpopo, South Africa. KLIMOS also provided DGD with input to monitor the REDD mechanism, which must reward developing countries that protect their forests and, in so doing, reduce CO₂ emissions.

The platform on **aid effectiveness and aid architecture** made a practical contribution to the European Commission's Green Paper on Budget Support by way of an internationally recognised study on the theme of "budget support and policy/political dialogue". This research platform also worked on integrating gender in the new indicative cooperation programmes in which the focus was on rural development.

PULSE, which researches the level of public support in Belgium for development cooperation, conducted a general survey among the Belgian population. This showed, for example, that Belgians still feel very much involved in the poverty of the South, but adopt an increasingly critical approach regarding development cooperation and budget spending.

States General

This year, the theme of the third edition of the "States General of the Belgian Development Cooperation", which, with 400 participants, is the most important forum for Belgian development professionals, was the UN Millennium Summit in New York. Speakers such as Daniel Kaufmann, Jan Vandemoortele, Andris Piebalgs and Amina Az-Zubair proposed important courses of thought to help determine the Belgian point of view regarding MDGs.



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Belgium as sector lead donor

Belgium acted as *sector lead (or co-lead) donor* for the donor community in 13 of our 18 bilateral cooperation partner countries. This means that the attaché international cooperation presides over a sector consultation group on, for example, agriculture or health care, intrinsically manages and coordinates donors within that sector.

Recognising sector expertise

Such consultation and coordination groups are presided over and managed by either the Technical Ministry of the partner country - the ideal scenario - or by an active donor (bilateral or multilateral). They are platforms for donor consultation and consultation with the partner country's government. The parties involved discuss sector programmes and follow them up, programme and coordinate aid and hold policy- and political-related dialogue. "Sector lead" therefore constitutes an element of the **Belgian image**.

In a number of cases, it even endorses a particular Belgian sector expertise, for example, in health care in Rwanda. In addition, if sector budget support is concerned, the *lead* is also allocated an important (political) responsibility. The attaché is then assisted by a sector expert from the Belgian development agency, BTC. Such working methods, where Belgium acts as the *lead* with sector budget support, apply to countries such as Rwanda (health) and Tanzania (local governance). Belgium can also be the lead where there is no budget support, such as for agriculture in Benin and health in Burundi and Niger.

Lead donor arrangements

The Paris Declaration on harmonising and coordinating aid refers to the lead donor and makes it responsible for coordinating and distributing tasks among donors and with the partner countries. The EU Code of Conduct goes one step further in this regard and also proposes *lead donor arrangements* for priority sectors, including the reduction of transaction costs for aid. Then, by way of delegated cooperation from the other donors (ideally "*silent partners*"), the lead is then given the authority to act in their name to use the resources, policy dialogue, follow-up and reporting.

Results-based management: from theory to practice

In 2010, the Belgian Development Cooperation continued efforts to put results-based management (RBM) into practice in its business culture.

Strategic choices

That is why FPS Foreign Affairs made a distinct choice. The 2010-2013 Management Plan lists the impact of Belgian aid as one of its strategic goals by expanding results-based management. This objective was put into operation in DGD's management plan and is translated into operational plans for the various directorates. Moreover, a few services are already operating in this way. This approach yields results and leads to new regulations, methods and techniques.

The **Belgian Fund for Food Security** (BFFS) succeeded the Belgian Survival Fund (BSF) in 2010. The Fund wants to help improve food security in sub-Saharan Africa as efficiently as possible. The 2008 evaluation made useful recommendations to refine operations for the purposes of results-based management. The new Royal Decree and strategy paper, which must be approved in 2011, adopt the main RBM principles.

Together with the NGOs

The **dialogue** between DGD and its partners also targets greater mutual accountability within the scope of RBM. In May 2009, the NGOs and the Minister for Development Cooperation concluded an agreement in which they undertook to improve aid efficiency.

The NGOs undertake to systematise results-based management and to report more regularly on their programme and project results. Consequently, efficiency is becoming an important criterion in evaluating NGO co-funding projects and programmes.

Some criteria examine the logic behind the results in more detail: input, activities, short- and medium-term results and impact (in the long term). The first NGO annual reports, submitted in 2010, took a more systematic approach when outlining the results achieved.

Based on the partner country's priorities

The Belgian Development Cooperation also checks its partner countries' efficiency regarding development results. This presupposes that it is based on political dialogue, programming, follow-up and evaluation of the results. To this end, the Belgian Development Cooperation drew up new instructions and methodology tools.

These were used in the **joint committees** of 2009. Thus, the new Indicative Cooperation Programme (ICP) between Belgium and Peru concentrates on two sectors: health care and environmental sustainability. In accordance with the Paris Declaration, interventions are concentrated on the country's priorities.

The country's programme context makes it possible to coordinate different ICP result levels with the sector results in Peru and with the strategic objectives of the country's policy regarding international technical cooperation. The results follow-up context will be based on indicators included in the country's systems.

These examples illustrate the progress of the Belgian Development Cooperation and its partners in integrating results-based management in its operations.

Aid effectiveness

Considerable efforts have been made to improve the **quality of aid** during the past decade. This involves looking for methods that are more in line with the needs of the developing countries themselves. In the **Paris Declaration** of 2005, more than 100 countries (donor and receiving countries), multilateral organisations and development agencies agreed to integrate into their development policy **5 principles** that must improve aid effectiveness.

1. *Ownership*: partner countries determine their own development policy and plans to eradicate poverty. Donor countries accept that the partner country takes the lead;
2. *Aid coordination*: donors undertake to coordinate aid with the country's strategies, institutions and procedures. Consequently, donors avoid creating parallel structures;
3. *Harmonisation*: donors must rationalise their interventions to make joint development cooperation more efficient. Transparency and complementarity are essential in this regard;
4. *Results-based management*: aid must be based on targeted results and information must be used to improve the decision process.
5. *Mutual responsibility*: donor and partner countries jointly analyse the results of the efforts. They use the current mechanisms in the partner country for this purpose.

The Accra Agenda for Action

Over 1,700 participants met at the High Level Forum (HLF3) on effectiveness in Accra, Ghana, in 2008. For the first time, an evaluation was made of the extent to which the principles of the Paris Declaration had already been implemented. The result was the **Accra Agenda for Action (AAA)**: an international commitment to support reforms that must accelerate effective development cooperation and help achieve the MDGs by 2015. The AAA focuses on the most important technical and institutional challenges to be able to fully apply the principles of the Paris Declaration.

- *Predictability*: donors provide partner countries with more security about the number of years that they can count on aid (predictable aid) and developing countries will reinforce the link between public expenses and results;
- *Country systems*: partner countries' systems rather than those of the donors will be used to manage aid;
- *Conditionality*: donors no longer set their own terms and conditions, but attach conditions to the development goals which put the developing country first;
- *Making aid unconditional*: donors design plans to make their aid unconditional;
- *Avoiding aid fragmentation*: donors agree to create as few new aid channels as possible and are working on a mutual task distribution;
- *Partnerships*: all actors are encouraged to apply the principles of the Paris Declaration; the value of the South-South Cooperation is recognised;
- *Transparency*: efforts will be made to conduct mutual evaluation reviews by 2010. These require more involvement on the part of parliament and citizens and will be complemented by individual credible proof.

Run-up to Busan 2011

Interview with Isabelle Wittoek, attaché at OECD

The 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF4) will take place in Busan (South Korea) at the end of 2011. This must be a new step to more effective aid. The aid sector wants to assess the state of affairs spanning 5 years of the Paris Declaration. How have the principles for effective aid been transformed into improved development results? What has worked and what has not?

Isabelle Wittoek, international cooperation attaché at Belgium's Permanent Representation at the OECD, outlines the 2010 discussions on what exactly HLF4 must do in Busan.



South Korea will host the HLF4. How does South Korea see the aid effectiveness agenda?

Wittoek: "South Korea has very recently become a donor country with the OECD-DAC; until a short time ago, it actually also received aid. This makes it a rather special country. It therefore considers itself to be an example of the new DAC donor: a donor that was recently a recipient of aid. It's from this perspective that it raises new issues. One of the strongly debated discussions in 2010, and which was heavily emphasised by the NGOs, concerned the following question: 'Should Busan not deal primarily with Development Effectiveness instead of Aid Effectiveness?' South Korea heavily emphasises the position that aid fulfils in the broader development issue and wants to extend 'aid' to the broader concept of 'development'.

"But 'development effectiveness' is, of course, a difficult concept and not easily understood. It's no easy matter for the more traditional donors because they primarily focus on aid. Consequently, it was argued that, in particular, the following should be considered at Busan regarding 'aid effectiveness': what has happened since the Paris Declaration? Because the Paris agenda and the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) haven't yet been fully implemented. Five years is a short amount of time from the development perspective."

Is it not too early then to make an evaluation?

Wittoek: "Perhaps it is. The principles for effective aid and the AAA still haven't been implemented in the partner countries as much as they should be. They are starting to gain ground, however. Developing countries are doing more towards creating a favourable framework that is more conducive to effective aid. It's worth noting here that 80 countries participated in the third evaluation review on the progress of the implementation of the principles.

“ Since 2010, this has also involved South-South cooperation. Donors must therefore learn to withdraw slightly, because the South also has internal dialogues without them. ”

"What they're trying to achieve at 'Busan' is ambitious. The emphasis will probably not really be on applying the Paris principles, but rather on the way in which contributions are made towards development results. Pressure from civil society has caused this to evolve in such a manner. Civil society was much more involved in Accra (HLF3 in 2008) than in Paris (HLF2 in 2005). The NGOs therefore actually broadened the discussion."

The discussions have therefore been opened up and many questions arise in this regard. Does this not confuse the essence of the discussions?

Wittoek: "It does in some cases, but the most important question remains: how does aid contribute to development? They want to map out and be able to evaluate the exact role that aid plays in development. This is by no means a simple task. Yet, this isn't a reason to question the Paris principles. They don't want to aim at an entirely new Declaration, new principles or a strong new commitment for 'Busan', but rather at making current principles leaner and deeper."

It also concerns more than just a North-South dialogue.

Wittoek: "Indeed, the Paris Declaration was a North-South dialogue, one between developing countries and donors. Since 2010, this has also involved South-South cooperation. Donors must therefore learn to withdraw slightly, because the South also has internal dialogues without them. No one knows which direction that South-South cooperation will take. It's still unclear as to what the added value will be for the classical North-South cooperation."

What about the principles for effective aid in that South-South dialogue?

Wittoek: "The South-South Dialogue at the United Nations doesn't really want to have much to do with the Paris principles. The tone there is different, more radical. More and more developing countries are wondering when aid is going to stop. They want to get rid of it because it makes them dependent and needy. They want to look after themselves. Rwanda is a good example."

Part 2

The Belgian contribution to attaining the Millennium Development Goals



Millennium Development Goal 1



Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by 2015

- Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day
- Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

Current world state of affairs

Quick facts

- The number of people living under the international poverty line of \$1.25 a day declined from 1.8 billion to 1.4 billion between 1990 and 2005.
- The proportion of people living in extreme poverty in developing regions dropped from 46% to 27% - on track to meet the target globally.
- About one in four children under the age of five is underweight in the developing world, down from almost one in three in 1990.

Extreme poverty

The world is on track to meet the MDG target of halving the proportion of people living on less than \$1 a day between 1990 and 2015. Overall poverty rates fell from 46% in 1990 to 27% in 2005 in developing regions, and progress in many developing countries is being sustained. This is despite setbacks caused by the 2008-09 economic downturn and the effects of the food and energy crises. However, even if these positive trends continue, in 2015, roughly 920 million people would still be living under the international poverty line of \$1.25 a day, as adjusted by the World Bank in 2008.

Achievements so far are largely the result of extraordinary success in Asia, mostly East Asia. Over a 25-year period, the poverty rate in East Asia fell from nearly 60% to under 20%. Poverty rates are expected to fall to around 5% in China and 24% in India by 2015. In contrast, little progress has been made in reducing extreme poverty in sub-Saharan Africa, where the poverty rate has declined only slightly, from 58 to 51% between 1990 and 2005. Sub-Saharan Africa, Western Asia and parts of Eastern Europe and Central Asia are the few regions not expected to achieve the MDG poverty reduction target.

Hunger

The proportion of people suffering from hunger is declining, but at an unsatisfactory pace. Even though the proportion of people worldwide suffering from malnutrition and hunger has fallen since the early 1990s, progress has stalled since 2000-2002. The estimate of the number of people who suffered chronic hunger in 2010 is 925 million - down from 1.023 billion in 2009, but still more than the number of undernourished people in 1990 (about 815 million).

“Any aid programme that leads to dependence is a sign of failure, not of success. Aid should design itself out of existence.”

Donald Kaberuka, President of the African Development Bank. European Development Days, 6-7 December 2010

Between 1990 and 2008, the proportion of underweight children under five declined from 31% to 26% in developing regions with particular success in Eastern Asia, notably China. Despite such improvements, progress is currently not fast enough to reach the MDG target, and particular focus is required in Southern Asia. This region alone accounts for almost half the world's undernourished children. In all developing regions, children in rural areas are nearly twice as likely to be underweight as those in urban areas.

The Belgian contribution

Food security above all

In 2008, Belgium made a commitment to increase its **agriculture and food security** development budget from 10% in 2010 to 15% in 2015. Our country has kept its word: this now stands at approximately 12% and is thus an example for other donors.

Below is an outline of a few measures and results achieved:

- establish the renewed **Belgian Fund for Food Security** (BFFS), which replaces the Belgian Survival Fund, budgeted at more than €250 million, spread over 10 years. To test its new structure and operation, the fund introduced a pilot programme in Mozambique (see page 29, *case 3*) and Mali;
- develop the private agricultural sector through the intervention of BIO, the **Belgian Investment Company for Developing Countries**;
- **increase** the Belgian budget for food aid and review of the Food Security Convention;
- contribute to the **Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research** (CGIAR); this group initiates scientific research into the development of sustainable food security to benefit the destitute. The contribution has been raised considerably to €9 million (2010);
- the budget for the **International Fund for Agricultural Development** (IFAD) was almost doubled to €7 million per year for the period 2010-2012. IFAD provides low-interest loans for agricultural programmes in poor rural areas.

Increased efficiency

The Directorate-General Development developed a **new strategy paper** for the “agriculture and food security” sector. By doing so, it wants to improve efficiency and strengthen the synergy between various aid channels. The paper follows an inclusive consultation process and acts as reference for all future actions in this sector (see page 33).

Belgium used the EU presidency to speed up a few important **dossiers**, such as volatile price fluctuations in agriculture, the property tax issue and the link between climate changes and agriculture/food security. These dossiers were on the 36th session of the UN Committee for Food Security’s agenda. The EU played an important role at this meeting.

The Belgian Fund for Food Security in a nutshell

Purpose: food security in all its facets, availability, accessibility, stability, usability, etc.

Field of activity: sub-Saharan Africa, preferably in areas with high food insecurity

Target group: most vulnerable segments of the population

Duration: 2010 - 2022

Budget: €250 million

Funding: the National Lottery and the Belgian Development Cooperation

Run by: the Belgian development agency (BTC), Belgian NGOs and multilateral organisations such as the FAO and the IFAD

Initiator: the Belgian Parliament

Predecessors: *Survival Fund for the Third World* (1983-1998); *Belgian Survival Fund* (1999 - 2009)

CASE 1

ProCAPAS, more work and income for farmers

The Bolivian countryside experiences extreme poverty and the Chuquisaca Department is no exception. Poverty eradication is one of the central tasks of the Bolivian Government. The Belgian development agency, BTC, wants to improve the quality of life for smallholders of the communities of Sucre Rural, Yotala and Poroma. That is why the **Sustainable Agricultural Production Chains Programme** (ProCAPAS) was started in 2009. The programme wants to encourage dynamic agricultural activities on the one hand and promote food security in deprived areas on the other. In this way, labour and income opportunities for approximately 1,800 families can increase by boosting the vegetable and fruit sectors.

At the end of 2010, the programme started introducing improved **crop varieties** and cultivation techniques. The farmers were given access to resources and better tools.

Testimonies from farmers in the ProCAPAS programme

“We have good soil and take care of it as if it were our own child. But sometimes the climate plays tricks on us. It’s not like it used to be. When there is no rain, all our work is for nothing.”
(Cirilo Vargas)

“We cultivate fruit and vegetables here, but pests have damaged our crops. Since the arrival of the programme and technicians, we have learned how to manage that and secure production. They have also made new equipment available to us, which we use every day.” (José Bejarano)

“My family cultivates tomatoes and we hope to increase our production with ProCAPAS.” (Guadalupe Miranda)

“The programme has already provided us with sowing seed and pesticides. The technicians have shown us how we can improve crops. We now anticipate a good harvest, which means we will be able to sell it at a better price.” (Darío Solíz)

Bolivia



Expanding the cultivation area will only render **fruit production** results in the long term.

ProCAPAS is facilitated by the Bolivian Government’s Support Programme for Food Security (PASA), which wants to encourage local economic development in this way.



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CASE 2

Inca Pallay, “each fabric has its own story”

“Inca Pallay”, an organisation for craftsmen, bought a building with its own resources to house a **centre for craftsmen**. They wanted a better way to sell their products. However, the poor state of the building threatened to thwart this endeavour.

The Belgian Development Cooperation released resources to renovate the infrastructure. Now 220 craftswomen from 15 communities have an excellent location from which to sell their products. In addition, the place is developing into a real **cultural centre** where communities want to keep their Yampara culture alive.



Inés Zárate is a member of the non profit organisation Inca Pallay. “We inherited the knowledge from our grandparents. They taught us to respect our culture and we have not forgotten that lesson! Before - if we were lucky - we sold our products in the streets of Tarabuco. After that, we collaborated with a few shops, but the results were always disappointing. Our products are very important to our families. The profit makes us able to afford to send our children to school. The profit that we make from agriculture is too insecure, whereas our weaving isn’t adversely affected in any way by hail storms or the scorching sun.”

Bolivia



Marciano Chambi, another member of the NPO: “Life in this rural environment is extremely difficult. We are farmers and craftsmen; that is how we earn our money. We can improve our situation through cooperation.”

Ignacio Tardío is the sales representative for the Inca Pallay shop in Tarabuco. “On Sundays, we bring in a turnover of up to 5,000 bolivianos (approximately 500 euros). The centre is very important to us because we can display our products there.”

The centre has brought a whole new life to the craftswomen. They have developed a common vision and the infrastructure has provided more cohesion in their capacity as entrepreneurs. A certain **economic impact** is perceivable, not only in the producing families, but in the entire region as well. They have become more competitive, work more creatively and independently and create opportunities to escape poverty.

CASE 3

An integrated approach to food security

The new law on the Belgian Fund for Food Security was approved in January 2010. From now on, Belgium, together with the government of the country in question and all stakeholders, first draws up a **strategy paper**.

A pilot phase to measure the chances of success for the new approach was started in Mozambique and Mali. **Nico Bakker** is an independent consultant and describes the approach in Mozambique.

“On the initiative of the Belgian Development Cooperation, an **intervention zone** for the future programme in Mozambique was identified between April and June 2010. The choice was based on analyses by the Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition (SETSAN) of the most vulnerable districts in Mozambique. Agencies from the United Nations, Belgian NGOs and the Belgian development agency, BTC, were involved in the choice. The Mozambique National Emergency Plan indicates the 30 districts enjoying greatest priority, most of which lie in the Gaza and Inhambane provinces. Six of the selected seven form part of these thirty-odd districts. SETSAN estimates that approximately 29,000 people in this zone show serious symptoms of **chronic food insecurity**.”

Based on current documents and own research, Bakker and his colleague, Sophie Teyssier, analysed the most important causes of food security in the zone. Bakker: “SETSAN has determined that food insecurity is especially due to low agricultural productivity, which is aggravated by environmental factors such as climate change and disasters (floods and droughts), decreasing soil fertility, etc. The diagnosis leads to four priority points of attention: water, agriculture, natural resources and dietary habits. One cannot separate these factors. During a workshop with all concerned, we agreed on the **four components** for the programme: 1) access to good-quality food, 2) innovative production in agriculture and livestock breeding, 3) improved natural resources management and 4) institutional reinforcement by the government and farmers.”

For the first time, the pilot phase is also bringing together bilateral cooperation and the Belgian Fund for Food Security in one single programme. Bakker: “Many communities say that access to water is the main problem. Women in Machaze told us that they sometimes spend 10 hours a day looking for water. This means that there is hardly any water and little time for agriculture and their households. Water should therefore be the focal point of the project.

Mozambique



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But it isn't so simple. Much was and still is invested in water, but to date, this hasn't led to any significant improvement in food security. Plus, if you don't have any guarantees to maintain investments, then it's a sheer waste of money. We therefore propose activities and investments in water in each of the four components, but still within a clearly **integrated approach** to food security.”

CASE 4

Promoting cattle breeding and credits force back poverty

Jean Mbayahage, project assistant at the Belgian development agency, BTC, explains the difficult situation. “The Menaka region has been struck by recurring periods of drought since 1970. 85% of the cattle didn’t survive that. Support for the Azawak Zebu cattle breeders is a direct contribution to eradicating poverty in the north of Mali.”

Azawak Zebu (or brahmin cattle) is the basic food of the Tuareg community, which consumes mainly dairy products. The breed is one of the best dairy cattle breeds in Mali. A well-fed cow has a potential milk production ranging from between 4 and 8 litres up to 10 litres per day.

Almost 400 families have once again received livestock (four heifers, a bull and a dromedary). The Belgian zoologist and agronomist originally from Burundi, Jean Mbayahaga, explains the **credit system**. “These families can pay back in cash or with the same number of animals after they have bred for four years. This system makes it possible to make the activities more sustainable after the project is stopped. Repayment is running smoothly at 94%. A fund to promote cattle breeding has been established with those resources. Its management is entrusted to an institution specialised in micro-financing.”

Mali



Jean Mbayahaga trained the cattle breeders and helped to get them organised. These cooperatives of azawak cattle breeders manage a **stock** of cattle feed and veterinary products, a strategy which appeared to pay off during the 2009-2010 drought. “The livestock breeders have learned how to draw up an accountancy balance. I encourage them to save and only to sell their best animals when prices are at their highest.”

Today, Jean Mbayahaga is responsible for a new support project for short-horned zebu, or Maure, cattle in Nara, close to the Mauritanian border.



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CASE 5

Peace generates prosperity

“A large part of the population in northern Uganda lived in ‘protected camps’ until a few years ago. Travelling rebels of the *Lord’s Resistance Army* (LRA) made ordinary village life unsafe. The population was therefore dependent on external aid. Young people have experienced nothing else but this for their entire lives.”

Joris Beckers (Belgian) tells the story. He works for the United Nations in Uganda, specifically for the secretary of the northern *Uganda Recovery and Development Group*, a group of donors for northern Uganda, who hold meetings once a month.

“In the meantime, the majority of the refugees have returned to their villages where **normal life** is starting up again. People are learning to provide for their own subsistence and former LRA fighters are once again being integrated into the community.”



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Uganda



Population income is rising. The majority of the population works in agriculture. Trade with Sudan has greatly increased and forms an important source of income. “A recent survey by the *Uganda Bureau of Statistics* showed that, between 2004 and 2008, poverty in northern Uganda had fallen sharply. But it also established an increase in income inequality.”

The government is trying to close the gap with the rest of the country. This is being done by constructing roads and building schools and hospitals. “The ‘**software**’, teachers and medical staff are at least as important. However, these professionals do not always like working in remote areas. Consequently, the government tries to make working in northern Uganda attractive by providing good housing.”

Much is being done to reintegrate former LRA fighters into the community. “For example, there is a project in Gulu where former rebels jointly manage a corn mill. They buy corn and grind it to make ‘posho’, one of the most important *staple foods* in Uganda. **Reconciliation** alone is, after all, not sufficient; people also need **prospects**. These men were a threat until a few years ago; now they are making a useful contribution to society.”

CASE 6

Belgian NGO Trias helps farmers become more independent

Purchasing power in Uganda has risen strongly during the last few years. On average, a Ugandan can spend approximately 500 dollars per year. Those 500 dollars have an actual local shop value of 1,000 dollars, since the money is used to buy cheap products.

The Belgian NGO Trias, which supports farming organisations in Uganda, experienced this rise in **purchasing power** at close quarters. **Paul Allertz**, who works at Trias: “For the farmers in Hoima who are participating in the project, the yield of an acre (0.42 ha) rose from 25 euros to 200 euros per acre in three years’ time.”



Trias supports farmers’ organisations, particularly in **marketing** their products. That means organising market research and adapting production to the demand. Producing sowing seed does require more knowledge, but its added value is much higher. Good storage and packaging also raise the sales value and, therefore, the profit.”

Uganda



Trias also regularly contacts partner organisations who provide **microcredits**. When farmers collaborate on a Trias project for a few years, they are able to submit a business plan and a little savings. Through microcredit, they then gain access to regular banking services, which is the next step to becoming more self-sufficient.

In this way, the local economy is also encouraged because farmers deliver better products and apply a more efficient sales strategy. “Kyosaba Abigairi, a farmer from Hoima, was able to start building a new, healthier house after only one year. He also bought a cow. Not only do his own children drink the milk, but he also sells it to others, and that, in turn, generates a little income.”

Trias is building a strong structure of farming organisations with Belgian support. In the long term, the farmers must take over the work that they have learned.

New strategy paper

Accent on family agriculture and greater efficiency

To reinforce Belgian operations in the agricultural and food security sectors, the Belgian Development Cooperation wrote a new strategy paper in 2010. This document takes into account the evolutions that are making international headway, particularly the need for **greater aid efficiency**. The paper outlines the challenges with which the agricultural sector is faced: price fluctuations, demographic evolution, increasing urbanisation, changing consumption patterns, increasing pressure on natural resources, poorer living conditions and climate change. By identifying a few areas of expertise, it decides what the Belgian Development Cooperation can target.

One of the most important recommendations is that it is best for Belgium to concentrate its actions on **family agriculture**, and in that way improve food security, contribute to economically sustainable growth and create decent jobs in the agricultural sector.

Four guidelines

Four lines of intervention are discussed in the paper:

1. improve and secure **agricultural production** from the sustainable development point of view;
2. **commercialise** and upgrade production and improve access to the markets;
3. **manage** the agricultural sector: back up the government in its coordinating role, as facilitator and regulator, and strengthen civil society and agricultural organisations;
4. empower **rural women**, individually and collectively.

These aims and priorities are the result of a participating process in which all members of the Belgian Development Cooperation actively took part, within the context of the Belgian Agricultural and Food Security Platform.

The strategy paper will be an important **reference** for the Indicative Cooperation Programmes with our partner countries. It shows the partner country in which fields Belgium can offer expertise and added value. The interventions of the Belgian Fund for Food Security also fall under this strategic context. The same applies to the Belgian food aid policy. In addition, the paper can also position Belgium vis-à-vis international organisations operating in the sector.



Millennium Development Goal 2



Achieve universal primary education by 2015

Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling

Current world state of affairs

Quick facts

- Enrolment in primary education in developing regions reached 89% in 2008, up from 83% in 2000.
- The current pace of progress is insufficient to meet the target by 2015.
- About 69 million school-age children are not in school. Almost half of them (31 million) are in sub-Saharan Africa, and more than a quarter (18 million) are in Southern Asia.

Enrolment

Despite great strides in many countries, the target is unlikely to be met. Enrolment in primary education has continued to rise, reaching 89% in the developing world in 2008. Between 1999 and 2008, enrolment increased by 18 percentage points in sub-Saharan Africa, and by 11 and 8 percentage points in Southern Asia and Northern Africa, respectively. But the pace of progress is insufficient to ensure that, by 2015, all girls and boys complete a full course of primary schooling. In half of the sub-Saharan African countries with available data, at least one in four children of enrolment age was not attending school in 2008.

Dropping out

Drop-out rates in sub-Saharan Africa remain high. Achieving universal primary education requires more than full enrolment. It also means ensuring that children continue to attend classes. In sub-Saharan Africa, more than 30% of primary school students drop out before reaching a final grade.

Accessibility

Moreover, providing enough teachers and classrooms is vital in order to meet demand. It is estimated that double the current number of teachers would be needed in sub-Saharan Africa in order to meet the primary education target by 2015.

The Belgian contribution

Emphasis on quality education

This is still a current aim. Under the influence of international studies, the Belgian Development Cooperation allocated a broader meaning to this. "All children, young people and adults have equal opportunities to follow quality education, which will provide them with the necessary skills and knowledge to participate as a full member of society."

In practice, this broader meaning of MDG 2 implies that

- all children go to good and safe schools where they learn to read and write, develop social skills and learn to take on responsibility;
- young people and adults are also entitled to basic schooling so that they have opportunities on the labour market and can generate an income.

Over 12 percent of the development budget goes towards education and training. This makes it an important sector in the Belgian Development Cooperation. Half of this budget is spent on higher education, meaning universities and scholarships/grants for higher studies. However, the international agenda makes primary education a priority. Belgium reserves approximately 6% of the budget for primary education.

Education in DR Congo

In 2010, Belgium took an important step in investing in education and training in DR Congo for the next few years. We especially support **vocational** and **technical education**, regarding both formal and informal education. The purpose is to have education and training target the labour market in practical terms.

The most important **primary school** projects are the following:

- make textbooks available (2007-2010): all pupils and teachers of the third and fourth grade received French and mathematics textbooks;
- train teachers to use textbooks properly (2009-2010);
- draw up a programme supporting the Congolese Ministry of Education so that it can establish an efficient education system.

CASE 1

Practice-based training for vulnerable young people

Bolivia is one of the few countries in the world where children form part of the prison population. Together with their parents (the actual prisoners), they experience the many hardships and **perilous living conditions** specific to life in prison. This is daily life for approximately 300 children under the age of 6 who live in the different penal institutions of the capital, La Paz. This puts a heavy burden on their normal development. Despite this, the parents who are bereft of their freedom still prefer to keep their children with them while they serve their sentence.

Prisons are actually not equipped to provide accommodation for children. That is why the **Suma Qamaña** organisation offers alternative forms of education, recreation and leisure activities. This foundation has established, using an alternative educational model, **practice-based programmes** for approximately 200 girls and boys. All normal school subjects are taught up to the age of 12. After that, the adolescents follow the *Escuela de Bellos Oficios* (technical education) model where they can attain the level of a skilled labourer in sewing, organic horticulture, animal husbandry, pottery, graphic art and cooking. A large part of the resources goes to equipment for cooking.

Bolivia



Belgium supports the foundation. This fits in with the aim of encouraging human development, in this case, of the underprivileged girls and boys.

Silvia Álvarez, president of the foundation: “I have also been in a prison where I could never go outside. Luckily for the boys and girls who form part of the project, many friends - such as the Belgian development agency - have dedicated themselves to this dream.

“The young people go to the centre for a few hours per day. The lesson equipment they need to develop their knowledge, based on real-life or hypothetical situations, is available to them there. “It is specifically by using this concept that we want to shape individuals who are able to take their fate into their own hands, within their community.”



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CASE 2

Budget support for the Ministry of Education

Until 2010, Belgium made thematic contributions to the Ministry of Education in Uganda. For example, Belgium was responsible for renovating and building schools in the Gulu region in northern Uganda, which was heavily hit by the war. In 2008, Belgium, together with the Ministry, started making new arrangements for a new approach: development cooperation through **budget support**. This means direct financial support for the ministry in question, with which it can start putting its own educational plans into practice. Belgium, in conjunction with other donor countries, follows up on the progress very closely.



Godfrey Dhatemwa © One for Ten

The Ugandan Commissioner for Education Planning, Ministry of Education, **Godfrey Dhatemwa**, appreciates this approach. “We have been working with the budget support formula since 1997. Various important donors, including the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the European Community, coordinate their support at our request. This makes for an integrated approach. The donors provide financial input and the Ministry of Education bears the responsibility of achieving the set objectives.” Donor support constitutes 30% of the Ugandan education budget.

Uganda



“ Uganda immediately needs well-trained technical professionals.”

Belgium applies the so-called “**portfolio approach**” for the Ugandan educational sector: combining budget support and projects in one and the same sector. For this purpose, our country simultaneously uses various tools to achieve its objectives. One of the more specific aims is to develop a strategy for technical and vocational education and professional training. Besides the Belgian budget aid in this sector, there is a more specific project which supports **teachers’ training courses** in this field for the next 5 years. Moreover, the Ugandan Government is of the opinion that there are enough university graduates, but too few trained technical teachers.

In the meantime, the major educational indicators are **promising**. Godfrey Dhatemwa: “95% of the Ugandan youth who must follow primary education, go to school. The girls/boys ratio is now 50/50 - we came from 40/60. This is mostly thanks to the support of donor countries like Belgium.

“However, the quality of primary education still presents a problem. Only 54% of the pupils finish the last year when they should. Many primary school pupils fail one or more years. That is due to matters such as teacher **absenteeism**, which is not adequately monitored. But the parents are also responsible because they don’t always send the children to school. There is still much work to be done.”

CASE 3

Education For All: the Fast Track Initiative

The generalisation of primary education was given new impetus in 1990 with the “*World Declaration on Education for All*”. The aim was to get all boys and girls to go to school. The *Fast Track Initiative* (FTI) must help accelerate the achievement of this objective.

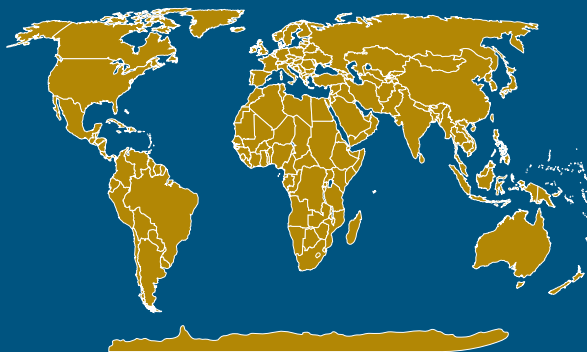
The FTI is a **global commitment** to achieve MDGs 2 (education) and 3 (gender) more quickly. The FTI has developed from a fairly small initiative in 2002 to a substantial international partnership. 18 donor countries, multilateral and regional development agencies support 43 developing countries. Private organisations and NGOs are also represented under the umbrella of the *Global Campaign for Education*.

Belgium has helped finance the FTI since its establishment. Between 2003 and 2009, the annual Belgian contribution amounted to €1 million. In 2010, this amount was raised to €5 million. Seven of the 18 Belgian partner countries have an **education plan** that is accepted and financially supported by the FTI: Niger, Mozambique, Vietnam, Mali, Rwanda, Senegal and Benin.

Mozambique

In 2003, Mozambique joined the FTI and abolished school fees in 2004. The number of newly enrolled pupils rose from 3.3 to **5.3 million** between 2002 and 2010. Since 2008, the country has built 3,000 schoolrooms and 20,000 teachers have been appointed. In 2010, the FTI decided to allocate another \$90 million to Mozambique for the following 3 years.

Worldwide



Useful tools for the environmental department

Interview with Zo Elia Mevanarivo, CIUF scholarship student from Madagascar



© DGD / Thomas Hiergens

The Belgian Development Cooperation has subsidised the University Commission for Development of the Interuniversity Council of the Francophone Community (CIUF-CUD) for years. Allocating 150 study grants and 70 trainee grants is one of the CIUF-CUD's operations. With these grants, people from developing countries can follow training (Master's or specialised) that is geared to the needs of their country and funded by CIUF. The training courses are destined to serve as cultural meeting places and transfer knowledge.

Zo Elia Mevanarivo works at the Ministry of Environment in Madagascar. She is responsible for training courses at the Forest Development Training Center. She studied environmental management in Arlon (University of Liège) with a CIUF grant.

Why did you choose Belgium?

Mevanarivo: "The Master's Degree in Environmental Management in Arlon was the course that was most relevant to my work. It was therefore also rather logical to choose Belgium. What's also nice is that I'm really enjoying it here, even though I haven't been able to visit many places. I didn't have many problems upon my arrival. I adapt to the food, cold, manners, everything."

How important is the course for your career and for your country?

Mevanarivo: "Very important. We learn about many new tools, like statistics. The Geographical Information System (GIS) is also extremely useful. We need it to record and archive all our data."

What do you think are the most important differences between Belgium and Madagascar?

Mevanarivo: "I find it especially clean here. It is very dusty at home, and our cars produce a lot of exhaust fumes. Although, I was also in Japan and it is much cleaner there. Socially, it seems to me as though it is rather 'everybody for himself'. But whatever, I manage."

How do you like the group?

Mevanarivo: "The atmosphere is very pleasant! There are mainly Africans in the group, people from Peru and Haiti and even two Belgians. As a woman, I am in the minority. There are only four women in a group of 24."

Are the people in Madagascar worried about the environment?

Mevanarivo: "Yes, they are, but they don't have the resources; they have no choice. They just need the forest to survive. And they must work on their land, even if this is bad for the soil."

"The Master's Degree in Environmental Management in Arlon was the course that was most relevant to my work."

Does the current political situation in Madagascar influence your work?

Mevanarivo: "Not really; the situation has stabilised. Our previous president offered an enormous amount of land to South Korea, but the people protested against this. This 'land theft' has been stopped completely. It's true that some partners, such as USAID, have withdrawn from the country, but this doesn't have any influence on my work."



Millennium Development Goal 3



Promote gender equality and empowerment of women by 2015

Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education

Current world state of affairs

Quick facts

- In 2008, there were 96 girls for every 100 boys enrolled in primary school, and 95 girls for every 100 boys in secondary school in developing regions.
- The share of women employed outside of agriculture remains as low as 20% in Southern Asia, Western Asia and Northern Africa.
- The global share of women in parliament continues to rise slowly and reached 19% in 2010 - far short of gender parity.

Education

Gender gaps in access to education have narrowed, but disparities remain high in university-level education and in some developing regions. Girls' enrolment ratios in primary and secondary schools have significantly increased in recent years. Nevertheless, access to university-level education remains highly unequal, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia. In these regions, only 67 and 76 girls per 100 boys, respectively, are enrolled in tertiary education. Completion rates also tend to be lower among women than men.

Poverty is the main cause of unequal access to education, particularly for girls of secondary-school age. Women and girls in many parts of the world are forced to spend many hours fetching water, and girls often do not attend school because of a lack of decent sanitation facilities. Also, if they get pregnant, many are not allowed to continue school. Secondary education is especially important for women's empowerment, but in the poorest households, about twice as many girls of secondary-school age are out of school compared to their wealthier peers.

Employment

Despite progress made, men continue to outnumber women in paid employment, and women are often relegated to vulnerable forms of employment - characterized by inadequate earnings, low productivity and substandard working conditions. The share of women in paid non-agricultural wage employment is slowly increasing and

globally reached 41% in 2008. It is still as low as 20% in Southern Asia, Northern Africa and Western Asia, and 32% in sub-Saharan Africa.

“The countries that are the most prosperous and competitive are those with the lowest gender gap.”

This is the conviction of Melanne Verveer, US Ambassador for Global Women's Issues, for whom supporting young girls and women is the most profitable development investment imaginable.
European Development Days, 6-7 December 2010

Even when women are employed, they are typically paid less and have less financial and social security than men. Globally, only one quarter of senior officials or managers are women. In Western Asia, Southern Asia and Northern Africa, women hold less than 10 per cent of top-level positions.

Political representation

Women are slowly gaining political power, mainly thanks to quotas and special measures. Between 1995 and 2010, the share of women in parliament increased from 11% to 19% - a gain of 73%, but far short of gender parity. But 58 countries still have 10% or fewer female members of parliament.

Progress in women's representation in the executive branches of government is even slower. In 2010, just nine of 151 elected heads of state and 11 of 192 heads of government were women. Globally, women hold only 16 per cent of ministerial posts.

The Belgian contribution

Integrating gender in policy

Gender equality, remedying discrimination and *empowering women* constitute the keystones for sustainable growth and development, poverty eradication and the achievement of MDGs. This was stressed once again during the MDG Summit in New York.

Gender equality and *empowerment* jointly form one of the two **priority themes** in the new 2010-2013 management plan of the Belgian Development Cooperation (the second is environment and climate change). In accordance with the law on “gender mainstreaming”, DGD has developed “*gender budgeting*”.

Gender budgeting: analysis of the governmental budget based on its (in)direct consequences for women and men.

Gender mainstreaming: systematically integrating gender in the development policy and throughout all phases of a project cycle.

Increased gender awareness

There is political desire to increase the financial resources intended for women’s rights. 60% of the amount that Belgium could spend on development actions (with the exception of State-to-State loans and the administrative costs of the Belgian development agency, BTC) was spent in cases where gender equality was the first or second aim. By 2013, DGD wants to have 70% of the interventions contributing to equality between men and women.

Our efforts continue to be concentrated on four areas of action:

- health care, sexual and reproductive rights;
- women, peace and safety (in particular, the fight against sexual violence);
- economic *empowerment* of rural women;
- education (in particular, technical and professional training).

Empowerment of rural women constitutes one of the four priorities of the new Belgian strategy for “agriculture and food security”.

Our country has made substantial bilateral efforts during the past two years to integrate gender in the Indicative Cooperation Programmes (ICP) and concentration sectors. The ICP for DR Congo proves this. Work groups are preparing to re-integrate gender in the ICPs of Rwanda and Vietnam. **Programmes** that have been drawn up by other bilateral or multilateral donors are, by way of delegated cooperation, also aimed at supporting governments in this area.

A few examples:

- professional training for Senegalese women, with the Luxembourg Development Cooperation;
- integration of gender into the decentralisation processes of the Mali Government, showing a documentary film on “the role of women in the fight for food security in Mali” with UN Women;
- support the elections and especially women who go to vote or are candidates (also in Afghanistan), together with UNDP in Burundi;
- combat sexual violence in DR Congo by contributing to the Stabilization and Reconstruction Fund, established jointly by the Government of Congo and the UN, managed by the UNDP;
- together with UN Women, assisting in implementing the commitment that Burundi made in the field of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

In addition, half of the micro intervention programmes (MIPs) are reserved for **women’s organisations**. Belgium will also reserve half of the study grants for female applicants.

Contribution to gender equality

Our country also contributes to the general resources of various **multilateral organisations**: UN Women, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, FAO (the DIMITRA programme), WFP, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, etc.

The intervention programmes take the gender theme into account both in the indirect (NGO) aid and for humanitarian aid or that of the Belgian Fund for Food Security.

The quality of our posted employees (international collaboration attachés) are strengthened by way of training and methodological tools. At the end of 2010, geographic and thematic managers of humanitarian aid and of the Europe Desk participated in a **special training course**, “Gender and aid effectiveness”. It was given in implementation of the 2010-2015 EU Plan of Action on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in Development Cooperation.

CASE 1

Women put forward the best proposals for their community

Adama Moussa is a counsellor on local development cooperation with **UN Women**, the Development Fund of the UN for women, and explained the project. “The project ‘gender and decentralisation’ encourages women to participate in **political decision-making** and **local planning processes**. Traditionally, these are male ‘hunting grounds’. At UN Women, we respect equality between men and women. Men are also represented.”

The project is funded by Belgium and intervenes in eleven vulnerable communities in the regions of Timbuktu and Mopti. Three communities are led by female mayors and two have no women elected to the municipal council at all. The project supports female mayors and women who are candidates for the 2014 municipal elections.

Women take the floor

Women must be freed of their household tasks and of fetching water, tasks which take up all their time, so that they can participate in the **local planning process**. It is enough to teach them techniques to make these tasks easier.

Moussa: “If we really want to gather women’s proposals for the planning process, we must hold two parallel meetings, one with men and one with women. When they meet once again, the women must put forward their proposals; otherwise there is a danger that they will be too shy to take the floor. We must especially avoid the situation wherein they merely attend the planning process to cook for the other participants.

Mali



“The men are the ones saying that the women make the best proposals,” says Moussa. Women raise certain problems, such as early marriage. They recommend that **monitoring committees** be established that will raise the alarm if young girls are taken from school too early. Women on school advisory committees monitor the situation so that young girls of marriageable age are at least able to **finish their schooling**.

“We saw to it that these actions are included in the budget and local development plans,” says Moussa. “Because actions for which there is no budget are generally not executed. We signed partner agreements with our 11 pilot municipalities to release the required resources.” The project has both a local and international effect. A local plan guide was drawn up and approved at a national level.

The second project that Belgium finances through UN Women is the production of a documentary on the role of women in food security, from independence in 1960 to date.



CASE 2

“We sell more and better wheat in Timbuktu.” Interview with Habibatou Haïdara

Wheat - “alkama” in Songhai - has been cultivated in Timbuktu for centuries. Women process it using traditional methods. But very few of their products are sold outside the Timbuktu markets. The reason for this is high production and transport costs.

Habibatou Haïdara is chairwoman of the organisation Women for the Development of **Timbuktu** and one of the reformers of the Alkama project for profitable wheat production.

Thanks to its operations, this 58-year-old widow succeeded in feeding her five children: “I have 2 daughters; the elder is married, the younger is studying and I also have three unemployed sons who have diplomas.”

What has the Alkama project provided for you?

Haïdara: “The most important change is that our profits have increased. Belgian support has caused the quality and quantity of our traditional products to improve. We are currently producing couscous grains, couscous with gravy, cracked wheat, vermicelli, semolina, bran, cakes and traditional bread. Our working methods have improved because we have united.”

Mali



How are you organised?

Haïdara: “My organisation brings together 39 women from Timbuktu. They pay a monthly contribution of 100 CFA francs (0.15 euros). We have a bank account with our own money to purchase equipment. We bought a stock of rough wheat that we are processing.”

What are the most profitable operations?

Haïdara: “Since 2009, all of us have been able to stand on different markets. The project paid for our transport costs. We advertise our processed wheat while we are on the markets, as a result of which we receive orders. The problem with distributing our products is that Timbuktu is enclosed.”



© BTC / Jan Locus

CASE 3

The Fistula Hospital lifts women out of marginality

Madeleine was 12 years old when she was married off to an older man. She became pregnant shortly thereafter. The delivery was a nightmare; the baby's body could not pass through the mother's underdeveloped pelvis and futilely pressed against internal tissue. After four days of labour and without adequate medical assistance, the foetus was dead and the tissue between her vagina and bladder was torn and had died off.

Totally incontinent at the age of 14, nauseated, and suspected of bad karma, her husband deserted her. She has lived since then in complete **isolation** in a hut on the edge of the village. A young woman, without a husband and who cannot have any more children, no longer exists: she is a zombie.

The number of **fistula sufferers** in the DR Congo is estimated at 100,000. The main cause is childbirth that has lasted too long or a badly performed Caesarean. In 3% of the cases, the vaginal tear is caused by sexual violence. A fistula is not deadly, but the social consequences of the injury are catastrophic.

Doctors Without Holidays appoint Western doctors to voluntarily put their services at Africa's disposal. When **Dr De Backer** visited Congolese hospitals for this NGO for the first time, he was struck by the number and need of the fistula sufferers. He founded the

DR Congo



ngo "**Fistul-Aid**" and, thanks to the Belgian Development Cooperation, received funds for a "fistula clinic" in St Joseph's Hospital in **Kinshasa**. De Backer: "Fistula is not like cardiology; it is a specific type of surgery that we can perform with relatively few resources."

The hospital and equipment required cost a total sum of €85,000. One can operate under acceptable conditions. A Congolese gynaecologist, trained by Doctors Without Holidays, can do more than half of the operations personally. Belgian surgeons regularly visit to share their knowledge.

Madeleine has regained her smile, as have the other 300 fistula sufferers who have been operated on there. She is no longer rejected by the village; she will once again find her position in the community and have children. She has been offered a new life.



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A resolution for women, peace and safety

Women are the peacekeeping forces

Women and children are the most vulnerable victims in conflict situations. Sometimes they are bluntly used as weapons of war, for example, in East Congo. However, Central Africa does not have the monopoly on such practices: think of the genocide in Yugoslavia. And once peace has been restored, one all too often overlooks the good negotiating **qualities of women**.

10 years of “1325”

However, women have repeatedly proven their talents as *peacemakers* and *peacekeepers*. This idea formed the foundation for the UN Security Council’s **resolution on women, peace and security** in 2000. **Resolution 1325** advocates the reaffirmation and promotion of the role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building. The UN Member States were requested to implement this resolution, develop a national action plan (NAP) and ensure that women received the necessary protection in conflict situations. Ten years later, Resolution 1325 is still essential in building peace and avoiding conflict in the South.

The Belgian Development Cooperation has already developed a **national action plan**. It advocates more attention at international level for the gender aspect of conflict. That is why it also supports important programmes against sexual violence in DR Congo, such as the programme to stabilise and reconstruct post-conflict zones (STAREC). Since 2001, the *Women and Development Committee* has kept attention for this subject alive both inside and outside the Belgian Development Cooperation.

New indicators

Under international pressure and as a result of the 10th anniversary of Resolution 1325 on Tuesday, 26 October 2010, a number of “indicators” were adopted to be better able to **monitor** the resolution’s execution. Women’s greater involvement will now be measured based on that. This means that appropriate sanctions and objectives can be developed, and the application of Resolution 1325 can be improved.

Belgium and the European Union played an important **pioneering role** in this process. Within the context of the European presidency, and in the run-up to this anniversary, Belgium organised a high-level conference in Brussels on 9 September as well as conferences in New York and Geneva. These conferences contributed to underpinning a strong EU point of view, so that the EU could convince critical countries in the Security Council to adopt this monitoring system.

Establishment of UN Women

Gender equality at the UN

In July 2010, the UN General Assembly experienced a historical vote when **UN Women** was established. This entity is dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. This establishment was a magnificent moment for the multilateral system.

Coherence and efficiency

The UN has been attempting to expand its coherence and efficiency for some years now. This reflection process (*System Wide Coherence*) led to a beautiful achievement in July 2010: the establishment of the *United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women*, UN Women for short.

The organisation unites currently existent UN entities on gender under a single organisation, which makes it stronger and must generate a greater impact.

UN Women wants to accelerate global awareness and implementation of **gender equality**. Its strength lies in the coordination of all the activities that the UN undertakes in this regard. UN Women will be able to respond to requests from countries wanting to implement the policy and measures on gender. It will also support the other UN entities wishing to continue operations in this field.

Priorities and management

The organisation delineated 5 **priority focus areas**:

- strengthening women's influence, leadership and participation in all sectors of society;
- ending violence against women through prevention and the involvement of men;
- getting the situation of women in conflict areas on the agenda faster;
- enhancing the economic empowerment of women, including in the context of current global crises;
- making gender equality priorities central to national, local and sectoral planning and budgeting.

The organisation is led by an executive director of world renown: **Mrs Michelle Bachelet**. The expertise and network of Chile's former president will definitely contribute to the success of the work that UN Women must do.

Belgian support for the new entity

Gender equality is a transversal priority for Belgium, which is why Belgium fundamentally supports UN Women. However, UN Women remains one of the multilateral partner organisations for the Belgian Development Cooperation. The initial contribution for the UN Development Fund for Women (the former UNIFEM) will automatically be transferred to UN Women. In 2010 and 2011, the Belgian contribution was **raised** to €125,000 per annum. A new long-range plan will be decided on in 2011. The Belgian Development Cooperation will then advocate an increase of its contribution to the organisation.



Millennium Goals 4, 5 and 6



We broach Millennium Development Goals 4, 5 and 6 together because all three focus on **health issues**.

4. Reduce child mortality considerably by 2015

Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five



5. Improve maternal health by 2015

Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio



6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases by 2015

- Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS
- Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

Current world state of affairs

Quick facts

- The number of children in developing countries who died before they reached the age of five dropped from 100 to 72 deaths per 1,000 live births between 1990 and 2008. Nevertheless, almost nine million children still die each year before they reach their fifth birthday.
- The maternal mortality rate is declining only slowly, even though the vast majority of deaths are avoidable. 99% of women dying from complications during pregnancy or childbirth occur in developing countries.
- Even though the access to HIV treatment in developing countries increased ten-fold over a span of just five years, HIV remains the leading cause of death among reproductive-age women worldwide.
- Malaria kills a child in the world every 45 seconds. Close to 90% of malaria deaths occur in Africa, where it accounts for a fifth of childhood mortality.

Child mortality

Child deaths are falling, but not quickly enough. Many countries have shown considerable progress in tackling child mortality. Almost one third of the 49 least developed countries have managed to reduce their under five mortality rates by 40% or more over the past twenty years. However, the current rate of progress is well short of the MDG target of a two-thirds reduction by 2015.

Many countries with unacceptably high rates of child mortality, most notably in sub-Saharan Africa, have made little or no progress in recent years. High fertility rates and the slow pace of reducing deaths mean that the absolute number of children who have died has actually increased, from four million in 1990 to 4.4 million in 2008.

Maternal mortality

Maternal mortality remains unacceptably high. New data show signs of progress in improving the health of women during pregnancy and childbirth. But progress is still well short of the 5.5% annual decline needed to meet the MDG target of reducing by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio by 2015. Progress has been made in sub-Saharan Africa, with some countries halving maternal mortality levels between 1990 and 2008. Other regions, including Asia and Northern Africa, have made even greater headway.

Most maternal deaths could be avoided. These deaths are preventable when there is access to adequate reproductive health services, equipment, supplies and skilled healthcare workers. In all regions, progress is being made in providing pregnant women with antenatal care. In North Africa, the percentage of women seeing a skilled health worker at least once during pregnancy jumped by 70%. Southern Asia and Western Asia reported increases of almost 50%. Poor women in remote areas are least likely to receive adequate care. It is estimated that meeting the unmet needs for contraception alone could cut - by almost a third - the number of maternal deaths.

AIDS and malaria prevention

The global response to AIDS has demonstrated tangible progress toward the achievement of MDG 6. The number of new HIV infections fell steadily from a peak of 3.5 million in 1996 to 2.7 million in 2008. Deaths from AIDS-related illnesses also dropped from 2.2 million in 2004 to two million in 2008. Although the epidemic appears to have stabilized in most regions, new HIV infections are on the rise in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Globally, the number of people living with HIV is continuing to increase because of the combined effect of new HIV infections and the beneficial impact of antiretroviral therapy. Knowledge about HIV is the first step to avoiding its transmission.

Antiretroviral treatment has expanded, but continues to be outpaced by HIV infection rates. When antiretroviral therapy was launched in 2003, only 400,000 people were receiving it. By the end of 2009, more than five million people were on treatment. But for every two individuals starting HIV treatment each year, five are newly infected.

Half the world's population is at risk of malaria. There were an estimated 243 million cases of malaria in 2008, causing 863,000 deaths, 89% of them in Africa. Major increases in funding have recently helped control malaria. Global production of mosquito nets rose from 30 million to 150 million annually between 2004 and 2009. Antimalarial medication has also become more readily available, though coverage varies sharply by country. External funding for malaria control has risen sharply in recent years, and reached \$1.5 billion in 2009 - still far short of the estimated \$6 billion needed in 2010 alone to meet the MDG target.

The Belgian contribution

Pioneering role regarding health

As a small country, Belgium has a **strong tradition** in international health care for both humanitarian aid and development cooperation. The government, NGOs, academic institutions and strong individuals play their role in this.

The right to health and health care and achieving the MDGs in question are priorities for the Belgian Development Cooperation. Belgium clearly set out its vision and points of attention in this sector in the 2009 *health care policy paper*.

“ This is worse than drugs. People who buy heroin or cocaine, at least they know what they are buying, they are exercising their own decision-making. But someone who has a heart or a kidney condition who buys fake medicine - this is an attempt at murder. ”

Mo Ibrahim, founder and chairman of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, calling the trade of fake medicines - which kills 200,000 people a year - a 'silent killer'.
European Development Days, 6-7 December 2010

Holistic multisectoral approach

Belgium positions the right to health in a more global context, within a **broader development strategy**. This must lead to improvement in health and in the material welfare of the poorest population groups. It therefore concerns not only health, but education, drinking water, hygiene, food, housing, rights of women and children, etc. as well. For example, a mother's level of education is an important factor that influences the state of her children's health. A lack of drinking water or proper housing leads to health problems. But there is also a reverse impact. Health problems have an important effect on economic development: absenteeism, reduced efficiency of the professional population, etc.

High personal costs for medical treatment keep countless families in a state of poverty. That is why the **universal right of access to quality health care** is so important.

Reinforcing the health sector

Belgium stresses the importance of **basic health care** to be able to realise the universal right to health. Our country wants to help set up improved health care systems in partner countries. That care must be high quality and accessible for all sections of the population. Belgium aims to **improve education** for health workers, integrate the fight against certain **diseases** and **improve accessibility**.

Belgian interest in health care also results in a strong financial commitment. In 2010, the Belgian Development Cooperation spent €136,422,249 on this sector, spread over various aid channels.

More streamlined actions

Agreements between donor countries encourage cooperation between and **complementarity** of development institutions, rather than have them do the same work or counteract one another. Belgium supports partner countries in setting up sound national health plans that the various donors can then support. Through multilateral aid, Belgium also supports international organisations such as WHO and UNAIDS, who set out guidelines to provide international aid as much as possible.

A good example of this is the agreement on the international **migration of health workers**. Some countries have a shortage, such as the US and Great Britain. In other countries, such as Ghana or the Philippines, these workers would like to emigrate for better wages. But the departure of these people, who were trained at the expense of the developing countries, threatens to weaken the health systems of those countries (*brain drain*).

In conjunction with the European Union, Belgium has contributed to the **World Health Organization (WHO)** adopting the “code of practice” in 2010. Belgian actors actively endeavoured to set up this balanced guideline while paying attention to migration, respecting the needs of the health systems in the source countries and compensation for the loss of trained workers.

Code of practice wants to better regulate health migration

The 36th World Health Assembly of the World Health Organization (WHO) unanimously approved a global code of practice in May 2010 on the international recruitment of health workers. The code of practice is a guideline according to which all countries concerned are called to present themselves to whatever institution is doing any health care recruitment.

The guideline assumes that (care) workers have a right to migrate. Yet it does recommend that workers should not be recruited in developing countries where there is just such a shortage of workers. If this does happen, some important ethical principles are of importance here: transparency and fairness. Developed countries are also requested not to undermine the sustainability of the local health systems.

The guideline encourages the “destination” countries to technically and financially support health systems in the developing countries. They also want carers to be able to apply the experience they have gained to their country of origin.

International coordination

Besides those international standards, source countries must also have rules to use available resources as efficiently as possible. That is why it was laid down in the Paris Declaration in 2005 that international aid must be coordinated as much as possible with national plans and procedures.

In 2010, Belgium signed the **International Health Partnership (IHP)**. The 48 members are donor and developing countries, international organisations such as the WHO, UNICEF, WB, Global Fund and the private sector such as the *Bill Gates Foundation*. They all want to exert themselves to achieve the MDGs on health.

Be-cause Health

Be-cause Health is a Belgian **knowledge exchange platform on international health care**. The members are academic institutions, medical development organisations, NGOs, consulting firms, government services, partner organisations in the South and individuals from various related sectors and organisations.

The purpose of Be-cause Health is to strengthen the role and effectiveness of the Belgian Development Cooperation actors in making quality health care globally accessible. **Consultation, coordination and activities** that go beyond the organisational level must result in greater influence on international health policy, scientific and technical exchange of knowledge, greater cooperation between the different actors and improved response to the needs of the South.

Be-cause Health is funded by the Belgian Development Cooperation by way of a framework agreement with the **Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITG)**. The Be-cause Health budget for the period 2008-2010 was €107,000 and the budget appropriated for 2011-2013 is €120,000. This amounts to €40,000 per year.

CASE 1

University collaboration coherence The Mozambican “challenge”

University cooperation of the Flemish universities has been joined under one umbrella, i.e. the Flemish Interuniversity Council (VLIR). The VLIR's programme in Mozambique is unique, in the sense that this is the only programme dealing with one key theme: **reproductive health**. Various faculties of the Eduardo Mondlane University in Maputo and various Flemish university institutions are collaborating on this. The programme is called DESAFIO in Mozambique, which means “**challenge**” in English. But it is actually the Portuguese acronym for the programme.

Not only medical aspects are raised. Reproductive health is also a **human right** which is often violated. What legal and administrative resources are there to guarantee these rights? How can gender equality and specific women's rights be promoted? And there is naturally a direct link with the prevention and fight against the AIDS epidemic. A great deal of research is required; this not only concerns academic research, but also research on examining what can be done in practice.

Programme schedule

Subprojects	Faculty in Mozambique	Who handles the coordination in Belgium?
Human rights	Law faculty	Prof. Eva Brems (Ghent)
Social rights and protection	Law faculty	Prof. Yves Jorens (Ghent)
Gender, health and family matters	Social Sciences	Prof. Patrick Meurs (Leuven)
Reproductive health	Medicine	Prof. Kristien Roelens (Ghent)
HIV/AIDS	Medicine	Prof. Herman Meulemans (Antwerp)

Two **transversal** projects are also linked to this: capacity-building and bio-statistics. These are the means to the end of the five thematic subprojects. Moreover, Prof. Marc Aerts is responsible for bio-statistics, which means that the University of Hasselt is also involved.

Mozambique



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In practice, scientists from all the Flemish universities are involved in every subproject. The general academic coordination is in the hands of gynaecologist, Prof. Marleen Temmerman (Ghent University).

CASE 2

Investing in health pays off in El Alto

The municipality of El Alto near the capital, La Paz, with 1 million inhabitants, is one of the most densely populated cities in Bolivia and, simultaneously, one of the poorest. 65% of the inhabitants there are poor and 35% are even extremely poor. Health care was almost non-existent until 2006.

As part of a joint effort to rectify this situation, the government and municipality started up a project to improve **care quality**. The Belgian Development Cooperation supported this initiative.

Less suffering, better health

All types of **actions** were started between 2006 and 2010, such as the expansion, renovation and building of a large part of the primary health care network, the entire network of medical equipment, furniture and computer equipment. Other services were also added: an *intensive care* unit for adults, a unit for intensive infant care, a paediatrics unit and a public kidney dialysis unit were installed.

Laboratories, radiological and echographic research improved their service provision with the result that diagnosis capacity rose. The surgery was provided with more reliable equipment with two units for laparoscopic surgery. There will also soon be a burn unit. That must become a reference, not only for El Alto, but also for the entire Bolivian Altiplano.

Primary health care centres were originally open six hours a day. Today, the majority of them work almost twelve hours and almost a third even work 24/7. This is why **accessibility** to health care services has increased considerably. As quid pro quo, the Ministry of Public Health and Sports provided the necessary support that made it possible to double staff. In addition, nurses were given specialised schooling by way of agreements with the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba in Argentina.

Mortality rates reduced

Carlos Laura, chairman of the Villa Mercedes “G” community council, describes the changes. “Before, we only had a few shabby pieces of furniture in our small office; there was no running water, electricity, basic services or sanitation. The patients had to wait in all weather conditions until they were helped and stones served as chairs. We decided at a certain point to do something about these dreadful conditions and we could contact the Belgian Development Cooperation through the municipality. With this help, we started up a **primary care centre** where we can accommodate and take care of families in a dignified manner.”

Bolivia



Results could be **measured** immediately: thanks to this higher level of health care provision, maternal and infant mortality rates have fallen. “A special point is that we can now guarantee integral care for cervical cancer, the most common form of cancer among Bolivian women. We have been able to bring this about in cooperation with other institutions and international organisations for development cooperation. Until 2008, El Alto did not have the capacity to perform a Papanicolaou (cervical smear) examination. Now the municipality can provide preventive care and treatment during the early stages of cancer. This is a unique public health service provision in Bolivia.”

These results have explicitly led to improving the poverty situation. Healthy people get jobs more easily.

An essential aspect is the **integral approach** to health: there is primary, secondary and tertiary care, while health prevention and promotion are also supported. Active participation by national and municipal **government** was very important, as was that of the department and regional health services. The social actors of the **neighbourhood councils** played their role as partners in the discussions between the project and the population.



CASE 3

NGO Louvain Développement

The NGO Louvain Développement (LD) has been operating in Peru and Bolivia since 2000. When a Coordination Office was established, it could expand and perfect its fields of intervention. In this way, the NGO specialised in **Economic and Food Security (EFS)**. The NGO concentrated on improving living conditions for the extreme poor. The team provided its partners with technical monitoring. The actions are described in the sexennial programmes, which are funded by Belgium.

The second phase of the programme (2011-2013) has just started. In addition to every member's expertise, active participation in various international **NGO networks** keeps the two countries up to standard. This, in turn, continuously reflects on the programme's achievements, which also fit in perfectly with the development plans for Bolivia and Peru and within the Millennium Declaration.

The Health Programme is based on the execution of MDGs 4, 5 and 6 in the Oruro and Chuquisaca Departments. In Oruro, the NGO is executing a project to improve local health care, which fits in with the Intercultural and Community Family Health Care model.

Participation by the community ensures that there is a high degree of social monitoring of the actions to reduce child and maternal mortality rates and to organise more vaccinations for babies under the age of 1.

Bolivia



The intervention strategy of the EFS programme fits in with the scope of the first MDG. The actions do not have a discriminatory effect on women (MDG 3) and maintain the balance between respect for natural resources (MDG 7) and production by making use of new technologies and information. The NGO supports more than 100 rural production units in eleven rural municipalities of the Oruro Department. The NGO promotes development of economic alternatives by linking supply and demand of **Business Development Services (BDS)** to one another. These BDS improve local capacity and knowledge and, thanks to a larger economic dynamism, a yield of 1 dollar a day is achieved. This results in the creation of stable and dignified job security for producing families. The municipal bodies are also encouraged to invest in production units.



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“We want to eradicate undernourishment”

Interview with Dr Ana Maria Aguilar, Bolivian food agency

As coordinator, Ana Maria Aguilar works at “Consejo Nacional de Alimentación y Nutrición” (CT CONAN), the Bolivian federal food agency. She also coordinates the multisectoral programme for “zero undernourishment”, the “Programa Multisectoral Desnutrición Cero” (PMDC).



What is your role and function in the programme?

Aguilar: “I represent the Bolivian Minister of Health and Sports in the CT CONAN. The CONAN technical committee is a platform composed of nine ministries, including economy and planning. I also coordinate national implementation of the PMDC. I try to coordinate the programme with the national development policy and sector policy lines wanting to tackle undernourishment of children.”

What are the direct results of the programme?

Aguilar: “Undernourishment of children under the age of 2 is continuously dropping, from 27% in 2003 to 16% in 2010. An interim evaluation, which is expected during the course of 2011, will confirm this figure.”

What are the outcomes of the programme in the medium and long terms?

Aguilar: “Our ultimate goal is to eradicate undernourishment. That is rather ambitious, but we hope that we will get one step closer to this ultimate goal every time. That is why it is necessary to have the aid of sectors such as production, agriculture, water supply, sanitation, justice and education in addition to that of the health sector. Cooperation with local authorities and social organisations is also crucial.”

To what extent did the programme contribute to achieving the MDGs?

Aguilar: “Improved nourishment is inextricably linked to food security and that is related to reducing poverty. In a country where half of the child mortality rate is due to undernourishment, we also clearly contribute to achieving MDG 4 (reducing child mortality).”

What change did the programme bring about in the community and regions?

Aguilar: “I personally became more closely involved in the social changes in my country, especially in the development of an inclusive social policy. The welfare of the people is the focal point of this policy and the emphasis is more on rights than on charity. When I look at the obvious results of the programme, I am especially pleased with the increasingly active role played by local authorities, social organisations and the population itself. That is the best guarantee for the policy’s sustainability.”

CASE 4

Multi-sector programme for zero undernourishment

Organisations and committees dealing with nourishment

To force back undernourishment among children in Bolivia, the country developed a multisectoral Strategic Plan, with clear tasks at the **municipal level**. Various committees and institutions were established, including the UNIs - “*Unidad de Nutrición Integral*” (integral nourishment unit) and the COMANs - “*Comité Municipal de Alimentación y Nutrición*” (Municipal Food and Nutrition Council).

The government outlined a socially oriented strategy, which was put into practice by way of the “*Sistema de Vigilancia Nutricional Comunitaria*” (nourishment monitoring system). Health officials constitute a **network** within which they gather **data** on experience and knowledge in nourishment fields. This makes it possible to permanently accumulate information. This information is then used to manage municipal operations and tackle weak points. This was how the programme was able to mobilise the community.

The national policy is based on the SAFCI management model (“*Salud Familiar y Comunitaria Intercultural*” - intercultural health in family and community). A network of local health authorities that can influence decision-making bodies has been established. There is also a network of health officials who develop health promotion and prevention.

Municipal incentive

The municipal incentive (“*Incentivo Municipal*”) was established to reward strategy implementation. One of the **impact indicators** is forcing back the extent of undernourishment. Another requirement is that drinking water or safe water is available to at least 30% of the inhabitants in rural areas and 70% in urban areas, in addition to appropriate sanitary facilities and education.

The municipal incentive makes use of the “*Bono Juana Azurduy*”. This bonus not only encourages access to economic resources, it also ensures that women are examined during pregnancy and that they take the child for medical examination after it is born. The municipal incentive is only issued when at least 80% of the pregnant women receive the bonus.

In addition, the obligations are administrative in nature. Municipalities selected by the programme must permanently monitor these indicators and implement their own strategies, which must lead to zero undernourishment. This strategy causes the authorities to appropriate the programme.

Bolivia



The programme got off the ground very slowly. During the first year, much of the energy went into establishing the units for integral nourishment (UNI). However, results **gained momentum** when the municipal incentive was applied. Until 2009, there were only 30 COMANs, but that number had tripled to 108 in 2010. The incentive functioned as a catalyst and it will become apparent that achieving preset objectives on undernourishment has its purpose.

Civil society is highly involved, which results in this policy being embedded in the communities. People in charge and the authorities become familiar with the themes. They will not regard the health theme in terms of a hospital or a doctor, but as a system of multiple causality, where all sectors can contribute to a better result.

Belgian contribution to the zero undernourishment programme

France and Canada are jointly funding this programme, and the Belgian Development Cooperation collaborated in implementing the Strategic Plan and joined the fund. With this support, the “*Programa Sectorial Desnutrición Cero - PDC*” can be implemented at a municipal level.

The programme offers an innovative approach with a great deal of social deployment. Health care is a **municipal responsibility** in Bolivia. Municipalities have been requested to act in health fields that supplement one another: supply of drinking water, breakfast at school, etc.

CASE 5

Health care in underprivileged regions

The sanitary and social development support project (PADSS) wants to improve **sanitary facilities** in the Mopti region, the poorest region in Mali. Three-quarters of the population live under the poverty line and one child out of three dies before the age of 6. To combat this, Belgium and France each make €8 million available to the Government of Mali (from 2003 until 2012).

This project takes both local and regional needs into account. A new modern hospital in Sévaré, a health school in Mopti, and a health centre in Yaouwarou are being built. Locally, 13 doctors, including two women, received training and were given jobs in 13 fully equipped health centres.

“In the beginning, people are not open to having a female doctor coming to solve their problems. Now they say that I have a secret.”

The first doctors started work in January 2008. **Dr Ramaga Samaké**, 34 years old and single, is one of them and works from Boré (110 km from Mopti). The centre includes two nurses, a midwife and a pharmacist. The Boré municipality is a group of 36 villages, which are difficult to reach. During the vaccination campaigns, Dr Samaké travels several days to the most remote settlements, first by camel, then by motorbike.

Is it not difficult to be a female doctor in the bush?

Dr Samaké: “In the beginning, people are not open to having a female doctor coming to solve their problems. Now they say that I have a secret. They phone to make sure that I am doing the appointments before they come to the health centres. In 2010, I spent four days out of seven in the villages for vaccination campaigns. Since November, we have trained two vaccination employees. I often go to schools to raise awareness of AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, family planning and hygiene among the students. During the rainy season, I organised information sessions on malaria. We gave one-year-old children mosquito nets.”

Mali



What difficulties do you encounter?

Dr Samaké: “The isolation was terrible during the first few months. I had never left my family. In addition, the area that we must cover is much too large for a single health centre. The most remote village is 80 km away and is difficult to reach.”



What have you been able to contribute?

Dr Samaké: “I have been able to adjust people’s behaviour. Previously, they were not used to paying for their health. Today, the centre can fend for itself. We receive support from the municipal council and a women’s organisation. The other costs are covered by, among others, medical examinations.”

CASE 6

Searching for new dynamics Health care in Uganda

The Ugandan health sector has good and bad news. The good news: on average, every Ugandan can go to a government hospital once a year. In principle, treatment is free of charge and these hospitals are very busy.

The health story in Uganda was an absolute **success** between 1999 and 2004. The sharp improvement in the health parameters (visits to clinics, child immunisation, number of births in hospitals and forcing back AIDS) has unfortunately come to a standstill since 2005. That is the bad news.

Luc Geysels of the Belgian development agency, BTC, tries to explain this evolution. "The Ugandan health budget has doubled since 2005, but the government spends a large part of that strongly increased budget on **administrative** structures. Therefore, the money never makes it into the hospitals. The hospitals have not seen their budgets rise for the last five years, although they have to face growing demand. Moreover, there is a population growth of 3% per year."



Health workers are experiencing demotivation and there is little supervision, which is reflected in an absenteeism rate of 40%. Mission hospitals provide approximately 40% of the health care in Uganda. They receive government subsidies, but these are also under serious pressure.

Uganda



An involved donor community

Belgium provides the Ugandan Ministry of Health with **budget support**. This is financial support, with which the Ministry of Health can start putting its own health plan into practice. Belgium, in conjunction with other donor countries, follows up on the progress very closely. Besides this more general support to the health plan, the Belgian Development Cooperation wants to more emphatically support the aspect of leadership and management ("capacity reinforcement") in that ministry. Belgium established a specific project on this together with the Ministry of Health. The combination of budget support and projects within the same sector is called a "**portfolio approach**": different tools are applied simultaneously to work on the objectives.

The **donor community** in Uganda is strongly organised to speak unanimously. By way of joint financing and coordinated consultation on the results to be achieved, it is trying to regenerate dynamism within the Ministry of Health.

Pursuant to these consultations, the President has started up a small but strong team. They are examining cases of health care abuse. Some 80 cases have already been brought before the Courts. The team confiscated illegal medicine and tackled absenteeism.



Millennium Development Goal 7



Ensure environmental sustainability by 2015

- Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources
- Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water
- Achieve significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020

Current world state of affairs

Quick facts

- Some 1.7 billion people have gained access to safe drinking water since 1990. Yet 884 million people worldwide still do not have access to safe drinking water and 2.6 billion people lack access to basic sanitation, such as toilets or latrines.
- The world has missed the 2010 target for biodiversity conservation. Based on current trends, the loss of species will continue throughout this century.
- Slum improvements are failing to keep pace with the growing number of urban poor. The absolute number of slum dwellers keeps rising, with some 828 million people living in slums today, even though the share of the urban population living in slums is declining.

Water

The world will meet or even exceed the drinking water target by 2015 if current trends continue. By that time, an estimated 86 per cent of the population in developing regions will have gained access to improved sources of drinking water, up from 71% in 1990. Four regions - Northern Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Eastern Asia and South-Eastern Asia - have already met the target. Even though progress was made primarily in rural areas, those areas still remain at a disadvantage. Eight out of 10 people who are without access to an improved drinking water source live in rural areas.

Sanitation

At the current rate of progress, the world will miss the target of halving the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation, such as toilets or latrines. In 2008, an estimated 2.6 billion people around the world lacked access to improved sanitation. If the trend continues, that number will grow to 2.7 billion by 2015. Wide disparities also exist by region, with sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia continuing to lag behind. And the gap between rural and urban areas remains huge.

Biodiversity

The world has missed the 2010 target to slow the decline in biodiversity. Nearly 17,000 species of plants and animals are currently at risk of extinction, and the number of species threatened by extinction is growing by the day. Despite increased investment, the main causes of biodiversity loss - high rates of consumption, habitat loss, invasive species, pollution and climate change - are not being sufficiently addressed.

Deforestation

Deforestation rates have slowed, but remain fastest in some of the world's most biologically diverse regions. Tree-planting programmes, combined with the natural expansion of forests in some regions, have added more than 7 million hectares of new forest annually. As a result, the net loss of forest area over the period 2000-2010 was reduced to 5.2 million hectares per year, down from 8.3 million hectares per year in 1990-2000. South America and Africa continue to show the largest net losses of forests.

Slums

The target of improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers has already been achieved twice-over. In the last ten years, more than 200 million slum dwellers have gained access to improved water, sanitation or durable and less crowded housing, greatly enhancing their prospects of escaping poverty, disease and illiteracy. Even though the share of the urban population living in slums has declined from 39% to 33% over the last ten years, the absolute number of slum dwellers in the developing world is growing and will continue to increase in the near future - now estimated at some 828 million, compared to 657 million in 1990 and 767 million in 2000.

The Belgian contribution

Global care for the environment

Sustainable development is an essential part of the Belgian Development Cooperation. Care for the environment - as a **transversal theme** - is being included in the projects as much as possible. Since 2008, the fight against climate change has also been in the foreground. For Belgium, the synergy with other environmental problems, such as global loss of biodiversity and desertification, are essential. Water pollution and waste management are issues that enjoy less attention, but they are as important in aiming to achieve sustainable development.

The climate negotiations in Cancun and the **negotiations** on biodiversity in Nagoya were crucial moments on the global environmental agenda in 2010. Industrialised countries had to report on how they would fulfil the financial promises made in Copenhagen. Belgium also made efforts to observe the agreement that the industrialised countries would jointly contribute \$30 billion for the period 2010-2012. This **“fast start” funding** must assist developing countries, on the one hand, in taking urgent measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation or moderation), and, on the other, promoting (adapting) their adjustment to climate change. Capacity-building and technology transfer are also points of attention in the fast start funding.

Multilateral contributions

The Belgian contributions to this MDG are mainly by way of **multilateral institutions** such as the *Global Environmental Facility* and the UN Environment Programme.

The **Global Environmental Facility** (GEF) is the financial mechanism for the three most important environmental conventions for development cooperation: the climate treaty, biodiversity treaty and convention to combat desertification. The negotiations on resources were finalised in 2010. Belgium's annual contribution rose considerably in 2010 from €11.5 million to €15 million. New international arrangements to increase efforts for a sustainable environment justify an increase in the GEF resources.

Within the context of climate funding, Belgium increased its GEF contribution - in addition to the agreements already made - by €10 million for investments in sustainable forestry. Our contribution of €10 million to the *Least Developed Countries Fund* lies within the context of this commitment. €20 million was made available to BIO, the Belgian Investment Company for Developing Countries, to invest in its programme for renewable energy.

The **UN Environment Programme** could count on a voluntary contribution of more than €3 million for general resources in 2010. Belgium elects to support the United Nations institutions and programmes by way of contributions to the general budgets (core funding) to thus promote these organisations' power and efficiency.

In this regard, the important **“Poverty and Environment Initiative”** (PEI), which is a joint initiative by UNEP and UNDP, must be mentioned. PEI attempts to integrate the environmental theme into the poverty eradication programmes of four **“ONE UN”** pilot countries, which are also Belgian partner countries: Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania and Vietnam. It was possible to conduct policy dialogue between **UN Country Teams** and the developing countries thanks to the experience already gained. PEI also influenced the environmental guidelines for the *United Nations Development Aid Framework* (UNDAF).

By way of the international agricultural research of the **Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research** (CGIAR), Belgium supports maintaining biodiversity, climate change and the fight against desertification. Practical examples are the banana gene bank at the KULeuven (*Biodiversity's International Transit Centre*) which receives annual support of approximately €600,000. This globally recognised centre contributes to maintaining and improving the banana variety through research. This is very important because bananas are the basic food for more than 400 million people in the South.

The *International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas* (ICARDA in Syria) and the *International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics* (ICRISAT in India) are two centres of CGIAR that perform agricultural research in the field of desertification.

Bilateral efforts

In **bilateral cooperation**, we see that our partner countries are paying increasingly more attention to climate change. For example, in the cooperation programme with Morocco, there is explicit attention for environment sustainability management and climate change. Belgium endorses the “Green Morocco Plan” and supports the agriculture and water sectors there, which are under great pressure due to climate change and desertification. This illustrates the Belgian strategy to make efforts during the coming years for the fight against climate change and the care for the environment by way of bilateral and delegated cooperation. An internal training cycle on environment and climate - started in 2010 - is to promote the development of this strategy.

Our efforts to stop global loss of biodiversity are translated by, among others, support for the **Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences** (RBINS). The RBINS is Belgium’s national *focal point* in implementing the UN biodiversity treaty. RBINS’s scientific expertise is applied, among others, to building the capacity of the protection of biodiversity in the South.

“ The value of natural resource extraction will be enormous. It will dwarf development aid if these assets are well managed. It will be the biggest opportunity that Africa has ever had. ”

Prof. Paul Collier, University of Oxford, announcing the launch of the Natural Resource Charter, a sequence of principles for guiding governments in managing natural resources.
European Development Days, 6-7 December 2010

During the Year of the Biodiversity, the Belgian Development Cooperation supported a **scientific expedition on the Congo River**, undertaken by a consortium of Belgian and Congolese scientific institutions. Pursuant to this initiative, a research centre for biodiversity at the University of Kisangani was established.

The theme of the Belgian Development Cooperation Prize in 2010 was biodiversity and, in this way, it wants to encourage young researchers in their research efforts pertaining to development.

CASE 1

Encourage joint forestry management

Belgium provided the initiative of the Bolivian Vice-Ministry of Coca and Integral Development with its support. The first phase of the project for integral and **sustainable exploitation of forest resources** was finished in 2010.

Good progress was made during the first three years of intervention, both within the social organisations, including indigenous population groups, such as the Yuqui and the Yuracaré, and local institutions. The latter are the inter-communal cooperatives of the Trópico de Cochabamba and five municipalities forming the territory.

The core problem was accelerated degradation of the forest area due to **random logging**. The project succeeded in reversing this type of forest exploitation and changing it into good management and commercial use of the forest area. This important change was beneficial to 479 communities who live in the forest and use it for various purposes.

The project also paid attention to the organisational and social structure and could count on good cooperation between the communities. Together, they made 6.2 million plants available, with which it was possible to lay out more than **5,000 ha of forest and agricultural/forest area**.



© BTC

Bolivia



Source of sustainable income

Gerardo Rodríguez, national project director, explains a few of the success factors. “We proposed the vision of ‘joint forestry management’, whereby the community is involved in managing its own forest resources. The aim is not only to have this natural resource as a source of income for the families, but also that those families ensure that the forests are not stripped bare.”

Hermenegildo Rojas, farmer with the Syndicate Nuevo Horizonte - Entre Ríos municipality: “I now have taimbuca, almond trees and a few other varieties in a surface area of two hectares. Technicians showed us how we had to plant, gave us the distances, taught us how to prune, etc. I know that we must be patient to really see commercial results.”

One of the immediate results for a few farmers who had officially registered their afforestation efforts is that they could use such plantings for loans, with which they could cover other needs.

Thanks to this initiative, the population could utilise its resources (whether or not it was in the form of wood). There is now a **better balance** between the price for wood as raw material and the finished product when it leaves the sawmill.

Even though the project was only started three years ago, it was possible to lay the foundation for the forest development that they wanted. The project offered not only a future prospect for the local economy, but also a guarantee for environmental sustainability. The consolidation phase of the project must secure this objective.

CASE 2

Water and sanitation in remote areas

Bolivia has a very low population density (8.78 inhabitants per km²). The country's vastness and intemperate conditions on the "Altiplano" (highlands at 4,000 m) do not make life easy. Despite rural exodus to big cities such as El Alto, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, La Paz or Cochabamba, the rural population is still slightly increasing. It is expected that 3.6 million people - 1/3 of the population - will still live in rural areas by 2015, the majority in communities of less than 500 inhabitants.

Access to water and sanitation is a particularly big challenge for them. They often live in **remote areas**. Micro interventions in these small communities often have little effect. It is therefore also easier to invest in urban areas. Investments for the smallest rural communities are all too often still lacking.



UNICEF is one of the few actors wanting to improve **access to water and sanitation** for communities of less than 500 inhabitants. The 7th MDG is the priority here: to halve the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. The United Nations has recently started seeing such access as a human right, a decision that Bolivia also strongly advocated.

Bolivia



For **Koenraad Vancraeynest**, United Nations volunteer with **UNICEF in Bolivia**, it is an instructive experience to join UNICEF in shaping its interventions. "The interventions are not merely limited to technical aspects of wells, pump-water systems or toilets. Work on infrastructure is too inadequate to have any real impact on the health of children and families. An integrated approach that pays attention to social development and the importance of hygiene is essential to reduce the prevalence of diarrhoea and the child mortality rate - which, in Bolivia, is one of the region's highest. Regularly washing one's hands with soap reduces the mortality rate caused by diarrhoea by 44%. Applying water purification results in a reduction of 36% and correct use of sanitation facilities to 32%.

It is crucial to UNICEF that the rural communities develop the capacity to be able to guarantee water and sanitation interventions in the future. That is why the **municipality** is responsible for the largest part of the project cycle, with UNICEF's technical and financial support. Koenraad Vancraeynest: "The municipality contributes one boliviano for every one that UNICEF invests in the community. For the purposes of sustainability, this is a very optimistic evolution for municipalities with an extremely limited budget."

CASE 3

Well-considered waste management in Sikasso

In order to improve waste management in the southern city of Sikasso, Belgium invested more than €2 million in building a modern **waste disposal site**, the first in Mali. On paper, according to the principles of decentralisation, the city council is allegedly responsible for further waste sanitation, despite the fact that it does not have the financial means or the necessary knowledge to do so. To reinforce the local policy in Sissako, our country did, however, make an **international waste expert** available, **Nadine Dulac**.

Dulac states that a sustainable environment also entails supervised management of the waste, which presumes that there will be a change in conduct. “Our intervention is based on the principle of the ‘four Rs’: reduction, revalorisation, recycling and recuperation. I have an advisory capacity with regard to the decentralised government service responsible for remediation and the city council.”

She gives the example of **waste transport** to the disposal site and contracts with private waste collectors. She is currently doing research into the possibility of optimising collection by using carts in a neighbourhood (less polluting than trucks). She gathers data such

Mali



as the length of the streets to be swept or the density of the neighbourhoods from both in-the-field inspections and by searching the **internet**.

The initial results have already been recorded. According to the expert, Sikasso is much cleaner than Bamako, the capital. Sissako's two markets are cleaned every day and the street bins are emptied. The city council also developed a very successful idea: 20 “hygiene guards” ensure that the people actually throw their waste into the bins and raise the awareness among families.



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CASE 4

Improved living conditions in the Kampala slums

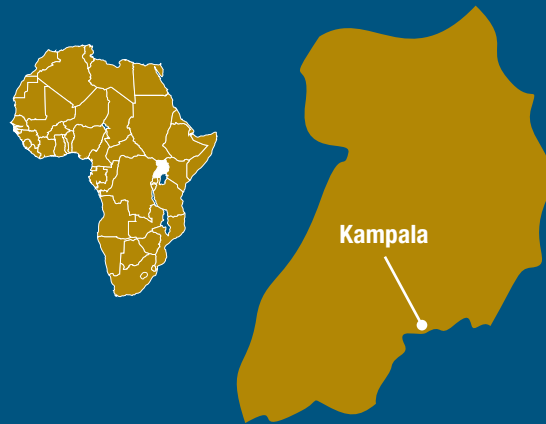
Kampala is the capital of Uganda. During the day, it is an ants' nest of almost 3 million people. At night, approximately 1.2 million people sleep there and the number is rising by 4% every year. Approximately 60% of the inhabitants live in slums. Houses are very small and in poor condition and there is hardly any clean water or sanitation. When there are rain showers, the roads are transformed into mud pools and houses are flooded because waste blocks drainage canals.

Rapid **urban growth** is causing the city council headaches. They are inadequately equipped to plan and implement the necessary infrastructure. That is why Belgium has had a project running since 2006 in three neighbourhoods in this city with over a million inhabitants, which provides better roads, sanitation and access to drinking water. The project runs until 2011. Belgium is spending €4 million on this over the entire period.

The better roads and sewage systems that the Belgian development agency had installed here are an engine for **progress**: home owners can now build better houses. Thirty-five public toilet facilities have also been built and are managed by local representatives. Users pay a small fee.

Public **water distribution points** improve access to clean drinking water. Approximately 30 have been constructed to date. Their success is so great that there are plans to build more water points. People fill up their jerry cans at these points. They pay for the water with a pre-paid chip built into a key. The price is low. A jerry can of 20 litres costs less than half the commercial price.

Uganda



Harriet Mbabazi fetches water from a water point in Kisenyi every day. "This is a major improvement for me. I fetch water every day and I save money. I no longer need to go as far and lug heavy jerry cans along winding little paths. I even lug 4 jerry cans during the weekend because that's when I clean and wash clothes."



© One for Ten

CASE 5

More intense scientific collaboration

The Belgian-Congolese cooperation has been investing in the development of the **agricultural sector** and the maintenance of valuable **forest ecosystems** in and around Kisangani for years. These activities were primarily achieved by way of the Belgian Fund for Food Security, the multilateral and indirect development cooperation. Recently, cooperation in these fields has gone into overdrive.

Agriculture and opening up the rural area are two of the three **priority sectors** included in the new 2010-2013 cooperation programme between Belgium and DR Congo. In addition, the district of Tshopo (Kisangani and surrounding areas) has been selected as 1 of 4 intervention areas for operations regarding agriculture and opening up the rural area. Agricultural research is given a crucial role in developing and implementing agricultural programmes, for which extensive budgets were released. The Belgian development agency, BTC, executes the programmes.



An international scientific expedition to record the biodiversity around the **Congo River** was realised within the scope of the 50th anniversary of DR Congo's independence. They obtained a wealth of new data and discovered new species of animals. This initiative also led to the establishment of the *Centre de la Surveillance de la Biodiversité* at the University of Kisangani (UNIKIS). These activities, in which the National Botanic Garden of Belgium cooperated, are co-financed by the Belgian Development Cooperation, Scientific Policy and National Lottery.

DR Congo



Structural cooperation is growing

Congolese-Belgian scientific cooperation has increasingly intensified during the last few years. The scientific and agricultural faculties of UNIKIS have always been able to count on cooperation with Belgian **universities**. The Flemish Interuniversity Council recently decided to structurally expand the scale of its cooperation by means of a long-term institutional cooperation programme under the heading of "agriculture/biodiversity".

Federal scientific policy also recently decided to fund **two scientific projects** in the *Man and Biosphere Reserve* in Yangambi, 100 km to the west of Kisangani. The main purpose of the projects is to underpin the links between climate and biodiversity. The reserve appears ideally suited for that type of research. And, with funding by the Belgian Development Cooperation, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) is executing a regional project in three UNESCO *Man and Biosphere Reserves*, including the reserve in Yangambi.

In addition, Belgian universities and federal scientific institutions are being actively deployed within the scope of operations that the European Commission is funding, both at UNIKIS and in the INERA Yangambi herbarium.

It is, of course, important to coordinate the institutions and operations of these many activities. The UNIKIS Rector has taken the coordination lead at his institute. The local attaché for international cooperation in Kisangani fulfils an important role in this respect. Finally, the Belgian Development Cooperation also organises consultations with all partners concerned in Brussels.

Knowledge and development policy hand in hand

KLIMOS – Research Platform Climate Change and Development Cooperation

The KLIMOS research platform supports the Belgian Development Cooperation in outlining a **climate-friendly policy**. The platform carries out policy-supporting research into energy, forestry, food security and evaluates sustainability.

In 2010, policy recommendations on opportunities for **REDD** (*Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation*) in semi-arid and arid areas were published. KLIMOS advocates decreasing not only greenhouse gas emissions by reducing deforestation, but also expanding climate negotiations on REDD to REALU (*reducing emissions from all land uses*). This requires a new look at forestry and an ecosystem approach whereby **emissions of greenhouse gases** - which is a natural result of land use - is taken into account. This enables vulnerable communities and developing countries in arid and semi-arid areas to participate in initiatives that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

A series of **training courses** was already organised in 2010 for the staff of DGD on environment/ climate change and development cooperation. KLIMOS took responsibility for a number of these training courses and provided scientific justification. KLIMOS will continue to cooperate with this internal capacity-building in the years to come.

The platform has developed an “**environmental sustainability toolkit**” (see interview). This is a tool to incorporate care for the environment into the Belgian Development Cooperation partnership agreements, programmes and projects. In 2010, the toolkit was made especially user-friendly and applicable. A demo version was tested when a number of cooperation programmes and projects were being prepared.

Innovative tools

Interview with Jean Hugé and Tom Waas, researchers at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, who were responsible for developing the KLIMOS toolkit.

What exactly does the toolkit contain and what do you wish to achieve with it?

“The toolkit is a collection of information, methods and processes to integrate sustainable development into the Belgian Development Cooperation, while focusing on the environment. The kit has been tailored to the DGD. The idea is that other actors, such as the BTC, the Belgian development agency, NGOs and, of course the governments from the South can also use it.

Is this a “climate test”?

“No, for two reasons. One, the scope goes beyond climate alone and also comprises other aspects of environmental sustainability such biodiversity and desertification. It is true, however, that the DGD has requested that climate be afforded priority. And two, the toolkit is one of the resources that integrates environmental sustainability. The toolkit can, however, be used as an evaluation tool for adjustment rather than for testing purposes. Besides that, the kit is also a learning resource for environmental themes that have been dealt with and sustainable development for all concerned.”

Can the toolkit be used for all types of aid in the Belgian Development Cooperation?

“Yes, depending on whether the user works with a project, basic note, Indicative Cooperation Programme or budget support. The combined use of the screening note and the database has been tailored to the projects. You can complete the questions in the note with the aid of updated information from the database. The database is very useful in drawing up a basic note and a cooperation programme because you will inevitably need updated environmental information very quickly.”

What are the plans for the toolkit?

“We are going to develop and adjust the toolkit step by step. We will also apply it to practical examples in the South, including the Limpopo province in South African, in cooperation with local authorities and a local university.”



Jean Hugé and Tom Waas

European Union succeeds in Nagoya

A historical moment for our biodiversity

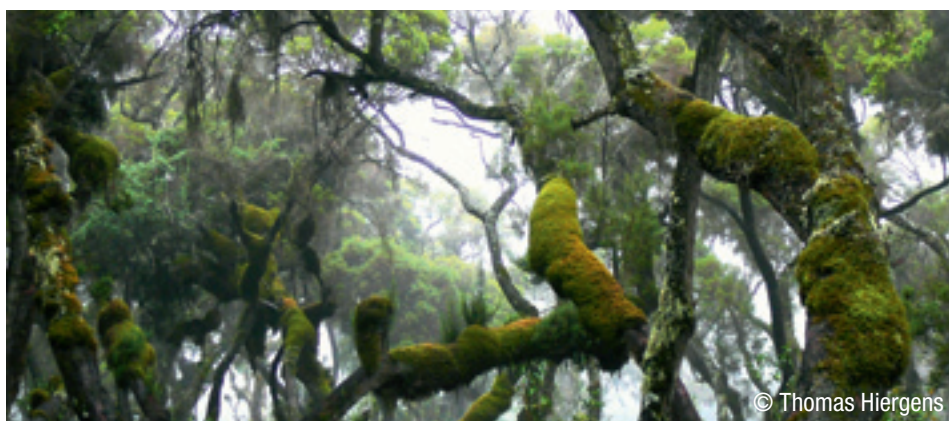
Nagoya (Japan), 30 November, 3 a.m. The participants of the 10th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations *Convention on Biological Diversity* are overjoyed. The **three key dossiers** have finally been approved after long negotiations: the *Nagoya Protocol*, the 2011-2020 strategic plan for biodiversity and the strategy for resource mobilisation.

Genetic sources

Countries with a rich biodiversity, mainly in the South, pushed through the **Nagoya Protocol** (also referred to as the ABS Protocol). The agreement offers a binding legal framework for access to genetic sources. Furthermore, it provides for **fair distribution** of the assets resulting from the commercial use of these sources. In practice, every company (in the pharmaceutical sector, food industry, forestry, horticulture, etc.) trading in genetic resources, must obtain approval to do so from the country where such goods originate. The company must reimburse this country in the form of common patents, sums of money, transfer of technology or capacity reinforcement.

New resources

The South has also received guarantees for the mobilisation of **new financial resources** to maintain its biodiversity. For a while, there was some hope that there would be a permanent commitment by the industrialised countries - Brazil had proposed a sum of \$200 billion over 10 years, for example. But it was agreed that funding mechanisms would be outlined and the size would be determined during the following two years.



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The South insisted during the negotiations that there be an increase in official development cooperation on biodiversity. However, the European Union proposed that this aid be supplemented by **innovative funding mechanisms** (green markets, levy systems, public-private partnerships, etc.). They were faced with distrust from certain countries' which suspected that, by using these mechanisms, the industrialised world wanted to withdraw from the commitments it had made. The debate will be continued in two years' time.

Strategic plan

For its part, the European Union looked forward to an ambitious and motivating 2011-2020 strategic plan. The result however is rather modest. The plan contains 20 objectives for **5 strategic goals**. The standard for a few objectives is not as high as was hoped. For example, only 17% of the earth's surface will be protected by 2020 (this is 13% at the moment). No particular measures were made for forests. In contrast, the protection of the marine environment was reinforced: measures were taken to reduce pressure on fish stock, protect coral reefs and mark 10% of the marine environment to be included in the Protected Areas.

"Nagoya" is not a "Copenhagen bis". Belgium fulfilled the EU presidency here in a dignified manner. The EU acted unanimously and convincingly defended its points of view.

The International Year of Biodiversity and attention for DR Congo

The UN declared 2010 to be the *International Year of Biodiversity*. For the entire year, the Belgian Development Cooperation assisted in establishing a number of **events** that accentuated attention for global biodiversity.

Federal scientific institutions

Federal scientific institutions designed **special projects** to refine knowledge on biodiversity. Expeditions, exhibitions, events, publications and research projects were started up in 2010. For example, there was the big Bee Party of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences. The Belgian Development Cooperation also paid additional attention to this in its awareness-raising activities.

Congo River Expedition 2010

The Congo River Expedition 2010 was begun in April. Sixty-seven scientists explored the **Congo River** and its tributaries by boat to research the biological resources of the Equator Forest - one of the world's least known rain forests - for 47 days. DGD was the most important subsidy provider because the project entails considerable capacity reinforcement for Congolese scientists: scientific and material support, the establishment of a Biodiversity Centre, the accumulation of own reference collections and the opening of the Congolese scientific world.



Congo's 50-year independence

The Year of the Biodiversity and the 50th anniversary of Congolese independence not only appeared to be the ideal context for an expedition, but also for numerous socio-cultural activities. With the support of the Belgian Development Cooperation, the 50th anniversary mobilised tens of thousands of people both in the Congo and in Belgium.



Millennium Development Goal 8



Develop a global partnership for development

- **Develop further an open trading and financial system that is rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory. Includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction-nationally and internationally**
- **Address the least developed countries' special needs. This includes tariff- and quota-free access for their exports; enhanced debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries; cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous official development assistance for countries committed to poverty reduction**
- **Address the special needs of landlocked and small island developing States**
- **Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt problems through national and international measures to make debt sustainable in the long term**
- **In cooperation with the developing countries, develop decent and productive work for youth**
- **In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries**
- **In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies-especially information and communications technologies**

Partnership and collective responsibility, which was classified under the explicit policy-based MDG 8, form the cornerstones of the Millennium Declaration of 2000. International and national policies are inextricably interwoven, which is the reason why the global state of affairs and Belgian contribution in this chapter are presented together.

The Millennium Declaration calls on all countries to contribute to human dignity, equality and equity. The Declaration also names six values that are fundamental to international relations: freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature and shared responsibility. In the chapter on development and poverty eradication, the Millennium Declaration mentions the right to development and

the need to create a favourable context for such development. This second aspect is also reflected in the concept of policy coherence for development, where the European Union has already taken the lead for some time now. The Millennium Declaration moreover says that good governance in each country as well as at international level is a prerequisite to achieving the MDGs.

Six sub-fields are selected from this broad approach in MDG 8: (1) Official Development Aid (ODA), (2) policy coherence for development, (3) innovative development funding, (4) good governance and fight against corruption, (5) fragile States and (6) MOPAN. We describe these sub-fields in more detail.

Current world state of affairs

Quick facts

- Official development assistance stands at 0.31% of the combined national income of developed countries, still far short of the 0.7% UN target. Only five donor countries have reached or exceeded the target.
- Debt burdens have eased for developing countries and remain well below historical levels.
- Only 1 in 6 people in the developing world has access to the Internet.

ODA

Levels of official development assistance (ODA) continue to rise despite the financial crisis, but Africa is short changed and aid remains below expectations. Net disbursements of ODA reached almost \$120 billion in 2009, an all-time high. In real terms, this represents a slight increase of 0.7% compared to 2008, even though in current US dollars ODA fell by over two per cent. Currently, 2010 ODA levels are projected to be around \$126 billion.

For most donor countries, aid remains well below the United Nations target of 0.7% of gross national income. Only five donor countries have reached or exceeded the UN target: Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden. Aid is increasingly focused on the poorest countries, with the least developed countries receiving about a third of donors' total aid flows.

Access to markets

Developing countries are gaining access to the markets of the developed countries. The proportion of developed country imports - excluding arms and oil - from developing countries reached close to 80% in 2008, a jump from 54% a decade earlier. Developed countries' tariffs on imports of agricultural products, textiles and clothing have remained high. But least developed countries are continuing to benefit from preferential tariffs, especially on agricultural products (1.6% as opposed to 8% for other developing countries).

Debt

Debt burdens have eased for developing countries and remain well below historical levels. Forty countries qualify for debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative. Thirty-five of them have had future debt repayments reduced by \$57 billion, and 28 have received additional assistance of \$25 billion under the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative.

Access to new technologies

Access to information and communications technology (ICT) is expanding. Globally, an estimated 4.6 billion people had access to mobile phones by the end of 2009 - equivalent to one mobile cellular subscription for 67 out of every 100 people. Growth in mobile telephony remains strongest in the developing world, where mobile penetration had passed the 50 per cent mark by the end of 2009. Access to the Internet continues to expand, but is still closed to the majority of the world's people. By the end of 2008, 23 per cent of the world population, were using the Internet. In the developed regions, the percentage remains much higher than in the developing world, where only 1 in 6 people are online.

Belgium's Official Development Aid (ODA) Road to progress continues

In 2000, the Belgian government undertook, as of 2010, to achieve the United Nations standard which provides that industrial countries must spend 0.7% of their gross national income (GNI) on development cooperation. The road to progress to the **0.7%** was established by law in 2002. Belgium is more ambitious than the European Union, which has laid down 2015 as the date to aim at achieving this standard.

Until 2005, this road to **progress** was followed. In 2006 and 2007, expenses for which the development cooperation federal budget was liable, decreased slightly and debt relief operations also decreased within the context of the Paris Club. The result was therefore that official development aid amounted to barely 0.43%. This was precisely the same as in 2002, when the road to progress was included in the law.



Highest figure ever

The intention of achieving the 0.7% in 2010 was reconfirmed in the coalition agreement of March 2008 to counteract the negative tendency. Since then, Belgian official development aid rose from 0.48% in 2008 to 0.64% in 2010. Although this is the highest figure that has ever been reached, Belgium therefore just missed achieving the 0.7% goal.

The engine behind the **strong growth** of the last few years was the development cooperation federal budget. This rose from €954 million in 2007 to almost €1,460 million in 2010. Debt relief for DR Congo contributed to the good result.

Belgium is in **sixth place** (2009 data in percentage) behind Sweden, Norway, Luxembourg, Denmark and the Netherlands on the OECD list of the Development Assistance Committee. These 5 countries have already achieved the 0.7 standard.

In Belgium, official development aid is composed of various expenses:

contributions entered in the development cooperation budget (approximately 60% of the total) and in the budget of other federal governments, a part of the expenses for accommodating refugees and for students from developing countries who study in Belgium, the contribution for the regions, communities, provinces and municipalities and the internationally arranged debt relief.

Policy coherence

Development, more than mere development cooperation

In a globalised world the challenges for development cooperation go beyond mere traditional aid. They are **linked to fields** such as climate change, migration, investment, tax, technology and safety. Decisions made in the development cooperation field are no longer adequate for that development. An example is the commercialisation of agricultural products from developing countries on international markets. If you promote this and simultaneously prevent farmers from poor countries from gaining access to these markets, this is no efficient and coherent measure.

Good development policy is therefore more than adequate to achieve the MDGs. This policy must also fit in with political decisions in other fields. During the past years, the OECD and EU have been making efforts to establish **coherence** as a means to the development end.

OECD/DAC

Belgian development cooperation participates in the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the OECD. The DAC wants to provide donors and their partner countries with tools for stronger policy coherence. This is done in three stages: political commitment at the highest level, putting political coordination mechanisms into operation and setting up a monitoring and information analysis system.

At the same time, the DAC knows that there is no general recipe that can be applied to every situation. In some countries, such as Belgium, **policy coordination** is more advanced than political commitment.

Policy coordination

Belgium finds itself in the following situation, as do the other countries: coordinating the policy works extremely well but this is in itself not a guarantee for a coordinated and coherent policy which is beneficial to development cooperation. In practice, FPS Foreign Affairs does the coordination during meetings with representatives of other FPS' and federal institutions. The purpose of these meetings is to establish a **unanimous Belgian position** to prepare for an international conference in a European Council of Ministers. Belgian development cooperation can make its point of view clear and request that development issues be taken into account. In this case, there is policy coordination but not coherence beneficial to development coordination.

Another example is **migration**. There can indeed be actual policy coherence beneficial to development cooperation when one also makes decisions in other government services within the scope of their impact on the development of the migrants' countries of origin.

These examples make it clear that policy coherence beneficial to development starts with political leadership and requires the **joint political will** of the entire government. Subsequently, deliberation mechanisms which function properly are required for their operational execution.

On the right track

The Development Assistance Committee audited Belgian development cooperation in 2010. The verdict on policy coherence is as follows: "on the right track". The DAC suggests that, together with the support of the NGOs, development cooperation makes both parliament and public opinion aware so that the entire government, which is led by the Prime Minister, can take a principal stance. The efforts for this were started in 2010 but the political context in Belgium delayed this process.

Innovative development funding

Closing the funding gap

In the margin of the Millennium Summit in **New York**, Belgium, together with Japan and France, organised a **side event** on innovative funding mechanisms. It was attended by 500-odd representatives from countries and international organisations. This appeared to be a unique occasion to make a summary of the state of affairs in this relatively new field and promote a few strong initiatives.



“ The private sector can drive development on a scale that donor organisations cannot. But the lack of access to finance is a critical factor for most SMEs in sub-Saharan Africa. ”

Dr Thomas Duve, Director of the Africa Department at the German KfW Development Bank
European Development Days, 6-7 december 2010

Innovative funding mechanisms are seen as one of the potential solutions to close the funding gap to achieve the MDGs. In New York, there was further delving into its application to the education sector and health programmes (for the purchase of medicine, fight against pandemics such as AIDS and malaria, funding vaccination programmes, etc.).

Most of the attention went to the report on taxing the financial sector for development objectives. Among others, the Belgian expert, Lieven Denys, showed here that it is perfectly possible to put a **global tax on exchange rate transactions** into technical and operational practice. An adequately broad political basis to effectively apply the measure is still lacking. Belgium, France, Japan, Norway, Brazil and Spain have already shown their support for this proposition.

Good governance and institutional reinforcement.

Against corruption, for strong community

Communities are characterised by **formal structures** (civil society, traditional tribes and NGOs) and **informal** structures (parallel systems to be able to cope, black market, religious and mystic movements, etc.). It is essential that attention be paid both to manage the community well and to achieve actual development.

Strengthening legitimacy

Capacity reinforcement is a tool towards better governance and can be applied at different levels: for institutions, organisations and individuals. This support strengthens the legitimacy and stability of the various components of the state and society, which raises the impact of our aid and development. The reinforced state bodies can perform their tasks properly and the community forces are well equipped to monitor such proper performance.

“ Good governance cannot be imposed from outside. You can devise the most sophisticated systems to track money, but if the political will doesn't exist inside the government, it isn't going to work ”

Caroline Anstey, World Bank Group Vice-President for External Affairs, saying that the approach of the World Bank is to make sure no money flows until aid reaches the poor.
European Development Days, 6-7 december 2010

Belgium supports various institutional actors. In DR Congo development cooperation supports the three key ministries targeted by the Indicative Cooperation Programme: agriculture, rural development and technical and professional education.

Belgium supports the fight against corruption

Combating corruption and good governance are key elements in achieving the MDGs. Belgium has adopted **encouraging governance measures** and **anti-corruption clauses** (the latter also for Tanzania) in the cooperation programmes with Burundi and DR Congo, both bilaterally and in a context of transversal approach. This means that Belgium has been prepared to increase its support (a complementary amount) during the last few years of the cooperation programme, on condition that the government can show actual progress in democratic and financial management.

The BTC, Belgian development agency, is also sensitive to these management aspects. It has joined the “U4” platform, the *Anti-Corruption Resource Centre*, which encourages information exchange and organises training courses.

Multilaterally, Belgium is involved in the **fight against corruption** through its cooperation with the World Bank. A strategic framework has been drawn up for 2008-2011. This framework must identify the technical expertise and skills that the World Bank can make available to Belgium's partner countries. The framework is founded on three lines of intervention, including good governance and the fight against corruption. Together with the World Bank, our country organised a conference in Brussels in 2010 which led to a declaration on ethics regarding good governance in Africa.

Countries in fragile situations

Improve aid streamlining

It is not self-evident that (most) vulnerable countries can achieve the MDGs. In general, it is difficult for these countries to implement reforms and the key actors, state structures and civil society are rather weak. The situation is mostly aggravated by other problems: extreme poverty, lack of security and violence, permanent crises, post-conflict situations, etc. These countries are even more susceptible to regional and international shocks, such as the financial and economic crisis during past years.



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In 2010, these countries also lagged behind in achieving the MDGs. Some of them received increased support once again (Afghanistan, Iraq, Ethiopia and Pakistan), but others remained “aid orphans”. It is therefore important to **balance** aid streams and to maintain a certain level for a longer term. In this way aid can be substantial after a crisis, but after that, it decreases while the needs increase. In addition, certain donors are reviewing their commitments due to the current economic crisis within the context of results that may or may not have been achieved.

Six of Belgium’s partner countries are currently vulnerable: Rwanda, DR Congo, Burundi, Niger, Uganda and the Palestinian Territories. They represent an important part of our development aid.

Efficient and effective

Within the context of more efficient aid the member of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) undertook to change those actions causing damage to the partner countries' development. **Differentiation** in the approach to aid policy is, after all, essential, even though they still hesitate to put this new approach into practice due to the complexity. All projects, programmes and their execution provisions must be reconsidered within the broader perspective: how can we best support agriculture, education and health care in a vulnerable country? In 2010, the most progressive donors, including Belgium, developed a special strategy for vulnerable States.

The *International Network on Conflict and Fragility* (INCAF), one of the work channels of the DAC, helps donors in their support measures by continuing to build on one another's experiences. Belgian development cooperation participated in this and benefited from the exchange. In 2010, the DAC published its guidelines on the *international support to statebuilding in conflict situations and vulnerability*, which the members have agreed to execute the approach described therein.

The *International dialogue on consolidation of peace and statebuilding* was formally established in the margin of the INCAF. This dialogue unites donors and vulnerable countries to exchange ideas on this. They have undertaken to draw up an action plan containing recommendations. This will be proposed at the *4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness* in Busan (South Korea) at the end of 2011.

Belgium and MOPAN

Gauging efficiency at international institutions

Belgium has been following the operations of the *Multilateral Organisations Performance Assessment Network* (MOPAN) for a few years now. After having attended three times, our country decided to become a member in February 2010.

The MOPAN network was established in 2002 and has 16 member states. MOPAN developed an **evaluation tool** which measures the management and institutional efficiency of multilateral development organisations. This concerns the most important UN agencies and international financial institutions. With reference to a questionnaire, MOPAN zooms in on four parts of **management efficiency**: operational, strategic, relational and knowledge management.

Every year, MOPAN audits the management efficiency of four or five multilateral organisations in 10 developing countries. In 2010, MOPAN audited the *International Fund for Agricultural Development* (IFAD), the *United Nations Population Fund* (UNPF), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the *Asian Development Bank* (ADB). Both the **internal operation** and operations **in the field** of these organisations of the following countries were audited: Afghanistan, Benin, Columbia, Indonesia, Nicaragua, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Zambia.

MOPAN bases its reports on the study of literature as a second source of information besides surveys. This is an **audit** of current literature on various aspects of what MOPAN analyses. This study makes it possible to objectify the general decisions of the evaluation to a certain extent and to place respondents subjectivity in their context.

Belgium follows these evaluations closely because it has decided since 2009 to maximise its contributions to the general resources for multilateral organisations. As a result of this, Belgian multilateral cooperation can spend the majority of its time on strategic, operational and political monitoring. MOPAN therefore helps to obtain a good overview of the ins and outs of politics of the 21 multilateral organisations.

Defence, diplomacy and development cooperation

Essential coherence

The Ministry of Development Cooperation cooperates with other ministries on certain dossiers. For example, the Ministries of Development Cooperation, Foreign Affairs and Defence tackle civil and military commitments in **Afghanistan**, especially for demobilisation, disarmament and mine clearance purposes. In such dossiers, viability of the “**3D-LO**” approach (*Diplomacy, Defense, Development, Law and Order*) is being examined. They jointly develop a coherent policy to set up civil military interactions.



Joint approach in DR Congo

The difficult region of **East Congo** is struggling with a worsening infrastructure and an abominable standard of living. There is also the problem of reintegrating the soldiers and police into society, who, together with their families, must often be temporarily housed in **camps**.

Families sometimes travel in the soldiers' wake for months. Moreover, their wages are the only source of income for the entire family at that stage. However, the camps are not built for that type of family accommodation. Furthermore, the whole situation makes for conflict with the local inhabitants. They already have inadequate resources and are then confronted with the burden of travelling soldiers, police and their families.

Within the context of rebuilding the army, the Congolese Government has decided to establish a regiment of 600 troops in the **Kindu** military camp. On the Belgian side, “3D” cooperation was established to improve the advanced derelict situation of the civil and military **infrastructure**. Military training is funded by Defence, modernisation of the military camp infrastructure by Foreign Affairs and construction of houses for the soldiers' families by Development Cooperation.

Work for this was started at the end of 2010. The purpose is

- to provide housing for the families of all 623 soldiers, including sanitary infrastructure (showers and toilets);
- to guarantee access to water;
- to provide the soldiers' families and the inhabitants of the neighbourhood with access to health care and education;
- to develop social activities, including activities that generate income.

CASE 1

Improved tax collection

Mozambique has been making efforts to improve tax collection for a few years now, because the country is still losing a substantial amount of income. The first signals indicate that results are **positive**. Pursuant to this, the international community decided to support these efforts.

The Mozambique **Autoridade Tributária** (“Tax Authority”) was installed in March 2006 to integrate customs and all services of the Ministry of Finance. Up to that point, tax collection was rather inefficient. Therefore, tax reform means the following:

- drawing up a more adequate legislation;
- simplifying procedures;
- improving collection;
- introducing adjusted hardware and software;
- building tax offices;
- organising tax services efficiently;
- having well-trained staff;
- informing and finding tax payers;
- develop a particular culture and ethics among civil servants and the public.

Reducing aid dependence

Helping the Mozambique government in this way is also **development cooperation**, just as much as building hospitals or supporting agriculture. If an evaluation of a country shows that it is too dependent on donors, then government efforts to reduce such dependence deserve full support. Currently, almost half of the Mozambique government budget is funded by donor money, and another substantial part of non-governmental aid and projects are not entered in the budget. The Mozambique government realises that this is untenable in the long term.

Mozambique



A few donors have therefore opened a **common fund** and supply **technical expertise** to support the *Autoridade*. Belgium has provided €3 million. The first agreement for €2 million in 2010 was signed on 5 March 2010 and technical expertise was attracted by BTC, the Belgian development agency.

The **International Monetary Fund** (IMF) finds that this money has been well spent. The IMF is positive about the *Autoridade Tributária*: it avails of strong leadership, tax collection and the first phase of the reform are running smoothly and tax legislation has been properly drafted. However, a few things should be simplified and there is urgent need for a decentralised land registry (registry of all houses and buildings).

The results are therefore good. Between 2006 and 2009, tax income rose nominally by 70% and approximately 578,000 new tax payers were “registered”. The income in 2009 corresponds to 17.7% of the GNI, which is a fair result.

CASE 2

Harmonising Belgian and Flemish development cooperation

Donor coordination and task distribution are two cornerstones of effective development cooperation. Because Mozambique is a partner country for both the federal and Flemish governments, **both donors** coordinate their working methods.

David Maenaut, representative of the Flemish Government in southern Africa, puts it as follows: “As a relatively small donor, it is important that we respond to and join in different forms of donor consultation in Maputo. This firstly takes place in coordination with federal development cooperation and also through constructive dialogue and agreements on the proper distribution of tasks in an EU context. In the long term, the Lisbon Treaty will also have an impact on the European working method in the South.”

Various sectors

Flanders was especially active in two sectors during the period 2006-2010. “The first sector is **health care** and the second is **technical and vocational education**. Flanders budgeted approximately €4 million per annum for health and €1 million for vocational education. It is anticipated that there will be an exit from the vocational education sector after 2013.”

In addition to its support for **rural development** and **renewable energy**, federal development cooperation also supports the **health care sector** in Mozambique. Within the context of arrangements with the other donors, work is being done on an exit strategy for the end of 2012. This is logical from the principle of task distribution among donors and perfectly acceptable for the Government of Mozambique because Flanders will remain active in the field of health.

Mozambique



But there's more. The **Flemish International Cooperation Agency (FICA)** has a representative in its partner countries, so also in Maputo. For efficiency reasons, FICA and DGD avoid attending the same meetings. FICA attends the health sector meetings. There is consultation between FICA and DGD every month. Conversely, DGD provides FICA with information on more political donor consultations: the state of affairs of the global poverty eradication policy, meetings of the EU human rights heads of post, etc.

Harmonising both governments' development policy is therefore intended to promote complementarity and effectiveness. Both governments are perfectly satisfied with the cooperation and results. Naturally, partner countries also benefit from effective donor resource input.

CASE 3

Belgium supports the decentralisation process

Together with its partners, Mali signed the “**Common Strategy for Mutual Support to Countries**” (2008-2011) on 8 December 2009. This strategy occurred at the right time for Belgium because DGD was re-planning its support for 2009-2012. Belgium is one of the first donor countries concentrating its aid to Mali on two priority sectors: **food security**, especially promoting livestock breeding and fishing, and government **decentralisation**.

According to the Belgian embassy’s international cooperation attachés, the Government of Mali recognises Belgian **expertise** regarding **livestock breeding**. “Mali has requested that we support fishing and livestock breeding. In addition, Belgium has developed expertise on administrative decentralisation. Choosing these two sectors does not preclude Belgium from continuing to attach importance to transversal themes such as the protection of children’s rights, gender equality and respect for the environment.”

There is considerable consultation between Mali and its partner countries so that aid can be more efficiently programmed. There is also proper distribution of tasks and complementarity between the different donors. Mali has established an interministerial body to execute the Common Strategy.



“Indigenous population is entitled to consultation”

Interview with Arnaud Chaltin, UN volunteer in Bolivia

Arnaud Chaltin works as a UN volunteer at the High Commission for Human Rights in Bolivia, more particularly in the service that monitors the rights of indigenous peoples and the fight against discrimination. This is within the framework of achieving MDG 8, in particular to create a partnership for development.

Arnaud Chaltin: “The Second International Decade of the World’s Indigenous People started in 2004. The first started after the International Year in 1993. Its priority is to promote development based on the principle of equality and respect for the peoples’ cultural diversity. The UN guarantees indigenous peoples the right to self-determination in political, economic, social and cultural fields.”

What is the practical meaning of this in Bolivia?

Arnaud Chaltin: “I have closely followed the consultation process of a legal measure that has a distinct influence on indigenous peoples. This was the first consultation process of such a measure for Bolivia. There were more than 34 information meetings, with 1,700 indigenous leaders, followed by 27 consultation forums with 3,000 indigenous leaders from all over the country. The right to consultation is without doubt an essential condition to the right to be able to exercise own development, culture and identity.

Another example is the restoration of the territory of the Guarani, a people inhabiting the Alto Parapetí. A majority of the Guarani are still victims of slavery and forced labour in this region. Restoring their territory is a fundamental measure in the fight against this grave violation of human rights. It is therefore all the more important, seeing that there is a spiritual link between the indigenous peoples and their territory.”

What have these experiences meant to you personally?

Arnaud Chaltin: “I have learned a great deal through my work and the courses that I was able to follow as a volunteer at the UN. Personal meetings with certain indigenous leaders or experts in indigenous peoples’ rights left a big impression. My ideas on human rights have evolved. Experiences with these indigenous rights allow one to accord human rights a more universal nature. They introduce cultures and realities that have not really formed part of the traditional vision on human rights until that point in time.”





Contribution by way of the International Financial Institutions

Introduction

Washington D.C., home base of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF), has also been an area of the Belgian Development Cooperation action since long. Two international cooperation attachés monitor matters related to development cooperation. The work in Washington focuses on policy influence at the World Bank and IMF. Evolutions in the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and various think tanks such as the *Center for Global Development* and the *Bank Information Center* are also monitored.

In this part, we zoom in on what the World Bank and IMF have invested and achieved regarding the MDGs. By giving its support, Belgium has contributed to achieving these results.

Encouraging growth helps the MDGs

The World Bank's approach

The World Bank provides technical and financial aid in the form of gifts, interest-free credits and guarantees to States wanting to fight poverty. The World Bank, to whom Belgium contributes almost €150 million per year, is made up of 5 organisations.

1. Financial programmes that must stimulate economic growth, reduce inequalities and improve the populations' living conditions by means of gifts or interest-free loans to the 79 poorest countries through the **International Development Association (IDA)**.
2. Funding similar equipping programmes at normal interest rates for countries with average income through the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)**.
3. The **International Finance Corporation (IFC)**, which funds loans and investments benefiting the development of the private sector or participations in companies.
4. The **International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)**.
5. The **Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)**.

The World Bank regards the MDGs as an extension of the fight against poverty, which are consistent with the ambition of stimulating growth and improved access to providing basic services.

Launching the MDGs and monitoring the various crises have caused the World Bank to establish **5 strategic priorities**:

- targeting the poorest and most vulnerable, especially in sub-Saharan Africa;
- creating opportunities for growth, especially in the agricultural and infrastructure sectors;
- promoting global and collective activities;
- reinforcing good governance and the fight against corruption;
- managing risks and preparing for crises.

The World Bank recently **doubled** its budget for loans to the IBRD and the IDA from \$50 billion in 2007-2008 to \$106 billion in 2009-2010.

We describe for what initiatives the World Bank has deployed to achieve each of the Millennium Goals below.

MDG 1: eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

The recent food, energy and economic crises are jeopardising the realisation of this MDG. The World Bank provided \$8.3 billion in support to the agricultural sector (as opposed to \$4.3 billion until the year 2008).

In 2010, the IDA spent \$15 billion on the “*Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative*” benefiting 26 countries and \$1.4 billion on programmes that must create a social safety net for the poorest peoples in 39 countries.

MDG 2: primary education for all

The World Bank has been affording education priority attention since 1962. In this field, the World Bank is the first external source of funding for developing countries - in many countries it is even the only significant one.

The IDA has invested more than \$10.2 billion in 112 countries since 2000. With this money, 91 million students could and can register, more than 3 million teachers were trained, more than 2 million classrooms were built or renovated and approximately 300 million textbooks were distributed.

The World Bank plays a key role in numerous international partnerships for education, such as *Education For All - Fast Track Initiative* (see p. 39).

After the summit in New York in September 2010, the World Bank decided to increase its aid to primary education by \$750 billion in the form of gifts and interest-free loans.

MDG 3: promote gender equality, increase women's empowerment

Since 2006, half of all projects funded by the IDA have dedicated a part to gender equality. In 2007, the World Bank started the *Gender Action Plan* (GAP), the plan of action for gender equality, for more equality in fields such as land ownership, equality at work, agriculture, funding and infrastructure. Today, GAP still funds 250 projects and research work in 80 countries. Thanks to IDA's efforts, 9% more girls could complete their primary school education between 1999 and 2008.



Forty-five percent of all World Bank loans have integrated gender equality - as opposed to 35% two years ago. This progress especially applies to loans in the agricultural and rural development sectors, economic policy, development in the private sector and infrastructure. This shows that investments to promote women's economic autonomy yields results and that they are even catching up with investments in the social field.

MDG 4: reduce child mortality

The strategy of the World Bank is aimed at strengthening national health systems. At the Millennium Summit in New York, it was decided that the World Bank would concentrate on 35 countries, the majority of which are in eastern and southern Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa. Its budget will be increased to \$600 million for this purpose.

The IDA programmes have vaccinated 310 million children in the past decade. Since 1995, the IDA has contributed to reducing the mortality rate of children under the age of 5 from 134 to 105 out of every 1,000 children.

The World Bank also plays a role in international partnerships on health care. Together with the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Bank coordinates the International Health Partnership and Related Initiatives (IHP+ see frame). The World Bank, Global Fund, Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) and the WHO are currently making efforts to establish a unique funding platform for health systems. The purpose of this is to channel the stream of current resources and new international funds.

The **International Health Partnership** was launched in London in September 2007. It is a coalition of governments, donors and international health agencies, including the WHO and UNICEF. The IHP aims to achieve better results by convincing each partner to choose a single health strategy.

The plus symbol stands for bringing together all types of initiatives aiming to achieve the same goals, such as Providing for Health (P4H), Harmonization for Health in Africa (HHA), etc. Belgium joined the IHP in 2010.

MDG 5: improving maternal health

World Bank projects improve women's access to efficient and operational health systems. For example, it supports programmes for family planning, initiatives for improved nourishment, safer childbirth in hospitals and disease prevention.

With IDA's support, more than 8 million people obtained access to life-saving health and nourishment services. During the past five years, 2.5 million pregnant women received pre-natal care.

MDG 6: combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

The World Bank took the initiative to make money providers new partners, precisely at the time when contributions to the fight against HIV/AIDS was reduced.

With IDA's support, 2 million children and adults infected with HIV received anti-virus treatment. Between 2000 and 2010, 33 million mosquito nets were sold and distributed. The Bank launched the "Malaria Booster" programme in 2005. This aims to increase financial aid and technological assistance in the fight against malaria.

The *Global Fund to fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria* is an international financial institution that supports 150 countries in preventing and treating these diseases. For this purpose, it appeals to a broad network of partnerships with other development organisations. The money that the *Global Fund* collects do not serve to replace or reduce other programmes. The intention is that the money should fill certain gaps in country programmes or be complementary to what donors are already doing.

According to the *Global Fund* figures, 3 million people received anti-retroviral treatment (AIDS inhibitors) in this way, 7.7 million new infections of tuberculosis were detected and treated and 160 million impregnated mosquito nets were distributed to families.

MDG 7: ensure environmental sustainability

The World Bank is making increasing attempts to manage the environment and integrate natural resources into projects for agriculture, water, remediation and the urban environment. These projects represent 9% of the newly granted loans over the past five years.

Furthermore, the World Bank designed an investment framework for cleaner energy in developing countries. The Climate Investment Funds (CIF) jointly used \$6 billion to assist 40 countries in climate change.

The World Bank is the most important external financier in the sectors of water supply, remediation, irrigation and drainage of polluted water, and in the management of river basins and international water projects. More than 113 million people now have the benefit of drinkable water. Almost 500,000 collective water points were installed or put into operation again.

MDG 8: develop a global partnership for development

In 1996, the World Bank and IMF launched the *Heavily Indebted Poor Countries* (HIPC) initiative to relieve countries of their heavy debt burden. The *Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative* was established to provide the HIPC with additional resources. In this way, there was an attempt to help countries achieve the MDGs and, simultaneously, maintain the funding capacity of the international financial institutions.

The eighth MDG also wants to take initiatives to close the digital gap. With \$7.6 billion, the World Bank is the most important international financier in the development of information and communications technology. It supports projects in 95 countries.

“The World Bank transforms a range of financial services in order to achieve the MDGs”

Interview with Gino Alzetta, World Bank Executive Director



Belgium shares its representative on the **World Bank Group's Board of Directors** with 9 other countries: Hungary, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, Austria, Slovakia, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Turkey and Belarus. The position of *Alternate Executive Director*, currently held by the **Belgian Gino Alzetta**, is held in turn by the different countries. From Washington, Mr Al-

zetta gives us his vision on how the World Bank can make an efficient contribution to achieving the MDGs in the future.

Finally, realising the MDGs requires structural changes and a thorough change in mentality: a general rational approach to problems, drawing up and respecting the principles of good governance, changing the relationships between men and women, changing the value hierarchy, etc.”

zetta gives us his vision on how the World Bank can make an efficient contribution to achieving the MDGs in the future.

Will the MDGs be achieved within the term set?

Alzetta: “Globally, it must be possible to achieve the first goal. That will then primarily concern progress in China where the poverty figure fell from 78% to 17% between 1981 and 2005. However, other regions will not achieve this goal. This definitely applies to sub-Saharan Africa, where the poverty figure was still only 51% in 2005, which is only slightly lower than in 1990 (58%).”

Despite the great leap forward in certain countries, the majority of the MDGs that relate to human development will unfortunately not be achieved. This concerns aims such as reduction of the child mortality rate, improvement in maternal health, gender equality, primary education completion, etc.”

Why is this?

Alzetta: “The world has been confronted with various crises that have been undermining the MDG process over the past four years: food and energy price increases, a financial crisis and an economic crisis. Heavy natural disasters also struck a few developing countries. The World Bank estimates that another 64 million men and women found themselves in poverty due to the economic crisis. Many developing countries had to cope with damage because the prices of raw materials collapsed and bills were not paid.”

It is also dangerous to establish quantitative aims when there is insufficient knowledge about the initial situation. The MDGs were laid down at a time when the available statistics on data were inadequate or even non-existent.

Which obstacles must be removed to solve this situation?

Alzetta: “The developing countries must find the resources to maintain an adequately high growth rate and must be sufficiently resistant to external cyclical shocks. Three out of four poor people live in rural areas and most of them depend on agriculture. So it's high time to take measures that benefit agricultural production, improve access to markets and that make them less dependent on the climate.”

Governments must also address local resources, create safety nets for certain target groups and protect their expenses in health care, education and infrastructure. They must simultaneously radically improve access to good services for the poorest people.

One could increase the resources available by stimulating innovating funding systems. Tax on speculative financial transactions can be a very promising channel.”

How can the World Bank help developing countries face these challenges?

Alzetta: “The World Bank has strong advantages, such as the size of the resources, central country approach, fast response times and its position to unite different partners. That is why the World Bank will create opportunities through financial services and knowledge transfer to improve the living conditions of millions of poor people, both in countries with an average income and with the lowest income.”

The World Bank has acquired additional resources from donors, pursuant to negotiations in the International Development Association (IDA). These resources are destined for the poorest peoples.”

Is the World Bank adequately familiar with the local situation to be efficient?

Alzetta: “Aiming to achieve the MDGs does indeed require great empathetic capacity, which is not possible without knowledge or proximity to reality. The World Bank had already started with its decentralisation before there was talk of the MDGs and it has intensified since then. Almost half of its employees deployed to the regions work locally. The majority of the country directors work in the country for which they are responsible.”

A special relationship

The International Monetary Fund and the MDGs

Belgian development cooperation and the IMF

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is not a partner in the Belgian multilateral development cooperation. Yet the cooperation with the IMF is still growing due to the realisation that a stable macro-economic climate is an essential prerequisite for sustainable development.

Until 2010, Belgium spent approximately €1 million per year to organise macro-economic courses for middle- and high-level executives from developing countries. These countries received technical assistance on taxes, money and on payment balances and exchange rates. Belgium doubled its contribution to the IMF in 2010 to €2 million. The focus is now more on expanding own income on the budget of the developing countries so that dependence on aid diminishes.

Economic growth

In 2010, the IMF wrote a paper as its contribution to the Millennium Summit in New York. This outlines the **IMF vision** to its own contribution to the MDGs, which is very indirect (see also interview with Willy Kiekens). It also sets out what the institution regards as important for changes after the financial crisis.

In any event, IMF is focusing on economic growth. Growth is an essential (but not the only) condition to restore the momentum in achieving the MDGs. That growth must also effectively fight poverty and benefit areas and sectors where the poor are numerous.

In the run-up to 2015, the IMF sees **five challenges** to restore and accelerate growth in developing countries.

- Growth in developed and rising economies must recover rapidly. This is a precondition for recovery in developing countries;
- Developing countries must rebuild their reserves as quickly as possible. These enabled them to survive the financial crisis, but they are now inadequate to counter a new shock;
- The shortfall in infrastructure must be tackled;
- Trade hindrances must be removed, trade relations with dynamic rising economies must be strengthened;
- The international community must ensure that there is a permanent commitment for fragile States so that development here no longer lags behind.

“Stability is an essential prerequisite for development”

Interview with Willy Kiekens



Willy Kiekens is on the **International Monetary Fund’s Board of Directors**. This is made up of 24 members who represent 187 countries. Kiekens represents a group of 10 countries, including Belgium. Decisions are made by consensus. Voting only takes place in exceptional circumstances, whereby the voting weight of each director depends on the economic weight of the represented countries. Willy Kiekens explains the IMF’s current challenges.

Kiekens: “The IMF is an institution that is often associated with dry macro-economic quantities. It supervises countries’ monetary, tax and exchange rate policies. For many people, the link between the operations of the IMF and achieving the MDGs remains vague. There is no direct link. The IMF does not intervene in organising education or health care, for example. The IMF does, however, provide a framework in which the government, development partners, NGOs and the private sector can do their work most efficiently.

As an example, I refer to the debt relief regarding initiatives such as *Heavily Indebted Poor Countries* (HIPC) and the *Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative* (MDRI). These ensured that countries that received debt relief could now put in more resources for, among others, education and health care instead of debt payments. Of course it is important that those countries do not incur untenable debts again. Through these initiatives and by watching over a balanced tax policy, the IMF therefore made a double contribution to the MDGs.”

The IMF made a special effort to mitigate the consequences of the financial crisis. Did this have an impact on the MDGs?

Kiekens: “The IMF cannot make donations; it can only grant loans. In 2009, the IMF granted new, cheap loans to developing countries in the amount of \$3.8 billion, more than double those in 2008. These loans are cheaper than those to be found on the market, and therefore, the IMF alleviates the impact of the crisis and contributes indirectly to the MDGs.

The IMF also created 250 billion extra “IMF Special Drawing Rights”. Developing countries received \$18 billion of that. They can use these Drawing Rights to supplement their reserves or sell them in exchange for hard cash.

Finally, the IMF also established the new Post-Catastrophe Debt Relief Trust (PCDR). This allows the IMF to waive debts for countries that have been hit by natural disasters. For example, Haiti could cancel its debts with the IMF after the violent earthquake in January 2010.”

Measures such as inflation management and free capital movements provide macro-stability. But critics say that this primarily benefits investors and markets, not development.

Kiekens: “Macro-stability is an important prerequisite to be able to conduct a development policy. It is very difficult, if not impossible, to conduct a development policy in a country where the tax shortages lead to untenable debts because those debts demand ever more important parts of the available income in the form of repayment obligations. You also can’t expect development where inflation is so high that the confidence in the currency is undermined, where the lack of stability puts off potential investors and/or drives them out of the formal economy.

Take inflation management: when inflation is at its highest, it becomes very difficult to apply micro-financing, unless one asks high interest rates or grants loans in a foreign, but stable, currency, whereby the exchange rate risk lies with the people taking out the loan. If a financial institution or an NGO books a loss in micro-financing activities, the basic capital is reduced, which means that eventually one can no longer grant credits to the poor. During a relatively low and stable inflation, however, it is possible to apply micro-financing profitably, which makes it possible to expand activities and grant more people credit.”

How do you see the private/public relationship in this context?

Kiekens: “Economic growth and employment are not only created by the public sector. The private sector also plays an important role here. There is a large informal sector in many developing countries because of the bad business climate, which causes the government to lose a great deal of internal revenue. Macro-stability and a good business climate make investment more attractive to local and foreign investors. This is advantageous for employment and increases internal revenue. And that, in turn, allows the government more social spending.”

How do you attempt to incorporate remarks that are relevant to development and which are locally familiar into your decisions in the remote “Washington”?

Kiekens: “The final decision is made in Washington, but this is always done in deliberation with the National Bank of Belgium, FPS Finance and/or FPS Foreign Affairs. As concerns the 18 Belgian partner countries, the international cooperation attachés at the Belgian Embassy in Washington are always consulted. The input they obtain from their colleagues locally is processed in the point of view that Belgium takes during the meeting. Finally, there is also regular contact with NGOs, both in Belgium and Washington.”

3. Awareness raising in Belgium



Within the framework of the **European Development Days**, DGD organised a broad programme for the general public, of which a number of the events are described below.



© Eurotrio

As host of the European Development Days in December 2010, the DG Development of the European Commission brought together the most important Belgian actors in development cooperation to the **Belgian Development Cooperation stand**, which was honoured by a visit from Prince Philippe.



© DGD / Dimitri Ardelean

Shoot against Poverty, a photo competition for young amateur photographers, attracted more than 400 submissions themed around the struggle against poverty. The photos of the 20 laureates were exhibited on the steps of Mont des Arts / Kunstberg in Brussels.



© DGD / Dimitri Ardelean

At the special fashion parade “**When fashion meets humanity**” on December 2010, 8 Belgian designers used their creations to portray the 8 Millennium Goals in an elegant and attractive way. Fashion thus became a way of reaching out to another audience to raise awareness for development cooperation.



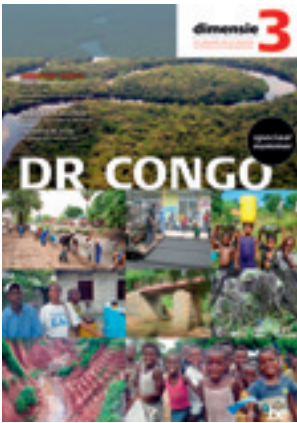
© DGD / Dimitri Ardelean

In 2010 the Belgian Development Cooperation created an **interactive mobile stand** on the theme of the Millennium Goals and the Belgian contribution to achieving them. A central feature of this was an interactive quiz, in which the visitor could playfully and actively try to symbolically achieve the 8 Millennium Goals themselves using all their senses. The quiz consisted of 8 games consoles with touch screens, sound bites, trivia and memory tests and even a sniffing tube.



© DGD / Dimitri Ardelean

Also in 2010, the DGD took part for the first time in the festivities on **Belgium’s National Day** in Brussels on 21 July. By means of an interactive stand with numerous activities and games related to the Millennium Goals, it was able to reach out to many attending members of the public and acquaint them with the input and results of Belgian Development Cooperation in its fight against poverty around the world.



That same year, **Dimension 3**, the magazine published by the Belgian Development Cooperation, focused on five central themes: biodiversity, fragile states, the 50th anniversary of Congolese independence, the Millennium Goals and multilateral aid. For the Millennium summit in September 2010, the issue focussing on the Millennium Goals was translated into English.

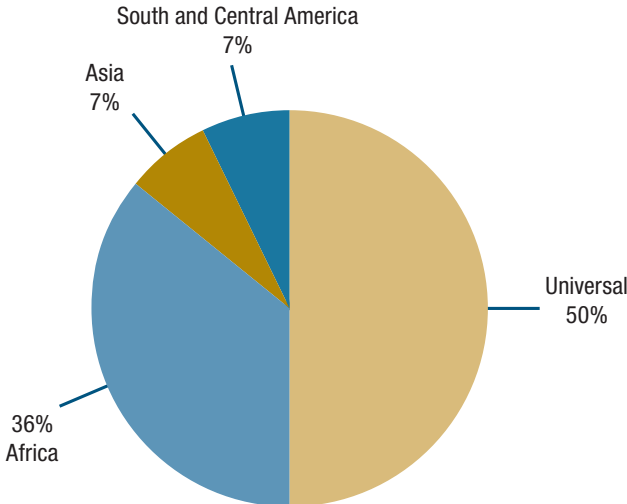


© Art in All of Us

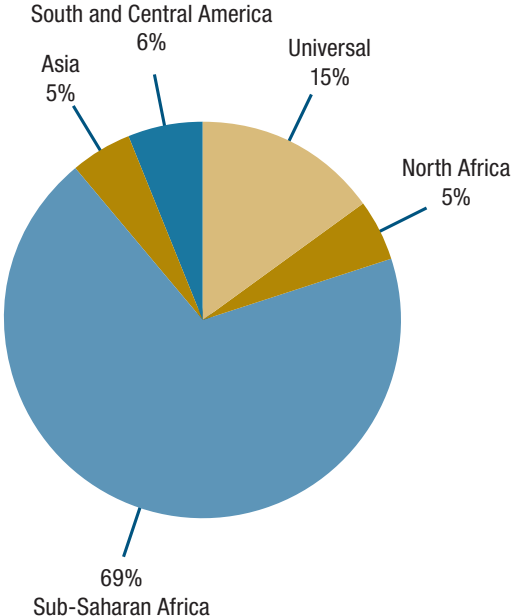
Belgian Development Cooperation also supported last year the “**Art in All of Us - World Art Tour**” photo exhibition, which was displayed in Brussels and Antwerp. With the universal language of art at its core, the exhibition gave its tens of thousands of visitors a chance to question their perspective on cultures, freedom of expression, traditions, and the differing ways of life of so many people who live so close by and yet who are so different...

Annexes

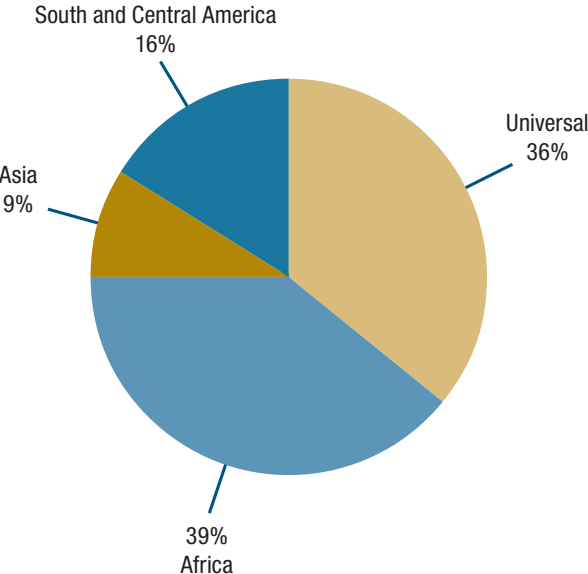
Regional distribution of DGD aid



Regional distribution of direct bilateral DGD aid



Regional distribution of non-governmental DGD aid



Belgian Official Development Assistance (ODA) 2007–2010

When the annual report was concluded, only the DGD and FPS Foreign Affairs data were available. The complete ODA table will be available at www.dg-d.be (Statistics section) as of mid-2011.

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Directorate-General Development (DGD)				
Governmental cooperation				
Technical cooperation and scholarships	129,340,915	160,606,750	178,857,533	207,378,414
Delegated cooperation	7,217,477	18,174,701	29,895,700	25,935,784
Regional cooperation	211,233	2,200,000	9,244,590	8,100,000
General and sectoral budget aid	23,922,936	27,377,140	20,531,193	47,246,017
Special emergency aid for Central Africa	5,000,000	20,500,000	500,000	0
Microprojets	2,486,964	3,467,803	2,638,488	3,721,098
Operation costs BTC	20,306,000	21,032,890	21,512,000	21,431,214
State-to-state loans	25,559,245	16,045,620	28,355,900	32,897,662
Subtotal Governmental cooperation	214,044,770	269,404,903	291,535,404	346,710,188
Non-Governmental cooperation				
NGO programme financing	99,150,043	99,612,783	125,299,255	117,842,543
VVOB	8,596,316	8,452,767	8,999,999	9,199,998
APEFE	8,524,332	8,094,522	9,000,000	9,200,000
VLIR	26,607,871	28,729,721	30,192,922	30,690,970
CIUF/CUD	23,910,341	23,782,966	26,721,492	27,984,233
Scientific institutions	13,476,508	14,150,776	15,632,880	17,222,917
Local civil society	5,007,409	5,999,580	5,387,145	3,633,911
Africalia	2,310,000	2,015,000	2,360,000	2,125,000
Other non-governmental	7,456,760	10,425,793	9,438,774	10,177,268
Subtotal Non-governmental cooperation	195,039,580	201,263,907	233,032,467	228,076,839
Multilateral cooperation				
Obligatory multilateral contributions	6,678,391	9,049,347	10,082,195	10,922,064
<i>to the United Nations</i>	<i>6,422,346</i>	<i>8,771,641</i>	<i>9,783,904</i>	<i>10,597,896</i>
Voluntary multilateral contributions	90,791,450	94,567,930	111,180,728	113,153,830
<i>to the United Nations</i>	<i>62,478,816</i>	<i>65,659,693</i>	<i>81,671,628</i>	<i>79,705,081</i>
European Development Fund and Bank	104,860,013	132,560,006	135,044,009	146,608,405
World Bank Group	76,000,000	175,320,000	102,833,000	109,294,000
Regional Development Banks	27,266,541	30,860,353	45,655,381	27,669,325
Environmental treaties	12,668,806	12,679,354	24,863,448	38,327,148
Multilateral debt cancellation	12,832,368	18,674,711	15,060,874	16,150,608
Subtotal Multilateral cooperation	331,097,570	473,711,701	444,719,636	462,125,381
Belgian Fund for Food Security				
Governmental / management / awareness raising	4,620,058	13,313,634	8,218,146	2,693,421
Via NGOs	13,363,246	13,843,855	15,681,107	9,181,907
Via multilateral institutions	12,014,882	6,484,181	7,543,855	4,666,001
Subtotal Belgian Fund for Food Security	29,998,186	33,641,671	31,443,107	16,541,329
Community building	15,168,940	19,183,806	27,112,570	35,201,208
Humanitarian and food aid	14,598,923	26,960,444	56,057,930	97,983,370
Support to the private sector, BIO	28,138,365	44,626,496	142,351,398	118,322,746
Interest subsidies (Foreign affairs budget since 2010)	11,009,296	13,053,489	18,517,825	
Awareness raising in Belgium (excl. NGOs)	6,944,171	6,022,630	5,494,561	9,935,828
Administration, evaluation, other	1,958,388	1,213,826	1,505,431	2,673,300
Total DGD	847,998,189	1,089,082,873	1,251,770,330	1,317,570,189
Foreign Affairs (excl. DGD)				
Emergency Aid, B-FAST	23,394,425	25,821,348	24,605,308	560,249
Conflict prevention, diplomatic prevention	21,795,433	24,013,834	24,037,771	26,716,535
Contributions to international institutions	5,161,131	7,777,018	6,511,771	7,243,111
Interest subsidies (since 2010)				16,547,942
Press and communication and Special Evaluator	846,952	1,063,024	1,037,770	442,753
Administration costs (ODA part)	36,799,266	41,867,280	41,446,473	43,581,477
TOTAL Foreign Affairs (excl. DGD)	87,997,207	100,542,504	97,639,093	95,092,068

Belgian Official Development Assistance (ODA) 2007–2010

	2007	2008	2009		2010	
ODA expenditure by DGD by sector 2007-2010						
Education	105,440,254	115,468,957	154,287,358	12.33%	143,134,301	10.86%
Healthcare	75,738,967	84,938,392	112,273,622	8.97%	135,494,467	10.28%
Population and reproductive healthcare	36,639,857	29,335,218	35,385,498	2.83%	31,227,582	2.37%
Water and sanitation	33,764,456	30,990,032	47,816,899	3.82%	74,920,699	5.69%
Government and civil society	50,676,020	70,065,684	103,141,309	8.24%	117,816,892	8.94%
Conflict, peace, security	2,798,486	8,665,284	5,912,223	0.47%	4,792,278	0.36%
Social services	39,850,725	37,604,203	45,575,159	3.64%	48,702,574	3.70%
Transport and storage	17,105,006	16,645,013	90,140,168	7.20%	53,654,162	4.07%
Communication	1,404,459	4,304,987	1,344,275	0.11%	-166,943	-0.01%
Energy	3,047,568	13,838,701	42,815,620	3.42%	35,772,914	2.72%
Banks and financial services	34,000,602	39,993,990	143,127,786	11.43%	122,651,397	9.31%
<i>of which microcredit</i>	24,607,978	14,078,176	9,184,324	0.73%	18,327,337	1.39%
Companies	785,297	573,929	4,088,645	0.33%	4,434,069	0.34%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing	51,737,158	76,603,785	107,257,507	8.57%	119,104,535	9.04%
Industry, mining and construction	12,416,516	17,625,984	38,524,315	3.08%	8,899,591	0.68%
Trade and tourism	1,812,535	3,092,093	9,879,801	0.79%	8,599,228	0.65%
Conservation	17,916,136	20,121,663	35,195,653	2.81%	39,519,038	3.00%
Multisector	56,570,981	46,604,349	74,516,118	5.95%	60,710,916	4.61%
<i>of which rural development</i>	23,158,665	18,004,695	20,561,158	1.64%	12,247,800	0.93%
Humanitarian aid	44,636,596	68,850,707	86,976,546	6.95%	126,951,064	9.64%
<i>of which emergency food aid</i>	14,525,000	26,414,849	39,609,292	3.16%	47,186,289	3.58%
Food aid	154,745	42,885	1,627,827	0.13%	5,084,857	0.39%
General budget support	3,074,042	7,108,376	22,687,903	1.81%	44,922,979	3.41%
Debt relief	12,832,368	18,674,711	22,232,712	1.78%	32,485,948	2.47%
Awareness raising in Belgium	20,551,301	23,116,659	24,258,042	1.94%	28,409,389	2.16%
Administrative costs	21,621,578	21,968,192	21,843,431	1.75%	22,254,882	1.69%
Sector not specified	203,422,537	332,758,147	20,861,911	1.67%	48,193,371	3.66%
TOTAL	847,998,189	1,088,991,943	1,251,770,330	100.00%	1,317,570,189	100.00%

The Millennium Development Goals

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

- Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day.
- Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

2. Achieve universal primary education

- Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling.

3. Promote gender equality and empower women

- Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015.

4. Reduce child mortality

- Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five.

5. Improve maternal health

- Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio.

6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

- Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS
- Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.

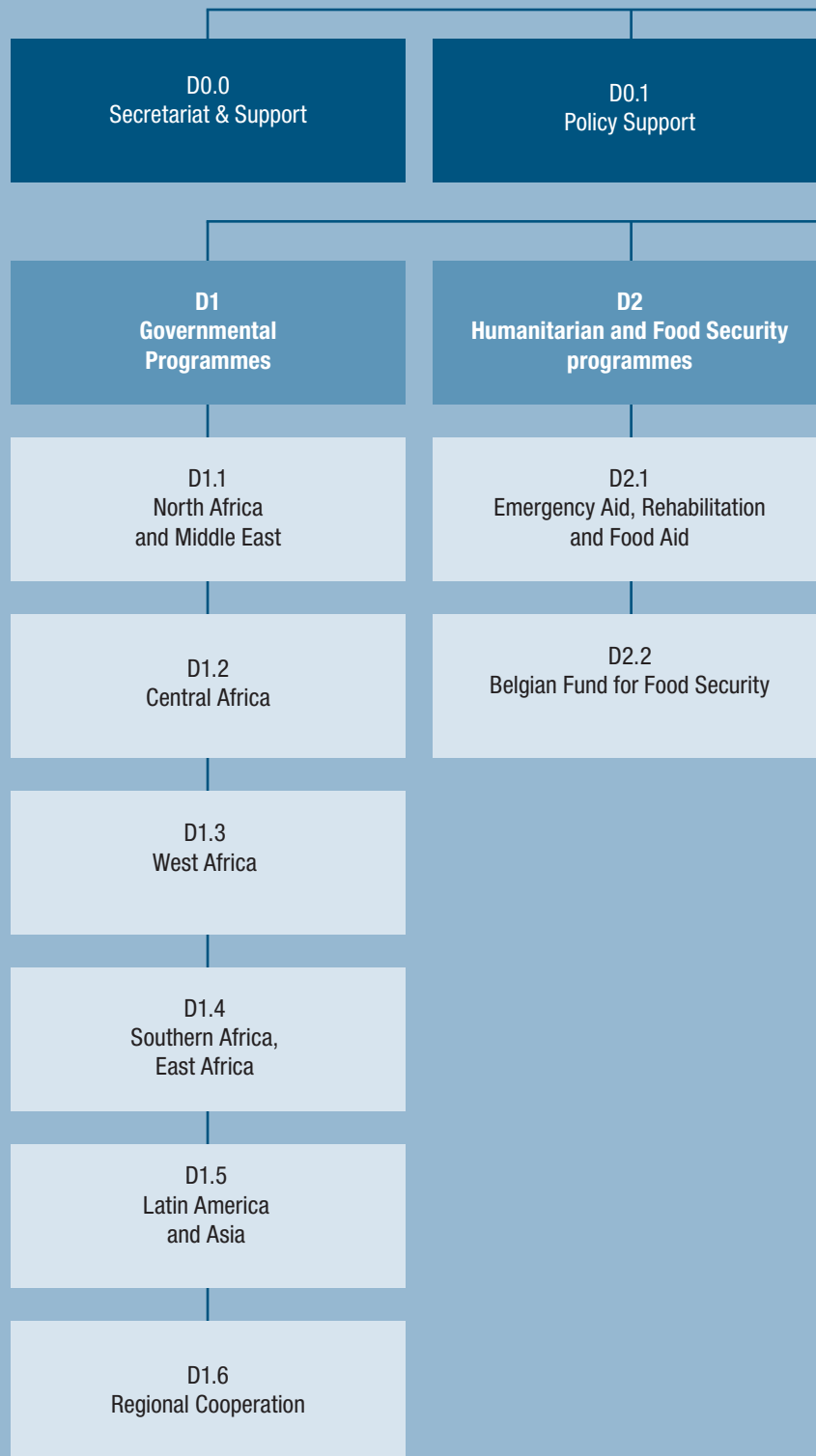
7. Ensure environmental sustainability

- Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources.
- Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water.
- Achieve significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020.

8. Develop a global partnership for development

- Develop further an open trading and financial system that is rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory. Includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction-nationally and internationally.
- Address the least developed countries' special needs. This includes tariff- and quota-free access for their exports; enhanced debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries; cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous official development assistance for countries committed to poverty reduction.
- Address the special needs of landlocked and small island developing States.
- Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt problems through national and international measures to make debt sustainable in the long term.
- In cooperation with the developing countries, develop decent and productive work for youth.
- In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries.
- In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies-especially information and communications technologies.

DGD Organisational Chart



Director general D

**D0.2
Budget and ODA**

**D3
Non-governmental
Programmes**

**D4
Multilateral and
European Programmes**

**D5
Awareness raising
Programmes**

D3.1
NGOs

D4.1
United Nations and
Bretton Woods Institutions

D5.1
Third-Party
Awareness raising

D3.2
Universities and
Scientific Institutions

D4.2
European Union

D5.2
Awareness raising
by DGD

D3.3
Other Partners

D4.3
Sectoral Funds and
Programmes

D3.4
Budget Programming and
Financial Control for
Non-governmental Programmes

Colophon

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