Introduction

The international context in which our development cooperation takes place is evolving rapidly: many developing countries are well on their way to becoming middle-income countries, new players and donors are entering the scene, and, in purely numerical terms, the share of development aid in the total capital flows is decreasing. At the same time, the poorest countries continue to lag behind, humanitarian crises desperately need our attention and challenges such as climate change and migration require an appropriate response. More than ever, the Belgian Development Cooperation must focus on themes and countries where we can make a difference and demonstrate that we are an efficient and reliable partner.

We continued our efforts in 2017. With regard to the governmental cooperation, the new law on the Belgian Development Agency ‘Enabel’ was approved and a new management contract was concluded between the Belgian state and Enabel. Relations with non-governmental actors were strengthened, including through the organisation of strategic dialogues. Our development cooperation took on greater responsibility in the management of international financial institutions. In addition, a framework for promoting the private sector as a driving force for development was elaborated, both through the interventions by our investment company BIO and interventions in government programmes.

Our Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (DGD) also adapted to the new context. The increasing importance of humanitarian action and Belgium’s excellent reputation in this area were reflected in the establishment of a specific directorate that is entirely dedicated to humanitarian aid and focuses on conflict, fragility and transition projects, amongst other things. The different departments for environment and climate were brought together in a new directorate, as were the different aspects of migration. Efforts were also made to strengthen the financial monitoring of the development cooperation budget and a framework was developed to better demonstrate which results our country has achieved and how they fit into the broader context of the globally accepted Sustainable Development Goals.

All these reforms were achieved thanks to the conviction and commitment of many DGD staff. Together with them, I wish the reader of our 2017 annual report an interesting and enjoyable read.

Bruno van der Pluijm
Director-General DGD
Preface

In this period when the international order is changing more rapidly than ever before, Belgium’s development policy, too, is undergoing a profound transformation. Belgium is promoting important themes on the international scene, successfully aligning its development policy with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and taking its full responsibility in the international context. To illustrate this, I invite you to look back at three specific moments in 2017.

A first key moment was undoubtedly the international conference She Decides in the spring of 2017. Only a few days into his presidency, American president Trump re-introduced the Global Gag Rule, cutting off the funds to all organisations that help provide abortion services in one way or another. Trump’s decision affected a number of international NGOs and organisations, such as the UN Population Fund UNFPA, a reliable partner of the Belgian Development Cooperation for years now. Yet, even more than these organisations, hundreds of thousands of girls and women will ultimately pay the price, as they have no longer access to essential information on family planning, to the necessary sexual education or to safe abortion.

Belgium does not abandon these girls and women. Our country immediately decided to join forces with the Netherlands, Sweden and Denmark in order to launch She Decides. On 2 March, more than fifty countries and organisations came to Brussels to voice their support for She Decides. Unexpectedly, we instantly raised EUR 181 million to invest in the sexual and reproductive rights and health of girls and women. In the meantime, She Decides has grown into a broad international movement and more than EUR 400 million have been raised.

A third key moment of 2017 concerned my field visit to South Sudan and to the refugee camps in northern Uganda. For several years now, our world is being confronted with an ever-growing number of refugees who are forced to flee their homes because of war and conflict. Never since the Second World War has their number been this high. The situation in South Sudan, torn apart by a horrific internal conflict, is a flagrant example of this. Belgium once again assumed its humanitarian responsibility by taking its humanitarian contributions for 2017 to a historically high level.

These three examples illustrate that Belgium is more than ever prepared to assume international leadership. We may be small in terms of surface, but our commitment is extremely important. I therefore want to thank everybody whose commitment has contributed to these efforts in 2017!

The presentation of our first National Voluntary Review during a special UN session in New York in July 2017 was a second key moment. With its report Pathways to Sustainable Development, Belgium placed itself among a leading group of UN member states which attach particular importance to the implementation of Agenda 2030. Less than two years after the adoption of the SDGs, the evaluation report shows that Belgium can present initiatives and achievements in quite a variety of areas. This was also recognised by the international SDG Index of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and the Bertelsmann Stiftung, which ranked Belgium in twelfth position.
BTC becomes Enabel

In 2017 all preparations have been made to transform the Belgian Development Agency (BTC) into Enabel. The new name is the last step of a thorough reform of the Belgian Development Agency taking effect on the 1st of January 2018. With the reform, the federal government aims to prepare the Belgian Development Agency for the implementation of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

The name refers to the English verb ‘enable’ which means ‘to make possible’, ‘to facilitate’ and ‘to empower’. Enabel is more independent than the former BTC and manages to act flexibly. Therefore, missions from other Belgian public services and institutions or from international initiators such as the European Union or the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will also be carried out by Enabel. The goal is to enforce the impact of the Belgian development policy. There will be more flexibility with regard to the actors to collaborate with (not only governments), the instruments that Enabel can deploy (grants, loans, innovative financing mechanisms) and risks that Enabel can take, which is essential in fragile contexts.

She Decides

The She Decides initiative brings together countries and organisations who are working hard so that aid organisations in developing countries can carry on their work in the area of family planning and women’s rights. The international initiative came about as a reaction to the reintroduction of the Global Gag Rule by American president Trump. This measure – also known as the Mexico City Policy – prohibits NGOs or organisations from receiving funds from the American government if they work on safe abortion. Even if the organisations receive money not provided by the United States, they can’t use it for activities directly or indirectly related to abortion. Just think about sexual education and birth control.

Devastating impact

The impact is enormous: a health center in Benin which uses a budget from the US to vaccinate against malaria, as well as a budget from the Netherlands for family planning, will no longer receive its American budget. This is due to its advisory activities in the areas of childbirth, contraception and safe abortion. As such, the center will have to significantly reduce its activities, or may even be forced to close its doors.
Conference
The first She Decides conference took place on 2 March in Brussels. Belgium, The Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden were co-organising. Representatives from about 50 countries and hundreds of representatives of governments, international organisations and NGOs attended the conference. They stuck together for sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls. Furthermore, they promised their support to the She Decides movement. They pledged EUR 181 million to make up the shortfall of American funding. The Belgian Development Cooperation has pledged a contribution of EUR 10 million.

Towards a broader movement
The four ‘founding’ countries decided to further develop She Decides into a broader movement. Countries, organisations, companies and individuals can become a member by signing the She Decides manifesto. The movement is steered by a core group of countries from the North and the South, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the international NGO International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

“When we took the initiative, we never thought we would so quickly mobilise so many countries. The challenge now is to strengthen that support. We cannot accept that women and girls are denied access to information on family planning, HIV prevention and care for mother and child. Sexual and reproductive health and rights are a crucial part of the development agenda.”

Alexander De Croo
Sustainable commercial farming

The Belgian Development Cooperation stimulates sustainable entrepreneurship in the whole agro-food chain. By doing so, it wants to improve food security in order to accomplish SDG 2 ‘zero hunger’. Strengthening the position of farmers in the South is the central aim of the new strategic policy note Agriculture and Food Security. Belgium aims to allow farmers with potential to expand and grow into true independent farmers. In particular, the new agricultural strategy focuses on the provision of technical assistance and facilitating access to credit, but also building up a local agro-food sector in which younger people can get started. In this context international and especially regional trade are essential.

“Africa needs an agricultural revolution, one that moves away from unproductive subsistence farming to sustainable commercial farming. This is the only sustainable solution to Africa’s high population and rapid urbanisation. We must move away from our preconceived ideas of the small-scale farmer who has to keep working at all costs, yet cannot even provide enough food for his own family. Farmers must become entrepreneurs, also in the South.”

Alexander De Croo

Furthermore, the importance of gender equality and more opportunities for women receives the necessary attention. Research shows that the education and position of women contributes up to 28% on average to the optimal use of quality nutrition in least developed countries. Women play a key role in the pursuit of food security and quality nutrition. Higher incomes among women have a positive effect on the nutrition, health and education of children.
A coherent Belgian foreign policy

In recent years, Belgium has already taken steps to implement the 3D (Diplomacy, Development, Defence) approach, which was later developed into 3DLO (Law and Order). The aim was to achieve a coherent and effective foreign policy, that is able to respond to the complex and ever-changing challenges at the international level.

The new strategy note Comprehensive Approach goes a step further and fits similar developments at the international level, particularly in the European context. The importance of permanent dialogue, evaluation and adjustment of Belgium’s attitude towards specific countries, regions and topics are central. In that way, all departments concerned can set the overarching priorities together and adjust mutual efforts. Comprehensive Approach is not a goal in itself, but a working method to strengthen Belgium’s foreign policy.

Policy supporting research

ACROPOLIS – ACademic Research Organisation for POlicy Support – are research groups from both Dutch- and French-speaking universities in Belgium. They conduct academic research by order of the Belgian Development Cooperation to ultimately improve its quality and impact. ACROPOLIS also contributes to the international visibility of Belgian academic expertise in development cooperation. The programme is funded by the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (DGD) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, via VLIR-UOS and ARES-CCD.

Three research projects were started in 2017:

• Governance for development
• Klimos – Environmental & climate change in the transition towards sustainable development
• BeFinD – Financing for development

Transitional Development & Governance

In the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals, greater importance is attached to the root causes of fragility, conflicts and humanitarian crises. For this reason, the service D5.2 was founded in March 2017. The new service focuses on aid effectiveness overlapping humanitarian aid, development aid and peacebuilding, in which tackling the root causes of fragility, conflict and humanitarian crises occupy centre stage. The mission of D5.2:

• To manage specific assistance; for instance support to Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), call for projects transition;
• To provide policy advice and to take part in the international thematic debate;
• To coordinate and elaborate the comprehensive approach;
• To support the diplomatic missions in their policy implementation regarding this subject.

How can aid in fragile situations be more effective?

At the end of March 2017, the final conference took place of a 3-year ACROPOLIS study on aid effectiveness in fragile situations. Scientists examined how the quality and influence of the Belgian Development Cooperation can be improved. Among other things, the “guidance on fragility” was discussed, serving as a guideline for policy staff in Belgium and on the ground to work optimally in fragile situations. In addition, the “FRAME tool” provides a framework through which the risks can be managed deliberately according to the 5 dimensions of fragility: political, social, economic, environmental and safety.
Collaboration with Guinea and Burkina Faso

At the end of October 2017, Belgium and Guinea signed a cooperation programme for the period 2018-2022. The programme revolves around three main topics:

• To develop urban and rural entrepreneurship (focus on women);
• Sexual and reproductive health;
• A training, study and expertise programme.

The Belgian Development Agency (Enabel) will implement the Belgian investment of EUR 37.7 million. The diplomatic office in Guinea will not only follow up the governmental cooperation, but also the interventions from Belgian NGOs and multilateral organisations with Belgian funds, as well as state to state loans.

In November 2017, Belgium and Burkina Faso signed a cooperation programme for the period 2018-2022. It is also executed by Enabel for a total amount of EUR 38.86 million. The overall objective is to contribute to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in the Centre-East region through three action lines:

• promotion of entrepreneurship and the creation of jobs for young people and women;
• reinforcement of security in the region;
• strengthening women’s sexual and reproductive rights (She Decides).

The non-governmental partners are particularly active in Burkina Faso as well. 22 Belgian NGOs are present in the country, alongside universities and scientific institutions, Africalia, APEFE, the Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM) and the Union of Cities and Municipalities of Wallonia (UCMW). Moreover, the Belgian Investment Company for developing Countries (BIO) tries to create an added value by its financing. Lastly, Belgium has signed several loans from state to state.
New programmes of the non-governmental cooperation

In 2017 the new five-year programmes of the non-governmental cooperation started off. The Belgian Development Cooperation has partnerships with 83 organisations elaborating programmes in 49 countries worldwide. 90% of the subsidies go to 32 countries, of which Belgium for global citizenship and decent work. The Belgian subsidies also cover study grants to citizens in developing countries. With a total amount of EUR 1.147 billion for the period 2017-2021, these programmes support a well organised civil society dedicated to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), both in developing countries and in Belgium. This year, the total subsidy to these organisations amounted to about EUR 218 million. About 56% of this amount goes to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Migration and development

In May 2017, under Belgian chairmanship, 60 partner countries and organisations of the Rabat Process gathered in Brussels to discuss the future priorities of the Euro-African Dialogue on Migration and Development (Rabat Process). The participants discussed better management of migration flows between the two continents focusing on:

• encouraging legal migration and mobility;
• prevention of illegal migration (including the fight against human trafficking);
• strive for better border management;
• attaching importance to return, readmission and reintegration.

The Euro-African countries want to jointly tackle the root causes of illegal migration and forced displacements, whereby the need for international protection and asylum is important.

The Rabat Process brings together around 60 countries to have an open dialogue on migration and development. The platform was created in 2006 to stimulate the collaboration between countries dealing with increasing migration along the routes connecting Central, West and North Africa with Europe.
Policy coherence

In the recent three years significant steps were taken towards greater policy coherence in favour of development. One of the most important achievements was the new division of competences regarding international financial institutions. From now on, the supervision of the World Bank Group is shared between the FPS Finance and the FPS Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation. Moreover, the competence of the African Development Bank now belongs exclusively to Belgian development policy.

Two advisory bodies are currently looking into the sustainable development agenda: the Federal Council for Sustainable Development and the Advisory Council on Policy Coherence for Development. Overlap and duplication are a result of this. We are currently looking at how the synergy between both advisory councils can be improved.

The recommendations of the DAC Peer Review 2015 urged the government to work towards a context-sensitive whole-of-government approach in fragile contexts. In that spirit, the government approved, in July 2017, the strategy note “Comprehensive Approach” which converts this recommendation into a concrete methodology and enables the required coordination and synchronisation between various instruments of foreign policy (including Defence, Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Justice and Police).

New directorate MD8

In September 2017 the directorate M8 and the service D2.4 merged into a new directorate: MD8 Environment and Climate. MD8 monitors dossiers on climate change and environment, as well as organisations active in those areas. Goal of the fusion? Working more efficiently, sharing information, defending common point of views, simplifying the follow-up of international organisations and conferences.

Some of the tasks of MD8:

- Implement Agenda 2030;
- Belgian participation to the UN Environment Programme (UNEP);
- Carry out the Antarctic Treaty;
- Maintain relations with partner organisations, such as the Global Environment Fund, the Global Climate Fund and UNEP;
- Collaborate with the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences on biodiversity;
- Attend conferences on climate change;
- Validate programmes of the Belgian Development Cooperation with regard to climate and environment.
In the 1970s, it was internationally accepted that official development assistance (ODA) from rich countries should amount to at least 0.7% of their Gross National Income (GNI). Belgium also set itself the legal obligation to achieve this standard from 2010 onwards. However, due to the financial crisis and the difficult budgetary circumstances, this goal is not yet within immediate reach. After a strong growth in the period 2008-2010 (0.64% of GNI in 2010 – the highest ODA figure ever), Belgian development assistance gradually fell back to 0.49% in 2016.

In 2017, total Belgian development assistance accounted for approximately 0.45% of GNI, a decrease of 0.04%. In 2017, the budget for development cooperation was set at EUR 1,252 million (settlement loans). Due to the strict measures to keep the government budget balance under control, a block amounting to EUR 120 million was imposed. Nonetheless, EUR 1,106 million was settled, compared to EUR 1,160 million in 2016.

What does Belgian official development assistance consist of?

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

**Belgian development assistance budget**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Settlement loans realisations 2017</th>
<th>in thousand EUR</th>
<th>in percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0. Livelihoods programme</td>
<td>1,462</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Country programmes</td>
<td>256,002</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Civil society initiatives</td>
<td>175,222</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Multilateral cooperation</td>
<td>346,225</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Private sector programmes</td>
<td>112,152</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Humanitarian programmes</td>
<td>170,000</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. International funding climate policy</td>
<td>45,262</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,106,325</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overview of Belgian development aid per channel (in EUR million)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Directorate-General Development Cooperation (DGD)</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Governmental cooperation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgian Development Agency (Enabel)</td>
<td>186.39</td>
<td>153.62</td>
<td>182.83</td>
<td>153.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actions NGAs in synergy</td>
<td>3.30</td>
<td>2.45</td>
<td>1.13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society building and good governance</td>
<td>7.60</td>
<td>1.77</td>
<td>68.65</td>
<td>16.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delegated cooperation</td>
<td>24.11</td>
<td>9.54</td>
<td>14.66</td>
<td>14.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional cooperation (from 2017 onwards via Enabel)</td>
<td>2.65</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>0.44</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General and sectoral budget support</td>
<td>24.50</td>
<td>16.88</td>
<td>13.01</td>
<td>21.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local civil society</td>
<td>1.40</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>0.74</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management costs Enabel</td>
<td>22.42</td>
<td>22.67</td>
<td>22.96</td>
<td>21.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State-to-state loans</td>
<td>3.60</td>
<td>19.92</td>
<td>14.61</td>
<td>18.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgian Fund for Food Security</td>
<td>15.80</td>
<td>12.45</td>
<td>12.77</td>
<td>10.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal governmental cooperation</strong></td>
<td>291.78</td>
<td>239.80</td>
<td>331.80</td>
<td>256.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-governmental cooperation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil society and institutional actors</td>
<td>154.06</td>
<td>137.84</td>
<td>149.61</td>
<td>154.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VLIR - Flemish Interuniversity Council</td>
<td>33.45</td>
<td>32.78</td>
<td>32.75</td>
<td>4.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARES - Federation of French-speaking higher education institutions in Brussels and Walloon</td>
<td>27.87</td>
<td>25.56</td>
<td>28.04</td>
<td>4.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific institutions</td>
<td>19.46</td>
<td>20.10</td>
<td>20.25</td>
<td>2.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other non-governmental</td>
<td>14.02</td>
<td>12.40</td>
<td>15.65</td>
<td>3.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal non-governmental cooperation</strong></td>
<td>248.86</td>
<td>228.68</td>
<td>246.30</td>
<td>168.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Multilateral cooperation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compulsory multilateral contributions</td>
<td>10.03</td>
<td>10.98</td>
<td>10.48</td>
<td>13.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary multilateral contributions</td>
<td>120.58</td>
<td>115.79</td>
<td>100.56</td>
<td>81.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Development Fund and Bank</td>
<td>115.16</td>
<td>120.02</td>
<td>95.13</td>
<td>160.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Bank Group</td>
<td>128.05</td>
<td>12.50</td>
<td>13.26</td>
<td>42.17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional development banks</td>
<td>50.15</td>
<td>48.47</td>
<td>47.22</td>
<td>11.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental conventions (&quot;Climate policy&quot; from 2017 onwards)</td>
<td>72.05</td>
<td>20.20</td>
<td>45.21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multilateral debt waiver</td>
<td>20.96</td>
<td>18.50</td>
<td>17.27</td>
<td>19.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal multilateral cooperation</strong></td>
<td>517.00</td>
<td>344.45</td>
<td>329.14</td>
<td>329.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Entrepreneurship, science and technology</strong> (from 2017 onwards)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science, technology and innovation: Belgian actors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>65.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science, technology and innovation: international actors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local entrepreneurship, fair trade, BIO</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>44.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International knowledge centers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Support to the private sector, BIO</strong></td>
<td>54.93</td>
<td>42.23</td>
<td>46.18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Humanitarian programmes</strong></td>
<td>102.03</td>
<td>149.49</td>
<td>177.14</td>
<td>170.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Climate policy</strong> (from 2017 onwards)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>45.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Awareness-raising in Belgium</strong> (excl. NGOs)</td>
<td>5.62</td>
<td>4.18</td>
<td>5.06</td>
<td>5.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Administration, evaluation, others</strong></td>
<td>1.31</td>
<td>1.68</td>
<td>1.89</td>
<td>1.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total DGD</strong></td>
<td>1,221.53</td>
<td>1,010.52</td>
<td>1,137.51</td>
<td>1,088.15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* From 2017 onwards co-financing of higher education programmes and scientific institutions will be imputed under the Entrepreneurship, Science and Technology activity programme.
Transparency

In 2012, Belgium joined the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), launched at the High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Accra in 2008 in order to implement the commitments of the Accra Agenda for Action on transparency.

Transparency is crucial for partner countries’ budget planning, donor coordination and accountability to parliament, civil society and citizens of both donor and partner countries.

In practice, IATI has introduced important innovations:

- a standardised format for the electronic publication of information on aid financing, projects and programmes which aims to ensure unambiguous communication. The format also allows the different actors, donors or partners to automatically collect and process this information.

- a register that keeps track of such electronically published information files and indicates the unique internet address where they can be found, so that anyone can consult them.

- the regular updating of this format to better reflect the evolutions in the sector and the needs of donor and partner countries, based on dialogue between them.

The members of the initiative, such as Belgium, commit themselves to publish, on a timely and regular basis, detailed information on their aid financing, specific projects and programmes (including objectives and results), their organisation, budgets and strategies.

As our country wants to promote transparency, Minister Alexander De Croo asked the partners of the Belgian Development Cooperation to adopt the IATI format as well. In this way, Enabel, BIO, institutional and non-governmental actors will all contribute to the transparency of the Belgian aid.

This reflects the underlying philosophy of IATI: when each actor in the chain through which the financial flows pass, publishes its own information on its own activities, contributions and results, including unambiguous links to the origin of the funds (upstream, as it were) on the one hand, and links to their own local implementing partners (downstream) on the other hand, a complete picture with all the details, relations and collaborations becomes available.

From a technical and organisational point of view, this is a major step that requires substantial effort as well as considerable human and material investment, before it can be done smoothly and correctly. Our non-governmental partners have therefore been given time to fine-tune everything until May 2018, when they will publish their five-year programmes (2017-2021) co-financed by DGD.

As a result, DGD does not yet have a comprehensive overview of final ODA expenditure in 2017 per country or per sector at the time of publication of the 2017 Annual Report. Even though DGD has approved these programmes, it does not yet have a structured overview of the activities and budgets per component, and therefore per country and sector.
First Belgian evaluation report

On July 18, 2017, during a United Nations High-Level Political Forum in New York, Belgium presented an evaluation report on the efforts our country is making in order to accomplish the Sustainable Development Goals. The report is the result of an intense process involving the federal government, the federated entities and a large number of civil society organisations.

The report *Pathways to Sustainable Development* shows that, not even two years since the SDGs were defined, our country can already present initiatives and accomplishments in many areas:

- Ocean Conference in New York: 22 clear commitments to protect seas and oceans (SDG 14 - Life below water).
- As an important supplier of vaccines, we contribute greatly to SDG 3 (Good health and well-being).
- The various Smart City initiatives in Flanders, Wallonia and Brussels show our commitment to sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11).
- Belgium is the European leader in recycling packaging and, so, contributes significantly to responsible consumption and production (SDG 12).
- By organising the She Decides conference, Belgium emphasized its commitment to gender equality (SDG 5).

At the same time, the Belgian report also emphasizes civil society’s expectations for further efforts, for example regarding life-long learning, water and air quality, energy intensity and renewable energy.

*Pathways to Sustainable Development* is a point of departure, a benchmark that will facilitate the further implementation of the SDGs in and by Belgium and that will allow us to better identify gaps and deploy resources where they have the greatest impact.
Extra support for least developed countries

Belgium will make supplementary contributions to the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust, an IMF Fund financing growth in the least developed countries. A state guarantee was also approved by the National Bank of Belgium for a credit line of maximum EUR 9.99 billion for the International Monetary Fund to better fulfill its role as a crisis fighter.

The contribution is part of the Belgian efforts towards the least developed countries. Our country has decided to dedicate 50% of its official development assistance to the least developed countries. Eleven of the fourteen official partner countries of the Belgian Development Cooperation are least developed countries. Within the United Nations, Belgium is also presiding the Group of Friends of least developed countries. With this support to the IMF fund, Belgium is also helping in implementing the Sustainable Development Agenda aiming to eradicate poverty by 2030.

Donations to Famine 12-12 doubled

At the start of the campaign ‘Famine 12-12’, Minister of Development Cooperation De Croo announced that the federal government would double every donation to the campaign. Citizens and companies showed their support en masse. A total of EUR 9.52 million was raised. The federal government doubled that amount to EUR 19.04 million.

In that way our country supports NGOs that provide urgent humanitarian assistance to Yemen, Nigeria, South Sudan and Somalia. Consortium 12-12 and the Red Cross are doing everything possible to help the severely affected population, including the distribution of food and drinking water, health care and the improvement of hygiene.

Consortium 12-12 is a collaboration between important Belgian NGOs: Caritas International, Handicap International, Doctors of the World, Oxfam-Solidarity, Plan Belgium and UNICEF Belgium.
The Belgian Development Cooperation makes EUR 10 million available over the next four years for innovative agricultural research conducted by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), a worldwide network of research centres contributing to enhanced productivity, food security and sustainability in agriculture.

The funding will support the expansion of the banana gene bank of the KU Leuven with other crops such as potatoes and other tuber and root crops. The Leuven research centre will focus on research that can improve food security and high-quality food in the South, for example by adapting banana plants to climate change.

The research consortium CIALCA is also receiving financial support. CIALCA helps farmers in Central Africa to improve their agricultural and financial situation. In the coming years, Belgium expects CIALCA to focus even more on supporting private initiatives in agriculture, on diversity that contributes to sustainable food security and on innovation.

Belgium is a long-time partner of CGIAR and its sixth European donor. Our country is part of the Board of Directors and made important contributions to recent reforms. CGIAR has also recently started looking for innovative financing channels and wants to work closer with the private sector, an initiative fully supported by Belgium.

The promotion of agricultural research is an investment in development with a high return. For each euro invested yearly in agricultural research, you get at least seventeen euros in return.
Belgium’s continuous efforts to eradicate sleeping sickness in the Democratic Republic of Congo represent some of the best progress we have achieved in tackling neglected tropical diseases. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with Belgium and other partners in our collective fight against these diseases that cause pain and suffering for many of the world’s poorest people.”

Bill Gates

**Quality medicines**

25% of the medicines in poor countries are of poor quality. With all kinds of disastrous consequences for millions of people in the world. That is why the Belgian Development Cooperation, together with a number of NGOs and partners, has signed a declaration that commits them to use quality medicines in the countries where they are active. A first!

With this commitment, Belgium becomes the first bilateral donor and the first member state of the European Union to provide a response to the question of the quality of pharmaceutical products. Our country’s good practices are looked at as being both innovative and inspiring by other EU member states.

**Eradication of tropical diseases**

The tropics are facing painful fatal diseases that are found nowhere else. These diseases are often characterised by horrible malformations of the body. For malaria, tuberculosis and AIDS there exist important international funds, whereas other tropical diseases have lagged behind far too long. Yet, 1 in 6 persons worldwide are affected by these ‘neglected tropical diseases’ (NTDs). Especially the poorest – who are living in bad sanitary conditions – are victims. That is why the international community joins forces to eradicate NTDs once and for all. The World Health Organization (WHO), pharmaceutical companies, governments, charitable institutions, the World Bank, NGOs all contribute.

Belgium announced plans to eradicate sleeping sickness by 2025. Our country allocates EUR 25.3 million to the fight against sleeping sickness. In addition, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has committed to double Belgium’s contribution. The Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM) will coordinate the programme. ITM is one of the world’s leading institutes for training and research in tropical medicine.

WHO estimates that 20,000 people are infected with sleeping sickness. If untreated, sleeping sickness has a mortality rate of nearly 100% and over 50 million people are at risk of contracting the disease. Sleeping sickness occurs in 24 countries. The Democratic Republic of Congo is most affected with 85% of the new cases reported.
Boys and girls equal to education

In recent years, significant progress has been made in the field of access to education. Nine out of ten children in developing countries are now enrolled in school. Nevertheless, some 60 million children still lack access to primary education, more than half of them live in Sub-Saharan Africa. The quality of education can also be improved. One hundred million young people cannot read or write, 60% of them are girls.

Access to quality education and lifelong learning is one of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 4). This access must be equal for boys and girls. Girls must have the same educational opportunities as boys so that they can take their lives into their own hands later on.

In order to achieve this, Belgium supports the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), a multilateral mechanism for funding primary and secondary education. Altogether, our country contributes EUR 26 million to the GPE for the period 2017-2020. With this support, the GPE provides technical and financial support in setting up national education systems.

Women’s rights

In order to live up to its commitment to women’s rights, Belgium will, over the next four years, make general contributions to the UN Population Fund, UNFPA (EUR 36 million), UN Women (EUR 16 million) and UNAIDS (EUR 12 million). In addition, our country calls for more attention to the protection of vulnerable girls and women in humanitarian crisis situations. That’s why Belgium will contribute an additional EUR 5 million to the Central Emergency Response Fund of the UN Humanitarian Affairs Office (OCHA). The total Belgian contribution to the CERF amounts to EUR 25 million in 2017.

“Because of protracted conflicts, climate change and natural disasters, we are living the worst humanitarian crises since the Second World War. More people than ever need shelter and humanitarian aid. Girls and women are often the most vulnerable victims, exposed to exploitation and gender-based violence. We need to do more to protect them.”

Alexander De Croo
She Decides in Benin and Senegal

In late April, Minister of Development Cooperation De Croo brought a four-day working visit to Benin and Senegal. He was accompanied by Goedele Liekens and Axelle Red, both active as Goodwill Ambassadors for the United Nations. The visit fits in with the initiative ‘She Decides’, which focuses on the reinforcement of rights for girls and women, and in particular with regard to their sexual and reproductive health and rights. Their programme included visits to initiatives related to family planning, maternity care, sexual education and contraception.

Goedele Liekens has been a Goodwill Ambassador for UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, ever since the late 1990s. She appeals for better access to sexual and reproductive health, including better sex education in developing countries. Axelle Red has been volunteering as an ambassador for UNICEF Belgium, the United Nations Children’s Fund, for almost twenty years. She is focused on achieving greater respect for children’s rights.

“I’m very proud that Belgium is a leading country in the She Decides initiative. Every minute, somewhere a woman dies because of pregnancy complications. UNFPA assures good pre- and postnatal medical assistance, even in the most remote areas, as for example with the mobile clinic boat we use in Benin.”

Goedele Liekens

“As a UNICEF ambassador and a mother of three children, I am very concerned with the fight against child marriage. In Benin, one in ten girls under the age of fifteen is married and three in ten girls marry before they are eighteen years old. If we want to give more opportunities to girls, we have to end child marriage. Therefore, I’m happy that the fight against child marriage is central in the agreement that the Belgian government and UNICEF have signed in Benin.”

Axelle Red
With the help of big data

Together with its partner countries Benin and Senegal, Belgium will cooperate to improve access to family planning services by using big data and satellite information. Belgian data company Blue Square and the universities of Brussels and Namur will also participate.

Thanks to big data and satellite imagery, up to date analyses will be made of the precise access of girls and women to family planning in Benin and Senegal. The goal is to develop a broad data platform that can also be used in other countries to improve access to family planning.

If we want to give girls and women more opportunities to lead the life they want, easy access to family planning is crucial. This project should lead to better availability of contraceptives and easier access to information about family planning. It shows how the use of new technologies leads to better results on the ground. Focusing on innovation to strengthen women’s rights is the pioneering role Belgium’s international development policy wants to play.

Water is life

Every year, around 842,000 people die as a result of polluted water, lack of sanitary facilities, and poor hygiene. Approximately 663 million people do not have access to clean drinking water and more than 80% of wastewater flows back to nature without being treated. This causes significant damage to the environment and soil. Unfortunately, these figures only reflect a fraction of the enormous problems regarding the use and availability of water on our planet.

Water is also an important theme for Belgium. Our country spends on average 4.3% of its Official Development Assistance (ODA) on water and sanitation.
India’s got the wind in its sails

India, a country of nearly 1.3 billion people, faces a huge gap between energy supply and energy demand. In order to fill this gap, the Belgian Investment Company for Developing Countries (BIO) invests EUR 4 million in renewable energy. BIO’s investment will not only create jobs (143 FTEs) and train the local team to international standards, but will also limit energy shortages. Thanks to BIO’s investment 120,000 villages will be connected to the electricity grid, representing power for 23 million households in rural areas. On an annual basis and at its maximum capacity (96 MW), the wind farm project is expected to generate 145 GWh, which represents a reduction in carbon emissions equivalent to 130,645 tonnes of CO2.

The Fair Trade Week is an annual campaign putting fair trade and fair trade products in the spotlight throughout Belgium. For ten days, activities are organised throughout the country to become familiar with fair trade and fair trade products.

"Consumers can choose more often for fairer products. Sustainability is also becoming the key to success for companies. That only offers benefits: consumers are satisfied, companies can grow and trade becomes ever more open and fair.”

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Belgium: Fair Trade Country

Fair trade is on the way up. Last year, Belgians spent EUR 14.30 on average on fair trade products. The Belgian Development Co-operation supports fair trade and the campaign ‘Make Belgium a Fair Trade Country by 2020’. At the beginning of October 2017, minister Alexander De Croo kicked off the sixteenth Fair Trade Week in Aalst with a visit to JBC. The clothing chain is committed to fairer textiles.

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Decent work for everyone in the world

Nine organisations are collaborating with social movements in Africa, Asia and Latin America to promote the basic elements of decent work, a priority theme of the Belgian Development Cooperation.

Four NGOs (Solidarité Socialiste, FOS-socialist solidarity, Oxfam Solidarity and World Solidarity WSM), trade unions (ACV-CSC, ABVV-FGTB, ACLVB-CGSLB) and national health services (ANMC-LCM and UNMS-NVSM) join forces in the fight for decent work for everyone. In 2017, they set up a coordination platform on decent work.

Thanks to the platform, the organisations can discuss their approach with partner organisations in regional networks and at international level with partners such as the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Trade Union Confederation. They exchange knowledge and experiences and look for synergies. After all, decent work is crucial to combat and prevent poverty and inequality. The fight for more decent work is prominently on the international agenda as a separate Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 8).

What is decent work?

Decent work is freely chosen work providing an income that covers family needs, which respects the fundamental labour rights and which includes social protection, social dialogue and equality between all men and women.

D4D-Be platform promotes digital expertise between South and North

The Digital for Development Platform (D4D-Be) is a new initiative of the Belgian Development Cooperation, coordinated by technology federation Agoria and NGO Close the Gap. The platform should bring together companies, development cooperation and organisations to increase the impact of Belgian projects carried out in the South thanks to digital technologies such as blockchain or big data.

Thanks to digital innovation the private sector can strongly support development cooperation. In developing countries – where an extremely young population and an increasing purchasing power are a fact – digital solutions can provide an answer to many basic needs in the field of teaching, health care, agriculture and entrepreneurship, and this in an innovative and often more (cost) efficient way. Technology is a means, not a goal in itself.

For over 15 years, Close the Gap has been asking companies to put at their disposal used computers, tablets, smartphones and other IT equipment for development projects. Close the Gap erases the data and reconditions the devices to use them for digital skills development in Africa. The goal is to reduce the digital gap between the South and the North.
Young people mobilised for sustainable development

On 6 June 2017, on the eve of the European Development Days, the most important European forum for international development took place in Brussels: Voices4Development. The event, organised by the Belgian Development Cooperation and the European Commission, was entirely dedicated to young people. They are an important player in realising the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As one of the 17 international ambassadors of the SDGs, Queen Mathilde encouraged young people to get involved in international development. She emphasized the importance of quality education and health: without sustainable education and health, sustainable development is not possible.

Queen Mathilde: “The European Development Days offer young people a wonderful opportunity to make their voices heard. Young people build the world of tomorrow, the future belongs to them.”

Because music, like the 17 SDGs, is a universal language that connects people, UN Goodwill Ambassador and artist Ozark Henry gave a concert that night.

Global conference on cities and migration

In October 2016, UN Member States adopted the New Urban Agenda (NUA) during the Habitat III Conference, establishing that migration is one of the key governance areas which requires policy coherence and coordination mechanisms at central, local and regional levels in order to ensure adequate diversity management, indispensable for social cohesion and sustainable urban development.

After Habitat III, the Belgian government and the city of Mechelen hosted a global conference on cities and migration on 16 and 17 November 2017, together with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Settlements Programme (UN Habitat) and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).

This conference comes at a time when there is an all-time high of more than 250 million migrants worldwide. During the conference, the “Declaration of Mechelen” was adopted by mayors from all over the world. The document will contribute to the Global Compact on Migration.

A just migration policy

The two Belgian NGO umbrella organisations (11.11.11 and CNCD-11.11.11) campaigned in 2017 for a just migration policy. More than 80 organisations and thousands of volunteers supported this campaign, which wants to draw the attention of the public and policy makers to the root causes of migration and the related global challenges. The 4 axes of the campaign are:

1. Reducing inequalities so that everyone can live decently where they want.
2. Ensure safe and legal migration routes to Europe.
3. Create equal rights for everyone.
4. Talk about migration in a fair and correct way.
Climate and environment

In 2017, the Belgian Development Cooperation supported the small island state of Fiji in organising the 23rd Climate Conference (COP23). Belgium strengthened its commitment to international climate financing for the least developed countries through a contribution of EUR 15 million to the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF). In addition, the proportion of climate investments in the portfolio of the Belgian Investment Company for Developing Countries (BIO) is further increasing thanks to a capital increase of EUR 10 million.

2017 was supposed to be the year of the operationalisation of the Green Climate Fund, but things did not go as smoothly as hoped. On a more positive note, numerous countries, including many partner countries of the Belgian Development Cooperation, were able to count on support from the Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme. This programme should prepare developing countries to mobilise funding from the Green Climate Fund so that they can, in due course, submit carbon emission reduction programmes and adapt to climate change.

Combating pollution and desertification

The 2017 United Nations Environment Assembly of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) was devoted to the fight against pollution. The UN member states committed themselves to take measures against air, soil, water and ocean pollution. A number of countries in the South proposed best practices to reduce plastic waste or to better manage hazardous substances. A Belgian delegation took part in the negotiations of global actions against pollution and Belgium supports UNEP with a yearly contribution of EUR four million.

Last September, the biennial summit of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNC-CD) took place in China, and led, among other things, to the adoption of a new Strategic Framework 2018-2030, the establishment of a Land Degradation Neutrality Fund and a decision on drought. Member states have to integrate the policy framework into their drought policies and take appropriate measures and actions on the ground. Bilateral and multilateral donors also need to align their financing mechanisms with the new framework.
Biodiversity and the SDGs

**CEBioS**, the programme of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, works together with the Belgian Development Cooperation to strengthen capacity in the South when it comes to biodiversity and poverty reduction. In 2017, a number of workshops for scientists from Central Africa were organised in Kisangani. Among other things, CEBioS is trying to increase knowledge about the Nagoya Protocol in both the North and the South. The Nagoya Protocol contributes to the protection of biodiversity and its sustainable use, and aims at a fairer distribution of the benefits of genetic resources. It therefore has a clear impact on the work of scientists, but also on the private sector.

Within the framework of **ACROPOLIS** (policy support for development cooperation), a new programme was started with **KLIMOS**. Scientists using this platform want their research to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Belgian Development Cooperation in 2017 and 2018. They focus on the environmental and climate dimension within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In Vietnam, they joined forces with Enabel on sustainable urban planning and district development, taking into account the consequences of global warming in areas prone to drought or flooding. During a workshop, proposals were discussed on renewable energy, green housing and new materials and techniques.

Non-governmental cooperation

In 2017, Belgian NGOs launched new programmes in the South, many of which focus on environment and poverty reduction. In DR Congo, for example, **WWF** is working on forest preservation and the population’s socio-economic development. The programme tries to reduce the pressure on valuable forests by developing tree plantations for the production of charcoal (necessary for energy supply). At the same time, energy consumption must be reduced by bringing improved cooking ovens onto the market.

The new NGO programmes also focus on agroforestry and ecotourism in the context of sustainable management of natural resources. In Uganda, **Trias** focuses its work on sustainable entrepreneurship for farmers. The NGO works together with the organisation BOS+, which will train farmers in sustainable and climate-smart agricultural practices such as sustainable forestry in the context of energy supply, agroforestry, and measures for sustainable land and water management.
The frequency and the magnitude of current humanitarian crises pose unprecedented challenges for the humanitarian community. The nature of humanitarian crises is changing: they tend to be longer and more complex, needs are growing and access to the most vulnerable people can often be very difficult. This situation is reflected in Belgium’s humanitarian action, which focuses its funding on complex crises and further develops its humanitarian advocacy to appeals for respect of humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law. In this respect, particular attention is paid to issues such as access, protection of humanitarian workers and civilian populations, and respect for infrastructure and medical staff.

**Belgian humanitarian aid in figures**

In 2017, the budget of the Belgian humanitarian aid was EUR 170 million. Four instruments enable to implement this budget:

- **Contributions to general resources (core)** of international humanitarian organisations;
- **International humanitarian donor funding** (flexible funds) providing rapid financial resources to humanitarian organisations in the case of a humanitarian crisis;
- **Multi-annual programmes** (2 years) in response to complex crises (12 new programmes were launched in 2017);
- **Annual projects** in response to sudden or forgotten crises. 27 projects were funded in 2017: 21 with geographic targeting, 6 with thematic targeting of innovation in humanitarian action.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Humanitarian aid</th>
<th>Budget 2017</th>
<th>Achievements 2017</th>
<th>Achievements rate</th>
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<tr>
<td>Core</td>
<td>20,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flexible funds</td>
<td>61,500,000</td>
<td>61,500,000</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects</td>
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<td>99.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>170,000,000</td>
<td>169,999,979</td>
<td>99.99%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Following the commitments undertaken in the World Humanitarian Summit and the Grand Bargain, Belgium promised that by 2020:

- 25% of Belgian humanitarian aid would be dedicated to local humanitarian actors: this objective was achieved in 2017, up to 30.3%;
- at least 60% of Belgian humanitarian aid will be flexible: in 2017, this percentage was 53%;
- at least 30% of Belgian humanitarian aid will be in cash: by 2017, this rate was already 22.6%.

Geographical distribution of the budget

Regarding the geographical distribution, the Middle East region received most of the humanitarian resources in 2017, more than EUR 50 million. Most of the funding is allocated to the crises in Syria and Iraq, followed by the crisis in Yemen and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. With EUR 10.8 million in 2017 compared to EUR 2.3 million in 2016, the humanitarian crisis in Yemen has become the largest of 2017 as a result of the armed conflict, the cholera epidemic and the threat of starvation. More than 80% of the population is now in need of humanitarian aid. Just over 35% of the humanitarian budget (EUR 48 million) has been allocated to crises in sub-Saharan Africa, of which EUR 34 million to cover the needs in the Great Lakes region. These crises often have a regional dimension (burst of violence, population displacements, etc.) and can interact with each other and sometimes mutually reinforce. In this region, the DRC obviously attracted the attention of the international humanitarian community and Belgium in particular.

Finally, a major effort was also made towards the 4 countries considered high risk of, or affected by, famine in 2017 (Nigeria, Yemen, Southern Sudan and Somalia). In this context, the Belgian Development Cooperation worked with the Consortium 12.12 to increase the total budget dedicated to supporting the humanitarian actions of Belgian NGOs in these countries.

Partner organisations

Three types of organisations can benefit from the humanitarian aid:

- Belgian and international humanitarian NGOs;
- international humanitarian organisations;
- international humanitarian organisations that manage international humanitarian donor funding (flexible funds).

In 2017, Belgian and international NGOs received EUR 25 million, an increase of EUR 6 million compared to 2016. This represents 14.7% of the total budget. International organisations (including flexible funds) received EUR 144.8 million, or 85.3% of the total humanitarian budget. Given the number of humanitarian crises generated by armed conflict and the migration crisis, it is not surprising that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the World Food Programme (WFP) received the most important funding among the international organisations. They received approximately EUR 23.8 million, EUR 20.1 million and EUR 17.9 million respectively.
Focus on innovation

Belgium is a modern partner with a great ability to adapt to changes and the evolution of the humanitarian world. Our country wishes to foster a culture of innovation within humanitarian organisations by providing strategic support to some projects with a real potential for change in the humanitarian sector. In partnership with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Belgium launched the first Humanitarian Impact Bond (HIB) in 2017. This innovative financing mechanism makes it possible to pay at the end of the programme on the basis of the results actually obtained. It was created to encourage the private sector to support ICRC health programmes. The HIB raised EUR 26 million, with the Belgian contribution amounting to EUR 8.7 million.

The funding of the Start Fund - a fund managed by and for NGOs (such as Caritas International, Handicap International and Oxfam) - also reflects this dynamic. Our country allocated EUR 1 million to this fund, which aims to provide the swiftest and most effective response to humanitarian crises. Funds are distributed within 72 hours of an alert, making the Start Fund the fastest response mechanism in the world.
Part 4

Raising awareness in Belgium

A mission to accomplish in Belgium

Development education contributes to solidarity and understanding. Our policy and lifestyle have significant impact elsewhere in the world, especially in poor countries. Conversely, developments elsewhere in the world also have an impact on our country. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) clearly emphasise the mutual dependence and responsibility of all regions around the world. That is why the SDGs also envisage access for all citizens to development education, referred to as ‘global citizen education’. The overall goal is to contribute to a more just and united world based on democratic values. North-South relations are at the heart of development education.

Development education makes use of both formal (for example in schools) and informal educational initiatives (via activities for a broad public such as films and festivals). Thanks to their diversity, the various actors can reach diverse target audiences (age, origins, beliefs, place of residence, etc.) in our country.

Audiovisual activities

The audiovisual is considered a powerful educational tool: it can reach a wide audience in a short time. That is why the Belgian Development Cooperation finances films, documentaries and TV series. About ten were released 2017, including:

Amazones: combatant women
Three stories about women who taking up arms in three different contexts: in Colombia, in Israel and Palestine, and in Iraq. The series was broadcasted on Canvas in March 2018 and received EUR 125,000 support.

Handen uit de mouwen: when Flemish help a hand
A five-part mini-series in which Flemish citizens are followed during their journey on development aid: a father and his daughter (veterinary medicine student) leave for Niger with Veterinarians Without Borders; an entrepreneur who will reforest with Ondernemers Zonder Grenzen, etc. Each episode shows how citizens discover developing countries and contribute their bit. The production could count on a contribution of EUR 140,450 from the Belgian Development Cooperation.

Insyriated
In 2017, Insyriated made its world premiere at the Berlin Film Festival. The story takes us to Syria, where a family has to hide inside their apartment to stay safe from the raging war outside. The film, directed by the Belgian Philippe Van Leeuw, has won several awards at international film festivals. The Belgian Development Cooperation funded Insyriated for an amount of EUR 30,754.

INSYRIATED
20 years of Kleur Bekennen

The federal government programme for global citizenship education "Kleur Bekennen" blows out 20 candles. Through this programme, the Belgian Development Cooperation wants to make children and young people from Belgian primary and secondary schools enthusiastic for international solidarity. After all, social issues such as migration, climate and poverty are hot topics and require a critical approach.

Since 1997, the "Kleur Bekennen" programme has been working with schools and educational organisations around the theme of global citizenship education. It helps children and young people to gain a critical insight into global development problems. They are thereby encouraged to act as active and supportive global citizens. The ambitions of the programme are without a doubt more current than ever.

Music festival Esperanzah focuses on migration

The Belgian Development Cooperation also supported a project on migration and refugees. For two months, final-year students of the seminary in Floreffe were creatively involved in migration. They met, among other things, with refugees in a shelter of the Red Cross and made a video clip about their activities. To end in beauty, the video was shown at the Esperanzah festival. Festival-goers could even enjoy a song that the students made following their meeting with the refugees.

Global citizenship education: more current than ever!
The new Glo.be is going fully digital

Glo.be is the Belgian magazine on international development. The new online magazine is entirely devoted to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the universal UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted at the end of September 2015 by the international community. Glo.be deals with the five pillars of the SDGs: people, planet, prosperity, peace & security and partnership. A sixth theme, ‘Globetrotters’, is entirely dedicated to the commitment of Belgians worldwide to sustainable development.

On the occasion of the launch in September 2017, Minister of Development Cooperation Alexander De Croo blogged live for a whole week while attending the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York.

Benefits of a digital magazine

Glo.be is no longer a quarterly magazine. It provides continuous information about themes linked to the Belgian Development Cooperation in the broad sense. The magazine contains both short and long articles for desktop, tablet and smartphone in Dutch, French and English. A monthly newsletter highlights the major hot topics, while Glo.be also has its own Facebook page and Instagram account. All these aspects turn Glo.be into a genuine knowledge hub for everyone.

With its fresh design, clear content and detailed search engine, Glo.be will undoubtedly attract new readers. Students, teachers or citizens who are concerned with the planet’s future will be surprised by the wide range of information. Finally, Glo.be makes every effort to obtain the AnySurfer quality label, meaning that all platforms are easily accessible to all.