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2009 was a successful year for the Belgian Development Cooperation. We were able to pursue the policy in accordance with the guidelines laid down in 2008.

New indicative cooperation programmes were concluded on bilateral cooperation with Morocco, Tanzania, Peru, Senegal, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). As a result, nearly two thirds of our bilateral portfolio were revised at the end of 2009. This was carried out fully in line with the increases in scale and the concentration movement on 2 sectors (3 for the DR Congo and Burundi) which had already been initiated in 2008.

The financing policy for multilateral cooperation was adjusted. Since the beginning of 2009, Belgium henceforth finances only the general (core) budgets of the 21 multilateral partner organisations, and no longer earmarked projects. Partner organisations can consequently intervene at lower transaction costs where the need is the greatest. This innovative policy has bolstered Belgium’s reputation as a good multilateral donor as well as our authority on the international scene.

An agreement was concluded with the Belgian NGOs in indirect cooperation to rationalise the important financial donations to operations.

Humanitarian aid also underwent an important change: emergency aid will henceforth no longer fall under the purview of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, but will be added to the humanitarian responsibilities of the Minister of Development Cooperation. This opens up prospects for a coherent humanitarian policy where emergency aid, food aid, and transition efforts can be coordinated better.

An initial visit at the end of 2009 by the OECD panel that has to assess our Cooperation by the end of June 2010 revealed that our partners are impressed by the reforms that have been implemented here in the last two years.

These reforms must lead to an appreciable improvement in the value of our development cooperation for money, which must go hand in hand with an increase of the official development aid.

Steps were also taken during the year under review to modernise the content of the Belgian development policy. For instance, an effort to recover lost ground has put Belgium on the map in the fight against food insecurity.

Development Cooperation can be far more than technical assistance, limited to the use of government funds, and embellished with political dialogue. Development Cooperation must be based on a fully fledged partnership at policy level. In 2009, our policy gained a clear understanding of the political dimension of development inasmuch as aid produces more results in well governed countries. The new cooperation programmes with Burundi and the DR Congo consequently provide for extra funding instalments, on condition that certain technical, economic and good governance criteria are met. The positive role of the private sector is moreover promoted actively in developing countries, in particular through the Belgian Investment Company for Developing Countries (BIO). Furthermore, the involvement of the Belgian Development Cooperation in the debate on climate change during and after the climate summit in Copenhagen shows the broadening of our policy outlook. This modernisation agenda will be continued in 2010.

2010 will be an important year during which the Belgian Development Cooperation will be carefully assessed. For it will be marked by two major events: the OECD-DAC Peer Review, and a United Nations summit that will take stock of the international efforts made up to now to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. I expect that the outcome of these events will strengthen and inspire the Belgian policy further. The Belgian presidency of the European Union in the second half of 2010 will offer even more opportunities to hone our policy.

Charles Michel
Minister of Development Cooperation
Belgium’s 18 partner countries for governmental development cooperation

North Africa:
1. Morocco
2. Algeria

West Africa:
3. Mali
4. Niger
5. Senegal
6. Benin

Central Africa:
7. DR Congo
8. Rwanda
9. Burundi

East Africa:
10. Uganda
11. Tanzania
12. Mozambique

Middle East:
14. Palestinian Territories

South America:
15. Ecuador
16. Peru
17. Bolivia

Asia:
18. Vietnam

West Africa:
3. Mali
4. Niger
5. Senegal
6. Benin

Central Africa:
7. DR Congo
8. Rwanda
9. Burundi

East Africa:
10. Uganda
11. Tanzania
12. Mozambique

Middle East:
14. Palestinian Territories

South America:
15. Ecuador
16. Peru
17. Bolivia

Asia:
18. Vietnam
The Belgian Development Cooperation is determined to help achieve the Millennium Goals in an effective manner. This annual report is intended to show that the Belgian development aid can make a contribution to the results in the fight against poverty against the background of the current international situation and its challenges, and with focus on what was achieved or initiated in the previous year.

This report is a concourse of two reports: the DGD annual report, which had already been geared to reporting results in the previous two editions, and the annual report to Parliament on the Belgian contribution to the attainment of the Millennium Goals. The report is also intended to give account of the way in which development actions can have a positive impact on people’s lives and welfare. As such, it also puts one of the five pillars of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness – mutual accountability – directly into practice. The report is nonetheless intent also as much on showing the complexity of development aid and its environment, owing to which rigorously planned objectives do not always attain the anticipated result.

The first part of the report outlines the context of the contribution that Belgium can make, as a relatively small donor, to achieve the Millennium Goals, and the results that it can or cannot claim. Plausibility is the key word here, because aid is part of a greater whole in which good governance, economic growth, private investments, social progress, environmental protection, etc. also play a crucial role. It also provides an overview of the Belgian Development Cooperation in 2009 situated in an international development agenda under pressure.

The second part goes specifically into the eight Millennium Goals, the state of affairs thereof in the world, and the contribution that Belgium makes thereto. An attempt to calculate and to prove the degree to which Belgium has contributed to a specific Millennium Goal in black and white is not realistic. This report is consequently intent on showing the Belgian share through an illustrative, non-exhaustive approach that provides real insight into the operation and results of the Belgian Development Cooperation. The proposed projects, programmes and interviews are geared primarily to turning the floor over to people in the field – people who feel the impact of aid directly or who put development cooperation into practice. The focus is on Peru, Rwanda and Senegal, three of the eighteen Belgian partner countries, with the requisite attention to the different forms and channels of aid. A number of recent developments such as policy coherence for development or the search for innovative forms of financing are also broached.

The third and final part provides an overview of a number of activities intended to raise the awareness of the Belgian public about development cooperation. For a global partnership for development, the ultimate aim of the Millennium Goals, also relies on the contribution of the Belgian population to no mean degree.

Peter Moors
Director General DGD

The Directorate-General for Development (DGD) is, as of 2010, the new name of the former Directorate-General for Development Cooperation (DGDC). As a directorate-general within the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, the DGD was already the name used internally, by analogy with other directorates-general. DGD will henceforth be the general name of the administration for external use as well. The website of DGD can be accessed directly via www.dg-d.be.
General framework

1
UN summit

The High Level Plenary Meeting of the UN General Assembly, scheduled to convene between 20 and 22 September 2010, is naturally of essential importance. That this summit will take place during the Belgian presidency of the EU gives added weight to our country.

As the 2015 deadline is rapidly approaching, the Summit must as a matter of urgency concentrate on questions such as: how can we speed up concrete progress in the field? What has worked and what not, and for what reasons? Which lessons can be learnt from the successes and failures? The General Assembly organisational resolution of 4 December 2009 puts it correctly: the time remaining to the 2015 deadline is extremely short. That is why the summit must concentrate with a due sense of urgency on such questions as: how can we accelerate the concrete progress in the field? What has and what has not worked and why? What can we learn from successes and failures? The UN resolution of 4 December 2009 on the organisation of the summit puts it correctly: the Summit must be a comprehensive review and a discussion of successes, experiences, useful lessons learnt, obstacles and gaps, challenges and opportunities, leading to concrete strategies for action.

The Belgian approach to the MDGs is based on the UN Millennium Declaration of September 2000. It is worth bearing in mind that the Millennium Declaration is a well balanced text which underscores in particular that human dignity, equality and equity are a matter of collective responsibility for all countries.

Effective policy

Unfortunately, the MDGs seem to have been too much a donor agenda. Although numerous developing countries have integrated MDG-related objectives into their development strategies, they have all too often failed to take concrete actions. Strategies have been insufficiently implemented through adequate budget allocations and effective administrative measures. This is particularly regrettable because, while foreign aid evidently has a role to play, the MDGs are first and foremost a matter of effective policies of each country. This entails in particular the effective use of domestic resources and the creation of an environment conducive to private enterprise.

Effective policies are not possible without good governance, respect for the rights and the dignity of men and women, combating abuses such as corruption, and peace and security. Foreign aid can only yield results if minimum requirements are met in these fields.

In the logic of the partnership which is at the heart of the UN Millennium Declaration, most donor countries have made the commitment to increase their aid volume to 0.7% of their gross national income (GNI). As a result of the current financial and economic crisis, several donor countries obviously have difficulties in reaching that aid level. At the same time, the poorest part of the world population is the hardest hit by the food crisis, climate change and the financial and economic crisis itself, which precisely adds to their need for support.
It is therefore important for donors to increase the aid level as well as the quality of their aid, the crisis notwithstanding. Belgium takes its responsibility on that point: In 2010 the Belgian aid will reach 0.7% of its GNI. These efforts are not only about quantity. Our country has also made substantial efforts in terms of aid effectiveness, and will continue to do so.

Belgium considers the achievements as part of a “pact” between donors and partner countries. The partner countries must in turn make efforts as well by integrating the MDGs effectively into their policies and by speeding up progress towards good governance.

The MDGs and results-based management

Effective policy must ultimately lead to more and better development results. This is the premise of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005), which makes results-based management one of the five core principles for achieving effective aid.

Results-based management is a practical approach and entails a considerable shift. Whereas the focus was previously on means and immediate results, the tables are now turned with focus on performance and on achieving results in the medium term and the impact on the long term. The MDGs for this overall development aim in the long term therefore constitute the basis of the development process.

The Belgian Development Cooperation has for some years now made concrete efforts to adhere to this results-based approach. The fact that the MDGs are at the centre of the Belgian development policy is in line with this effort for more and better results. Activities such as building schools and roads and training people are not enough in and of themselves. That is not to say that this is not important. Such activities are sorely needed. But if we want to get results, we must first have clear objectives that can guide these activities and place them within a broader whole. And that is where the MDGs come into play. Giving the objectives concrete form makes it easier for donors and developing countries to determine the direction that policy must take in subsequent years.

Belgian contribution

Can Belgium really make a difference in achieving the MDGs? Belgium is a relatively small donor with a sizeable yet, by comparison with other donors, rather limited contribution to the overall aid budget. Furthermore, achieving the MDGs does not depend on development aid alone, but rather on a concourse of many factors, such as good governance, efficient and democratic institutions, the redistribution of wealth, private investments, etc., where the developing countries themselves have a crucial role to play. External factors also have an important influence on whether the MDGs are achieved.

A conclusive and causal demonstration as to whether Belgian activities help to attain the MDGs is not very realistic. It is nonetheless plausible that Belgium makes a concrete contribution, together with the partner country, other donors and in conjunction with many other factors.
The results chain

The results-based management approach is implemented by applying the results chain. The Belgian Development Cooperation uses this method henceforth for the entire programme and project cycle and integrates it into its modus operandi step by step. The principles are included in the instructions for preparing the new cooperation agreements with the partner countries. The results chain also forms the basis for the programmes of the indirect actors.

The results chain, applied to a programme or project cycle, looks like this:

![Image of the results chain diagram]

A distinction is drawn in this results chain between three levels of results: outputs (immediate results), outcomes (short- and medium-term results) and impact (long-term results).

We provide a fictitious example of a bridge spanning a river connecting a village with a town on the two banks. The immediate result of this project is the bridge: funds, materials and workers (inputs) were deployed for a year (activities) to build a bridge (output). Why did we build that bridge? To enable the people from the village to find work in the town on the other side of the river (outcome). What is the expected long-term result (impact)? People who found work would be logically expected to have more income and to be able to use this income to buy more and better food for their family or to send their children to school.

In this simple example, we illustrated how the construction of a bridge can lead to long-term results. It is vital to grasp that this is a logical hypothesis, however, over which donors have no complete control. What would happen if a crisis broke out in that country or if there were scarcely any jobs for the people from the village? This is one element which may entail that the targeted long-term results are attained to a lesser degree if at all. The problem we have outlined here is known as the attribution problem: how can we show that our project has produced certain results in the long term? We therefore prefer to speak about contribution rather than attribution: our project is one of the many elements that have led to changes in the long term.

No clear implementation

The Belgian Development Cooperation converted the results-based management into a results matrix for its cooperation programmes with the partner countries, so that the cooperation programme can be attuned to their national strategies and procedures. Coordination with other donors and sufficient input from the partner country are not always self-evident, however. Practice has moreover shown that though it is often still complex and requires a certain amount of experience and exercise, results-based management is well worth the effort.

This became evident during the Joint Committee Meeting with Tanzania in October 2009 to approve the new Indicative Cooperation Programme for 2010-2013. DGD gave the partner institutions a brief presentation on the most important principles of results-based management. The questions and answers session that followed revealed that the partners preferred to have a concrete, ready to use instrument in order to be able to take part in the discussion. The Joint Committee’s report included the mutual commitment that such an instrument would henceforth be available during the entire process and would have to be supplemented in every partner committee.

The active participation in a workshop in Dar es Salaam by both the attaché and the partner in January 2010 proved that this was no idle commitment. It also showed that there is growing awareness and willingness to reflect more in terms of results-based management within both the donor community and the Tanzanian government.
Economic and financial crisis

2009 was the year in which the worldwide economic and financial crisis erupted. Although it took the heaviest toll on the figures of the industrialised economies, it has also had even more serious consequences for developing countries.

Growth in emerging economies and developing countries amounted to merely 1.7%, compared with 6% in 2008 and 8.3% in 2007. The economic shrinkage of advanced economies led to a depressed demand for commodities and a regression of investments in developing countries. The same negative trend marked the remittances of migrants to developing countries.

According to the World Bank, an economic regression of 1% in developing countries means 20 million more poor people. This would mean that the number of poor rose by 80 million in 2009. Poor families that have had to cope with the crisis and had to do without the protection of a social security system, scaled down their investments in education and healthcare. Women and children are particularly vulnerable. The most important areas of action in need of support according to Belgium are targeted social expenditures, the preservation of expansion of allocations for infrastructure and facilities and support for the private sector.

In May 2009, the second States General of the Belgian development cooperation were devoted to the impact of the financial and economic crisis on developing countries. The aim was to examine how donors react to the difficult economic context in partner countries, and to chart policy measures with rapid impact on the most vulnerable segments of the population. Participants used case studies in Senegal, the DR Congo and Tanzania to focus attention on the mechanisms through which the crisis trickles down to the most vulnerable segments of the population.
Climate change

Climate change introduces a new form of inequality: those least responsible for climate change are the ones hardest hit. This new challenge moreover endangers progress on the MDGs because of the alarming impact on such areas as migration, food security, biodiversity and public health. Sub-Saharan Africa, where rain-based agriculture accounts for 30% of GDP and where 70% of the population work in this sector, will be particularly hard hit. Studies show that a temperature rise of 2°C will cause African GDP to shrink by 4 to 5% and cut the yield of rain-based agriculture by half. These are disastrous consequences for a region that is waging a fierce battle against food insecurity.

Development cooperation is vested with the important task of supporting developing countries to mitigate and adjust to the consequences of climate change. Appropriate measures have to be integrated in the development policies. In the course of 2009, Belgium expanded the Climate and Development Research Platform KLIMOS. The platform examines how energy, food security and forest management can be integrated sustainably in the Belgian development policy. Belgium wants to preserve its results in the field with the recommendations and insights of KLIMOS (for more information about KLIMOS cf. p. 58).
Agriculture and food security

In 2009, the world hit a historical hunger milestone with more than 1 billion people suffering from hunger. The world economic and financial crisis has undoubtedly been partly responsible. The attainment of MDG 1 - eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by 2015 - is consequently far off. Nearly one sixth of humanity is currently living in poverty, food insecurity, undernourishment and hunger.

In line with its commitment to allocate at least 10% of the total aid budget to agriculture and food security by 2010 (and 15% by 2015), Belgium stepped up its efforts in 2009. These are clearly visible on a multilateral level.

Our country has raised the food aid contributions to the World Food Programme (WFP) and to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to absolute record levels. In 2007, the World Food Programme received €27.7 million from Belgium – the highest ever such contribution to the WFP, nearly 50% higher than in 2008. A record contribution of €7.25 million to the Food and Agriculture Organisation made Belgium “one of the most generous donors” according to that organisation (cf. also as regards MDG 1, p. 21-22).
The contributions to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and to the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) were likewise increased substantially, with funding for the IFAD being doubled, and for the CGIAR up by 30%.

The bilateral development cooperation concluded six new cooperation programmes with partner countries in 2009 (cf. p. 18), where agriculture was identified as a priority sector in three of these, namely Burundi, the DR Congo and Morocco.

The Belgian Survival Fund was turned into the Belgian Fund for Food Security (BFFS). This Fund prefers to operate in areas faced with serious food insecurity in the Belgian partner countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. The new Fund is intent on focusing its long-term vision even more on food security in all its dimensions. In the spirit of the Paris Declaration, synergy with actions of national actors and other development partners is being sought (for more information on the BFFS, cf. p. 23).

Coherence and effectiveness

To secure the continued quality of the aid, the Belgian Development Cooperation paid particular attention to the coherence and effectiveness of its development policy in 2009.

Indirect actors opt for more effective aid
Indirect development actors, especially NGOs, but also universities and scientific institutions, are working independently - but to a large degree with funds from the government. To fall in line with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, they too will henceforth become more attuned to the policy of the Belgian government and the partners in the South.

In this connection, the Minister of Development Cooperation concluded two agreements in 2009: one with non-governmental organisations, and one with universities and scientific institutions. The new agreements are intended to enhance the effectiveness of development programmes by concentrating efforts and increasing synergies and complementarities. The most striking element in both agreements is the geographic concentration of the activities (for more information on the agreement with NGOs, cf. p. 73).

Core funding of multilateral partner organisations
To enhance the coherence and effectiveness of the Belgian multilateral development cooperation, our country opted resolutely for a new multilateral donor policy in 2009. The new funding policy for multilateral institutions henceforth gives preference to core funding instead of earmarked funding. Belgium will henceforth support exclusively the general budgets of its multilateral partner organisations. Earmarked funding (for separate projects) will be reduced to a minimum. Partner organisations thus get more guarantees for the predictability of funds, and there is far less fragmentation. At the same time, Belgium acquires greater weight in the institutions involved.
“Core contributions enhance aid effectiveness”
Interview with Antonio Vigilante and Nicola Harrington, UNDP Brussels

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is one of Belgium’s 21 multilateral partner organisations. The Belgian contribution is up by 10% for the period 2008-2011. This is henceforth attributed almost entirely to the general budget of the organisation, and is no longer distributed among separate UNDP projects. Antonio Vigilante and Nicola Harrington, the director and vice-director of the Brussels office of the UNDP discuss the consequences of this progressive decision for the workings of the UNDP and the multilateral development cooperation.

How have the contributions of the Member States to the UNDP changed in the last 10 years?
Vigilante: The contributions to the general budget - the core contributions, as they are known - have remained more or less stable. That is why the Member States have been urged during UNDP meetings to consider contributions to the general budget, but a positive response has been only partially forthcoming. Conversely, contributions to specific and separate projects, known as earmarked contributions, have gone decidedly up.
Harrington: In the 1990s, the UNDP was faced with dropping revenues, and we apprised the Member States accordingly. A small group of countries, including Belgium, responded with enthusiasm and increased the endowment, thereby contributing to the reform of the UNDP.

How does a ‘full core’ policy, such as that of Belgium, contribute to aid effectiveness? Is there a consensus about it?
Harrington: A general agreement has been reached that development aid must be in line with the national poverty eradication strategies of countries in the South, and that donors must coordinate their aid. Aid must be provided in an efficient and effective manner.
It is worth bearing in mind that funding through separate programmes entails administrative red tape. Monitoring and evaluation by donor countries is also a serious investment that we can still rationalise.
Vigilante: In any event, earmarked funds for separate projects are not conducive to the ownership of the national development strategies by the partner country. This is because donor countries do not always fund programmes that correspond with the priorities of the development country. In my view, “earmarked funds” are contrary to the Paris Declaration, unless such programmes are clearly geared to the priorities.
Donors are well aware that aid may not be bound to possible national interests and that more non-earmarked contributions enhance the effective implementation of the national poverty eradication plans. Unfortunately, such good intentions do not always lead to concrete actions. But a small group of countries is taking the lead and playing a pioneering role.

Why is an increase of contributions to the UNDP general budget necessary?
Vigilante: The increase will benefit especially countries in the South, in accordance with the real needs and criteria that are not linked to commercial or political considerations of donor countries. These are essentially criteria geared to human development and the needs arising out of the socio-economic situation. We have nonetheless noted that there are what are known as “aid favourites” and “aid orphans” among developing countries: some countries in which the donor countries have many interests get significantly more aid than others.
Harrington: A coherent distribution of tasks at international level is therefore needed between donors. At the same time, we have a crucial need of funds not tied to thematic or geographic preferences imposed by those donors. That is why we were pleased to hear of Belgium’s decision to increase its contribution through the general budget of the UN development organisations.
Six new governmental cooperation programmes

2009 was a busy year for governmental development cooperation. Belgium renewed no fewer than six cooperation programmes for the period 2010-2013 with Burundi, the DR Congo, Morocco, Peru, Senegal and Tanzania.

Ownership

All new programmes follow as much as possible the international trends that have taken shape through the Paris Declaration. Thus, the open dialogue during the negotiations contributed to no mean degree to the “ownership” of the development process by the partner country. Belgium opts to cooperate on equal terms and through open dialogue with its partner countries.

Concentration of the aid

Pursuant to the European Code of Conduct on Complementarity and the Division of Labour in Development Policy, Belgium has opted resolutely for two priority sectors per partner country, at least one of which is a production sector. Interventions in three sectors are possible only in the three Central African countries on which the Belgian Development Cooperation is concentrated. A greater geographic concentration within a partner country also contributes to greater aid effectiveness.

The sectors are chosen on the basis of the partner country’s priorities. For Peru for instance, two sectors were chosen (healthcare and sustainable economy) that are priorities for the Peruvian government, but with little budget allocations. On the other hand, Belgium must have the requisite expertise in house in order to be able to support the selected sectors.

Capacity development: support of governmental institutions

The new cooperation programmes are switching increasingly from project implementation to support of governmental institutions, in particular by supporting the national budget (‘budget aid’) for the benefit of sustainable development cooperation. According to recent perceptions, greater sustainability is achieved when local institutions acquire the capacity to carry out the necessary projects themselves. The Belgian Development Cooperation consequently pays a great deal of attention to capacity building, but monitors closely whether this leads to real improvement in the living conditions of the needy.

Delegated cooperation

Some programmes are carried out by development agencies which, in a given country, are more specialised in a given area than the Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC) which implements the government’s cooperation policy. Such “delegated cooperation” occurs in Senegal, for instance, where Luxembourg will continue the current Belgian action to provide vocational training to girls and women (cf. Case p. 43).

Gender equality and empowerment of women

The new cooperation programmes contain reciprocal result commitments for gender equality and empowerment of women.

Gender equality is integrated in the policy dialogue and in the programmes in the priority sectors, including capacity building. Furthermore, 50% of the study grants are to go to women candidates, and half of the Micro-Intervention Programmes (MIPs) are geared to the empowerment of women.

Central Africa at the centre of development policy

Belgium is sticking to its aim to keep Central Africa at the centre of its development policy. Our country put in a great deal of work in 2009 to smooth out the cooperation with the DR Congo. The new cooperation programme was signed right before the end of the year.

Belgium concentrates fully on “agricultural and rural development” to help improve food security in the DR Congo. The “rural roads and ferries” segment will also contribute thereto. The 10,000 kilometres of repaired roads will make it easier to reach markets. The programmes will take due account of the different needs and restrictions for men and women. Another priority sector is education: thousands of boys and girls will be given the chance to undergo quality technical and vocational training.
The extensive cooperation with the DR Congo (€75 million per year) goes hand in hand with close attention to good governance and the fight against corruption. Belgium is prepared to increase the support it has been providing in recent years, on condition that the Congolese government can show concrete progress in democratic and financial governance.

Aid to Burundi has gone up sharply: from €60 million in the previous programme to €150 million now, making Belgium the biggest bilateral donor in Burundi. A further €50 million can be added in 2011 - once again, under strict conditions: fair elections in 2010 and acceptable good governance results.

Belgium did not conclude a new cooperation programme with Rwanda in 2009. Five new agreements exceeding €39 million were signed, however, in particular to support small animal husbandry and drinking water supply and sanitation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partner Country</th>
<th>Total amount (in euros)</th>
<th>Sectors</th>
<th>Points of particular interest</th>
<th>New</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burundi</td>
<td>150 million</td>
<td>• Health • Education • Agriculture</td>
<td>• Good governance • Fight against corruption • Gender</td>
<td>€50 million extra in 2011 under conditions (fair elections and good governance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR Congo</td>
<td>300 million</td>
<td>• Rural roads and ferries • Agriculture • Education • Health (being phased out)</td>
<td>• Good governance • Fight against corruption • Gender</td>
<td>Extra funds during the last 2 years under conditions (progress in democratic and financial governance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>80 million</td>
<td>• Water • Agriculture</td>
<td>• Gender • Sustainable development • Climate • Support for trade</td>
<td>Doubling of the budget • Delegated cooperation with the national initiative for human development of King Mohammed VI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>40 million</td>
<td>• Health • Sustainable economy</td>
<td>• Gender • Children’s rights • Environment • Solidarity-based economy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>52.5 million</td>
<td>• Basic healthcare • Hydraulic infrastructures • Micro-financing (being phased out)</td>
<td>• Gender • Children’s rights • Sustainable environment</td>
<td>Delegated cooperation for vocational training and climate change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>60 million</td>
<td>• Local governance reform • Sustainable management of natural resources</td>
<td>• Gender • Fight against corruption</td>
<td>Greater geographic concentration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Millennium Development Goals

2

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
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

Extreme poverty
This was already an ambitious goal, but the impact of the worldwide economic crisis has been particularly devastating. The fight against poverty is far behind schedule. Before the worldwide crisis, the number of people living under the poverty threshold of $1.25 per day had dropped from 1.8 to 1.4 billion. Since 2009, this figure has risen again by 55 to 90 million people. Quite a number of countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia will not reach the poverty eradication goal.

Decent work
The crisis has taken a heavy toll on the labour market: millions of people are working more under vulnerable working conditions. More than half of the workers in Sub-Saharan Africa are “working poor” and more than three quarters of the workers have a precarious job. Since 2008, 77 million more people have joined the ranks of working men and women who do not have decent work.

Employment for women worldwide rose from 48% to 49% between 1998 and 2008. This is not a particularly spectacular rise and says little about the work that they perform. Some 80% of the female workforce in Oceania, Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia are still working under precarious conditions.

Hunger
Although hunger figures have shown a declining trend for a relatively long period, we have recently detected an increase in the number of undernourished people. The world crossed a symbolic hunger milestone in 2009: more than 1 billion people go hungry or are undernourished.

Children are hit particularly hard. One out of four children in developing countries is underweight and more than one third of infant mortality in the world can be attributed to undernourishment. Nevertheless, between 1990 and 2007, the number of underweight children under five dropped from 31% to 26%. This is not sufficient, however, to achieve the hunger eradication goal.

The Belgian contribution

Higher priority for agriculture
“Agriculture and food security” have long constituted one of the priority sectors of the Belgian Development Cooperation. But this sector has been neglected by the international donor community. Belgium has consequently decided to step up its efforts: in 2010 10% of the total aid budget must be allocated to agriculture and food security. This percentage must be increased to 15% by 2015. To that end, our country increased its donations for food aid to the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to absolute record levels in 2009, as well as its donations to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and to the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

World Food Programme
The World Food Programme received €27.7 million from Belgium - the highest such donation ever, and nearly 50% higher than the amount in 2008. “In a year when industrialised countries had to cope with the economic crisis, Belgium was more generous than ever. Belgium helps the needy who are hard hit by the crisis in developing countries,” explained Gemmo Lodesani, director of the WFP in Brussels.

The funds for the World Food Programme were used primarily for emergency food aid to people suffering from the extreme drought in Kenya, and Somalia, Sudanese refugees in Kenya, undernourished children and vulnerable farmers in Niger, people in conflict areas in Pakistan and Yemen, flood victims in Laos and people affected by high food prices in Ethiopia.
Humanitarian Air Service

€1.6 million of the Belgian donation to the World Food Programme went to the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS). The UNHAS is provided by WFP Aviation (the air division of WFP logistics) to bring relief workers to very inaccessible areas. Due to a lack of funds, the UNHAS planned to discontinue its service to a number of areas. Thanks to Belgium, the UNHAS will continue to fly Chad, Niger, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia. Without these flights, hundreds of thousands of vulnerable people would not be reached by relief workers who provide medicines, clean water, food and other vital services.

Food and Agriculture Organisation

Belgium has made extra efforts for the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) as well. A record donation of €7.25 million in 2009 makes Belgium “one of the most generous donors” according to the organisation. The Belgian food aid benefited mainly the population of Afghanistan, Burundi, the DR Congo, Kenya, Somalia, Niger, Pakistan, Yemen, Sudan, Laos, Zimbabwe, the Palestinian Territories and Ethiopia.

Agriculture a priority in governmental cooperation

The bilateral development cooperation concluded 6 new cooperation programmes with partner countries in 2009, with “agriculture” as the priority sector in three of these programmes, i.e. in Burundi, the DR Congo and Morocco. These countries can reckon on a Belgian donation for the following four years to step up the efforts for the food security of their population.
Belgian Fund for Food Security, successor to the Belgian Survival Fund

The successor to the Belgian Survival Fund came into being in 2009: the Belgian Fund for Food Security (BFFS). Even more than its predecessor, the BFFS is to ensure that all dimensions of food security are included as much as possible in its programmes:

- **Availability:** Sufficient food production for all families: Better varieties, manuring and disease control enhance production. Micro-credits help the farmers along the way.

- **Access:** Sufficient income to purchase food: Food must moreover be physically and socially accessible. Markets are often poorly stocked or there are not sufficient access roads in isolated areas. In some traditions, the man of the house eats first, and the remaining food is then distributed among the wife and the children.

- **Stability:** Availability of and access to food year round: Food is often more scarce and more expensive during the dry season. Better storage and processing and the growth of alternative crops are a possible solution.

- **Consumption:** A balanced diet which, in addition to calories, provides also sufficient essential nutrients such as vitamins. Drinking contaminated water leads to undernourishment as do untreated diseases. This is particularly harmful for children under 5.

**Cooperation**

A single organisation often does not have the necessary expertise in house to tackle all dimensions. The BFFS consequently encourages cooperation and looks for synergies with the actions of national actors and other development partners. Municipalities for instance are well placed to coordinate the establishment of health centres, health insurance schemes, schools, and wells. Local institutions acquire ownership and gain expertise also through the civil society (NGOs, trade organisations, etc.), which is beneficial to the sustainability of the programmes.
Most vulnerable segments of society and gender
The BFFS pays particular attention to the most vulnerable segments of society. In the past, users were at times asked to make a financial contribution, e.g. in a health centre or a school, in order to secure the sustainability of the service. The most destitute fell by the wayside as a result. The BFFS will moreover continue to make efforts to improve the standard of living of women.

The Belgian Fund for Food Security in a nutshell

**Purpose:** Food security in all its facets (availability, access, stability, consumption)

**Field of activity:** Sub-Saharan Africa (preferably in areas with high food insecurity)

**Target group:** the 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 Cooperation Agency (BTC), Belgian NGOs and multilateral organisations such as the FAO and the IFAD

**Initiator:** The Belgian Parliament

Available in the cities of Ayacucho, Apurimac and Huancavelica, this programme has been in its second phase since December 2007. There are two sections: aid in organising production chains and setting up what are known as local economic development organisations (known by the Spanish acronym “ODEL” which stands for Oficinas de Desarrollo Económico Local). The programme is geared to higher employment, higher income for small rural entrepreneurs and for urban small companies.

Since 2008, 44 ODELs have already been placed under the purview of local governmental authorities and 120 civil servants have received training on the challenges of the local economy. Particular attention has been focused on the production chain, i.e. the process a product follows before it reaches the consumer. Every link in the chain must be strengthened, from the producer to everyone who works on and markets the product. At the same time, it is important for every link to maintain a common vision of the entire chain. This approach stimulates producers to join forces and to strengthen their entrepreneurial skills and thus give the entire regional economy a boost.

The programme has already produced some remarkable results. Some eighty producers and small companies have become a little more competitive. The measures taken by the government to improve the quality of the production chains have paid off. They concern in particular textiles, pottery, alpaca fibres, dairy products, and the cultivation of avocados. It has enabled these companies to access the national and international markets. For instance, Global Gap has issued a certificate for 100 hectares of avocado crop with access to the European market. Global Gap is an organisation that sets food security, sustainability and quality standards in agriculture worldwide.

The programme has made a remarkable contribution to exports by local producers. In five years, exports have reached a volume of $2,400,000, accounting for one fifth of all commercial transactions. Exports have boosted sales by 20 to 30% for 1,000 families in Ayacucho. The programme thus helps to reduce poverty and hunger in these regions.
PASAB - Projet d’appui à la sécurité alimentaire au Bugesera [Food Security Support Project in Bugesera] is a project of Caritas and its partners. In recent years, they have managed, with the help of the Belgian Fund for Food Security, to reduce poverty and food insecurity in Bugesera, a district to the south of Kigali. This region is home to a high number of vulnerable families because of the unsafe situation and the changeable climate.

Patrice Nshimiyimana is one of the leaders of farmers from the Kabeza pilot area. He trains other farmers and bears witness to the impact of the programme.

“When the project was launched, I was very poor. I lived in the dilapidated family home that father left us when he was in prison. With a sick wife, two younger brothers and a sister, I was the only one who could earn the family income. I was able to join the PASAB project and was encouraged to plant manioc. My first crop generated a profit of FrW 790,000 (ca. €1,000) already. This enabled me to pay for my sister’s fees to train as a seamstress and to send my brothers to school. One of them is currently attending university. I would now like to buy a sewing machine for my sister.”

Manioc generates a good income for the work involved, but exhausts the soil. You can plant manioc throughout the year, and the harvest takes a few months. It is like a food bank or a piggy bank for the whole year. A good production is possible even in a harsh climate. An immediate effect can be obtained by using technology to upgrade the soil by protecting against erosion. Planting appropriate varieties can also help. Production can thereby be doubled to guarantee a stable family income.

“The training I received,” Patrice continues, “enabled me to diversify my production. I lease a plot of land near the marsh for market gardening: plums, tomatoes, courgettes, peppers, aubergines… The proceeds from it last year amounted to FrW 470,000 (ca. €600).

To manage my funds properly and to establish and cultivate good cooperation with the banks, I opened a bank account which is settled regularly. To make ends meet during certain periods, I always place part of my production with our storage cooperative. Last year, I stored 100 kg of sorgho and took it back recently for the sowing period.”

The PASAB project has also enabled Patrice to buy cows that produce sufficient manure. The improvement of the breed through artificial insemination will boost milk production in future. Three generations ago, farmers were embarrassed to sell their produce on the market, because it meant that they could not support themselves. Now, farmers engage in commercial agriculture because they have to meet the needs of their families: school fees, healthcare, etc. Furthermore, new challenges are emerging, such as the development of services and specialised products, the transport and interaction of the different partners, from government to the private sector.

“That is why good advice and guidance are of crucial importance,” Patrice concludes. “We still have to find our place among donors, banks, micro-credit institutions, intermediaries, etc. The project plays a modest but important role in all this.”
The NGO ADGemblox has developed a new programme for food security. The aim is to use €4.2 million from the Belgian Fund for Food Security to stimulate income-generating activities.

Gonde Ciss is one of the 25,000 beneficiaries. He is a vegetable grower and produces cereals and seeds in the Thiès region. He is registered with a cooperative of the Programme d’Action pour un Développement Rural Juste et Durable (PADER) [Action Programme for Fair and Sustainable Rural Development].

**How do you receive support from the PADER project?**

“I used to be a member of a cooperative, but it was government run and the structure was rather unwieldy. In 2002 I switched over to the PADER cooperative. I can hone my technical skills with an once-off donation of FCFA 7,000. The cooperative advises me and provides training so that I can boost my yield. I get highly pur- poseful support on seed production and marketing. Furthermore, they help me to improve the quality of the seeds to such a degree that I can get them certified.”

**What impact has this had on your activities and on your life?**

“Since 2002, I have noted that my cattle are a lot healthier. I have also noted a higher yield from vegetable farming. My activities are becoming more efficient, in other words, and with fewer means at that. Earlier, I needed 8 plots, 4 leased and 4 of my own, to produce 1 to 2 tonnes per season. Now, I can get 4 tonnes from my own 4 plots, and no longer need to lease the other plots.”

**How do you invest the profit that you make?**

“I can buy more manure to enrich the soil of my plots. Moreover, the yield from my livestock is better, which is always a “piggy bank” of sorts. And I have been able to take on a third wife. I would also like to buy an electric pump to improve our irrigation system.”
Moi, j’étais malade et la maman venait de m’emmener au médecin.
Millennium Development Goal 2

Achieve universal primary education by 2015

• Ensure that all boys and girls complete primary schooling.

Current world state of affairs

Enrolments
There is a trend towards universal primary education throughout the world, but it is not fast enough to reach the Millennium Goal. The number of non-enrolled children is dropping too slowly. Considerable progress is being registered in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, where the enrolment rate has since 2000 risen by 15% and 11% respectively. In many countries, the rise in the number of enrolments is apparently connected to an increase in spending for education.

Accessibility
Accessibility to education is determined by the capacity of the education systems to have all children go to school. An overall rise of 9% in access to education was measured between 1999 and 2007. Nevertheless, there are still 72 million children without access to primary education. Nearly half of them live in Sub-Saharan Africa and about 18 million in South Asia.

Children are often denied education because of prejudices about gender, ethnic origin, income, language and/or disability.

Dropping out
Improving accessibility is only part of the solution, because of the high drop-out rate. Enrolled children must actually complete their education. Millions of children leave primary education without having acquired the basic skills. The main reasons are a shortage of funding and teacher understaffing. According to UNESCO, 3.8 million teachers would have to be taken on in Sub-Saharan Africa alone to achieve the MDG 2.

Children from poor backgrounds and girls in particular have fewer chances of going to school. The education policy must therefore be geared to the poorest of the poor, in particular by encouraging the abolition of registration fees, the construction of schools in remote areas and recruitment of teachers. Such measures have already produced fine results in various countries.

Nevertheless, the large number of children who have never had any schooling is distressing, because it can have a negative impact on other development factors. There are for instance strong correlations between the education level of the parents and the dietary pattern or schooling of their children.
The Belgian contribution

Education and children’s rights

The Minister of Development Cooperation wants to make children’s rights a spearhead of development policy. In 2009, the minister approved the policy note entitled “Respect for the Rights of the Child” which sets out a number of policy and technical recommendations for the education sector. Education is one of the five concentration sectors of the Belgian Development Cooperation and children’s rights are a cross-sectional issue. This means that the rights of the child must be taken into account in all development projects, especially in all education projects. Belgium therefore pays particular attention to this matter in the policy dialogue with its partner countries.

Strong cooperation programmes with partner countries

The Belgian Development Cooperation integrates certain ideas and principles in the cooperation programmes with its partner countries. A simple, and at the same time enriching principle is the encouragement to provide education in the native language or in a local language that the child can understand. For instance, the Belgo-Mozambican Cooperation Programme 2009-2012 stipulated that only Portuguese-speaking candidates would be eligible for the scholarships programme.

Belgium tries to encourage its partner countries to take measures to protect children against (sexual) violence in (or on the way to and from) school, and to focus attention on appropriate reception and education possibilities. Furthermore, the partner countries are stimulated to take measures to increase the family income, so as to prevent children from dropping out of school because they have to contribute to the household income by working on the land, for instance.
Struggle against child labour

Education is very important in the struggle against child labour and child trafficking. Belgium has confirmed its commitment to continue and expand its cooperation with the International Labour Organisation to fight against child labour.

Child trafficking and the worst forms of child labour in the Ivory Coast

Belgium is currently waging a fight against the traffic of children and the worst forms of child labour in the Ivory Coast. The Belgian Development Cooperation committed itself in 2009 to the Project entitled *Lutte contre la Traite et les pires formes de Travail des Enfants en Côte d’Ivoire* [Fight against child trafficking and the worst forms of child labour in the Ivory Coast]. An initial instalment of €500,000 will be allocated to the project via UNICEF.

Child labour and trafficking are not exclusively Ivorian phenomena of course, but are found throughout West Africa. Belgium has launched a research initiative via the Sahel and West Africa Club, a development organisation of the OECD, to map the regional knowledge on the phenomenon. One of the main aims of the study is to produce a regional guide with best practices in the fight against child labour and trafficking.

Scholarships programme

**Interview with Karolien Vrints, VLIR-UOS**

The Belgian Development Cooperation has for years subsidised the scholarships programme of the Vlaamse Interuniversitaire Raad-Universitaire Ontwikkelingsaartenwerking (VLIR-UOS) [Flemish Inter-university Council - University Development Cooperation]. Students from developing countries are awarded scholarships via the VLIR-UOS. The VLIR thus awards some 150 scholarships per year. The programmes of study are designed specifically for people in managerial positions with professional experience in the public sector or in a research institution. The aim of the scholarships programme is to transfer knowledge within their sectors.

Karolien Vrints, programme officer for scholarships at VLIR-UOS, explains how candidates are selected.

**Vrints:** “Important criteria include the geographic spread, the social background, the balance between men and women and, especially, the prospects for reintegration.”

**How does the VLIR-UOS policy try to prevent its scholarships programme from causing a brain drain?**

**Vrints:** “Candidates are selected on the basis of strict criteria and we also have created the “Own Initiative” projects to address local needs in terms of education, research or service. There are more than one hundred such “Own Initiative” projects currently in progress, especially in natural and social sciences. Interuniversity partnerships have also been concluded with research institutes in Africa, Asia and Latin America.”

**Does the VLIR-UOS use a system to measure the long-term impact?**

**Vrints:** “VLIR-UOS is concerned about the sustainability of its programme and tries to chart the impact through assessments. An assessment of the Own Initiative programme in 2006 clearly showed that the scholarships programme has a substantial impact on research institutions in the South in particular. We also assess work of alumni at the universities. For instance, the ETHALBEL alumni association in Ethiopia apparently provides added value to scholarship recipients by preparing them for their arrival in Belgium. This association also functions as a mediator for more cultural and economic cooperation between the two countries.”
The generalisation of primary education was given new impetus in 1990 with the World Declaration on Education for All. The Action Plan that ensued was geared to generalising primary education by the year 2000. A regional forum on quality primary education was organised in 2000 in Dakar by way of follow up.

The Fast Track Initiative for Basic Education was created in conjunction with such movements. This is one of the World Bank’s trust funds where various donors, including Belgium, make voluntary contributions. Such funds finance specific development projects before bilateral donors provide funding. The document Education for All: An International Strategy to Operationalize the Dakar Framework for Action on Education for All (EFA) was drawn up especially for the education sector. This document forms the basis for the Belgian Strategy Note on Education and Training. Belgium has made a considerable contribution on this front in the last five years.

The purpose of Education for All - Fast Track Initiative Catalytic Fund is to make faster progress on the Millennium Goal for education in low-income countries. In concrete terms, the aim is to provide all children the means and resources needed to complete a quality primary school cycle and to guarantee equal access for boys and girls to all education levels.

Since 2003, Belgium has provided support for this Catalytic Fund, in particular through an annual voluntary contribution of €1 million. The budget provides for a continuation of this policy for the period 2008-2011, with €4 million being allocated for the coming 4 years.
In spite of all efforts, the objectives of a project cannot be sufficiently if at all achieved in certain situations. A Belgian action in the Palestinian Territories is a case in point. The Palestinian Territories require a specific approach given the sensitive and unstable context in which the people and their government find themselves.

Education has been a priority sector from the outset of the Belgo-Palestinian cooperation. Belgium was to improve the accessibility to the education system through the construction of schools in Gaza and the West Bank. At the end of 2007, the project on the West Bank seemed to be going according to plan, whereas it had not been possible to start the works in Gaza because the territory was inaccessible.

Military violence and the blockade of Gaza have thus temporarily led to a situation where no school can be built or rehabilitated. It is difficult to produce results because, owing to the inaccessibility, the risks involved cannot be sufficiently anticipated. On the West Bank, on the other hand, school construction is progressing well.

The Joint Committee meeting in 2008 afforded an ideal opportunity to draw lessons from the previous programme and to make strategic choices for the future. In spite of the ongoing blockage, part of the budget was again allocated to the construction of schools in the Palestinian Territories, including in Gaza. Belgium believes it is important to continue to focus attention on this problem.

Good analyses by the partner institutions can help to gauge with greater clarity the risks in Gaza. Belgium is considering whether to bring its development strategy in the Palestinian Territories more in line with OECD recommendations on ‘fragile and conflict-affected states’. These recommendations state that it is necessary to design very precise progress indicators. The programme must therefore be implemented step by step, starting with the promotion of the peace process, so as to be able subsequently to focus on the Millennium Development Goals.
The proportion of children in full-time education in Rwanda has registered sharp growth, from 70% in 1999 to 90.5% in 2009. The quality of the education offered should also be examined, however.

One of the successful programmes is the MINEDUC School Management of the Vlaamse Vereniging voor Technische Bijstand (VVOB) [Flemish Association for Technical Support] and the Rwandan Ministry of Education (MINEDUC). In place since 2009, this cooperation is geared to encouraging school administrators for better management. The programme started with training courses in school management and ICT for the administrative staff of 30 schools. Modules have been developed on administrative management, planning, instructional supervision, financial management, etc.

The quality standards for school management are monitored together with the ministry’s Teacher Service Commission and the inspectorate. The actions are supported by the district officials for education and the parents’ committees.

The progress registered during these pilot phases was so remarkable, that the ministry asked to have the training courses extended to all primary schools, and in a subsequent phase to all secondary schools. The sustainability of the actions has in the meantime been secured: the objectives of the School Management Programme are included in the ministry’s strategic plan and action plans. The training courses receive more funds from MINEDUC than from the Belgian partner.

The programme is also registering progress in other fields: improved hygienic conditions and health, a rising number of girls attending schools, school gardens to boost food production, the reassessment of authentic cultural values, etc.

Sebaganwa Mberabagabo, the director of the Ecole des Sciences [School of Sciences] in Gisenyi, talks about the programme’s achievement.

“Before I got to know the School Management programme, the management of the school and finances was substandard: I had no budget, no strategic plan, and improvisation held sway. Now we work with far more transparency under the shared responsibility of the entire team. A strategic plan and an annual budget are now drawn up by the teachers, parents and students.

I currently visit every class to detect any irregularities and to give advice. This is carried out in cooperation with the education service in order to develop skills. Other schools come to visit us and to learn from our experiences.”
Education in Rwanda is based on a long-term vision (Vision 2020) and on the poverty eradication strategy, the implementing framework for the Millennium Development Goals. Rwanda has set high development Goals - whence its interest in science, technology and the development of human capital. In 2003, the Minister for education finalised his first Strategic Plan.

The Belgian contribution has since consisted of providing added value for the quality of primary education and support for vocational training. Belgium is consequently active with financial support on both the operational and structural front.

An initial project was geared to the construction and equipping of schools. Some 500 classrooms were added in cooperation with the local municipalities. The curriculum was revised under a project entitled Nine years free basic education for all, with specific focus on scientific training as of the first year of secondary education. The immediate needs of the schools were addressed too, as 455,400 textbooks and 11,880 manuals for teachers were published; 1,400 teachers were trained and received educational science kits.

Another project focused on teacher training in nursing schools.
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

Education
The boys to girls ratio in education is gradually becoming more balanced, but renewed attention is needed in order to achieve this goal by 2015. More than 100 countries have not achieved gender equality yet in either primary or secondary education. 60% of the 171 countries have achieved general equality for primary education, 30% for secondary education and 6% for higher education.

The progress in primary education can be explained by a global drop in the poverty rate, an increase in the number of students enrolled, and rise in the number of girls who complete primary education. Sub-Saharan Africa is an exception, as the ratio of boys and girls enrolled has again dropped in the last decade. The picture in higher education is completely different, on the other hand, with more women than men enrolled worldwide.

Girls from poor or rural backgrounds have a considerable disadvantage when it comes to education. Gender equality is achieved primarily in urban areas, and only among the richest 40% of households. The gap is becoming even wider in secondary education, although analyses have shown that a targeted governmental policy, such as special inducements for girls to go to school can provide some remedy.

Employment
Women often have no access to decent employment, do most of the unpaid work (e.g. in the household) and are employed mainly in agriculture. The share of gainfully employed women outside the agriculture sector is rising slowly, but it is very limited in very many regions. Agriculture accounts for 60% of employment for women in North Africa and West Asia, with only 23% and 21% of women employed in industry and the services sector respectively.

Political representation
Female political representation is growing slowly, with the strongest such growth being registered in Latin America and the Caribbean. Since 2009, the world average for female representation in legislative power has amounted to 18%. By way of a marginal note here, women tend to occupy the lower parliamentary ranks. There is still not a single woman in the parliaments of certain states in the Persian Gulf and islands in the Pacific Ocean. In March 2009, there were 15 women heads of state, compared with 9 in 2000 and 12 in 1995.
The Belgian contribution

Gender and equal rights
Belgium considers “equal rights for men and women” to be a fundamental right. Gender equality is a necessary precondition to poverty eradication, sustainable development, decent work and social cohesion. The Belgian Development Cooperation consequently recognises gender as a cross-sectional topic in its policy.

Gender mainstreaming is a strategy geared to integrating gender systematically in the development policies and through all the phases of a project cycle. Belgium therefore focuses on enhancing the capacity of our partners to make this integration possible.

The Belgian practice
“Belgium undertakes action in three areas,” explains Marion Vanoffelen, gender expert at DGD. “On the policy front, e.g. during the policy dialogue with our partner countries; on the operational front for the deployment, implementation and follow-up of the Indicative Cooperation Programmes (ICPs); and finally in our organisation structure. The personnel can for instance take an online course on gender organised by the European Commission.”

Concrete examples can be found in the bilateral cooperation with Benin, the DR Congo and Niger. The ICP with Benin requires the competent ministries and the gender units to be closely involved in the implementation and follow-up of the programmes. The new ICP with the DR Congo refers frequently to measures to promote equal rights for men and woman, in processes as well as in the implementing procedures. An awareness raising section is also provided. A programme in progress in the Dosso region in Niger is geared to greater emancipation for women, who receive support in obtaining loans and in starting income-generating activities, in particular through literacy courses.
On the multilateral front, Belgium contributes to the gender equality approach through its contributions to the UN organisations. Together with the UNDP, our country subscribes to initiatives to increase the representation of women in national parliaments. Proportional election systems work out better for female representation than elections by majority. Furthermore, the introduction of temporary measures such as quotas, campaign funds and management training courses, has proven to be very effective. Positive results have already been booked in Burundi, Rwanda and Niger among other countries. With our support for UNIFEM, Belgium contributes to the promotion of gender budgeting, i.e. the analysis of the government budget in accordance with the (in)direct consequences thereof for men and women. Furthermore, as a member of the FAO, Belgium supports the successful DIMITRA project.

DIMITRA

Dimitra is an information and communication project which focuses chiefly on the creation of women’s networks. By way of illustration, eight “listening clubs” were established in Katanga, the mining province of the DR Congo, in 2008 and 2009. In such clubs, people listen to radio broadcasts to discuss the contents and to put the messages to practice. The radio programmes cover in particular issues such as AIDS and violence against women. The project concurrently focuses on enhancing the legal capacities of women, who have managed to exact greater food security and better living conditions for themselves as a result.
The volatile situation in Eastern Congo at times leads to flare ups of military violence, including the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war. Military conflict areas where the population has been put to flight are regularly plagued by waves of violence and the ensuing humanitarian emergency situations.

In 2003, Human Rights Watch published a report that broached the problem of sexual violence as a weapon of war. The report was followed by actions to prevent such heinous practices and to provide aid for the victims. A special initiative has been gaining momentum on the international stage, borne by the government representatives and a number of UN bodies and NGOs. Belgium supported an initial project; Canada a second. Both projects were carried out under the shared responsibility of 3 UN institutions: UNFPA, UNICEF and HCHR. NGOs and governmental institutions share the tasks in the field.

The 2 projects supported the establishment of the Commissions against Sexual Violence. A database has been developed to prevent sexual violence and to monitor the nature thereof. A capacity development section has been added to secure the sustainability of the initiative: the medical and technical staff can get better prepared through training courses to provide physical and psychological care for victims.

An assessment dispatch charted the results of the previous two projects. It showed that awareness raising had brought enormous attention to the problem of sexual violence: victims were finally able to express themselves and be given a face. The Belgian contribution has helped in particular to identify 33,292 victims of sexual violence. Some weak points were also identified such as the lack of childminding services needed because of indecent assault.
CASE 2
Access to credit for women

The Belgo-Vietnamese credit project offered financial services to tens of thousands of poor Vietnamese women in 17 provinces this past decade. The principles are based on the system of the Grameen Bank of Bengali Nobel prize winner Muhammad Yunus: the formation of small groups where individual members can take out loans of €50 to €150 and repay them monthly at an agreed rate of interest. The Vietnamese Women’s Union manages this micro-credit programme.

The repayments are calculated to measure for these rural women and consequently run pretty smoothly. This financial service moreover raises their standard of living. For them, this project is far more attractive than less flexible credits from major banks.

Le Ngoc Trang Dai raised some animals on her farm. Thanks to a €100 loan for one year from the Credit project, she was able to buy some extra goats. “I used to sell tropical fruit on the market,” she explains, “but that was seasonal. That is why I decided to take out a loan to buy the goats. I opted for goats instead of poultry when bird flu broke out in 2006.”

One characteristic for quite a number of borrowers is that they use the loan to diversify their sources of income. Small farmers such as Mrs Le must always be prepared for such sudden, unexpected events as bird flu.

The Credit project is in the last phase of the cooperation between Belgium and Vietnam. We are now examining how Vietnam can embed its experiences in a general service geared to sustainable institutions for micro-credit. With better access to financial services - loans as well as savings possibilities and insurance - women such as Mrs Le can keep their income in balance and invest in the future of their family.
According to the Peruvian Report on the Millennium Development Goals 2009, more than 40% of women between the age of 15 and 49 have indicated that they have already been a victim of one form of violence or another. The Ministry of Women and Social Development (MIMDES) reports that 10,500 boys, girls and teenagers were sexually abused in 2007 (i.e. 30 per day).

The problem is all the more alarming because incidents are scarcely reported. Victims receive insufficient attention from the government authorities responsible for their protection and physical and emotional recovery. Furthermore, they suffer from the prejudices, stigmatisation, rejection or denial of and by staff of the judicial authorities and health services. This makes the traumatic situation to which they are exposed all the worse.

Against this background, it is essential to promote the equal gender treatment and the emancipation of women and to endeavour for a comprehensive change in the relations of power between men and women. Such relations often still lead to violence, abuse and sexual exploitation. Certain conceptions are embedded in the culture and the behaviour and are also to blame for the fact that governmental services are coming round only slowly.

In an alliance with national and regional governmental authorities and the civil society, UNICEF has since 2007 being pursuing a project financed by the Belgian Development Cooperation. Immediate results of the project include:

- The strengthening of 193 ombudsman services at schools and another 140 such services in the municipalities;
- The training of more than 600 judges, investigating magistrates, psychologists and policemen;
- The installation of 7 special cameras for the once-off interview with the victims;
- The production of a procedure manual for this interview;
- The rescuing of victims of sexual exploitation.

The most important and most successful payoff of the project is that the problem of abuse, sexual maltreatment of children and re-victimisation - becoming again a victim of sexual abuse as a young person or as an adult - has become a priority for different authorities.
“No re-victimisation: a fundamental right for children and young people”
An interview with María Peche Becerra

Maria Peche Becerra is the deputy representative of the judicial authorities in the “National Action Plan for Children” and the “National Plan of Support for Families.” Mrs Becerra is responsible for the specialised support of magistrates in cases involving children and has become an important link between judicial and planning initiatives.

What successes or results has the project achieved?
Becerra: “Thanks to the project, we no longer proceed in an isolated manner, but all authorities are thinking in the same direction, from the Prosecution Service to the ministries concerned and the regional authorities. Our common goal is to contribute to prevention, assistance, protection and recovery and reintegration of the victims. By looking back together with the judge, we have managed to chart what the officials or authorities have done, so that we could clarify how the work could be done faster, in the interest of the children. We have tried to get the prevention of re-victimisation recognised as a fundamental right of children and young people in the different legal codes, legal documents and other instruments.”

What has changed for the country and for minors?
Becerra: “Yes, in the healthcare sector for instance. A teenage girl, though already pregnant, was denied access to healthcare because she was not accompanied by a family member. Now, the “Commission for the reform of the legal code” has enshrined the right of teenage girls to healthcare. The guidelines for the once-off interview have also been adapted, so that the psychologist/interviewer is perfectly aware of how he or she is to behave towards a victim of abuse.”

How has all this contributed to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals?
Becerra: “Many cases of abuse are connected to poverty. Teenagers are misled by deceptive job offers that lead to sexual exploitation. It is therefore important to give poor minors, whether or not they have already been a victim of abuse or exploitation, access to the education and healthcare to which they are entitled. If we provide victims with the necessary protection, they will go back to school again. In this way, the project contributes also to other MDGs.”

What effect do you wish to achieve in the medium and long term?
Becerra: “The project led directly to the insight that there was a victimisation problem not recognised by the courts. For the long term, we want the government budget to include a strategic programme against abuse, violence and the sexual maltreatment of children.”

What is there a perceptible positive development?
Becerra: “Yes, in the healthcare sector for instance. A teenage girl, though already pregnant, was denied access to healthcare because she was not accompanied by a family member. Now, the “Commission for the reform of the legal code” has enshrined the right of teenage girls to healthcare. The guidelines for the once-off interview have also been adapted, so that the psychologist/interviewer is perfectly aware of how he or she is to behave towards a victim of abuse.”
The project known as *formation professionelle féminine* (Forprofem) [Vocational Training for Women], was launched in 2008 in three regions: Diourbel, Fatick and Kaolack. The aim is to provide *appropriate training* to young girls who have dropped out of school. In spite of the rather modest means (Belgium contributed €2 million), this programme has already booked convincing results: an admission rate of 52%, which means several thousand beneficiaries - nearly double of what was initially projected.

The programme offers full supervision for students who undergo the *three-year training programme*, including practical training schemes. It also provides for placement. Once the training has been completed, the girls can apply in the companies where they did their practical training or they can create “economist interest groupings” that receive financial support from Forprofem.

The training premises are far too small at this time to be able to accommodate the large number of students. The image of the Forprofem training courses has changed too: from “centres for the training of domestic staff” to highly valued centres and training schemes, even by the young people. The training supervisors are consequently calling for larger premises. The innovative role that Forprofem plays is apparently contagious.
Millennium Development Goals 4, 5 and 6

We broach Millennium Development Goals 4, 5 and 6 together because all three focus on health. We call them the “health Goals”.

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**

**Child mortality**

The mortality among children under 5 has dropped worldwide. In 2007, 74 out of 1000 children under 5 died in developing countries, compared with 103 in 1990. In 1990, 12.6 million children died worldwide from diseases that can be prevented or treated. In spite of a growing population, this figure nonetheless dropped to 9 million in 2007. A remarkable drop in child mortality has consequently taken place.

Nevertheless, little progress has been achieved in absolute terms in quite a number of countries. In Sub-Saharan Africa, the mortality rate is unacceptably high: one out of seven children dies before reaching the age of five. Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for half of all deaths of children under 5. Unremitting efforts will be needed to reduce this mortality rate.

**Maternal mortality**

Reducing maternal mortality is one of the most difficult Millennium Goals for the time being. More than half a million women and girls die every year because of complications during pregnancy, childbirth or six weeks afterwards (= maternal mortality). Nearly all come from developing countries. Half of all maternal mortality cases occur in Sub-Saharan Africa and one third in South Asia. These two regions together account for 85% of all cases of maternal mortality - which remains unacceptably high.

There has been hardly any progress in reproductive health in recent years. There is an increase in the number of trained healthcare personnel, nonetheless. The number of births attended by qualified healthcare personnel in developing countries has increased from 53% in 1990 to 61% in 2007. During the same period, the number of pregnant women who received prenatal care has risen from 64% to 79%.
AIDS and malaria prevention
The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) announced progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS in 2009. Since 2001, new infections have dropped by 17% worldwide, and by 15% in Sub-Saharan Africa, i.e. 400,000 fewer infections in 2008. HIV prevention programmes have played a decisive role in this effort. Conversely, the number of infections in Eastern Europe and Central Asia is on the rise.

More and more of the 33.4 million people who are currently living with aids have more prospects for a longer life thanks to antiretroviral drugs, which have reduced the number of AIDS-related deaths by 10% over the last five years. Antiretroviral drugs have moreover had a considerable impact in preventing new infections of children, as more HIV-positive mothers have access to treatment that limits the transmission of the virus to the children. Since 2001, some 200,000 new infections among children were prevented. Furthermore, the impact of the fight against aids has been found to be high when AIDS prevention and treatment are integrated in general healthcare services.

One million people still die of malaria every year. Although efficient medicines against malaria exist, they are not easily accessible for everyone. 95% of malaria-related deaths occur in Sub-Saharan Africa. Large-scale malaria campaigns and actions are nonetheless effective.

The Belgian contribution
The right to health and to healthcare, and the achievement of the related Millennium Goals, are priorities for the Belgian Development Cooperation. In 2009, Belgium set out its vision and focal points in this sector clearly in a policy note on healthcare.

Multi-sector and holistic approach to health
Belgium places the right to health in a broader framework and a broader development strategy intended to lead both to improvements in healthcare and to the material welfare of the poorest segments of the population. In addition to health, this covers education, drinking water, hygiene, nutrition, housing, women’s and children’s rights, etc. As such, the mother’s education level affects in large measure her children’s state of health, and a lack of drinking water and decent housing leads to health problems. Yet the impact can also go the other way. Healthcare problems have a considerable effect on economic development: absenteeism, reduced efficiency of the workforce, etc. High private costs for medical treatment keep countless households in poverty – whence the extreme importance of the universal right to quality healthcare.

Strengthening of the health sector
Belgium stresses the importance of basic healthcare in the effort to achieve the universal right to health. Our country wants to help set up better healthcare systems in the partner countries. Such care must be of high quality and accessible to all segments of the population. Belgium is working for better training of healthcare personnel, the integration of the fight against specific diseases in the healthcare system, and for better accessibility to healthcare.

The Belgian interest in healthcare is reflected in an enhanced financial commitment. In 2009, the Belgian Development Cooperation allocated more than €150 million to this sector, spread out over its different aid channels.

Belgium supports more streamlined actions
Rules are needed to insure that development institutions from donor countries are complementary to each other, instead of doing the same work or even working against each other. Agreed by all countries and valid everywhere, these rules and standards are drawn up by the World Health Organisation (WHO).
A fine example is the agreement on the migration of healthcare personnel. Some countries, such as the US or the UK, have a shortage of such personnel. In other countries, such as Ghana or the Philippines, such employees wish to migrate for better pay. But the departure of these people, trained at the cost of the developing countries, threatens the healthcare system in those countries (brain drain).

Belgium is actively engaged in getting the WHO to adopt a Code of Conduct in 2010. This would make it possible to strike a balance between the right to migration, respect for the needs of the healthcare system in the dispatching countries and compensation for the loss of trained personnel. All Belgian actors have actively endeavoured to help the WHO, in conjunction with the European Union, to submit a balanced proposal.

International coordination

In addition to these international standards, however, the implementing countries must have rules for using the available means and resources as efficiently as possible. The Paris Declaration therefore stated in 2005 that international aid must be attuned as much as possible to the national plans and procedures. In 2009, Belgium took the necessary steps to join the International Health Partnership (IHP) in 2010. The 42 members are donor or 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 Millennium health Goals.
The Belgian Development Cooperation makes an active contribution to combat HIV/AIDS, as can be gauged from the cooperation programmes in which the disease features as a concentration sector or cross-sectional issue, and from the integrated approach to healthcare. Belgium has been a partner of UNAIDS since the latter was established in 1996. Our country has made €17.6 million available for the period 2008-2011.

For instance, the Belgian Development Cooperation has actively supported the fight against AIDS and tuberculosis, particularly in South Africa, one of the hardest hit countries. The ambiguous attitude to AIDS at times assumed in South Africa makes it difficult to pursue the preset - and in no way ambitious - objectives.

Real results have nonetheless been achieved thanks to the necessary determination and to dialogue. As regards integrated healthcare, the medical staff in some seventy hospitals have acquired what are known as soft skills such as stress management, strategic planning and team building, which have in turn led to a better management of the hospitals and the healthcare services. Belgium performed pioneering work in the coordinated approach to HIV and tuberculosis through specific training for medical personnel - an approach that has since been adopted by the Global Fund against AIDS, TBC and Malaria (GFATM).
Uganda has particular high child and maternal mortality rates related to pregnancy: 76 per 1000 and 435 per 100,000 respectively. By comparison, these figures in Belgium are 5 per 1000 and 10 per 100,000.

Belgium has been supporting the health sector in Uganda since 2005 and has allocated a total of €34.5 million to that end until 2012 through the bilateral cooperation programme. The Belgian support helps to implement the Ugandan strategic plan for the health sector which is focused on preventive care, in particular for pregnant women and young children. In 2009, the Ugandan healthcare budget amounted to about €225 million, €90 million of which from the international community.

Cautious results
In 2005, the child mortality in Uganda amounted to 88 per 1,000. The plan proposed to bring this figure down to 68 per 1,000 by 2010. The maternal mortality rate in 2005 was 505 per 100,000 births, and the objective set for 2010 was 354 per 100,000.

The figures for 2009 (76 per 1,000 and 435 per 100,000 respectively) show that the Goals were not achieved, but that real progress had been made.

The interim evaluation of the strategic plan revealed real accomplishments in the health sector, such as the good level of vaccinations, increased family planning, more births in healthcare centres, and improved malaria treatment and prevention. The biggest challenges for the future are to continue to increase the support through the national budget, greater efficiency, improved management at all levels, more vaccination campaigns, more trained personnel and improved working conditions, a better offer of medicines, and the prevention of HIV/AIDS.
The Belgian-Ugandan cooperation

Health is one of the two concentration sectors of the Belgian-Ugandan cooperation programme. The Belgian aid is entered directly in the Ugandan health budget (budget aid). Belgium being on the same line as the other donors in the health sector, strengthens the negotiating possibilities with the Ugandan Ministry of Health. The Belgian funds are transferred only once Uganda has presented its own performance, submitted an audit report, and gone over the progress in the health figures. Budget aid ensures that Uganda assumes responsibility for its own development and immediately reduces the management costs among the donors.

In parallel with this budget aids, Belgium bolsters the skills of the health personnel in terms of planning, leadership and management, on a project basis, both in the Ministry of Health and in the districts and hospitals. To that end, Belgium cooperates actively with the other donors involved such as the World Bank, but also with Makerere University in the capital Kampala, which is supported by the Institute for Tropical Medicine in Antwerp.

Some seventy scholarships are moreover awarded every year to students in the medical sector, for both long and short training programmes. Preference is given to training programmes in Uganda itself or in the neighbouring regions. Furthermore, some ten students come to Belgium every year to undergo specialised training.
The principle of **performance-based funding** was introduced in 2002 to replace the system of fixed bonuses. Known also as the "contractual approach," this financial technique is geared to increasing the volume of services offered in the health sector without sacrificing quality.

In 2005, the Ministry of Public Health decided to apply this financial method in the healthcare centres and clinics of Ruli, Rutongo, Kabgayi, Kabuga, Bugesera and Kigali. In 2006, this strategy was extended to 4 other districts.

The principle of performance-based funding is simple: the healthcare personnel are paid on the basis of the measured quantity and quality of the health services provided.

In order to apply this principle, an agreement is needed with the personnel of the different centres, clinics and administrative services. This agreement broaches the quality criteria needed for these activities and the total amount of bonuses per performance.

Since 2006, the bonuses to the healthcare centres have been paid by the government, and to the clinics by the partners. Thanks to the bonuses paid by BTC to 11 district clinics, the personnel **salaries rose** by a total of about 33%. In the health centres, these figures have gone up by 40 to 80% during the same period.

A coordination and management unit of the ministry oversees the correct application system, supported financially by various partners. Belgium has a major share in this.

Various positive developments are taking place in the health sector, in particular through the establishment of **cooperative health insurance schemes**. It is therefore not always evident to assess who or what is precisely responsible for a favourable turn. BTC has been collecting data on the matter since 2005. They already show that the “contractual approach” has led primarily to an enormous quality improvement of the healthcare services offered.

This brand new system has brought about a radical change both in the attitude of the staff and in the treatment of the patients.
BTC has for a number of years been providing advice and support to the project "Aid to the health systems in the Medical Regions of Kaolack and Fatick," now in its last leg. The project supports and has supported many innovative initiatives intended to attune supply and demand in healthcare. Because as elsewhere in Africa, an “improvidence” culture reigns in Senegal too when it comes to health: “Let’s hope that I won’t get sick.” As a result of this attitude, there is a lack of means when people do get sick. The project addresses this problem with a flat-rate fee for patients and a health insurance system.

Sokone is one of the pilot districts of the project. It is scarcely possible to keep track of changes at the healthcare centre, says Ibrahim Agne, an official of the district:

“In the past, you had to go 40 km further to find a healthcare centre. Our healthcare centre here was created in 2000 with aid from the African Development Bank, but in practice, only obstetrical operations were carried out. Now, Sokone has an operation room, ultrasound scan, maternity ward, paediatric services and a vaccination department.”

The centre has thus grown on the supply slide, but the demand side has been worked on too. Christa Mayrhofer, technical assistant at BTC:

“The challenge was to enhance the financial accessibility to healthcare. The programme therefore developed a health insurance scheme, geared also to collective affiliation in a school insurance scheme, as part of the school fees, as well as a family insurance scheme.”

Elhadji Younouss Sabaly, secretary of the health insurance scheme in Sokone, considers the system a real success:

“There is a growing demand, among non-Muslim schools at any rate, to participate in the school insurance system. The family insurance scheme now has 416 members, 74 of whom pay their contribution on time. There are 1,395 beneficiaries and 285 medical interventions in all.”
The Programme for Sectoral Financial Support for Integral Health Insurance (PROSIS) wants to provide support for providing basic healthcare services. This is a priority both for Peru and for Belgium. The services are geared primarily to mothers and children.

The Peruvian government carried out this programme (from 2006 to 2009) successfully. The very poor rural population in the regions of Apurímac, Cajamarca and Ayacucho is now covered by integral health insurance. The number of insured inhabitants rose from 260,968 to 1,325,495, i.e. 5 times higher than 4 years ago. The rise in coverage was also remarkable in Ayacucho, where 93% of the poor population has since been affiliated. The figures were also promising in Cajamarca and Apurímac, with 90% and 85% of the people affiliated respectively.

The most important lasting achievements are the quality processes to improve strategies for financing the services. The support of the Belgian Development Cooperation has been crucial during the entire implementation of the project. It provided advice and technical support and engaged in dialogue with the Peruvian government. The Belgian Development Cooperation moreover assumed the role of direct co-financer.

The financial contribution fit in a new implementation procedure. The funds are turned over directly to the Peruvian government budget and are implemented and managed by the integral health insurance. This form of support, applied by only a few states in Peru, underscores the trust and confidence in the capacity and transparency of the Peruvian government.

The goal of having a higher number of births in healthcare centres was exceeded by far in all three regions. The largest increase occurred in Apurímac, with the number of births rising from 54% to 86% during the same period. As a result, the absolute maternal mortality rate was reduced by 50% in the last four years, both in Ayacucho and in Apurímac (an indicator for MDG 4). Giving birth in a healthcare centre is moreover one of the most sensitive measurements for gauging the quality and efficiency of access to healthcare.
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

CO₂ emissions
This Millennium Development Goal focuses in particular on integrating sustainable development in governmental policy and on reversing the loss of natural resources. CO₂ emissions have risen by 31% worldwide since 1990. In 2006, another increase of 2.5% was registered over the previous year. The upward trend has thus continued, in spite of the efforts made. Industrialised countries emit four times more CO₂ per capita than developing countries - the difference is even more striking compared with the Least Developed Countries.

The fight against climate change is an urgent priority for the international community. Expectations were particularly high at the climate summit in Copenhagen in 2009. The results were rather disappointing, as firm commitments to reducing CO₂ emissions are still pending. A missed opportunity, because the economic crisis was an ideal moment to tackle climate change in an efficient and more integrated manner.

Strong cooperation and policy strategies evidently contribute to the protection of the ozone layer. The 195 members of the Montreal Protocol have since 1986 reduced completely the consumption of products that are harmful for the ozone layer. Only 18 members have no appropriate legislation to protect the ozone layer further. And yet, a number of major challenges are still waiting for us.

Biodiversity
Far greater efforts are needed to preserve our biodiversity. The management of protected areas must safeguard the survival of various species and ecosystems. That is the cornerstone of the mitigation measures taken to fight climate change.

In 2008, only 12% of the planet was protected. The worldwide deforestation is continuing at the alarming rate of 13 million hectares per year. New afforestation and natural forest growth do not suffice to offset this trend. Reduced felling can nonetheless play a role in reducing greenhouse gases and thus have a mitigating effect on climate change. Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America continue to be the biggest net losers in biodiversity. Nevertheless, a number of countries succeeded in protecting extensive territories.

Water
The share of the population without access to drinking water and sanitation must be halved by 2015. The water goal will be achieved overall. The biggest challenges are in South Asia and in Sub-Saharan Africa, in spite of the progress already registered in those regions. The bulk of the problems with running water occurs in rural areas. A lot more people have in recent years gained access to safe drinking water, and yet water shortage is considered as a major source of future conflicts.

Slums
In 1990, half of the world’s population lived in slums. That figure dropped to 36% in 2006, thanks mainly to the enormous progress made in India and China. By far the worst slum situation continues to be in Africa. The current housing and energy crisis raises fears that progress on this front will suffer setbacks in many developing countries.

The answer to climate change is a combination of two components: mitigation and adaptation.

Mitigation comprises measures intended to reduce greenhouse gas emissions: low-energy transport, low-carbon industry, energy efficiency, etc.

Adaptation refers to operations that limit the consequences of climate change for our society: building dams, pushing back desertification, drought-resistant seeds, adapted agricultural techniques...
The Belgian contribution

Sustainable development has been an essential component of the Belgian Development Cooperation for more than ten years now. Environmental protection is a cross-sectional policy issue, one that is taken into account as much as possible in all projects and programmes. Our country consequently contributes to the achievement of MDG 7 in different ways.

The UNEP Poverty and Environment Initiative

One UNEP programme encouraged by Belgium is the Poverty and Environment Initiative. This programme develops appropriate legislation for the sustainable management of natural resources. In an initial phase, it helped 4 Belgian partner countries to integrate environmental management in their poverty eradication policy. The underlying idea is that if the environment deteriorates further, the first victims will be the poor. The second phase builds thereupon and extends this to 10 African countries, including 5 Belgian partner countries (Mali, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda) and 3 Asian countries, including Vietnam, another partner country.

The Global Environment Fund

The Belgian contribution to the Global Environment Fund (GEF) rose considerably in recent years, but the support is of course not free of obligations. Belgium follows the global and regional strategies of the GEF closely and keeps careful watch as to whether the priorities are actually turned into development plans by the supported governments. In addition, our country monitors the internal evaluations and, in cooperation with other donors, takes initiatives to analyse the results. Belgium has, together with Finland and the FAO, investigated how the organisation functions.
**Strong multilateral contributions**

The financial contributions have been increased substantially in the last decade and are allocated chiefly through the multilateral development cooperation. The total financial support for the protection of the environment in 2008 amounted to €122 million, €32 million of which for biodiversity. 85% of the support for environmental measures is channelled through multilateral partner organisations. The Global Environment Fund (GEF) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) account for the largest part thereof.

**Governmental purview: water, sanitation and natural resources**

Our country pays a great deal of attention to “water and sanitation”: water treatment, efficient water management, infrastructure works for basic sanitation, etc. These elements have an influence on other MDGs and make a strong contribution to a healthier sanitary environment, while making it easier to turn acreage into a better source of food, etc.

The number of projects relating to the sustainable management of natural resources has been rising in recent years. The Belgian development partners are becoming increasingly more receptive to environmental problems and the link with human development. We have noted as much particularly in the new cooperation programmes defined in 2009. Morocco, Peru, Senegal and Tanzania opted for the environment, water and/or the management of natural resources as a priority cooperation sector.

**Biodiversity and the Royal Institute of Natural Sciences**

It is difficult to protect what you do not know. Knowledge of biodiversity is far from complete at this time. The study of biodiversity is one of the tasks of the Royal Institute of Natural Sciences. As a national focal point for the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, the institute deploys its scientific expertise for the implementation of this convention.

With the support of the Belgian Development Cooperation, the institute also helps developing countries to acquire more knowledge about biodiversity and to process this knowledge into government policy. The enhancement of capacity and infrastructure is the key to the success of this task: scientific and technical courses, the establishment of information networks, support for awareness raising and education programmes, etc.
Guide for the Integration of Climate Adaptation in Development Policy

The Belgian Development Cooperation is active in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and more specifically in the work groups of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and the Environmental Policy Committee (EPOC). In these work groups, donors and other development actors exchange knowledge and experience about the environment and development cooperation.

In 2009, guidelines were defined in a policy guide to include adaptation in the development policy of donors and their partners. The policy guide aims at the following results:

- Promote understanding for the consequences of climate change in developing countries and recognise the need to streamline adaptation to climate change with development policy;
- Identify ways for integrating climate adaptation in development policy as of design phase;
- Identify practices for donors to support their partner countries in reducing their vulnerability to climate change.

The policy guide is a good instrument for the Belgian development cooperation and its partners for taking into account the impact of climate change on development in the design of cooperation plans, programmes and projects.

KLIMOS: Research Platform for Climate and Development Cooperation

The integration of climate thinking in development policy had long been regarded with distrust. There were fears that this would lead to a departure from the original Goals for the pure benefit of climate mitigation. It was often stated that climate warming was a matter primarily for the North. The South had more urgent matters to tackle, such as the Millennium Development Goals. There is growing awareness now that climate change is standing in the way of achieving the MDGs in many regions.

KLIMOS is an initiative of Professor Bart Muys at the Catholic University of Leuven (KUL). The agreement for this research programme was signed in the beginning of 2009. KLIMOS studies how to reconcile climate policy and development cooperation by focusing on three areas: energy, food security and forestry. The research is funded by the Belgian Development Cooperation through the Vlaamse Interuniversitaire Raad - Universitaire Ontwikkelingsraad (VLIR-UOS) [Flemish Interuniversity Council- University Development Cooperation].

KLIMOS wants to build a solid knowledge base on the consequences of climate change for the South. It is a consortium of ten research groups from the KUL, the Dutch-speaking Free University of Brussels (VUB), the University of Ghent and Saint Lieven’s Catholic College. The research results will be made available to the Belgian Development Cooperation, other authorities, NGOs, and the private sector.
DGD provides support to NGOs for their programmes and projects. One such supported NGO is PROTOS, which has gained extensive experience in the access to and availability of water. Since 1998, PROTOS’s experience in the drinking water and sanitation sector in Rwanda has been characterised by an intensive partnership with the local NGO COFORWA. COFORWA is responsible for the projects in the Muhanga District of the South Province.

In an initial phase, the intervention was limited to the installation and repair of drinking water systems, with a great deal of attention for the management of the drinking water systems. A vital hygiene and sanitation component has been added here since the five-year programme 2003-2007. The programme is funded largely by the DGD, supplemented with PROTOS’s own funds or by private donors. For the programme 2008-2010, a pilot project for agriculture with two other NGOs has been added to the water programme: rice irrigation in the valley and erosion protection on the slopes.

Access to drinking water and sanitation

In the rural areas of Muhanga, only 50% of the population has access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. PROTOS and COFORWA want to improve this situation by rehabilitating and expanding water piping systems, and by building public and family latrines. Good hygiene and sanitation measures likewise have a major impact. These organisations consequently provide information and training on hygiene and sanitation to communities and schools.

Some concrete achievements of PROTOS under the DGD multi-year programme:

- The repair and expansion of a gravitational water piping system have brought access to safe drinking water to 1,520 people in Rugendabari. A water piping system has been installed for about 1,200 people and a school with 1,000 pupils in Cyeza. In 2010, a solar energy pump will be purchased also.
- Rainwater cisterns and latrine blocks were built in two schools with a total of 1,000 pupils, and public latrines were installed at the sector office of Cyeza.
- Two methods are used to modify behaviour regarding hygiene and sanitation:
  - Participatory Hygiene And Sanitation Transformation (PHAST): COFORWA officials train trainers who organise sessions with the population on a regular basis where they use illustrations to analyse the current hygiene and sanitation situation and to make proposals on how to improve it.
  - Hygiène et Assainissement en Milieu Scolaire (HAMS): Groups of 15 pupils from all classes have been created in eight schools with about 5,000 pupils who, under the guidance of a teacher, are responsible for keeping the school clean and for managing the latrines.
CASE 3
Peruvian civil society in the breach for the environment and agriculture

Eco-interdependent women manage household waste

In southern Peru, the district municipalities of Arequipa, with some 900,000 inhabitants, dump hundreds of tonnes of waste every day on fallow grounds around the city. The improvised rubbish dumps are a greenhouse of infection and make the regional landscape less attractive for tourists.

The project ‘Eco-interdependent women - interdependent household waste management in Arequipa’ has emerged from poor mothers who are active in people’s organisations. Small groups of women raise awareness in residential areas to get people to learn to sort waste. The non-organic (recyclable) part is entrusted to the groups – free of charge and interdependently.

The Belgian NGO Autre Terre and its local partner CECYCAP in Arequipa have been providing advice and support for this initiative for a year and a half now, with co-funding from the Belgian Development Cooperation. Some results:

- 55,000 tonnes of waste were collected and sorted, and 38,500 tonnes of that volume were sold;
- The income for half a day’s work for each woman rose by €6.5 on average;
- A solidarity fund was set up for each group of women for an emergency situation in the organisation or community.

This project is expected to step its actions up with the construction of a facility for the storage, sorting and initial treatment of recyclable waste, and in so doing limit the harm to the Peruvian nature.
“Dialogue and government influence are necessary preconditions for a sustainable environment”

Interview with Ymelda Montoro

Montoro: “We studied the effects of pesticides on the health of farm workers and the environment. We used the results to put this issue on the policy agenda, and municipal ordinances were enacted to control and reduce the use of pesticides. The enactment of the Advancement and Promotion of Organic Agriculture Act is also an important achievement of the agri-ecological movement, and the project has certainly contributed thereto.

On the Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) front, we also managed to thwart the enactment of legislation for the promotion of modern biotechnology in parliament. We disseminated solid information among the vulnerable groups, consumers, and farmers, which had been completely left out of the discussion. The success of this effort is the greatest achievement of the project.”

What are the current challenges for the project?

Montoro: “One of the challenges is the application of the organic agriculture act. Organic agriculture committees are currently being set up in different regions - proof that different actors are actually interested in the promotion of this process.”

How has the project contributed to progress towards Millennium Development Goal 7 in Peru?

Montoro: “The project has taught us, as the civil society, how citizens can be mobilised effectively and how they can strengthen the mechanisms for dialogue. The farmers have opted for the benefits of organic agriculture. Now, producers’ organisations must be strengthened further. Dialogue and government policy influence are necessary preconditions to progress on this goal. A more multi-disciplinary, integral approach to the ecosystem is necessary, one that takes account of not only technical, but also social, cultural and even economic aspects. I find the strategy of the Belgian Development Cooperation to arrive at initiatives from the civil society very interesting.”

How does the network cooperate with the other Belgian actors in Peru?

Montoro: “During the implementation of the project, we worked together with the Belgian NGO “ADG”. The exchange of methods and experiences, especially in the region of Huaraz, improved the coordination. We found common ground in setting up organic vegetable plots, with emphasis on food security and attention for local governance. The project’s actions will be more sustainable thanks to this cooperation.”

Ymelda Montoro is the coordinator of the advocacy department of the Alternative Agriculture Action Network, a broad network that wants to influence the Peruvian government policy for more sustainable agriculture and environmental protection. Montoro speaks about her experience with the project “National dialogue with the civil society to promote sustainable agriculture,” which was funded by the Belgian Development Cooperation from 2006 to 2008.
In the northern Andes lies the nature reserve Santuário Nacional Tabaconas Namballe (SNTN). It has a very rich biodiversity but is situated in a territory that is under great pressure. Fifty years ago, no one lived there. The need for survival attracted campesinos [peasants] from other provinces. The easiest way to clear a chacra [field] is to burn a part of the forest. There is scarcely any town and country planning in Peru. To relieve the pressure round the nature reserve, Belgium allocated €7.5 million through the bilateral project “Pro-SNTN” (2006-2011).

At the government’s request, Belgium will henceforth help extend the recently established Ministry of the Environment. Strong local institutions actually have greatest impact in the long term.

**Increase production and income**

All campesinos opt to grow organic coffee, although they have no particular knowledge on the matter. Pro-SNTN therefore wishes to increase production through information and advice. Higher income means less of a need to clear new chacras. The campesinos were consequently given organic fertilisers and coffee production went up by 35%. Old coffee plantations were replaced and organic pest control was introduced. The project expanded the coffee cooperatives into fully fledged commercial players who provide advice and support for their members and can negotiate the highest price.

To provide a higher income, the project has urged the campesinos to growth additional crops such as cocoa. Apiculture provides an alternative source of income and also has a “nature protection” effect. The availability of sufficient nectar and pollen plants is a boon for the beekeepers. It is estimated that 20% less woodland was burned thanks to the increased income than before the project.

**Illegal felling**

The need of cabinetmakers and the wood industry for wood is another threat for the nature reserve. Often, it is the campesinos who, out of dire poverty, cut down trees and sell the wood for a song. To check illegal felling, the local government has hired 15 forest rangers. The population has been informed that felling is detrimental to the environment and that it is also illegal. The police intervene in case of violations. Satellite pictures show that the nature reserve is pretty intact, for the time being. Deforestation in the buffer zone is estimated at 10% maximum.

**Mines**

Five areas are recognised as a concession zone for mining in the buffer zone. Mining operations have got under way in three of these up to now. Such exploitation requires a permit from the jefatura, a park keeping service that falls under the Ministry of the Environment. And the jefatura takes a firm stand. The problem with the mines is that the developers, often foreign nationals, care little about the environment.

**Climate change**

Both the climate change risks and the project have contributed to greater environmental awareness which is crucial, as the local population must appreciate the great value of its unique nature first and foremost.
The Programme d’Eau Potable et d’Assainissement du Millénaire-Bassin arachidier (PEPAM-BA) [Peanut Basin - Millennium Drinking Water and Sanitation Programme] tries to link “access to water” better with “water quality”. This is moreover one of the first projects being implemented at national level. This has undeniable advantages, but also makes the decision-making structure more complex.

In 2005, the Senegalese government launched a programme under the same name to increase the number of rural households with access to water from 64% in 2006 to 82% in 2015. PEPAM-BA is actually a component of that programme. For one, the organisation examines the facilities installed by predecessors. The drilling operations did not always take due account of the quality of the water extracted.

Furthermore, the project provides training in and technical support for water management to the Associations des Usagers du Forage (ASURFOR) [Associations of Well Users]. These organisations were created to coordinate the water supply and demand of households. Some thirty such associations are to come into being between 2008 and 2012.

The programme is also intent on contributing to water treatment by building 3,000 family latrines, 1,000 public urinals and 15 new wells. With this initiative, PEPAM-BA hopes to be able to guarantee sustainable access to water for 60,000 other people, and at the same time to improve the hygienic situation of 30,000 people through water treatment operations.
The Association pour la Promotion de l’Education et la Formation à l’Etranger (APEFE) [Association for the Promotion of Education and Training Abroad] set up a national laboratory in 2004 that conducts chemical and microbiological water analyses, under the auspices of the Burkina Faso government’s Water Treatment Strategic Plan. No reliable instrument for analysing the quality or toxicity of surface or waste water existed before then.

The laboratory is partially mobile, making it possible to analyse rapidly, on the location of the contamination itself, whether household, industrial or agricultural pollution is involved. Furthermore, the laboratory’s managers and technicians have been trained to monitor the quality of surface water in time. The laboratory has been functional and deployable since 2006. In addition to analyses, it also provides water treatment solutions and monitors environmental impact studies. It has been operating since 2007 without financial or human support from abroad.
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

The Millennium Declaration calls on all countries to contribute to human dignity, equality and equity. The Declaration also names six values that are fundamental for international relations: freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature and shared responsibility. In the chapter on development and the eradication of poverty, the Millennium Declaration mentions the right to development and the need to create a favourable context for such development. This second aspect is reflected in particular in the concept of policy coherence for development, where the European Union has already taken the lead for some time now, and where Belgium is now embarking on. 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. Market access (to western countries);
3. Debt sustainability;
4. Access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis;
5. Access to new technologies; and
6. Good governance.

Partnership and collective responsibility, introduced in the explicitly policy-oriented MDG 8, constitute the corner stones of the Millennium Declaration of September 2008. International and national policy are interwoven inseparably in MDG 8. Consequently, the current world state of affairs and the Belgian contribution are presented jointly in this section.
Official Development Aid (ODA)

The ODA objectives are both quantitative (aid as a percentage of national income) and qualitative (special attention for the least developed countries, landlocked countries and small island states; unconditional aid; and aid to social sectors). The global ODA has in recent years been gradually rising again. In 2008, it amounted to nearly $120 billion – an unprecedented sum. If the global ODA goal is to be achieved by 2015, however, a great deal of lost ground will have to be recovered.

The Belgian ODA has grown sharply in recent years: The DGD budget has gone up by 75% in three years’ time, and Belgium is clearly on track for the 0.7% target. The Belgian aid is pretty much entirely unconditional and about two thirds of that aid has in recent years gone to (MDG-related) social sectors. Belgium allocates about a quarter of its ODA directly to the least developed countries, which include 10 out of its 18 partner countries.

In the meantime, additional and innovative sources of funding for development are being increasingly sought. Belgium is playing an active role in this search and has nominated Professor Lieven Denys to sit on a panel of experts that looks into the possibilities of this new funding, known as ODA+ (see interview p. 71)

Market access

Market access is a European affair. Since 2000, tax-exempt and non-quota access to our markets for products from developing, especially the least developed countries, has gradually improved, being particularly beneficial for the export of their most labour-intensive goods such as agricultural and textile products. The market distorting effects of the European Common Agricultural Policy have been markedly reduced. However, these processes have ground to a virtual standstill as negotiations in what are known as the Doha round have stalled. The current financial and economic crisis has put another clear brake on export revenues, with the risk of increased protectionism looming.

Debt sustainability

Launched in 1996 by the World Bank and the IMF, the HIPC initiative is intended to reduce the debt burden of the poorest countries. Thanks to this initiative, debt relief exceeding a total of $57 billion has been granted for the benefit of 35 countries, including 29 countries in Africa.

Up to now, debt exceeding $26 billion has been forgiven for 26 countries under the MDR initiative, i.e. full forgiveness of loans payable to the IMF, the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank and the African Development Fund. The debt forgiven by Belgium amounted to about €45 million in 2009.

Access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis

The common goal of the government and the private sector to offer affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis in developing countries is still far from being achieved. Far too few medicines are made available both by the government and by the private sector. In some cases, the prices are even far higher than those charged internationally, which means that the poor cannot possibly pay them.

In addition to accessibility, the quality of the drugs is a major problem. Belgium is a pioneer in the effort to improve the quality of drugs in developing countries. The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that a quarter of the drugs used in developing countries do not meet the necessary quality requirements. A part thereof actually consists of “fakes”, whilst the largest part is substandard and often underdosed.
Belgium has already taken major steps to deal with such abuses. For instance, the Belgian regulations have since the end of December 2006 set particular requirements for export medicines that are not registered in the European Union. The Belgian Development Cooperation has also placed an expert at the disposal of the WHO to set up an international system for the “pre-qualification” of affordable retroviral drugs. At the end of 2008, Belgium moreover drew up a quality charter for medicines to help development organisations and governments in the North and the South come to grips with this situation. The quality charter was disseminated and promoted internationally in 2009. The aim is, inter alia, to enact harmonised European legislation on the quality of medicines that are produced in Europe or under European licences and intended for abroad.

**Access to new technologies**

The goal of making information and communication technologies accessible to everyone has registered rapid progress in mobile telephony. At the end of 2007, 25% of the population in developing countries had a mobile telephone. Conversely, access to the Internet is falling behind. The digital gap between developed and developing countries can generally be expected to widen, partly because of the lack of extra infrastructure. Technology transfer is of essential importance for boosting productivity, supporting economic growth and improving services. The consequences of the food crisis and climate change point to an urgent need to step up technology transfer - which is necessary to promote faster agricultural development and to facilitate the adaptation to climate change.
Belgium is endeavouring to close the digital gap chiefly through support for university cooperation. Improving access to new technologies has always been part and parcel of the partnerships between the Belgian universities and their counterparts in the South. For instance, improved access to the Internet has been achieved in 7 Congolese universities. Thanks to a pilot project in 2 Ethiopian universities, the limited broadband available can be used better, so that the Internet and the related communication can run smoother and faster.

**Good governance: a precondition and means for achieving the MDGs**

In the Millennium Declaration, rich countries stated that they were prepared to increase their aid to poorer countries. For their part, developing countries promised to make the MDGs a priority in order to secure their development. To that end, the MDGs have been included in the national strategies for poverty eradication and must be embedded in the national structures.

**Effective political policy**

To implement strategies, the government must chart the necessary policy and allocate an appropriate budget for that purpose. Good governance, the fight against corruption, respect for law and order and properly working administrative authorities and institutions are indispensable for the implementation of that policy. An effective political policy, with qualified administrators who are held accountable by their population, undeniably contributes to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The political will to assume ownership of the MDGs is consequently essential in order to implement the reforms needed to stimulate growth and development.
Furthermore, the monitoring system of the MDGs enables the civil society to monitor their progress. Political leaders can therefore be asked to honour their commitments, and if necessary take further action. Statistics thus constitute a means for exacting the necessary reforms.

Belgium supports the fight against corruption
In all new cooperation programmes with partner countries, both the Belgian Development Cooperation and the partner country have henceforth committed themselves to transparency and accountability in order to avoid corruption.

The Belgian Development Cooperation nonetheless wishes to be also a partner in the fight against corruption and to help strengthen the institutional framework of the partner countries in order to guarantee good, transparent governance of government funds. Strengthening democratic structures such as parliaments, increasing democratic accountability, respect for human rights, strengthening law and order and promoting press freedom are important elements in the fight against corruption. The civil society has an important role to play too. Finally, the private sector must be actively involved in setting up an alliance to fight corruption.

The Belgian Development Cooperation has since 2004 been supporting the efforts of the World Bank for capacity development in partner countries for good governance and the fight against corruption. This cooperation with the World Bank, concentrated chiefly on Central Africa for the time being, will be expanded and enhanced in the coming years. For the period 2008-2011, Belgium has allocated €2 million for that purpose, with emphasis on analysis and diagnosis, the strengthening of institutions and leadership and capacity development to increase the accountability of governmental authorities and the quality of services for the population. In addition, the private sector, the media and the civil society will join forces in the fight for good governance and against corruption by setting up networks and partnerships and by engaging in critical cooperation with the local authorities. Responsible corporate ethics will be promoted in the private sector.

Countries in fragile situation
It is not very likely that the (most) vulnerable countries will be able to achieve the MDGs. According to the OECD Development Committee, at issue is one sixth of the world’s population, a third of the people who live under the poverty threshold, where half of child mortality occurs. The same 35 countries considered vulnerable in 1979 are still so today.

There is little political will in those countries to introduce reforms, as the key actors, the state structures and the civil society are rather weak. The situation is aggravated by other problems: extreme poverty, lack of security and violence, permanent crisis, post-conflict situations, etc. These countries are even more susceptible to regional and international shocks, such as the financial and economic crisis of 2008.

The OECD Development Committee has shown that aid to these countries is increasing, after an abrupt decline in the beginning of the 1990s. This aid is however going to certain specific countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq or Sudan. Other countries such as Burundi or the Central African Republic constitute what are known as the “aid orphans”.

For the international community and for Belgium, which has 6 partner countries deemed to be vulnerable, the challenges are expectedly commensurate: the achieving of the Millennium Development Goals depends on the implementation of an even more coherent policy, spread over a long period and with clear - including financial - commitments.
Van Acker: “Since the beginning of this millennium, international cooperation attachés have been added to our embassy in Washington DC. They essentially monitor the World Bank and the IMF, but also the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the different development-oriented think tanks such as the Center for Global Development and the Bank Information Center.

The funds go essentially to the World Bank and the IMF. In 2009, these Bretton Woods institutions received together some €189 million, or 14% of the DGD budget. Both institutions have many programmes which are relevant for development in large measure.”

Where were the focal points in 2009?
Van Acker: “We paid considerable attention to optimising relations with our representations in the World Bank and the IMF. Such relations are necessary because the Belgian perspective in the World Bank is expressed by the representatives of the FPS Finance and in the IMF by representatives of the National Bank of Belgium. A parallel coordination structure has also been set up with the FPS Finance on the executive committee for determining a common Belgian position. The added value that the attachés and DGD can provide, is that they can call on the insights and experiences of colleagues in the field. For instance, our representation in the IMF based its recent positions on Mali and on Niger on the input of our colleagues from those countries. In Mali, this had to do with a lack of follow-up on the recommendations of the anti-corruption unit. In Niger, donors and the government had reached an impasse because of the extension of the president’s term of office and the lifting of the re-election limit of two terms.”

What positions does Belgium assume at the World Bank?
Van Acker: “We pay a great deal of attention to a Belgian perspective in the World Bank too. There were two major items on the agenda of the annual meeting for the Governors of the World Bank and the IMF, held in Istanbul in the autumn of 2009: voice reform and the “recapitalisation” of the World Bank. Belgium is a proponent of voice distribution in the governing bodies of the Bank that reflects the relative weight of development countries and countries in transition. A rather conditional position was assumed on the recapitalisation: a discussion on the topic must be accompanied by the charting of a clear post-crisis strategy by the World Bank, which takes the comparative advantages into account and subscribes to a task distribution with the other international financial and development institutions.”

What can be still honed as regards the Belgian representation?
Van Acker: “The attachés and DGD certainly succeeded in getting the positions on development cooperation across to the World Bank through the Belgian representation in 2009. Our concern for coherence in the development policy must in future lead to continued optimal cooperation with the FPS Finance in order to translate our positions on development-related issues optimally into the Belgian positions in the governing bodies of the World Bank and the IMF.”
In 2009, the Leading Group decided to set up a work group within its ranks to study the feasibility of a tax on international financial transactions. Belgium confirmed its active role in the field by nominating the Belgian jurist Lieven Denys as expert in the work group. He gives his view on this endeavour and on a number of pressing issues that are studied within the work group.

Which innovative financing mechanisms are studied in the work group?

Denys: “The focus is on the techniques that are most advanced. These concern in particular financial transaction taxes (FTT), of which the currency transaction tax (CTT) is the most prominent. Foreign exchange transactions currently account for more than $4,000 billion per day, or €800,000 billion on an annual basis. Extending the CCT to an FTT means above all an extraordinarily large taxable matter because all financial transactions are geared to the capital markets, including trading in shares, bonds and derivative financial instruments. We are looking at an annual turnover of more than $4,000,000 billion. A minimal rate - percentages of 0.005 to 0.02%, or €2 on €10,000 or 40,000 are being mentioned - yields very large budgets on a phenomenal turnover. What makes these proposals particularly attractive is that the conduct of the financial transaction is highly centralised and computerised: that naturally creates technically attractive taxation possibilities.”

What potential do innovative financing sources have for development financing?

Denys: “Both the CTT and the FTT have extraordinary great potential as sources: conservative estimates put such potential at €35 billion - good for half of all official development aid from Europe; other estimates speak of a multiple of hundreds of billions. That could cover not only the MDGs but also the costs of climate change and even the costs of the recent banking crisis.”

To what and how should the funds be allocated?

Denys: “The aim is to have the funds allocated to global public services, such as the eradication of poverty and ecological challenges. Internationally managed global funds are being considered to allocate funds on a democratic and interdependent basis in accordance with needs, where the parties involved have equal say.”

What are the most important hindrances and resistance standing in the way?

Denys: “People are interested. But the innovative aspect makes politicians concurrently very reticent, because world problems must be tackled jointly, whereby the sovereignty and the bilateral or regional development cooperation are threatened. The greatest resistance, however, comes from the financial sector which sees no role for itself either as tax collector or tributary to the globalisation of the wealth that this scheme makes possible. There is also quite a lot of opposition from the technical and legal corners. It is the work group’s task to ponder and to consider these arguments. Ironically enough, the major damage in terms of unemployment, threatening tax increases and the reversal of the attainments of the welfare state, constitutes a propitious climate.”
EU reports cautious progress

The second EU progress report on policy coherence was published in 2009. It indicates that substantial progress has been made already in a number of policy areas. For instance, as regards research, the EU and developing countries cooperate on areas of interest of the latter, such as health and food security. On the environmental front, the EU focuses on the worldwide protection of forests. Pursuant to the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) initiative, the EU imports only certified wood from its partner countries in order to counter illegal felling. For its energy policy, the EU has decided to use 20% renewable sources by 2020. Developing countries will be able to benefit from the reduction of the use of fossil fuels in the EU through exports of bio-fuels.

Complexity

The report relies on two case studies to examine the consequences of the EU policy on developing countries, more specifically as regards their capacity to achieve MDG 1 and MDG 6. This reveals especially the complexity of the development issues, and that well-intentioned decisions in one area may have negative consequences in another. For instance, the strict EU rules on food security, intended to protect consumers, can entail a trade barrier for developing countries.

Belgium takes the first steps

On the basis of the noted results, the EU proposes to focus its future policy coherence for development on 5 priority areas for achieving the MDGs: climate change, worldwide food security, migration, intellectual property rights and security.

Development aid does not suffice in and of itself; other policy areas have an enormous impact on development. The EU has since 2005 taken the lead to set up a development-friendly policy framework, known as the policy coherence for development. It comprises 12 policy areas which are not directly connected with development aid, but which can have an impact on developing countries such as trade, security, migration, fisheries, energy, the environment, etc. The concept has in the meantime been generally accepted and it is supported by the EU Member States, including Belgium.

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Belgium takes the first steps

The Agreement that the Minister of Development Cooperation concluded in May 2009 with NGOs stipulates that improving the policy coherence for development will henceforth constitute an action point for Belgium. The most appropriate consultation mechanisms are being explored, DGD is boosting its analysis capacity for policy coherence, and the approach is concentrated on a restricted number of areas in an initial phase.
A historic moment occurred on 4 May 2009, when an agreement was concluded by and between the Minister of Development Cooperation and the NGOs - an unprecedented occurrence in Belgium. The government and the umbrella organisations and federations of non-governmental development organisations had for ten months been conducting negotiations on how to coordinate aid better, improve coherence, hone specialisation, etc. The result is an agreement with mutual commitments that should lead to more effective aid. A striking element consists of the number of countries in which NGOs can get involved and the government’s endeavour for full debt forgiveness for the least developed countries.

What has the Minister undertaken?
The minister reconfirmed the will to achieve the 0.7% target by 2010 and to continue to work on aid effectiveness. He recognised the NGOs as independent actors in the development process. To enhance the effectiveness and predictability of interventions by NGOs, the federal budget intended for the NGOs is increased annually by at least 3% via DGD.

The minister has also committed himself to take a series of measures for the benefit of development policy coherence. For instance, he will work for full debt forgiveness for the least developed countries - an intention highly appreciated by the civil society and the countries involved. In addition, more attention will be paid to the development dimension when concluding trade agreements.

What has the NGO sector undertaken?
One of the most important commitments undertaken by the NGOs is the concentration of their activities. The programme NGOs (i.e. NGOs that work with multi-year programmes) will together be active in only 50 countries. Furthermore, each has promised separately to remain active in only 10 countries and to allocate at least €500,000 per country. The list of countries where NGOs can have projects subsidised has been reduced from 42 to 22 countries which are listed in the agreement.

Furthermore, the NGOs have undertaken to work more effectively. They will hone their specialisation, endeavour for greater synergy with other development actors and focus more on enhancing the capacity of their partners in the South.
What is the added value of this Agreement?
Zacharie: “The Agreement takes up the commitments of the government and those of the NGOs to enhance the effectiveness of their development cooperation. Even more important, however, is that it also speaks about the coherence of the Belgian development policy with other policy areas such as climate change, taxes, debt forgiveness and the financing of development.”

All the NGO programmes can be carried out in 50 countries at most. There are NGO programmes in progress in 60 countries at this time. How does the NGO sector feel about this reduction in the number of countries?
Zacharie: “The list of 50 countries was drawn up on the basis of extensive consultations in the NGO sector and of objective criteria. However, NGOs had limited the number of countries in which projects were carried out also in the past. For instance, the list had in recent years been already reduced from 80 to 62 countries. So we certainly did not have to wait for this agreement in order to concentrate our interventions. The agreement merely confirms a trend in progress for a number of years already.”

In 2014, when the current strategic framework has expired, the Agreement will enter fully into force, without however being binding. Do the NGOs find it difficult to determine which programmes they will discontinue?
Zacharie: “Deciding to discontinue an NGO programme in a given country is a difficult matter, of course. So that efforts and results will not be in vain, it is crucial that such withdrawal be carried out gradually. To avoid heartrending consequences, the programme may not be discontinued only because of an administrative decision.”

A programme must allocate at least €500,000 in one country. Do NGOs with small programmes fear that they will be affected by this rule?
Zacharie: “Most certainly, but it should also be borne in mind that the partners in the South must have the necessary absorption capacity for such budgets to be allocated. That is why we have asked - and obtained - that this regional dimension be included in the agreement.”

Which reforms will NGOs have implemented by 2014 and which perhaps not?
Zacharie: “I think that the NGOs will be ready. For our part, we hope that the government will also honour its commitments, including the administrative simplification for NGOs. The agreement constitutes one whole, as stated in the last paragraph. If the parties do not keep their promises, then the agreement will go unheeded.”
Rwanda has since 2004 been in the process of a large-scale reform of its judiciary. The country had serious needs in terms of infrastructure, human capacity development, awareness raising and information enhancement. Various measures have been taken since to strengthen the judiciary, rebuild its infrastructure and restore the confidence and trust of the population. “Good governance” having been identified as a priority for the cooperation programme 2004-2006, Belgium has made a major contribution to this long-term exercise.

The Belgian project was concluded in 2009 with strong results. The specific objective consisted of expanding transparent, sustainable and efficient judicial institutions, so as to achieve the higher goal of rehabilitating law and order in Rwanda. With a budget of €7.7 million, Belgium undertook the following activities:

- Construction and renovation of courthouses;
- Training courses in human resources and financial management;
- To facilitate cooperation between the 4 major judicial institutions.

The evaluation of the initial results shows that the Belgian interventions have made a big contribution to restoring the confidence of the Rwandan population in its judicial institutions. All planned interventions were carried out correctly and rapidly, thereby contributing to the sustainable transition of this sector to a more efficient organisation.
In 2009, DGD expanded its mobile exhibitions for the Belgian public to include agriculture and food security. All the different exhibitions were made available 50 times during that year for initiatives by schools, municipalities, associations, socio-cultural organisations, etc.

In May 2009, the VRT and RTBF (Dutch-speaking and French-speaking broadcasting corporations respectively) news broadcast a series of reports on the Belgian Development Cooperation with the DR Congo, by journalists Peter Verlinden and Bernard Lepla respectively, featuring in particular the Belgian efforts against sleeping sickness.

Subtitle: “I am cured. I feel really really well. Nice to see you.”

Peter Moors, Director General of the DGD was interviewed for 109 au Sud [109 in the South], a weekly magazine on North-South solidarity and development cooperation for young people aged 13 to 18. The magazine was broadcast between April and June on the regional channels Canal C (Namur), TéléSambre (Charleroi), RTC Télé Liège (Liège) and Télé Bruxelles (Brussels).
On the Flemish channel, VijfTV, the programme *Leefwereld in beweging* [Social World on the Move] shows how 5 Flemish TV personalities discover the workings and results of 11.11.11. SOS Kinderdorpen, Handicap International, Max Havelaar and Trias. Here, TV presenter Evy Gruyaert visits a FairTrade banana farmer in Ecuador.

In 2009, DGD supported 11 film festivals focusing on films from and about the South. The Millennium Festival was a newcomer, focusing on films and documentaries relating to the Millennium Development Goals.

*Dimension 3*, the periodical of the Belgian Development Cooperation, explored 5 topics in 2009: gender equality, the consequences of the economic and financial crisis on development, cooperation with DR Congo, culture and development, and finally water, the source of life. Furthermore, a theme sheet was added as of 2009 to present a certain topic briefly and clearly.
The Belgian Development Cooperation presented itself to the general public at a number of events and fairs. During the Venture Fair, together with BIO and BIO’s Fair Trade Centre; at the Agribex agriculture fair with the stand Agriculture in the South in cooperation with partner countries, NGOs and scientific institutions.

The Belgian Development Cooperation adopted a new logo and visual identity in 2009, opting for a sober logo that in addition to reliability projects also the institutional nature at the federal Belgian level.

PULSE, a four-year survey of public support for Development Cooperation in Belgium, was launched in 2009. It is a practice-based study headed by HIVA (KUL) with and for the organisations working to make the Belgian population aware of solidarity with the South.

Kleur Bekennen/Annoncer la Couleur [Speaking Out], the federal programme for world training was extensively reformed in 2009. It is henceforth a homogeneous programme for the different language communities, geared to 10-18 year olds as its common target public.

Kleur Bekennen/Annoncer la Couleur facilitates and coordinates the integration of world training among school-going young people, and calls on the provincial services concerned for the implementation. Documentation on this topic will be shortly available for interested teachers digitally and at public libraries.
Annexes

Regional distribution of direct bilateral cooperation

- South and Central America: 5%
- Asia: 8%
- North Africa: 6%
- Central Africa: 47%
- East Africa: 11%
- West Africa: 20%
- Southern Africa: 3%
- Sub-Saharan Africa: 81%
- North Africa: 1%

Regional distribution of non-governmental cooperation

- Universal or in Belgium: 37%
- Sub-Saharan Africa: 35%
- America: 16%
- Asia: 10%
- North Africa: 1%
- Africa (as a whole continent): 1%
Belgian Official Development Aid (ODA) 2005–2009

When the annual report was concluded, only the data for DGD and FPS Foreign Affairs were available. The complete ODA table will as of mid 2010 be available on www.dg-d.be (under Statistics).

### Directorate-General for Development Cooperation (DGD)

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<tr>
<td>Technical cooperation and scholarships</td>
<td>116,882,862</td>
<td>122,055,980</td>
<td>131,827,879</td>
<td>164,074,553</td>
<td>181,496,021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delegated and regional cooperation, budget support</td>
<td>17,678,158</td>
<td>29,072,054</td>
<td>31,351,646</td>
<td>47,751,840</td>
<td>59,651,029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special emergency aid for Central Africa (launched in 2006)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10,000,000</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
<td>20,500,000</td>
<td>500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operation costs BTC</td>
<td>23,029,208</td>
<td>19,053,589</td>
<td>20,306,000</td>
<td>21,032,890</td>
<td>21,512,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution to debt cancellations</td>
<td>20,208,491</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State-to-state loans</td>
<td>20,226,866</td>
<td>26,767,703</td>
<td>25,559,245</td>
<td>16,045,620</td>
<td>28,355,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal Governmental cooperation</strong></td>
<td>198,025,585</td>
<td>206,949,325</td>
<td>214,044,770</td>
<td>269,404,903</td>
<td>291,514,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Governmental cooperation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperation via NGOs</td>
<td>93,284,701</td>
<td>96,120,350</td>
<td>99,150,043</td>
<td>99,612,783</td>
<td>125,299,255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VVOB</td>
<td>7,725,953</td>
<td>7,234,846</td>
<td>8,524,332</td>
<td>8,094,522</td>
<td>9,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APEFE</td>
<td>28,805,442</td>
<td>28,327,157</td>
<td>26,607,871</td>
<td>28,729,721</td>
<td>30,192,929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VLIR - Flemish Interuniversity Council</td>
<td>11,795,108</td>
<td>12,977,337</td>
<td>13,476,508</td>
<td>14,150,776</td>
<td>15,632,880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIUFCU - Interuniversity centre of CFWB</td>
<td>2,168,659</td>
<td>6,568,713</td>
<td>4,620,058</td>
<td>13,313,634</td>
<td>8,787,670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal Non-governmental cooperation</strong></td>
<td>192,932,337</td>
<td>195,862,017</td>
<td>195,093,580</td>
<td>201,263,907</td>
<td>233,032,467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multilateral cooperation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obligatory contributions</td>
<td>7,407,129</td>
<td>7,440,313</td>
<td>6,678,391</td>
<td>9,049,347</td>
<td>8,448,055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the United Nations</td>
<td>7,120,875</td>
<td>7,171,625</td>
<td>6,422,346</td>
<td>6,771,641</td>
<td>6,449,764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary multilateral contributions</td>
<td>26,912,997</td>
<td>29,489,812</td>
<td>90,791,450</td>
<td>111,180,728</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>In the United Nations</td>
<td>26,629,604</td>
<td>27,700,395</td>
<td>62,476,816</td>
<td>67,059,693</td>
<td>82,176,289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Development Fund and Bank</td>
<td>103,496,574</td>
<td>104,669,938</td>
<td>104,860,013</td>
<td>132,560,006</td>
<td>135,044,009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Bank Group</td>
<td>152,333,333</td>
<td>78,325,000</td>
<td>76,000,000</td>
<td>175,320,000</td>
<td>102,833,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Development Banks</td>
<td>18,379,920</td>
<td>29,938,415</td>
<td>27,266,541</td>
<td>30,860,353</td>
<td>45,655,381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental treaties</td>
<td>10,067,313</td>
<td>9,738,378</td>
<td>12,668,806</td>
<td>12,679,354</td>
<td>15,971,534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multilateral debt cancellation</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8,161,708</td>
<td>12,832,368</td>
<td>18,674,711</td>
<td>15,060,874</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal Multilateral cooperation</strong></td>
<td>371,097,265</td>
<td>334,663,565</td>
<td>331,097,570</td>
<td>474,711,701</td>
<td>442,193,581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgian Survival Fund</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governmental / management / awareness raising</td>
<td>2,166,659</td>
<td>6,568,713</td>
<td>4,620,058</td>
<td>13,313,634</td>
<td>8,787,670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Via NGOs</td>
<td>9,142,301</td>
<td>12,584,622</td>
<td>12,014,882</td>
<td>6,484,181</td>
<td>7,543,855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Via multilateral institutions</td>
<td>8,690,648</td>
<td>8,346,622</td>
<td>12,014,882</td>
<td>6,484,181</td>
<td>7,543,855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal Belgian Survival Fund</strong></td>
<td>19,999,608</td>
<td>27,499,960</td>
<td>29,988,186</td>
<td>33,641,671</td>
<td>31,443,107</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community building</td>
<td>4,615,834</td>
<td>14,948,666</td>
<td>15,242,863</td>
<td>19,262,250</td>
<td>27,170,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanitarian and food aid</td>
<td>17,355,827</td>
<td>15,359,000</td>
<td>14,285,000</td>
<td>25,882,000</td>
<td>56,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support to the private sector (such as BIO)</td>
<td>27,907,574</td>
<td>19,871,551</td>
<td>28,138,365</td>
<td>44,626,496</td>
<td>142,351,398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest subsidies</td>
<td>8,192,718</td>
<td>11,409,718</td>
<td>11,099,296</td>
<td>13,053,489</td>
<td>18,577,825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awareness raising and education in Belgium</td>
<td>5,575,389</td>
<td>6,275,861</td>
<td>6,944,171</td>
<td>6,022,630</td>
<td>5,494,561</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration, consultation structures, other</td>
<td>1,399,181</td>
<td>1,711,280</td>
<td>1,958,388</td>
<td>1,213,826</td>
<td>1,505,431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total DGD</strong></td>
<td>847,101,318</td>
<td>834,550,944</td>
<td>848,052,189</td>
<td>1,089,082,873</td>
<td>1,249,223,821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Affairs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-Fast and humanitarian aid</td>
<td>18,310,083</td>
<td>20,561,647</td>
<td>23,394,425</td>
<td>25,821,348</td>
<td>24,605,308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict prevention, diplomatic prevention</td>
<td>26,952,582</td>
<td>24,910,538</td>
<td>21,793,453</td>
<td>24,013,834</td>
<td>24,080,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions to international institutions</td>
<td>3,549,260</td>
<td>4,777,082</td>
<td>5,161,313</td>
<td>7,777,018</td>
<td>6,632,860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Press and communication and Special Evaluator</td>
<td>83,639</td>
<td>1,193,327</td>
<td>846,952</td>
<td>1,063,024</td>
<td>1,037,770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration costs</td>
<td>33,766,528</td>
<td>36,577,709</td>
<td>36,799,266</td>
<td>41,867,280</td>
<td>41,446,473</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Foreign Affairs</strong></td>
<td>83,402,112</td>
<td>87,946,302</td>
<td>87,997,207</td>
<td>100,542,504</td>
<td>97,802,431</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 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
Directorate-General for Development Cooperation

D0.0
Secretariat & Support

D0.1
Policy Support

D1
Governmental Programmes

D1.1
North Africa and Middle East

D1.2
Central Africa

D1.3
West Africa

D1.4
Southern Africa and East Africa

D1.5
Latin America and Asia

D1.6
Regional Cooperation

D2
Humanitarian and Food Security Programmes

D2.1
Emergency Aid, Rehabilitation and Food Aid

D2.2
Belgian Fund for Food Security
Contributions and coordination: Directorate-General Development Cooperation
Final editing: Jan De Mets
Design: www.cibecommunicatie.be
Production: Communications Department FPS Foreign Affairs
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The information contained in this report is for information only. The Federal Public Service is in no way legally bound by it.

Legal registration: 0218/2010/08

May 2010
The DGD Annual Report 2009 is a publication of the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation.

It is available in Dutch, French and English free of charge.