Summary 2015

THE BELGIAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
The international development agenda is changing at a rapid pace. In that sense, 2015 marked an important turning point in this process of change. Three major international UN conferences defined the development framework for the next fifteen years.

In July 2015, the UN’s Financing for Development conference in Addis Ababa established a new financing framework, with a greater role for the private sector and greater attention to alternative financial flows instead of focussing on the traditional development assistance. If we want to successfully implement the new sustainable development agenda, we will have to mobilise more resources than ever — resources that far exceed governments’ financial capacity. Or as Jim Kim, the chairman of the World Bank, said: “We need trillions, not billions”.

A few months later (in September 2015), the 193 UN Member States ratified the new development framework and the Sustainable Development Goals. The objectives are ambitious: to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030 and protect our planet. We can succeed in this endeavour. Extreme poverty has been halved in the past fifteen years. Now we need to get the job done. After all, why stop halfway?

And let us not forget that the climate commitments adopted at COP21 in Paris (December 2015) also herald a new era.

At the same time, development thinking is also evolving. In early December, the British-American economist Angus Deaton was awarded the Nobel Prize for Economics. Deaton has said that classic development assistance forms an obstacle to real, sustainable growth. His analysis forces donors to adopt a more critical attitude, for example in the field of human rights.

In these times of change, the Belgian Development Cooperation strives to further strengthen the relevance of its international development policy. And this is only possible if we change along with it — for the good.

The quinquennial Peer Review by the OECD’s Development Assistance Committee, which was published in September 2015, confirms this. The report’s conclusion is that Belgium has made major progress in various areas. The solid policy in terms of multilateral cooperation, the strong progress in the field of humanitarian aid, the greater attention to the consistency of development policies, the concentration on the least developed countries and the focus on results are just a few examples of this.

This positive evaluation must encourage us to further dust off our international development policy. The foundations for this were laid in 2015. In the following years we must concentrate on our points for attention — in line with the new international development framework: greater attention to human rights, a crucial role for sustainable and inclusive economic growth and the use of digitisation as leverage for development.

I am convinced that we will be able to take the development dynamics to the next level and ban extreme poverty forever, thanks to the creativity and the commitment of many. Let’s see what we achieved in 2030!
Frank De Wispelaere  
**Director General a.i. of DGD**

In 2015, the Belgian Development Cooperation put its weight behind a number of major reforms, such as the new universal development agenda for reducing poverty and promoting sustainable economic and social development or the so-called *Sustainable Development Goals*. More than ever, we are focusing on the least developed countries and fragile states (with two new partner countries, i.e. Burkina Faso and Guinea). The emphasis here is on a rights-based approach but we also rely on the dynamics that can be created with the private sector (preferably with BIO, the Belgian Investment Company for Developing Countries) and the digital revolution. We have also reviewed the relations with our multilateral partner organisations and the collaboration with NGOs, universities, federal scientific institutions and so on. Last but not least, we also launched the reform of the Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC)...

A cornucopia of activities. All this requires my colleagues in the Directorate General of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid to make substantial efforts, for which I am very grateful!

On 21 May 2015, the federal council of ministers adopted a new list of partner countries. Latin American and Asian states are no longer on the list (except for the Palestinian Territory). Burkina Faso and Guinea were added.

In the following years, the Belgian Development Cooperation efforts will concentrate on fragile states and post-conflict zones. It will do this in geographically homogeneous zones, such as North and West Africa and the Great Lakes region. Such a substantive and geographical focus will counter fragmentation, allowing the DGD to implement a consistent plan for tackling cross-border problems, such as peace, security, regional stability, climate and migration.

At the same time, Belgium has chosen to specifically focus on the least developed countries. The need for official development cooperation is higher in these countries because they have much less access to foreign investments, international trade or the capital market for financing their development needs. Belgium strives to direct at least 50% of its official development assistance to the least developed countries and has called on the international community to do the same.

Six medium income countries no longer are partner countries of the governmental cooperation, i.e. Vietnam, Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Algeria and South Africa. These countries now enter an exit programme, which is scheduled to last maximum four years, in which the ongoing interventions in the margin of the government cooperation are finalised and other forms of cooperation are prepared, among others with stakeholders of the non-governmental cooperation, including NGOs and universities.

The complete list of partner countries is as follows: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Uganda, Palestine, Rwanda, Senegal and Tanzania.
Digitisation as leverage for development

Nowadays the digital revolution is one of the most powerful drivers of development. And the international development community is also beginning to catch on to this. During the last General Assembly of the UN technology’s role in development was one of the main themes in several of the debates that were held in the margin of this conference. The World Bank will dedicate its entire 2016 World Development Report to the crucial role of technology for development. One year ago, many people in Belgium thought that making one minister responsible for two very different portfolios such as Digital Agenda and Development Cooperation was an exotic combination. Except that it has put Belgium on the international forefront.

Digitisation creates untold opportunities for citizens, companies and governments. Belgium is determined to seize the new digital opportunities and contribute to the realisation of the objectives for sustainable development. In 2015, the Belgian government succeeded in convincing the other Member States of the European Union of the importance of an extensive digitisation programme for development. The programme will be ready for implementation in 2016. Where possible, the Belgian development policy will therefore incorporate digital technologies and the use of data in the new cooperation programmes that will be concluded in 2016. This also applies to the interventions for which our country will provide support.

Development must be done in a smart and transparent way. Collecting and making available data is a crucial challenge in this framework. Belgium therefore supports the global partnership for data for sustainable development and the International Aid Transparency Initiative, that is part of it.

The OECD has given the Belgian Development Cooperation good marks

On 8 September Erik Solheim, the chairman of the OECD’s Development Assistance Committee (DAC), presented the results of the peer review of the Belgian Development Cooperation. The report is the outcome of a thorough review of the Belgian development stakeholders.

The peer review clearly demonstrated that Belgium has made excellent progress in several fields. The report specifically referred to the successful policy in terms of multilateral cooperation, the focus on the least developed African states, the strong progress in humanitarian aid, the growing focus on results and the greater attention for consistent development cooperation policies. While Solheim was very positive about the work that had been done in the past five years, he also had some recommendations. The OECD is of the opinion that a budget increase on the one hand, and a simplification of the procedures as well as a clearer policy for the stakeholders of the civil society on the other hand will increase even more the effectiveness of the Belgian development policy.

Peer review

The peer review is internationally regarded as one of the most important evaluation systems for development cooperation. The review assesses how the members of the OECD-DAC comply with their international commitments and encourages them to adopt the best practices of other members in their own operations.

The Belgian development policy will dedicate its efforts to a stronger role for the local, private sector in developing countries, which is completely in line with the SDGs. To this end, the Belgian Development Cooperation has developed an excellent tool, the Belgian Investment Company for Developing Countries (BIO). We must make BIO’s capital available to private investors who do not exclusively focus on financial return but are also concerned about the social impact and the development impact of the projects in which they invest.

In the past twenty years, the Belgian development policy has lost touch with the Belgian business community. The objective is to gather a number of large Belgian companies for a Round Table on Development. We can learn from their experience and expertise. Belgian companies also contribute to trade and investments in the South and to economic growth and employment in our partner countries. More than was the case in the past, the Belgian government wants to check where Belgian companies can create added value.

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www.oecd.org/belgium/peer-review-belgium.htm

4 out of 10

Today four out of ten people have access to the Internet. Every second there are seven new users, or about 600,000 a day. More than half of the world’s population owns a mobile phone. In some countries the poor have a mobile phone and access to social media, but no drinking water supply. That is the context in which we are working today. And yet we have to see the opportunities that technology offers in a positive daylight.
The Belgian official development assistance

In the Seventies, it was internationally accepted that rich countries had to spend at least **0.7% of their Gross National Income (GNI)** on **official development assistance (ODA)**. Belgium has also set itself the legal obligation to achieve this standard from 2010 onwards. However, due to the financial crisis and the difficult budgetary circumstances, this goal is not yet within immediate reach. After the strong growth in the period from 2008 to 2010 (0.64% of the GNI in 2010 – the highest ODA figure ever) the Belgian development assistance gradually fell back to 0.46% in 2014.

**In 2015, the total Belgian development assistance represented approximately 0.42% of the GNI**, which is well below the individual target of 0.51% for EU-15 Member States.

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

**DGD aid per channel**

- Governmental cooperation .............................................. 23.7%
- Non-governmental cooperation ........................................... 22.6%
- Multilateral cooperation .................................................. 34.1%
- Humanitarian programs .................................................... 14.8%
- Support to the private sector, BIO ....................................... 4.2%
- Awareness-raising in Belgium (excl. NGOs) ...................... 0.4%
- Administration, evaluation, other ....................................... 0.2%

**DGD aid by sector**

- Education ....................................................... 71.3 mil.
- Multi Sector: scholarships and training ............................ 35.4 mil.
- Healthcare ..................................................... 113.1 mil.
- Population and reproductive healthcare ......................... 27.8 mil.
- Water and sanitation ........................................... 21.6 mil.
- Government and civil society ..................................... 65.8 mil.
- Conflict, peace and security ...................................... 1.7 mil.
- Social services .................................................. 39.1 mil.
- Transport and storage, communication ......................... 17.7 mil.
- Energy .................................................................. 8.2 mil.
- Banks and financial sector ......................................... 7.3 mil.
  - of which microcredit ........................................... 0.3 mil.
- Enterprises ................................................................ 40.4 mil.
- Agriculture, forestry, fishing ...................................... 111.8 mil.
- Industry, mining and engineering ................................. 2.8 mil.
- Trade and tourism ................................................... 0.7 mil.
- Conservation ....................................................... 34.8 mil.
- Multisector (excl. scholarships and training) ................. 43.8 mil.
  - of which rural development .................................... 12.8 mil.
- Humanitarian aid .................................................... 144.4 mil.
  - of which emergency food aid .................................. 58.1 mil.
- Debt relief .............................................................. 16.5 mil.
- Awareness-raising in Belgium ..................................... 33.0 mil.
- Administration costs ................................................ 24.4 mil.
- Sector non-specified * ............................................ 149.0 mil.

* Including non-earmarked multilateral contributions
Promotion and defence of human rights

Alexander De Croo, the Minister for Development Cooperation, has decided that human rights occupy a central place in the policy statement of the Belgian Development Cooperation. Belgium considers that a development approach based on human rights is an essential step for achieving enduring results in the basic development cooperation sectors. Consider, for example, health care, including reproductive health, education and training, agriculture, food security and basic infrastructure.

Belgium makes a financial contribution to the general funds of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations (OHCHR). The OHCHR is the most important United Nations Office and is responsible for the promotion and protection of everyone’s human rights. Our country also contributes to the operation of UN Women, UNFPA and UNICEF. Finally, the Belgian Development Cooperation also funds local foreign organisations that promote human rights.

Social protection for all

Social protection refers to any form of policy that tackles risks, vulnerability, inequality and poverty through systems of transfers (of funds or in kind/services) to the population. Its objective is to protect people against the risks that can push or keep them in poverty, by enabling them to enjoy the basic protection, care and services and by eliminating the social and economic barriers that prevent their access to this protection.

Currently 75% of the world’s population has no access to social protection. The slightest setback causes a major problem for these people. High time to do something about this and develop a system of social protection in developing countries. That is the key message of the CNCD-11.11.11’s new campaign. Social protection for all is feasible and affordable.

The Belgian Development Cooperation works hard to promote social protection as an efficient means to combat poverty and make inequalities more equitable. Incidentally Belgium lobbied hard to have social protection included in the text of the recently ratified sustainable development goals.

Protecting children in armed conflict

In June 2015, Belgium granted EUR 4.5 million to the “Protection of Children in Armed Conflict”, an initiative of the UN Security Council, which is implemented by UNICEF. As a result our country contributes to the protection of children in the Central African Republic, DR Congo, Mali, Nigeria, Palestine, South Sudan, Syria and Iraq. In the past years, the same UNICEF programme received 3.9 million EUR (2010-2011) and 2.7 million EUR (2013-2014).

It is estimated that currently about 230 million children live in areas that are affected by violent conflict. They experience the worst abominations in these areas. According to Alexander De Croo, the Minister for Development Cooperation, children are always the weaker party in a conflict. "Just think of the kidnappings of dozens of girls by Boko Haram, of the rape of teenage girls by Daesh and the recruitment of child soldiers in Central Africa. The abuse is becoming increasingly horrific. These children may survive these horrors, but they are marked for life. We need to put an end to these outrages as soon as possible".

In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly elected our country as a non-permanent member of the Human Rights Council for the period from 2016 to 2018. Belgium received a total of 172 votes in the General Assembly. This excellent result reflects the international confidence in the expertise and experience of the Belgian diplomacy in and outside of the UN.

During its three-year mandate in Geneva, Belgium will continue to work hard on cases such as the fight against impunity, the abolition of the death penalty, women and children’s rights and the right to freedom of speech.

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Strengthening agriculture and food security

Currently 795 million people around the world suffer from hunger. Hunger and malnutrition constitute the greatest threat to global health – greater than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined. And yet there is enough food to feed everyone. Belgium is committed to the global fight against hunger. The Belgian Development Cooperation supports family farming in its partner countries so as to contribute to more sustainable economic growth. Moreover our country is one of the main donors to international organisations for agriculture and food security (FAO, IFAD, WFP and CGIAR).

International Year of Soils

People all too often assume our soil resources are inexhaustible. However, sustainable soil management is a vital factor in the health of the ecosystems, for food security and above all for human life.

The United Nations proclaimed 2015 the International Year of Soils, which is led by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). A year for raising the public’s awareness about the importance of soils for humanity.

According to José Graziano da Silva, Director-General of the FAO, in 33% of the cases soil degradation is caused by demographic pressure. The UN wants to control the soil conditions on all levels (global, regional and international) and is working hard to create a common soil database.

In collaboration with the Belgian Development Cooperation, the VLIR-UOS is conducting soil research projects in Ethiopia and the BTC is executing projects in Morocco to prevent soil salinization.

33% of the soils are moderately to highly degraded as a result of erosion, acidification, salinization, compacting, chemical pollution and the loss of nutrients.

In 2013 Belgium proportionally invested the most in the fight against desertification (2.5% of ODA – official development assistance – or about USD 130 million).

In 2008, there were about 1.386 million hectares of agricultural land in the world. There is very little margin for expansion.

In the past sixty years, natural resources were the root cause in 40% of domestic conflicts.

By 2050 – when the world will have a population of 9 billion people – global food production must increase by 70% and by nearly 100% in the developing countries.

By 2045, about 135 million people will have to migrate as a result of desertification.

By 2045, about 70% of our food is produced directly or indirectly on soils.

Every year, over 10 million hectares of agricultural land are lost, by erosion alone.

Currently 1.5 million people, for the most part poor farmers, live on degraded land.

We can harness up to 3 billion tons of carbon (50 to 300 tons/hectare) every year, or 30% of the annual CO₂ emissions from fossil fuels by restoring degraded land.

Source: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification et FAO
Gender

The gender dimension is aimed at women’s empowerment and the equality between men and women in our society. The Belgian Development Cooperation integrates this dimension in all its interventions.

More attention to sexual and reproductive rights

Throughout the entire process that ultimately led to the Sustainable Development Goals, Belgium advocated sufficient attention to human rights, and sexual and reproductive rights in particular. After all, discrimination based on gender and sexual orientation undermine the respect for human rights and human development. We need to put an end to all these forms of unfair treatment. Every woman should be able to freely assume the responsibility for her own sexual and reproductive health. Educational opportunities for girls are vital in this framework: educated women are more confident and have healthier and better educated children. But free access to contraceptives also reduces teenage pregnancies and maternal mortality.

At the same time, we cannot ignore such practices as child marriages, female genital mutilation and violence against LGBTs. LGBT rights also promote sexual health. Belgium was the second country in the world to legalise same-sex marriage and attaches great importance to respecting the rights of sexual minorities. And yet there is still a lack of respect for the rights of sexual minorities in many countries. This constitutes a major obstacle among others for the prevention and treatment of HIV and other sexual diseases.

Advisory Council on Gender and Development

The Advisory Council on Gender and Development was established by Royal Decree to contribute to the decisions of the Minister for Development Cooperation and the Federal Government with regard to gender and development. The Advisory Council advises ministers and aims to contribute to a better integration of gender in the Belgian development policy and the positions our country adopts on the international level. The Advisory Council combines the expertise of the Dutch and French-language academic world, the Women’s Councils, NGOs and the Institute for the Equality of Men and Women.
Protecting the environment

The Belgian Development Cooperation protects the environment and the natural resources and fights against climate change, drought and global deforestation.

COP21 Paris

On 12 December 2015, all 193 UN Member States endorsed an ambitious climate agreement in Paris. The so-called Paris Agreement is the very first universal, legally binding climate agreement. Unlike the Kyoto Protocol it sets climate targets for all countries.

The agreement, which enters into force in 2020, has a threefold objective:

- Limit global warming to well below 2°C compared with the pre-industrial level. If at all possible even to 1.5°C.
- Increase countries’ ability to adapt to the impact of climate change. Strive for climate-resilient countries with low greenhouse gas emissions.
- Seek investments to achieve these objectives.

The agreement can have a serious impact. It can change the mentality of governments, companies and citizens. Whereas the agreement does not ban the use of fossil fuels, it will nevertheless lead to an accelerated breakthrough of renewable energy. Based on the current national contributions, the share of renewable energy will at least double and possibly even triple by 2030. Sustainability and environmental friendliness will become increasingly important in production and consumption. Even countries such as China, the largest polluter in the world, already use less coal and are investing in green energy.

Belgium’s active contribution to the climate negotiations was highly appreciated. Our country was well represented in all the expert groups and consultative bodies that define the EU’s climate position. The Belgian delegation at climate conferences consists of a core group of about 15 people, who are continuously present. The representatives of the civil society also receive an official badge.

How does the Belgian Development Cooperation support the fight against climate change?

EUR 466 million in 2014

EUR 52 million
Multilateral climate funds (Global Climate Fund, Least Developed Countries Fund)

EUR 376 million
Multilateral organisations (development banks, UNEP, UNDP, Global Environment Facility...)

EUR 38 million
BTC, NGOs, universities...

Green economy

Simply put, a green economy has a low carbon profile, is resource-efficient and socially inclusive. A green economy creates greater human well-being and social equity, while reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcity.

In Africa millions of people depend on the natural capital and the ecosystem services for their livelihood. Studies have shown that green investments and the protection of this “capital” reduce poverty and bolster the economy. The Belgian Development Cooperation wants to help its partner countries with this transition. In Rwanda and Mozambique, for example, it supports the energy industry, helping it chart a policy in favour of renewable sources and a more efficient energy consumption. In Palestine, the BTC builds low-energy school buildings. In Vietnam Belgium supports the national green growth strategy.
On 21 May 2015, the federal council of ministers adopted a new list of partner countries. Latin American and Asian countries are no longer on the list (except for the Palestinian Territory). Burkina Faso and Guinea were added. Henceforth the emphasis is on fragile states in North and West Africa and the Great Lakes Region.
Some projects and programmes in 2015

The Belgian Development Cooperation determines the priorities, activities and results of its governmental cooperation based on a geographical approach by region. It develops multi-annual cooperation programmes with its partner countries. It is impossible to explain all the interventions in Africa, Asia and Latin America, which is why we will only discuss a number of key achievements in 2015.

Environmentally-friendly schools

The temperature is often unpleasant in Palestinian schools. The classrooms are ice-cold in winter time and sizzling hot in summer. More and more environmentally-friendly building concepts are implemented on the West Bank to improve comfort in the classrooms. Wadi al Mughair school in Hebron is an excellent example. This pilot project makes full use of geothermal energy and solar energy.

At ten metres depth, the temperature throughout the year is 16°C. Underground tunnels were installed and connected to the classrooms to harness this geothermal energy. They provide “warm” air in winter and “cool” air in summer. Sun chimneys trigger the flow of air. Depending on the temperature in the classroom, the teacher can open or close the pipes.

The Belgian Development Cooperation worked with the Department of Education and Higher Education for this high-tech, innovative pilot project in the education sector.

Agrobiodiversity in the Peruvian Andes

Victor Rojas lives in Patahuasi, an elevated village in the Central Andes of Peru. He is a Yachichiq, a custodian of ancestral knowledge. Victor has inherited a wealth of knowledge about the rich agrobiodiversity of Patahuasi from his father and grandfather. He especially knows a lot about the great diversity of native grains, legumes and tubers. As a result, Victor can farm at different heights and is better armed against the risks of the stormy Andes climate. He is convinced that such agrobiodiversity is the key to tackling global climate change. Victor has compiled an inventory of 124 varieties of native potatoes, which are each specifically adapted to certain heights and ecological conditions.

Thanks to the efforts of Victor and other local Yachichiq, the regional government of Apurimac has declared the districts of Huayana and Pomacocha the first “Agrobiodiversity conservation zone” in Peru. A milestone which highlights the importance of the unique and precious biodiversity of the Peruvian Andes. In spite of climate change, this helps guarantee food security for future generations. All this is done in the framework of PRODERN, a project that was jointly implemented by the BTC and the Peruvian Environment Ministry.

Results-based financing in Benin

In Africa, a lot of public health systems do not work as they should. Results-based financing (RBF) is a strategy to improve the performance of those systems. In 2012, Benin opted for this strategy, applying it throughout its territory in 2015. It received assistance among others from the BTC, which developed a model in the framework of the health projects that have been implemented in Benin since 2008. The “PASS-SOUROU” project (support to the health sector) – of which the specific convention was signed in May 2014 to the amount of EUR 20 million – was established to continue the RBF approach, which had been launched in the framework of the previous project, until the end of 2015. In November 2015 an additional budget of EUR 980,000 was allocated to extend the Belgian support of the RBF until the end of 2016.

In Benin the RBF has had encouraging results in spite of a difficult context (strikes, staff reductions). The awarded funds have enabled health care organisations to purchase small equipment such as blood pressure monitors, baby scales, measuring sticks and childbirth kits, as well as painting or renovating buildings, granting premiums and so on. The RBF also introduced coaching and improved cleanliness and waste management.

Green electricity for 150,000 Rwandan households

The Rwandan government wants to promote social and economic development, which is why it is investing heavily in electricity supply. Today the country generates 130MW and only 17% of all households have access to the electricity grid. By 2018, Rwanda will produce 560MW and connect 48% of all households to the electricity grid. The aim is to sustainably produce or import as much energy as possible.

In the energy sector, the Belgian Development Cooperation is focussing on electricity production from renewable sources, as well as increasing access to electricity in rural areas. The energy supply is destined for social infrastructure, such as health facilities, schools and government buildings. The BTC has built four small hydropower plants that generate about 5.5MW and supply electricity to about 150,000 households. The introduction of electricity in rural areas changes community life and improves social services. It also contributes to economic activity, creating more non-agricultural jobs. Solar panels were also fitted in 50 health care centres. The generated electricity enables employees to store drugs in a cool place and perform surgery and deliver babies at all times.
Drinking water for 200,000 inhabitants of Dar es Salaam

In early December 2015 the Maji Yetu (Swahili for “Our Water”) BTC project ended. Thanks to the project, 200,000 inhabitants of the suburbs of Dar es Salaam now have access to drinking water. A total of 15 water systems were installed in various locations, sanitation facilities were built and the water drainage system was improved in Tandale district. The emphasis was on the sustainability of the water systems with the establishment and training of 15 water consumer organisations, who are responsible for the technical and financial maintenance. Sanitation and hygiene trainings were also organised. The project was part of the official cooperation programme between Belgium and Tanzania for the period from 2003 to 2009. The Belgian Development Cooperation and the European Union provided funds for Maji Yetu to the amount of EUR 8,358,363.

Galvanising action for Congolese women

The Belgian Development Cooperation has earmarked EUR 2 million for the project Support for the rights and the participation of Congolese women in the framework of Resolution 1325 of the United Nations Security Council. Thus, Belgium wishes to support the Congolese Ministry of Gender, Women and Children in promoting women’s rights.

The project runs for two years (2015-2016) and will be executed by UN Women. It includes awareness-raising activities, the promotion of the political participation of women, education for female leadership and support for the economic independence of women.

This support is part of the 2014-2015 Interim Cooperation Programme that was signed between the Democratic Republic Congo and Belgium in April 2014.

Water management in Vietnam

Climate change will hit hard in Vietnam: rising temperatures, more precipitation and consequently flooding, and rising sea levels. At the same time, the population is leaving the rural areas for the cities. Urbanisation is expected to peak to 50% by 2050.

The country already regularly has to contend with flooding today, with serious consequences for people’s livelihood, for infrastructure and health. That is why the Vietnamese government wishes to reduce the risks of a calamity and create resilient urban areas.

The BTC has partnered with three coastal provinces (Ha Tinh, Ninh Thuan and Binh Thuan) for a programme which focuses on Water management and urban planning in relation to climate change. The programme examines how climate change will influence water flows and sea levels in these provinces and which impact the flooding will have. It will also see which adaptation measures are possible, together with the local authorities, to provide an answer to such threats. Early warning systems can be used for example so the population can leave the danger zone more quickly.

Female entrepreneurship in Morocco

In Morocco, the Belgian Development Cooperation and APEFE (Association pour la Promotion de l’Education et de la Formation à l’Etranger) supported the innovative “Min Ajliki” project. The objective: to stimulate entrepreneurship among Moroccan women so they become more financially independent and thus have a future.

Since the inception in 2013, Min Ajliki has already contributed to the creation of over 82 companies in various sectors. About 1,200 women received assistance in the incubators. The awareness campaign reached more than 30,000 people. In 2014, 517 women enrolled in the training programme. During the first half of 2015, 198 enrolled.

The total budget amounts to EUR 5 million. The Belgian Development Cooperation contributes EUR 2.3 million, whereas the Moroccan government provides the remaining EUR 2.7 million.

The project exceeds expectations and is an excellent example of sustainable inclusive economic growth.

50 years of development cooperation in Peru

In the summer of 1965 the Belgian Development Cooperation launched its first project in Peru. It has thus been combating poverty and inequality for over 50 years and is committed to sustainable development as well, through various channels:

1) Governmental cooperation: the governments of Belgium and Peru have signed an official agreement. Since 21 May 2015, Peru no longer is a partner country of the Belgian governmental development cooperation. An exit programme will be developed.

2) Non-governmental cooperation: carried out by the 20 Belgian NGOs that operate in Peru, as well as organisations from Peruvian civil society, the trade unions, academic and scientific cooperation.


4) Multilateral cooperation: Belgium is involved in projects of the European Union, the World Bank and the United Nations.

5) Support to the private sector: the Belgian Development Cooperation wants to provide an incentive to sustainable and inclusive economic development in Peru.

During 50 years of cooperation, the stakeholders of the Belgian Development Cooperation have focused on five major themes, i.e., human rights and gender, the environment, health, family farming and culture.
Humanitarian aid

Millions of people today are the victims of armed conflict and violence. Many of them flee, seeking refuge in safer areas. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) the number of refugees, asylum seekers and displaced persons in the entire world is set to exceed 60 million for the first time since World War II. Natural disasters and epidemics also cause a lot of suffering in some regions of the world. The earthquake in Nepal and the fight against the Ebola virus in West Africa are just two examples that come to mind. In 2015, the Belgian humanitarian aid contributed to the support of the most vulnerable population in many crises among others in Syria, Iraq, the Sahel, the occupied Palestinian territories, Burundi, Ukraine, and Guinea.

Strategy

The Belgian strategy for humanitarian aid is based on a moral obligation to support the universal value of human solidarity: Belgium subscribes to the fundamental humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. These are essential for offering assistance in emergencies, often under difficult political and security conditions.

Belgium bases itself on the needs analyses of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the International Red Cross (ICRC) and other leading international humanitarian organisations.

Budget

In 2015 the Belgian budget for humanitarian aid amounted to EUR 150 million. A little over a third of the budget (EUR 51.6 million) went to the crisis in Syria and Iraq. The total number of people in need in the region is 22 million (13.5 million Syrians and 8.5 million Iraqis). No crisis in the world has had a greater humanitarian impact.

Another third (EUR 50.8 million) was spent on various other crises worldwide. The emphasis was on the three priority areas of the humanitarian strategy: The Sahel, the occupied Palestinian Territories and the Great Lakes Region together received about EUR 27.4 million. Financial support also went to the crisis in South Sudan, the Central African Republic and Ukraine. Besides this, the countries affected by Ebola (Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia) also received assistance: in first instance to stop the outbreak of the virus, afterwards for setting up and restarting health systems. Future epidemics – i.e. not limited to Ebola – can thus be controlled more quickly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Humanitarian aid</th>
<th>2015 Budget</th>
<th>2015 Achievement</th>
<th>Achievement level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programmes</td>
<td>22,401,000</td>
<td>22,025,732</td>
<td>98.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core</td>
<td>20,000,000</td>
<td>20,000,000</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flexible funds</td>
<td>58,500,000</td>
<td>58,500,000</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects</td>
<td>49,099,000</td>
<td>49,047,009</td>
<td>99.89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>150,000,000</td>
<td>149,572,741</td>
<td>99.72%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Finally a small third (EUR 47.2 million) relates to non-geographic assignable funds. These include core contributions to the UNHCR, the UNRWA, OCHA and the ICRC. There are also global flexible funds, which can be easily deployed depending on needs as they arise and are not linked to a certain country or region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographically assignable funds</th>
<th>102,376,133</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syria, Iraq and the neighbouring countries</td>
<td>51,613,365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sahel region</td>
<td>10,358,777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupied Palestinian Territories</td>
<td>8,470,771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central African Republic</td>
<td>7,421,994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ebola-related (Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia)</td>
<td>6,746,287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRC</td>
<td>4,559,663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burundi</td>
<td>4,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Sudan</td>
<td>3,705,275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>3,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-assignable funds</th>
<th>47,196,608</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core</td>
<td>20,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global flexible funds</td>
<td>18,625,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-assignable programmes</td>
<td>3,375,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-assignable projects</td>
<td>1,041,311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second tranches from commitments 2014</td>
<td>4,155,297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>149,572,741</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Partner organisations

Three categories of organisations can enjoy humanitarian aid:
- Belgian and international NGOs,
- International humanitarian organisations,
- International humanitarian organisations that manage donor funds (the so-called flexible funds).

In 2015, the Belgian and international NGOs jointly received EUR 23.8 million. This represents about 16% of the total humanitarian aid – the highest amount in years.

Together the international humanitarian organisations received EUR 125.8 million (including the flexible funds they manage). This corresponds to 84% of the budget.

The international organisation that received the largest earmarked support in 2015 was the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). It obtained EUR 20.9 million.

The ICRC is the principal international humanitarian organisation outside the system of the United Nations and the organisation that best meets the needs in terms of protection and assistance in the event of armed conflict.

In 2004 Belgium became a member of the ICRC’s Donor Support Group, enabling it to participate in the strategic dialogue between the organisation and its main donor. In 2014-2015, Belgium even held the presidency of the ICRC, focussing on two major themes: the fight against sexual violence and the protection of health care.
Development education

The Belgian Development Cooperation wants to raise the public’s awareness about the challenges involved in development, the need to strive for equitable relations between the North and South and the importance to mobilise everyone’s support for this.

In Belgium development education aims to contribute to a more just and united world based on democratic values. Development education activities strive to:

- promote a global understanding of international issues and development issues and to encourage the forming of critical opinions;
- a change of values, attitudes and behaviour, on the individual and collective levels, in terms of consumer patterns for example;
- the active exercise of rights and obligations on the local and global level, for a more just and united world.

Theatre for young refugees

The NGO KIYO fights for the rights of the most vulnerable children. The NGO has programmes in Brazil, India, the Philippines, Burundi and DR Congo. In Belgium, KIYO encourages young people and adults to work to improve children’s rights through awareness campaigns.

The organisation is working around the theme of "war and conflict" with young refugees in the asylum centre of Poelkapelle. Together with UMove4Peace (the youth organisation of Pax Christi) KIYO uses techniques from theatre for this. These youngsters come from conflict countries. While devising the play, difficult themes such as war and conflict are discussed. This is a way of dealing with trauma. Obviously the end product is also an important moment. It is especially nerve-racking for the young actors as they try to anticipate how the audience will deal with the play.

La Nuit africaine

Since 1994, the non-profit association Cultural Centre of Ottignies- Louvain-la-Neuve has been organizing La Nuit africaine. Every year the festival offers support for collaboration or integration projects set up by Brabant associations together with Africans, both here and in Africa.

One of the activities consisted of a competition whereby young people reported on three associations in Brabant Wallon, which are engaged in North-South cooperation. The reports were broadcast on TV COM from 8 until 12 June. That same week, each association was able to present its activities on TV COM. Moreover Olivier De Schutter – the former Special Reporter on the right to food of the United Nations (2008-2014) – explained the global issue of food security and proposed agro-ecology as an alternative to agro-industry. The Belgian Development Cooperation contributed EUR 38,085.

Wedding Day

For the TV series “Wedding Day”, the photographer Lieve Blancquart travelled around the world to portray marrying couples. Eight couples, getting married in eight different cultures, what does that mean? Lieve searched for a reply to this question in eight episodes. She examined to which extent love plays an important role in people’s choice of marriage, in a family, cultural, economic and political context.

The Wedding Day team collaborated with local partner organisations. Thanks to Plan Belgium the team in Nepal was able to film moving stories about the fight against the culture of child marriages. And together with the UNHCR Wedding Day visited the second largest refugee camp in the world, near the Syrian border in Jordan.

The programme was broadcast on Wednesday evenings and drew on average 750,000 viewers on public TV channel VRT één. The Belgian Development Cooperation provided support for this production to the amount of EUR 106,000.
The European Year for Development: "Our world, our dignity, our future"

2015 was a special year for development. Moreover, this was the first time that the European Year related to the external action of the European Union and the role of Europe in the world. Europe provides 55% of all official development assistance in the world. The European Year for Development (EYD2015) tried to inform EU citizens, especially young people, and raise their awareness about the results of the EU’s development cooperation. The Belgian Development Cooperation also contributed to this.

Kick-off: culture as a pillar of development

In January 2015, Africalia and BOZAR joined forces, under the supervision of the Belgian Development Cooperation, to kick off the European Year for Development in Belgium. During a series of activities in BOZAR and in Square the role of culture in development was examined, as well as the way in which they both influence and supplement each other. BOZAR organised the Afropean+ programme, a unique multidisciplinary event that attracted more than 4,000 visitors. Afropean+ was an ode to Africa’s contribution to the Belgian and European cultural landscape and featured concerts by renowned artists such as Alpha Blondy.

Stories, messages and events

All the participating Member States and partners shared their experiences and activities on the EYD2015 website. The Belgian Development Cooperation also made good use of the communication medium to promote the many exhibitions, festivals, information days and public debates. Belgium received praise from the European Commission for its activities on the website. Our country was ranked third on the list of visitors of the EYD2015 website. Moreover 41 of the 194 European EYD2015 partners came from Belgium.

Call for projects from associations

In the framework of the EYD2015, the Belgian Development Cooperation launched a call for development education projects. It tried to raise the awareness of young people who are members of youth organisations and youth movements for sport and culture for sustainable development, from the perspective of food security. Nine projects were retained and jointly received funding to the amount of EUR 454,000.

Glo.be – the magazine of the Belgian Development Cooperation

Glo.be is the magazine of the Belgian Development Cooperation and its main calling card. It informs the public about the policy, the activities and the results of the Belgian Development Cooperation. At the same time, the magazine raises awareness by briefly explaining the varied themes and challenges of development cooperation. That way Glo.be helps generate more support for the development cooperation policy.

Glo.be has a message of solidarity, respect for other cultures, equal opportunities and caring for the environment (baseline “voor een duurzame wereld” (for a sustainable world)). These are key messages, which moreover are completely in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

13,104 unique subscribers

At the end of 2015, Glo.be had about 13,104 unique subscribers (14,599 copies) for the paper version; 1,587 copies are sent to the embassies. The magazine also has 2,555 digital subscribers in Belgium and another 464 abroad.
15 years of
Millennium Development Goals

During the Millennium summit of September 2000, all the UN Member States signed a political declaration about the ambitions of the world community for the new millennium. The key elements were peace, security and prosperity. Based on this millennium declaration they formulated eight “Millennium Development Goals” (MDGs) which outlined the general framework for the international development cooperation until 2015. The emphasis was on halving poverty and hunger.

Over the years, the MDGs have come to play an increasingly prominent role in development cooperation. Gradually the MDG framework determined policies and progress reports, in poor countries in the South as well as in rich countries in the North.

In Belgium the law of 14 June 2005 obliged the government to annually report to parliament on its progress in relation to the Millennium Development Goals. The MDGs were also incorporated in legal texts on international cooperation and in the administration’s strategic memoranda. The partner countries of the Belgian Development Cooperation increasingly used the Millennium Development Goals as a reference framework to monitor the progress made.

The Millennium Development Goals were mainly established as an incentive for national and international measures to combat poverty and initiate a self-development process in the countries of the South. The MDGs were primarily a matter for development cooperation. For the period from 2015 to 2030, the international community has a new common target: the post-2015 development framework.

This new framework is much more universal and more global than the MDG framework. Now the development models of the rich countries are also examined and the resource and environmental limits of the entire planet are also considered (Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs). The objective is to develop an integrated framework for sustainable development, whereby attention to the climate and the environment, social progress and economic well-being mutually reinforce each other. The objective is to also arrive at a new global development partnership. The central axis is no longer formed by North-South relations. Instead the complex reality of our increasingly globalised world will have to be taken into account.

Conclusion

Most observers are of the opinion that the MDGs have significantly influenced development policy and actions. This applies to the policy in developing countries as well as to the cooperation policy of the richer countries. The MDGs have made the issue much more tangible for the public. Everyone understands what it means (not) to go to school or (not) to have access to drinking water or sanitation.

For some areas of intervention, such as the fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, the impact of the international assistance undoubtedly proved crucial to achieve the reported results. In other areas, such as access to education or improving food security, the efforts are probably mainly the merit of the countries themselves. And yet this progress also owes a lot to the MDGs because they mobilised the international community around these themes.

Generally speaking, the objectives that had been set were realistic, but sometimes they were not sufficiently ambitious or they overshot the mark. Experience has taught us that it is definitely useful to repeat such a collective exercise. A conclusion that is almost unanimously endorsed and which is reflected in a new series of goals, the sustainable development goals or SDGs.

The 2030 agenda for sustainable development

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In September 2015 all the UN Member States agreed to an ambitious “agenda 2030 for sustainable development”. A new set of development goals was formulated, the sustainable development goals or SDGs. This time it’s all hands on deck, as the SDGs apply to all countries. But every individual citizen is also expected to make a contribution.

The SDGs comprise 17 ambitious goals to make the world a better place by 2030. The first 15 goals correspond with the three pillars of sustainable development: people (social), planet (ecological) and prosperity (economic). The last two goals create the indispensable framework: peace (SDG16 – peace and security) and partnership (SDG17). An overview.

www.un.org/millenniumgoals

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**1. No Poverty**

Today many people in developing countries have to make do with less than 1.25 USD a day. The aim is to halve poverty on the national level by 2030 and ultimately to completely eradicate poverty.

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**2. Zero Hunger**

Everyone has access to affordable food. New agricultural techniques mean healthy and qualitative food can be sustainably grown and farmed. This guarantees food security for everyone.

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**3. Good Health and Well-being**

Infant and maternal mortality must be reduced. The same goes for alcohol and drug abuse. Information about infectious diseases is required to prevent their spread. The UN wishes to draw more attention to mental illness and care for fewer road casualties.

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**4. Quality Education**

Boys and girls are free to go to primary and secondary school. They also have the opportunity to go to college or university. Everyone should have access to technical, vocational or university education, regardless of their gender or ethnicity.

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**5. Gender Equality**

We must do away with gender inequality: the glass ceiling, the pay gap and gender-related violence. Like men, women are entitled to good health and knowledge about sexuality and reproduction.

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**6. Clean Water and Sanitation**

Everyone has the right to safe drinking water and sanitation. Water quality will be improved, among others by reducing pollution, stopping the dumping of chemicals and by halving the amount of waste water. Water scarcity must be addressed.

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**7. Affordable and Clean Energy**

Energy must be produced and used more efficiently. Everyone has access to modern, affordable and sustainable energy. Renewable sources are becoming increasingly important.

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**8. Decent Work and Economic Growth**

The least developed countries, in particular, are in dire need of economic growth. Safe working conditions, decent work for men, women and young people and the protection of labour rights can all contribute to this. The UN wishes to eradicate slavery, forced labour and child labour. Economic growth may not in any event be detrimental to the environment.

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**9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure**

A strong economy and social welfare are founded on sound, sustainable infrastructure. Innovative industry and Internet for everyone are also vital.

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**10. Reduced Inequalities**

Inequalities – between countries and within countries – need to be addressed. Low wages, for example, can grow faster and developing countries must have a say in the decision-making process of international financial and economic institutions.

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**11. Sustainable Cities and Communities**

The housing of the future must be adapted to a growing population. This must be combined with safe, clean and sustainable building. Residential areas will have more greenery and nature. Good public transport provides an answer to traffic pollution.

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**12. Responsible Consumption and Production**

Our consumer society produces a lot of waste. We must sustainably manage raw materials and use them efficiently. Citizens all over the world must be reminded of the advantages of a more environmentally-friendly lifestyle. Food waste must be limited and we must produce less waste in general.

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**13. Climate Action**

Climate action is affecting every country on every continent. Policy-makers must therefore take measures and citizens must become aware of the ways in which they can adapt to climate change. The UN wants to ensure that vulnerable nations are more resilient when it comes to natural disasters.

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**14. Life Below Water**

The seas and oceans are at risk and must be protected. Overfishing, waste and illegal fishing are at odds with a sustainable policy. The subsidies for such practices will be phased out.

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**15. Life on Land**

Ecosystems on land such as forests, marshes and mountain ranges must be protected. The conservation of our biodiversity is a priority. Degraded nature areas must be restored.

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**16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions**

Peace, security and legal certainty are vital factors that contribute to a better world. The protection of children against abuse or ill treatment and the fight against corruption are also an aspect of this. People are entitled to competent and fair government on all levels.

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**17. Partnerships for the Goals**

The UN expects more collaboration: between companies, governments, citizens and organisations but also among all the players in a market. Technology, sharing knowledge, trade, finance and data are all vital. Cooperation is the key to further sustainable growth.
50 years of development cooperation in Peru

The Belgian embassy in Peru, the BTC, the Peruvian agency for international cooperation (APCI) and the stakeholders of Belgian and Peruvian civil society wanted to highlight the results of this symbolic milestone of 50 years of cooperation between Peru and Belgium in a festive manner. Some initiatives:

- A design competition for a joint logo for 50 years of cooperation between Belgium and Peru.
- A Facebook page was created, with over 2,000 followers.
- A photo contest to portray the history of the Belgian Development Cooperation in Peru.
- A debate: will Peru succeed in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals?
- A festival to put the results of 50 years of cooperation in the spotlight for the Peruvian audience: the Festival Belga, Resultados que cuentan. More than 5,000 spectators enjoyed the many activities in a laid-back, festive and family-friendly atmosphere. People of all ages received a lot of information about gender, human rights, health, the environment and family farming in a fun way.
- A documentary highlighted the fiftieth anniversary of the cooperation and its main accents: diversity, the balance between the various cooperation channels, participation, human rights.

www.youtube.com > Resultados que cuentan: 50 años de cooperación belga en el Perú