THIS ANNUAL REPORT HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE WITH THE COOPERATION OF:


Cover photo: © Kris Pannecoucke
# Table of contents

**FOREWORD** .......................................................................................................................................................................................................7

**INTRODUCTION** .................................................................................................................................................................................................................... 5

## PART 1

**THE BELGIAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN 2011**

### 1. A COMPLETE OVERHAUL OF THE DGD
- Vision, mission and values .............................................................. 9
- Reorganising DGD ........................................................................... 9
- New organisational chart of DGD .................................................. 11

### 2. REFORMING, EVALUATING, LEARNING… FOR MORE EFFECTIVE AID
- BUSAN: Global partnership welcomes new actors ..................... 12
- New Deal for fragile states ........................................................... 13
- Large-scale evaluation of bilateral projects .................................. 14
- Belgian involvement in MOPAN network praised ...................... 14
- Conflict prevention and peacebuilding in DR Congo ..................... 15
- Fourth Stakeholders Meeting of the Belgian Development Cooperation .......................................................... 17

### 3. OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA) .......................................................... 18–23

### 4. GOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION: THREE NEW COOPERATION PROGRAMMES
- Vietnam: The tiger is still young ............................................... 24
- Rwanda takes control .................................................................. 26
- New hope for a strong State of Palestine ....................................... 28

### 5. BELGIAN HUMANITARIAN AID
- Professional, targeted humanitarian aid ...................................... 31
- Humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa .................................... 33
- Floods in Pakistan ........................................................................ 34
- The earthquake in Haiti ............................................................... 36

### 6. TOWARDS AN ENVIRONMENT- AND CLIMATE-FRIENDLY DEVELOPMENT POLICY
- Durban: Lukewarm results for a burning issue ......................... 38
- Fast-start funding: More money for urgent needs ...................... 38
- KLIMOS: A research platform for climate change and development cooperation .......................................................... 39
- Environment: Desertification, biodiversity and the ozone layer .......................................................... 39
7. MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

Arab Spring: The transition to a democratic system in the Arab world .................................................. 41
Global Partnership for Education: Primary education for everybody ......................................................... 42
More resources for IDA16 .......................................................................................................................... 44
Cooperation with the World Bank Institute .............................................................................................. 44

8. RAISING AWARENESS

Raising awareness on 21 July, the Belgian national holiday ..................................................................... 45
Strong growth for magazine Dimension 3 .................................................................................................. 45
Support for audio-visual productions ....................................................................................................... 46
PULSE: Research into the level of support for development cooperation ................................................. 47

PART 2

THE MILLENNIUM GOALS: Strong regional differences, insufficient progress

1. GLOBAL STATE OF AFFAIRS

Millennium Goal 1: Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger by 2015 .................................................... 50
Millennium Goal 2: Ensuring that all boys and girls go to school by 2015 ............................................... 50
Millennium Goal 3: Ensuring that men and women have equal rights by 2015 ......................................... 51
Millennium Goal 4: Significantly reducing child mortality by 2015 ....................................................... 51
Millennium Goal 5: Reducing the number of maternal deaths due to pregnancy by 2015 ..................... 52
Millennium Goal 6: Stopping the spread of diseases such as AIDS and malaria by 2015 ..................... 52
Millennium Goal 7: More people will be living in a sustainable environment by 2015 ......................... 53
Millennium Goal 8: Global partnership for development ........................................................................ 53

2. BELGIAN CONTRIBUTION TO MDGs 4 AND 5: COMBATING CHILD MORTALITY AND IMPROVING MATERNAL HEALTH

The Belgian contribution ............................................................................................................................ 55
Most important international meetings on health in 2011 .................................................................... 56
Health care by bicycle - World Solidarity and Gonoshasthaya Kendra, Bangladesh ............................ 57
Towards an accelerated reduction of infant mortality - The “Zero Malnutrition Programme” in Bolivia 58
Support to the health care system in Kisantu (DR Congo) .................................................................... 59
“Low-risk childbirth” in DR Congo ....................................................................................................... 60-61
A light in the horror - Congolese Gynaecologist, Denis Mukwege awarded King Baudouin Prize .... 62
Better access to healthcare services in Mali - UNICEF ........................................................................ 63
Access to healthcare for isolated groups in Kidal (Mali) - Doctors of the World .............................. 64
Budget support for the Rwandan health sector ....................................................................................... 65
FOREWORD

The Belgian Development Cooperation is facing important challenges. The Millennium Development Goals continue to require our attention unabatedly, since the target date of 2015 is fast approaching. Progress is clearly being made in a number of targets but because of the context of the economic crisis, this progress is being pressurised once again. As the present report shows, it is important that we persevere.

Moreover, the context in which we work is also changing. This became very clear during the conference of Busan (South Korea), where a Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation was concluded at the beginning of December of 2011. The number of players in the field has grown enormously. Aid no longer comes only from the traditional donor countries, non-governmental organisations and familiar multilateral organisations, such as UN organisations and the World Bank. An increasing number of specific funds are appearing on stage and South-South Cooperation - aid from developing countries that have grown in recent years and some of which have themselves evolved into donor countries - is clearly on the rise. All of these actors signed the Partnership Agreement in Busan.

With its signature, Belgium once again confirmed the commitments it made in the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action on aid efficiency. In doing this, the emphasis is placed not only on result orientation and transparency but also on the partners’ ownership, on coordinating the aid with these partners’ policies and on harmonisation, complementarity and work division among the various donor countries. The new partnership agreement also stresses the diversity between the various categories of developing countries, which often requires a tailored approach. In this respect, Belgium committed itself specifically to fragile states.

A significant number of the Belgian Development Cooperation partner countries belong to this group of fragile states (DR Congo, Burundi, Niger, Uganda and the Palestinian Territory) and receives a substantial share of our aid. These countries are also among the poorest and therefore also require an entirely individual approach. But situations can change quickly. The Arab Spring made it painfully clear that higher-income developing countries that were regarded as relatively stable can quickly slip into fragile situations. A great deal of flexibility and adaptability is therefore demanded of our cooperation.

I write cooperation because not everyone finds it acceptable to still speak in terms of aid. Even though there are major differences between partner countries, “aid” still only amounts to 13% of the financial flows to developing countries, compared to 70% in the 1970s. Therefore, aid must firstly become a catalyst for development.

In 2011 the DGD and its partners worked hard, based on experiences, evaluations and critical reflection. In 2012, DGD will therefore implement its internal reorganisation, which will enable it to respond more flexibly to a changing environment. To sustainably modernise our Development Cooperation, we and the new government are also ready to take on other challenges: revise the Law on Belgian International Cooperation, the various regulations on humanitarian aid, BTC (Belgian Development Agency), BIO (Belgian Investment Company for Developing Countries) and non-governmental cooperation.

PAUL MAGNETTE
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

LATIN AMERICA
15. Ecuador
16. Peru
17. Bolivia

MIDDLE EAST
14. Palestinian Territory

13. SOUTH AFRICA
This annual report is intended to show that the Belgian Development Cooperation can contribute towards the results in the fight against poverty. The report is in fact a combination of two reports: the DGD annual report and annual reporting to Parliament on the Belgian contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The intent of the report is, first and foremost, to be a results report. The evaluation of DGD’s results reporting that was performed in 2011 showed that Belgium must better show the results of its development operations, by, for example, highlighting its humanitarian actions and focusing on certain development goals. To a certain extent, this annual report is a response to that. We discuss our humanitarian actions in Haiti, Pakistan and in the Horn of Africa and in the second part, we concentrate on Millennium Goals 4 and 5. The annual report is also intended to account for the Belgian Development Cooperation’s choices. Belgian taxpayers and beneficiary countries alike are entitled to this. However, the report also wishes to point out the complexity of development aid and its environment, which is why rigorously planned aims do not always achieve the results planned for in advance.

In the first, substantial, part we outline the major trends, crises and events within which the most important Belgian Development Cooperation activities took place in 2011. What reforms is DGD implementing internally to ensure its role as the hub of the Belgian Development Cooperation in a changing world? What humanitarian crises require a response from our aid? How is Belgium’s Official Development Assistance (ODA) evolving? What sectors do we prioritise in the new cooperation agreements with Rwanda, Vietnam and the Palestinian Territory? In what way does DGD help to reinforce the level of support for development cooperation in Belgium? What role did Belgium play at the Busan High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness? Is climate change a threat to development opportunities? How do we support the Arab peoples in their renewed hope for democracy and justice? What do we learn from the evaluation of BTC’s bilateral projects and the various knowledge platforms? These and other questions are answered in part 1: “The Belgian Development Cooperation in 2011”.

The second part is fully dedicated to Millennium Goals 4 and 5. After a short overview of the global state of affairs concerning the 8 Millennium Goals, we will show how Belgium contributes to the fight against child mortality (MDG 4) and the improvement of maternal health (MDG 5). At the Millennium Summit (New York, 2010), UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon quite rightly called for increased efforts in this respect. “We know what works to save women’s and children’s lives, and we know that women and children are of crucial importance to all of the MDGs. Investing in their health builds stable, peaceful and productive societies.”

The international community is making steady progress towards both of these development goals. In the past twenty years, the daily number of deaths of children under five years of age dropped by 12,000 and maternal mortality in the South fell from 440 to 290 per 100,000. However, there is still much room for improvement, by providing good medicine, medical care and quality education and by teaching people how to adjust their diet. There is still much work to be done: in the South, children are still 18 times more likely to die before the age of five than children in the North and too many mothers still die during pregnancy or childbirth. In short, the world is still far from achieving both of these Millennium Goals.

We demonstrate how we fight this battle and what methods and approaches we use by showing just under a dozen projects that are being performed, funded or led by the Belgian Development Cooperation. Project locations include Bangladesh, Bolivia, DR Congo, Mali and Rwanda. We show the Belgian contribution to these Millennium Goals by way of examples, while extensive attention is paid to the different aid forms and channels. After all, it is impossible for this annual report to address all projects, programmes, files, discussions and research that contribute to the fight against child and maternal mortality. Still, this non-exhaustive approach offers a real understanding of the functioning and results of the Belgian Development Cooperation.
The Belgian Development Cooperation in 2011
1. A COMPLETE OVERHAUL OF THE DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Vision, mission and values

With a view to reforming the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation (DGD), the Director-General established an advisory working group in 2011. This working group was given the task of formulating its vision, mission and shared values as an introduction to DGD’s new organisational culture. In the future, these three fields will have an impact on everyday operation and determine staff development.

VISION

The following elements make up the basic cornerstones of DGD’s vision:

• together with our partners, to strive for a just, balanced and sustainable world in which everyone lives in peace and safety and is protected from poverty;
• to continue to play a major role by supporting the international agenda on development cooperation. DGD is an efficient actor whose actions are result-oriented;
• to manage human potential adequately and proactively, so that, by doing so, it contributes to staff development and commitment.

MISSION

As the main actor in executing Belgian Development Cooperation, DGD must:

• contribute to the improvement of living conditions for people in developing countries and of their socio-economic and cultural development, (contribute) to sustainable and balanced economic growth while simultaneously respecting human dignity, the rule of law, fundamental freedoms and human rights;
• establish a federal development policy; allocate Belgian public development aid to the various national and international actors who put this aid into practice; monitor and evaluate this policy;
• actively participate in the debate on innovative development cooperation concepts and have the courage to implement these in its policy;
• actively support development efforts and the fight against poverty by the developing countries, in cooperation with other Belgian and international partners and financiers;
• contribute to aid to countries and people in crisis situations, in accordance with the principles of humanitarian aid;
• secure the solidarity and support of the public and of the Belgian political authorities in executing its mission and actions.

VALUES

The values that DGD has set itself reflect the principles that it wishes to apply and propagate in performing its task. DGD believes in these values as a fundamental attitude to be able to implement Belgian development policy correctly and efficiently.

Reorganising DGD

The Directorate-General for Development Cooperation has expanded into the engine and main actor of Belgian Development Cooperation. This is an important achievement. However, its increased responsibility was not a concomitant for reinforcing its internal capacity. While DGD’s budget was experiencing tremendous growth, staff numbers were steadily falling. Had the internal operation not been thoroughly reviewed, this evolution would have threatened to heavily burden both the individual workload and the achievement of development results.

PEER REVIEW-PROCESS

The OECD-DAC peer review process of 2010 enabled DGD to raise several challenges and particular obstacles. Pursuant to the review, a process was started in February 2011 that will result in a thorough reform in the first quarter of 2012. The entire reform process will be carried out in deliberation with the Minister of Development Cooperation and the FPS Executive Committee, following thorough consultation with all Directorate-General staff members. During various staff meetings, workshops and individual interviews all those involved drew up a joint problem analysis and their insights were used to find creative solutions.
The reform process paid particular attention to the strategic development of individual staff members’ competencies, reorganisation possibilities and simplifying current procedures. The consultations showed that the vertical structure, which was based on the implementation channels, overly discouraged joint project development and the exchange of expertise. Therefore, demolishing a wall here and there did not suffice. The entire house had to be rethought and our operational area better defined. The reformed DGD sets **new priorities**, combats the fragmentation of our resources and efforts and provides more extensive cross-pollination between central administration, people in the field and the various partners of Belgium’s Development Cooperation.

**FOUR DIRECTORATES**

The reformed DGD will consist of four directorates and of trans-directorate teams. These teams will draw on **expertise** from the various directorates and from the field.

- the first directorate is a geographic knowledge centre with a regional perspective that operates according to a context-specific approach;
- the second directorate is responsible for determining international strategy and the thematic development tools;
- the third directorate specialises in cooperating with partners from the civil society;
- the fourth directorate focuses on better organisation management, skill development, increased result orientation and a larger transparency overall.

The reform is aimed at securing DGD’s future and relevance and at enabling it to face the complex reality with renewed courage and an increased team spirit. The ultimate goal of the reform is a more **consistent approach** of the Belgian Development Cooperation. To this end, DGD must join all forces and develop an organisational culture in which innovation, sharing knowledge and achieving development results are encouraged internally and propagated externally to all partners.
New organisational chart of the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation
Busan: global partnership welcomes new actors

At the beginning of December, the international community met in the South Korean city of Busan for the fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. Busan was an important crossroads in the search for effective development cooperation. It resulted in a renewed global partnership, including new actors such as Brazil and China. Belgium made practical contributions regarding fragile states, gender, aid architecture, climate funding and the private sector. Here is a list of the most important findings:

1. The outcome document, Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, introduces a period during which we increasingly place development cooperation in a strategic context and involve new actors, each with its own input;

2. New actors such as China, India and Brazil were kept on board by intense consultation until a few hours before the outcome document was adopted. This provides a formal basis for the growing necessity of entering into development dialogue with these new actors.

3. Nineteen fragile countries and countries hit by conflict, which are referred to as the “G7+” and a group of donors, including Belgium, want to cooperate more emphatically on peace- and government-building. They ratified a New Deal for Fragile States (see p. 13). Five of Belgium’s eighteen partner countries are in a fragile and/or conflict situation.

4. The participants in the conference reached consensus on the development and application of a transparency standard. For this purpose they will rely on the expertise of the statistics working party of the DAC and the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI). The emphasis that the developing countries are putting on budget transparency is new.

5. Busan afforded greater recognition to civil society’s role. The Forum confirms that civil society offers people the opportunity to demand their rights and that its service provision is supplementary to the government’s.

6. The emphasis on results was universal. Busan promises to work on data split up according to gender and to support local statistical capacity.

7. Host country South Korea is a perfect illustration that economic growth is of fundamental importance to development. Busan made a joint statement in which participants recognise the increasing role of the private sector - internationally and within the countries - in the development field.

8. The outcome document is addressed explicitly to the donors who are on the side of the Paris Declaration and the Accra Action Agenda (AAA). The developing countries insisted on continuing to deal with this agenda of unfinished points.

9. Busan recognises the growing complexity of aid architecture. There is a proliferation of initiatives and aid providers. It is advisable to have more cooperation in the developing countries and more coherence between the international institutions and their programmes.

10. When it comes to climate funding, all eyes are on the traditional and “innovative” government and private-sector cash flows. The UN and the OECD-DAC each have their own guidelines to report on climate funding. To make this more transparent, the Belgian Development Cooperation worked intensely to harmonise the guidelines for reporting on climate funding.

11. South-South Cooperation was recognised as a welcome supplement to the more traditional North-South Cooperation.

12. A targeted Gender Action Plan was approved, for which Belgium also expressed its approval.
New Deal for fragile states

The themes of vulnerability and fragile states have gained in importance since 2000. The OECD’s Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) took stock of a number of relevant findings. These show that the increased interest is not resulting in improvements in the field itself.

DIALOGUE

The fragile states (the “G7+”, a group of 19 states in conflict situations and vulnerability) and donors held intense and complex discussions. They met at the “International Dialogue on Consolidation of Peace and Statebuilding”. This resulted in a consensus on a “New Deal”, which was proposed in Busan, during the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. This document sets a framework of five goals to improve interventions and their impact in conflict situations: to foster inclusive and legitimate politics, strengthen people’s security and access to justice, generate economic foundations, collect revenue and build fair service delivery to citizens.

The New Deal is divided into two main chapters, namely FOCUS and TRUST:

- **FOCUS** stresses the importance of a development policy in the partner countries.
- **TRUST** sums up a series of commitments concerning more transparency, risk-sharing, the use and strengthening of country systems, the strengthening of capacities and the timeliness and predictability of aid.

This New Deal will come into effect in a number of partner countries, with the help of donors and on a voluntary basis.
Belgium and the New Deal

Belgium helped prepare the New Deal in 2011. Our country showed its support for the New Deal by way of a letter signed by Olivier Chastel, the former Minister for Development Cooperation. At the same time, Belgium passed on a number of remarks that our country regards as fundamental for the reinforced execution of the New Deal. Among other things these concern matters such as quality improvement of the dialogue with the partner countries, increased transparency of this exchange, better use of the resources that are available in the partner countries involved and a stronger incentive to involve various actors (more specifically civil society) in implementing the development policy. Moreover, the Director-General of DGD raised Belgium’s experience in Burundi as an example of high-quality projects.

In 2011, a major evaluation of 32 direct bilateral cooperation projects in 12 partner countries of the Belgian Development Cooperation was carried out. The aim of the evaluation was to zoom in on the performance of the Belgian Development Agency (BTC) and its capacity to execute high-quality projects.

The selected projects were all coming to an end and therefore made it possible to form a clear image of the results achieved. As the following table shows, achieving good results throughout and fully realising objectives is still no simple matter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relevance</th>
<th>Effectiveness</th>
<th>Efficiency</th>
<th>Sustainability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very good</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bad</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Good results were achieved in 19 out of the 32 projects, while expectations were not fulfilled for 13 projects. So, what are the factors that cause a project to succeed or not to succeed?

First of all, a good project starts with good planning, because this lays the foundation for smooth execution, achieving results and the sustainability of these results. The relevance figures show that the projects receive a particularly good evaluation. One of the factors considered here was the involvement of local partners and beneficiaries in the planning process. It appeared that there was definitely this involvement, which ensures that the Belgian projects are well-embedded in local structures and therefore have a good chance of enjoying further structural support. This is also apparent from the positive sustainability figures, the explanation for which is largely that projects are properly integrated in local structures and the activities continue to be supported after the projects have been completed.

Then what does explain the fact that not all the results are equally good? A striking observation was that 22 of the 32 projects were extended. An obvious explanation for this is the fact that the circumstances under which work needs to be performed are not always equally easy. A lack of stability, climatological conditions and difficult administrative procedures (both in Belgium and in the partner countries) are some of the main factors causing a lack of time. On the other hand, some cases once again demonstrated the importance of good planning. For certain projects, the estimation of the time required to achieve the goals was not entirely realistic. These reasons combined resulted in the extension of so many projects. However, extension, per se, is not necessarily negative; on the contrary. The extensions often meant that the projects were still able to achieve good results.

It remains a major challenge, however, to make these results sustainable. Although we can clearly see good sustainability figures, primarily based on the fact that projects are properly integrated in local structures, the financial sustainability aspect remains to be a problem. This is an age-old issue for cooperation development as a whole, which still poses a major challenge.

Belgian Involvement in MOPAN Network Praised

The Multilateral Organisations Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN) was established in 2002 and has 16 member states. MOPAN developed an evaluation tool that measures the organisational and institutional effectiveness of multilateral development organisations. Belgium became a member in February 2010 because our country wants the partner organisations to be managed correctly and effectively. Belgium became actively involved in the assessments in 2011.

Efficient Management

The MOPAN network consists of like-minded countries. They have a common interest, namely to gather quality information on efficiently managing multilateral organisations. Generating these data has two objectives:

1. It allows the MOPAN member states to call their parliaments and civil societies to account (accountability);

2. MOPAN also contributes to the increased organisational and institutional effectiveness of multilateral development organisations, because it also positively affects the efficiency of development (cooperation) in the long term.

With this aim in mind, MOPAN assesses five or six multilateral development organisations every year, both at their headquarters and in ten or so partner countries. In 2011, MOPAN screened the following institutions: FAO...
BELGIUM’S COMMITMENT

During the attaché days at the beginning of May 2011, a briefing was dedicated to MOPAN. This was aimed at informing the attachés for international cooperation on the possibilities and implications of Belgian membership of MOPAN. Belgium’s commitments with regard to the MOPAN assessments were also presented there. Belgium did, after all, take on the following responsibilities in 2011:

- to brief and familiarise UNHCR with the MOPAN assessment, in cooperation with Norway, and to organise regular exchange with the Executive Direction and Management (EDM) of UNHCR to discuss the actual content of the MOPAN reports.
- to brief and familiarise the Tanzanian government with the MOPAN assessment, in cooperation with Canada; to present the network’s expectations of the government.

Both of these matters put Belgium at the heart of MOPAN assessments, both in the field (in Tanzania) and at a more institutional level (for UNHCR in Geneva). This was the opportunity for Belgium to counter misunderstandings and prejudices concerning MOPAN.

Belgium substantiated its commitment in the MOPAN network and proposed to organise the second MOPAN meeting at the Egmont Palace in Brussels on 24 and 25 May 2011. During this technical work meeting, progress was made in two important fields:

1. the institutional future of MOPAN: in what way can hosting arrangements be made for the MOPAN secretariat at the OECD?
2. the expansion of the MOPAN assessments to the effectiveness of development cooperation: how to develop a reliable methodology and carry out a pilot project in 2012?

RECOGNITION

It is also worth mentioning that during the MOPAN meeting in Brussels, Belgium received a prize for its excellent participation in the MOPAN assessments in 2011. The Belgian respondents of DGD and the Permanent Representation to the multilateral organisations reached a participation rate of 90%, the highest reply rate, second only to Finland (94%).

At the end of 2011, it was also decided that Belgium, together with France, should act as a coordinator for MOPAN’s work in Morocco. Our mission in Rabat must therefore cooperate as effectively as possible with its French counterpart and, in so doing, make MOPAN’s goals and expectations clear to the Moroccan government.

Conflict prevention and peacebuilding in DR Congo

No development without peace. This simple observation is increasingly inspiring donors to invest in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. This also applies to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where the long-running conflict in the east is slowing down the country’s revitalisation.

Investments in conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy are counted as Official Development Assistance (ODA) expenses. But do they also yield results? If it is often so difficult to achieve development results, may we still hope that it is possible to influence conflicts?
ANALYSING THE FACTORS CAUSING CONFLICT

For two years, the Special Evaluation Office of International Cooperation worked on a report that can provide a basis for future intervention strategies regarding peacebuilding and conflict prevention in Eastern Congo.

A team of fifteen advisors of eight different nationalities was set up to make the assessment for a period of twelve months in 2009 and 2010. The team was supported by four consultative groups in Kinshasa, Goma, Bukavu and Bunia. The research results and recommendations were presented in 2011.

The analysis involved the provinces of North and South Kivu and the Ituri district, which is situated on the borders with Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda. The team examined the policy of six bilateral donors and five multilateral organisations and identified the main factors causing conflict. Subsequently, the advisors looked for practical results in influencing these conflict factors through some fifty interventions.

CONFLICT ACCELERATORS

The assessment raised four issues as important “conflict accelerators” that have an effect on the area:

- weakness of the state in rural areas: no service provision, irregular salary payment and inadequate infrastructure;
- frequent land ownership disputes that are related to incompatibility between common and statutory law, resulting in numerous demographic shifts due to the war and the exploitation of natural resources (primarily forestry and mining);
- political entrepreneurs seize economic and political opportunities and mobilise armed groups. These groups often split up and slow down the processes of demobilisation and integration in the army or in society;
- the formation of unofficial structures for the exploitation of resources, particularly the control of mineral resources by smugglers, armed groups and criminal networks.

CONCLUSIONS

Since it is practically impossible to coordinate international aid with state strategies, work in the area of conflict prevention and peace building is primarily done through projects. The general obstacle in this is the distance that separates the donors from the actual local situation, which this approach does not solve. One project after another is started, but the projects are barely inter-related and the programming does not always improve cohesion.

However, international organisations are attaching increasingly greater importance to factors causing conflict, direct investments in “DDR” (disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration) and the exploitation of the extractive industry. Due to a lack of programmes that are adjusted to the local situation, the overall effect of the efforts still remains smaller than the sum of the parts.

It is difficult to identify how much progress has been made through the interventions in the field of conflict prevention and peacebuilding, since there is no contextual analysis. In fact, operational tools, such as humanitarian aid, fill up the void that is left by policy strategy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

If all of this is regarded as a strategic priority for development in the DR Congo, actions concerning conflict prevention and peacebuilding must be adjusted to justify the €1 billion that is spent on it every year. A new, simpler approach with two requirements is needed: taking the reality in the field as a starting point and establishing new partnerships. The evaluation provided 3 recommendations.

Recommendation 1: Base programming, monitoring and evaluation analyses on conflict

Programmes concerning conflict prevention and peacebuilding must play a central role in the international aid approach. This requires permanent analysis of peace and conflict accelerators, such as disputes on land ownership, social environment, armed group activity and the socio-economic conditions regarding mining sites. More resources must be made available for situation analyses in the east of the country. Eventually, this will save resources.

Recommendation 2: Restore the balance between sectors and encourage joint interventions

Programming for donors must be based on a determination of the different sectors’ added value in the field of conflict prevention and peacebuilding. It must be based on a larger number of joint interventions.

Recommendation 3: Establish a new relationship with the Congolese state and form real coalitions at a local level

If the international organisations define their relationship with the central government and local authorities more clearly, they can develop new forms of cooperation. These must be incorporated in a new approach.

A new, simpler approach with two requirements is needed: taking the reality in the field as a starting point and establishing new partnerships.
Fourth Stakeholders Meeting of the Belgian Development Cooperation

The Stakeholders Meeting is an annual forum for the Belgian Development Cooperation policymakers, the government, civil society, politicians and academics. This event aims to provide information on international development trends and to reflect on Belgian development policy.

These are difficult budget years; there is no guarantee at all that the socio-economic progress of the past 50 years has finally been achieved and we are being confronted with a fast-changing world with new challenges, new developments and new actors. Within this context, development cooperation must also question its specific role and be able to prove itself now more than ever before.

Hence the choice for “Recent trends in international development efforts” as the central theme for the 2011 Stakeholders Meeting. This theme was raised in a plenary debate in the morning. During the afternoon session, working groups debated two specific themes: “Towards a new role for the private sector?” and “Humanitarian aid and structural development aid – converging agendas?”

Speakers included Kristalina Georgieva, European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, Brian Atwood, Chairman of the OECD Development Assistance Committee - DAC and Piet Vanthemsche, President of the Boerenbond (Catholic Belgian Farmers Union) and of AgriCord.
3. OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA)

In 2000, the Belgian Government promised that, by 2010, it would achieve the United Nations standard, which provides that industrial countries must spend 0.7% of their gross national income (GNI) on development cooperation. This growth rate was established by law in 2002. This makes Belgium more ambitious than the European Union, which has stipulated 2015 as the target date.

GROWTH RATE UNTIL 2010
Until 2007, Belgian ODA fluctuated between 0.40% and 0.50%, according to the GNI, with an exceptional peak in 2003 (0.60%) due to an extensive debt relief in favour of the DR Congo. In 2008, the government confirmed its intention of achieving 0.7% of GNI in 2010 and since then, ODA rose from 0.43% in 2007 to 0.64% in 2010, or €2.265 billion, the highest figure that Belgium has ever achieved. With this percentage, Belgium placed itself sixth on the list of the OECD’s DAC assistance committee’s donors, after Luxembourg, the Scandinavian countries and the Netherlands.

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

REGRESSION IN 2011
In 2011, the Belgian ODA fell to slightly more than €2 billion or approximately 0.53% of GNI. Important causes of this reduction are the lack of extensive debt relief operations and the fact that the budget for development cooperation could not increase sufficiently to offset this, due to a tense budget situation. Moreover, during the prolonged term of the caretaker government it was not possible to enter into long-term commitments with partners, which made it more difficult to implement the budget.

> 37% of the budget for development cooperation was realised by way of multilateral channels. The largest posts are the mandatory contributions to the International Development Association (IDA) and the European Development Fund and the voluntary contributions to the 21 multilateral cooperation partner organisations. 22% went to bilateral cooperation. The lion’s share of this was realised by way of the Belgian Development Agency (BTC).

> 18% was allocated by way of various partners, such as non-governmental organisations, universities, scientific institutions, organisations for education abroad, municipalities and provinces, trade unions, etc.

> Humanitarian spending amounted to approximately 12%. Support to the private sector, mainly through the Belgian Investment Company for Developing Countries (BIO), amounts to approximately 9%, the spending of the Belgian Fund for Food Security and on awareness-raising were 1.5% and 0.5%, respectively.

TRANSPARENT AND ACCESSIBLE DATA
Both on the international and on Belgian level, a great deal of attention in 2011 was afforded to aid transparency as one of the five key factors of aid effectiveness, as formulated in the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action. All partners in the aid community - partner countries, donors, civil society and researchers - do, after all, need relevant information and figures on aid activities that have already been realised and on those that are still to be realised in future. However, donors currently often do not succeed in providing these in good time or systematically.

At the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan (South Korea), Belgium committed itself, along with many others, to continue to work on improving the public accessibility of information on development cooperation. These include the following commitments:

1. to make all information on ODA activities publicly accessible: funding, arrangements, conditions and possible contribution to development results;

2. at the level of the developing country, to strive to achieve transparent public finance management and to set up aid information management systems. This is why everybody’s capacity must be reinforced to make better use of this information in decision-making processes and to promote accountability;

3. to implement a common open standard for the electronic publication of timely, comprehensive and predictive information on aid. It has been arranged that an agreement on the exact details of this standard must be reached by December 2012 and that it must be systematically applied by December 2015.

Belgian Official Development Assistance is composed of various expenses:
- contributions entered in the development cooperation budget, which amounts to approximately 60% of the total ODA;
- budgets of other federal public services, including Belgian aid by way of the European Commission, a part of the expenses for accommodating refugees and a part of the expenses for students from developing countries who study in Belgium;
- contributions of regions, communities, provinces and municipalities;
- internationally arranged debt relief. In 2010, this mainly concerned the debt of the DR Congo and Congo Brazzaville and in 2011 that of Togo and Liberia.
When this annual report went to the press, only the figures for the budgets managed by the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation (DGD) were available, complete and checked. The figures and graphs provided below therefore also refer only to official development aid provided by DGD (DGD aid).

Official development aid of other budget holders (other federal public services, regions, communities, provinces and municipalities) can be consulted at www.dg-d.be (under the “Statistics” heading) as of July 2012.

### Regional distribution of DGD aid

#### Absolute figures in millions of euros

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFRICA</td>
<td>(37.48%)</td>
<td>501.75 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIA</td>
<td>(6.71%)</td>
<td>89.80 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMERICA</td>
<td>(5.94%)</td>
<td>79.50 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUROPE ODA</td>
<td>(0.03%)</td>
<td>0.41 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIVERSAL/INDETERMINATE/BELGIUM</td>
<td>(49.84%)</td>
<td>667.09 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1,338.53 million</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Relative figures in %

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NORTH AFRICA</td>
<td>6.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA</td>
<td>30.59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIA</td>
<td>6.71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMERICA</td>
<td>5.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUROPE ODA</td>
<td>0.03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIVERSAL/INDETERMINATE/BELGIUM</td>
<td>49.84%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

© EU, 2010

© EU, 2010
## Summary table of DGD aid per channel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIRECTORATE-GENERAL DEVELOPMENT (DGD)</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Governmental cooperation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical cooperation and scholarships</td>
<td>160,515,819</td>
<td>178,857,533</td>
<td>207,378,414</td>
<td>207,394,349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delegated cooperation</td>
<td>18,174,701</td>
<td>29,895,700</td>
<td>25,935,784</td>
<td>16,385,216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional cooperation</td>
<td>2,200,000</td>
<td>9,244,590</td>
<td>8,100,000</td>
<td>11,700,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General and sectoral budget aid</td>
<td>27,377,140</td>
<td>20,531,193</td>
<td>47,246,017</td>
<td>25,137,498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special emergency aid for Central Africa</td>
<td>20,500,000</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microprojects</td>
<td>3,467,803</td>
<td>2,638,488</td>
<td>3,721,098</td>
<td>3,311,247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operation costs BTC</td>
<td>21,032,890</td>
<td>21,512,000</td>
<td>21,431,214</td>
<td>21,847,411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State-to-state loans</td>
<td>16,045,620</td>
<td>28,355,900</td>
<td>32,897,662</td>
<td>4,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal Governmental cooperation</strong></td>
<td>269,313,972</td>
<td>291,535,404</td>
<td>346,710,188</td>
<td>289,975,721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-Governmental cooperation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO programme financing</td>
<td>99,612,783</td>
<td>125,299,255</td>
<td>117,842,543</td>
<td>123,316,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VOB</td>
<td>8,452,767</td>
<td>8,999,999</td>
<td>9,199,988</td>
<td>9,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APEFE</td>
<td>8,094,522</td>
<td>9,000,000</td>
<td>9,200,000</td>
<td>9,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VLIR</td>
<td>28,729,721</td>
<td>30,192,922</td>
<td>30,690,970</td>
<td>33,633,818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIF/CUD</td>
<td>23,782,966</td>
<td>26,721,492</td>
<td>27,984,233</td>
<td>28,683,876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific institutions</td>
<td>14,150,776</td>
<td>15,712,880</td>
<td>17,290,455</td>
<td>17,120,199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local civil society</td>
<td>5,999,580</td>
<td>5,387,145</td>
<td>3,633,911</td>
<td>3,179,839</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africilia</td>
<td>2,015,000</td>
<td>2,360,000</td>
<td>2,125,000</td>
<td>1,529,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other non-governmental</td>
<td>10,425,793</td>
<td>9,358,774</td>
<td>10,109,729</td>
<td>11,915,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal Non-governmental cooperation</strong></td>
<td>201,263,907</td>
<td>233,032,467</td>
<td>228,076,839</td>
<td>238,378,863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Multilateral cooperation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obligatory multilateral contributions</td>
<td>9,049,347</td>
<td>10,082,195</td>
<td>10,922,064</td>
<td>10,605,208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary multilateral contributions</td>
<td>94,567,930</td>
<td>111,180,728</td>
<td>113,153,830</td>
<td>121,059,169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Development Fund and Bank</td>
<td>132,560,006</td>
<td>135,044,009</td>
<td>146,608,405</td>
<td>119,919,211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Bank Group</td>
<td>175,320,000</td>
<td>192,030,000</td>
<td>194,294,000</td>
<td>132,430,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Development Banks</td>
<td>30,860,353</td>
<td>45,655,381</td>
<td>27,669,325</td>
<td>62,457,975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental treaties</td>
<td>12,679,354</td>
<td>24,683,448</td>
<td>38,334,019</td>
<td>33,340,019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multilateral debt cancellation</td>
<td>18,674,711</td>
<td>15,060,874</td>
<td>16,150,608</td>
<td>18,255,953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal Multilateral cooperation</strong></td>
<td>473,711,701</td>
<td>444,719,636</td>
<td>462,125,381</td>
<td>503,061,536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Belgian Fund for Food Security</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governmental / management / awareness raising</td>
<td>13,313,634</td>
<td>8,218,146</td>
<td>2,693,421</td>
<td>3,138,718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Via NGOs</td>
<td>13,843,855</td>
<td>15,681,107</td>
<td>9,181,907</td>
<td>12,249,759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Via multilateral institutions</td>
<td>6,484,181</td>
<td>7,543,855</td>
<td>4,666,001</td>
<td>5,864,392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal Belgian Fund for Food Security</strong></td>
<td>33,641,671</td>
<td>31,443,107</td>
<td>16,541,329</td>
<td>21,252,869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community building</strong></td>
<td>19,183,806</td>
<td>27,112,570</td>
<td>35,201,208</td>
<td>48,908,085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanitarian and food aid</td>
<td>26,960,444</td>
<td>56,057,930</td>
<td>97,983,370</td>
<td>106,913,322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support to the private sector, BIO</td>
<td>44,626,496</td>
<td>142,351,398</td>
<td>118,322,746</td>
<td>120,438,248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest subsidies (2004-2009)</td>
<td>13,053,489</td>
<td>18,517,825</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awareness raising in Belgium (excl. NGOs)</td>
<td>6,022,630</td>
<td>5,494,561</td>
<td>9,935,828</td>
<td>7,370,453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration, evaluation, other</td>
<td>1,213,826</td>
<td>1,505,431</td>
<td>2,673,300</td>
<td>2,232,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total DGD</strong></td>
<td>1,088,991,943</td>
<td>1,251,770,330</td>
<td>1,317,570,188</td>
<td>1,338,531,417</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DGD aid per channel

GOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION ........................................ 21.7%
NON-GOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION ................................. 17.8%
MULTILATERAL COOPERATION .......................................... 37.6%
BELGIAN FUND FOR FOOD SECURITY .............................. 1.6%
COMMUNITY BUILDING .................................................. 3.7%
HUMANITARIAN AND FOOD AID ...................................... 8.0%
SUPPORT TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR, BIO ........................... 9.0%
AWARENESS RAISING IN BELGIUM (EXCL. NGOS) .............. 0.6%
ADMINISTRATION, EVALUATION, OTHER ......................... 0.2%

DGD aid per sector

EDUCATION .......................................................... 136,0 million
HEALTHCARE ................................................... 122,5 million
POPULATION AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE ............ 27,7 million
WATER AND SANITATION ........................................... 57,1 million
GOVERNMENT AND CIVIL SOCIETY .............................. 131,4 million
CONFLICT, PEACE, SECURITY ...................................... 6,2 million
SOCIAL SERVICES .................................................. 37,2 million
TRANSPORT AND STORAGE ........................................ 54,3 million
COMMUNICATION ................................................... 0,4 million
ENERGY ............................................................... 43,9 million
BANKS AND FINANCIAL SERVICES ............................... 117,9 million
COMpanies .......................................................... 4,3 million
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING ............................ 122,3 million
INDUSTRY, MINING AND CONSTRUCTION ..................... 13,7 million
TRADE AND TOURISM ............................................... 12,7 million
CONSERVATION .................................................... 48,8 million
MULTISECTOR ........................................................ 76,6 million
HUMANITARIAN AID ................................................ 144,6 million
FOOD AID ............................................................ 5,6 million
GENERAL BUDGET SUPPORT ................................. 36,9 million
DEBT RELIEF ......................................................... 55,9 million
AWARENESS-RAISING IN BELGIUM ............................ 18,3 million
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS ......................................... 22,8 million
SECTOR NON SPECIFIED ......................................... 41,6 million
Regional distribution of governmental DGD aid

Absolute figures in millions of euros

- AFRICA ................................................... (37.48%) 227.30 million
- ASIA ............................................................ (6.71%) 24.54 million
- AMERICA ..................................................... (5.94%) 19.92 million
- UNIVERSAL/INDETERMINATE/BELGIUM ...... (49.84%) 18.21 million
- TOTAL ...................................................................... 298.98 million

Relative figures in %

- NORTH AFRICA ......................................................... 7.38 %
- SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA ........................................ 71.01 %
- ASIA .................................................................................... 8.46 %
- AMERICA .............................................................................. 6.87 %
- UNIVERSAL/INDETERMINATE/BELGIUM ......................... 6.28 %
Regional distribution of non-governmental DGD aid

Absolute figures in millions of euros

AFRICA ...................................................... (39.06%) 93.12 million
ASIA ........................................................... (8.70%) 20.75 million
AMERICA ................................................... (15.37%) 36.64 million
UNIVERSAL/INDETERMINATE/BELGIUM ...... (36.87%) 87.88 million
TOTAL ...................................................................... 238.38 million

Relative figures in %

NORTH AFRICA ............................................................. 1.68%
SUB-SAHARIAN AFRICA ........................................... 37.38%
ASIA ................................................................................. 8.70%
AMERICA ........................................................................... 15.37%
UNIVERSAL/INDETERMINATE/BELGIUM ............... 36.87%

Distribution of non-governmental DGD aid per channel

NGO PROGRAMME FINANCING ............................................. 51.73%
VWOB ................................................................................. 3.99%
APEFE ................................................................................. 3.99%
VLIR ................................................................................. 14.11%
CIUF/CUD ......................................................................... 12.03%
SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS .............................................. 7.18%
LOCAL CIVIL SOCIETY ...................................................... 1.33%
AFRICALIA ......................................................................... 0.64%
OTHER NON-GOVERNMENTAL ........................................... 5.00%
The tiger is still young
Renewed cooperation with Vietnam

Vietnam is facing new challenges because its economy is climbing steeply. Belgium and Vietnam signed a new Indicative Cooperation Programme in the amount of €60 million for the period of 2011-2015. The agreement emphasises the reform of the government administrative service and water and sanitary provisions, sectors in which Belgium already operates and which are very important to Vietnam.

LESS DEPENDENT ON DONORS

After Vietnam succeeded in achieving middle-income country status in 2010, the question arises as to why Belgium continues to financially assist Vietnam. After all, is Vietnam not one of those Asian tigers that presents a growth rate of 6 to 7 percent every year? Did Vietnam not reduce poverty to less than 10 percent in 2010?

A large number of donors, including Sweden, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, are therefore reducing their financial commitments. Official development aid has fallen below 5% of Vietnam’s gross national income. The country has therefore become much less dependent on donors, since its economic development is generating own income. The volume of Belgium’s official development assistance puts it seventh on the list of European Member State donors to Vietnam.

NEW CHALLENGES

Over the last few decades, Vietnam has pulled some 2 million inhabitants out of poverty every year. Vietnam has also attained most of the Millennium Goals, with the exception of Millennium Goal 6 (deadly diseases) and Millennium Goal 7 (a sustainable environment). This progress was achieved not only thanks to donor assistance, but also and above all thanks to considerable industrial development. As a low wage country, Vietnam is able to produce goods cheaply.

But this evolution also has its price: working conditions are often miserable, natural resources are being sacrificed at an alarming rate and pollution is rife. Add to this the fact that Vietnam is set to be severely hit by climate change - rising sea levels would cause the partial flooding of the fertile rice fields in the south of the country - and one understands that Vietnam will urgently need to adjust its current course. If it refuses to make these changes, there is a major possibility that it will again end up in the group of poor or low-income countries.

In view of the competition with other low-wage countries, Vietnam urgently needs to invest more in education to improve its human capital and domestic innovation. And Vietnam will have to concentrate on “good governance” that promotes innovation and combats corruption. Thirdly, the country’s government must implement all relevant regulations on the safety of products, intellectual property law and consumer law.

ICP 2007-2010

The previous Indicative Cooperation Programme between Belgium and Vietnam provided little occasion to learn from the results achieved and policy dialogue was also limited. However, the new ICP created a number of opportunities to improve these points.

In recent years, Belgium has invested in improving the quality of accessible primary health care by way of the KICH project (Key Improvements in Community Health). Although this project was well-integrated at local authority
level, it was not linked to the national health policy. This meant that the project risked becoming irrelevant and - worse still - of opposing Vietnamese policy. During the negotiations for the new ICP, Belgium therefore underlined the necessity that Vietnam should learn from this so that it would, in the end, be able to develop better strategies.

ICP 2011-2015

Vietnamese society is characterised by fast industrialisation and urbanisation and is extremely vulnerable to the consequences of climate change. A coherent policy regarding water, waste processing and urban planning is therefore of vital importance. For this reason, the renewed agreement emphasises the reform of the government administrative service and water and sanitary provisions. The modernisation of the management of government administration is an important reform for better governance and an essential component of sustainable socio-economic development. The new cooperation programme is therefore intended to reinforce government staff capacity. The budget for education was tripled. A contribution will also be reserved, as part of a delegated cooperation, for a United Nations programme. This programme must support Vietnam in its efforts to improve parliamentary follow-up and monitoring, in increasing its fight against corruption and in increasing the involvement of citizens, the media and local civil society.

Furthermore, an economic programme which will strengthen the ties between Belgian and Vietnamese enterprises was also developed. Belgium has already held exploratory talks on cooperation concerning food security. University cooperation between both countries is also exploring new ground (see frame).

Universities put cooperation on a new track

In a Memorandum of Understanding of April 2011, Belgian and Vietnamese universities expressed their wish to renew their cooperation. From now on, the emphasis will be on joint education programmes and research. There will also be experiments with public-private cooperation formulas. In addition, the universities also want to coordinate their grant programmes better.

Vietnamese partner universities, such as Can Tho University, with which there has been intense cooperation since 1990, have now flourished to become internationally recognized, dynamic educational and research institutions. Belgian universities will cooperate with them on a more equal footing in future. The traditional approach to university development cooperation remains advisable for the less developed Vietnamese institutions.

A significant number of former Vietnamese grant recipients at Belgian universities currently hold top positions in Vietnam in the political, business and academic worlds. A Vietnamese alumni website was developed (www.vietbelalumni.org) at the initiative of the Belgian Development Cooperation in Hanoi.
Rwanda takes control
Renewed cooperation with Rwanda

Despite its strong economic growth and a determined government, Rwanda is still a country that depends heavily on aid. The aid sector in the country is well structured and there is a strong will on the part of the Rwandans to take command. It is the second largest beneficiary of Belgian Development Cooperation, after the DR Congo. Belgium's renewed cooperation puts Belgium in line with the development priorities of the Rwandan government. For the 2011-2014 period, €160 million has been reserved for health care, energy and decentralisation, and special attention is afforded to good governance.

GROWTH, PROGRESS AND POVERTY

Rwanda is a very densely populated country, with an estimated population of 11 million inhabitants in an area of 26,338 km² (Belgium: 30,528 km²). Approximately 85% of the population are farmers, over half have an income below the poverty line and a third even live in extreme poverty. On the Human Development Index 2011, Rwanda ranked 166th out of a total of 187 countries. Although the economic progress and the Rwandan government’s determination may be very impressive, the country still continues to contend with serious poverty.

As regards health care, recent data show remarkable progress. The number of fully vaccinated children reached 93% in 2009, whereas this was still 75% in 2006. The number of assisted births rose to 66.2% during the same period. This remarkable progress can largely be attributed to the medical aid fund becoming increasingly more established, including among the less well-off. For those who are too poor to contribute to medical aid, a system of diversified contributions according to income is implemented and cash transfers to the poorest of the poor are organised, the aim of which is to eventually cover the entire population.

80% of the population have access to clean drinking water and 56% to sanitary provisions. In 2010-2011, 260 km of new rural water pipelines were installed and 290 km of pipelines were repaired. Work was also done to protect 400 water sources. To attain the Millennium Goal for this sector, another 2.2 million people must be given access to clean drinking water and another 4 million to sanitary provisions by 2015. Most problems in this regard are in the cities, especially in Kigali.

DEPENDENT ON AID BUT STRUCTURED AND HAVING MUCH OWNERSHIP

Rwanda remains tremendously dependent on foreign aid. Although there is a downward trend, approximately 50% of the governmental budget in the fiscal year 2009-2010 consisted of donor money and foreign loans. Rwanda receives general budget support - the government’s preferred form of aid - from the World Bank, the European Union, the African Development Bank, the United Kingdom and Germany. Belgium and the Netherlands provide sector budget support.

Compared to other poor countries, development cooperation in Rwanda is very well-structured. The national Poverty Reduction Strategy, to which the current cooperation programme is geared, is monitored by the Rwandan government, partners and ministries. Despite its high dependence...
on aid, the country’s ownership of the development agenda is very high. Reducing aid dependence and increasing local authority income are exceptionally high up on the Rwandan government’s agenda, as is attracting foreign investments.

QUALITY OF GOVERNANCE
Rwanda’s thorough campaign to eradicate corruption seems to be yielding results. Between 2008 and 2010, Rwanda climbed 44 places on Transparency International’s Corruption Perception Index (CPI) (from 102nd to 66th out of 180 countries). This makes Rwanda 6th of the 48 African countries included in the index.

Rwanda’s ownership of the national development agenda is very high, which is remarkable for a country where almost 50% of the governmental budget consists of donor money. The Rwandan vision on development is formulated in “Vision 2020”, a document that strongly stresses economic growth and export promotion. Public finances are managed well and much attention is paid to possible improvements.

Nevertheless, institutional capacity remains a problem, even after years of efforts. This is caused mainly by the fact that highly qualified government staff frequently change jobs to join other services, NGOs and international institutions.

RECENT EVOLUTION IN BELGIAN AID
Rwanda is the second largest beneficiary of the Belgian Development Cooperation, after the DR Congo. Belgian official development aid to the country increased from €32.5 million in 2007 to €50.5 million in 2010. In terms of financial volume, this ranks Belgium the sixth largest donor to Rwanda and third largest bilateral donor after the USA and the United Kingdom. The Indicative Cooperation Programme 2007-2010 focused on health care, justice, education and rural development. A substantial part of this programme is currently still being carried out. The most important challenge that the Belgian cooperation in Rwanda currently faces is to reduce fragmentation. In this respect, the new ICP brings comfort.

ICP 2011-2014
The 2011-2014 cooperation programme is fully in line with the division of labour between donors which was approved in July 2010. Belgium was allocated the health care, energy and decentralisation sectors. The sectors represent a good balance between Rwandan development priorities and Belgian expertise. However, this also means that sectors such as agriculture and education, which were important cornerstones of Belgian aid in the past, have been discontinued. 2011 was thus characterised by the termination of a number of bilateral agriculture projects than arose from earlier cooperation programmes.

Belgium is one of the main donors of support to Rwandan civil society. This support is provided both directly and indirectly and is considered as an important part of the Belgian Development Cooperation in the country. During the period of June 2010 - June 2011, Belgium supported 16 local NGOs and 20 Belgian NGOs operating in Rwanda and it supervised 4 Belgian Fund for Food Security projects.

BUDGET AND PRIORITIES
The new Indicative Cooperation Programme 2011-2014, signed in May 2011, amounts to €160 million spread over 4 years (the previous ICP amounted to €145 million). The largest part of this amount will be spent on health care and energy. These two sectors will receive financing in the amount of €55 million each. The decentralisation sector will receive €28 million.

The new ICP pays special attention to good governance. By investing in decentralisation, Belgium is showing that good governance and democracy are important facets in its development policy. The approach is intended to result in particular attention being paid to participation, transparency and accountability.

The new cooperation programmes attach a great deal of importance to political and economic management and human rights, in terms not only of determining the budget, but also by way of specific support and political dialogue. In the ICP with Rwanda, Belgium has included a system of “incentive tranches”. This system allows an additional budget of €40 million to be released, providing that a number of conditions regarding good governance and freedom of the press are met. The aim is to encourage reforms and progress regarding governance, which is an indispensable element for development.
New hope for a strong Palestinian State

The renewed cooperation with the Palestinian Territory

Belgium is opting for continued and increased support in its renewed cooperation with the Palestinian Territory. With the new Indicative Cooperation Programme, it supports the development priorities of the Palestinian Authority. Education and local government remain the two focal sectors of Belgian aid. However, the political context and the occupation of the Palestinian Territory make the work more difficult.

HARD WORK

Much has changed since Belgium started its cooperation with Palestine in 1997: the second intifada (2000-2003), the construction of the separation wall (which started in 2002) and the checkpoints on the West Bank, Hamas’ 2006 election victory with the subsequent crisis between Hamas and Fatah and Hamas’ assumption of power in Gaza. All of this had a negative impact on development cooperation in economic development of Palestine.

While political processes evolve along with economic progress in most countries, Palestine’s economic breakthrough largely depends on the political peace process. 2011 was a very important year in this respect. The Arab Spring revived hope for improvement in the region. Palestine wants to have its independence recognised in the UN, the Fayyad Plan can lead to state-building and reconciliation between Fatah and Hamas slowly got under way. The donor community, which increased its resources after the period of Palestinian crisis in 2006-2007, seems to be rather hesitant again, partly due to the financial crisis in the West.

IN A TENSE ATMOSPHERE

The delicate political situation and occupation hinder the implementation of the cooperation agreements and have a negative impact on many aspects of development work, such as personnel, contracts, access, transport, expenses, etc. The quality of the Palestinian government, which is crucial for aid effectiveness, is, of course, influenced by the tense political situation. In general, however, it is fair to say that aid is becoming increasingly more efficient after the 2006-2007 crisis, thanks partly to the efforts of Prime Minister Fayyad’s government.

While political processes evolve along with economic progress in most countries, Palestine’s economic breakthrough largely depends on the political peace process.

Belgian Development Cooperation has also caught up in recent years. The difficult political situation caused the implementation of the Indicative Cooperation Programme 2000-2006 to stand under heavy pressure for a long time. Since 2008, however, Belgium has been continuing its bilateral activities and outlay with increasing intensity.

PALESTINIAN PRIORITIES

The broad strokes of the Palestinian Authorities’ development policy are included in the Palestinian National Development Plan 2011-13. The primary objective of the Plan is to evolve from an Occupied Palestinian Territory to a State of Palestine. The following is a brief summary of the main features of the Development Plan.

- If the creation of a State of Palestine is the highest objective, state-building is logically entered as being of primordial importance to the development policy of the young State of Palestine. The Plan repeatedly stresses state- and capacity-building;
- although Palestine is a middle-income country, it remains very dependent on international aid. The intention is therefore to manage its own financial resources efficiently and to become less dependent on foreign aid. Its own government revenue would then have to increase from $2 billion to $3 billion per year;
- although Palestine has no detailed poverty eradication strategy, the Plan pays much attention to the social aspects of poverty eradication. Specific objectives were set to support poorer population groups and the contribution to social work must rise from 28% to 35% of the development budget between 2011 and 2013;
- the main sector is and remains education. The next naturally important issues are health care and local governance but it appears that security also takes up much of the development budget;
- the Belgian development policy perfectly corresponds to this situation, with its choice of education and local governance as concentration sectors.

THE DONOR AREA

In terms of the Millennium Goals, Palestine cannot be compared to poor developing countries. Capacity and operations are reasonably high-level. The political situation, occupation and war in Gaza (end of 2008) do continue to exact a heavy toll from social development and public health, however, and make normal economic development difficult. Every inhabitant of Palestine receives an annual average of over USD 600 in foreign official development assistance (ODA). This is a very large amount and makes Palestine an aid-dependent country. The large volume
of aid is explained by the humanitarian situation caused by the occupation (border crossings, checkpoints, checks of groundwater, etc.) and the resulting impossibility of managing own natural resources.

In 2009 the top 5 (financial volume) donors in order of the amount donated, were the USA, the European Commission, Germany, Norway and Spain. With almost €20 million, Belgium occupied the fifteenth place. Taking into account Belgium’s share in the aid provided by the European Commission, Belgium was the eleventh largest donor country in 2009.

Besides the young Palestinian state institutions, local civil society also plays an important role. Here, donors and private foundations generously finance the current actors in the amount of approximately $250 million, or some 10% of the total aid. Belgium also supports civil society by contributing via several budget lines: supporting local NGOs, funding Belgian NGO programmes, conflict prevention and micro interventions.

BELGIAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

In terms of support, the Palestinian Territory is the Belgian Development Cooperation’s fourth partner country. In 2011, Belgium’s official development aid to Palestine amounted to €22.1 million. €12 million (55%) of this went to humanitarian aid (mainly via UNRWA, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees in the region), a third (€7 million) to bilateral cooperation, approximately 6% to non-governmental cooperation and 4.5% to conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy.

In 2010, Belgium put itself “among the head of the pack” for the education and local governance sectors and it is still increasing its activity in these two sectors with the new Indicative Cooperation Programme (ICP 2012-2015). Belgium would even be able to evolve towards taking the lead in both sectors, and this is more than probable for the local governance sector.
**ICP 2008-2011**

In 2008, Belgium signed a cooperation programme worth €50 million with the Palestinian Authority. The emphasis there was on education and local authorities. The main results achieved by this agreement are the construction of **9 new schools**, the improvement of the **infrastructure**, the supply of new equipment to a number of **hospitals** in Gaza and Ramallah and continued support to **local authorities**. Investments were also made in developing the capacity of and strengthening various Palestinian institutions.

The Palestinian Authority expressed its exceptional appreciation for Belgium’s **continued efforts** in the concentration sectors and for the innovative nature of the interventions. Our willingness to take on a **pioneering role** in certain subdomains of these sectors is also valued, as is the emphasis on capacity-building and institutional reinforcement.

**ICP 2012-2015**

In 2011, our country concluded a new cooperation programme with the Palestinian Authority. Over the 2012-2015 period, **€71.6 million** will go (above all) to education and local authorities. The new programme contains approximately €20 million more than the previous, and assures **continuity** through continued presence in the same concentration sectors:

The €33 million for education will primarily be used to build schools and support the improvement in **education** quality. This aid will be provided via the Joint Financing Agreement and the Education Development Strategic Plan.

The €20 million for **local authorities** are intended to enable the local Palestinian governments to effectively implement their own development policy using the Municipal Development Program. That plan must result in the revival of the local economy. In this area, work will also be carried out on regenerating historic village centres.

Four interventions were proposed for the **delegated cooperation** (€14 million): a €9 million contribution towards supporting the fight against poverty via the European Commission’s PEGASE fund, contributions for waste water treatment in Gaza via the World Bank, a UNDP environmental project, and an intervention by UN Habitat in East Jerusalem. Belgium, just like the EU, considers it important to be present in all Palestinian regions, thus including Area C on the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza.
5. BELGIAN HUMANITARIAN AID

Professional, targeted humanitarian aid

With every crisis, it appears that the world is not adequately armed to help victims of natural disasters or violence. However, since the enormous tsunami in 2004, various institutions have been making thorough analyses of which approach works and which does not. In this way the response is becoming ever more efficient.

FROM EMERGENCY AID TO HUMANITARIAN AID

Humanitarian organisations are asked to integrate the conclusions of these analyses in their daily work. Donors, such as the Belgian government, would then fund only those operations testifying to this. The most important conclusions of the analyses have been compiled in the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid.

Firstly, aid provided in accordance with humanitarian principles (neutral aid targeting the worst needs) works better. This principled approach is essential to Belgium’s acceptance and ability to supply assistance in emergency situations by way of partner organisations under circumstances that are often difficult in terms of politics and safety. Belgian input in these fundamental principles of humanitarian action is also closely linked to the conduct and commitment of all the actors in the field who are supported by Belgium.

Most needs occur during long-term, complex crises and not in cases of sudden natural disasters. It is therefore also extremely important that aid can be predicted and that input is flexible. Partners must be able to perform the work expected and be accountable.

TARGETED AND BASED ON NEEDS

It is important to be able to count on professional partners to assure proper functioning. Their accountability and services must at the least meet the quality of agreed humanitarian standards.

In case of a crisis, the administrative services make an analysis of the needs as based on the reports made by reliable organisations such as ECHO, ICRC and UN-OCHA. A financial proposal is made on the basis of such needs and Belgian expertise and possibilities. This then forms the foundation to finance particular projects with various partners.

An important part of this allocation for long-term crises or a speedy response to a sudden crisis will be made in cooperation with partners who are personally responsible for the allocation. This results in a much faster allocation of the money. Examples are the core financing of the UNHCR and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent. It is self-evident that monitoring of these funds must be thorough.

PLANS FOR CHANGE AND CONTINUITY

These reforms overturn the role of the administrative services. Besides watching over financial and administrative procedures, the interests of the victims and the results in the field also feature prominently on the foreground.

Humanitarian aid is also paying ever more attention to innovation. Until a few years ago, food packages were standard issue. But it is increasingly the case that humanitarian organisations research the possibility of providing aid supplies by way of the local markets, local purchases or even cash transfers. Technology is playing an ever-increasing role in this. The administrative services must be able to adapt their processes flexibly to these rapid evolutions.
Humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa

The largest humanitarian crisis in 2011 was the famine in the Horn of Africa. For more than a year, the refugee camps in the region experienced a hitherto unknown influx of people. The refugees will not return to their country as long as the safety situation in Somalia does not improve. This might be the biggest tragedy of all: many of them will stay there all their lives, which makes them permanent refugees, structurally dependent on humanitarian aid. Tens of thousands of young Somalis are born there as life-long refugees.

Because the rains held off, the region suffered from extreme drought. The combination of the drought and the war in Somalia led to the worst famine in the past 60 years. In the summer of 2011, the UN appealed for the collection of $2.5 billion to alleviate the most critical needs. Famine hit hardest in Somalia and Ethiopia and the influx of refugees began.

DADAAB, KENYA'S THIRD “CITY”

In this way the largest refugee camp in the world originated in Dadaab in north-eastern Kenya. At the beginning of 2012, there were more than 500,000 people. As a result of the recent influx, Dadaab has grown to be the largest “camp” in the world and the third largest “city” in Kenya. The local population of over 50,000 people is surrounded by an ever-growing ocean of tents. Tensions between the communities about the use of natural resources are a matter of course.

VISIT TO THE REFUGEE CAMP IN DADAAB

 Former Minister for Development Cooperation Olivier Chastel visited the refugee camp in Dadaab in September. The Minister did so in the company of representatives of the Consortium for Emergency Relief 1212. Journalists from the VRT (Flemish Radio and Television) and La Libre Belgique, Le Soir, Metro and Sudpresse (Belgian newspapers) accompanied him on the journey. The Minister gauged the needs of the refugees by visiting the operations of the various aid organisations (UNHCR, WFP, Oxfam, CARE, UNICEF, Handicap International, etc.): refugee registration, medical check-ups, food distribution, a school and setting up a new tent camp.

The visit by the press was an opportunity to update the Belgian population on our efforts. The Belgian Development Cooperation freed up a total of €12 million for humanitarian aid in the Horn of Africa.
€12 MILLION HUMANITARIAN AID

Due to the fact that the situation seriously worsened and reached a critical point at a certain moment during the course of 2011, an increase of humanitarian aid was urgent and necessary. As the situation worsened, Belgium released an increasing amount of money in addition to its fixed contributions to aid organisations’ general budgets (core funding). The following is a summary of the special financing for the Horn of Africa.

FIRST FUNDING - €4 million

The World Food Programme (WFP) in:
Kenya: €1 million to reduce acute malnutrition among young children and mothers, to make communities more resistant against impact and to maintain and restore resources.
Ethiopia: €1 million to reduce acute malnutrition, reinforce crisis management capacity and resistance, develop basic nutrition knowledge, improve the quality of life of people with HIV/AIDS and raise the levels of education of orphans and vulnerable children.
Somalia: €1 million to improve dietary habits, reduce acute malnutrition among young children, pregnant women and nursing mothers, organise school canteens and develop assets.

The UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):
Regional Horn of Africa programme: €1 million to help 4,500 families living from livestock by providing veterinary care for 135,000 animals.

“Cash for work” operations were also established to restore production infrastructure. The money that was made was enough to buy food for 2,500 vulnerable families.

SECOND FUNDING - €4 million

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (veterinary care) in Somalia:
€1 million to distribute Emergency Assistance Packages (EAPs) containing energy-rich biscuits and rehydration salts, improve access to drinking water and food and reinforce tracking systems to monitor migrating populations.

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Somalia: €500,000 to be able to ensure efficient and well-coordinated humanitarian aid.

The Belgian Red Cross in Ethiopia: €1 million to supply 8,315 tonnes of food products (corn, beans and seeds) and 230,000 litres of cooking oil and to distribute the food among 115,000 people in the Oromiya region. The Oxfam NGO in Somalia: €500,000 to reduce child and maternal mortality due to malnutrition in the Hiran region.

The UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Somalia: €1 million to protect the remaining means of livelihood of 4,500 families living from livestock by providing veterinary care to 135,000 animals and for the “Cash for work” operations that aim to restore production infrastructure.

THIRD FUNDING - €1,050,000

The UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) makes personnel and humanitarian cargo transport possible. €350,000 was allocated to the operations in Ethiopia and €700,000 to those in Somalia. The lack of safety, poor state of road infrastructure, long distances and the absence of reliable airlines in the region make UNHAS services essential.

FOURTH FUNDING - €3 million

The UN’s Children’s Fund (UNICEF) guarantees lessons and education for the refugee children in the camps. Only 30 to 40% percent of the children in the camps go to school. Belgium freed up €1.5 million for UNICEF.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Kenya: €1 million for improving the accommodation conditions for Somali refugees.

Doctors of the World in Ethiopia: €500,000 to improve health care services for refugees and host communities in Dollo Ado and Filtu.

Floods in Pakistan

A human catastrophe largely channelled

In August 2010, Pakistan was hit by a gigantic humanitarian crisis. Unprecedented floods engulfed an area as large as the United Kingdom. Twenty million people were hit by this “slow-motion tsunami”. The international community got organised to take on this unprecedented humanitarian challenge. Within a few days, millions of people had to seek new refuge. Some found shelter with family or friends. However, for many, camps built with international support were the only solution.

SIX MILLION EUROS OF BELGIAN AID

As soon as the extent of the catastrophe became known, Belgium provided a first instalment of €2 million to the World Food Programme to alleviate initial food needs. A Belgian Ministry of Defence C130 transported emergency aid goods for Unicef. In September of 2010, Belgium decided to release an additional €4 million. These funds were allocated to renovation and reconstruction projects for a period of two years.

Half of this budget went to three Belgian NGOs for projects in the Sindh province. Even prior to the catastrophe, the humanitarian situation of the majority of the Sindh population was already most disconcerting. In particular, malnutrition among young children is a major problem. The Flemish section of the Red Cross operates together with the German Red Cross in the Dadu district. They set up a medical unit for basic health care,
particularly for mothers and children. In three other Sindh districts, Oxfam Solidarity proposes setting up operations with small local NGOs. These operations involve restoring water and sanitary facilities and developing irrigation networks for agricultural purposes. Caritas International concentrates on food safety and food security for vulnerable population groups in the northern districts.

BASIC HYGIENE
Another €2 million was allocated to Unicef, in particular, for actions in the so-called “WaSH” sector: drinking water, sanitary and hygiene facilities. Shortly after the occurrence of such natural disasters, preventing epidemics is of primordial importance. That is why all victims must, first and foremost, be guaranteed water sanitation and access to it. In hundreds of villages and settlements, water pumps and latrines were installed and hygiene kits were distributed.

In addition to this material support, dealing with hygiene is of vital importance. Adults and children were given information sessions on how to correctly perform basic activities.

A didactic and playful approach was chosen for the children. “Children’s areas” provided the little ones with the opportunity to play and learn. They are given psycho-social support in this protected environment.

Schools were built in places where there had been none before the floods. Various projects were initiated because of the cooperation with local communities.

RESULTS
As of mid-December 2010, after the water started draining away, many people were able to return to their villages. Encouraged by financial incentives from the Pakistani government (which were not always distributed equally fairly) and, above all, with the support of NGOs and other humanitarian organisations, the population started reconstructing homes, using mainly branches and dried soil.

Some of the country’s regions again suffered heavy floods in 2011. Nevertheless, the international community’s support bore fruit and the victims’ living conditions improved significantly.

One year after the catastrophe, we were able to establish, in the context of our partnership with Unicef, that five million Pakistanis had daily access to drinking water for the first time ever and that three million of them could use sanitary facilities. Ten million children were vaccinated against polio and measles. Almost 300,000 children were able to enjoy a pedagogic environment.
The earthquake in Haiti
Between emergency aid and structural development aid

The earthquake that hit a large part of Haiti on 12 January 2010 took the lives of 230,000 people. In addition, 300,000 people were injured and 4,000 victims required urgent limb amputations. Of the approximately 1.3 million homeless people, between 400,000 and 600,000 of them left Port-au-Prince to move to the smaller towns and villages. This put these places under extremely heavy pressure. Two years after the disaster, half a million people are still living in camps.

ESSENTIAL RESOURCES
A Post-Disaster Needs Assessment that was made in February 2010 estimated reconstruction costs at $11.5 billion: 50% for the social sector, 17% for infrastructure and 15% for the environment and crisis management. The assessment did not set any priorities. It served as a basis for the Action Plan for Reconstruction and Development, which the Haitian government presented at the international conference (on Haiti) in New York on 31 March 2010.

The international community quickly took action to help the heavily-hit population and government. After the initial emergency stage, reconstruction operations were started in mid-February. During the New York conference, the international community undertook to deposit $5.3 million within 18 months and another $9.9 million during the following three years.
BELGIAN REACTION AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE

Belgium participated in the first emergency aid operations (B-Fast) and quickly released funds for humanitarian emergency aid to various organisations. Moreover, at the New York conference the Belgian Minister for Development Cooperation decided to release an additional amount of €20 million during the next three years (over a period of three years). This €20 million is to be used to fund three priority fields: 1) agriculture, rural development and food security; 2) education and 3) child protection.

THE NGO CONSORTIUM

The Minister further decided to grant €6 million of the €20 million to a consortium of Belgian NGOs operating in Haiti. This contribution to the country’s reconstruction and structural development is intended to be spent on a programme aiming to enable the transition from emergency aid to structural development in the long term.

The requirements for participating in this consortium were:
- experience in the field - more particularly a good knowledge of local reality,
- a minimum of three years of work in structural development aid,
- experience in the priority fields: education, child protection, agriculture and rural development,
- the financial capacity to support the project and the accounting procedures.

The projects were intended to prove a clear link with the detected needs and to be fundamentally anchored in the local Haitian structures.

SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF HAITI

Fifteen NGOs1 and their partners2 in the field compiled an integrated programme composed of highly complementary components. 11.11.11 was appointed coordinator and main contractor with the Belgian government. The integrated programme falls under co-funding: the Belgian Government provides 80% of the budget and 20% comes from own resources.

The programme has two objectives. At an operational level, it is intended to contribute to the reconstruction and restoration of Haiti. At a strategic level, the active participation of local actors in the reconstruction is aimed to boost restoration and political dialogue.

Follow-up mission on site

“Hundreds of thousands of people died, but there are many survivors”, one of our discussion partners in Port-au-Prince stated laconically. With these survivors in mind, representatives of the Belgian Development Cooperation and of 11.11.11, the umbrella of the NGOs, visited the country. The objective of this visit was to assess on-site the results that the consortium had achieved.

The projects are shouldered by the local communities, agricultural organisations and religious organisations, each of which, in its own way, is breathing new life into Haitian society. The reconstruction of the country is an enormous task, but every contribution and every project is welcome support for the victims.

During this mission, we were able to meet most of the consortium’s actors, gauge progress and establish how necessary the interventions were. This involved matter such as the reconstruction of centres for education and vocational training, health centres and projects for vegetable cultivation and livestock farming.

The mission confronted us with the scars of the earthquake and with the many faces of international cooperation: USAID tent camps, Unicef school bags, etc. These were undeniably useful and necessary interventions, although the Haitians did not always clearly understand the sustainable use of such interventions. Because of these enormous expenses, donors sometimes forget - or neglect - to take long-term policy into account.

Two years after the earthquake, the children’s situation is finally improving, albeit fairly slowly, as noted by the UN’s children’s fund, Unicef. Progress has been made in the fields of education, health care and food, and children are protected better. But poverty and underdevelopment continue to be widespread. The more than four million children under 18 still have difficulty surviving. Unicef has helped over 750,000 children to get back to school.

CLAIRE TERLINDEN
SYLVIA CROES

1. Actec, ADI, Broederlijk Delen, Caritas Belgique, Cidces Haiti-Belgique, Coelist, DMOS-COMIDE, Entraide et Fraternité, Géomoun, Oxfam, Protos, Solidariteit om Leven, Tearfund, Wereldsolidariteit + 11.11.11

2. Atelier-Ecole Camp Perrin, Caritas Haiti, Cidces Haiti, DDA, Mairie de Beelladère, CUSIC, UCOBEL, Fondation Imagine, SADIIJ, Guai, FCIPB, ITECA, MOCTHA, PAPA, SAKS, Tét kite Nasional, SOFA, IDL, Pères Salesiens, Sœurs Salesiennes, Timkatec, Veterimed

© DGD / Claire Terlinden
6. TOWARDS AN ENVIRONMENT- AND CLIMATE-FRIENDLY DEVELOPMENT POLICY

In this part, we examine the main environment- and climate-related-files of the past year in further detail. We also highlight a number of special operations and Belgian Development Cooperation funding.

Durban: lukewarm results for a burning issue

After marathon deliberations, the Climate Change Conference in the South African city of Durban (November 2011) decided to postpone the successor to the Kyoto Protocol to 2015. This protocol is the international agreement between the EU and a number of other States to globally force back the emission of greenhouse gases. Countries such as Canada, Japan and Russia will not join the Kyoto protocol as long as major polluters such as China and the US do not participate. Limiting global warming to 2°C now seems to be very far off indeed.

Durban did start off with the Green Climate Fund, however. By 2020, this fund must collect a part of the promised €100 billion per year to protect the developing countries from the consequences of climate change. A committee of representatives from the North and South will supervise the cash flows. A similar committee will monitor the global adaptation efforts. The developing countries will draw up national adaptation plans to reduce their vulnerability to climate change. The most vulnerable countries would be better protected against damage caused by extreme weather conditions. Durban made little progress in the REDD+ dossier, an instrument to reduce emissions caused by deforestation, and postponed a decision on its funding until the next conference.

More money for urgent needs

Following up the Climate Treaty is especially important for development cooperation in the following fields: adapting to the consequences of climate change, taking measures against deforestation, transferring knowledge and technology and financing it all.

During the 2009 climate negotiations in Copenhagen, it was agreed that the industrial countries would provide the so-called “fast start” funding. These are financial resources for the South to alleviate its most urgent needs in the fight against climate change. By the end of 2012, this funding should yield a total of $30 billion. In 2010 and 2011, Belgian Development Cooperation donated €60 million by means of various climate funds (the LDCF and SCCF, see below) and the Belgian Investment Company for Developing Countries (BIO). The Flemish and Walloon Regions also contributed to this.

AIDING ADAPTATION AND TECHNOLOGY

The Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) was established to support the least developed countries (LDCs) in drawing up and executing national programmes to adapt to the consequences of climate change. The fund is operated by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). Ten implementing agencies, such as UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank, assist governments from the South to adapt development operations to a climate that is difficult to predict. In 2011, Belgium gave €10 million to this fund.

In contrast to the LDCF, the GEF-Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) is at the disposal of all countries in the South. In 2011, Belgium chose to contribute €10 million to this fund. This money is spent on stimulating technology transfer for both mitigation and adaptation.
KLIMOS: A research platform for climate change and development cooperation

KLIMOS is a cooperation agreement between KU Leuven, VUB, UGent and Katholieke Hogeschool Sint-Lieven by virtue of which various research groups work on climate and development cooperation. The focus of this is on energy, food security and forests. Their scientific research supports the Belgian Development Cooperation in developing its policy on the integration of climate change mitigation and adaptation in development cooperation.

PAPERS AND TRAINING

How is this policy support provided? On the one hand, KLIMOS formulates policy recommendations in various papers and policy briefs, which arise from research that is set up both in the North and in the South. On the other hand, KLIMOS organises training sessions on various environmental themes for the DGD staff and our partners in the South. Furthermore, KLIMOS provides ad hoc support to the “climate and environment analysis” to prepare for the joint committees with our partner countries (e.g. input for the basic note for Palestine, recommendations regarding the cooperation programme with Rwanda, etc.).

In 2011, papers on the following issues were completed:

- the influence of certification on stopping deforestation,
- climate change and food security,
- REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation):
  - reducing carbon emissions caused by deforestation and land degradation,
- Climate matching and climate envelope analysis to support food security policy,
- the ecological mobility footprint of development organisations (draft),
- new trends in traditional bio-energy in developing countries (under review).

RESEARCH

In 2011, doctoral students of the KLIMOS network carried out (field) research in various countries in the South. They received separate funding from VLIR-UOS for a number of studies. Data from Peru will be analysed to investigate how coffee plantations can play a role in REDD. Research on carbon storage in forests and trees is being carried out in cooperation with the Jimma University in Ethiopia.

KLIMOS is also cooperating with the South African University of Limpopo on sustainable higher education and the KLIMOS toolkit. A project proposal for research on REDD+ and the valorisation of non-timber forest products in Kisangani in the DR Congo was approved and will hopefully be able to start in 2012.

KLIMOS already started developing a toolkit in 2010 that is intended to help integrate “sustainable environment” in our development programmes. This toolkit was finalised in 2011 and several training sessions were organised to support the use of this instrument. KLIMOS also made an important contribution to a four-day course on “Climate adaptation and development cooperation”. This course was presented to the DGD staff and introduces a step-by-step method to integrate the climate issue when developing strategies, plans, programmes and projects. In the future, this course will also be presented to our partner countries and executive partners. Two regional workshops are scheduled for early 2012, one in Bamako (for Benin, Niger, Senegal, Morocco and Mali) and one in Kampaia (for Rwanda, Mozambique, Tanzania, South Africa and Uganda).

Environment: desertification, biodiversity and the ozone layer

Since 2008, climate has been receiving a great deal of attention as an environmental theme. In the light of our partner countries’ vulnerability to the consequences of global warming, this is a priority transversal theme for Belgium. However, this does not mean that other aspects of the environment are forgotten.

DESERTIFICATION

In the North, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is often seen as the poor relation of the Rio conventions. In the South, however, rapidly advancing land degradation and desertification is an acute problem that hits the poorest communities first. A decision was made at the tenth Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD in Korea (October 2011) to improve the operation of the convention’s Secretariat and of the Global Mechanism. This mechanism supports countries in the South in finding financing for sustainable land management. In addition, a new work programme and a budget of almost €18 million for 2012 and 2013 were established.
The 2011 programme included an evaluation of the “federal plan for the integration of biodiversity in 4 federal key sectors”. Development cooperation is one of the 4 sectors included in this plan. Operations in both the North and the South are intended to promote the integration of biodiversity in development.

Various actions in this plan fall under the heading of “managing knowledge and raising awareness on the importance of biodiversity to development”. In this field, contributions were mainly made by the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS) and the Belgian development agency (BTC). VLIR-UOS, (the Flemish Interuniversity Council - University Development Cooperation) and CIUF-CUD (the Interuniversity Council of the French Community of Belgium - University Commission for Development) worked on capacity building to identify, monitor and evaluate projects and programmes that aim to improve biodiversity.

The banana gene bank at the KU Leuven’s Institute for Tropical Agriculture is supported by the Belgian Development Cooperation to conserve and research the different banana varieties ex situ. Maintaining this biodiversity is very important because bananas are the basic food for a large part of the population in the South.

Projects that are aimed at valorising the traditional knowledge of biodiversity are supported locally. For example, the support for the Royal Museum for Central Africa (RMCA), which trains and supports scientists operating in the Luki Biosphere Reserve in the DR Congo. Furthermore, the museum also works on improving data collection and analysis in Central Africa. The establishment of the Central African Biodiversity Information Network initiated the cooperation of various scientific institutions and museums to provide scientists in the South with better access to current data on biodiversity. In addition, the South’s capacity is also reinforced, so that newly collected data respond to the international Global Biodiversity Information Facility standards.

The fight against illegal logging and trading in illegal timber actually became reality thanks to the support at the start-up of the FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement and Trade) process in the DR Congo. Various forestry management programmes are operating as a part of bilateral (Peru, Rwanda, DR Congo), multilateral (DR Congo) and indirect (Senegal, DR Congo, Bolivia and Burkina Faso) cooperation.

**PROTECTION OF THE OZONE LAYER**

The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (1985) and its Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (1987) are among the oldest and most successful international environmental agreements. The protocol obliges participating parties to gradually reduce and eventually totally eliminate chemical substances that deplete the ozone layer, in accordance with a set time schedule. To meet these obligations, the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol provides financial and technical support to developing countries. The 23rd Conference of the Parties (October 2011) decided to contribute an additional $450 million for the 2012-2014 period. For Belgium, this means an annual contribution of €1.317 million.

**THE LOCAL SITUATION**

In 2011 DGD staff received thorough additional training on the various environmental problems. A four-day course on the “Integration of climate adaptation in development cooperation” was organised in cooperation with the KLIMOS research platform.

The Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences developed an extensive course on the importance of biodiversity protection in development activities, which was geared to DGD’s needs. The RBINS was able to draw on its years of experience in capacity building in the South for a successful and highly acclaimed training session.

---

**Belgian Agricultural Research Consultation Platform**

Agriculture is a priority sector for the Belgian Development Cooperation. Research into varieties, land use and agricultural methods are required not only to increase agricultural production in the South, but also to improve the position of small farmers and to manage natural resources.

The Agricultural Research Consultation Platform was started in 2011. This platform includes all - federal and regional - Belgian entities and civil society that operate in the field of agricultural research for development.

The platform is responsible for information dissemination and structured consultation. In this way, the participants aim to plan coordinated interventions and develop a strategy to face the challenges of scientific research together. This approach is intended to increase both the impact and visibility of the research and to render direct results for our target group: small family-run farming enterprises.
7. MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Belgium plays a role in the programmes of multilateral institutions in various fields. Our country is at the forefront when it comes to launching new initiatives that respond to current events. For example, it contributes to the UNDP’s anti-corruption and integrity programme in Arab countries and takes part in renewing the Global Partnership for Education, which aims to provide everybody with primary education. Belgium contributes in replenishing resources by way of IDA16 and provides input in the World Bank Institute’s new Open Development programme.

The transition to a democratic system in the Arab world

The revolutions during the 2011 Arab Spring put the longing for freedom, justice and democratic self-government on the part of the population, and more particularly, on the part of the young people, in the limelight. Belgium wants to contribute to forming sustainable democratic regimes that respect the rule of law. For this reason, Belgium provided its support to two projects with a regional dimension. These are led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), one of the Belgian Development Cooperation’s 21 partner organisations.

Belgium wants to contribute to forming sustainable democratic regimes that respect the rule of law.

REGIONAL SUPPORT

The Council of Ministers of June 2011 approved Belgium’s first contribution of €1 million to the “regional Anti-Corruption and Integrity in the Arab Countries” (ACIAc) programme. This contribution came from the DGD humanitarian service’s “Transitional measures” budget. The ACIAc programme aims to boost the regional development policy and promote collective actions against corruption. The objective of this is to improve the power of national, regional and local authorities. The project is being set up in our three partner countries in the region (Algeria, Morocco and Palestine) and also in Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq, Djibouti, Yemen, Qatar and Somalia.

A few months later, Belgium authorised the transfer of the fund’s unspent balance - with more than $300,000 of resources - to a support programme for Arab countries in transition, including Egypt and Tunisia. This programme is intended for their parliaments, governments and civil society. The fund is the result of a UNDP pilot project: the Regional Support Programme for Parliaments.
INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

In December 2011, the Minister for Development Cooperation gave permission that €8.7 million be spent on the UNDP project “Responding to a changing Region: Seizing the opportunity for transformational change in the Arab States”. This project aims to support transition to democracy in the region by strengthening the institutional framework of the countries undergoing reform. Indeed, support is required for the smooth running of elections, with additional attention afforded to the participation of women and of citizens on the fringe of society.

Furthermore, the project also supports the reform of the security services towards increased respect for human rights, the formation of democratic parties as pillars of a civil society in a state of complete turbulence and efficient parliamentary functioning. These parliaments must, after all, enable rational and open debate between all democratic political inclinations.

The project consists of five dimensions, the implementation periods for which range between 12 and 18 months:

- support for the constitutional and parliamentary process and for the national dialogue in Tunisia,
- support for the security services (judiciary and police) in Tunisia,
- support for the elections in Egypt,
- short-term support for the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL),
- support for inclusive and participatory political institutions in the Arab States.

A new and fresh approach

Global Partnership for Education – primary education for everybody

Ten years ago, the international community decided to work on the many promises regarding primary education that were made in the second half of the last century. After a thorough evaluation of the initiatives of the past decade (especially the Fast Track initiative), the time had come to step up the efforts.

MORE CHILDREN TO PRIMARY SCHOOL

In 2002, the Education for All - Fast Track Initiative was launched. The intention, in the short term, was to significantly boost the slow rate at which children in developing countries were given a place in primary schools. Developing countries had to ensure that there would be a well-developed and credible sector policy plan to bring about access to primary education. The international donors promised to make available the external resources that would be needed to execute these policy plans. Foreign assistance would be provided by way of sector programmes, in which the countries themselves would be able to provide the necessary guidance and follow-up and the donors would be able to maintain a harmonised approach.

After almost ten years, it transpired that the Fast Track Initiative (FTI) did not achieve the results planned in advance. Although a number of donors (such as the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Spain) made substantial efforts, most

“Seven partner countries of the Belgian Development Cooperation have an education plan that is accepted and financially supported by the Global Partnership for Education. In 2011, the Belgian contribution to the Partnership rose to €6 million.”
donor countries did not succeed in significantly increasing their assistance in the primary education sector. Many development countries also delayed drafting the sector plans. Currently, approximately forty countries are members of the partnership. In other words, despite the word “fast” in the name, the Fast Track Initiative was working too slowly.

Nevertheless, the 2009 FTI monitoring report concluded that there was no other option but to provide the efforts with a new impulse. It therefore made little sense to set up something else to achieve the same objectives. More energy and funding needed to be spent on the initiative already in existence.

NEW IMPULSE
To accelerate the progress, the Fast Track Initiative was thoroughly redesigned during the course of 2011. Its management board was democratised by means of formal and full participation of the partner countries and the civil society, its decision-making processes were streamlined and strengthened by the establishment of a stable management board and the leadership was entrusted to the authoritative figure of Carol Bellamy, former Executive Director of Unicef. To conclude the reforms, the name was also changed: from now on, the initiative would be known under the name Global Partnership for Education.

The first major action that the new Partnership undertook was to organise a Pledging Conference in Copenhagen on 8 November 2011. Participants made major commitment announcements for new support to the education sector in developing countries at this conference. For the donors, this involves one-and-a-half billion dollars, for the partner countries $5 billion and for the other partners (civil society and the private sector) $2.75 billion.

BELGIAN CONTRIBUTION
Belgium has been contributing to the funding since this global initiative started. Between 2003 and 2009, the annual Belgian contribution amounted to €1 million. In 2010, this contribution was raised to €5 million, and in 2011 to as much as €6 million.

Seven of the Belgian Development Cooperation’s 18 partner countries have an education plan which is accepted and financially supported by the partnership. These countries are Niger, Mozambique, Vietnam, Mali, Rwanda, Senegal and Benin.

There are high hopes that the new financial commitments will act as a strong incentive for steady progress. As the following graphs show, partnership countries are indeed making progress but, for the time being, a quarter of the boys and a third of the girls in these countries do not have the opportunity of completing a full cycle of primary education.

Eight concrete results achieved by the Global Partnership for Education between 2002 and 2011 (these figures only apply to the countries participating in the Partnership):

- **Financial support**: $2.2 billion for aid between 2004 and 2010;
- **Teachers**: more than 300,000 additional teachers between 2002 and 2009;
- **Classrooms**: contribution to the construction of over 30,000 classrooms;
- **School meals**: 700,000 children now receive a school meal every day;
- **School books**: 200 million school books have been distributed in primary schools since 2003;
- **Enrolments**: in 2009, 19 million more children enrolled for school than in 2002;
- **Primary education completed**: the percentage of children finishing primary school rose from 60% in 2002 to 72% in 2009;
- **Girls**: 68% of the girls finished primary school.
More resources for IDA16
Belgium takes its responsibility

The International Development Association (IDA) is a branch of the World Bank Group. It was established in 1960 to support the economic and social development of the poorest countries by providing interest-free credits on concessional and extended repayment terms. Belgium remains one of the IDA’s strongest donors.

NEGOTIATIONS FINALISED

IDA applies an approach which, in consultation with the partner country in question, has been developed specifically for the multi-sector context and which is based on a Country Assistance Strategy. Since 2005, the credits have been supplemented with donations. The majority of these - at least 50% - goes to Africa.

IDA regularly replenishes its funds. The 16th replenishment, IDA16, refers to funds that will be allocated during the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2014. Negotiations on this replenishment were finalised in Brussels in December 2010.

For its basic funding, IDA concentrates on the infrastructure and agriculture sectors, development of the private sector, education, health care and social protection. In addition, IDA16 establishes four particular points of attention: gender, fragile states, climate change and crisis response. The first three are integrated in global operations as transversal themes. A specific funding facility has been created for crisis response: the Crisis Response Window. This facility must be capable of offering speedy response to economic crises and natural disasters by providing additional financial support and, in so doing, to protect the partner country’s basic development spending. A maximum of 5% of the overall budget is reserved for such crisis response. Good governance and sustainable debt management - with the continuation of debt relief operations - continue to be special points of attention.

IDA16 collected a total of $49.3 billion in operating resources, which is an increase of 19.9% compared to IDA15. The resources consist of donor contributions ($31.7 billion, an increase of 2% compared to IDA15) and contributions from internal funds ($17.6 billion, an increase of 75.3%). This major increase enables the IDA to assist its partners better in coping with the consequences of the financial and economic crisis.

“Open Development” as a new strategy

Cooperation with the World Bank Institute

The World Bank Institute concentrates on training, technical assistance and capacity-building for developing countries. It is viewed as the World Bank’s knowledge centre. Its most important role is to globally connect knowledge, studies and innovations in the field of development, and to act as a catalyst for result-oriented change in the field.

On 16 November 2011, the Institute and the Belgian Development Cooperation co-organised a donor conference in Brussels which was named Towards a New Approach for Capacity Development. The purpose of this conference was to gather together the World Bank Institute’s strategic partners for a discussion on the new Open Development strategy and to encourage donors to participate in the new Umbrella facility for capacity development.

In 2011, Belgium was the first donor to the multi donor facility for capacity development, with a contribution of €1.7 million.

The Open Development strategy was launched in 2011 and its aim was to make all actors’ efforts more open and transparent and, in this way, to improve development results. The new approach is based on three cornerstones:

- **Open Knowledge**, which aims to increase the exchange between experts and spread available knowledge better by way of e-learning and open source innovation;
- **Open Governance** involves combating corruption, increasing transparency, openness and accountability to the government;
- the purpose of **Open Aid** is to make, in a comprehensible manner, the information on aid to a certain country or area available to the parties concerned, such as the population, NGOs, the local authority, etc.

The World Bank resolved that it would simplify management of the extensive trust funds portfolio. Trust funds concerning similar thematic programmes will be brought together under the new umbrella facilities. Belgium embraces this dynamic. With its contribution in 2011 of €1.7 million, Belgium was the first donor to the Multi-donor facility for capacity development. During the conference, four countries showed an interest in participating in this umbrella facility.
8. RAISING AWARENESS

The Belgian Development Cooperation sees awareness-raising as an important part of its work area. Belgium wants to encourage international solidarity with its awareness-raising actions. This is done by way of direct communication with the citizens or through our partners. In this part, we highlight some of the most important activities of 2011.

Raising awareness on 21 July, the Belgian national holiday

On 21 July, the Belgian Development Cooperation took part in the festivities on the occasion of our national holiday. There were fun activities in which everyone can participate free of charge in Brussels on that day. Various government services and ministries, such as the police, the Department of Defence and Development Cooperation organise activities in which citizens can learn about the work that these services do by practical examples. As was the case in 2010, there was a large DGD stand in the Rue de la Régence in Brussels.

This was an ideal opportunity for the Belgian Development Cooperation to put its themes in the limelight and to rouse citizen interest in the South. DGD built a huge stand with eight educational games and an interactive quiz, all within the context of the 8 Millennium Goals. Passers-by could climb a Moroccan date palm, fish for trash in a sandpit, push a globe forwards, take photographs of themselves, play a shivering game, throw balls at malarial mosquitoes and build a true-to-life jigsaw puzzle. A T-shirt was given to those who had played six games.

The crowds of people at and around the stand clearly showed that this was a success. Hundreds of young people climbed the ropes of the date palm and threw balls at the malarial mosquitoes. A total of approximately 6,000 people visited the stand and participated in the activities. The games were played 5,000 times in total and, by doing so, 500 T-shirts were won.

DGD even received important visitors. Prince Philippe and Princess Mathilde visited the stand, showed their admiration for the concept and even participated in a few games. The royal couple’s visit to the stand became a news item in various media platforms.

Strong growth for magazine Dimension 3

Dimension 3 is the magazine published by the Belgian Development Cooperation. Dimension 3 is well-written and extensively documented, provides news, trends and background information on the inextricable link between the North and the South five times a year. The magazine is tailored to the citizen, to the public at large.

With analyses, interviews, testimonies, factsheets and photo reports, Dimension 3 keeps its finger on the pulse of international cooperation. The following is a selection from the broad range of topics: migration, climate change, deforestation, food security, international institutions, state history, sustainable development, DR Congo, development workers, water, etc.

The magazine is highly valued in educational circles, since the topics are closely in line with the final attainment levels for secondary education (geography, history, environmental education, civic education, etc.). The clearly written factsheets provide ready-to-use classroom information.

Dimension 3 was restyled at the beginning of 2011. A more attractive graphic design, good picture resources and better-written texts were introduced with the aim of making the magazine even more accessible. As a result of these efforts, the number of subscribers increased by 6,500 in one year, from approximately 14,000 to more than 20,000 at the end of 2011. This success was achieved thanks partly to targeted efforts to subscribe the civil society, social-medical organisations and government institutions.

You can subscribe free of charge and view all previous issues at www.dimension-3.be.
Support for audio-visual productions

DGD co-finances audio-visual productions for its awareness-raising programmes every year. The following sums up a few of these.

In 2011, DGD and Wajnbrosse Production cooperated for the first time to produce a television programme called “La Terre, des hommes”, which was broadcast on TV5 Monde. In this programme, Belgian farmers speak to their Congolese colleagues in their villages and on their fields. These encounters showed that although they may use different production methods, their concerns run parallel.

The Belgian Development Cooperation supported the cross-media project, Music for Life, a second time. A large-scale action was then launched for the prevention and treatment of diarrhoea in Nepal.

Following the major success of the television series “Yes, we can” on TMF, the Breedbeeld production company created a sequel to it. In “Yes, you can”, six Flemish youngsters went to Burundi to live and work in an African hospital.

DGD also funded ATP Productions’ documentary, “LoveMEATender”. This programme, which was shown both in cinemas and on the RTBF television channel, posed the question: “Can one feed 7 billion people with meat every day?” This documentary was directed by Manu Coeman and was awarded the Magritte 2012 prize for best documentary.

Another cooperation of note is “La source des femmes”, which was shown in avant-première at the Namur Festival International du Film Francophone. This film focuses on the situation of women in a remote village in the Maghreb. “La source des femmes” was included in the official selection of the Cannes Festival and went on to achieve international success.

Flemish actress Nathalie Meskens travelled to Nepal for the television channel Acht to record the documentary “Kleine mensen, dromen en wensen” (“Little people, dreams and wishes”), in which the sectors of education, health care and children’s rights form a recurring theme.

The production company Off World recorded the moving documentary, “Little Heaven”, which deals with the issue of AIDS in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Little Heaven orphanage offers a new future to children with HIV/AIDS by providing them good-quality education and teaching them how to deal with the stigma associated with the disease.
PULSE: Research into the level of support for development cooperation

PULSE (www.pulse-oplatform.com) is a cooperation agreement between HIVA (Research Institute for Work and Society - KU Leuven), IBBT-SMIT (Vrije Universiteit Brussel), the Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies (KU Leuven), the Centre for Social Economy (ULg) and CIDIN (Radboud University Nijmegen). These research institutions cooperate closely with policy makers and NGOs. The platform carries out scientific research and, by doing so, supports the Belgian development cooperation policy.

ATTITUDE TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

From 2009 until 2013, the PULSE research platform has been and will be researching the level of support for development cooperation in Belgium. The first survey was conducted among the general public in 2010, which showed that Belgians are solidary but critical citizens. The next survey will be held in 2012 and will make it possible to gauge the evolution in the Belgians’ knowledge of and attitude and behaviour towards development cooperation.

Surveys were conducted among political parties in 2011 and the level of support among Belgian companies was reviewed. PULSE looked at the extent to which companies make commitments to undertake certification initiatives with a developmentally relevant North-South component. Examples include the Max Havelaar fair-trade label and the Forest Stewardship Council (the FSC-label). Analysis showed that the total number of companies participating in such initiatives is currently limited. It is striking that the level of participation is proportionally much higher among companies with more than 500 employees. For example, 6.61% of these companies are certified.

PULSE also researches the possibilities of better coordination between the supply of and demand for activities to increase the support base (for development cooperation) in Belgium. This research component has shown that Belgium is among the top five of European countries that invest in the support base for development cooperation, in addition to the United Kingdom, Germany, Spain and the Netherlands. The main focus in this is on young people and education, although technical and vocational education are also afforded relatively little attention. The elderly, immigrants and companies have also been shown to be specific target groups of activities to increase the support base. In terms of content, work is mainly done on knowledge of and attitude towards North-South related topics. Activities to encourage target groups to take particular actions through awareness-raising are much less common.

RESULTS

And yet, “new media” offer many opportunities in this area. PULSE also established that organisations can successfully use new media, such as Twitter, YouTube and Facebook to involve young people to increase the support base by having them take on specific responsibilities. Examples are the development of educational on-line games and the maintenance of special Facebook pages.

Besides coordinating supply and demand, measuring the results of activities to increase the support base (for development cooperation) also remains an important challenge. For this purpose, experiments involving alternative monitoring and evaluation methods, such as “outcome mapping”, “most significant change” and web surveys are being carried out within the PULSE platform. In this way, a number of organisations have succeeded in showing their results to individuals and institutions. One school link programme, for instance, established changes in attitude and behaviour among teachers. Changes in school purchasing patterns as a result of a programme promoting sustainable food could also be established.

Belgium is among the top five European countries investing in the support base for development cooperation.
The Millennium Goals: Strong regional differences, insufficient progress
1. GLOBAL STATE OF AFFAIRS

All in all, good progress has been made in terms of the Millennium Development Goals (or the Millennium Goals for short) during the past decade. The fact that not all of the Millennium Goals will be achieved by their deadline of 2015 is already a given fact. However, some of them have already been achieved, others soon will be and concrete progress has been made for all of them. The international community must continue its efforts, which have intensified since 2000, and which must be intensified even further.

Only the Belgian Development Cooperation’s activities for Millennium Goals 4 and 5 are reflected later in this report. This does not prevent us from providing a global state of affairs for all Millennium Goals, however. To what extent has hunger been eradicated? Are more girls than boys going to school? What about gender equality? Have child and maternal mortality rates been reduced? Are there any large regional differences? How far are we from achieving each Millennium Goal?

- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Improve maternal health
- Achieve universal primary education
- Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Promote gender equality and empower women
- Ensure environmental sustainability
- Reduce child mortality
- Develop a global partnership for development
Despite the regression in progress due to the economic crisis in 2008-2009, the goal of having less than 15% of the world population live below the poverty line of $1.25 per day was achieved at the beginning of 2012, according to the World Bank. There is continued economic growth in the developing countries, but inequality remains persistent and the growth does not translate into decent work for everybody. China and India continue to bring about the strongest reduction in poverty, whereas Sub-Saharan Africa is lagging behind. It is expected, however, that there too, extreme poverty will have fallen to below 36% by 2015. Today, most poor people live in the urban areas of middle-income countries and many women still have vulnerable jobs and work in vulnerable sectors. 1 in 5 labourers and their families live below the poverty line. They are the working poor. Furthermore, almost a quarter of all children under 5 in the developing countries remain underfed. Sub-Saharan Africa remains the region that is worst affected by hunger, with alarming figures in Central Africa, the Horn of Africa and the Sahel.

Today, most poor people live in the urban areas of middle-income countries.

Global literacy among young people between 15 and 24 rose from 83% in 1990 to 89% in 2009. The rate of children enrolled in primary education is continuing its steady increase, but this progress has been slowing down in recent years. Africa is showing the strongest growth (an increase of 18% between 1999 and 2009), while a slight decline can be seen in the Caucasus and Central Asia. It is expected that the goal of ensuring that all children complete full primary schooling will not be achieved by 2015. Currently, 87% of children complete their primary education. Social and cultural barriers that prevent children from going to school strongly differ from country to country. In Ethiopia, three-quarters of all out-of-school children end up going back to school, whereas in Nigeria, three-quarters never again go to school. It is promising that in some of the poorest countries (Madagascar, Burundi, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Samoa, etc.), almost all children go to school. The abolition of school fees has been a major factor in this success.

Sub-Saharan Africa is making the fastest progress in terms of primary education enrolment.
MILLENNIUM GOAL 3
ENSURING THAT MEN AND WOMEN HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS BY 2015

In the developing countries, 96 girls for every 100 boys are enrolled in primary and secondary education. This is a considerable step forward when compared to 1999. In East Asia, there are actually more girls in primary schools than boys, and in Latin America and the Caribbean, more girls than boys are enrolled in secondary education. Globally, a large proportion of women continue to be employed in the agricultural sector and the situation in North Africa in fact remains entirely unchanged. Fewer than 1 in 5 women in this area have a paid job outside agriculture. While unemployment is falling again after the economic crisis of 2008-2009, rates are falling more slowly among women than among men. At the beginning of 2011, 19.3% of all parliamentarians were women, a figure that stood at 11.6% in 1995. Even though this is the highest rate ever, the world is still far from equal political representation. In Rwanda (56.3%), Sweden (45%), South Africa (44.5%) and Cuba (43.2%), women are well-represented in parliament. In nine countries (Belize, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Tuvalu and the Solomon Islands), however, there are no women in parliament at all.

With 19.3% of the world’s parliamentary seats being held by women, equal political representation is still far off.

MILLENNIUM GOAL 4
SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCING CHILD MORTALITY BY 2015

Gradual progress is being made regarding child mortality. The global death rate for children under the age of 5 dropped by a third, from 89 per 1,000 in 1990 to 60 in 2009. This translates into about 12,000 fewer children dying every day. Sub-Saharan Africa still has the highest child mortality rates, with one out of eight children not reaching his or her fifth birthday. This is a rate of 129 out of 1,000, which is 18 times higher than in wealthy countries. An increasing amount of data show that the goal in question can be achieved, but only if we substantially increase our efforts to deal with the main causes of child mortality. Diarrhoea, malaria and pneumonia, three preventable and curable diseases, continue to spread death among children. In Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia malnutrition is the underlying cause of more than a third of child deaths. Rural areas and poor households continue to be the most vulnerable. Children’s chances of survival increase substantially with improved maternal education.

Children’s chances of survival increase substantially with improved maternal education.
The number of people infected with HIV fell by almost 25% between 2001 and 2009. There are large regional differences, however. Whereas Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia showed the sharpest decline, the number of infections in East Asia, Western and Central Europe and North America remains consistent. Worse still, the number of infections in Eastern Europe and Central Asia has been rising in recent years. The number of people who receive anti-retroviral drugs increased by a factor of thirteen between 2004 and 2009. For this reason, the number of AIDS-related deaths during the same period dropped by 19%. Women and young people are the most vulnerable groups. The fight against malaria is yielding good results, thanks to increased funding and the distribution of anti-malaria medication and nets impregnated with insecticide. Between 2008 and 2010, no fewer than 290 million mosquito nets had been distributed in Sub-Saharan Africa. During the past decade, the number of deaths caused by malaria dropped by 20%. 90% of all malaria deaths occur in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Despite the progress made, pregnancy remains a major health risk for women.
GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

S

ince 2004, global official development assistance (ODA) increased by 34%, or $30 billion, to reach a new record peak of $128.7 billion in 2010. This amounts to 0.32% of the donor countries’ combined gross national income. Global projections show that ODA will possibly continue to grow during the years to come, albeit at a much slower rate. With a third of all aid streams, the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are receiving an ever larger part of the aid pie. Between 2000 and 2008, the developing countries’ debt ratio (government debt/export revenues) dropped from 12.5% to 3.6% in 2009. 36 of the 40 countries in the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC, the initiative for countries with a very high debt burden) received further debt relief because government finance management had improved. At the end of 2010, 90% of the world’s population was covered by a mobile telephone network and 2 billion people were using the Internet. Internet penetration is 72% in the North and 21% in the South. In the Least Developed Countries, this percentage drops to less than 3%.

Global projections show that ODA will possibly continue to grow during the years to come, albeit at a much slower rate.
We dedicate this last part entirely to Millennium Goals 4 and 5. How does Belgium assist in combating child mortality and improving maternal health? The international community has made progress towards both of these development goals. Over the last twenty years, the daily number of deaths of children under five years of age has dropped by 12,000 and maternal mortality in the South has fallen from 440 to 290 per 100,000. However, there is still a great deal of room for improvement by providing good medicine, medical care and quality education and by teaching people how to adjust their diet. Because there is clearly still much work to be done: children in the South are 18 times more likely to die before the age of five than children in the North.

We demonstrate how we fight this battle and what methods and approaches we use by showing a dozen or so projects that are being performed, funded or led by the Belgian Development Cooperation. Project locations include Bangladesh, Bolivia, DR Congo, Mali and Rwanda. We show the Belgian contribution in achieving these Millennium Goals by referring to a number of examples. Indeed, it is impossible for this annual report to address all projects, programmes, files, discussions and research that contribute to the fight against child and maternal mortality.

2. BELGIAN CONTRIBUTION TO MDGs 4 AND 5: COMBATING CHILD MORTALITY AND IMPROVING MATERNAL HEALTH

The Belgian contribution

Health remains a cornerstone of the Belgian Development Cooperation. Health care, AIDS and reproductive health-care policy papers focus on the right to health. This also translates into the efforts that Belgium makes to achieve the Millennium Goals. These involve not only the three goals that are directly linked to health (MDGs 4, 5 and 6) but also the goals that are indirectly linked to it, such as food security (MDG 1) and water supply (MDG 7).

MULTISECTORAL AND HOLISTIC APPROACH TO HEALTH

Within a broad development strategy the results achieved must lead to improvement in the health and the development of the poorest population groups. It therefore concerns not only health, but education, drinking water, hygiene, food, housing, rights of women and children, etc. as well. For example, a mother’s level of education is an important factor that influences the state of her children’s health and a lack of drinking water or proper housing leads to health problems. But there is also a reverse impact. Health problems have an important effect on economic development: absenteeism, reduced efficiency of the professional population, etc. That is why the universal right of access to quality health care is so important.

REINFORCING COUNTRIES’ SYSTEMS

Belgium stresses the importance of basic health care to be able to realise the universal right to health. In conjunction with other donors, Belgium is devoted to helping its partner countries in improving their health care systems, for instance by educating health workers and integrating the fight against certain diseases.

Belgian interest in health care also results in a strong financial commitment. In 2011, Belgian official development aid spent more than €122 million on this sector, spread over various aid channels. It also donates approximately €68 million to international organisations operating in the field of health care (WHO, Unicef, UNFPA, UNAIDS, GFATM).

HARMONISATION AND COORDINATION

Achieving the Millennium Goals also requires cooperation under partner country leadership, in accordance with the United Nations guidelines for the agreed goals. Belgium supports its partner countries in setting up sound national health plans. Through multilateral aid, Belgium also supports international organisations operating in this field, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), UNAIDS and Unicef.

BE-Cause HEALTH

The close cooperation between the government and the academic world has established a strong tradition in international health care. The Be-Cause Health platform is one of the expressions of this cooperation with civil society. These strong partnerships make Belgium very active in the field of humanitarian aid and development. Be-cause health is a Belgian knowledge exchange platform on international health care. The members are academic institutions, medical development organisations, NGOs, consulting firms, government services, partner organisations in the South and a wide range of individuals from various related sectors and organisations. Here all actors operating in this sector meet to exchange information regularly and look for solutions. Working groups were formed on important themes, such as reproductive and sexual health and rights, AIDS, quality medication, health workers and health insurance.
The purpose of Be-cause Health is to strengthen the role and effectiveness of the Belgian Development Cooperation actors in making quality healthcare globally accessible. To this end, consultation, coordination and activities that go beyond the organisational level are organised. These are intended to result in greater influence on international health policy, scientific and technical exchange of knowledge, greater cooperation between the different actors and improved response to the needs of the South.

At the 2011 annual Be-cause Health seminar, health determinants took centre stage. The seminar made a more detailed examination of the challenges that were identified during the Rio Conference on Social Determinants of Health.

The Belgian Development Cooperation invests €40,000 per year in Be-cause Health by way of a framework agreement with the Institute of Tropical Medicine.

Most important international meetings on health in 2011

**UN HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON AIDS, NEW YORK**

2011 marked 30 years since the first AIDS patient was reported. The General Assembly of the United Nations organised a high-level meeting on AIDS on the occasion of this commemoration. World leaders adopted an important political declaration with ten ambitious objectives at this meeting. These include working towards halving the sexual transmission of HIV and its transmission through intravenous drug use, completely eliminating new HIV infections among children, providing treatment for 15 million AIDS sufferers and eliminating gender inequality and enabling women and girls to protect themselves against AIDS by 2015.

At the end of 2010, an estimated 34 million people were living with AIDS, of whom 14.2 million were living in low- and middle-income countries and were eligible for anti-retroviral treatment. 6.6 million people (47%) also had actual access to this lifesaving medication. In 2010, approximately 2.7 million people were newly infected with HIV and 1.8 million people died from AIDS-related illnesses.

**HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, NEW YORK**

The second UN high-level meeting on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases took place in September 2011. These diseases are divided into four major categories: cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes. The UN summit adopted a resolution that encourages plans to reduce known risk factors, such as tobacco, alcohol use, unhealthy diet and physical inactivity to be concluded by 2013. The summit also stressed the importance of international and multisectoral cooperation for the prevention and control of this group of diseases.

It is estimated that non-communicable diseases cause 63% of deaths worldwide. Every year, 9 million people under the age of 60 die from non-communicable diseases, with 80% of these deaths occurring in developing countries. These untimely mortality rates in this age group also have an important socio-economic impact. This was only the second time in UN history that a special summit was organised on a health-related theme. The first one took place in 2001 and dealt with HIV/AIDS.

**CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH, RIO DE JANEIRO**

Health is influenced by a multitude of factors, such as food, living and working conditions, school education, etc. Factors such as these, which influence health either directly or indirectly, are referred to as social determinants of health. They are a set of conditions into which people are born, grow up, live, work and grow old and they include health care systems.

In October 2011, the World Health Organization (WHO) held a conference on these social determinants to raise awareness among political leaders of inequality regarding health and how to deal with it. The political declaration of the conference reflects a global commitment to have these social determinants included in national action plans and strategies. Matters proposed by the conference included international and intersectoral cooperation and the quest for universal health care coverage.
Bangladesh’s health indicators provide little comfort. Infant mortality rates are at 78 per 1,000 and only 30% of the population has access to primary health care. This means that the country performs badly in terms of the Millennium Goals. The government cannot guarantee its population access to health care, especially in rural areas. And yet, the local actors showed that maternal and child mortality can be combated efficiently with limited resources and a great deal of good will.

ACCESSIBLE CARE FOR THE POOREST
This is the case in Gonoshasthaya Kendra (“Medicine for the People”). The organisation was established forty years ago, when the country gained independence. Its aim is to organise health care in all countries and ensure that this health care is accessible to the very poorest. In cooperation with the NGO World Solidarity (WSM), its actions changed the lives of one-and-a-half million people by establishing 6 hospitals and 39 health centres. The commitment of the 2,200 paramedics who regularly visit all the villages to provide the necessary care is striking. This is done by bicycle, since the villages cannot be reached by any other means of transport. All of this is offered at guaranteed solidarity fees, while local authorities are made aware of their responsibilities.

In recent years, the organisation has chosen the elderly as its new target group. They stay behind on their own in many villages because the younger people move to the cities in search of work. During visits to the elderly, their blood pressure is measured, their nails are cut and attention is paid to personal hygiene. But above all, these visits provide social contact. Sometimes a short conversation is all that is needed to keep somebody healthy. If necessary, the elderly can call upon physiotherapists who make house calls. In certain villages initiatives are taken to put these people in contact with each other, providing them with the opportunity of having a chat over a meal or a cup of coffee in the afternoon. This ensures that as many as 20,311 people receive such visits from medical workers.

Gonoshasthaya Kendra also continues to offer ante-natal and post-natal care in 271 villages. Because of the intensive follow-up of young mothers (7,325 women in 2011), the mortality rate among newborns and their mothers is much lower than in nearby regions where the organisation does not operate.

REMOTE VILLAGES
Since 2009, Gonoshasthaya Kendra has been moving further towards the river delta. This region is occasionally cut off from the outside world due to erosion. Its population is poor and lives on small islands in the enormous river beds. Families must retreat to small stilt villages during the rainy season. These villages have no electricity or medical facilities. It takes approximately 7 to 10 days to travel through these 50 villages. Here, too, Gonoshasthaya Kendra has established local medical centres, which provide health care access to between 60,000 and 70,000 people.

Gonoshasthaya Kendra proves that it is much better to take the necessary facilities to the people than to have them travel many miles to the nearest medical centre. The results of this proximity strategy are impressive. In the areas where the organisation operated in 2010, infant mortality dropped by 60% to 20.5 per 1,000 and maternal mortality dropped to 95.7 per 100,000.
Chronic malnutrition affects one out of three children under five years old in Bolivia. This is one of the population’s greatest concerns, particularly in communities with high levels of food insecurity and poverty. Children of illiterate or poorly educated mothers are the most vulnerable. There is a lack of micronutrients, such as iron, vitamin A, iodine and calcium in many of the Bolivians’ diet.

MULTISECTORAL AND DECENTRALISED FOCUS

In 2009, the governments of Bolivia, Canada, France and Belgium signed a Memorandum of Understanding which regulates the co-funding of the “Zero Malnutrition Programme” through a joint fund. This meant that there were resources to ensure that the programme would continue working full-time. Special attention is paid to children under two years of age.

What makes the programme special is its multisectoral approach that takes into account the broad range of socio-economic determinants of malnutrition. The programme is managed by representatives from various sectors, united in the National Council for Food and Nutrition (CONAN). This council is composed of nine ministries, including those of education, water and sanitation facilities, agriculture, industry, economy, etc.

MUNICIPAL INCENTIVE

To reduce malnutrition in the entire country, local authorities are involved in the national “Zero Malnutrition” programme through the Municipal Incentive”. Municipalities that have to contend with high rates of harrowing malnutrition can receive funding from the joint fund for initiatives combating malnutrition. Moreover, municipalities can only receive the $50,000 funding if they meet the programme’s various requirements. This ensures that all sectors are involved in the programme and reinforces local community participation. It also leads to better local management of the investments.

The participation by the Belgian Development Agency (BTC) in the programme’s basket fund is fully in keeping with the 5th Millennium Goal. As a matter of fact, malnutrition is an underlying cause of almost half of all child deaths in Bolivia.
Support to the health care system in Kisantu

In 2006, the Congolese Minister for Public Health adopted the Strategy for Strengthening the Health Care System. This strategy provides a common framework for all interventions and active programmes in the health care sector. To put this strategy into practice, the Belgian Development Cooperation developed a support programme: the Appui au Système de Santé aux Niveaux Intermédiaire et Périphérique (ASSNIP, or the Support Programme for the Health System at Intermediary and Peripheral Levels). The programme is divided into five components. The third component involves three health care zones in the Bas-Congo province.

**PRIMARY HEALTH CARE**

The objective of ASSNIP is twofold. On the one hand, the programme is intended to support the main health care structures (health centres and hospitals) to enable them to provide quality, global, integrated, efficient and accessible primary health care to the population. On the other hand, the programme must gradually develop a model of care that can be applied throughout the entire country.

**RESULTS**

The results show increased access to health care for the population in the supported zones and improved financial viability for the Kisantu reference hospital and nearest health centres. There has also been a fall in maternal mortality rates, from 192 per 100,000 births in 2008 to 64 per 100,000 in 2010. This figure is based on the number of births in the Kisantu zone health care system, where assistance is provided by skilled health workers in 85% of births. A similar figure is expected for 2011.

The aim is to work at health care quality and to continue rationalising resources. For this reason, reference hospital protocols and flowcharts for the health centres have been introduced. There has also been intensive rationalisation of laboratory and medical imaging services and digitisation of administrative and medical records.

The ASSNIP programme is now also supporting the establishment of health insurance in Kisantu. The Kisantu population proportion of members of the health insurance rose from 1% in 2007 to 8% in 2011.

**FIXED-RATE FEES AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

The reference hospital in the Kisantu health care zone has become the point of reference for the health care system in general. This hospital uses fixed-rate fees and financial support in the form of subsidies for patients who are referred to it by the health centres. In other words, this hospital’s financial threshold is lower for patients who use the most appropriate level of the system. This results in a more rational use of the available resources. For instance, 65% of the cost of a visit to the paediatrician and 85% of the rate for a caesarean section are at the expense of the Belgian Development Agency (BTC). This contribution is paid directly to the reference hospital. Patients pay only the non-subsidised part of the fixed rate.

In the Kisantu health zone, maternal mortality rates dropped from 192 per 100,000 births in 2008 to 64 per 100,000 in 2010.
The SLCD (Service Laïque de Coopération au Développement) started operating in the Kisantu health zone in 1997. It focuses mainly on primary health care: restoring health care structures, improving quality, etc. When the Kisantu villages identified maternal death during childbirth as a priority problem, the SLCD decided to develop a childbirth programme.

Experience has shown that the most important elements which constitute the causes and results of these deaths, can be summarised in four “too” factors: too many pregnancies (more than six), too little time in between pregnancies, too early and too late. There are also three additional “too late” factors: deciding too late to come in for a consultation, arriving at the health centre too late and acting too late before receiving proper care.

PREVENTING DEATHS

The programme intends to provide better care for women and thus reduce maternal and newborn mortality rates. The process of providing care for a pregnant woman starts in her own village. She must be able to make it to the health centre when there is a problem. She then needs proper care. And finally, the woman must be taken to a specialised hospital. The methodology therefore involves interventions at the following three levels: in the village, at the nearby health centres and at the specialised hospital.

Villagers are informed on reproduction. In addition, local intermediaries are trained and diagnostics are organised in focus groups. This has resulted in more women attending ante-natal consultations and in pregnant women receiving better support from their husbands and from people in their environment. The number of ante-natal consultations rose from 30% to 62.5%.

The programme also intends to improve the health actors’ skills through training, additional refresher courses and supervision. Better equipment and infrastructure also resulted in higher-quality service.

CARE INDICATORS

The improvement of care for women translates into an improvement in the care indicators (see table).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CARE INDICATORS IN THE KISANTU HEALTH ZONE</th>
<th>Base</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>Improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of pregnant women who attended at least three ante-natal consultations</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>62.5</td>
<td>Significant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of pregnant women with post-natal complications</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>Significant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of uterine ruptures</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>Significant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of pregnancies where a high risk was detected in the health centre</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>Significant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of women with high-risk pregnancies who arrived at the reference hospital</td>
<td>83.2</td>
<td>68.3</td>
<td>Significant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant mortality during the birth, per 100,000 live births</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>Significant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of deaths of newborns per 1,000 births</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>Non-significant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stillbirth rate per 1,000 births</td>
<td>27.1</td>
<td>21.8</td>
<td>Non-significant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of women who apply family planning</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>Non-significant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
When urgent obstetric and/or neonatal interventions are required, these must be carried out immediately. In addition, care quality must be excellent. Training, refresher courses and equipment are of primordial importance in achieving this. The figures show that the care indicators for the reference hospital have improved (see table).

The process of providing care for a pregnant woman starts in her own village.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GENERAL REFERENCE HOSPITAL CARE INDICATORS</th>
<th>Base</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>Improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infant mortality during the birth, per 100,000 live births</td>
<td>1569</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>Significant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of deaths of newborns per 1,000 births</td>
<td>39.2</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>Significant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stillbirth rate per 1,000 births</td>
<td>43.2</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>Significant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A LIGHT IN THE HORROR

Congolese gynaecologist, Denis Mukwege, awarded King Baudouin Prize

Panzi Hospital, Bukavu. A haven of peace for the region’s far too numerous rape victims. They can come here for medical care and psychosocial support, for their reintegration into society and even for legal follow-up. The hospital is led by its founder, himself a gynaecologist and a fighter for many years against violence against women: Doctor Denis Mukwege. He was awarded the King Baudouin Prize for his work.

For a long time, Dr Mukwege was the only gynaecologist in the region. “It was in 1999 that I saw for the first time a woman with genital injuries that ‘somebody’ had inflicted on her. I did not understand it at all and she did not want to give me any further explanation. I was convinced that these horrendous injuries were an isolated incident, but in the weeks that followed, the number of victims increased.” Today, these rapes are part of daily reality in Eastern Congo. “This week, 102 women were raped.”

“If you destroy a woman, you destroy an entire society”, the doctor argues. This is a terrible “weapon of war” in the hands of militia hiding in this area that is rich in ore. Other factors also play a part: former rebels who have been integrated into regular military forces, citizens who are encouraged by the trivialisation of these types of acts and the impunity that was the rule for so long.

Initially, Dr Mukwege wanted to become a paediatrician. However, when, as a young physician, he saw the circumstances in which women had to give birth, he decided to study gynaecology. He settled in Bukavu, where he established the Panzi Hospital in 1999, a health centre intended to provide assistance during childbirth. It did not take long before Dr Mukwege was treating women who were victims of sexual violence. The hospital functioned as an example in the African Great Lakes Region. During the past 10 years, the gynaecologist and his team have treated over 30,000 victims.

Patients receive all-round treatment. Medical care, meals and medication are free for patients in a severe state and for all sexual violence victims. Attention is not only paid to physical and emotional injuries. Patients prepare for reintegration into society in a transit centre. They are given psychological monitoring and the hospital ensures that they have an income before they leave. A legal service provides support. Eventually, victims recover physically and morally and regain a certain dignity. “Mobile hospitals” look for the victims, to provide both initial care and legal advice.

At the same time, the doctor continues to relentlessly denounce the horror that he witnesses. He launches awareness-raising campaigns and employs more staff to help victims. “Unfortunately, the situation remains unsafe. It is no exception for us to see that, among the new rape victims, there are women whom we treated for the same injuries two years earlier. I would rather have been anonymous than enjoy global recognition for a situation to which the world does not want to put a stop,” Denis Mukwege stated at the reception after the award ceremony of the prestigious King Baudouin Prize.

As a pioneer, Belgium was the driving force in the fight against sexual violence in DR Congo. Our country has been supporting a joint programme in the fight against sexual violence since 2004. Belgium is currently cooperating in a global approach by providing medical, psychosocial and legal guidance and a reintegration programme for the victims of sexual violence, within the framework of the Stabilisation and Reconstruction Plan for the Eastern DR Congo (STAREC). Belgium promised two oxygen units to the Panzi Hospital: one for the surgery department and one for the intensive care unit.

Since 1978, the King Baudouin Prize, which is worth €150,000, has been awarded to social progress pioneers in developing countries. Besides providing financial support, the prize also has a good impact on the visibility and promotion of its winners. Famous laureates include Ousmane Sy, Paulo Freire and Muhammad Yunus.
In Mali, access to basic health care is not merely a matter of course. More than half of the population lives further than 5 km from a health care centre. Too few mothers are given the chance to rely on trained health workers. The consequences are striking: Mali has the second highest under-five mortality rate in the world. One in 22 women dies during pregnancy.

**MOBILE MEDICAL CARE**

Long queues of mothers with their children are waiting along the dusty road leading to a village in Kayes, an administrative region in western Mali. In the distance, the nurse is approaching on his moped with medication and vaccines.

Community volunteers vaccinate the children to better protect the young Malian mothers. The nurse performs ante-natal examinations on pregnant women, gives them iron tablets and distributes mosquito (bed) nets impregnated with insecticide. Pregnancy-related health care is very important in preventing complications during childbirth.

**RAISING AWARENESS**

In Mali, early marriages and female genital mutilation are commonplace. Targeted education and awareness raising must advise against these damaging habits and customs, stress the importance of ante-natal examination and convince future mothers to give birth in a health centre.

Unicef, the United Nations Children’s Fund, supports the Malian Ministry of Public Health to improve access to basic health care for the people who need it most. Belgium, in its turn, provides support by making a contribution (core contribution) to the general resources, which leaves the organisation free to decide where it can use this support the most. The total Belgian contribution to Unicef amounted to €23.7 million in 2011. This is almost 5% of the global annual budget of the children’s fund.

Mali has the second highest under-five mortality rate in the world. One in 22 women dies during pregnancy.
Doctors of the World is concerned for those groups of people who are always forgotten in daily news reports. It is in this way that the NGO wishes to contribute to the Millennium Goals. Doctors of the World wishes to improve the sanitary facilities of the most vulnerable population groups - primarily women and children.

**TAKING HEALTH CARE TO THE PEOPLE**
This is also the focus of the project that Doctors of the World started up in northern Mali, more particularly, in the Kidal Region, more than a decade ago. Above all, the project targets the Tamasheq nomads (Tuareg) and the rural population. Access to quality health care is minimal and for this reason, the infant mortality rate at birth is high in this region. This is caused primarily by a lack of financial, material and cultural resources: floods, no roads, traditional methods, a lack of safety, etc. In 2010, Kidal had 57,708 inhabitants. For these isolated population groups, the failing health care system is a major cause of death, the first victims of which are women and children.

Consequently, Doctors of the World started a programme that is adapted to the specific needs of these population groups. It is aimed at guaranteeing access to primary health care. This project has established and supplied health outposts in the direct vicinity of the nomadic population to support the efforts already made by the General Directorate for Health of the Kidal Region (GOKJE). Both preventive and curative health care can be provided, thanks to these new sanitary structures and mobile polyvalent teams. At the same time, awareness about this is raised among the population.

In 2010, these teams had 9,621 consultations, 589 pregnancy consultations, 171 post-natal consultations, 436 consultations with pupils and 373 vaccinations.

**TRAINING**
Doctors of the World organises training courses for local health care workers and for traditional midwives to reconcile cultural traditions with quality health care. Their skills are strengthened, for example by learning to detect at-risk pregnancies or to intervene on time and issue a warning in the event of an infectious disease. In 2010, three out of every four women in the Kidal Region gave birth at home, assisted by midwives who had been trained by Doctors of the World.
Belgium continues to invest in good results

Budget support for the Rwandan health sector

Budget support is a form of development aid that involves multiple donors that combine their development funds to execute a national development programme in a coordinated manner. The money is transferred to the receiving country’s national treasury to execute a particular development strategy on condition that a number of well-defined conditions are met. In this case, the strategy in question is the Health Sector Strategic Plan.

EMBEDDING
Belgium has been providing sector budget support to the Rwandan health sector since 2008, as agreed in the Indicative Cooperation Programme (ICP) 2008-2011.

The objective of the Belgian contribution to this joint programme was to provide the poor and the vulnerable access to quality health services, at both primary and secondary health-care levels. As planned, all of the €13 million of Belgian support that had been granted had been allocated by the end of 2010. This was combined with support that Belgium had provided to the health system in urban areas during the previous ICP. Our country also funded a project for institutional reinforcement of the Rwandan national health policy and participated in the sector policy dialogue. All of this caused the Belgian efforts in the health sector to become better embedded. Our country succeeded in making a positive contribution to the execution of the Rwandan budget support programme.

STRIKING RESULTS
Partly because of donor support, Rwanda has succeeded in making significant progress in the health sector in recent years. Between 2005 and 2010, 3 Demographic and Health Surveys were carried out, which showed that Rwanda is extremely dedicated to achieving the Millennium Goals. For Millennium Goals 1 and 5, a number of striking results were achieved between 2005 and 2010:

- The number of women between 15 and 49 who use modern contraception rose from 10% to 45%;
- The number of childbirths in accredited health facilities rose from 30% to 69%;
- The number of fully vaccinated children between 12 and 23 months of age rose from 75% to 90%;
- The number of children sleeping under insecticide-treated mosquito nets rose from 13% to 70%;
- The under-five mortality rate dropped from 152 per 1,000 live births to 76;
- The percentage of children suffering from chronic malnutrition dropped from 51 to 44.

Because the health programme succeeded in yielding good results, it was decided at the latest Joint Commission to provide another €32 million in the new ICP 2011-2014 for health sector budget support.
Acknowledgements

EDITING AND COORDINATION:
Directorate-General Development

CHIEF EDITING:
Thomas Hiergens

FINAL EDITING:
Jan De Mets

TRANSLATION:
Data Translations

DESIGN:
MWP
www.mwp.be

PRODUCTION:
Communications Department FPS Foreign Affairs

CONTACT:
+32 2 501 81 11

RESPONSABLE EDITOR:
Dirk Achten, rue des Petits Carmes 15, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium

The information contained in this report is for information only.
The Federal Public Service is in no way legally bound by it.

LEGAL REGISTRATION:
0218/2012/08

May 2012
The DGD Annual Report 2011 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.