2012 – A Summary

THE BELGIAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
“Rather than declining, the economic crisis and its disastrous impact on the public finances of developed countries may over-shadow the crucial importance of international solidarity, which, in an increasingly globalised world, may have far-reaching consequences. In this context, it is essential to conduct an effective development cooperation policy that is sufficiently able to meet the current major global challenges, such as climate change. That is why, in the last twelve months, I have made the coherence of policies for development and the effectiveness of official Belgian assistance major priorities for the Belgian development cooperation.”

Policies that are in line with development objectives

Some policies (agricultural, trade, economic, financial, etc.) conducted by developed countries have an impact on countries receiving development assistance. It is therefore necessary to remove the contradictions that may exist between these policies and development cooperation and to coordinate them for the benefit of partner countries. Belgium has undertaken to improve the coherence of its policies, to make sure that they incorporate development objectives.

In line with recommendations from the OECD, Belgium is working to put in place the following instruments to ensure the coherence of development policies:

- an interministerial conference dedicated to the coherence of policies for development would make it possible to bring together the federal and federated authorities around common objectives,
- an interministerial consultative body that would ensure the implementation of the decisions taken by the interministerial conference,
- an external advisory body that could make recommendations, and possibly report in an independent manner,
- parliamentary monitoring,
- a legislative framework for the coherence of policies, defined in the new law on development cooperation.
In 2012, the Belgian Development Cooperation continued the reform process initiated in 2011. We had to align our instruments with the new needs and developments. In this respect, 2012 was a key year.

A new legislative framework is entering into force to enable Belgian Cooperation to be more effective and to be able to meet the new challenges. In operational terms, Trans-directional teams (TST) have been created, bringing together the skills of the different services, directorates and local offices in order to best match strategic priorities with realities in the field. This legislation contains the Belgian vision of development cooperation for the coming decade. It is a modern vision based on progressive principles and solidarity.

Paul Magnette

The Benin TST enriches the work of the Joint Commission

In 2012, DGD benefitted from the added value of a TST led by the International Cooperation Attachés in Cotonou. The team comprised geographic and thematic experts and experts on civil society. These members carried out together an analysis of the existing cooperation with Benin, the development climate and the specific challenges for which Beninese partners wish to receive Belgian support. The Benin TST, in this way, encouraged the flow of information between the different directorates and different services and between the Directorate-General and the Office in Cotonou.

The work of the Benin TST has enriched that of the Joint Commission, which led in February 2013 in the conclusion of a new Indicative Cooperation Programme between Belgium and Benin.

This legislation contains the Belgian vision of development cooperation for the coming decade. It is a modern vision based on progressive principles and solidarity.

Paul Magnette
Belgian official development assistance affected by budgetary rigour

In 2012, the development cooperation budget was frozen for several years at the 2011 level. The government did not abandon the 0.7% target but extended the deadline owing to exceptional budgetary circumstances. The new law on development cooperation passed in March 2013 confirms Belgium’s commitment in this respect.

The projects of a number of the traditional partners of the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (Belgian Technical Cooperation Agency (BTC), the European Development Fund and the Belgian Investment Company for Developing Countries (BIO)) remained well within the appropriations entered in the budget.

Moreover, the Council of Ministers of 26 October 2012 decided to only focus expenditure during the final months of the year on the operation of the public services. This decision strongly affected development cooperation, which allocates a large proportion of its expenditure during the fourth quarter of the year.

The cumulative effect is that 380 million euros could not be spent in 2012, in particular in governmental cooperation programmes (and first and foremost, the operational costs of the BTC, BIO and humanitarian aid, of which half the programme was blocked following this decision).

Finally, as in 2011, the volumes of debt cancellation for developing countries were considerably lower than in 2010, which was a record year. In 2012, only the Ivory Coast benefited from significant debt cancellation, and Guinea-Bissau benefited from more modest cancellation.

### DGD aid per channel

- **Governmental cooperation**: 26.1%
- **Non-governmental cooperation**: 22.2%
- **Multilateral cooperation**: 40.1%
- **Belgian Fund for Food Security**: 2.2%
- **Community building**: 22.2%
- **Humanitarian and food aid**: 6.7%
- **Support to the private sector, BIO**: 0.6%
- **Awareness-raising in Belgium (excl. NGOs)**: 0.6%
- **Administration, evaluation, other**: 0.2%

### DGD aid per sector

- **Education**: 14.7 mil.
- **Healthcare**: 12.5 mil.
- **Population and reproductive healthcare**: 5.6 mil.
- **Water and sanitation**: 3.6 mil.
- **Government and civil society**: 2.2 mil.
- **Social services**: 1.7 mil.
- **Energy**: 12 mil.
- **Agriculture, forestry, fishing**: 11.1 mil.
- **Conservation**: 11.1 mil.
- **Multisector**: 8.6 mil.
- **Humanitarian aid**: 8.6 mil.
- **Debt relief**: 3.3 mil.
- **Awareness-raising in Belgium**: 3.3 mil.
- **Other**: 2.3 mil.
- **Sector non-specified**: 11.1 mil.
The Belgian Development Cooperation has made the promotion of, respect for and the defence of human rights a priority. This commitment is reflected not only in the definition of the Belgian cooperation strategies and programmes but also in the field, where it manifests itself through concrete actions and through political and financial support, provided to the countries and international and local organisations working for human rights and the fight against all forms of discrimination.

**Promotion and defence of human rights**

**Action against discrimination on all fronts**

**Fighting discrimination against women**

*Arab countries.* Support to the projects of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) aimed at promoting the participation of and the assumption of responsibility by women in the democratic process in countries in transition.

**Fighting sexual violence**

*In Peru,* support, via the Belgian Technical Cooperation, to a programme to fight against domestic and sexual violence in the city of Ayacucho.

**Fighting discrimination against people with disabilities**

*In Burundi,* the Belgian Cooperation financed the NGO Handicap International and the Association pour la Promotion de l’Education et la Formation à l’Etranger (APEFE), which works to improve the health, independence and quality of life of people with disabilities.

**Fighting discrimination against people with disabilities**

*In Bolivia,* in 2012 the Belgian Cooperation subsidised a United Nations volunteer post within the High Commission for Human Rights aimed at preventing Human Rights violations, in particular in racial or ethnic conflicts.

**Supporting the judicial system**

From 2011 to 2013, the Belgian Cooperation has supported the project of the NGO RCN Justice & Démocratie aimed at developing local justice in Burundi and in the DRC, in particular for people living in rural or vulnerable areas.

**Fighting abuses by police forces**

*In Tunisia,* a country in democratic transition, following the “Arab Spring”, Belgian Cooperation is supporting a UNDP programme in the security sector, which provides among other things training to the police forces on Human Rights related issues.

**Fighting inhumane incarceration and improvement of assistance to prisoners**

*In Rwanda,* the Belgian Cooperation is providing its financial support to the project of the Rwandan NGO “Prison Fellowship Rwanda”, which works to reintegrate people who have been convicted of acts of genocide.

**International Conference on Child Protection in Brussels, on 27 February 2012**

Ten years ago the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child entered into force: the protocol concerning the involvement of children in armed conflicts and the one relating to the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

In the context of this anniversary, Belgium and UNICEF jointly organised an international conference on Child Protection, which took place on 27 February 2012 in Brussels.

Inaugurated by H.R.H Princess Mathilde and the Minister for Development Cooperation, Paul Magnette, the event brought together more than 130 people (diplomats posted in Brussels, representatives from the European Commission, from civil society, journalists, etc.).
Everyone has the right to a minimum level of social protection, which the State is responsible for providing, expanding and financing. But for the poorest and most fragile countries, it is difficult to provide basic social guarantees to the entire population. The Belgian Development Cooperation and the European Union are providing their support, in particular financial support, to developing countries to enable them to organise access to basic social rights.

**Recommendation 202 of the International Labour Organization**

Organised by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in June 2012, the International Labour Conference, of which Belgium is a member, approved a recommendation - recommendation 202 - on national social protection floors. This recommendation, an important instrument in the fight against social exclusion and poverty, confirms that every person, without distinction, is entitled to a certain number of basic social guarantees, including:

- the right to basic health care,
- the right to a minimum income for all,
- the right to a basic pension for older people,
- the right to education and nutrition for children.

**Brussels municipalities support the social action of Moroccan municipalities**

The local level is the closest one to the citizen. It is therefore no surprise that, in both the North and the South, local authorities play an increasingly significant role among development actors.

The Municipal International Cooperation Programme (CIC), an instrument of the Belgian Development Cooperation, tackles poverty from the specific angle of the strengthening of South’s municipal institutions. The programme is jointly designed and managed by the Association of the City and Municipalities of the Brussels-Capital Region (AVCB) and the Union of Cities and Municipalities of Wallonia (UVCW) on behalf of the Walloon and Brussels Regions. During the first five-year programme cycle (2008/09-2012/13), which is coming to an end, several projects have been launched, including:

- The setting up of a Department of Social and Cultural Affairs, which centralises all of the social actions of the municipality of Berkane, in partnership with Saint-Gilles.
- The inauguration, with the assistance of Saint-Josse-ten-Noode, of a socio-cultural centre equipped with a library accessible to each inhabitant of the municipality of Ain Beni Mathar.
- The creation of a digital public space in Jerada, which collaborates with Forest, to be inaugurated in 2013.

Guaranteeing social protection, with access to health care and a right to education
The NGO SOS Children’s Villages has since 2008 been conducting a project for access to quality primary health care for the vulnerable population of the province of Gitega, in the centre of Burundi. The project achieved significant results in 2012 including:

- 15,000 consultations were held, which represents a 150% increase in four years. No fewer than 20,000 laboratory analyses are carried out each year, benefitting 10,000 patients.
- Some 1200 patients used the minor surgery services and over 300 people were hospitalised.
- The SOS Medical Centre is taking part in the national programme for testing and caring of people living with HIV/AIDS and has performed 500 voluntary tests accompanied by pre- and post-test psychological advice. People who test “positive” are treated and monitored free of charge by qualified staff.

VIA Don Bosco offers vocational training to young Tanzanians

In Tanzania, few young people have the possibility to receive secondary education, because nearly 75% of them have not reached the end of the basic education cycle. By creating three vocational and technical training centres, the Belgian NGO VIA Don Bosco has offered an educational alternative and a greater chance of finding their place in the employment market to thousands of young Tanzanians.

You feel as though you are somebody.
A former student of the Don Bosco Oyster Bay in Dar-es-Salaam

The FIGURE

75 to 80%

This is the percentage of the global population that does not have access to any basic social protection.
In the majority of partner countries tension still remains between the political will to support gender equality and the empowerment of women and traditional customs that are still strongly rooted in society and which dominate women’s daily lives.

The Belgian Development Cooperation aims to support the efforts of partner countries in the area of equality between men and women and to incorporate the gender dimension into all programmes, projects and policies.

Belgium’s actions are for example reflected in:

- **Agriculture.** In the majority of partner countries, many women work on a plot of land in order to feed their families. As they generally do not own the land on which they work, these women have limited access to the development instruments made available by governments. The Belgian Cooperation Development also put a particular focus on the role of women in food security and sustainable agriculture, including via training.

- **Health care.** Maternal and women’s health is a basic prerequisite for the fight against poverty. Belgium is very keen to support women’s rights in the area of sexual and reproductive health. Women don’t just have a reproductive role; they are also building the societies of tomorrow. Via several groups of experts such as Be-Cause Health and the Commission on Women and Development, Belgium contributes to surveys, to work in the fields and to debates in international meetings, among others in the United Nations (Commission on the Status of Women).

- **Conflict or post-conflict situations.** In the context of the United Nations Security Council’s Resolution 1325 on “Women, Peace and Security”, Belgium put in place National Action Plan 1325. This plan aims to ensure that the different levels of government and competent departments contribute to a comprehensive approach to the security of women in conflict or post-conflict zones, and the participation of women in the reconstruction process.

**The Seruka Initiative: support for the victims of sexual violence in Burundi**

Sexual violence persists in Burundi due to the aftermath of war, the predominance of women-headed households, the status of Burundian women, the economic situation and the erosion of social values.

The Seruka Initiative for Victims of Rape in Burundi, supported by the Belgian Cooperation provides medical and psycho-social care to the victims of sexual violence. The Seruka Initiative’s centre receives an average of 120 new cases of sexual violence victims per month. Approximately 60% of these victims know their attackers, but only 20% file complaints.

Seruka wishes to create a favourable cultural and legal environment that promotes human rights through the elimination of sexual violence in three provinces in Burundi. The project also endeavours to improve the knowledge of the populations in the target provinces with regard to sexual violence and the existing legal provisions in this area, and to make legal and judicial services available.
Promoting inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth

Inclusive growth means that populations benefit from but also participate in economic growth. On a long-term perspective, it aims to create productive jobs rather than a simple redistribution of wealth to the most deprived social groups.

According to the World Bank, inclusive growth will create an environment of equal opportunities for all through job creation, access to market, consumption and production, and will thereby create favourable conditions for the poor populations to access good living conditions. Inclusive growth takes the following parameters into consideration: age, gender, regional or geographic differences, as well as the balance between the sectors of the economy.

Support to small producers of ultra-fine cocoa in Ecuador

Cocoa is believed to have originated in Ecuador, and nowadays, the finest variety can still be found there: the renowned ‘Fino y de Aroma’ valued by the greatest chocolate-makers. The Belgian Cooperation works via the BTC to ensure that this remarkable resource can represent a fair livelihood for small producers.

The cooperative, created seven years ago with the assistance of the Belgian Cooperation and supported for two years by the Rural Development Programme in Northern Ecuador (PDRN) implemented by the BTC, enables 150 small producers in the north of the country to have better remuneration for their production, greater power in the market and highly specialised certifications.

BIO: financial partner for the development of SMEs

Created by Belgium at the end of 2001, the Belgian Investment Company for Developing Countries BIO S.A. is a development finance institution for development. Its mission is to grant financing to the private sector in the least developed countries, low income countries and lower middle income countries, according to the OECD classification, in the interest of the economic and social progress of these countries. BIO is a member of the EDFI (European Development Finance) network.

In 2012, BIO approved 29 new investment projects amounting to 145 million euros. All BIO projects directly or indirectly support the local SME fabric. Furthermore, subsidies intended to support feasibility studies and technical assistance programmes amounting to two million euros were approved in 2012. The projects supported by BIO in 2012 contributed to supporting over 50,000 local jobs.

Before, I had a small crop and I had to work as a worker in a cement plant to earn a living, and now I can live off my production and my expertise. But I am not dependent on cocoa; if the harvest is not so good, I also have fruit and vegetables to consume and sell.

Mártires Bautista Sol, APROCA associate producer

The Trade for Development Centre: a tool for promoting fair trade

This programme, financed by the DGD and implemented by the BTC aiming at promoting fair trade, undertook three key missions in 2012:

1. Support and promotion of different forms of fair and sustainable South-North and South-South trade (organisation of the Fair Trade Week; support for producer organisations; setting up of a Fair Trade Observatory, etc.).
2. Support to governmental cooperation projects engaged in a production/marketing process approach.
3. Conducting of other projects in the context of aid for trade.
MALI
A new multidimensional programme to meet the challenge of food security
In February 2012, a new Belgian Fund for Food Security (FBSA) programme was launched in Mali. The overall aim of this programme is to improve the nutritional security of vulnerable groups by facilitating their access to production factors, technologies and markets, and by building the capacities of local actors in food security management in local development.

LATIN AMERICA
15. Ecuador
16. Peru
17. Bolivia

WEST AFRICA
3. Mali
4. Niger
5. Senegal
6. Benin

NORTH AFRICA
1. Morocco
2. Algeria

CENTRAL AFRICA
7. DR Congo
8. Rwanda
9. Burundi

MIDDLE EAST
14. Palestinian Territory

13. South Africa
Belgium’s 18 partner countries for governmental development cooperation

UGANDA
A new Indicative Cooperation Programme
A new 2013-2016 Indicative Cooperation Programme (ICP) was approved during the 3rd Belgo-Ugandan Joint Commission, held in Kampala on 5 April 2012.
Health and education will remain the priority areas for the Belgian Cooperation’s bilateral actions, in line with the wish of the Ugandan government.

MOZAMBIQUE
A new Indicative Cooperation Programme focussed on agriculture and renewable energy
On 19 December 2012, the new Indicative Cooperation Programme (ICP) amounting to a total of 55 million euros was signed between Belgium and Mozambique for the 2013-2017 period.
However, an additional budget of 11.3 million euros is planned for Mozambique, for a Belgian Fund for Food Security programme in the province of Gaza.
Areas of expertise and geographic areas

In order to make its aid as efficient as possible, Belgium seeks to provide added value in sectorial and geographic areas where it has acquired significant expertise. The following have been selected as priority sectors for humanitarian aid:

- food security, agriculture and food aid
- protection
- child protection
- sexual and reproductive health
- disaster planning
- humanitarian logistics

The geographic priorities are:

- the Palestinian Territory
- Afghanistan
- Sudan and South Sudan
- the Sahel
- the Great Lakes Region

Food and nutritional crisis in the Sahel

In 2012, over 18 million people were in a situation of food insecurity and over one million children were at risk of suffering from severe acute malnutrition in the Sahel region.

The deterioration of food consumption exacerbated already critical rates of acute malnutrition. The children in the Sahel region suffer from very high rates of malnutrition, not only during the peak of the agricultural lean season, but also during the periods following the harvests. It is estimated that each year, in the eight countries of the Sahel region, approximately 226,000 children die due to malnutrition and its adverse effects on their health.

Regional conflicts contribute to making this situation worse. The increasingly limited resilience of the populations to the recurring crises in the Sahel is one of the characteristics of the region, where, in the aftermath of a crisis, households no longer manage to rebuild their livelihoods before the next shock arrives.

Beginning March 2012, given the urgent situation, Belgium decided to provide special funding for the Sahel. The UN agencies working in the area of emergency food aid thereby received two million euros (1.25 million euros for UNICEF, 750,000 euros for the WFP) in order to give assistance to the most vulnerable people and to halt the cycle of malnutrition.
persons to flee several times. These secondary displacements make the populations even more vulnerable: women are often the victims of sexual and sexist violence, while children are exposed to the threat of forced recruitment into armed groups.

The Belgian government has contributed to the actions of the HCR, by cofunding the protection monitoring activities, the supply of essential goods and services, and the logistical support for the operations. In particular, Belgium has assisted with conducting field missions and the documentation of human rights violations aiming at preventing and reducing the effects of the armed conflict on the civilian population. It has provided legal assistance to the victims in order to tackle the impunity of the perpetrators of sexual and sexist violence and has participated in conducting awareness-raising campaigns on the rights of internally displaced persons. In addition, emergency shelters have been provided to the most vulnerable families thanks to Belgium’s contribution to the assistance programme of HCR.

Syria: A disastrous situation and difficult access on the ground

It is estimated that approximately three million people are directly affected by the conflict, including 2.5 million requiring assistance in Syria and nearly 300,000 refugees outside Syrian borders. The humanitarian needs are particularly acute, in terms of primary health care, hospitals, food, assistance to refugees and protection.

The Minister for Development Cooperation has released two million euros, divided between already operational organisations for projects intended to provide assistance both in Syria and to Syrian refugees outside Syrian borders: one million to support the activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Syria; 600,000 euros to the Belgian Red Cross and 400,000 euros earmarked for the UNRWA to support the programme for Palestinian refugees in Syria.

The CERF: a flexible Fund for dealing with emergencies

Since it responds to emergency situations, humanitarian aid calls for the rapid mobilisation of funds. These can be immediately granted by the CERF (Central Emergency Response Fund) to respond to the most pressing needs, especially during sudden crises.

Belgium’s contribution to this emergency fund also makes it possible to increase the predictability of the aid, in accordance with the wish of the Minister for Development Cooperation. In 2012, Belgium’s contribution to the CERF amounted to 15 million euros.
Revitalisation of the Agriculture and Food Security Platform

The Agriculture and Food Security Platform, which was reactivated in 2012, brings together the Directorates-General and related services of the FPS Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development cooperation and the other Belgian actors (NGAs, universities, regional entities) involved in the implementation of the development cooperation strategy in the areas of food security and agriculture in the broad sense.

Restoring self-sufficiency in animal proteins to ensure food security: Vétérinaires Sans Frontières and the FBSA

From 2007 to 2012, the NGO Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (VSF) conducted a project aimed at restoring the self-sufficiency in animal proteins of the populations of the regions of Beni and Lubero, in the Great North Kivu, by developing small-scale animal breeding activities. The LUVUPEL project was effective both in terms of the strengthening of food security and the economic and social development of the region.

The first phase of VSF’s project, which received two million euros in funding from the Belgian Fund for Food Security (FBSA), focused on “Fighting vulnerability through small-scale animal breeding” (LUVUPEL). The project’s response strategy was based on the development of small-scale animal breeding activities, via support for the restocking of animals (mainly rabbits) for vulnerable families; building the capacity of farmers; the improvement of animal health and support for the marketing of the livestock products.

Strengthening agriculture and food security

Agriculture and food security are the focuses of attention at the global level and a priority for the Belgian Development Cooperation. The DGD in fact considers that the development of an environment based on family agriculture makes it possible to reduce poverty and hunger, but also facilitates the achievement of other Millennium Development Goals such as those relating to education, the reduction of infant mortality, health and a sustainable environment. Belgium’s support to the agricultural sector and food security takes the form of a number of financial channels and aid programmes, including Agricord, Asap and the Belgian Fund for Food Security.
At the end of the first phase of this project, which was spread over five years, VSF was able to demonstrate that short-cycle animal breeding (mainly of rabbits) has a very significant impact on the food security of vulnerable households. For example, it was possible to observe:

- An increase of approximately 50% in the number of households consuming at least two meals per day.
- A 26% to 1% reduction in overall malnutrition among the beneficiary households.
- A 32% increase in the number of households consuming animal proteins.

The FBSA will fund a second phase of the project called “Fighting for food security through small-scale animal breeding” (LUSAPEL), which also aims at producing short farming cycles and improving animal health. Unlike the first phase, the intention is to increase and diversify the agricultural production and to work on building the capacity of partners in order to ensure the durability of the project.

Sustainable revitalisation of the Diobass Valley

The Diobass Valley is the natural water reservoir of Senegal and two crucial agricultural regions, including the Niayes area, which produces 80% of the country’s horticulture. The Belgian Development Cooperation has decided to make the supplying of productive water a priority area of intervention in the water sector in this part of Senegal.

Two projects by Belgian NGOs were launched with the aim of re-establishing the ecosystem of the Diobass Valley and contributing to the sustainable development of the South-West of the city of Thiès: a project of support to agricultural production in the district of Notto, initiated by the NGO AD Gembloux, and a synergy project for the integrated development of the Diobass Valley, initiated by the NGO Broederlijk Delen in collaboration with the NGO Autre Terre.

These projects support the “Retention Basins and Borehole Development Project” (BARVAFOR), a bilateral programme of infrastructure works implemented by Belgian Technical Cooperation in Senegal. These hydraulic works aim at enabling the local populations to sustainably increase their financial income from agriculture, animal breeding and forestry through better management of water resources.
Connecting development, climate and environment

Twenty years after the first Summit on the Environment and Development in Rio, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, known as Rio+20, was held in Brazil in June 2012. The summit gave birth to Conventions to combat climate change, protect biodiversity and combat desertification.

Rio+20 should be considered as the starting point of various processes that must lead to the development of a more sustainable world. Post-2015, the Sustainable Development Goals should form the global reference framework for socio-economic, development and environmental agendas.

Support to the Mekong River Commission (MRC)

From its source in Tibet, the Mekong River crosses China, runs along Laos’ borders with Myanmar and Thailand, crosses Cambodia and Vietnam before flowing into the Gulf of Tonking, at the end of a 4200-kilometre journey. In the context of regional cooperation, the DGD supports various activities in the Mekong River Basin through the Mekong River Commission. This contribution has actually been the catalyst of a vast programme with socio-economic, agricultural, energy, environmental, fisheries and institutional dimensions.

Since 2005, the DGD has provided financial support to the MRC’s Navigation Programme. This programme comprises five components: socio-economic planning of river transport; establishment of cross-border legal frameworks; traffic safety and sustainable environment; information, promotion and coordination and institutional development.

Preserving biodiversity in the DRC

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the preservation of the environment and of the wonderful biodiversity resources that support the country’s ecosystems is threatened by the fragility of the State, conflicts and poverty, which force the population to drain the forest resources.

Belgium has for several years supported the activities relating to the sustainable management of the DRC’s forest resources. In Kisangani, in the Eastern Province, in the heart of Congo’s vast tropical forest, non-gov-
Environmental actors have undertaken ambitious documentation, preservation and training activities, funded by the DGD and the Federal Science Policy. Four activities aimed at preserving, but also documenting biodiversity are currently being conducted by non-governmental actors and funded by the DGD and the Federal Science Policy. They focus on the environs of Kisangani, in the DRC’s Eastern Province, a region located at the heart of the enormous Congolese tropical forest, known by the name of “Central Basin”.

**Water for all in Ecuador**

In Ecuador, many people do not have access to drinking water and are therefore condemned to living in appallingly unhygienic conditions. The NGO PROTOS is working hard in order to give everyone access to the blue gold, in the Province of Esmeraldas, in the north-west of the country. Guided tour of a few projects:

San Vicente, a small village of 43 families, is lost in the middle of the lush vegetation of mango trees, cocoa trees and tall colourful flowers. The distribution of purified drinking water was installed in this remote village by the NGO PROTOS. “The water is pumped from the river before being purified. It is then directed to a tank located above the village, at a sufficient height for all of the houses to be supplied with running water”, explains El presidente, the village chief. “The inhabitants had an old drinking water installation that no longer purified the pumped water. Since the river water was used for all sorts of activities, it was extremely dirty. It was no surprise therefore that the inhabitants regularly suffered from illnesses”.

**Dry toilets**

PROTOS also launched a pilot project concerning environmental-friendly toilets. “We were able to convince nine families to use dry toilets”, says Piedad. “It is an alternative solution that is much more hygienic than classic toilets, because you do not need water for flushing. You also therefore have no waste water to drain away. The urine and the excrement are separated and collected in separate underground tanks.” Dry material (grass, soil, leaves) is spread over the excrement to avoid bad odours and insects. “Once dried and disinfected, the excrement is used as fertiliser for the vegetable garden”, continues Piedad before presenting a drinking water installation in the village of Chumundé.

**Submersible pump**

The installation is only accessible from the river. It can be reached by canoe. The submersible pump is attached to a floating structure. This solution was selected because the height of the river varied by ten meters between the rainy season and the dry season. The submersible pump directs the river water to the installation located upstream, where the water undergoes chemical treatment and filtration. The installation was built in collaboration with the inhabitants. The system does not operate 24 hours a day for economic reasons. The community is entirely responsible for its operation and maintenance.
Consolidation of society in the partner countries

The consolidation of civil society and of political institutions in partner countries is a factor contributing to development. In fact, the fragility of the States prevents them from conducting effective and sustainable actions in the fight against poverty. A department specifically dedicated to the theme of consolidation of society has therefore been set up in the new organogram of the DGD. On a practical level, in 2012, the Belgian Cooperation made use of political and financial levers in Burundi to encourage this central African partner country to take measures to improve governance and tackle corruption.

A State is fragile when the government and the State authorities do not have the means and/or the political will to provide citizens with security and protection, to effectively manage public affairs and to tackle poverty within the population. Fragility can also be defined as the inability of a State to meet the expectations of its population or to manage the evolution of these expectations and the available capacity, through political processes.

Consolidating the rule of law in the Arab world

The so-called “Arab Spring” events that started in North Africa in 2010 attested to the thirst of the populations of Tunisia, Egypt and Libya for the establishment of democracies based on the rule of law. Recent events in these three countries have shown how fragile the process of democratic transition was. There is an even greater need to support the realisation of this aspiration of citizens to democracy, to which Belgium is providing its contribution.

In order to optimise the effectiveness of its interventions in the Arab world, and in particular to avoid a dispersion of its resources, the DGD has opted for a regional, pragmatic and individualised approach. When the time comes, it will readjust its governmental cooperation programmes with the partner countries in the region (Algeria, Morocco and Palestine) and continue, as it has done since 2011, to support regional programmes put in place by international organisations, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which is active in the area of governance.

Belgium has contributed 1,000,000 euros to the UNDP’s Regional Programme “Anti-corruption and Integrity in Arab Countries (ACIAC)”. An amount of 300,000 US dollars has been transferred to the overall programme of support to parliaments, governments and civil society of the Arab countries in transition in the region, which include Egypt and Tunisia.

And an amount of 8,700,000 euros has also been allocated to a project called “Responding to a Changing Region: Seizing the opportunity for transformational change in the Arab States” the aim of which is to support democratic transition in the region by strengthening the institutional structure of the countries engaged in the reforms.

Additional financial support dependent on the improvement of governance in Burundi

Burundi has a poor reputation when it comes to governance. Belgium, first bilateral donor for this central African country, has therefore placed a particular attention on this issue in the bilateral cooperation agreements concluded in 2009. The aid has been refocused on the areas of health, agriculture and education. The funding for Burundi amounts to 150 million euros. In order to encourage the Burundian authorities to improve its governance, the agreement provided for an additional funding of 50 million euros to be totally or partially allocated. In 2012, Burundi was Belgium’s first partner country to receive this incentive tranche on the basis of compliance with four conditions (agreed in 2009) geared at improving governance:

- that the international observer missions would attest that the 2010 elections were on the whole conducted fairly
- a CPIA rating (established by the World Bank to assess policy and national institutions) greater or equal to 2.5
- successive positive reviews from the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (the facility through which the IMF grants low-interest loans to low-income countries)
- the validation of the action plan of the National Governance Strategy by the Political Forum of the Partners Coordination Group, and the start of its implementation.
Educating public opinion on the theme of development

Why does Belgium contribute to the development of countries in the South? How does it do this? Using what means? It is essential that Belgian public opinion be informed about and open to the world, that it understand and be able to develop critical reflection on major global issues and commit itself to equitable North-South relations. Bearing this in mind, the Belgian Development Cooperation is developing in Belgium a policy and actions for development awareness-raising and education.

Development education by NGOs

NGOs are important partners of the DGD in the area of development education. During 2012, the theme of climate justice was promoted by the CNCD and 11.11.11 in the context of their campaign offering diversified activities for all audiences: educational tools for schools, stands at festivals, etc. It was above all the “Sing for the Climate” action that attracted attention throughout the summer culminating in the weekend of 22 and 23 September 2012. Over 80,000 singers, from both sides of the linguistic barrier, were brought together to sing the song “Do it now” which has become a hymn, and to call for concrete commitments from the International Community to tackle climate change.

Numerous events and shows

The DGD is continuing its policy of co-funding awareness-raising events and of supporting audiovisual productions. Among others, the following received the support of the DGD:

- The “Ballad of Garuma” show, created by the Kollectif Compagnie Baraka from Brussels. This play performed by 11 actors from Morocco and Belgium aims at raising the public’s awareness on the business of the transfer of young African or South American footballers, which is sometimes similar to the trafficking of children.
- In 2012, the ASBL Globelink organised for the last time a “Kras-project” on the theme of climate, aimed at secondary school classes.
- Several film festivals also received the DGD’s financial support in 2012 such as the Festival Millénium, the Festival of Mediterranean Cinema, the Cinema Novo, the Open Doek, the Afrika Filmfestival and the International Festival of Francophone Cinema, which presented dozens of films or documentaries that deal with issues related to North-South relations.
- The “Belges du Bout du Monde” programme broadcast on RTBF devoted four of its programmes to Belgian development workers.
- The result of another important collaboration in 2012 was presented in official competition at the 2012 Namur International Festival of Francophone Cinema and won the Special Official Jury Prize and the Junior Jury Prize. Nabil Ayouch’s story, “Les Chevaux de Dieu” (The Horses of God), describes the poverty of the Moroccan slums and shows how these slums, which are home to a vulnerable part of the population (in particular young people), become a recruitment ground for certain religious extremists.