



**KINGDOM OF BELGIUM**

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**Foreign Affairs,  
Foreign Trade and  
Development Cooperation**

# DGDC Annual report 2007

DGDC - Directorate-General for  
Development Cooperation



.be

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The DGDC 2007 annual report can be consulted on [www.dgdc.be](http://www.dgdc.be).

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# Foreword

It is an unusual opportunity for a new minister of development cooperation to be able to write the foreword to the DGDC Annual Report 2007, which was nearing completion as he took office. Moreover, it is a pleasure to be able to contribute to an annual report that has undergone a radical change in terms of perspective compared to previous activity reports. That is to say, it is focussed more on results and less on input. This new approach is completely in keeping with what I said in my first public statement, the quantitative goal of 0.7% of GNI is important and will be achieved in the medium term. But just as important, if not more important, is the goal I have set myself to improve the quality of Belgian development aid in the short term. Development cooperation is paid for by tax payers in the North and should make a difference to people in the South. As a politician I want to be able to answer to both that these government resources have been well spent. A sentiment of solidarity is essential, but it should not under any circumstances become an alibi for wastefulness.

Central to this report are the millennium goals, a roadmap with 8 main goals, 15 objectives and 48 indicators. It is not necessary to have a PhD in development economics to understand the messages behind these simple diagrams. One, there is something fundamentally wrong in this world when approximately 1 billion people continue to live in absolute poverty. And two, North and South will have to roll up their sleeves and work together to change this. So I hope that this annual report will serve to make the reader even more aware of the importance of development cooperation. I am very conscious that we politicians should not just assume that Belgian public opinion subscribes unquestioningly to that importance. So it is up to us, too, to work hard year in year out to ensure that Belgian development aid can make a difference.

However, the millennium goals are more than just a vigorous call to action. The various indicators make it possible to chart the progress and setbacks, and thereby to impose accountability - accountability on the part of the donor to public opinion in his country, but also accountability on the part of the partner country to its population. Standardisation of

the indicators makes it possible to compare the situations of the various donors and, just as importantly, of the partners and, at the level of the partner countries, of regions, towns and population groups. Therein lies perhaps the greatest potential of the millennium goals, a potential which has unfortunately borne very little fruit since 2000, that is the potential to be a political instrument that gives men, women and children who have to live on less than one dollar a day a voice with which to address their own governments, an instrument that allows them to take their future into their own hands, be they Latin American slum dwellers or impoverished farmers in a remote area of Africa.

For donors and their partner countries the millennium goals embody the will to work together in partnership to create a better world, to work together in partnership to achieve seven major goals in the partner countries. But it is also a contract with mutual obligations which are set out in the eighth millennium goal. Donors commit themselves, it is true, to make more and better resources available, but the partner countries must also commit themselves to good governance. The change from input-oriented to results-oriented reporting will allow us to make a better assessment of the end-result of development cooperation. In its new form then, this annual report is not only a call for further goal-oriented action, nor just a means of demonstrating accountability, but a document that invites the actors of Belgian development cooperation to question what they are doing and demonstrate their added value on an ongoing basis. I am sure that this DGDC Annual Report 2007 will satisfy all these expectations.

Charles Michel  
Minister of Development Cooperation





1

## BELGIAN POLICY FRAMEWORK



© Béatrice Petit

1. Focus on results
2. Focus on the millennium goals
3. Evaluations for better results
4. Belgian action plan for effective development aid
5. Reform of the Belgian NGO sector



# BELGIAN POLICY FRAMEWORK

## 1. Focus on results\*

As the minister for development cooperation indicated, this DGDC Annual Report 2007 is somewhat different from our usual activity report. The DGDC report used to concentrate on providing an overview of the resources the Belgian government had deployed and the actions it had taken each year to combat poverty and foster sustainable development. Obviously, as an administration, DGDC must account for what it does with government resources. Henceforth, DGDC wants to be better able to assess and measure the effects of Belgian development cooperation. That is why we have shifted the focus of this annual report from the input to the results of Belgian development policy.

What sort of results can we expect from our development programmes? When we talk of the product, or output, we mean material achievements, like a school building, a hospital, a water pump or roads, or intangible changes like better knowledge of new agricultural methods or structural improvements in the organisation of the health sector. There are short- and medium-term results which show the immediate effects our development projects or programmes have achieved, i.e. the outcome. The long-term result or the impact on the development of the country is more difficult to measure or to attribute. Usually it is the result of a combination of many factors. In addition to the efforts of the partner country concerned and the combined contributions of the various donors, contextual factors like the climate, politics, conflict situations and economic shocks play just as important a role.

Systematic attention to results is fairly recent in development cooperation. For DGDC, too, this is a

new approach and therefore a somewhat awkward exercise. The structure of the annual report is no longer determined by the various channels of Belgian development cooperation. What counts is how all the channels together contribute to the end result. Looking at the results we will also go back a bit further than this work year. This time we devote more attention to the evaluations of our development programmes. They are very useful, because lessons can be drawn from the conclusions and recommendations for better and more effective development policy. Above all, however, development cooperation is the result of the combined efforts of many people. That is why we are delighted to let our colleagues here and in the field speak in this annual report. Their personal testimony or experience on the ground often says more about the impact of our aid than hard figures.

The Directorate-General for Development Cooperation considers this edition of the annual report to be the start of a more representative presentation of its work. After all, a results-oriented annual report fits the results-oriented policy we are striving for and, in addition, it fully complies with our obligation to demonstrate our accountability regarding the government resources deployed. As usual, you will find the financial report and the statistical information for 2007 in the appendices, or at least the figures that apply to DGDC. The contributions from the other departments were not all available when this report went to press.

*\* For a more detailed overview of governmental development cooperation see the annual report of the Belgian Technical Cooperation, which is responsible for implementing bilateral programmes and projects ([www.btcctb.org](http://www.btcctb.org)).*



## 2. Focus on the millennium goals

As we examine the results of Belgian development policy in this annual report, we will keep the eight millennium goals in mind. They are strong signals of what the international community has resolved to do to halve poverty in the world and ensure a genuine improvement in living standards for millions of poor families, by 2015. Uniting all our energies in a global partnership to combat poverty is a splendid commitment. But at the same time, it is an immense task that presents Belgian development cooperation with big challenges, too. Because the millennium goals stimulate DGDC's ambitions to continue to work towards a results-oriented policy, they will also form the thread of our work in this annual report. Especially as the millennium goals correspond pretty much to the development goals, themes and domains set out in the Belgian law on international cooperation (25 May 1999).

Measuring progress and international efforts to combat poverty using the 48 indicators set out for that purpose is not easy. The economic and institutional context of a developing country must also be taken into consideration and it is difficult to determine the individual contribution per donor country. The Belgian government is obliged by parliament to report annually on the results of Belgian efforts towards the millennium goals (law of 14 June 2005). The second Belgian **Millennium Report** was presented to the Belgian parliament in October 2007. It can be consulted on our website: [www.dgcd.be/documents/fr/themes/omd/rapport\\_parlement\\_omd\\_2007.doc](http://www.dgcd.be/documents/fr/themes/omd/rapport_parlement_omd_2007.doc) (not available in English).



1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger



2. Achieve universal primary education



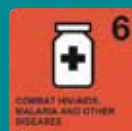
3. Promote gender equality and empower women



4. Reduce child mortality



5. Improve maternal health



6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases



7. Ensure environmental sustainability



8. Develop a global partnership for development

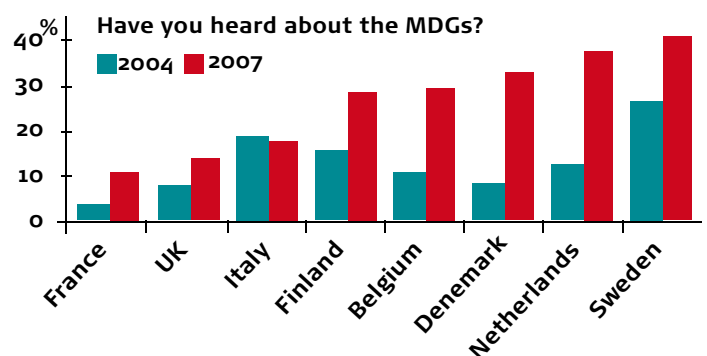


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## DGDC's millennium campaign is a success

The millennium goals not only give a strong signal to Belgian policymakers, the positive message of international solidarity obviously also appeals to public opinion. According to a survey by the European Commission in all the EU member states, the so-called Eurobarometer, the percentage of Belgians that had heard of the millennium goals rose from 11% in 2004 to 30% in 2007. We like to think that the national millennium campaign which DGDC launched in 2005 has contributed to better awareness of the millennium goals. Meanwhile our mobile information exhibition, **The Bridge of Solidarity**, which is the show-piece of our awareness campaign, after all, has been seen all over the country at the request of more than

a hundred schools and associations. In 2007 the Bridge of Solidarity was one of the attractions at the scouts' centenary celebration at the Cinquantenaire Park in Brussels. Combining forces the scouts lashed together a two hundred metre long **Bridge of Solidarity** as a symbolic gesture of solidarity with the South. Our millennium campaign is still running. See [www.dgdc.be](http://www.dgdc.be).





**"I SEE IT AS A CHALLENGE TO TRY TO JOIN IN WITH THOSE DONOR COUNTRIES MOST ADVANCED IN THE NEW APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION"**

PETER MOORS, DIRECTOR-GENERAL DGDC

**Peter Moors was appointed as the new Director-General DGDC on 1 June 2007. He has worked for the FPS Foreign Affairs as a diplomat since 1988.**

**What is his vision of development cooperation?**

*"The Scandinavian countries, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom are known to be effective donors. They give much of the decision-making power to the people on the ground and spend 0.7% of their GNI on development aid. If our aim is to provide modern assistance, we must go about it differently – do more thorough policy preparation, become more predictable in our spending, react faster and think less bureaucratically."*

**Can we help a country out of poverty with our development aid?**

*"We know there is still an enormous amount of work to be done in a great many developing countries. Development aid alone will never be enough to get a country out of underdevelopment. Much more is necessary for that - economic growth, a strong private sector, effective and transparent fiscal administration and good governance. Perhaps we paid too little attention to that in the past and barriers have gone up between our development policy and those other areas. We must dare to make more demands on our partner countries. Development cooperation represents a lot of money, but also easy money. Certainly towards our former colonies we are all too often rather embarrassed to put conditions regarding good governance".*

**Which themes do you consider important?**

*"During my mission to Goma in the Democratic Republic of Congo, with our new minister for development cooperation, we were confronted with the consequences of sexual violence against women in war situations. It made me even more aware that we must pay attention to human rights, and especially to women's rights. Gender is an important factor in development cooperation because women are the motor of development."*

**How do you see the role of Belgian development cooperation at the international level?**

*"Twenty years experience in European dossiers has taught me that our country can punch above its weight by acting within a European context. We need to work harder at that in development cooperation. Belgium is by no means such a small donor, but it is not big enough either to be able to do everything everywhere. So we have to suppress the urge to be everywhere. The future is in better division of labour and coordination between European donor countries".*



### 3. Evaluations for better results

In order to know whether Belgian development aid is well spent and does actually help combat poverty in the world, evaluations of our development programmes are very useful. Giving feedback on the evaluation results of development policy is also indispensable if it is going to be dynamic and results-oriented.

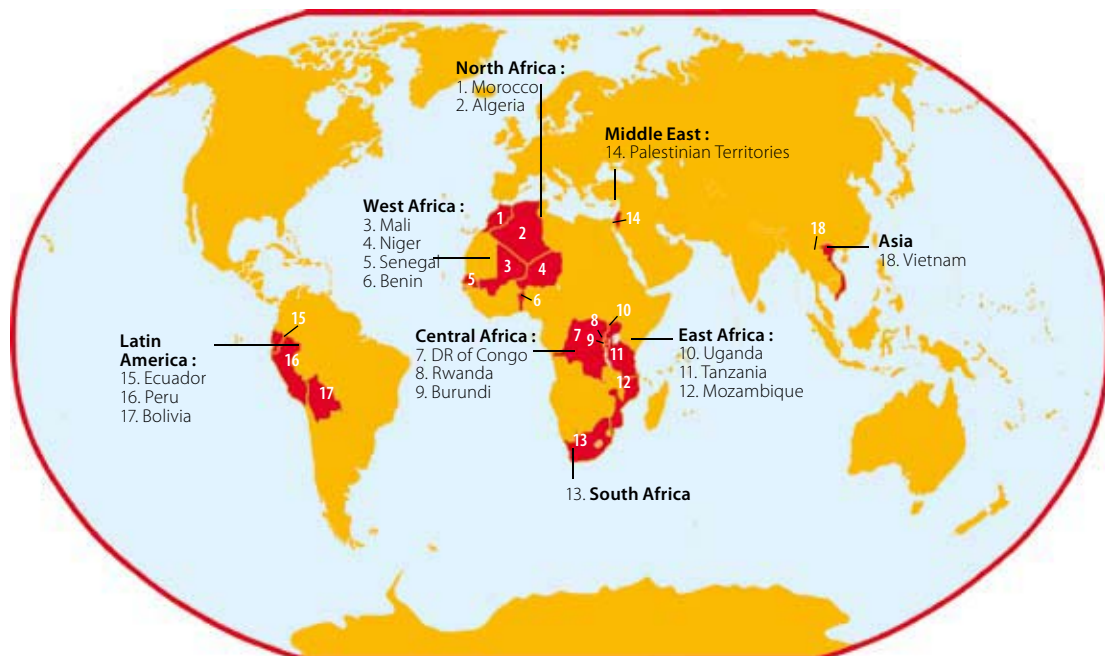
In 2007 Foreign Affairs' Special Evaluation Service (SES) and DGDC's own evaluation service organised special work sessions to give feedback on the results and recommendations of the evaluations to the staff of the services concerned. The evaluation reports of the Special Evaluation Service and its parliamentary report 2006-2007, are available for everyone to read on the website of Foreign Affairs, [www.diplomatie.be](http://www.diplomatie.be). The reports of the sectoral and thematic evaluations which DGDC's own evaluation service carried out, can be found at [www.dgdc.be](http://www.dgdc.be), but they are also discussed in Dimension 3 and the magazine Mo\*.

### What lessons has DGDC drawn from the evaluations?

#### Governmental development cooperation

The evaluation of the development cooperation with our 18 partner countries has helped shape DGDC's third management agreement with the agency that carries out the work, the Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC). The roles and division of labour of both organisations have been more clearly defined – the task of policy preparation belongs to DGDC, whilst the BTC gets more autonomy in the implementation of governmental programmes. The aim is for new dossiers to be dealt with faster by DGDC and BTC.

Belgium's 18 partner countries for governmental development cooperation





## BIO

As a result of the evaluation of the Belgian Investment Company for Developing Countries (BIO), completed in 2007, recommendations were made about its remit, and the reorganisation and policy of the institution. New regulations are necessary for the operation of the funds the organisation uses for its investments. Coordination with DGDC must be improved.

## Healthcare

The recommendations of the evaluation of Belgian development policy in the field of public health, which was carried out in 2005, have been incorporated into a new policy strategy. In future this will be the policy framework for all Belgian partners involved in improving basic healthcare in developing countries. The aim is to achieve greater impact on the ground by ensuring all Belgian healthcare programmes are better coordinated and more complementary.

## Decentralisation

A similar policy exercise is underway with regard to Belgian support for the decentralisation of government apparatus and the strengthening of local government capacity. A committee of the partners concerned is working on a strategic policy framework that should result in these programmes being better positioned.

## Education

The evaluation of Belgian development aid for education, carried out in 2007, pointed out that Belgium should step up its efforts in this sector to help achieve the millennium goal of universal primary education. The recommendations will be used to bring the strategic note on education up to date.

## BELGIUM PLAYS AN ACTIVE ROLE IN DONOR COORDINATION FOR BUDGETARY SUPPORT

The evaluation of Belgian budgetary support in 2007 shows that direct financial support of the budget definitely has added value for the development of the partner country, especially since we link our financial aid to playing an active role in the coordination of the programmes.

Belgium was the coordinator of the education programme in Tanzania and chaired the healthcare donor group in Uganda. Belgium also heads the donor group for education in Niger and for healthcare in Rwanda.

The evaluation underlines the importance of a well thought-out strategic vision on the use of budgetary support. It needs to be more predictable. In 2008 there will be a new handbook of procedures for allocating budgetary support.

In 2007 DGDC took on 31 million euros worth of new commitments for budgetary support, of which approximately two thirds were for education and one third for the health sector.



## 4. Belgian action plan for improving aid effectiveness

DGDC must also adapt its development policy to fit the new rules of conduct for effective aid prescribed by the **Paris Declaration** (2005). That means harmonising procedures and making more effort to align Belgian development policy with the partner country's policy.

The model for this exercise is the European **Code of Conduct on Complementarity and Division of Labour in Development Policy**. This code of conduct puts the case for a greater geographic and sectoral concentration of development aid, as well as stronger partnership between the donors. Concrete agreements should be made to enable greater use of delegated cooperation. Administrative reforms should be implemented to make aid more effective and easier for developing countries to manage. Donors and their partner countries draw up their own action plan to keep the cooperation on the right track. The action plan that DGDC drew up in 2007, in line with the European code of conduct, commits Belgium to the following policy formulations amongst others:

### Programming of development cooperation

This means tailoring long-term programmes to align with partner countries' policies for combating poverty, including coordinating objectives and strategic choices, and the organisation and timing of follow-up missions. As far as possible local implementation modalities will be used, in addition to the national procedures and institutions of the partner country.

### Division of labour and complementarity between donors

In principle Belgian governmental development cooperation concentrates on a maximum of two sectors per country in new programmes, to ensure the best use of resources. The package of single projects should be reduced by two thirds between 2005 and 2010. In the other sectors we are looking for forms of delegated cooperation, whereby Belgium acts as a "silent partner" and is only responsible for co-financing projects. The results can be considerably improved if donor expertise is concentrated in one sector or another. From 2008 Belgium will hold consultations with each partner country about the policy choices which need to be made in this respect.

### Role of technical assistance

Belgian development cooperation will take into account the partner country's national policy regarding capacity development. Belgium supports pooled fund mechanisms, i.e. donor funds managed jointly with the partner country for the recruitment of international technical assistance. In as far as possible Belgium aims to recruit people for the posts locally and to give them professional training. Care is taken to ensure that this does not lead to a weakening of the partner country's national institutions due, for example, to a brain drain of qualified personnel.



## Alignment of implementation modalities

Belgium tries, as far as possible, to hand over the implementation of development programmes to the partner country's institutions, taking into consideration its institutional capacity. In order to support 'national implementation' more efforts will have to be made to avoid parallel follow-up systems and to leave follow-up to the developing country.

## Predictability of development aid

We endeavour to carry out planned payments within the time span planned. If changes to the payment schedule are unavoidable, they should be signalled to the partner country in time and transparently. For budgetary support, whereby long term engagements are necessary, the timetable for the financing will be set down in the cooperation programme.

### ***"DONORS SHOULD HARMONISE THEIR POLICIES INSTEAD OF BEHAVING LIKE COMPETITORS"***

The Paris Declaration through the eyes of Louis Callewaert

Louis Callewaert ended his 37 year career with the DGDC at the end of 2007. His long service record makes him a privileged witness of the evolution within both international and Belgian development cooperation. As head of the Policy Support Service, he was closely involved in the preparation of the Paris Declaration. Louis was a man with sharp insights and never minced his words. Here are some of the striking things he had to say, first about the "mistakes":

*"After 1991 Mali was awash with development money. But this massive aid produced no results worth mentioning. So what was the problem? The government institutions in Mali were in no state at all to manage the anarchy amongst the short-tempered donors. It became clear that there was something wrong... with the donors! The mistake was finally corrected with the Paris Declaration in 2005."*

#### **About the Paris Declaration:**

*"More aid makes little sense if the efficiency of the aid is not increased. Donors should tailor their policy to suit the partner's development policy."*

*"They should focus on the quality and the predictability of their financing. And before this the donors should harmonise their policy amongst themselves instead of behaving like competitors. The Paris Declaration is an essential step on the way to achieving the eighth millennium goal."*

#### **About the lessons that the donors have learned from their mistakes:**

*"The framework for achieving results is ready. Partner countries make their own policy and carry it out themselves. Donors should align with it and concentrate on strengthening the partner institutions, because it is their institutions and not the donors who provide the population with the necessary services. Donors must help the governments of the partner countries with institutional strengthening, with capacity development, by working with the partner institutions and by giving them more resources such as budgetary support."*

#### **About what Belgium must do:**

*"For Belgium this means decentralisation of the decision-making power to our people on the ground, a change of culture amongst the diplomatic personnel, greater specialisation in Belgian development organisations and reducing the number of themes and sectors."*



## 5. Reform of the Belgian NGO sector

In the first instance, the Paris Declaration is aimed at better cooperation between the authorities of the donor country and those of the partner country. But greater cooperation is also needed between the other players in the field of development cooperation. The reform of Belgian co-financing of the NGO sector, which should contribute to this, was rounded off in 2007. Following intense talks between Belgian NGOs and DGDC, the foundations have been laid for more flexible and results-oriented cooperation that will address the most serious complaints of both the administration and the NGOs.

The reforms are intended to strengthen the programme approach, improve the way projects work, provide more financial security for the NGOs, smoother procedures and less complicated administration. In future NGOs will be able to obtain financing for their activities either via three year programmes or via projects lasting two years. In a programme the activities, such as strengthening the partner's capacity, may be in the South and the development education in the North, whereas a project must be implemented either in the South or in the North. Only those NGOs that have received special programme recognition may submit a programme application. This programme recognition actually constitutes the final part of the reform.

In 2007, 76 NGOs applied for recognition and were screened for their management capacities. Besides an investigation of their accounting and financial capacity, their professional experience in preparing, implementing and following up development

projects was also examined, as well as the efficiency of their actions on the ground. The 58 NGOs whose programmes were eventually recognised will be able to implement their first programmes starting in 2008. NGOs who have not received programme recognition will only be eligible for the co-financing of smaller-scale projects.

NGOs now have more financial security. Indeed, after a programme has been approved they can count on a pre-arranged amount for three years, or two years in the case of a project. This eliminates the annual action plans which were a heavy administrative burden for both DGDC and the NGOs. At the same time this reform encourages development organisations to take a more results-oriented approach. Each NGO must indicate what results it expects and demonstrate at the conclusion of its intervention, using clear indicators, to what extent the expected results have been achieved. In addition, DGDC evaluates in advance whether the action satisfies international norms with regard to relevance, efficiency, appropriateness and sustainability. Crucial to this is whether the development programme is tailored to fit the country's poverty eradication policy.

# 2

## BELGIAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MILLENNIUM GOALS



1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Equal opportunities for women
4. Structural support for healthcare
5. Ensure environmental sustainability
6. Develop a global partnership for development



# 2

## BELGIAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MILLENNIUM GOALS

### 1. Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger

In 1990 1.2 billion people worldwide had to survive with less than one dollar a day. In twenty five years time that number should be reduced to 600 million people.

#### MILLENNIUM GOAL 1:

By 2015 the number of people that must live on less than one dollar a day should be reduced by half.

Characteristic of the Belgian approach to eradicating poverty is the undiminished effort to improve agricultural production and food security. Poverty is often greatest in the countryside where the paltry yield of animal husbandry and agricultural production is usually insufficient to keep large families alive. For twenty five years the Belgian Survival Fund (BSF) has financed programmes that safeguard food security for the population in the poorest African countries. To achieve this, sustainable development of all the sectors is kept in mind, which is why these programmes concentrate particularly on strengthening the capacity of the local community. This has emerged as one of the strong points in the evaluation of the Belgian Survival Fund that is currently underway. A good example is the manner in which water management has been institutionally anchored in the project run by the NGO Protos in the Niger Delta in Mali. Thanks to good agreements and division of labour the whole community has been made responsible for the water supply and maintenance of the wells. Another typical example of the Belgian Survival Fund's particular approach to working in various sectors simultaneously and contributing to food

security in an integrated manner is the following animal husbandry project in Niger.

#### Healthy livestock for food security in Niger

Belgian Survival Fund Project – Veterinarians Without Borders

In Niger, in the Sahel, where 88% of the population lives from animal husbandry, healthy livestock is crucial. That is why the Belgian Survival Fund finances the Veterinarians Without Borders' network, Neighbourhood Veterinary Services, in cooperation with the Niger NGO, Karkara. Thanks to the project's preventive vaccination programme the health of livestock in the area has improved considerably. In 2004 a total of 25 000 animals were vaccinated, but



© Veterinarians Without Borders



in 2007 the number increased tenfold to 250 000 vaccinated animals. In addition, the majority of cattle farmers in the region have joined the network. By building up grain banks and animal fodder banks, the farmers are better able to tide themselves over the period of scarcity till the new harvest. The network teaches farmers new husbandry techniques to improve production and the quality of their stock. The women learn to breed chickens and to produce cheese, so that they can earn a basic income. The project also teaches farmers to read, write and do arithmetic in their local language, which certainly contributes to their emancipation.

### Improvement of the banana crop in Central Africa

One of the most relevant programmes for food security financed by Belgium is undoubtedly CIALCA's (Consortium for Improving Agriculture-based Livelihoods in Central Africa) banana production programme in the Great lakes area, certainly if one considers that bananas are the fourth largest food crop in the world and the staple food for 400 million people in Central Africa. Banana production makes up approximately one quarter of the total agricultural acreage in Central Africa. This international agricultural consortium provides technical support for producers of quality bananas and plantains in the Great Lakes region by helping them, for example,

to improve their existing production system and management of their natural wealth, so that they can keep their most important staple crop going. CIALCA also assists the farmers to rebuild banana production in some regions.

Belgian support for banana research has always been substantial, thanks to the scientific knowledge built up during the colonial period. The largest collection of bananas - 1 100 different species - is at the Catholic University in Leuven, which is responsible for managing the world's banana patrimony. So Belgium is also recognised internationally as an authority in the field of banana research. In mid-2007 there was a joint follow-up mission to the banana production programme, which expressed its appreciation of the multidisciplinary approach and the coordination of the activities initiated by DGDC.

CIALCA is a collaboration between three international agricultural centres, the KU Leuven, UCL Louvain-la-Neuve and FSA Gembloux, as well as African agricultural research centres and grassroots organisations, and partners from the private sector.

## IMPORTANT BELGIAN SUPPORT FOR LAND REFORM IN SOUTH AFRICA

Since 1998 Belgian governmental development cooperation has supported the land reform and restitution programme, one of the South African government's development priorities. Many blacks were robbed of their land, first during colonisation and later by the apartheid regime. Partly because of this, around 3 million people in rural areas live below the poverty line today.

According to Jean-Jacques Waelput, Attaché-Assistant international cooperation in Pretoria, Belgium has shown how it can make a significant contribution with modest resources:

*"Belgium contributes a mere 1% of total development aid in South Africa. But we are the only bilateral donor that gives direct aid to the programme for land reform. The carefully considered decision to be active in this difficult but crucial sector, as well as Belgium's proven expertise, ensures that the impact of Belgian aid clearly outweighs its financial contribution."*

In a first phase Belgium gave the South African government support to expand the institutions that have to investigate and validate the claims submitted, so that the slow and arduous process of land restitution could be accelerated. In a second phase the authorities received the training and education necessary to help the new landowners use their land sustainably. In 2007 Belgium provided the Department of Land Affairs with logistical and methodological support for developing the Settlement Implementation Support Strategy. This is the land reform strategy used to organise and implement land distribution. Belgium also supports the South African NGOs that are active in the process of land restitution.

It is a difficult task, but the results are very positive:

*"At the moment about 95% of the claims lodged have resulted in the original owners having their rights restored. The large majority concerned the so-called "urban claims" which could be compensated financially. The remaining claims are mostly "rural claims" for larger pieces of land and are harder to deal with. On the whole these cases are very complex. For example, when a factory has been built on former agricultural land in the meantime, or when several people without demonstrable proof lay claim to the same piece of land."*

This programme goes beyond land restitution:

*"The programme plays an important role at the political and social level. The open and democratic procedure for land restitution has contributed to a large extent to the fact that what was a potentially explosive transition period has passed off peacefully. Agricultural reform has had an important impact on agricultural production in South Africa."*

Belgian expertise concerning land reform is certainly appreciated by the international donor community. The British Department for International Development (DFID) has asked Belgium to carry out the land reform programme financed by British funds.



COOCENKI

Tarif FG

LIBELLE	P. UNITAIRE	P. TOTAL
HARICOT	265	26500
RIZ	255	25500
SOJA	280	28000
MAÏS	135	13500
POMME de TERRE		

© Vredeseilanden / Lin Vanwaeyenberg

## Corn purchased locally in the Democratic Republic of Congo

World Food Programme of the United Nations (WFP)

For several years Belgium has been an advocate at the World Food Programme of relieving famine in crisis situations with food aid purchased on local markets, thereby also encouraging and strengthening the local agricultural market. All too often the dumping of western food surpluses upsets local markets. This is why Belgium champions untied food aid at the World Food Programme, which is responsible for food procurement in crisis situations. Since 2004 DGDC has financed conferences and studies for the WFP to investigate how local farmers can gain access to local markets. An initial local market study in DR Congo was tasked with seeing which procurement procedures this required. Thanks to Belgian efforts the World Food Programme has drawn up new guidelines for procuring local food. With support from the Belgian NGO 'Vredeseilanden' (Islands of Peace), Congolese farmers' organisations have been trained in the application of WFP procurement procedures.

In 2007 the first local purchases of corn and beans were successfully concluded in North Kivu and Ituri in Eastern Congo – a remarkable achievement considering the deadly conflict and the inadequate road network in the area. The food was distributed to the starving population of Eastern Congo.

**Muhindi Bunambo, the director of the Congolese farmers' organisation, Coocenki, is really delighted about the local purchases:**

"Thanks to WFP's purchase of local food at our markets our farmers will carry more weight socially and economically. Organising the delivery of 150 tons of cornmeal was a big challenge. Getting the corn from the many small farmers to a storage place was one thing, but grinding it into cornmeal posed a bigger problem. There are hardly any good, large machines to be found in the area."

**Via 'Vredeseilanden' DGDC financed the purchase of two new mills in North Kivu, so that the cost of grinding corn in the province could be reduced and as a result the sales price of cornmeal at the local markets. That is very important, as cornmeal is the staple food with which the population of Congo make fufou.**



## 2. Universal primary education

Education is a fundamental right. Nonetheless, 104 million children worldwide do not go to school and one in six people is illiterate. That must change drastically.

### MILLENNIUM GOAL 2:

In 2015 all boys and girls will go to primary school.

### Evaluation of Belgian efforts in the education sector

Everybody knows that education and training are vitally important in the battle against poverty. However, it appears from the evaluation of Belgian development programmes in the education sector that our commitment weakened considerably between 2001 and 2005. Expenditure on governmental education programmes in 2001 amounted to only 10% of the total budget. Furthermore, analysis of the financial contributions shows that half of the education budget went to higher education, whereas the priority was on primary education. DGDC recognises the contradictions between the political will to support the sector and the budgetary inconsistencies. If Belgium wants to make good its commitment to this millennium goal it will have to make more effort where primary education is concerned. The revision of the policy strategy for education will be rounded off in 2008, in consultation with all the Belgian partners, with a new policy framework.

Here are some experiences with education programmes from which DGDC has drawn important lessons.

### Support for education in Tanzania

The Belgian contribution to education in Tanzania in the evaluation period 2001-2005 amounted to a good 16 million euros. Half of it consisted of budgetary support that was paid into the special donor fund for financing primary education in Tanzania. Besides Belgium the partnership consisted of the European Commission, Canada, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Ireland and France. Out of a total of 400 million euros the Belgian contribution of 8 million euros was rather modest. But because of the quality of the technical expertise that Belgium supplied, our country played an important role in the coordination of the partners with the national



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authorities. Because of the sometimes difficult political dialogue between the Tanzanian government and the donors, this was not always easy. The common fund was considered by some donors as a parallel structure beside the national structure. This caused tensions between the donor coordination and the Tanzanian authorities. In practice the donor fund was far removed from the ideal of tailoring donor contributions to suit the partner country.

It was Belgium's first experience with budgetary support for education and DGDC has learned important lessons from it: that a difference must be made between political deals and technical support; that there should be more decision-making power on the ground; and that there should be more cooperation with other Belgian development organisations with a view to a joint, strong education strategy in a particular partner country. According to the European evaluation of the education programme in Tanzania, the joint donor programme clearly had an added value, in terms of improved reporting, for example. Financing of the education sector has also become more predictable. It has certainly contributed to the large majority of Tanzanian children finding their way back into primary education.

## Budgetary support for education in Rwanda

In 2003 the Rwandan government designed an ambitious policy plan for education. All children, including the most vulnerable groups such as girls and orphans, should go to primary school by 2015. Rwanda asked donors for budgetary support to finance this education plan. In 2006 the donor fund for primary education, the Joint Education Sector Support (JESS), was set up. In 2007 Belgium also paid 3.5 million euros into this jointly managed fund. Rwanda had submitted a solid education plan which fulfilled the conditions for the allocation of Belgium budgetary support. The JESS donor fund finances a strengthening of the institutional capacities of the Rwandan Ministry of Education, which is responsible for the implementation of the action plan. Implementation of this education plan is evaluated annually by the donors. Various Rwandan and international evaluations have shown that Rwanda is well on the way to reaching its ambitious goals with this education plan. The rate of schooling in Rwandan primary education has risen from 73% in 2000 to 95% in 2006. However, the quality of that education continues to be an important focus of interest. Belgium has promised Rwanda to pay another 8 million euros into this donor fund by 2010.

### BUDGETARY SUPPORT ENCOURAGES POLITICAL DIALOGUE

Budgetary support is not granted just like that. It is weighed up carefully by the governments of both the donor and the partner countries. Budgetary support requires political dialogue between the governments and indicates common responsibility for good development policy. This is sometimes an awkward exercise but has results:

In Niger the difficult negotiations between the government and the donors led to a better education strategy and transparent procedures, and corruption has also finally been tackled. In Mozambique the joint effort led to a more solid government budget. Partly due to pressure from donors, Uganda has changed the top of the Ministry of Health so as to ensure a more dynamic healthcare policy.



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## Cambodia improves access to primary education

Although Cambodia is no longer a partner country, Belgium did not want to stop aid to its national education plan immediately. Since 2001 our country has contributed 8.75 million euros to the project Basic Education and Teacher Training (BETT) for the structural improvement of primary education in three provinces. At the end of 2006 an interim evaluation produced very promising results. 266 of the 522 classes planned had already been built, or rebuilt, and were in use. All in all, 3 360 children from the poorest families had received a scholarship to pay for school. 60% of the scholarships were allocated to girls as stipulated by the project. Three lesson modules were developed for teacher training.

In 2007, encouraged by these results, the Belgian development cooperation decided to grant another 4.7 million euros for the consolidation phase of the BETT project. This will basically be used to finish off the teacher training properly. This will be the biggest challenge for a project which aims to offer quality education for everyone. In this phase a decision will also be taken on how the Cambodian government will take over the Belgian activities so that it can become the “owner” of its own project.



## 3. Equal opportunities for women

Men and women have the same rights - at least that is what was laid down in the International Convention on Human Rights. But the reality shows otherwise in every part of the world. For millions of women discrimination, oppression, exploitation and sexual violence are their daily lot. So there is a lot of work to be done to achieve the third Millennium goal.

### MILLENNIUM GOAL 3:

In 2015 women will have the same opportunities as men and their position will be strengthened.

### Strengthening the socio-economic position of women in Niger

Professional training, decent work that provides a good income and childcare. Every woman in Niger dreams of it. In this Sahel country the days are much too short for all the work that women have had to do since time immemorial.

### THE DAYS ARE MUCH TOO SHORT FOR THE WOMEN OF NIGER

Being a woman in Niger is a hard day's work. 82% of women live in very difficult conditions in rural areas. In addition to the daily household tasks of washing, cleaning, fetching water, gathering wood and preparing food for the whole family, women must also work on the land. Tilling and harvesting, keeping sheep and goats, it is the women who have to do all the work. So for a woman in the Sahel a day is much too short. Even with sixteen to eighteen hours hard labour she often cannot make a decent income. The large majority of women from Niger, about 63%, live below the poverty line.

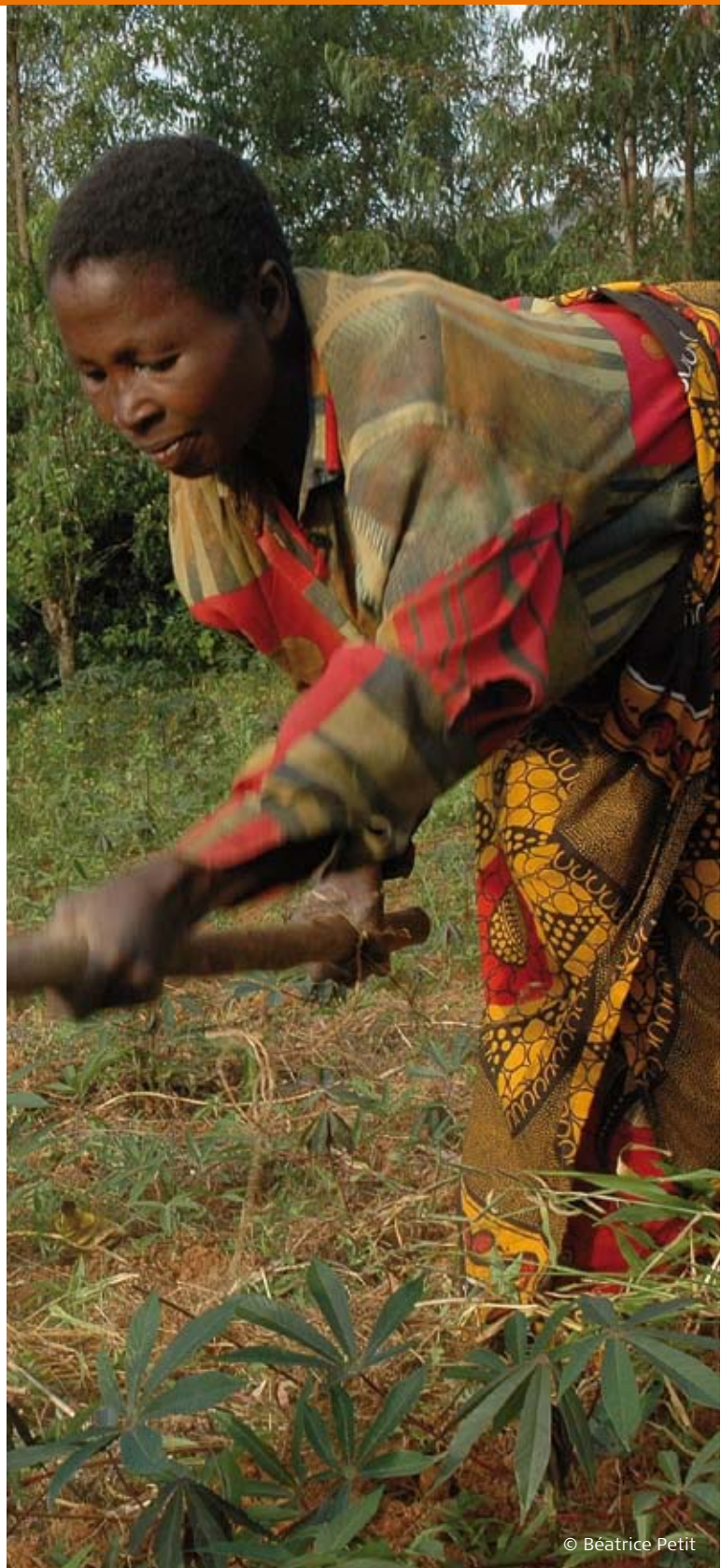
The government of Niger has understood that if the country is to develop socio-economically women must be given far more economic opportunities and scope to develop their abilities. In the framework of this action plan Belgium has contributed a good 6.7 million euros to support the socio-economic activities of rural women in the region of Dosso since 2003. Meanwhile the programme has a number of important results to show for it. For example, the fact that the women got foreign aid has added considerably to their social status in the villages. The men began to see the point of the project when their wives received small loans to purchase stocks of grain to help them over periods of scarcity. Via all sorts of training activities in the villages the project has been able to reach sixteen thousand women, i.e. 30% of all women in the villages who provide an income. Nearly four thousand women have received training in modern animal husbandry and agricultural techniques, and they have learned how to manage their money better. In total 272 action groups have been set up to give the women on-going training. They have begun to organise themselves better and their vision of the development of the village is taken into consideration.

## Empowering women politically

### UN Global Programme for Parliamentary Strengthening

Women should be more involved and get more decision-making power at a political level. But in reality women's participation in politics continues to be nothing less than inadequate. Despite a slight rise in the number of women parliamentarians in the last ten years, even in 2006 barely 17% of members of parliaments worldwide were women.

Via its financial support for the multilateral UN programme for parliamentary capacity strengthening, Belgium contributes in particular to capacity strengthening for female members of parliament in its partner countries. Partly thanks to our support female members of parliament in Niger have received decent training to enable them to carry out their legislative task better. The Forum of Women Parliamentarians (FFRP) set up in Niger and Algeria foresees technical and legal aid to improve follow-up of the millennium goals. In Benin a study of the legal framework showed up the gaps in the legislation for the protection of women and children. The programme for the support of parliamentary work in conflict zones requires members of parliament to pay more attention to the needs and rights of women in their role as legislators. In order to encourage cooperation and communication between women politicians worldwide, the programme has created the network 'iKnow Politics' (International Knowledge Network on Women in Politics, [www.iknowpolitics.org](http://www.iknowpolitics.org)).



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## 4. Structural support for public health

Three of the eight millennium goals are aimed at healthcare. Because Belgian policy is also targeted at improving basic healthcare for the entire population, we have grouped Belgian contributions towards these three millennium goals.

### MILLENNIUM GOAL 4:

#### Reduce child mortality

In 2015 the mortality rate of children under 5 will have been reduced by two thirds.

### MILLENNIUM GOAL 5:

#### Improve maternal health

In 2015 maternal mortality will have been reduced by three quarters.

### MILLENNIUM GOAL 6:

#### Concerns HIV/AIDS, TBC, malaria and other deadly diseases

In 2015 the spread of AIDS, malaria and other deadly diseases will have been stopped.

### New policy framework for healthcare

In 2007 the platform of Belgian partners in healthcare 'Because Health' ([www.itg.be/becausehealth.be](http://www.itg.be/becausehealth.be)) drew up a new policy framework for the improvement of public healthcare in our partner countries. The evaluation of Belgian assistance in the healthcare sector showed that we had definitely helped to make basic healthcare accessible to the whole population with our local approach in the sanitary districts. To guarantee sustainable improvements, however, we need to offer structural support for national health policy

and the health system, in addition to the local project approach. This could be done via budgetary support for the national public health budget, for example, or by institutional capacity strengthening of the healthcare services. In future, then, healthcare projects in all of the Belgian development partner countries will be oriented mainly towards achieving structural and sustainable qualitative improvements in the healthcare systems, especially in the field of reproductive health. That means providing good education and training for personnel, working towards preventive healthcare with vaccination campaigns, sexual education for young people, etc. Combating deadly and "neglected" tropical diseases continues to be one of Belgium's priorities.

### Support for public health insurance in Peru

In 2002 the Peruvian government created a health insurance system to provide free healthcare and treatment in the event of sickness or accident for twelve million poverty-stricken Peruvians. The Seguro Integral de Salud (SIS) takes care of all the medical expenses. This means that the government bears the cost of medical treatment, medication and hospitalisation, as well as obstetrics. Preventive care such as vaccinations, medical examinations and HIV/AIDS tests are also free. Belgium began to finance this unique healthcare fund in 2005, with six million euros in budgetary support. The agreement was that these resources should be used to repay the medical treatment and medication of the quarter of a million Peruvians enrolled in this public health insurance. According to recent evaluations the number of poor people who have joined the SIS has risen.



This encouraging result has led to Belgium pledging another 3 million euros to the SIS.

### Free medical care for pregnant women in Algeria

Since 2004 Belgian governmental development cooperation has supported the Algerian government project for the qualitative improvement of maternal and child health, an absolute priority for the partner country. The government takes complete charge of all medical expenses during pregnancy. Public health takes care of 90% of the cost of childbirth. Tests for cervical cancer are carried out free of charge. The government takes care of training programmes on family planning and sex education for young people. In a second phase this healthcare programme will be extended to more sanitary districts in the region, which is why Belgium has pledged 2.7 million, prolonging its support till 2010.

### Better training for midwives in Rwanda

Flemish Association for Development Cooperation and Technical Assistance (VVOB)

Between 2003 and 2005 the number of births in Rwanda attended by trained medical personnel rose from 35% to 38.6%. Good healthcare before, during and after the birth is crucial to reducing infant and maternal mortality. The VVOB hopes that its skills lab project will contribute to better care during childbirth. To do this the VVOB works closely with APEFE, its French-speaking sister organisation. Skills lab is a pedagogical method whereby medical and communicative skills are taught using medical simulation exercises and virtual interaction. This Belgian methodology was first used successfully to train nursing staff in Kenya. Since the project started in Rwanda in 2003, the skills lab has become a concept in the paramedical sector. Meanwhile the methodology has been recognised by the Rwandan Centre for Curriculum Development and has been integrated into the official education plans for paramedical training. It is now taught in the five regional paramedical colleges



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in Rwanda, by the 28 new teachers who were the first to learn the skills lab methodology. In the meantime, a good 1200 medical students have received training with the simulation exercises.

## MALARIA IS THE MAIN CAUSE OF DEATH IN CHILDREN

Malaria is caused by a parasite that is transmitted to people via the sting of the malaria mosquito.

1.2 million people die annually as a result of malarial infections, 90% of them in Africa. Malaria affects mainly children under 5 and pregnant women.

Malaria is an expensive disease. Treatment of it costs Africa 12 billion dollars.