Belgian Development Cooperation

Development policies

The main objective of Belgian development cooperation is to eliminate extreme poverty and to create opportunities for all, to contribute to sustainable development and a fair world. It aims to help achieve the Millennium goals in an effective manner. Its policy is focused on the following issues: Millennium Development Goals, Agriculture and Food Security, Environment and Climate Change, Migration and Development, Education and Training, Basic Healthcare, Basic Infrastructure, Society Building, Equal Rights and Opportunities for Men and Women, Aid for Trade, Children's Rights and Private Sector.

In order to achieve its goals, Belgium works in partnerships with governments in developing countries and other donors present in the partner countries, non-governmental actors in Belgium and its partner countries (through NGOs, universities and community-based organizations) and with multilateral organizations. In addition, Belgian development cooperation also funds a number of special programmes with different partners, including emergency aid, food aid and the Belgian Fund for Food Security.

Priority countries

Belgium provides bilateral aid to 18 partner countries in Asia, Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa and the Middle East. There is a strong focus on Central Africa.

Besides the 18 partner countries involved in governmental cooperation, some other developing countries also receive aid from Belgium. Depending on the source of that aid, the amounts concerned can vary tremendously from year to year.

UNECE member States are not specified as target countries, but may receive funding through other initiatives that receive Belgian funding.

Priority areas

In its bilateral cooperation, Belgian concentrates its aid on a specific number of sectors:

- Healthcare
- Education and training
- Agriculture and food security
- Basic infrastructure
- Society building

Coordination and implementation

The Belgian government, as represented by the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation (DGDC), establishes the general framework for the activities in collaboration with partner countries. This encompasses projects, training programmes, technical assistance, financial cooperation and debt reduction.
The programmes falling under bilateral assistance are monitored by the relevant Belgian embassies’ development cooperation attachés and are implemented by the Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC). The BTC is the implementing agency which carries out development projects in cooperation with partners in developing nations on behalf of the Belgian government and other donors.

For more information about Belgian development cooperation please visit: http://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/policy/development_cooperation/

For more information about the Belgian Technical Cooperation please visit: http://www.btcctb.org/