

Overview of Belgian Development Cooperation activities in the water Sector (2008-2018)

What

Over the period of 2008-2018, Belgium spent a total of 844.130.296 Euros in the water sector and on water related activities. 611.294.790 Euros (or 72%) were analysed because relevant information was available or useful because of relevant amounts reported on.¹ The water sector doesn't seem to be an important priority for Belgian Development Cooperation (around 3% of total ODA spent compared to around 13% spent in Health over last 10 years). Bilateral efforts only, amount to 566.258.304 Euros.

Water and Sanitation : Bilateral versus Multilateral spending

52% of total spent for water and water relevant activities, was used for **water and sanitation** activities² of which **more than half (58%) was spent by multilaterals** and 42% by bilateral channels (=governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as private sector and developing countries' governments benefiting from state-to- state loans).

First comes the EU. World bank comes second (23%) in terms of Belgian ODA channeled for water and sanitation through a multilateral organization. The African Development Bank (10%) stands third.

Water and Sanitation: EU institutions

EU is by far the most important channel through which "Belgian" ODA flows to water and sanitation activities. In contrast to multilateral organizations the EDF developed quite a lot of basic water supply activities of which some in Belgian partner countries like Burkina Faso (sector budget support), Burundi, Niger, Senegal, Guinea and Mozambique (projects). In the light of EU prevalent Division of Labour, this might be the reason why Enabel has no water activities at all in Burkina Faso.

Water and Sanitation: Bilateral efforts³

44 % of the bilateral efforts, private sector included, went to **water supply: basic drinking water** (20%) and **large water supply systems** (24%). The latter is mostly financed through state -to-state loans or via interest subsidies to Belgian private companies. 2/3 of bilateral funding **of basic water supply** is channeled through Enabel. 1/3 is spent via state-to-state loans and a small amount (3%) is spent by NGA's. The importance of Enabel as an actor in the water sector, adds to their contribution to partner

¹ This applies to activities of Flanders' Development Cooperation or small amounts from diverse NGOs.

² This conclusion has to be taken with caution, as multilateral efforts related to water in top sectors like Transport & Storage, Energy Distribution, Agriculture and General Environmental Protection are not taken into account in present calculations.

³ Governmental and non-governmental aid is called "bilateral aid" as it can be attributed to a specific country.

countries' policy and administrative management of the water sector which accounts for 11% of total bilateral spending in Water and Sanitation.

19% of the bilateral effort in Water and Sanitation goes to **infrastructure works for River basins' development**. There Enabel channels 63% of the efforts and the private sector gets 38%

Waste management and disposal (13% of the bilateral effort for Water and Sanitation) is a domain where Enabel (56% of what is done in this sector) seems to have developed some expertise. It appears equally a focus for development cooperation by Belgian cities and local authorities with peers in developing countries.

Sanitation gets few funding as a standalone activity. **Large sanitation systems** are accounting for 6% of bilateral efforts for water and sanitation . Belgian support for standalone **basic sanitation activities are only implemented by Ngo's**. For large sanitation systems, 3% of the financing went to Belgian private companies and 2% was channeled via Enabel. **Basic water supply activities are probably reported together with basic sanitation**, as they are supposedly undertaken by the same project. Many Ngo's (21 different names appear in the PRISMA-database for this water sub-sector) report small amounts against the category "basic water and sanitation". Only **Joint for Water** reports substantive amounts for basic water and sanitation (21%)⁴. For the public sector activities (Flanders, provinces, Belgian schools, ...) we see the same phenomena. **Enabel** channels the most funding: 61% of all basic water supply and basic sanitation combined.

Water resources conservation is very low on the list of Belgian actors' priorities, only 5% of the total bilateral efforts for water and sanitation are deployed for conservation issues of which Enabel implements 67%, the private sector 20% and Ngo's 13%.

Water related energy distribution and efficiency: bilateral efforts.

Belgium funded some Hydro-electric power plants via BIO and Enabel. These activities account for 10% of all water sector related activities. BIO invested 35,6 million Euros or 57% of the amount allocated and Enabel implemented 39% of the funding.

Water related transport: bilateral efforts.

9% of all water sector related activities is spent on **water related transport**: dredging, maritime radio-communication, bridge building, in countries like Vietnam, Cameroon, Nicaragua, Kenya, Mozambique and Senegal through state-to-state loans and interest-subsidies to Belgian private companies. Yet, 21% of the spending on water related transport, went to activities of the **Mekong River commission**, that benefited from a longstanding (more than 10 years) support from Belgium.

⁴ DGD reported for the Belgian Ngo "Joint for Water", 29 million Euro over 11 years, which is 2.6 million per year and might not be considered as a "substantive" amount, in a sector where infrastructure are often accounting for the majority of the costs and the activities spread over the following countries; Benin, Burundi, Ecuador, DRC, Haïti, Madagascar, Mali, Rwanda, Uganda.

Agricultural water related issues: bilateral efforts.

NGO's and civil society are almost the only Belgian actors working on **water conservation issues** that are linked to agriculture, though with very small amounts reported on. Water issues integrated into agricultural activities are mostly found in **food security projects**. Probably the reporting of Enabel projects are done differently as **irrigation projects** do exist and can be traced by doing a reading of the project titles reported in PRISMA. **Irrigation is also a research subject** of university cooperation.

Where?

The Belgian water sector activities seem to be **spread over many countries. Morocco is a top receiver. Vietnam** comes second and **DRC** third. This is atypical for the Belgian Development Cooperation, where often former colonies are priority countries.

73% of governmental aid (Enabel) for water is spread over 11 countries. **Morocco** gets the double of **Senegal** and **DR Congo**. They are the top three countries of Belgian governmental support to the water sector.

In volume, NGA support is most important in **Benin, Ecuador, Mali, RDC** and **Haïti**. However, Morocco, RDC, Senegal and Vietnam are, in relative terms, important partner countries of non-governmental actors.

Top ten list of partner countries	Total bilateral support	Percentage of Total bilateral efforts for water related activities minus imputed multilateral efforts
Morocco	64.948.356	18,3%
Vietnam	51.784.221	14,6%
Congo (Dem. Rep.)	42.208.809	11,9%
Senegal	37.110.271	10,4%
Ghana	36.251.131	10,2%
Niger	34.096.019	9,6%
Kenya	26.948.717	7,6%
Bolivia	25.423.844	7,1%
Uganda	23.630.224	6,6%
Mali	19.064.976	5,4%
<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>361.466.567</i>	

Ghana, Niger, Kenya benefitted the most from **state-to state loans**.

Who?

Enabel is the most important bilateral Belgian actor: almost half of the water activities are implemented by Enabel. 73% of governmental aid (Enabel) for water is spread over 11 countries. **Morocco, Senegal**

and **DR Congo**, top three countries of Belgian governmental support to the water sector. BIO seems almost absent in countries where governmental cooperation in water takes place. There is on the contrary an important overlap (5 of 11 countries:) of countries that get **state-to-state loans** together with governmental aid: Niger, Vietnam, Burkina Faso, Senegal and Mozambique. State-to-state loans are in the budget of DGD and in (some/frequently?) combined with interest subsidies for Belgian private sector delivery of goods and services. State to state loans count for 28,7% of total bilateral water related activities and recognized as ODA.

Top 11 portfolio's governmental Aid (Enabel) in water sector compared with other bilateral channels

	<i>Enabel</i>	<i>Total bilateral 2008-2018 Water related activities</i>	<i>% of bilateral support implemented by Enabel</i>	<i>Public sector/State loans</i>	<i>Public sector/BIO Loans or Acquisition of equity in joint venture</i>	<i>Ngo's</i>
Morocco	64.441.299	64.948.356	99,2%			507.057
Senegal	31.902.422	37.110.271	86,0%	3.193.547		1.994.847
Congo (D.R.)	31.205.230	42.208.809	73,9%			7.941.827
Vietnam	30.034.603	51.784.221	58,0%	5.999.419	-2.950	1.507.872
Bolivia	24.646.808	25.423.844	96,9%			
Algérie	17.530.517	17.530.517	100,0%			
Niger	15.924.488	34.096.019	46,7%	17.710.554		460.977
Mali	10.395.531	19.064.976	54,5%			8.669.445
Mozambique	8.894.748	10.109.523	88,0%	747.360		416.123
Benin	2.994.213	13.018.066	23,0%			10.023.853
Burkina Faso	1.308.394	11.762.628	11,1%	3.565.011		6.877.871
Subtotal	239.278.253	327.057.230	73,2%	31.215.890		38.399.871

Top Countries state-tot state loans for water sector activities 2008-2018

<i>Top countries</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>% to total bilateral water related activities</i>
Ghana	29.527.400	8,3%
Niger	17.710.554	5,0%
Kenya	13.884.787	3,9%
Togo	8.885.110	2,5%
Cameroon	8.773.350	2,5%
Vietnam	5.999.419	1,7%
Sudan	4.300.081	1,2%
Burkina Faso	3.565.011	1,0%
Senegal	3.193.547	0,9%
Tunisia	3.045.000	0,9%
Guinea (Republic)	2.390.199	0,7%
Mozambique	747.360	0,2%
Sub-total	102.021.818	28,7%

Few Belgian Ngo's though, seem to specialize in water. Largest and most frequently encountered player is **Join for Water**. The Ngo alone represents 7% of alle bilateral water activities. **APEFE (0.9%)** has also some larger water projects. Solidagro (0.8%) is also rather present, though as a very small player. As is the Flemish Red Cross. ARES (0,9%) and VLIR-UOS (0.5%) pops up frequently in academic work around aquaculture and irrigation.

Thus, **NGA presence in the water sector is less important then overall presences of NGA's in the Belgian ODA: generally** 18% of total Belgian ODA (=bilateral, multilateral plus EU) is spend by Belgian NGA's. If we only take figures for top-sector "Water and Sanitation" NGA's seem only to represent 4% of the spending in this sector.

Top Countries Belgian NGA's for water sector activities 2008-2018, compared with other actors

	<i>Ngo's</i>	<i>Percentage of bilateral support in country</i>	<i>Total 2008-2018 for bilateral Water related activities</i>	<i>% of total bilateral support</i>	<i>Enabel</i>	<i>Public sector/State loans</i>	<i>Public sector/BIO Loans or Acquisition or equity in joint venture</i>
Benin	10.023.853	77,0%	13.018.066	3,7%	2.994.213		
Ecuador	9.533.704	55,7%	17.127.704	4,8%			7.594.000
Mali	8.669.445	45,5%	19.064.976	5,4%	10.395.531		
Congo (Dem. Rep.)	7.941.827	18,8%	42.208.809	11,9%	31.205.230		
Haiti	7.666.868	100,0%	7.666.868	2,2%			
Burkina Faso	6.877.871	58,5%	11.762.628	3,3%	1.308.394	3.565.011	
Madagascar	5.151.555	100,0%	5.151.555	1,4%			
Uganda	3.215.339	13,6%	23.630.224	6,6%			20.374.193
Malawi	2.950.546	90,8%	3.250.546	0,9%			
Burundi	2.846.246	61,3%	4.646.878	1,3%	1.800.631		
Senegal	1.994.847	5,4%	37.110.271	10,4%	31.902.422	3.193.547	
Vietnam	1.507.872	2,9%	51.784.221	14,6%	30.034.603	5.999.419	-2.950
Ethiopia	1.245.166	100,0%	1.245.166	0,4%			
Ghana	1.061.627	2,9%	36.251.131	10,2%		29.527.400	
Nepal	1.041.736	100,0%	1.041.736	0,3%			
Tanzania	978.441	16,2%	6.048.682	1,7%	5.070.241		
Morocco	507.057	0,8%	64.948.356	18,3%	64.441.299		
Niger	460.977	1,4%	34.096.019	9,6%	15.924.488		17.710.554
Kenya	427.064	1,6%	26.948.717	7,6%			13.884.787
Mozambic	416.123	4,1%	10.109.523	2,8%	8.894.748		747.360
Sri Lanka	309.981	5,0%	6.174.161	1,7%			
Tunisia	42.678	1,1%	3.728.103	1,0%			3.045.000
Sub-total	74.870.822	17,5%	427.014.339		203.971.800	42.285.376	63.352.943

We ranked some of the important actors. Together they spent 78% of all Belgian bilateral support for the water sector.

<i>Actor</i>	<i>Total 2008-2018 for Water related activities</i>	<i>% of total bilateral for Water Related activities</i>
Enabel	273.187.242	48,2%
Ministry of Finance (Belgium)/ State loans	102.613.366	18,1%
NGO Join For Water (ex-Protos)	43.806.569	7,7%
APEFE	5.708.898	1,0%
Ares	5.708.898	1,0%
NGO Solidagro (ex Bevrijde Wereld - BW/Terre Nouvelle - TN)	5.151.749	0,9%
Red Cross	3.404.434	0,6%
VLIR- UOS	3.356.791	0,6%
sub-total	442.937.947	78%

Findings.

The Belgian water sector activities seem less important for the Belgian development and **spread** over many actors and even more countries. This is for sure still more the case for **sanitation** activities.

Enabel is the most important bilateral actor. BIO is active in different countries as is Enabel, thus probably not leading to an obvious collaboration in the future. . PRISMA statistical data show many small amounts of ODA, often implemented by Ngo's. **Only one Belgian Ngo seems to specialize in the sector: Join for water Academic collaboration**, also small amounts, seems well represented in aquaculture and fishing yet less important for governmental activities. The above supposes a rather fragmented use of Belgian water sector ODA and less chances of seeing synergies emerge amongst the different bilateral aid channels.

This may to some extent result from the fact that water is sometimes part of a larger project, then being **part of agricultural objectives**, which is for example the case for **irrigation**. Probably not all irrigation activities are captured well in the data base under water related purpose codes.

The **absence of a Belgian water strategy** might also be a reason for this scattered image of Belgian contribution to water sector development in developing/partner countries.

Hence the **presence of private sector and relative large amounts of state-to-state loans** are typical for water related activities and are not easy to bring under a common Belgian water sector development agenda.

Evidently some **hydro-electric infrastructure works**, take up large sums (10 % of total Belgian ODA for water and water related activities) for particular countries as is the case for Ecuador, Ghana, Honduras

and Cameroon. Actors in this sub-sector are BIO and Enabel. This sector is only indirectly linked to the water sector but has a big impact on the budget (as well as on water management in the benefiting countries.)

Annex 1: Analyses by Enabel concerning role to play in the water sector.

Expertise in the past:

- Water management : Vietnam, Morocco and Senegal
- Introducing climate resilient practices and sustainable land management in the agricultural and livestock sectors: RDC, Benin, Guinea, Senegal, Morocco, Tanzania, Niger, Mali
- Improved access to basic services including renewable energy, potable water, and safe environment in the health centers: Burundi, RDC
- Top Up IBGE for Brussels Capital (renewable energy, water supply and re-forestry)
- CLISMADEV for Flanders regions (water supply and renewable energy)
- Climate relevant agricultural innovation and research interventions for the Desira Fund (EU) in Benin and Rwanda + proposal submitted for Niger/Mali
- Climate resilient agricultural interventions for FONAREDD in RDC
- Climate resilient productive water for the EU in the Gambia, Niger, Mauritania and Senegal
- Provision of running water systems and improved public services : (Burkina Faso, Mali, RDC, Niger, Guinea)

Concerning the challenges of human mobility”: Cluster 1: Supporting migration governance

Governing international migration means, entails, understanding the effects produced in the underlying social systems by economic, political, social, demographic and environmental changes, and steering these effects. In the absence of effective governance, the costs of migration both for migrants themselves and for the ecosystems where they live may be significant, and can include social tensions with host populations and pressure on scarce resources and services. That is why it is important e.g. to increase resilience for local populations (in rural and urban areas)) by improving access to services (healthcare, water, energy, ...) via support to cities (e.g. planning and implementation of integration measures), including a sectorial support to education, housing, health and other local systems to ensure the reception and inclusion of women and man on the move; Urban refugees: Urban planning/energy planning (in formal and informal settlements); risk management plans (for natural disasters and other); access to services and access to rights; etc. **Cluster 2: Protection in emergencies and protracted crisis situations** Emergencies and crises disrupt the provision of services (including education services, justice, health services and facilities,...), heighten vulnerabilities, and the road to recovery is often long. Displacement puts pressure on national and local systems especially in host countries with resource and capacity constraints.

Considering the impacts of climate change on the water sector and the focus on adaptation measures requested by DGD, it is crucial for Enabel to maintain its expertise in the water sector, especially in the fields of **integrated water resource management, water governance, flooding prevention** (urban resilience), **drinking water** and **productive water**. These sub-domains have strong links with inequalities and gender (the poor are generally living in vulnerable flooding areas, have less access to productive

water, while drinking water collection remains a female responsibility in many sub-Saharan countries) and **digitalization** (data collection and analysis through GIS, hydraulic and climate modelling, early warning systems...).

Considering resilient and sustainable urbanization, green growth and eco-construction, urban resilience calls for **flooding, landslide and heat islands prevention**, among others, while sustainable urban growth calls for appropriate integrated structural planning, green growth, energy efficiency, smart cities, circular economy (covering solid waste collection and recycling), green buildings... different domains in which Enabel has some experience and expertise. Enabel had some experience in **wastewater treatment**, but not recent. There is no strong evidence for the necessity of maintaining the expertise in wastewater treatment in house in the long run.

In relation to climate smart agriculture and sustainable food systems: If current income and consumption growth trends continue, it is estimated that agricultural production will have to increase by 60 percent by 2050 to satisfy the expected demands for food and feed. Climate change is likely to reduce agricultural productivity, production stability and incomes as a result of increased prevalence of extreme events and increased unpredictability of weather patterns, and hitting the areas that already have high levels of food insecurity. More productive and more climate resilient agriculture requires a major shift in the way land, water, soil nutrients and genetic resources and food loss and waste are managed to ensure that these resources are used more efficiently.

In relation to climate sensitive and specific health and sustainable service delivery

Although global warming may bring some localized benefits, such as fewer winter deaths in temperate climates and increased food production in certain areas, the overall health effects of a changing climate are likely to be overwhelmingly negative. Climate change affects social and environmental determinants of health – clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient food and secure shelter. Enabel's interventions in the health sector should focus on 3 themes: (i) support to the negative effects of heat islands and natural disasters ; (ii) mitigate the impacts of the variable rainfall patterns on fresh water supply and the related water borne diseases; and (iii) tackle the diseases transmitted through insects, snails or other cold blooded animals that are expanding with global warming.

In relation to Global Social & Economic Inequalities When governments want to tackle inequality and poverty they typically need to reconcile stimulating private sector development and regulating and organising society in that way that every citizen is benefiting from (economic) development, receives a 'fair' part of the national income, and has access to public goods like health, education and justice.

Demography & Urbanisation Africa is still in a demographic transition with an unprecedented population growth (in particular in the Sahel region) which deeply transforms societies. Most of the secondary cities in Africa are under-capacitated due to a set of problems: a fast urban growth, precarious housing conditions, an explosion of unemployed youth in an already fragile economy, poor state of infrastructures, limited capacities of the local authorities and poor management causing socio-economic and environmental stresses leading to the degradation of the living conditions. Most of the

secondary cities in Africa are under-capacitated due to a set of problems: a fast urban growth, precarious housing conditions, an explosion of unemployed youth in an already fragile economy, poor state of infrastructures, limited capacities of the local authorities and poor management causing socio-economic and environmental stresses leading to the degradation of the living conditions.

Cities have the potential to improve people's access to services (basic services: infrastructure and roads, water and electricity, but also health, education, ICT, housing and employment) and increase their economic opportunities. Promoting social cohesion and economic participation through urban life adheres to leaving no one behind, acknowledging the importance of accessibility, affordability and participation in the whole of society.