

Enabel 



# Invest in the future

Activity report 2023-2024



**Caroline Gennez**  
Minister of Development Cooperation and of Major Cities

## Investing in the future and in peace

Belgian international solidarity makes the conscious choice to go where the needs are greatest, believing that in those places our potential impact is greatest. And it is our Belgian development agency, Enabel, that lives up to this belief every day. Sometimes under very difficult circumstances.

Because there is no denying it: In recent years, the world has become much more unstable and insecure. The list of conflicts is getting longer: the war in Ukraine, coups in the Sahel region, ongoing violence in eastern Congo, Yemen and Sudan. And now there is the unseen humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza.

All these conflicts each have their own causes. But inequality and a lack of progress combined are a perfect breeding ground for the general feeling of discontent and increasing instability. The climate crisis, which is becoming increasingly visible to people in the Global South, is adding fuel to the fire. A lack of proper education, health care and jobs, in short, a lack of prospects for the future, pushes people to the extremes. Or in rickety boats across the Mediterranean.

This leads to two main conclusions: 1) an unequal world is an unsafe world and 2) development and peace are inseparable.

International solidarity must be our response to the short-sightedness,

self-interest and brutal violence that is on the rise again worldwide. Only by working together, across borders, can we tackle today's challenges – inequality, migration, the climate and extremism. By investing in everyone's future, we invest in our own future as well as in peace. And therefore our own safety.

Enabel is an agency that has proven its worth in fragile contexts. By showing the necessary flexibility and creativity, it can maintain its presence even in difficult circumstances. For instance, in the Sahel region, where the population is suffering badly from the climate crisis and terror. But also in Ukraine, where Enabel will soon open a new office to contribute to the country's reconstruction.

In addition to the many challenges, we must not forget to highlight the great achievements of 2023: new cooperation programmes have been prepared in 11 of the 14 partner countries (Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Tanzania, Mozambique, Burkina Faso, Benin, Guinea, Burundi, Rwanda, Senegal and Morocco); in four of these countries, the programmes have already started (DRC, Tanzania, Mozambique, Uganda). This annual report presents many of these programmes and projects.

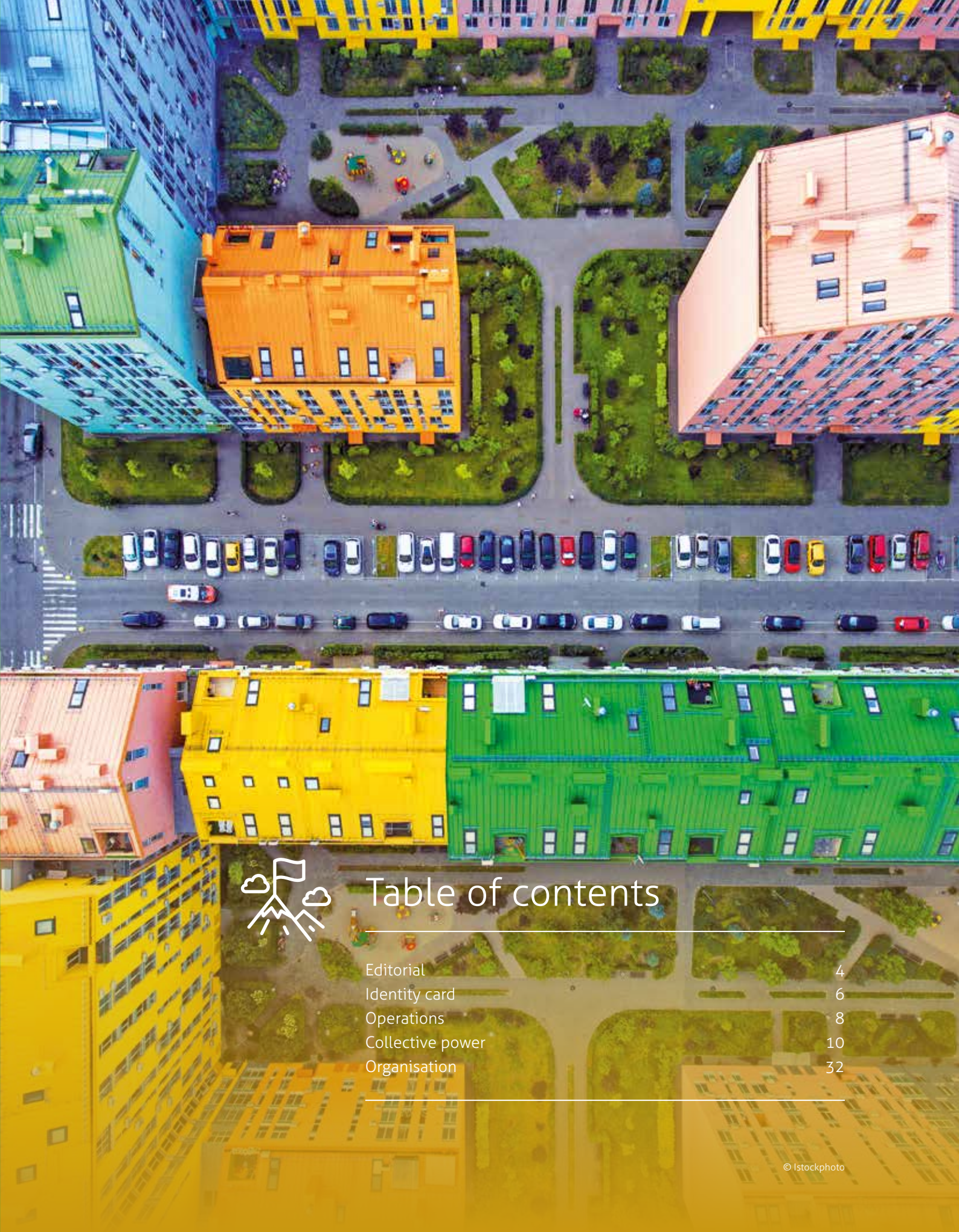
In 2023, I had the opportunity to see first-hand how Enabel's staff make a difference on the ground. Whether it is about supporting young

entrepreneurs in Morocco, building accessible and quality health and education programmes in Uganda, or helping communities better prepare for storms and floods in climate-sensitive Mozambique: Time and again Enabel proves that solidarity works.

Those results, by the way, do not go unnoticed. In addition to the European Union, Enabel now carries out assignments for other European countries, such as the Netherlands and Luxembourg, and works with private organisations such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. It is clear that Enabel's expertise, knowledge and experience are recognised and appreciated far beyond Belgium. We can all be very proud of that.

I can but conclude this foreword by sincerely thanking all Enabel staff, who selflessly work for international solidarity every day. It is through their hard work and dedication that Belgian development cooperation has an impact, on the lives of countless people worldwide.

2023 was a challenging year. 2024 will be no different. Belgian international solidarity remains committed to supporting people to take control of their own lives and build a future. Even when the going gets tough. I am confident that next year too, we will be able to look back on a whole series of successful Enabel projects and programmes.



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# Editorial



**Jean Van Wetter**  
CEO



**Delphine Moralis**  
Chair of the Board

## Upcycling international cooperation

### 2023: a pivotal year

2023 was a difficult year, with the war in Ukraine entering its second year and, in October, the conflict in Gaza literally exploding while the climate crisis continued unabated. Not to mention the coups d'état in West Africa, the ongoing unrest in eastern Congo and the migration crisis that is never far away. The geopolitical context is complex and makes our work difficult.

These events however also confirm that the strategy we developed four years ago is relevant as we play an essential role at Belgian, European and international level. Together with our partners, we are providing solutions to these pressing global challenges. We are present on the ground, and we are achieving visible results. We are proud to remain operational in all these contexts, with professional and committed staff who make the difference. Because over and above the impact of our operational projects, our very presence on the ground fosters dialogue. As the President of the European Council, Charles Michel, said at our 25th anniversary event in March, the Enabel teams are peace-builders.

### A Belgian and European agency

It is against this backdrop that the Belgian government tasked us in 2023

with launching a reconstruction support programme in Ukraine. This choice may come as a surprise given our strong ties with Africa, but it fits perfectly with our mandate as a key actor in Belgium's and the European Union's international policy, especially in light of Belgium's current presidency of the Council of the European Union, and the contribution that an agency like Enabel can make to European integration. Our role as a mobiliser of public expertise is highly relevant here. Following an identification mission in September 2023 and high-level political meetings during Enabel's joint visit with Minister Gennez and Prime Minister De Croo last February, we finalised the start-up of our activities in the country at the beginning of this year, with particular support in the areas of health, education and energy.

### A European and African agency

In Africa, we are increasingly working on regional projects. Because the challenges we face transcend borders, and just as Europe has developed through regional integration, we are convinced of the benefits of developing regional approaches on the African continent. We think in particular of our projects to mitigate the effects of climate change in the Sahel region, the D4D Hub, which aims to promote digital integration in several African countries,

and the MAV+ project, which aims to make Africa more self-sufficient in terms of vaccine production and the access to medicines. The latter project inspired the Belgian Presidency of the European Council, which focuses on health and supports Enabel's work in assisting the development of pan-African institutions such as the African Medicines Agency (AMA), the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and the African Union Development Agency (AUDA). There is also work on strategic corridors, which aim to open up landlocked countries, particularly those in the Sahel region, create efficient transportation corridors, stimulate socio-economic development and strengthen regional integration.

The change in the way we design our projects is already clearly visible in our Brussels office, which has become a hub for multi-country, multi-agency teams, with employees from all over Europe and Africa. We are really proud of our driving role in getting all these nationalities to work together. Cultural diversity is a source of creativity and innovation.

### An investment in the future

All these projects also show the extent to which the 'Beyond Aid' paradigm

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*‘Peace is not an idea,  
it is action.’*

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shift which we pursue in our strategy is relevant. International cooperation has become a major political challenge in the face of our global challenges and should be considered an investment in our common future, not as a charitable obligation. It is with this partnership logic in mind that we developed several new initiatives in 2023, notably regarding the development of green hydrogen production on the African continent and regarding the impact of artificial intelligence on health and education. In these two areas, everything has yet to be invented and every country in the world is in some way developing.

#### **A new vision for international cooperation**

With this in mind, on 28 March 2024 we organised an event to mark Enabel's 25th anniversary, entitled 'Upcycling International Cooperation'. We invited a few unusual suspects\*, a futurologist from the Netherlands, a critical entrepreneur and a youth representative from Senegal, a public management expert from the Congolese diaspora, and a Chief Innovation Officer from Benin. They inspire us with a vision of the future of international cooperation. At 25, as one of the speakers said, you are young and old at the same time. Young in the sense that you still have the audacity

and capacity to innovate, and at the same time old in the sense that you are wiser and have reached a certain maturity. We have the credibility of an internationally recognised organisation, with a large volume of activity and a diversified portfolio of donors.

We would like to take this opportunity to salute all those who have built the organisation over the last 25 years. Because it is impossible to design tomorrow without understanding how yesterday was formed. Back then, there was a spirit of adventure, of people passionate about making a difference around them, a rebellious spirit, which is still very much with us and which, despite our recent growth, is our trademark. Thank you to all of you for having dared to undertake and make Enabel what it is today, an organisation recognised in Europe, Africa and the Middle East for its know-how, for its ability to achieve visible results in contexts where no-one else is present, and for its agility and its ambition!



**Charles Michel**

@CharlesMichel - 28/03/2024

In many African countries – from the Maghreb to the Great Lakes, in the Sahel region and the Gulf of Guinea – and now also in Ukraine, the @Enabel\_Belgium teams are peace-builders.



#### **In memoriam**

This activity report is dedicated to our colleague and friend Abdallah Nabhan, aged 33, and his son Jamal, aged 7, who were killed on 25 April 2024 in Gaza in an Israeli bombardment of the town of Rafah. Abdallah's 65-year-old father, his 35-year-old brother and his 6-year-old niece also lost their lives.

Abdallah was a dedicated and valued colleague. He joined Enabel in April 2020 as Business Development Officer for a European project in support of small businesses in the Gaza Strip.

Like all other Enabel employees in Gaza, Abdallah was on the list of people authorised to leave Gaza – a list that was handed over to the Israeli authorities several months ago. Sadly, Abdallah died before he and his family were allowed to leave Gaza.

We offer our most sincere condolences to his family. He will be greatly missed.

Jean Van Wetter

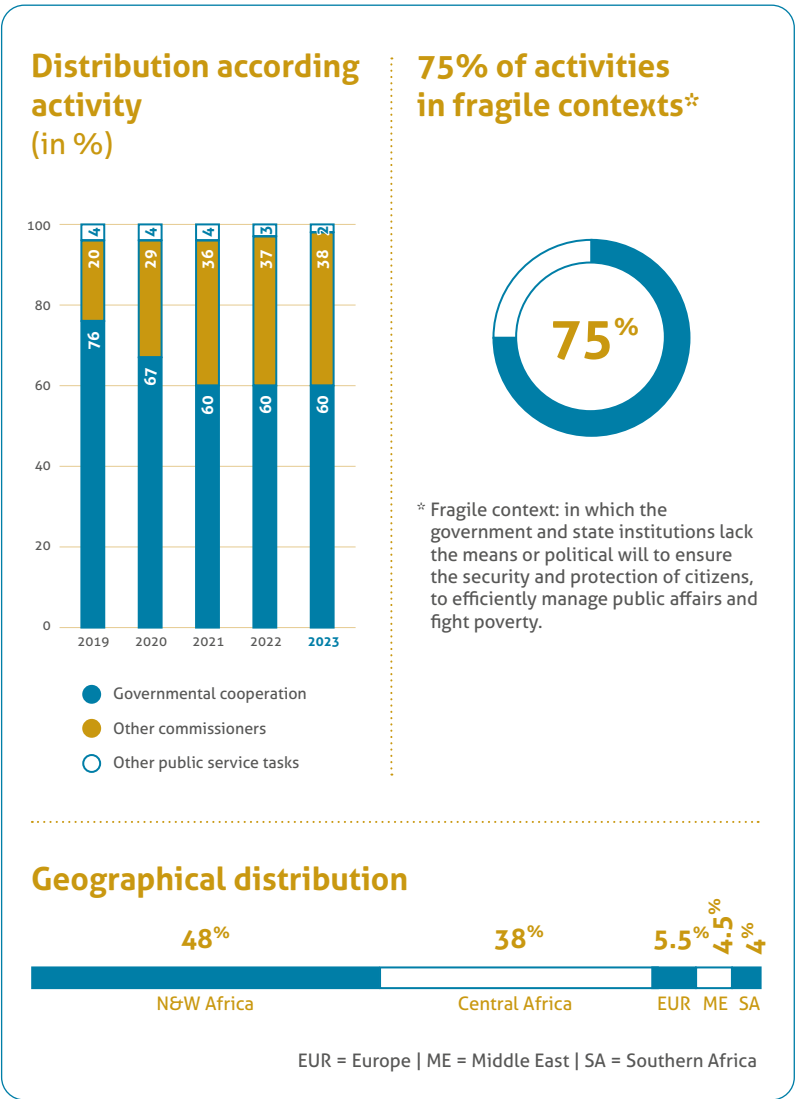
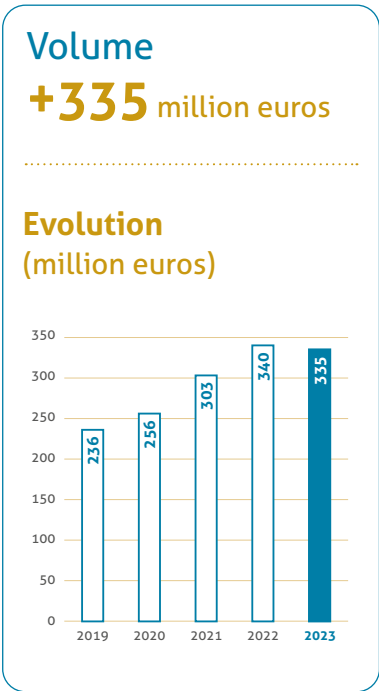
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\* | Arash Aazami, Karim Sy, Sobel Ngom, Annie Mutamba, Claude Borna.

# Identity card

The Belgian development agency Enabel implements the Belgian governmental cooperation. The agency also works for other national and international donors.

## Activities

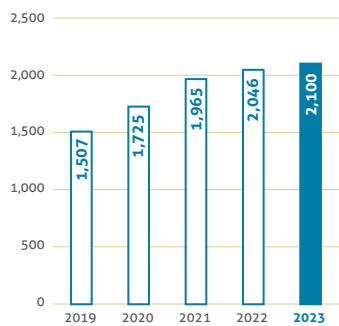


## Human resources

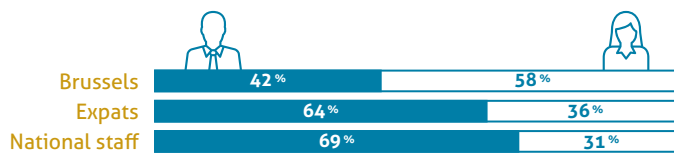
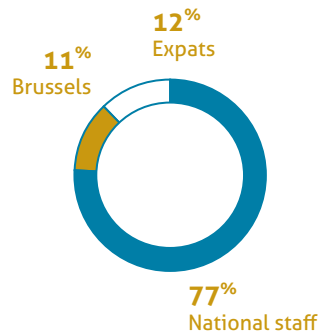
**Staff**  
**2,100**

**Nationalities**  
**51**

### Evolution



### Distribution



Our gender strategy aims to improve the gender balance.

# Operations

## Preparation and launch of cooperation programmes

2023 was unprecedented in terms of preparing and launching cooperation programmes. Belgium approves new cooperation agreements for 11 of its 14 partner countries, namely for the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Tanzania, Mozambique, Burkina Faso, Benin, Guinea, Burundi, Rwanda, Senegal and Morocco. In total, those programmes account for more than EUR 700 million over five years.

### Launching cooperation programmes in four countries

In four of these countries, the cooperation programme was effectively launched. In the DR Congo, as many as 24 projects totalling EUR 250 million (2023-2027) are involved. The newly signed cooperation programmes in Uganda (EUR 68 million), Mozambique (EUR 25 million) and Tanzania (EUR 25 million) were also launched.

In the DR Congo, four pillars are addressed: empowering and supporting young people, improving access to social services, improving food security and promoting good governance and human rights. In Uganda, the focus is on vocational training and decent work and access to social services and local governance. In Mozambique, the focus is on institutional strengthening of partners and the transition to a climate-resilient and low-carbon economy. The Debt-for-Climate Swap added an additional EUR 2.4 million to the cooperation programme with Mozambique. Finally, in Tanzania, and more specifically in the Kigoma region, girls and young women (aged 14-29) are enabled to access 'decent jobs, which contribute to preserving or restoring the environment', as the International Labour Organisation defines green jobs. Special attention is paid to vulnerable communities in rural areas and cities.

### Preparing cooperation programmes in seven countries

Seven cooperation programmes were prepared in 2023 and have been approved for a period of four to five years. These are the country programmes with Burkina Faso

(34.5 million), Benin (40 million), Guinea (34.5 million), Burundi (75 million), Rwanda (95 million), Senegal (40 million) and Morocco (30 million).

These cooperation programmes aim to structurally and sustainably improve the living conditions of vulnerable groups in partner countries, especially youth and women. Thus, the priorities of cooperation programmes focus on sustainable development of agriculture, food security, access to basic services, health and education, and sexual and reproductive rights.

### Challenges of ongoing programmes in fragile contexts

The volume of the 131 ongoing projects in partner countries funded by Belgium on 1 January 2024 amounts to EUR 1 187 million.

Ongoing cooperation programmes in Niger, the Palestinian territories, the Sahel and Central Africa face operational challenges due to conflicts and (geo)political events.

In the Sahel, the cooperation programme in Niger (EUR 50 million) is delayed due to political and social tensions. Following the coup in Niger at the end of July 2023, two of Enabel's projects have been put on hold. These include the 3D project in Torodi, where Belgian Defence, Diplomacy and Development Cooperation were to work together and provide support to Torodi's local authorities, and a European project to support a local and inclusive economy focused on the protection and sustainable management of natural resources. The Sahel climate portfolio (EUR 50 million), which aims to improve integrated natural resource management and sustainable ecosystem restoration in a 40,000-hectare area, also faces operational challenges, particularly for security reasons. Thus, the shift of operations to another region in Mali led to major delays. Political events in other Sahel countries are also impacting operations.



In Central Africa, implementation of the thematic social protection portfolio (EUR 50 million) is hindered by the situation in the region. However, ambitions remain unchanged, notably to provide better social protection to at least 60,000 people in Rwanda, DR Congo and Uganda in the coming years and to help 20,000 job seekers find decent work.

Work on cooperation in the Palestinian territories (EUR 70 million) was severely hampered by the events taking place in and around Gaza from 7 October 2023. The programme in Gaza, which focused on counselling Palestinian youth in training and employment and on climate and the environment has been suspended. Tensions in the West Bank and Jerusalem complicate implementation. In both Niger and the Palestinian territories, international personnel were temporarily evacuated during 2023.

#### **New projects for other donors**

In the course of 2023, 22 new contracts and 4 amendments to existing contracts were signed with 8 different donors for a total budget of over 164 million euros. Three of these new contracts were signed in partnership with agencies of European Union Member States. The 2023 Business Plan target of total signed contracts of 160 million euros was reached.

As a result, on 1 January 2024, 83 projects are being implemented in partnership with European and international donors for a total budget of 656 million. Most of these are in our partner countries.

93.5% of financing signed in 2023 of European and international donor partnership projects is directly complementary to bilateral programmes. The Team Europe approach continues to create a favourable framework for mobilising European funding that directly complements the bilateral portfolios and is linked to Belgian cooperation priorities. The signing of contracts

with the Netherlands and Luxembourg, which contribute directly to our governmental cooperation programmes in Benin, Rwanda and DR Congo, are examples of this. Finally, following the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Belgium and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, a project to strengthen health systems (with a particular focus on malaria) will be implemented by Enabel in Niger and Burundi.

#### **Stronger focus on partner engagement and better quality**

The new Management Contract between Enabel and the Belgian government, which took effect on 1 January 2023, promotes flexibility and efficiency in the preparation of cooperation programmes. To ensure sustainability the partner has an even more prominent place and is even more involved in strategic and operational choices.

Enabel organised the evaluation of 22 projects and a programme in 13 different countries, providing insight in performance and guidance in decision-making processes. Several evaluations rated our programmes as relevant to very relevant (98%) and effective (85%). Improvements can be made in efficiency (62%) and sustainability (60%). In 2023, Enabel introduced a new evaluation policy. It will be implemented for all evaluations conducted from 2024 onwards. That policy is a crucial step in strengthening strategic learning within the organisation, with a clear ambition to improve both the usefulness and quality of evaluations.

Finally, a significant increase in the OECD-DAC gender marker 1 and 2 is reported in formulations, meaning that gender equality is an important and deliberate objective or even the main objective of the project. For the first semester of 2023, we can report 41.7% of marker 1 and the budget earmarked to marker 1 and 2 has also increased significantly (60% of screened programmes compared to 39% for the first semester of 2022).



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# Collective power



On the following pages, we take a closer look at some of the topics, events, achievements or ideas that received special attention in 2023. We look back on an exciting year, which already contains the seeds of a future that is at least as interesting.

Be sure to also take a look at the e-version of this Activity Report for more stories and testimonials from Enabel's partner countries in Europe, Africa and the Middle East.



Peace and security

# Ukraine: new country, new challenges

A war in Europe. A few years ago, this prospect seemed unlikely. But since 24 February 2022, an armed conflict on a scale unseen since 1945 broke out on the continent.

Two years into the conflict, war is devastating Ukraine and many countries intensify efforts to support the people and rebuild the country. Belgium is among these countries.

In December 2023, the Belgian government mandated our organisation to launch a programme in support of reconstruction in Ukraine. This is recognition of our expertise in 'traditional' development cooperation. It also highlights our role as a facilitator and broker of Team Belgium public expertise.

Through a 4-year reconstruction programme, with a budget of 150 million euros, Enabel will provide particular support in the areas of health and social protection, education and employment. Major efforts will go towards energy efficiency and green energy – 20 million euros are earmarked for this. These actions will focus mainly on the Chernihiv (north-east of the capital) and Kyiv regions.

Like climate change and social inequality, peace is a global challenge that is at the heart of Enabel's priorities. The interdependence of these challenges affects us all.

That's why, despite its traditional anchorage in Africa and the Middle East, Enabel is now opening a new chapter on the European continent.

A bold programme which, given the volatility of the geopolitical context, will be extremely flexible. Daring, but essential because, as Albert Camus said: "Peace is the only battle worth waging."



**February-August 23**

Needs analysis and mapping of partners



**September 23**

Prospecting and scoping mission



**October 23**

Approval by the Council of Ministers



**December 23**

Validation of budget envelope



**2024**

Formulation of programme and start-up of activities

## Peace and security

# Regardless of Sahel region's instability, international cooperation remains essential

Over the last three years, a wave of coups d'état hit the Sahel region. Seven countries were affected, from Guinea on the Atlantic Ocean to Sudan on the Red Sea.

Five coups were military, namely in Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Niger and Gabon, while Chad and Sudan experienced constitutional coups.

The disparate international reactions to these coups underline how complex the intense regional and international competition between the major powers is.

Africa has become a crossroads of geopolitical acquisitiveness. China and Russia in particular organise massive disinformation campaigns aimed at undermining the West; but also the Gulf States, such as the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, make use of their colossal financial means.

### **Defend to improve cooperation**

While Europe has strategic interests in Africa, its influence there is diminishing rapidly. As a result, European and Belgian cooperation with Africa, which is based on a logic of solidarity, must adapt to this new global geopolitical situation.

On the one hand, international cooperation and foreign policy doctrines need to pool their expertise and work together. Diplomacy allows creating a peaceful framework that is conducive to international cooperation and partnerships on an equal footing.

On the other hand, the war in Ukraine confirmed what most States seemed to have overlooked: Europe should be able to prevent any external interference and increase the budgets allocated to defence.

But it would be a mistake to sell off international cooperation, a driver of cooperation, in favour of military defence, a driver of security. Without peace, there can be no development... and vice versa. The geopolitical situation calls for a global approach: Thus, the updating of the European defence doctrine must go hand in hand with the strengthening of the instruments of international cooperation – including diplomacy – to create the conditions for peace, security and progress. More than ever, we need to invest in synergy and complementarity between them.

### **The new face of international cooperation**

While the coups are unjustifiable in the eyes of our democracies, they must – at the risk of seeing others consolidate their authoritarian grip – not result in a cessation of all cooperation.

It is vital to convince our African partners to work together to address global challenges, contribute to the creation of added value on the African continent and strengthen our economic ties and international partnerships. Belgium is often appreciated for its modest and pragmatic approach, yet it must aspire to do even better. This means aligning its actions with the priorities formulated by the African States and using Belgian public expertise to create a real dynamic for change. This is how we can turn the international partnership into an instrument for sustainable cooperation.



## Social protection



© Belgium Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation

## Stepping up the fight against malaria

In a concerted effort to combat malaria, Enabel, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Bluesquare forged a strategic partnership intensifying their efforts in Niger and Burundi.

Malaria remains a terrible foe, with an estimated 249 million cases in 2022 – resulting in almost 608,000 deaths, predominantly in Africa.

Enabel and its partners are tackling the root causes of malaria using a variety of strategies: this includes improving access to quality health care, integrating local malaria activities into existing health systems, building the capacity of national malaria control programmes, developing innovative malaria surveillance and response systems, and expanding malaria research efforts.

These activities complement the ongoing Belgian bilateral programmes implemented in Burundi and Niger that aim to strengthen the broader national health systems. These synergies ensure that the fight against malaria is embedded in a comprehensive strategy aimed not only at combating the disease, but also geared towards improving healthcare services as a whole.

In Burundi, our efforts focus on the Kirundo and Cibitoke provinces to provide significant support for improving healthcare infrastructures, patient care pathways and the sustainable management of biomedical equipment. Meanwhile, in Niger, our teams are deploying in the southern regions of Dosso and Tillabéri, with the goal of improving malaria management, capacity-building for other districts, and support to the national malaria control programme at central level.

Bluesquare, a Belgian digital health company with extensive expertise in processing of health data, will support the national malaria control programmes in their surveillance and operational planning.

By implementing innovative solutions based on a comprehensive approach, Enabel, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Bluesquare aim to make a meaningful and lasting impact to embed the fight against malaria in robust health systems.

## Social protection

# Modernise, train, care

Health is a key sector in Enabel's cooperation with Burundi. In the past ten years, this has resulted in the construction and upgrading of medical infrastructure, the digitisation of health services, the training of healthcare staff and many other essential initiatives.

### Modern infrastructure

Bringing existing health facilities and medical equipment up to standard was among the highlights of our work: no fewer than 66 health centres have been renovated. A maintenance strategy for the facilities and their equipment is now operational. The Kiganda hospital in Muramvya province serves more than 200,000 people with comprehensive health services.

In a country where water and electricity supplies are unstable, Enabel and national authorities allowed equipping 52 health centres with solar energy and 28 centres with drinking water. Generators also ensure that healthcare professionals can do their job under optimum conditions even when there are power cuts.

### Digitisation, a public health challenge

In a world in which digital applications are omnipresent, the digital divide comes as a threat to individual and collective development. The health sector is no exception.

Belgium and the European Union support transversal initiatives with a view to digitising more than sixty hospitals and health centres, using digital tools to optimise resource management and improve the monitoring of patient records. Also, a centralised platform bringing together all health data has been set up.

### Qualified staff

To provide quality health care, healthcare professionals must have access to modern infrastructure and equipment. But they must also have the most up-to-date knowledge and training possible. That is why medical training had to be reformed.

In close collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS, a competence-based training approach has now been adopted at national level. Many doctors and nurses were trained in district surgery, the quality of patient care was improved and emergency surgery departments were created in some health centres.



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*“It used to be hard to keep track of blood donors or to find a donor for rare rhesus needs. Now, we just consult our database and we can call donors.”*

**Ndayiragije Audifax**  
IT Officer at the National Blood Transfusion Centre

## Social protection



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# Decent work for better social protection

Decent and fulfilling work provides an income and social and financial stability. An income enables people to support themselves and their families, making them less dependent on social assistance or other forms of support.

In other words, someone working is less vulnerable than someone not working.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) considers work as decent if "it involves opportunities for work that is productive and delivers a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for families, better prospects for personal development and social integration, freedom for people to express their concerns, organise and participate in the decisions that affect their lives and equality of opportunity and treatment for all women and men".

### Jobs – Rights – Protection – Dialogue

In his projects, Enabel addresses four aspects to achieve decent work for all.

First, creating jobs. In doing so, Enabel focuses on small and medium-sized enterprises and works across the entire sector (value chain) to which they belong. Through training and retraining, job seekers are prepared for the labour market. And we guide employment services to work more efficiently and better respond to labour market needs.

Workers' rights are a second aspect. Enabel contributes to the regulatory framework in partner countries and strengthens relevant services such as labour inspection.

A third aspect is the social protection of the (vulnerable) workers. Through awareness-raising and training, workers are made aware of the importance and benefits of health insurance.

Finally, promoting labour dialogue is a last important aspect in Enabel's approach. Underlining the importance of the labour dialogue, involving the parties concerned and creating the conditions in which that dialogue can be established are the most important aspects of our work.

### National and international partners

Enabel works with a whole range of partners from different backgrounds, all of whom have particular expertise in the various aspects of decent work and social protection: international organisations such as ILO and the East African Community, trade unions and mutual insurance funds, employment services, universities and research centres.





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### Target group: 2 million people

The 5-year 'Decent Work and Social Protection' thematic programme of the Belgian international cooperation targets three countries: DR Congo, Uganda and Rwanda. In each country, projects targeting young people and women aged between 16 and 30 are under way.

In summary, it aims to inform more than 2 million people about labour standards and workers' rights, and

social protection. 60,000 people will get better social protection and 30,000 will see their rights at work strengthened. 20,000 young people are supported to find full-fledged jobs. Higher wages, better working conditions, better social protection, stronger public services. Because the projects are in three countries, it is worthwhile sharing experiences as the initiatives can inspire each other even during project implementation in tackling issues and using opportunities.



In the DR Congo, cooperation involves the employers' association Federation of Businesses of the Congo (FEC) and the National Employment Office (ONEM). Activities in Kinshasa, Kolwezi and Lubumbashi focus on women and youth, in agriculture, domestic work, taxi services and informal (cobalt) mining.



In the west of Uganda, in Rwenzori and Albertine, the emphasis is on agriculture, with coffee and cocoa, major export products. Special attention is also being paid to tourism, which has shrunk by 60% due to the corona crisis, and the green economy, all sectors with great growth potential.



Finally, in Rwanda (Kigali, Rubavu, Karongi, Rusizi, Nyamasheke), mining, construction and trade were chosen, sectors with growth potential but where working conditions could be improved (contracts, occupational health and safety, fair remuneration, worker representation, social security, etc.). Collective bargaining agreements, among others, are to improve labour relations between employers and employees.

## Social protection

# Towards Health Equity

## Strong Health systems, Universal Coverage and Social Participation.

### Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU

In the first half of 2024, Belgium holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The European Union has been promoting the realisation of universal health coverage for many years and plays a leading role globally in strengthening national health systems. Thanks in part to Enabel's participation in the European MAV+ project, which aims to make Africa more self-sufficient in terms of vaccine production and the access to medicines, Belgium highlights global health and 'equitable and timely access to high-quality care services and products' as central to its EU Council Presidency.

One-third of the world's population lacks access to life-saving medicines. COVID-19 has shown that no one is safe until everyone is safe. It is only a matter of time before a new pandemic breaks out, and the climate crisis will only accelerate that possibility. Strong and resilient health systems and equitable access to high-quality medicines are thus crucial to address a next pandemic. Belgium promotes the universal right to health care, including mental health care, and the right to have access to high-quality health products and services. For many years, the right to health care has been a core theme of Belgian international cooperation.

On 23 April 2024, the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU, together with Enabel and BeCause Health, will organise the international conference 'Towards Health Equity: Strong Health systems, Universal Coverage and Social Participation'. More than 200 policy-makers, academics, experts and representatives of civil society organisations from Europe and Africa participate and discuss how to strengthen health systems to achieve universal health coverage, and formulate policy objectives to expand access to a basic package of health services, encourage investment in health systems and support social participation in health processes.



Currently, Africa produces only 1% of the vaccines it needs. To address this challenge, the Team Europe MAV+ initiative aims to support the African Union ambitions to establish resilient local production of vaccines and health products, and strengthen the pharmaceutical ecosystem across the continent.

In Senegal and Rwanda, Enabel partners with the national regulatory authorities (ARP in Senegal, Rwanda Food and Drug Administration in Rwanda) to fully regulate health products including vaccines manufacturing, strengthen quality control laboratories (to reduce falsified and substandard health products), and provide technical advice.

Enabel promotes a Team Belgium approach support in both countries through the mobilisation of expertise from Quamed, universities (ITM Antwerp, ULB, ULiège...), the Federal Agency for Medicines and Health Products, and Sciensano.

Through a partnership with Sciensano, Rwanda FDA benefits from the expertise of European regulatory agencies as well as staff training. Additionally, Enabel and MAV+ teams collaborate with the University of Rwanda, ULB and the Institute of Tropical Medicine to enhance research capacities, research ethics and provide lab equipment.

Watch the video  
"Successful partnership:  
Sciensano, Rwanda FDA  
& Enabel" on YouTube



## Climate

# Shaping tomorrow's energy landscape



© Adobe Stock

The urgency of climate change is forcing us to rethink our economies. The energy transition emerges as central in the fight against climate change.

The response requires both adaptation measures, such as the renovation of buildings or urban greening, and mitigation actions, aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions by using sustainable, low-carbon resources.

The energy transition and the development of solutions such as renewable energies, energy efficiency, green hydrogen and desalination using renewable energies offer an opportunity for economic diversification and innovation needed to combat climate change.

### Energy transition: the promise of green hydrogen

With a view to building a climate-neutral society by 2050, green hydrogen appears to be a promising energy vector for energy-intensive sectors and/or applications that are hard to decarbonise – such as the steel industry, the chemical industry and long-haul maritime transport. Unlike grey hydrogen, which is produced from fossil fuels, green hydrogen is obtained from renewable energy sources.

The emergence of a global hydrogen economy presents long-term opportunities for Africa in particular: by stimulating low-carbon industrialisation and local job creation and thus preventing the global decarbonisation gap from widening any further.

In sub-Saharan Africa 600 million people still have no access to energy, while demand is expected to quadruple over the next 20 years. The large-scale development of green hydrogen would offer a double opportunity: firstly, renewable energies could be deployed at a large scale and facilitate energy independence, and secondly, green industrialisation could drive economic growth. This prospect has taken on added importance, particularly with the EU applying cross-border adjustment

mechanisms (CBAM), taxing carbon-intensive imports from 2026.

### A concerted Belgian approach

Belgium is an internationally recognised leader in the sector. Many Belgian companies and institutes are already active in the hydrogen value chain. Against this backdrop, Enabel organised two green hydrogen round tables in 2023, initiating reflection on the potential role of development cooperation actors in the emergence of this sector in Africa. A country analysis was conducted for this purpose. The round tables brought together both public actors, including the cabinets of the Minister of Development Cooperation and the Minister of Energy, and private players, such as John Cockerill and CMB.TECH.

Acting as a facilitator, Enabel identified four areas of intervention:

- governmental and institutional support;
- development of the private sector ecosystem and low-carbon industrialisation;
- strengthening local competence and expertise;
- access to finance (through the Belgian investment company, BIO-Invest).

These round tables helped to establish a common understanding of the role of development actors in this sector and to validate actions identified in a number of priority countries, such as Morocco, Mozambique and Namibia.

As part of this drive for greater collaboration, Enabel is pursuing discussions with the European Union, the Belgian government and the private sector, with a view to setting up tangible projects for an extremely promising sector.

## Climate



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# Lake Tanganyika, an endangered ecosystem

**A 10-million-year-old lake. Home to more than 4,500 animal and plant species, almost half of which are only found in this region...**

Lake Tanganyika borders Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania and Zambia. The region surrounding the lake region is home to at least 13 million people, 2 million of whom live along the lake's shore.

The lake is really a unique ecosystem. It is a true natural wonder, but its exceptional biodiversity is under serious threat from economic activity – around 200,000 tonnes of fish are caught here every year – but not only that: demographic pressure, climate change, urbanisation and pollution are all factors that are jeopardising the lake's equilibrium.

The Lake Tanganyika Water Management (Latawama) project, funded by the European Union, aims to ensure a sustainable future for the region and its inhabitants.

### **Laying the foundations for sustainable lake management**

The deployment of an environmental monitoring network is essential to ensure the lake water's long-

term management. To achieve this, Enabel and the Lake Tanganyika Authority, made up of the four countries bordering the lake, have set up a database and a geographic information system to measure water quality. These tools are supplied by four regional analysis laboratories. These labs were renovated and modernised by Enabel. They are located in Bujumbura (Burundi), Kigoma (Tanzania), Uvira (DRC) and Mpulungu (Zambia).

Thanks to the Walloon Region's financial support to the tune of 500,000 euros these labs have been equipped with photovoltaic installations and can operate continuously, independently of the unreliable local grid.

### **Towards sustainable urban waste management**

To ensure the lake's sustainable management, it is also crucial to combat urban pollution. In conjunction with the authorities, we have developed a series of initiatives focusing on solid waste and wastewater management in the areas around the lake.

With a population of 1.2 million, Bujumbura, the largest city of Burundi, faces a huge wastewater management challenge. Its wastewater treatment plant is the only one of its kind along the shores of the lake. The Latawama project equipped it to improve its operation. This treatment plant plays a key part in the city's environmental policy, but also for public health, since cholera outbreaks occur in the region.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the 1,200 inmates of the Uvira prison live in precarious conditions, leading to health risks and having an environmental impact on the lake. In collaboration with MONUSCO, the United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in Congo, Enabel has installed toilets, showers and washbasins, as well as rainwater collection and recycling systems. The toilets are connected to a biodigester that supplies gas to the kitchens, avoiding the need to burn wood. This improves living conditions for prisoners, while limiting the prison's impact on the environment and improving the quality of the lake's water.

Wastewater management is a major challenge, but it is far from the only one: as the population grows, so does the production of solid waste. Lack of financial resources is preventing towns and cities from managing this growth. That's why we are supporting the authorities of major towns along the lake in drawing up and implementing waste management plans.

Cléophas Bizabishaka, representative of the Burundi agency for urban planning, housing and construction (OBUHA), is in charge of the Bujumbura wastewater treatment plant. He explains: "The plant's sludge drying beds were no longer operational. Thanks to the Latawama project, we could have them rehabilitated in order to improve the efficiency of the water treatment basins. The project has also supported the wastewater treatment plant laboratory with analytical equipment and reagents and it digitised the sewage network".

In Kigoma, Tanzania, we are working with the municipality to improve waste management by providing equipment, containers and infrastructure to collect, store and transport waste. We also run awareness campaigns with communities and civil society organisations. In order to consolidate these changes in behaviour in a sustainable way, Enabel has also supported the revision of waste management regulations, with a view to clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the various actors, ensuring the financial viability of the system and promoting sustainable practices such as waste reduction, sorting at source and composting.

As it draws to a close, the Latawama initiative has laid the foundations for an environmental monitoring network and carried out several targeted actions in the lake's shoreline towns. But the last word has not been said: thanks to the support of the European Union, activities in the region will continue until 2029. They will allow some of the initiatives undertaken to be scaled up, encouraging cross-border management of water resources and promoting circular economy activities in the region.

Watch the documentary  
 "The water of Lake Tanganyika,  
 an ecosystem under threat"  
 on YouTube



*"Public health goes hand in hand with improving the environment and protecting Lake Tanganyika."*

**Didier Cadelli**  
 Project Manager

## Climate



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# How can we finance our future?

While climate crises follow one another, the need to limit global warming to +1.5 degrees appears to be more pressing than ever.

The recent conclusions of COP28 affirm the need to move away from fossil fuels and promote a sustainable energy transition. The transition to renewable energy sources is not only a prerequisite for mitigating the effects of climate change. It would also make it possible to tackle other related global challenges, such as poverty and social inequality.

A just climate transition is now a sine qua non for ensuring that our planet remains habitable. However, more than political goodwill, this requires a solid financial framework and innovative financing mechanisms of an unprecedented scale.

### Debt swaps: a new lease of life for the climate

Among the new instruments are debt-for-climate swaps or the conversion of debt into climate change actions. This is one of the approaches chosen by Belgium to support Mozambique in its fight against climate change: Enabel facilitated negotiations between the two countries, leading to the cancellation of part of Mozambique's sovereign debt to the Belgian state.

This approximately EUR 2.4 million swap allows Mozambique to invest in projects that will enable local populations to better protect themselves from the adverse effects of climate change and to limit future damage.

For example, Enabel is working with the Mozambican authorities to set up early warning systems for cyclones in districts that have no such systems. Such systems are inexpensive and easy to set up and can considerably reduce the impact of a disaster by warning people of imminent danger.

In addition, integrated land planning is another area for action: This makes it possible to understand the risks and potential associated with certain areas prone to natural disasters, to map them, and to optimise the location of certain infrastructures.

In short, the debt-for-climate swap is an innovative solution that kills two birds with one stone: on the one hand, it reduces debt, and on the other, it mobilises additional resources to combat the climate crisis.



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### The private sector at the heart of the climate transition

But while public funding is essential to strengthen climate resilience, the colossal scale of the investment required exceeds the capacity of state budgets alone: Official Development Assistance represents 0.49% of combined gross national income (GNI) of the Member States of the European Union, whereas the overall investment required for climate mitigation is estimated at 15% of GNI.

Private sector involvement is therefore imperative if we are to have the financial resources to meet the climate challenge.

In Palestine, Enabel is working closely with the private sector to promote a green and circular economy. Through the Green Palestine initiative in the West Bank, our teams are working with the Palestinian Stone and Marble Industry Union and the Palestinian Food & Agriculture Industries Union. In these industries, the ambition is to improve waste management and recycling, boost energy efficiency and promote renewable energies, and improve capacity and awareness.

The aim is to create a new ecosystem of businesses offering sustainable solutions in the green and circular economy, generating local jobs – particularly for women – and encouraging other sustainable investments.

In Rwanda, we are working with the government and Rwandan companies to promote sustainable architecture, using local building materials. This approach not only reduces the cost of importing urban materials – most often concrete – whose production is also very energy-intensive; it also encourages the use of sustainable Made in Rwanda materials such as stone, bamboo or perforated brick, thereby contributing to the economy by enabling local producers to grow.



Climate finance goes far beyond simple investments to mitigate the effects of climate change: it requires a complete and clear overhaul of the current financial system. From decisions on energy systems to common construction materials, transport and emissions from the agricultural sector, all financial flows must gradually converge towards the 1.5 degree objective.

By supporting the private sector's green initiatives, we help to reduce their financial risk, encourage further private investment and promote the emergence of a green and sustainable economy. To be continued.

## Inclusive growth



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# Growth? Yes, inclusive growth

Economic growth remains the goal of most governments, but growth does not always benefit all. That is why Enabel prefers to aim for 'inclusive growth', i.e. growth that ensures participation of women, young people and vulnerable groups and growth that also respects the environment and decent work standards.

In 2023, Enabel implemented more than 40 projects designed to contribute to inclusive growth in 15 countries, adding up to a portfolio worth 300 million euros. These projects are financed either by the Belgian Development Cooperation or by other donors, mainly the European Union.

Enabel supports entrepreneurship at all stages, from business creation and development to growth, in sectors ranging from agriculture, construction and livestock to the digital, energy and innovation, and Enabel does so increasingly in the green and circular economy. The projects that Enabel supports are also driven by people who are generally excluded or under-represented, like women and young people.

### The role of SMEs

Achieving inclusive growth is a complex challenge, requiring collaboration and coordination between governments, civil society, the private sector and international organisations.

Enabel is particularly convinced of the key role that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) can play through

innovative and inclusive entrepreneurship. This is why we have created a specific unit dedicated to private sector development and engagement.

### Three levels of change

Enabel's approach targets three levels of change:

- At macro level: We improve governance and the regulatory framework and create an environment conducive to inclusive economic initiatives.
- At meso level: We assist support entities, so that they in turn can offer better services. In practical terms, this means that we support business incubators and accelerators and work with sector federations and associations as well as with organisations that specifically aim to promote entrepreneurship among women and young people.
- And at micro level: Enabel attaches much importance to strengthening entrepreneurs and businesses. We ensure that the right services are available to enable them to develop and improve their performance, thereby creating social and economic added value and jobs.

Here are five projects that illustrate our approach.



**PEM WECCO (Senegal) & PEM N'Zassa (Côte d'Ivoire)**

PEMs (Projects for Entrepreneurial Mobility) bring together Belgian companies and SMEs from Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal. The aim is to facilitate private economic partnerships between these countries. Enabel finances business trips and organises meetings in Belgium.

**Entrepreuna (Guinea)**

Entrepreuna targets four components of Guinean entrepreneurship: agricultural entrepreneurship, women's entrepreneurship and urban and green economy. This project is aimed at creating SMEs and start-ups and strengthening their competences and competitiveness. Access to financial services and technical and economic support play a central role. In the 'green economy' component, the aim is to build local capacity in forestry management, to promote the agro-ecological transition and to develop local ecotourism. The project is completed. It supported 7,500 entrepreneurs (56% of whom were women) and created 11,000 jobs.

**DigiBoost (Benin)**

In Benin, Enabel coordinated the DigiBoost project, which aimed to support the digital sector. Among other things, the project has led to the creation and training of the Women In Tech community in Benin, bringing together women entrepreneurs and digital professionals. It also helped the Innovative Entrepreneurship Support Structures in Benin restructuring their incubation and acceleration programmes for start-ups and provided them with computer equipment. 300 start-ups were incubated and accelerated through increased support for civil society organisations.

**Awa Prize**

The Awa Prize is inspired by a simple fact: One in three businesses worldwide is owned by a woman. And even though most self-employed workers in sub-Saharan Africa are women, women face more obstacles in developing and managing their business than men. Each year, through the Awa Prize competition the work of all women who are having a positive impact on their communities through their businesses is celebrated and twelve of these women are rewarded. In 2024, the Awa Prize will be awarded to women entrepreneurs active in the green and circular economy.

**IncluCities**

In Tanzania, Enabel launched the IncluCities project in 2023. This project supports companies that are active in the green and circular economy (plastic recycling and waste management). The aim is to help them through competence development, access to finance and business development training.

**KinEmploi, a boost for Kinshasa's youth**

KinEmploi is a professional integration project aimed at young people, particularly women, in the city of Kinshasa. It aims to help young people find sustainable, quality jobs through vocational training and job coaching, incubating entrepreneurs and accelerating the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

In Kinshasa, a megalopolis of almost 17 million inhabitants, 90% of household income comes from the informal economy. The unemployment rate among young people aged between 16 and 24 is close to 70%. However, certain sectors of Kinshasa's economy offer real potential for growth and job creation

KinEmploi is an initiative led by the Ministry of Vocational Training and Trades. Enabel has brought together partners, including the Mosala Resource Centre, the Federation of Businesses of the Congo (FEC), the National Employment Office (ONEM), the Ministry of Primary, Secondary and Technical Education (EPST) and the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Confederation of Small and Medium Enterprises of the Congo (COPEMECO), and incubation and training centres.

In 2023, the programme supported 600 young people, most of them women (89%). It boosted employment in key businesses, in the digital, hospitality, food processing and photovoltaics sectors.

Among them, 528 talents landed paid jobs or started their own businesses, and earn incomes above the minimum wage, marking a significant step towards financial independence and economic progress.

## Innovation & creativity



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# Pioneering innovative development

Innovation is in Enabel's DNA: we are committed to supporting creative entrepreneurs and courageous intrapreneurs, across the globe, across sectors.

The men and women who create trailblazing solutions that have a genuine impact on their communities, their countries, and the world. We are proud to support their groundbreaking work, from ideation to scaling.

### **Better, faster, stronger**

Enabel is a steadfast innovation partner, providing technical and financial support to innovators, strengthening their capacities to experiment, adapt, adopt or scale innovations. As an innovation enabler, we de-risk, accelerate and facilitate the innovation process, lowering the threshold for partners to innovate.

In 2023, Enabel concluded the e-TAMKEEN project, a four-year, 3.5 million euro programme designed to transform public administration in Morocco through digitalisation. We partnered with the Ministry of Digital Transformation and Administrative Reform to strengthen the digital skills of civil servants and foster innovation at the central and local administrations.

To do so, Enabel co-organised the second edition of Idarathon, a hackathon for and by civil servants to tackle key challenges and improve public services delivery. This gave rise to a digital platform matching jobseeker with job offers in the agricultural sector (with the Ministry of Agriculture), a multilingual mobile application helping citizens better understand administrative procedures (with the Agency for Digital Development) and a data-platform ensuring transparent and secure sales of second-hand cars (with the Ministry of Digital Transformation).

### **Putting the end-user first**

Through its PRISMA project, financed by the EU's DeSIRA programme, Enabel supports local innovation labs to improve food safety in the milk value chains in Mali and Niger.

Together with local and international partners, we are setting-up 'innovation labs' across the value chain (e.g. at

the milk collection points, at a mini-dairy, or at the level of veterinary services). In these 'labs', key stakeholders of the value chain come together to design, identify and test local solutions to tackle food safety challenges including the transmission of Brucellosis and TBC.

A representative from FENALAIT, the national federation of milk producers in Mali, says the PRISMA approach represents a radical shift in the way the donor-recipient relationship has worked in the past. "Consultants and researchers have come and gone but, for the first time, we, the local producers, are actively involved in a project, from start to finish, and are working together with our European partners to create innovative solutions to the problems in our sector."

### Keeping our finger on the pulse

Technologies like artificial intelligence have the potential to disrupt international cooperation. Therefore, how can we leverage the power of AI to the benefit of communities worldwide? In February 2024, Enabel organised a high-level event together with the Estonian Centre for International Development, the Tony Blair Institute and Expertise France, gathering about 100 EU and African experts in Brussels to explore the potential of AI for international cooperation.

The event underscored the importance of adopting a human-centred, collaborative, and inclusive approach to AI, emphasizing long-term impacts on jobs, the necessity of upskilling and reskilling, and the need for strategic partnerships between Europe and Africa.

### Mobilising Belgian innovation expertise

Enabel is tapping into the rich and vibrant Belgian innovation ecosystem to promote peer-learning, exchanges and support between experts and innovators to break new ground.

In Rwanda, Enabel facilitated a collaboration between the Flemish industrial research agency VITO and its Rwandan counterpart NIRDA to stimulate innovation and entrepreneurship in the emerging sector of circular construction. By training professionals in the construction sector, supporting start-ups and setting-up guidelines on circularity, VITO and NIRDA aim at boosting construction materials made from local resources like bamboo or clay as alternatives to climate-affecting materials like steel, timber or concrete. Together with Ondernemers voor Ondernemers and Embuild, the Belgian federation of the Belgian construction sector, study visits for Belgian and Rwandan entrepreneurs were organized, both to Rwanda and to Belgium, leading to inspiring peer-to-peer learning and long-

term networking. Cherry on the cake, VITO and NIRDA (Rwanda's National Industrial Research and Development Agency) have signed an agreement committing to long-term collaboration in the sector.

### Stimulating an innovation culture

Enabel is increasingly being recognised as a pioneer in the development sector. In 2022, the OECD teamed up with Enabel to boost innovation through portfolio management. In 2023, our Ugandan team won the first Penguin Award at the inaugural Federal Innovation Awards, recognising exceptional achievement in the Belgian public sector.

But we are not complacent. We will continue to work hard to future-proof the organisation and solidify Enabel's position as a credible and impactful innovation partner.

Read the article  
"Circular construction  
in Rwanda: from pilot project  
to strategic partnership"  
on Vito.be



## Innovation & creativity



© Enabel

# Art as a driver of urban development

Art and culture play an essential role in urban development. They boost social life, strengthen the sense of belonging and stimulate the local creative economy.

Given that by 2050, 70% of the world's population will live in cities, promoting culture and creativity will help to forge dynamic and inclusive cities.

In the emerging towns of Rubavu, Musanze and Rwamagana in Rwanda, Enabel is collaborating with the local authorities to find solutions that will enable sustainable urban planning – with the inhabitants' participation as the cornerstone of these projects. In Musanze, a small town in the north of Rwanda and the gateway to the well-known Virunga Park, the recent renovation of the youth centre was the focus of attention. Local materials were used for the building providing training rooms, a Fablab\*, a library, artists' studios and IT services, as well as sports facilities for basketball, volleyball and handball enthusiasts.

Empowering young people in the region and supporting them in their search for their own path is at the very heart of the project. This is why the centre has been designed as a hub for entrepreneurship and skills exploration, where young people can try their hand at

a range of sports and arts, as well as making creative use of their abilities.

But it's not just the refurbished centre that's getting all the attention. At the inauguration, a 4-metre-high wooden statue standing in the middle of the courtyard attracted attention: a CosmoGolem. Built by local artists and based on an original idea of Belgian artist Koen Vanmechelen, the statue symbolises hope, faith in the future and diversity.

There are more than 40 CosmoGolems around the world, in Belgium, the Netherlands, India, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Tanzania, Poland, Zimbabwe, Mexico.

Such initiatives show how art can breathe new life into urban spaces and also provide younger generations with keys to exploring their future. The presence of symbols like the CosmoGolem is a reminder of the importance of valuing artistic expression, and promoting a more inclusive future, in cities around the world.

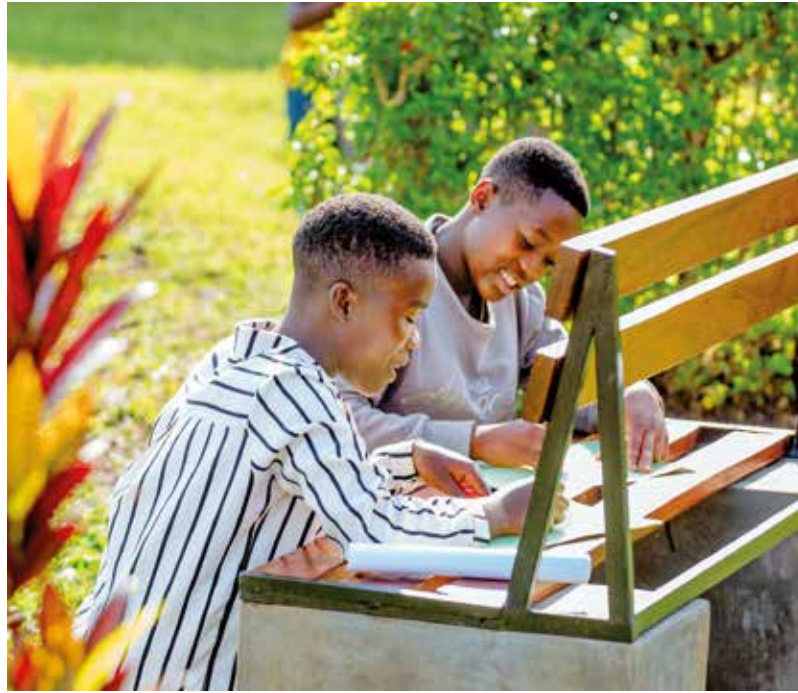
\* | Fablab is short for Fabrication Laboratory: a space where people can use computer-assisted production tools.

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*“We built the CosmoGolem from sustainable but perishable materials. If you don't take care of the statue, it will deteriorate. And I think that's a good thing. People have to love it, because when you love it, you take care of it.”*

Koen Vanmechelen

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## Innovation & creativity

# Creative entrepreneurs

The 'Guinée Créative' project was launched in 2021. It aims to support the emergence of the creative economy in Guinea by building capacity and creating jobs and businesses in the fashion, design and audiovisual industry.

The project is funded by the European Union. It targets the Conakry-Kindia-Mamou axis, where the project has supported more than 190 entrepreneurs, helped formalise 50 businesses and created 110 jobs. The sales of the companies supported increased by an average of 70%.

### From local to pop-up

The project has teamed up with Guinea's National Crafts Promotion Office (ONPA) to launch the first official label for Léppi, Guinea's emblematic fabric. The label has been registered with the African Intellectual Property Organisation (OAPI) and awaits approval. It guarantees the quality and authenticity of Léppi. It stimulates local production, opening up opportunities for craftspeople, and positions Léppi as a quality craft product on the international stage. 50 producers have already been included in the labelling process, 76% of whom have met the requirements.

The project has created the Guinée Créative workspace, a showcase for Guinean talent. In three months, the platform welcomed more than 10,000 visitors, boosted the skills of 120 entrepreneurs and showcased the work of 31 fashion designers through a pop-up store. The workspace now operates independently, under private management.

### On the road to entrepreneurship

Guinée Créative is one of five Enabel projects in Guinea dedicated to entrepreneurship. The European funding was integrated into the wider Entreprena project, dedicated to inclusive and sustainable growth, and funded by Belgium. With 8,000 entrepreneurs supported, this project has improved the performance of Guinean micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as access to financial services, and created an environment conducive to inclusive economic development. These efforts will continue under the Guinea-Belgium cooperation programme until 2027.



© Enabel

## Guinea's Léppi

Léppi originally comes from the Middle Guinea region. Léppi is a fabric that is emblematic of Guinean identity. It is the result of ancestral know-how. It shows up in a wide range of garments, accessories and decorative objects and is distinguished by its geometric patterns - often blue, naturally dyed by means of local plants.

Léppi is a major source of income for Guinean craftspeople, who sell it on local and international markets.

## Interview

# The Practitioners' Network

An experienced voice at the European table of international partnerships.



**Nicolas Stoetzel**  
Deputy Head of Unit in DG INTPA  
of the European Commission

The Practitioners' Network (PN) for European Development Cooperation, founded in 2007, is an open platform for exchange, coordination and harmonisation between European Development Cooperation organisations. Its 25 members from 19 European Member States use the platform to share their experiences and reflect on joint efforts in implementation of development projects.

By providing feedback on European international cooperation policies from a practitioners' perspective, the network contributes to the coherence and complementarity of European development cooperation efforts. It encourages an integrated, pluralistic, innovative, pragmatic and efficient approach in implementing European international cooperation programmes.

Nicolas Stoetzel, Deputy Head of Unit in DG INTPA of the European Commission, shared his views on the added value of the network for the European international partnerships policy.

"Our unit is in charge of the coordination of the Team Europe approach and the Global Gateway strategy. So we regularly exchange with Member States and we are also in contact with the Practitioners' Network. In my work, I have been dealing with the PN for almost 10 years."

**How would you describe the relevance of the Practitioners' Network for the European Commission?**

"The PN plays a very important role in the European development architec-

ture. It is promoting a unified voice, advancing the Team Europe approach. It actually embodied the Team Europe approach long before that term even existed. To my knowledge, it was the first structure to bring different actors from different Member States together to coordinate and to cooperate better. It was the first of its kind.

It is a credible platform for informal exchanges on various aspects, including project implementation, technical assistance, public sector expertise, engagement with the private sector. We really appreciate that the exchanges are honest and open and that the feedback on our policies and priorities is honest. The PN is a valuable sounding board.

I think that the PN is ensuring that the individual agencies have a seat at the table, including at important events such as the Global Gateway Forum. We count on the PN to spread the knowledge and the ideas to other members, which also makes our life at the Commission easier. The PN is helpful because it helps to promote the expertise of the individual members, and it allows for the members to team up in multi-partner agreements."

**How would you pitch the PN to possible future members?**

"By joining the PN, you get some kind of a privileged access to the European Commission, because when we meet Member State agencies, it is usually through the PN. And the PN is also quite often 'the first to know'. We do

reach out to the PN to inform about news and updates regarding Team Europe and the Global Gateway, for example. And by joining the network, you can benefit from all the experience of the other members."

**How do you see the future of the PN and the role of an agency such as Enabel?**

"Enabel plays a very active role in the PN. It is one of the most important Member State development organisations. The agency plays a key role in some very important European initiatives, such as the MAV+ health initiative, which is one of our biggest Global Gateway flagships.

An important aspect to further develop in the future would be the closer cooperation between implementing agencies and development finance institutions. The joint statement of the different networks was a milestone really. I am curious to know how a closer cooperation between Enabel and the Belgian investment company for developing countries BIO could become reality.

Our assumption is that the Global Gateway is here to stay. I think that this transition in development cooperation will continue. This trend of more interaction between technical cooperation, financial cooperation and moving a bit closer to the private sector will be confirmed. And that will be important also for Enabel, to position itself also in that regard and to demonstrate how it can bring the expertise that it has."

# Organisation



## Public-law company

Enabel is a public-law company with social purposes, established by the Law of 16 November 2017 changing the name of the Belgian Technical Cooperation and defining the missions and functioning of Enabel, the Belgian development agency. The Belgian State is the sole shareholder and is represented in the General Meeting by the Minister of Development Cooperation.

Enabel implements the Belgian governmental cooperation policy. The agency actively explores assignment opportunities for other financial partners in view of strengthening Belgium's foreign affairs policy. Enabel can also conduct and coordinate international cooperation initiatives of Belgian federal instances. Thus, Enabel is the interface between Belgian federal public instances and Belgian or foreign donors for international development, especially in low- and middle-income countries.

## Management bodies

### General Meeting

The Minister of Development Cooperation represents the Federal State at the General Meeting. In 2023, the General Meeting was held on 28 March. An extraordinary General Meeting was held on 11 December.

### Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is composed of members who have proven and useful expertise in international development, development cooperation and business management. The members of the Board of Directors are appointed for a renewable term of four years. In 2023, the Board of Directors convened nine times. The board members were: Delphine Moralis (chairperson), Caroline Amrom, Karla Basselier, Brigitte Boone, Alain Coheur, Farah Dehon, Amélie Derbaudrenghien, Patrick Develtere, Guido Gryseels, Patrick Itschert, Louise Ringuet, Bart Staes.

### Managing director

The Managing director is responsible for the daily management of Enabel. He is appointed by the Board for a renewable six-year term.

### Management Committee

On the recommendation of the Managing director, the Board of Directors appoints the members of the Management Committee for a renewable six-year term.

## Composition:

- Jean Van Wetter, Managing director
- Martine Brisse, HR Director Martine Brisse's term ended on 28 February 2023 and was not renewed.
- Khady Thiam, Director People & Talent. Khady Thiam succeeded Martine Brisse and started on 10 April 2023.
- Sven Huyssen, Director of Operations
- Danny Verspreet, Director of Finances & IT
- Liana Hoornweg, Director of Sector and Thematic Expertise. Liana Hoornweg resigned on 22 December 2022. Her employment contract ended on 28 February 2023.
- Evelien Massschelein, Director of Expertise & Think. Evelien Massschelein succeeded Liana Hoornweg and started on 1 January 2024.

In 2023, the Management Committee convened 19 times.

## Control bodies

- Government's Auditors (Development Cooperation & Budget)
- Board of Auditors (Court of Audit & registered auditors)
- Internal Audit

## Integrity

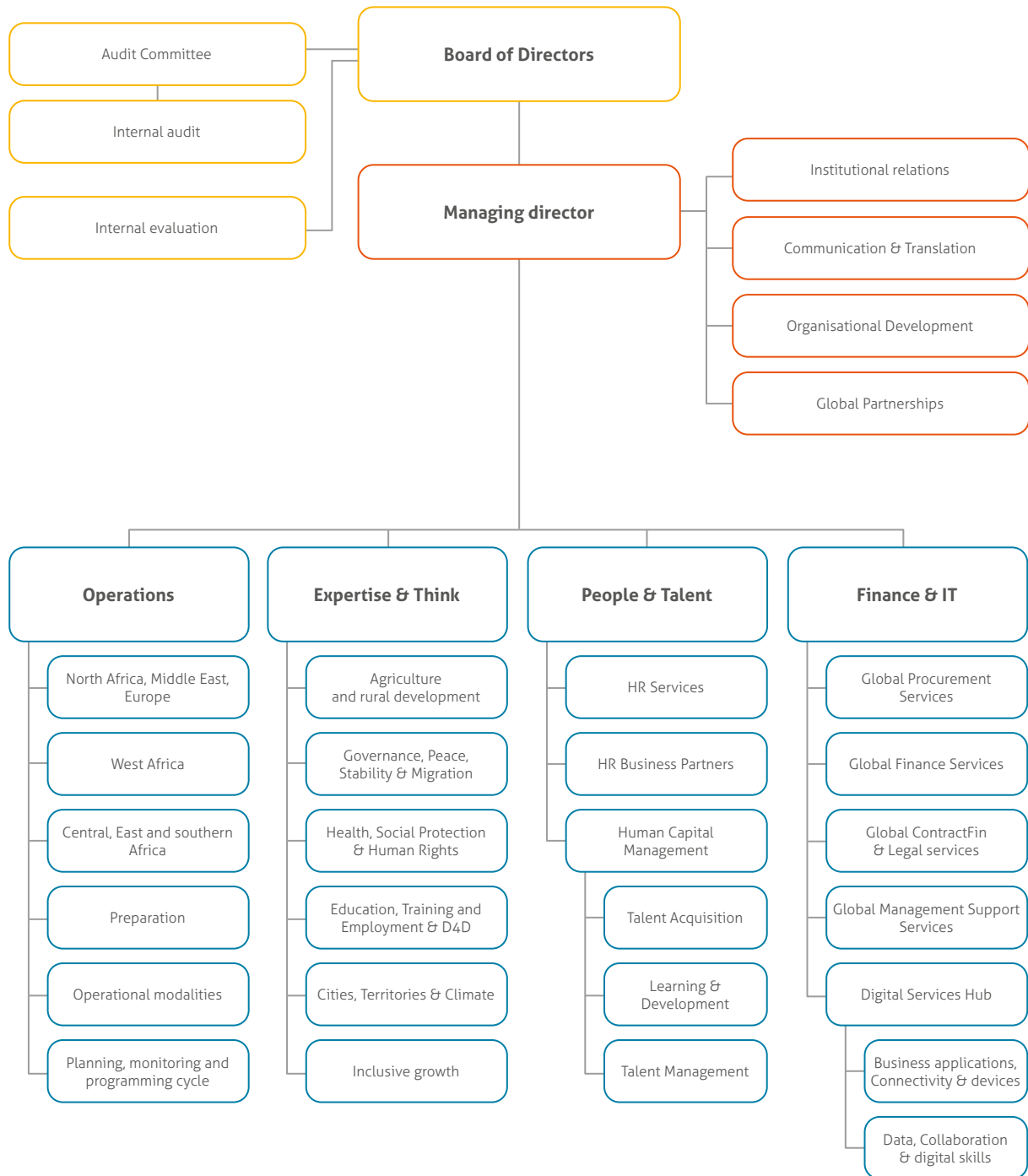
Every day, we have to gain the trust of our donors, the partner countries and the people for whom we work. Trust is not just a matter of words but is gained at all times by irreproachable behaviour, by respecting rules of behaviour and by professional due care. The values that our actions are based on are respect, integrity, engagement and responsibility.

The Code of Conduct of Enabel is the cornerstone of our organisation's ethical engagement. It incites all staff members of Enabel to behave in an ethical and responsible way everywhere in the world, even if circumstances are difficult. Moreover, communicating and promoting this Code with, in particular, our partners and suppliers, clearly expresses the values that underlie our relations.

In 2018, Enabel, like other Belgian international cooperation actors, signed an Integrity Charter and engaged to reduce the risk of integrity violations and to treat incidents in an appropriate manner.



## Organisation chart



# Finances

## Balance (euro)

<b>Assets</b>	31/12/2023	%	31/12/2022	%
Fixed assets	2,525,925	0.9 %	1,917,419	0.7 %
Amounts receivable > 1 year	48,579,547	17.6 %	47,514,097	17.8 %
Sub-total	51,105,472	18.5 %	49,431,517	18.5 %
Amounts receivable ≤ 1 year	55,997,444	20.3 %	73,355,685	27.5 %
Investments	148,518,233	53.8 %	0	0.0 %
Cash assets	10,177,744	3.7 %	129,525,352	48.5 %
Deferred charges and accrued income	10,041,703	3.6 %	14,546,490	5.5 %
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>275,840,595</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>266,859,044</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	31/12/2023	%	31/12/2022	%
Equity	20,436,350	7.4 %	20,493,410	7.7 %
Provisions and deferred income taxes > 1 year	2,087,389	0.8 %	3,488,978	1.3 %
Sub-total	22,523,740	8.2 %	23,982,388	9.0 %
Amounts payable > 1 year	48,579,547	17.6 %	47,514,097	17.8 %
Provisions and deferred income taxes ≤ 1 year	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %
Amounts payable ≤ 1 year	203,729,365	73.9 %	194,179,941	72.8 %
Deferred charges and accrued income	1,007,943	0.4 %	1,182,618	0.4 %
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>275,840,595</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>266,859,044</b>	<b>100 %</b>

## Income statement

	31/12/2023	31/12/2022
<b>Operating revenue</b>	<b>335,234,637</b>	<b>340,719,039</b>
Turnover	310,873,740	315,255,097
Other sales and activities	23,176,740	24,611,180
Non-recurring operating revenue	1,184,157	852,762
<b>Operating costs</b>	<b>339,017,240</b>	<b>339,021,029</b>
Purchases	59,486,994	49,646,246
Miscellaneous goods and services	203,637,145	215,468,662
Staff costs	72,994,874	68,050,360
Depreciation	2,592,417	1,890,266
Depreciation current assets		0
Provisions for risks and charges	-1,401,589	2,871,014
Other operating costs	1,610,672	442,102
Non-recurring operating expenses	96,727	652,379
<b>Operating result</b>	<b>-3,782,604</b>	<b>1,698,010</b>
Financial costs	-2,621,993	-2,909,197
Financial revenue	6,347,537	1,380,430
<b>Financial result</b>	<b>3,725,544</b>	<b>-1,528,767</b>
<b>Result for the financial year before taxes</b>	<b>-57,059</b>	<b>169,243</b>
Transfers from / to deferred income taxes		
Taxes on the result		
<b>Result for the financial year</b>	<b>-57,059</b>	<b>169,243</b>
Transfers from / to tax-free reserves		
<b>Result for the financial year to be allocated</b>	<b>-57,059</b>	<b>169,243</b>

# Royal visit

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On 24 April 2024, HRH King Philippe paid an official visit to Enabel's offices in Brussels.

He took the opportunity to discuss the complex geopolitical issues that influence Enabel's activities, from the climate crisis to the conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza, the unrest in eastern Congo and the challenges of migration. The King took part in a round table discussion on cooperation with the Democratic Republic of Congo. Our initiatives in favour of young people, entrepreneurship and social protection were presented to him.

He also talked with our colleagues who left Gaza and discussed the launch of our activities in Ukraine, where Enabel will be implementing a reconstruction programme.



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# Colophon

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