

Enabel 



# #EnablingChange

Activity report 2020-2021



**Meryame Kitir**  
Minister of Development Cooperation,  
in charge of Major Cities

## Foreword

An annual report is often a snapshot, and just as often a somewhat boring look back at the past year, which then, more than once, gathers dust on a shelf. Enabel would not be Enabel, unless it does better. And how. This edition does not look at the past alone. It also looks ahead, at the future. Enabel shows in its operations and vision that development cooperation is not something you can close like a calendar year. Having a long-term impact, so that people far away can (again) take in their hands their own future, that is a vision which I fully endorse.

When I had just become Minister, I insisted on visiting Enabel right away. It was the first week of October and meeting was still possible then. With a mask, admittedly, but it allowed me to get a taste of the work of the Belgian development agency and to really get to know some of its people. Today we are six months on and Covid-19 has not made our work any easier. But the though get going... I have experienced this myself in recent months. That is exactly why this annual report is food for the mind for all those who care about international solidarity. Not only to learn from the past year, but also to plant seeds for new ideas and to do even better in the coming year.

In times of uncertainty, solidarity is always the only answer. Not only in our country, but also worldwide. I am not telling anything new when I say that this virus will not stop at our borders. I am not telling anything new when I say that we will only be completely safe when all countries are safe. International solidarity is therefore the answer to removing uncertainty in our partner countries. The Belgian Development Cooperation did not hesitate for a moment to come to the aid of the partner countries. We did so with material and logistical support to meet the greatest needs quickly, but we also need to dare to think long-term and ask how we can make our partner countries strong enough to face a next pandemic. Because sooner or later it will arrive; unfortunately, there seems to be little doubt about that.

I look forward to the 'Social protection in Central Africa' and 'Climate in the Sahel' thematic portfolios. I believe in the strength of Enabel to make this new and innovative approach a success. If you want to help solve a global problem, you have to dare look across borders. The corona virus highlights this more than enough. That is why it is important that we work well with our partner countries and engage in a straightforward

dialogue with them. I consider their role to be similar to the role of the Belgian government, namely that a government has to keep health care affordable and accessible and protects you if you lose your income. And above all, that a government also creates the environment in which people can grow and develop. For me, that is the ultimate goal and the line that runs through bilateral cooperation: to strengthen people! And we do so best by joining forces. So, let's work towards broad and inclusive partnerships.

Finally, since I became Minister of Development Cooperation, I have often been asked, why are we doing this? Is this not just a drop in the ocean? Well, I reply that I fundamentally disagree with that, because EVERY. DROP. MATTERS.

Every drop matters to change matters, even if change sometimes comes more slowly than we would like. Every drop matters to open up minds of governments and local partners, even if only step by step. Indeed, every drop matters to move lives in a different direction, to offer hope and perspective, which is exactly what Enabel does. Every day again.

Keep up the good work!



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# Editorial



**Jean Van Wetter**  
Managing director



**Hannelore Beerlandt**  
Chair of the Board of Directors

## Enabling change

There is no doubt that 2020 has been a most peculiar year. Yet, despite the hardships, we see several reasons for both our partners and ourselves to be proud of what we achieved and to move forward towards our long-term objectives.

### How do you look back on the year 2020?

**Jean Van Wetter** – Of course, it is impossible to reflect on what happened in 2020 without mentioning the Covid-19 pandemic and the impact it had on our partners and on our own organisation, as well as what it meant for our projects. It has been at the same time a humbling experience and a confirmation that we have chosen the right strategy and objectives over the past years.

**Hannelore Beerlandt** – Indeed, and I think one of the most important lessons of 2020 is that what happened in many partner countries has confirmed that international cooperation really is a two-way relationship. We have as much to learn from our partner countries as they can learn from us.

### You mentioned strategy. How could your strategy affect the way partner countries reacted to Covid-19?

**JVW** – Enabel has been working for several years on reinforcing basic services in our partner countries, with a focus on solutions that will last. Over the last years, we have worked a lot on reinforcing health systems in

our partner countries. For example, in Senegal, we contributed to the development of a health insurance system that gave more than 320,000 people access to quality health services.

The covid-19 crisis has shown that resilient health systems are key to managing a pandemic. Some countries in Africa were able to put in place measures that we could not in Belgium, notably based on their previous experience in dealing with epidemics such as Ebola.

**HB** – It is quite humbling in a sense. And it is a proof that partnerships work better when all partners are at the same level. There is a lot we can learn from how our current partners reacted to the current crisis. For example, from the start, most have adopted a cool-headed approach and conducted an assessment of their needs. So, when we contacted them and asked how we could support them, they replied with very specific and well-thought requirements. From an economic perspective, there were also very impressive initiatives. In Morocco, for example, the government understood that helping only the 'formal' part

of the economy during lockdowns was going to lead nowhere. So they decided to put in place a system to help the informal businesses.

### Still, there is a long way to go, including on building capacity to react to pandemics.

**JVW** – Which is why, once again, we want to put the focus on the long term and on systemic change. From a health perspective, Covax, the system created to ensure that every country gets its share of covid-19 vaccines, is of course welcome. But taking the long-term approach means, instead, to think about how we could develop vaccine production facilities in our partner countries. This requires new types of large-scale partnerships between governments, development agencies, research institutes and the private sector. This also asks for a mindset shift. The transfer of technology and the development of local know-how will not bring immediate results, but they will have a lasting impact and reach more people on the long run. In turn, such a shift implies that the donor community will have to remain involved beyond the traditional project life cycle that characterises our current way of working.

**Back to partnerships. Besides partner countries, Enabel has also developed public-public partnerships. What does that mean?**

**JVW** – We have been working with Belgian public services to draw on their expertise for our programmes in partner countries. In total, we have now signed more than sixty partnership agreements with public institutions: finance, civil registry, police, education, health, etcetera. This is something I am very proud of because it allows us not only to offer the best of Belgian public expertise, but also to create lasting partnerships and to build even more trust between Belgium and our partner countries. Civil servants from one country talking to civil servants from another country makes absolute sense: they share a common understanding of public service and of the challenges faced.

**HB** – Benin is a perfect illustration on how partnerships with countries go both ways. Our partners from Benin were instrumental in securing a partnership in Belgium between Enabel and the Federal Public Service in charge of mobility, which will in turn be of great help for our common project on the management of the Port of Cotonou.

**Enabel is also working more closely with other European agencies.**

**HB** – Working together as a team – called Team Europe – makes us stronger and more efficient. Who are we indeed, as a country, to say we can revolutionise the way things are done in our fourteen partner countries in Africa and the Middle East? But when we cooperate with other European

agencies, each with its own expertise, we bring more value to the table. Besides, things are also moving in terms of regional cooperation in Africa: ECOWAS, for example, on economic matters in Central and West-Africa. And Sahel countries are coordinating their actions to fight the consequences of climate change. This is, I think, accelerating the trends: international cooperation has left the ‘charity’ model and is rapidly moving towards partnerships.

**JVW** – On the European level, we are not only cooperating in partner countries. European agencies have also set up the Practitioners’ Network, of which Enabel and LuxDev, the Luxembourg development agency, have been co-presidents from May 2020 until May 2021. Belgium has also been at the forefront of the D4D hub, a joint initiative of the European Commission, the African Union and six European development agencies, to leapfrog development initiatives around digital solutions. This programme is partly built on previous initiatives run by Enabel that have been tremendously successful, and some solutions that are currently implemented in partner countries are indeed more advanced than what we currently have in Europe! For example, in Benin, the agriculture ministry is now using drones to help farmers in monitoring pineapple growth to achieve better quality and standardisation of size, thereby unlocking access to new export markets. And in Burundi, an information system using tablets in advanced medical outposts has allowed the creation of an early-

warning system for pandemics that takes only a few hours to identify possible outbreaks.

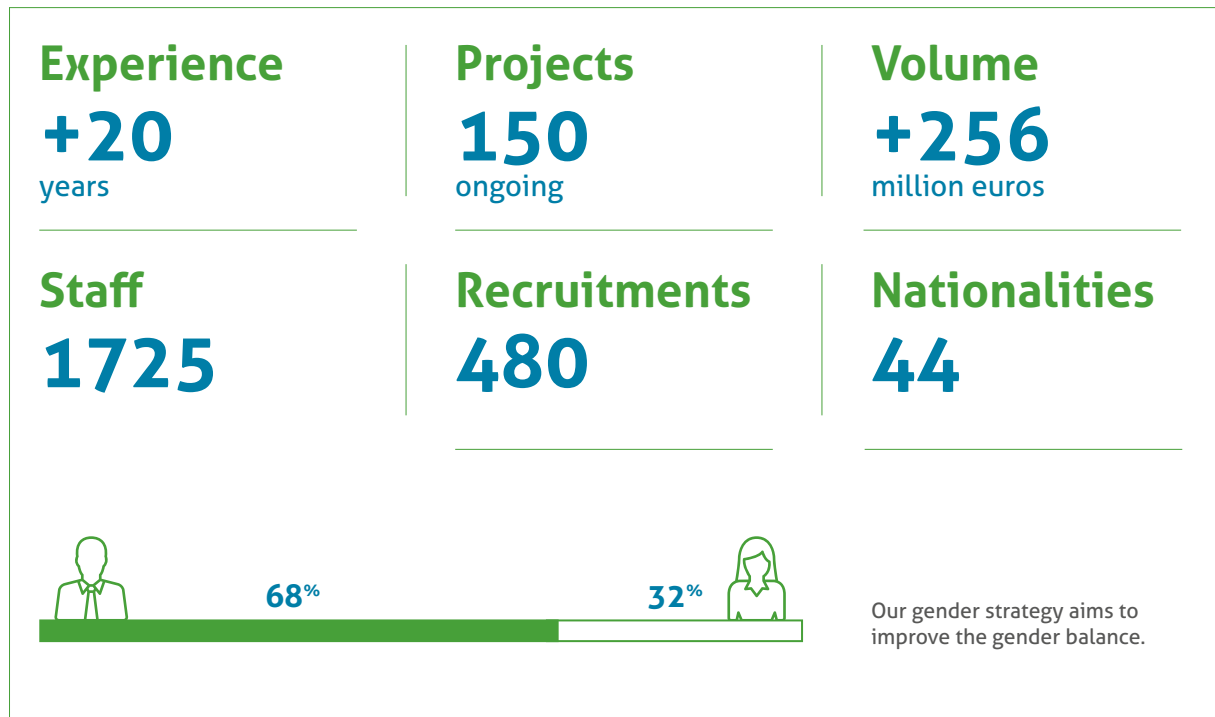
**It is also hard to talk about partnerships without mentioning the relationship between Enabel and the Belgian government. Enabel has a ten-year strategic plan. How does that fit in with the priorities of the ministers in charge of development, who may have their own priorities?**

**JVW** – Both the previous and the current minister understand the importance of a long-term approach. But having a ten-year strategy does not mean being rigid about what we do. We have selected a few global themes that are part of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and we address these challenges. This is compatible with a minister putting his or her priorities forward within that framework. For example, Minister Kitir has a strong focus on fighting inequalities and climate change, which will reflect on the way we are doing things in partner countries. But having a solid framework underneath is important, as it also underpins our action in our partner countries.

**HB** – The most important part of our strategy going forward is really to foster cooperation and partnerships. Acting together means we can have more impact, now and in the longer term. Enabel’s strength and its added value to the partner countries is our ability to pool expertise from different partners and turn it into a coherent package. In this respect, our collaboration with Belgian defence and diplomacy in the Sahel is very promising.

# Identity card

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



\*Fragile context: in which the government and state institutions lack the means or political will to ensure the security and protection of citizens, to efficiently manage public affairs and fight poverty.

## Impact

The engagement of the Belgian development agency and its partners to enable change leads to significant results. A few examples:



**1.5 million**

children attend school.



**200,000**

teachers trained.



**320,000**

people in Senegal have health insurance.



**61,000 ha**

of farmland rehabilitated (2 times the surface of the Maldives).



**18,000 ha**

of land reforested (2 times the surface of Paris).



**2.2 million**

people in Guinea see their household waste collected and processed.

## Themes

Enabel offers solutions addressing pressing global challenges and promoting global citizenship.



Climate Change and the environment



Economic and Social Inequality



Peace and Security



Urbanisation



Human Mobility



Global Citizenship



# Operations

## A particular year

2020 was a particularly difficult year. Circumstances were tough, but the year offered opportunities in terms of resilience and agility.

### Growth

In 2020, Enabel continued on its growth path with a view to achieving its 2030 ambitions: Double volume, triple impact. By the end of 2020, the portfolio of ongoing projects had increased, above expectations, with 250 million euros.

Despite the difficult situation, Enabel succeeded in consolidating the country programmes of governmental cooperation and bridging programmes have been set up in DR Congo, Burundi, Uganda and Palestine. In five other countries (Mozambique, Tanzania, Morocco, Mali and Niger) the governmental programmes were extended by budget increases. The governmental bridging programmes and extensions amounted to 150 million euros.

New country programmes for Niger and Palestine and thematic portfolios for social protection in Central Africa and for climate change in the Sahel are being prepared.

With a view to strengthening the Belgian governmental portfolio, Enabel has also signed 26 contracts, for a total budget in excess of 100 million euros, with seven other donors, including a rise in partnerships with EU Member States agencies.

### Agility

The Covid-19 pandemic dominated the year. We had to adapt our activities quickly against the background of the changing situation and supported our partner countries in the most pertinent way possible in their fight against the virus. Through an internal evaluation we took the opportunity to examine how Enabel does in such situation. Case studies in Niger, Benin and DR Congo and a general analysis in the fourteen partner countries of the Belgian governmental cooperation showed that our response to the pandemic was appropriate and that we are indeed an agile organisation.

*"In the partner countries of Belgian governmental cooperation, the Covid-19 pandemic has rapidly evolved from a health emergency to an economic crisis. Enabel has been able to keep pace with the changing needs of the countries and quickly orient its response towards socio-economic resilience,"* says Stéphane Vancutsem in Evaluation of Enabel's response to the Covid-19 pandemic (December 2020, COTA).

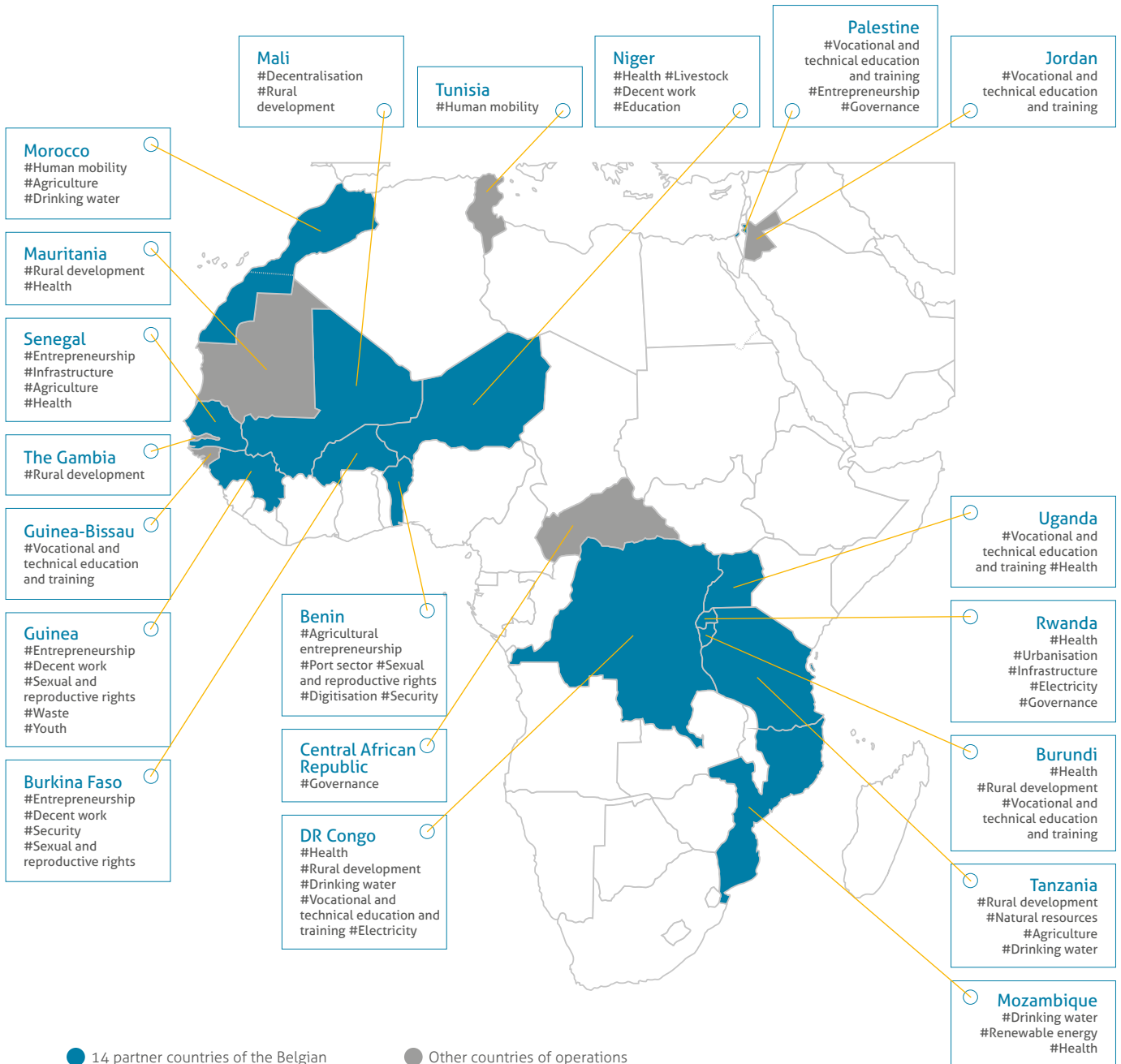
### Team Europe

In May 2020, Enabel and the Luxembourg development agency LuxDev took on the co-presidency of the Practitioners' Network, which brings together seventeen European development partners. Enabel and LuxDev took the lead in drawing up a joint declaration in the run-up to the first global meeting of development banks, The Finance in Common Summit, of November 2020.



**20**  
countries of operations

In 2020, Enabel launched operations in Tunisia for a European programme aiming at employment mobility management. In March 2021, our agency opened an office in the Jordan capital, Amman.



# Impact



**Liana Hoornweg**  
Director sectoral and thematic expertise



**Sven Huysen**  
Director of operations

## The pandemic has reinforced our partnerships

Even though the rapidly deteriorating situation took everyone by surprise, Enabel and its partners were prompt to react. The swift and coordinated response is a tribute to the way partnerships have evolved over the last years.

When the pandemic was confirmed by the WHO, Enabel realised it was facing a hitherto unknown situation. The priority was to ensure the safety of our teams in all countries. Staff in Brussels was able to work from home even before the government published its first measures. Our country directors in Africa and the Middle East followed up the situation to make rapid decisions according to the local context to secure our personnel and their families.

### Same pandemic, different measures

Based on early evidence from China and Europe, African countries quickly put in place prevention and control measures to try to curb the spread of the virus. These measures and their degree of flexibility differed from country to country. Early on Morocco, Rwanda, Uganda and the Palestinian Territories implemented a strict lockdown throughout their territory. They closed their borders, ordered the closure of nonessential businesses and schools, suspended public transport and prohibited all nonessential movement outside of home. Burkina Faso, Guinea, Senegal, Mali, Benin,

Niger, Mozambique and DRC opted for more moderate prevention and control measures to preserve their economies. Tanzania and Burundi put lighter control measures in place.

### Field experience in partner countries

As far as dealing with the pandemic itself was concerned, a lot of partner countries were already familiar with sanitary emergencies. When the pandemic started, the Democratic Republic of Congo was still dealing with an Ebola outbreak. So were Guinea Conakry, Sierra Leone and Liberia the years before. Nigeria, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Chad and Ethiopia had also paid a heavy tribute to Ebola. And let's not forget the impact of diseases such as malaria, measles, dengue and sleeping sickness. These epidemics have made countries in West and Central Africa better prepared and equipped for detection, contact tracing and epidemiologic monitoring. For example, in DR Congo and neighbouring countries such as Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda, Rapid Intervention Teams (RIT) trained in contact tracing and communication

about risks were already active and ready to act against recurring Ebola epidemics. They could deploy rapidly to help the fight against Covid-19.

In other words, those countries already knew what to do in such crises, and, in most cases, they already had plans and good practices in place. And that is when the world truly realised once again there was no 'Third World' and 'developed countries', as before. The world was indeed a village where everyone was facing the same problem, and some had valuable experience to share. We learned a lot from the response in our partner countries. Some enacted lockdowns very quickly. Rwanda, for example, put in place a strict national lockdown only seven days after the first case of Covid-19 was recorded in the country. Testing in airports was also deployed surprisingly fast, as were some vaccination programmes. We even had situations where partner countries were more effective in their national vaccination programme and even proposed to vaccinate our staff as well.

### Not help, but support

This shift became more obvious when our partner countries asked for our contribution: They knew what to do, and they had very specific questions and demands. Could we provide them with vaccines? With respirators? Sometimes, we worked together to repurpose structures we had already put in place. For example, we used the networks we built for spreading information for the 'She Decides' programme (a programme fighting gender-related violence) to help with raising awareness about safety measures such as washing hands and avoiding close contact.

### Building a Community of Practice

Another question that arose very early was how to support the population during lockdowns. Moving essential goods around, making sure everyone had enough food, and so on. Since every country was facing those questions, we decided to organise 'communities of practice' (COPs). During these online gatherings, people working in our partner countries could exchange ideas, information and best practices so that everyone could benefit from the lessons learned. These communities worked for months. The last COP on Resilience was organised in September 2020, and the last COP on Health was in August. After that, every country was on its way and able to work effectively.

Using the input from the COPs and from our field work, Enabel put together a strategic note. The aim of this note was to gather all the

information on how to react to the pandemic from various points of view: sustaining the economy, organising health care... In other words, we switched from emergency work to long-term change to help make partners and local institutions more resilient in the future. This note was also communicated to our donors, so they could see how Enabel and the partner countries organised their response, but also how we all focused right away on the long term. It also demonstrated that we can count on an entire network, in Belgium and in the partner countries, to build our responses. It has helped us to increase our credibility, and as a consequence, we were contacted by other organisations to support initiatives in our partner countries. We worked with the EU on the extension of hospital capacity in Kinshasa, lent a hand to the French cooperation in Benin and cooperated with Belgium, the EU and Luxembourg in Niger.

### Still running our programmes

Another reason to be proud is that Enabel did not really have to stop any of its programmes, even if some of them have slowed down a bit due to the circumstances. What happened is that we sat down with our partners and decided how we could keep things going. For example, training and coaching programmes switched to digital, which also led to some savings. In this and other instances, we discovered new ways of working that will allow us to be more efficient in the future. Some programmes were inevitably slowed down, but we were

able to move faster on others. In Rwanda, for example, the building of new hospitals was inevitably delayed, but on the other hand, the delivery of fifty ambulances, another part of the same programme, happened faster and was instrumental in managing the crisis there.

### Towards a new normal?

The Covid-19 pandemic led to a crisis that eventually created countless opportunities for Enabel and its partners. In 2020, habits were changed, spontaneous partnerships were established, and beautiful innovations were created.

In 2021 and the following years, it is important that we do not rest on our laurels, but rather keep on building on this new dynamic. After all, it is important to ensure that the world is sufficiently resilient to face the next global challenges in the future. Because challenges will remain and crises may appear again in the areas of human mobility, social and economic inequalities, climate change, peace and security, and urbanisation, to name just a few. 'The time to repair the roof is when the sun is shining.'

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Scan these codes to discover all our actions against Covid-19 on our website enabel.be:





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# Climate and the Environment



Climate change is one of the most profound problems facing the world. The negative impact becomes visible at an accelerated rate. The Least Developed Countries are affected most.

# Climate change and public health share the same planet

Enabel helps its partner countries to adapt to environmental changes and reduce their emissions. Our agency can pride itself on twenty years of experience with environmental issues and ten years of experience with delivering solutions to deal with the effects of climate change.

## Deforestation

Climate change has already created conditions in which a number of diseases will spread more easily, such as Lyme disease, malaria and dengue. So far, there is no conclusive scientific evidence showing a direct link between climate change and the Covid-19 outbreak. But we do know that most infectious diseases and almost all recent pandemics originated in wild species, and we also know that increasing human pressure on natural habitat – primarily due to deforestation – can be an engine for disease outbreaks. We must therefore strengthen health systems, closely monitor infectious diseases in the wild, in animal husbandry and in humans, and safeguard biodiversity and natural habitats. Then there will be less danger of new pandemics breaking out in the future.

## Air pollution

Research shows that people who live in an environment where the air is polluted are more likely to die from Covid-19. Air pollution is a major health risk. Every year, about seven million people die from the effects of air pollution. 33% of all deaths from heart attack, lung cancer and heart failure are related to air pollution. More than 90% of the world's population lives in places where air quality does not meet World Health Organisation standards. In two thirds of cases, poor air quality is due to the burning of fossil fuels.

## Water scarcity

Climate change is also leading to water scarcity. 80% of the world's population already has to deal with it in some way. But access to drinking water and good sanitation is essential for good basic hygiene, which in turn is important to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Climate change and public health are usually treated separately, but that is a dangerous mistake. Our health depends entirely on the climate and on the other organisms with which we share the planet. Declining biodiversity is a real danger to our health. The fight against climate change is therefore also a preventive fight against future pandemics.

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*The fight against climate change is also a fight against future pandemics.*

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Burundi

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### Irrigation works drive up agricultural production 50%

The Imbo Valley in Burundi's northern province of Cibitoke is ideal for agriculture and stockbreeding. There is enough precipitation and the soil is fertile. But irrigation infrastructure dated back decades and was in dire need of renewal. As part of a large-scale agricultural project, Enabel and Burundi's Ministry of Agriculture rehabilitated more than 150 km of irrigation canals and more than 30 km of rural roads on an area of 3000 ha. The result of the efforts was a significant expansion of the irrigated area and a spectacular increase in agricultural production of 50%.



Central Africa

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### Regional environment project around Lake Tanganyika

Lake Tanganyika in Central Africa is one of the largest freshwater reserves on earth. It is a unique ecosystem with exceptionally rich biodiversity. The lake is also an important source of food for the surrounding countries and a strategic traffic axis. But climate change is increasing the water level of the lake, and population growth, overfishing, deforestation, agriculture, urbanisation and industrialisation are putting immense pressure on the ecological and socioeconomic development of the region. The four neighbouring countries (Burundi, DR Congo, Tanzania and Zambia)\* have set up a joint governing body to manage it sustainably. With EU support, a four-year project – implemented by Enabel – is under way to organise waste collection and processing in five cities around the lake, to build or refurbish water treatment stations and to hold awareness campaigns on environmental care.

\* Rwanda is also involved in the project because the Rusizi River flows into the lake.





Tanzania

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### Innovation rooted in history

Farmers in the remote Kigoma region in western Tanzania face the difficult challenge to transport their produce to the market, due to poor road infrastructure.

Stone arch bridges are a cheap and sustainable solution. While the technology is more than 2000 years old, stone arches still present huge advantages compared to steel or concrete alternatives. They are built by local workers with local materials, which allows local governments to upgrade more rural roads without increasing their budget. *“The Kaseke River complicates our lives, especially when there is a lot of rainfall people cannot cross at all. With the bridge, there is finally a secure way to access our village and transport goods to other markets,”* says Magdalena Leonard Kagege, Mayor of Nyabigufa.



## Environment and climate in the Sahel

In March 2021, the Minister of Development Cooperation Meryame Kitir tasked Enabel with preparing a thematic portfolio on 'The Environment and Climate in the Sahel'. It is to focus on the fight against desertification and the negative consequences of climate change by improving the management of natural resources and sustainably restoring ecosystems with a view to increasing the resilience of the population in the Sahel. Belgium's climate portfolio focuses on Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso and Senegal and would support the African Great Green Wall initiative.

EUR 50 million is earmarked for this portfolio (2022-2026).



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# Social and economic inequality

What started as a health crisis soon became an economic and social crisis that exacerbated inequality in the world and hits the most vulnerable hardest.





# A virus with disruptive impacts on all aspects of life

The imposed corona measures limit people's freedom of movement and the transport of goods, schools and shops are closed, social life comes to a halt and the world goes into lockdown. And no one can predict exactly how profound the impact of all these measures will be.

In this context, Enabel reoriented and adapted its development programmes, based on a number of clear choices. Firstly, to address the health crisis. Find out more about this in the Health highlight on page 30.

## Food security

Second, our focus was on food security. Limited freedom of movement is detrimental to food supplies, which means that many families simply can no longer provide the necessary food. Farmers can no longer go to the market to sell their products and have their income completely evaporated. When shops and markets close, prices come under pressure and social tensions also threaten to arise.

## Education

The third priority was to strengthen the socioeconomic resilience of the most vulnerable populations. Education suffered and many schools suspended classes for weeks or even months. A learning backlog and pupils dropping out of school became a daily reality. Education therefore had to reinvent itself and focus on distance learning and digital technologies.

## Private sector

The economy also suffered from the corona measures. So it was important to support local businesses and start-ups to deal with the crisis. Many dynamic entrepreneurs (young and less young ones) rolled up their sleeves to manufacture protective equipment. They embraced digitisation and started 3D printing medical devices with a little support; they developed apps to monitor the spread of the epidemic. Hopeful initiatives that more than deserved a boost.

## Digitisation

Finally, reliable data and correct dissemination of information are equally crucial to dealing with crises. Without reliable data, you cannot make good decisions, and misinformed citizens will be less inclined to follow restrictive measures. It is therefore important to focus on modern information and communication technologies to ensure that the right information gets to the right target groups on time.

In its Covid-19 response Enabel has always taken into account the fundamental Leave no one behind principle. The Covid-19 pandemic has undeniably shown that everything is connected. All countries faced the same problems and were looking for efficient solutions. The pandemic will not be over until all countries are freed from it.

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*No one can predict exactly how profound the impact of all these measures will be.*

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DR Congo

© Enabel

### Production of washable sanitary pads

In some parts of Congo menstruation is still a taboo subject and a source of anxiety for many women. It is also a reason for many adolescent girls to drop out of school. In a country like the Democratic Republic of Congo, where purchasing power is one of the lowest in the world, the cost of disposable pads requires adolescent girls and women to find alternative solutions that, in addition to being unhygienic, often prevent them from being completely at ease.

Enabel combined the experience of its Water and Training-Education-Employment projects to support an NGO that trains young seamstresses in Mbuji Mayi in the Eastern Kasai province. The Water project considers hygiene and sanitation as complementary elements with a view to achieving a sustainable improvement in the sanitary conditions of the population. The Training-Education-Employment (EDUKOR) project helped to support women in the production and sale of washable sanitary pads. Depending on sales, these women may get sustainable jobs thanks to this innovative product.



Uganda

© Enabel

### Innovative sandbox for e-learning

Uganda decided to close schools in March 2020 to manage the Covid-19 pandemic. In response to this, Enabel and five National Teacher Training Colleges developed a teacher training sandbox, a closed software environment including handy tools (SMS, video chat...) to enable communication between teachers and students. With e-learning courses, a helpdesk, a community of practice the sandbox aims to improve 21st century (digital) skills of teachers and ensures continuity of learning. The sandbox also includes a one-stop portal where all resources for distance learning are uploaded. The platform is accessible to teachers and students free of charge through a zero-rating agreement with MTN Uganda. More than 90% of the students and the teachers found the one-stop portal useful to very useful.





Benin

© Enabel

## Drones for smart agriculture

Benin aims to more than double its production of cashew nuts by 2021. Digital technology can help ensure that this growth supports biodiversity and improves the resilience of small farmers through the use of climate-smart practices. With financial support of the Wehubit programme of Enabel, drones are used to map cashew fields and collect data on plants health, in order to elaborate best practices to improve crop productivity and to promote environmentally friendly farming practices. The project is carried out by TechnoServe, a non-profit that takes a business approach to reducing poverty.

*"I hope that, at the end of the project, a reliable database on farmers' plantations will be available, including areas, precise maps, the number of trees per plantation etcetera,"* says Alex Nougbohoue, Head of Monitoring, Evaluation & Capitalisation at Benin's National Federation of Cashew Producers FENAPAB.



## Social Protection portfolio in the Great Lakes region

In March 2021, the Minister of Development Cooperation Meryame Kitir tasked Enabel with preparing a thematic portfolio on 'Social Protection in Central Africa'.

It aims to improve the living conditions of the most vulnerable population groups (women and youths) in DR Congo, Rwanda and Uganda. Sustainable, inclusive and equitable socioeconomic development is made possible setting up social protection systems and promoting decent work.

EUR 50 million is earmarked for this portfolio (2022-2026).



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# Peace and Security

The Covid-19 crisis is resulting in widespread loss of life and serious human suffering around the world, especially among vulnerable and disadvantaged populations. It has also created an economic and social crisis, which affects all aspects of life.



## How to vaccinate the democracy?

But the pandemic also has an indirect impact and significant consequences on other global public goods such as peace, democracy and civil liberties. It has impacted, among other things, the free movement of people, participation in decision-making, the protection of fundamental rights and access to justice. The crisis has also eroded social cohesion and exacerbated tensions and sources of conflict.

In the Sahel, for instance, in a region already affected by climate change and lack of resources, the pandemic exacerbates the causes underlying conflict and political instability. In some countries, the crisis has been used to undermine democratic processes and limit public freedom. The situation is particularly worrying in places where democracy is not firmly entrenched and where institutions are weak. The Covid-19 crisis confronts states with major political, legal and social challenges: How to respond effectively to this crisis while ensuring that the measures taken do not undermine our real long-term goal of preserving democracy, the rule of law and human rights.

During this crisis, Enabel helped its partners to manage this subtle balance to the best of their ability and to continue public action. In 2020, Enabel continued collaborating with the Belgian Defence Department in Niger to deliver tests, masks and breathing-support equipment to hospitals. In the Central African Republic, Enabel assisted the National Elections Authority to carry out the presidential and legislative electoral process against a tense health, security and political background. Concretely, Enabel assisted in the nation-wide electoral mapping operation as well as the establishment of more than 3,500 polling centres and 5,400 polling stations. In Burkina Faso, Enabel continued its support to the internal security forces to preserve and guarantee the right of the population to security in strict respect for human rights, while ensuring the disease would not spread. In Mali, Enabel helped ensure continuity of public service delivery, in accordance with health regulations, including by supporting 44 civil registry centres.

In 2021, we will need to strengthen our actions for peace, stability and democracy. Indeed, Covid-19 at best suspended, but in many cases, exacerbated the tensions and problems we faced before the crisis.

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*The pandemic can exacerbate the underlying causes of conflict and political instability.*

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Benin

© Enabel - Rosalie Colfs



Mali

© Enabel - Kristof Vadino

### Ships of 300 metres at the Port of Cotonou

Through a partnership with the Port of Antwerp International Enabel assists the Autonomous Port of Cotonou since 2019 to modernise its operations and to make the Port more competitive and responsive.

Since 17 July 2020, 300-metre ships dock at the Port of Cotonou. The arrival of these vessels significantly reduces the time it takes to transport goods, thanks to the reduction in the number of intermediate ports of call. The Port of Cotonou thus strengthens its position in international maritime trade.

Enabel's action consisted of the training of about thirty pilots and tugboat captains and sailors in the Port of Antwerp's simulators in berthing and unberthing the latest generation vessels. Pilots and tugboat captains worked on simulators on which the Port of Cotonou model was installed, describing a simulated environment and mimicking reality in the best possible way.



### Identity: a human right

Enrol your child in school, vote in elections, get an ID card... These are rights which everyone must have access to. Mali has a rather poor civil registry and life statistics system. According to one assessment published by the National Directorate of the Civil Registry, in 2016, 51% of active-age adults did not hold a birth certificate. The Civil Registry Support Programme, financed by the EU, aims to establish a secure civil registry information and management system in Mali.

In the north of the country, where insecurity is on the rise, eight civil registry centres are being built in the municipalities of Almostrat (Gao), Achibogho (Kidal), Taoudénit, Fom-Elba, Achouratt, Araouane, Boujbeha and Al-Ourche (Taoudénit). The public has been made aware of the importance of the civil registry, leading to an increase in birth and death registrations. More than three thousand civil registry officers across the country are trained in good birth, death, etc. registration practices. Finally, seventeen citizen reception services were deployed. These services are equipped with computers and connected to the central database and deliver person description forms. These documents are needed to enrol in university or obtain a passport. To date, more than 50,000 of such personal forms have been issued.



Burkina Faso

© Enabel - xzotik



Niger

© Enabel

## National security reform

Since 2016, the partnership between Belgium and Burkina Faso aims, among other things, to improve security in the east-central part of the country. It was in this context that the first National Security Forum brought together more than 2300 people. The Forum led to the development of the national security policy and sector reform.

Belgium assists Burkina Faso in this reform by improving the operational capabilities of the internal security forces and by strengthening collaboration between these forces and the public. More than 300 women from the security forces and civilian women have pledged to strengthen collaboration and combat insecurity. 160 community leaders of 30 villages committed to implementing community policing.

Support to the police to improve intelligence management led to the registration of crime being doubled, more than 1,500 wanted persons being found and more than 5,000 stolen items being returned to their owners. For the first time, workshops and training brought together the internal security forces, the media and civil society.

## Deployment of Belgian army aircraft

In 2020, Enabel and the Belgian Defence department strengthened their collaboration in Niger within the framework of Belgium's Global Approach to maximise the impact of Belgium's external action instruments by promoting the search for synergies and opportunities for collaboration. In response to the Covid-19 crisis Enabel and the Defence department have collaborated to deliver humanitarian emergency medical equipment by military cargo flights: 3D printers and masks to produce mechanical ventilators, rolls of cotton wool fabric for the manufacture of masks, rapid tests. This is essential equipment for a country that – before the pandemic crisis – had only twelve national hospitals and about 20 ambulances with integrated oxygen equipment.



*“The Port of Cotonou is the powerhouse of Benin’s economy. To develop it, we need expert assistance to strengthen our maritime administration, which is in the process of implementing many international maritime conventions. Via its partnership with Belgium’s Ministry of Mobility, Enabel offers highly specialised expertise.”*

**Urbain Tchiakpe**  
Deputy Secretary-General of Benin’s Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport



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# Urbanisation

With 70% of the world's population living in cities by 2050, the essential role of cities in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is widely recognised.





# The city: hotbed of challenges and breeding ground for creative solutions

Since the first signs of the emergence of Covid-19, cities have been at the forefront of the fight against the pandemic, confirming their central role, not only in managing the health crisis, but also in encouraging economic and social recovery and development.

In Africa and the Middle East as elsewhere in the world, because of their crowds and density, cities are most affected by Covid-19.

With the pandemic, cities face one of their main challenges, that of inequality. They are the ones that fuel the spread of the pandemic and its socio-economic consequences.

Overcrowding, lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation and lack of basic services have increased the health risks of the pandemic for the poorest communities. Also during the lockdown the decline in informal sector activities and the lack of access to digital technologies left already highly vulnerable populations in an even more precarious economic situation.

The pandemic showed the importance of broadening urban planning and management to better cover informal housing and the informal economy. It is also necessary to incorporate urban as well as the peri-urban areas in more circular modes of production and consumption and to better take into account public health matters (urban renewal, living environment). The pandemic also showed that citizens and their creativity, their solidarity and their resilience are the primary resource of cities.

Enabel intends to support cities to face the pandemic but also to (re)build more sustainable, greener and more inclusive cities through our projects to support cities and urban centres in Africa and the Middle East.

Enabel, among other things, commits to support cities to provide quality public services for all, to develop their infrastructure and economies in a sustainable way, with the aim of making cities both more accessible and more attractive. Enabel aims to facilitate women's access to services, resources and economic opportunities, as well as to safe and pleasant public spaces.

Whether it is for sanitation, the development of urban infrastructure, the promotion of inclusive urban entrepreneurship, Enabel also supports collaboration between various actors, from the private sector to the local NGO; all playing their part in the smooth running of cities. Hence the importance of inclusive and participatory projects, which take into account the multiple dynamics present within a city and the many communities that make it diverse and rich.

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*Cities are at the forefront of the fight against the pandemic.*

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DR Congo

© Enabel

## Drinking water for 400,000 people

Drinking water is a luxury product in East Kasai, a landlocked province in DR Congo. The City of Mbuji Mayi and its three million inhabitants lacks sufficient electricity infrastructure. This affects the cost of drinking water, as pumps powered by heavy-duty generators extract underground water from a depth of about 200 m. In partnership with the City of Mbuji Mayi, Enabel installed two photovoltaic pumping stations supplying nearly 100,000 people daily. The water is pumped as soon as the sun rises. There is no need for (expensive and unsustainable) batteries to store energy, because every sunny day some 500 m<sup>3</sup> of water is pumped up and stored in the water system's raised reservoirs. The water is distributed by gravitation to standpipes where some hundred operators ensure drinking water is delivered to the population.

This photovoltaic pumping project is being rolled out in East Kasai (230,000 more people reached directly) and replicated in the Maniema Province (100,000 people reached directly).



Rwanda

© Enabel

## Participatory urban development

Enabel focuses its support on secondary cities to achieve inclusive and sustainable urban development offering a safe and affordable living environment for all with citizens participating in the development of their city. In Rwanda, the Belgian Development Cooperation in the cities of Rwamagana, Rubavu and Muzanze focused on the improvement of urban infrastructure with a view to stimulating the economy. Enabel not only cooperates with the city authorities; also residents and the private sector are involved in the decisions, for instance through city walks during which it is determined where the infrastructure projects are most appropriate or necessary. Despite the corona crisis, in 2020 the teams managed to start building crafts markets and connecting roads in the city and to the suburbs.





Guinea

© Enabel



Palestine

© Enabel

## Waste management for cleaner cities

Covid-19 did not interrupt the production of household waste in Guinea. Every day, more than 1200 tons of waste is produced in the capital Conakry and 110 tons in the city of Kindia. This waste is a significant hazard to health and hygiene. It must be treated. Enabel supports the two cities in organising and installing a sustainable and effective solid waste management system. Prevention of waste, optimising curb-side collection services and value-creation from waste are at the heart of the action. In partnership with the services of the cities concerned, community equipment and sorting and storage facilities are set up and access roads and composting platforms are built to facilitate the task of collection, sorting and transport companies. In total, more than 2 million people are affected by these activities.



## Villages offering better public services

In a context of increasing urbanisation, the Belgian Development Cooperation in Palestine supports regional development in eight clusters of 36 villages. Through this collaboration the inhabitants of these villages benefit from better public services, new opportunities for economic development but also greater social cohesion. As a result, the inhabitants of the commune of Beit Liqya and adjacent villages are now connected to the water system (8.5 km of water pipes built, 3000 water meters installed) and waste has stopped piling up thanks to waste collection covering the whole cluster. The villages of the Bani Zaid cluster are now connected by a rehabilitated network of roads. They have also set up a new economic and social council that brings together most of the social and economic actors from nine villages to plan their development activities together. This council is particularly interested in initiatives to promote the role and employment of women and young people in the cluster.



*“People are satisfied with the services provided by the municipality: Waste is collected regularly, the water supply is functioning, things have changed. We now also want to reach the surrounding villages, so that we can also better serve them and encourage them to join the cluster.”*

**Rafeef Hanaysheh**  
Executive Director at municipal services, West Bank, Palestine





Enabel believes that promoting the benefits of migration, reducing the costs of migration and making migration a choice prepares us to face the future challenges of climate change, growing inequalities and the digital transformation of labour.

# Human mobility

## Covid-19 making the vulnerable even more vulnerable

Enabel supports new approaches that enhance the benefits of human mobility for migrant people and their families, and for countries of origin and destination. These approaches include legal and labour migration pathways, digital innovations to help people on the move earn a living, a renewed focus on social protection and the participation of diasporas in the development of countries of origin. Yet, all of this has been significantly hampered in 2020 due to the pandemic.

Global human mobility has slowed with the impact of Covid-19, because of the restrictions on mobility imposed by governments to limit transmission of the virus. Consequently, many migrants and refugees have been left stranded in host countries, without food, shelter, access to essential services or the ability to return home. People in an irregular situation, with limited financial resources, women and girls with special needs, children, elderly, and people with disabilities were extremely vulnerable to the coronavirus. They suffer disproportionately from its social and economic consequences.

Moreover, in many countries, the pandemic has increased stigma, xenophobia and discrimination, and migrant people have been accused of contributing to the spread of the disease.

Yet, migrant people have been at the forefront of the pandemic in most countries, providing essential services, including health care, cleaning, domestic work, food production, ensuring the continuity of supply chains etc. On the other hand, however, they have limited access to social protection and services in most countries.

Finally, families and communities in countries of origin were significantly impacted owing to a drop in remittances, particularly affecting food security, nutrition, and access to basic services, such as health care and education.

Acknowledging the immense impact of the pandemic on the lives of migrants and refugees, Enabel put the principle 'nobody is safe until everyone is safe' in practice, supporting partners to respond to the specific needs of migrant people.



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Senegal

© Enabel



Morocco

© Enabel

### Actions to fight the rural exodus

In support of Senegal's efforts to face the corona crisis, Enabel readjusted its programmes and reallocated almost 1.2 million euro to the Covid-19 response.

Because of traffic restrictions under the imposed state of emergency, farmers could not access markets and sell their crops. The PARERBA project, which aims to respond to the aspirations of youths by creating 6,000 sustainable jobs in the bassin arachidier, bought in more than 600 tonnes of onions from local producers in 18 rural municipalities for redistribution to the most vulnerable. This initiative in coordination with local authorities provided much-needed income to farmers but also vital support to the most vulnerable. The PARERBA project also helped inform agri-food workers and rose awareness of the health and socio-economic aspects of the crisis among them. Digital distance coaching also helped build the capacity of micro and small businesses.

### Strengthen the resilience of migrant people

Since 2016, the Belgian Development Cooperation in Morocco aims to strengthen the integration of migrant people. As a result of the health crisis, these people were very vulnerable to the loss of their livelihoods, as many of them were working in the informal economy. Enabel assisted Moroccan institutions and civil society organisations to better meet the needs of these people and ensure their access to basic services. For instance, the public welfare institution implemented first response actions to facilitate access to food and hygiene products.

Furthermore, tools have been developed to facilitate remote work of civil society. Enabel also supported local authorities in disseminating correct information about the virus through videos in different languages. Finally, legal clinics of four universities were supported in producing online training in order to continue to strengthen knowledge on rights.

# Covid-19

## Unprecedented health crisis shows importance of international solidarity

On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) officially declared the corona virus pandemic. Governments are urged to quickly take preventive measures to slow down the spread of the corona virus.

For decades, the Belgian Development Cooperation has assisted African governments in building resilient and effective healthcare systems. This experience proved very relevant in the light of the huge challenges raised by the Covid-19 crisis.

Enabel supports the healthcare systems in several countries in Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Mauritania, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal and Uganda. From the onset of the corona crisis Enabel reoriented almost all its health projects in these countries and adapted them – in consensus with national authorities – to support health care. Adaptations took into account the priorities of the national partner, mostly the Ministry of Public Health. Enabel's presence at various levels of decision, centrally as well as in health districts, ensured close cooperation and an effective response, which also encouraged other donors to rely on Enabel.

### Material assistance

Enabel's projects have helped ensure that health staff is trained to properly and safely accommodate and care for patients. We offered material assistance in the form of medical material and equipment (masks, disinfectants, protective clothing, ventilators, ambulances...), transport of medicines and equipment, the installation of test centres and the organization of hospital wards. Logistic teams prepared social centres, university campuses and hotels to care for patients. In this crisis situation, it was also very important to pay attention to the preservation of basic health care (sexual and reproductive care, family planning...), because the most vulnerable are the hardest hit and the pandemic leads to more gender-based violence.

### Information and awareness raising

Our actions were also aimed at correctly informing various target groups (health professionals, community workers, mayors, police officers, religious leaders, etc.). We supported local authorities in information and awareness campaigns for the wider population, in the organisation of call centres answering the questions of concerned citizens in local languages.

In the longer run, it must be investigated how healthcare services in the broad sense are best supported and organised to better deal with future crises. That is the real challenge: Make sure that, in the longer run, health systems are robust and resilient so as to deal with such crises.

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*Are health systems robust and resilient enough to face such crises in the future?*

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DR Congo

© Enabel



Burundi

© Enabel

### Prompt reorientation of health projects

Saint Joseph’s Hospital is one of the five Covid-19 referral hospitals in Kinshasa. The Belgian governmental cooperation redirected its support to the health sector and soon handed over two ambulances, hand washers, disinfection products, personal protective equipment and oxygen concentrators to improve patient care. As from 2020, Enabel also implements a project funded by the European Union in support of health authorities and patient care. Following the second wave, resulting in an increase in new cases in November 2020, awareness campaigns were launched on the importance of social distancing and the correct wearing of the mask.

### Digital medical files for effective patient care

With a view to supporting the hospitals in Burundi to manage the Covid-19 crisis, Enabel and the Ministry of Public Health developed a specific medical file. The file is an electronic tool that hospitals use to facilitate the triage, admission and follow-up of patients until they are released from care. It has been added to the existing Electronic Medical Record (EMR) solution of Open Clinic, which is already integrated in many of the hospitals supported by Enabel. This solution also has interfaces to the reference labs to ensure linkages with testing data. As the digital medical files are created with open source software, which is already used by many hospitals in our partner countries, the solution can easily be scaled up elsewhere.



*“From a human resources perspective, managing the pandemic involved a host of challenges. Besides the need to ensure the safety of our staff, it was equally important to support our teams and strengthen the bonds between them.”*

Martine Brisse  
HR Director



# Digitisation

## Making digital innovation work during the Covid-19 pandemic

Digital devices, services and the internet have become an integral part of people's lives. The use of mobile phones for example, has improved financial inclusion, access to information and basic services, freedom of speech, education... Vulnerable groups, however, are often not able to access or make full use of the advantages of the digital revolution.

Enabel aims to close this digital divide by strengthening digital skills, improving digital rights awareness and supporting inclusive digital entrepreneurship. We also make sure that the building blocks for e-services are put into place. These efforts allow us to address the combined effects of the digital divide on inequalities.

Covid-19 has had a profound impact on the world, as in many cases health services were not prepared to respond to the pandemic and governments had to take far-reaching measures to keep the health system running.

At the same time, the pandemic has also turned out to be a critical moment for innovation. Due to the speed with which the pandemic struck, we and our partners had to immediately adapt the projects to the new situation. Digital technologies have proven their great added value there.

The pandemic has, in a sense, accelerated digitisation and certainly the willingness to work with these new technologies. Our teams have managed to quickly step up to the challenge thanks to the accumulated experience of previous years and by working together with specialised partners. Examples ranging from the 3D printing of protective equipment for health workers to the electronic management of patient records, the support of distance learning in education, the use of digital tools for start-ups or adapted guidance to familiarise public administrations with solutions for working from home... Enabel did not

miss the boat and is proud that it can use its know-how as coordinating agency of the African branch of the D4D Hub (see right page).



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During the height of the pandemic, innovation hubs in Burkina Faso printed 1,500 face visors and dozens of spare parts for medical equipment such as mechanical ventilators. 3D printing is a versatile technology; it is now also used in other vital sectors of the Burkinabe economy, for example to set up small-scale drip irrigation projects.

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*The pandemic has accelerated digitisation.*

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### Enabel to coordinate the AU-EU D4D Hub

On the 8th of December 2020, the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo and other European leaders launched the D4D Hub, a strategic platform to promote a human-centric digital transformation approach and partnerships in countries worldwide. Eleven EU Member States, including Belgium, have so far committed to cooperate towards a European digital development strategy.

Enabel coordinates and hosts the first joint action of the African component of the D4D Hub: the African Union-European Union D4D Hub. It aims to close the digital divide between Africa and Europe by supporting African countries to develop and implement their digital strategies. The Africa branch is the first operational regional component of the global D4D Hub.



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### Geospatial technologies serving economic development

Mozambique's National Energy Fund and Enabel work together to improve access to energy in rural areas by building mini-grids powered by small solar or hydroelectric power plants.

The installation of electrical systems in 680 facilities such as schools, health centres and public services has already benefited more than 550,000 people. By combining geospatial data with available censuses, satellite images and statistical models, it is possible to identify agglomerations far from the national electricity grid and calculate the density of the population that lives there, in order to remotely select promising sites and thus prioritise the work of field teams.

Antoine De Clippele worked for two years as a junior expert for Enabel in Mozambique. *"Access to energy must enable the local population to develop new economic activities. My work with the National Energy Fund allowed me to understand the issues, the context and the needs of all stakeholders."*



# Gender equality



## It is everyone's business

Gender equality is a fundamental human rights principle and a prerequisite for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG5). It is estimated, however, that despite significant global efforts, at the current rate, achieving gender equality could take another one hundred years.

Enabel is committed, under its #WeforHer 2019-2023 gender strategy, to put gender equality at the heart of the global challenges.

2020 was marked by an unprecedented health crisis and the socio-economic impact of this crisis has further exacerbated existing inequalities, which increases the risk of backtracking from the progress made.

The closure of schools to stem the Covid-19 pandemic, for example, has resulted in the exclusion of more than one billion children from schools. An estimated twenty million girls are at risk of never being able to return to school. Indeed, it is most often women and girls who provide paid or unpaid care in homes and in hospitals. By providing care, they are more exposed to contamination and the time they can devote to educational or economic activities is reduced. Because of the lockdown, they are more often victims of violence.

In the same way that Enabel has strengthened its commitment to mainstreaming gender in its projects and operations, the agency has also placed gender at the heart of its efforts in the fight against Covid-19. In several countries, Enabel supplied medical equipment to hospitals to protect front-line health workers, a position where women are particularly at risk. We have stepped up our efforts to ensure the continuity of sexual and reproductive health services. In DR Congo, we supported a local distribution network of reusable sanitary towels, combined with hygiene support actions. We have strengthened post-Covid-19 resilience actions by adapting our training and education offer in Uganda and we adapted support for young entrepreneurs in Palestine, Senegal and Guinea. Finally, we have

integrated the transformative masculinities approach into our actions, because for Enabel gender equality is everyone's business.

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*Gender equality is at the heart of all the global challenges.*

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Palestine

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## Digital harassment

Wehubit, Enabel's programme that invests in digital social innovations, has supported an initiative to prevent gender-based violence and to strengthen women's rights and establish safe, accessible and inclusive digital spaces promoting women's political participation and leadership.

The project has strengthened the capacity and knowledge of young, female and male, cyber-activists on ICT use, digital security and gender-based violence on the Internet. In total, in two years more than 50,000 young people engaged in the dialogue on cyber violence and spoke on digital platforms in critical workshops involving policy makers. The components of this project – national campaigns, face-to-face physical and online awareness and capacity-building sessions – have reached almost one million people.



Guinea

© Enabel

## Continuous awareness raising

All our projects promote gender equality year-round. Every year, on the occasion of International Women's Day (8 March), we organise special activities.

In Guinea, most taxi drivers are men. This is exactly why they were chosen to 'carry' a gender awareness campaign in 2020. For a whole month, about 100 taximen wore T-shirts and displayed stickers on their cabs and motorcycles with the message: 'Gender inequality. Enough is enough.'

In 2021, through the 'She Decides' project Enabel assisted the NGO Protection Femme Enfant Environnement en Guinée (PROFEEG) and improved women's access to sexual and reproductive rights information. "Thanks to this support, we now can visit the most remote communities and inform them on their rights," emphasises Aminata Camara, the head of PROFEEG. Find out more about the work of PROFEEG in this video:





juniorprogramme.be  
annoncerlacouleur.be  
wijzijnkruit.be  
tdc-enabel.be



# Global citizenship

## Junior Programme: a talent incubator at the service of international development

In 2020, 41 young people put their talent at the service of international development through the Junior Programme. By offering the opportunity for young professionals to work abroad on projects related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Programme aims to train our experts of tomorrow.

51% of the applicants recruited in 2020 joined Belgian governmental cooperation projects (Enabel projects), while the remaining 49% joined partner NGO projects. The Junior Programme continues to attract a mainly female audience, with a percentage of 71% of positions filled by women in 2020.

The Covid-19 situation has had a strong impact on the everyday life of Junior Experts. Although most of them were repatriated during the health crisis, they did not cease activities but worked from a distance. Many of them have contributed to great initiatives in response to the crisis, whether at the level of their project or of Enabel or their NGO organisation or at a personal level.

## Global citizenship education

Kruit/Annoncer la Couleur is Enabel's Global Citizenship Education (GCE) Programme in Belgium. It organises courses for education professionals and acts as a centre of expertise that provides knowledge and support to the educational world.

In this capacity, in 2020, the Programme published a vision text and a paper on different approaches to Global Citizenship Education. This paper is the first in a series of four annual papers, each written by one of Enabel's GCE experts. In line with this, as from 2021, a magazine will be published once a year, in which Belgian GCE experts will speak.

Kruit/Annoncer la Couleur takes initiatives to encourage innovation. For example, Annoncer La Couleur entered into a partnership with the Royal Conservatory of Brussels to warm future artists to Global Citizenship Education. Kruit/Annoncer la Couleur also took the first steps in ambitious projects bringing together teachers from Belgium and Uganda, through the history teacher training programme of the KU Leuven and the five teacher training colleges that Enabel supports in Uganda. In this experimental project, the place of the colonial past in education is examined, with the main question being what both education systems can learn from each other in this matter. To be continued...

Due to the corona crisis and mandatory teleworking, the Programme focused on the digitisation of its activities in 2020. This resulted in online alternatives to teacher training, teacher writing workshops and a masterclass for non-school process supervisors, and an online inspiration brochure on digital practices for Global Citizenship Education. In addition, GCE webinars were organised, including one in collaboration with the Global Education Network Europe (GENE) on the importance of



© Enabel - Annoncer la Couleur

GCE in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Via that webinar, with keynote speaker Professor Dirk Van Damme, we reached an international audience of about 500 participants. Two GCE inspiration days could be organised live and attracted some 400 teachers.

### Fair trade will pay in the long run

The Trade for Development Centre raises awareness among Belgians about fair and sustainable trade. It also supports producers in Africa to provide them with better market access.

In Belgium, every year at the beginning of October, fair and sustainable trade is at the centre of attention during the Fair Trade Week. This campaign reached as many as two million people with targeted messages on social media and the radio. To bring fair trade as close as possible to people, a call is launched to schools, municipalities and associations to organise original activities that underline the social and environmental importance of fair trade. Due to the corona pandemic and the ensuing health measures, only 35 of the 53 selected activities could take place, but nevertheless a total of almost 14,000 people participated in these activities and thus more than 160,000 people were indirectly reached.

The Trade for Development Centre coaches African fair trade organisations in improving their marketing and business management. This coaching is completely customised and offered on site by experts. This way of working was obviously impossible owing to Covid-19.

Distance coaching has its limitations, but the pandemic left no other choice. In a number of cases, in Africa, people convened at hotels in a city, where the internet connection allowed working online with the coach. A total of 36 organisations were coached in 7 different countries.

The Trade for Development Centre keeps its finger on the pulse of fair and sustainable trade. The health crisis sometimes becomes the subject of our activities: The annual webinar covered 'Fair trade in times of crisis'. The second debate, on Corporate Social Responsibility, was attended by European Commissioner Didier Reynders.

Local fair trade has been on the front pages in recent years. TDC ordered a study on local fair trade to identify the existing Belgian initiatives and thus generated a lot of media attention.



# Vision 2030

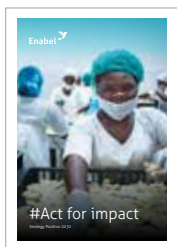


In 2020, Enabel finalised its new long-term #ActForImpact strategy, which takes account of the changing context in which we operate, the Law on Development Cooperation (2013) and the Management Contract binding the Belgian State and Enabel (2017).

This 'Enabel 2030' strategy uses the same time horizon as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which constitute the international framework in which the Belgian international cooperation policy is embedded.

Enabel is an important partner of the Belgian government and it is our ambition to remain so. As a hub of Belgian international cooperation expertise and as a sought-after partner that enables systemic change, we want to double our activity portfolio and triple our impact. To do so, we opt for specific areas of expertise and focus on Africa and the Middle East. Enabel also wants to be at the forefront of international development and thus presents itself as a cradle of innovation and entrepreneurship.

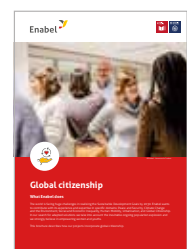
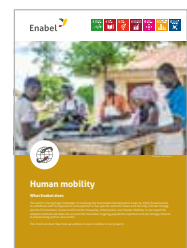
The #ActForImpact strategy position paper can be consulted on the [enabel.be](http://enabel.be) website.



## Our solutions

Enabel offers solutions addressing pressing global challenges – Climate Change, Urbanisation, Human Mobility, Peace and Security, Economic and Social Inequality – and promoting Global Citizenship. In this brochures we explain exactly how we want to tackle this.

In 2020, we elaborated approaches to generate the expected impacts on these challenges. Thus, Theories of Change have been elaborated for the Climate Change and Human Mobility challenges. In 2021, we do the same for the other global challenges.



# Partnerships

## To strengthen our impact

To have more impact, we need to partner with the best actors and combine expertise and resources. Over the years Enabel has built a vast network of technical and financial local, Belgian, European and international partners of different nature: public services, research centres, universities, development agencies, NGOs, enterprises, European institutions, international organisations, global funds, etc.

Partnerships are not only part of the philosophy of the Sustainable Development Goals, but they are also in the spirit of increased cooperation at the European level (#TeamEurope and #WorkingBetterTogether) and in the Global Approach (whole-of-government) of the Belgian government (#TeamBelgium).

Our first partners are of course the countries where we carry out development projects. With the institutions and citizens of our partner countries, we want to bring about change so that all women and men are free to thrive.

Enabel implements the Belgian governmental cooperation with Belgium's partner countries: That is the agency's principal activity.

To increase the impact of Belgium's international cooperation, we also work with the regions (Brussels, Flanders, Wallonia) and draw on the expertise of public services, universities and research centres specialising in various areas (health, social security, human rights, the environment, biodiversity, vocational training, justice, police, port security, climate change, etc.).

Enabel has concluded dozens of expert partnerships with Belgian public institutions and services at all

levels of decision-making. Thanks to these partnerships, Enabel can fully assume its role as broker and facilitator, but above all, they allow us to exchange with our partners in Africa and the Middle East the most advanced expertise to carry out development projects and increase the impact of Belgium's international cooperation.

Belgium is a founding member of the European Union and naturally Enabel wants to be embedded in Europe. The European Union is the largest donor worldwide and an important strategic partner for Enabel.

In a European (#TeamEurope) context, EU Member State development agencies are also natural team partners of Enabel. Mutual cooperation can take different forms: EU or Member State project financing, joint project implementation, the exchange of experiences... European cooperation materialises in particular in the Practitioners' Network, which brings together nineteen European development actors and interacts with the European Commission on Europe's development policy.

Enabel also forges valuable partnerships with global funds such as the Green Climate Fund and the Global Education Partnership.



*"In times of crisis, one gets to know one's friends. Our partnership with Belgium and Enabel's expertise in health care are invaluable to us."*

**Dr Abaché Ranaou**  
Secretary-General, Ministry of Public Health, Republic of Niger

# Organisation



## Public-law company

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

Enabel implements Belgium's governmental cooperation policy. The agency actively explores assignments for other donors in view of strengthening Belgium's foreign policy. Enabel can also carry out and coordinate international cooperation initiatives of Belgian federal instances. Thus, Enabel is the interface between Belgium's public instances and Belgian or foreign donors for international development actions, 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 2020, the General Meeting was held on 10 June.

### 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 2020, the Board of Directors convened ten times. Composition: Hannelore Beerlandt (presidency), Xavier De Cuyper, Brigitte Boone, Nadia Molenaers, Martine Van Dooren, Chris Verhaegen, Alain Coheur, Guido Gryseels, Olivier Lanotte, Dirk Rochtus.

### Managing director

The Managing director is responsible for the daily management of Enabel. He has been appointed by the Board of Directors 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), Sven Huysen (Operations director), Danny Verspreet (Finance & IT director), Liana Hoornweg (Sectoral and Thematic Expertise director). In 2020, the Management Committee convened nineteen 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.

Enabel's Code of Conduct 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.



# Finances

## Balance sheet (euro)

<b>Assets</b>	31/12/2020	%	31/12/2019	%
Fixed assets	1,048,730	0.4%	837,347	0.37%
Amounts receivable > 1 year	50,744,489	18.6%	30,289,416	13.20%
Sub-total	51,793,219	19.0%	31,126,763	13.57%
Amounts receivable ≤ 1 year	60,016,120	22.0%	23,284,753	10.15%
Investments	0	0.0%	0	0.00%
Cash assets	146,950,968	53.8%	150,378,812	65.55%
Deferred charges and accrued income	14,539,341	5.3%	24,611,694	10.73%
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>273,299,648</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>229,402,023</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	31/12/2020	%	31/12/2019	%
Equity	20,323,893	7.4%	20,245,349	8.8%
Provisions and deferred income taxes > 1 year	2,046,761	0.7%	1,971,019	0.9%
Sub-total	22,370,654	8.2%	22,216,369	9.7%
Amounts payable > 1 year	50,744,489	18.6%	30,289,416	13.2%
Provisions and deferred income taxes ≤ 1 year	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Amounts payable ≤ 1 year	199,199,177	72.9%	172,587,105	75.2%
Deferred charges and accrued income	985,328	0.4%	4,309,133	1.9%
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>273,299,648</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>229,402,023</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Income statement

	31/12/2020	31/12/2019
<b>Operating revenue</b>	<b>256,373,282</b>	<b>236,636,949</b>
Turnover	233,766,276	213,720,197
Other sales and activities	21,992,474	22,774,609
Non-recurring operating revenue	614,532	142,143
<b>Operating costs</b>	<b>255,317,224</b>	<b>235,904,702</b>
Purchases	23,608,236	13,564,372
Miscellaneous goods and services	175,742,490	170,426,714
Staff costs	52,057,471	49,372,451
Depreciation	3,352,074	2,501,968
Depreciation current assets	0	0
Provisions for risks and charges	75,741	-76,771
Other operating costs	374,748	103,461
Non-recurring operating expenses	106,463	12,507
<b>Operating result</b>	<b>1,056,057</b>	<b>732,247</b>
Financial costs	-1,665,244	-1,139,624
Financial revenue	687,731	466,579
<b>Financial result</b>	<b>-977,513</b>	<b>-673,045</b>
<b>Result for the financial year before taxes</b>	<b>78,544</b>	<b>59,202</b>
Transfers from / to deferred income taxes		
Taxes on the result		
<b>Result for the financial year</b>	<b>78,544</b>	<b>59,202</b>
Transfers from / to tax-free reserves		
<b>Result for the financial year to be allocated</b>	<b>78,544</b>	<b>59,202</b>

# Royal backing

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On 26 May 2020 and 11 February 2021, Her Majesty Queen Mathilde had a video call with our colleagues in Brussels, Guinea, Morocco, Niger, Uganda, Senegal and DR Congo.

The royal initiative illustrates how committed the palace is to the millions of people in the world who are being pushed back into poverty by the pandemic. In the meeting Her Majesty Queen Mathilde expressed her particular appreciation for the work of all employees of the Belgian development agency in support of the partner countries in their efforts to win the fight against the virus.



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# Colophon

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