



Status of Cooperation between Rwanda and the Kingdom of Belgium

Background

The bi-lateral cooperation between the Republic of Rwanda and Belgium dates back to 1962. On 13th October 1962 the 1st general convention of cooperation was signed. The cooperation passes through the convention of cooperation (Programme Indicatif de Cooperation-PIC) since 2004. The first one was signed on 18th may 2004 (PIC 2004-2006) for three years

Cooperation between Belgium and Rwanda is taking place through different channels:

- *Direct bilateral cooperation (government to government);*
- *Indirect bilateral cooperation through non-governmental actors;*
- *Multilateral cooperation through international organizations such as the specialized UN agencies;*
- *Cooperation within the framework of the Agreements between the Africa Caribbean Pacific (ACP) countries and the European Union;*

THE ONGOING DIRECT BILATERAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME

- **Legal Framework**

Belgian Development Cooperation is governed by the law on International Cooperation of May 25th, 1999. This law sets out priority sectors and transversal themes. Cooperation between Belgium and Rwanda is directed by the General Cooperation Convention of 2004. Each intervention is formalised by a Specific Agreement between both governments. The responsibility to implement the direct bilateral cooperation has been assigned to the Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC). Relations between the Government of Belgium and the BTC are governed by a management contract. For every separate intervention, an implementation agreement is concluded between the Belgian government and BTC.

A list of ongoing interventions financed by Belgium and their tentative closing dates is attached.

COOPERATION PROGRAMME 2011-2014

Within the general framework of the fight against poverty and with reference to the EDPRS, the bilateral cooperation programme 2011-2014 pursue to contribute to the strategic objectives of increased economic growth, managing population growth rate and enhancing population development and increased gains through good governance.

Sectors of Intervention

In alignment with the agreed Donor Division of Labour in Rwanda, Belgium concentrates its activities within the framework of this ICP to the EDPRS sectors of **Health, Energy** and **Decentralisation**.

- **Health Sector (55M€)**

The Belgian support to the health sector is based on an integrated portfolio approach, with a single coordination, made up of two components. The first component relates to the contribution to the Sector Budget Support (SBS) and to the Capacity Development Pooled Fund (CDPF) whereas the second component consists of a single program.

The strength of this approach lies in the complementarity of the interventions it supports, feeding from bottom to top and conversely into mutually reinforcing technical and policy dialogues.

The health-related targets, policy actions and the CPAF indicators have shown a positive evolution in the last years. Taking the summary reports of the last three backward looking Joint Health Sector Reviews (JHSR) into consideration, 4 out of 6 CPAF indicators were fully achieved (green flag) while only 2 of them partially met (yellow flag).

- **Energy Sector (55M€)**

Energy is a key strategic sector for Rwanda. Adequate provision of energy is essential for the development of industries and businesses, especially for the development of energy intensive industries such as agro-processing and mining, and for ensuring a high quality service delivery from social institutions such as health facilities, schools and local administrative offices to the Rwandan population, as well as directly to the Rwandan population, especially in rural areas.

Women are more affected since they are seeking firewood for cooking and heating, a time consuming activity. As recommended by the Kigali gender workshop, the ICP contributes to facilitate access to and control over energy generated by locally available materials (eg: biogaz, biomass, etc) and other alternative energy resources for women.

Rwanda has formulated clear objectives for the development of the energy sector in its Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS), namely:

- Increasing access to electricity, by raising the number of subscriptions;
 - Introduction of cost reflective tariffs and reduction of tariff;
 - Diversification of energy sources and ensuring energy security of supply;
 - Establishment of a favourable institutional, legal and regulatory framework and capacity building;
- **Decentralisation (28 M€)**

The proposed cooperation program in the “Decentralization, Citizen’s Participation, Empowerment, Transparency and Accountability” sector (DCPETA) is based on the Rwanda Strategic Decentralisation Framework (RSDF) adopted in 2007, and the third Decentralization Implementation Plan (2011-2015). It takes into account the Fiscal and Financial Decentralisation Policy and the Rwanda Fiscal Decentralisation Strategy.

It also takes on board the Local Government Capacity Building Strategy adopted in December 2010, and the stated intentions of other Development Partners (Germany and the Netherlands) remaining active in the sector.

The National Decentralization policy underlines the commitment of the Rwandan government to empower its people to determine their destiny. The implementation of decentralized structures down to the lowest level of Village/*Umudugudu* is a strategic approach for ensuring that gender equality is effectively addressed throughout the planning cycle, and that a sense of community ownership by the different social groups is enhanced.

This component is implemented within one project under one specific agreement.

- **Delegated Cooperation**

Belgium, in conformity with the agreed donor Division of Labour, leave the sectors Justice, Reconciliation, Law and Order (JRLO) and Education. In order to give the remaining partners the required time to step up their operations, Belgium will for a limited period of time continue to support both sectors through delegated cooperation.

The JRLO sector **(6 M€)**

The existing partnership agreement with the Netherlands has functioned in a satisfactory way. Hence, to consolidate the results obtained, taking into account the importance Belgium attaches to governance matters and in order to give the remaining development partners in the sector time to step up their interventions, the existing partnership will be extended, and two more tranches of Sector Budget Support, of 3 M€ each, provided during the Financial Years 2011/12 and 2013/14.

The Education sector

A silent partnership agreement negotiated with DfID, for the provision of **6 M€** of Sector Budget Support, in two tranches during the financial years 2011/12 and 2012/13.

Belgium through delegated cooperation with UNDP, participate in the financing of the extension of the “Support to Good Governance Program” beyond 2011, for an amount of **2 M€**. This program supports institutions such as the Human Rights Commission, the Office of the Ombudsman, the Parliament and the National Women Council.

- **Study and Consultancy Fund (PAREC)**

Belgium will continue to support the Study and Consultancy Fund. This instrument continues to help Rwanda in:

- study and appraisal of actions in the priority sectors and cross cutting issues identified in this ICP;
- study and appraisal of actions in support of coordination and harmonization of donor support.

An amount of **2 M€** is foreseen for the replenishment of the Study and Consultancy Fund.

Financing of the Indicative Cooperation Programme

Taking into account the priorities of the Rwandan Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strateg, and the Division of Labour, agreed upon between the Government of Rwanda and Development Partners, the following distribution of the financial envelope across sectors and themes has been established:

Sector	ICP 2011-2014 (M€)
1. Health	55
2. Energy	55
3. Decentralisation	28
4. Delegated Cooperation	14
5. Study Fund	2
6. Support to PSCBS	4
7. Ongoing study grants programme	2
Grand Total	160