



Peace & Security

What Enabel does

The world is facing huge challenges in realising the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Enabel wants to contribute with its experience and expertise in five specific domains: Peace and Security, Climate Change and the Environment, Social and Economic Inequality, Urbanisation, and Human Mobility. In our search for adapted solutions we take into account the inevitable ongoing population explosion and we strongly believe in empowering women and youths.

This brochure describes how we address peace and security in our projects.

No development without peace & security

According to the World Bank, by 2030, at least half of the world's poor will be living in fragile and conflict-affected settings. Fragility, conflict and violence have a clear impact on poverty.

Extreme poverty is rising only in fragile states. By some estimates, more than half a million people die from violence every year through militarised conflicts or other types of violence, although an overwhelming majority of violent deaths occur outside conflict and fragile zones and especially affect the most vulnerable groups (women, children).

Sustainable development cannot be realised without peace and security and conversely, peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognises the need to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions. SDG 16 also enshrines the principles of human rights, rule of law and good governance.

Thus, it will prove impossible to achieve the SDGs and end extreme poverty unless fragility, conflict and violence are tackled concurrently and comprehensively, with consideration for entrenched inequalities fuelling violence. Enabel takes special care to increase coherence between development, humanitarian aid and security in its efforts to build resilience and prevent conflict.



Given Belgium's commitment to focus its development cooperation in least developed countries and in fragile states, promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development is a core component of Enabel's work.

Enabel's expertise

- Enabel has offices in 17 countries. This presence yields thorough contextual knowledge and gives us the opportunity to develop long-term relationships with the authorities and the people.
- A team of committed experts both in Brussels and abroad, covering different areas of expertise, including: security sector reform, community policing, crisis management, crowd management (negotiated management of public spaces) intelligence management, human resource management and training, judicial and forensic investigation, port security, mediation, preventing violent extremism, disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration, independence of the judiciary, civil status registration, access to justice, dissemination and popularisation of the law, functioning of justice, transitional justice, defence, state security, civil protection, gender and human rights, anti-corruption.
- Enabel can quickly mobilise Belgian public expertise through cooperation agreements with the Federal Police, the Ministries of Defence, the Interior and Justice, federal and regional parliaments and Belgian universities.
- The rapid mobilisation of private consultants through a set of framework contracts and agreements.
- Strong networks with international organisations, such as the International Security Sector Advisory (ISSAT), the International Network on Conflict & Fragility (INCAF), the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF), and Belgian NGOs operating in the field, such as Avocats sans Frontières, RCN Justice & Démocratie, Search for Common Ground, Justice & Paix.
- Active participation in various expertise and research networks at national and international levels, such as the Practitioners' Network, Learn4Dev, INCAF, ARGO.

Enabel's approach on peace & security

The presence of the Belgian Development Cooperation in the security and justice sector aligns with the Belgian Comprehensive Approach, with the OECD's Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus, with the Sustainable Development Goals and with the Women, Peace and Security Framework (UNSC Res. 1325). Preventive actions abroad also indirectly contribute to Belgium's internal security and can therefore be linked to the national security strategy.



Enabel's approach with regard to peace and security fits within the overall Foreign Affairs strategy and the Comprehensive Approach aiming at increasing the coherence, complementarity and collaboration of the various Belgian actors involved in this area. In this respect, as Belgium's development agency, Enabel plays a facilitating role, promoting and leveraging the mobilisation of Belgian public expertise on peace and security.

Working on human security and the rule of law is key for a stable development of Enabel's partner countries. Therefore, Enabel adopts a two-pronged approach, investing in conflict prevention and crisis resilient societies on the one hand and responding to crisis situations on the other. The Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs' strategy, which frames the scope of Enabel's work, defines possible areas of intervention, such as conflict prevention, mediation, security and justice sector reform, access to justice and rights, prevention of violent extremism, and disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration.

In partnership with Belgian public institutions such as the federal police, the judiciary, the Ministry of Defence or the federal parliament, Enabel has been developing projects for more than 15 years to support human security and the rule of law. In line with the international concept of Security (and Justice) Sector Reform, these projects supported security and justice institutions to improve their service delivery. At the same time, Enabel also has deep-seeded expertise in strengthening accountable and inclusive institutions.

Enabel encourages 'cross-border' cooperation between sectors and promotes a more holistic approach. Education, for example, plays a very important role in peace and security. Development actions should have a positive impact on conflict mitigation. That is why Enabel applies a fragility and conflict sensitivity lens (conflict sensitive analysis, risk assessments) in all its work. Generally, Enabel's peace and security actions relate to one or more of the following:

Security sector reform (including community policing)

Enabel is strongly committed to increasing the share of men and women that feel safe walking alone in the area where they live. Another objective is to increase the share of the population that is satisfied with its last experience with public security services.

Fair, accountable and inclusive justice

Enabel fosters a reliable and accountable judicial response to people's needs, including the most vulnerable (women and youth). Projects in this area can relate to transitional justice or community justice, for example. We evaluate success by measuring the share of victims who report their victimisation to competent authorities or other officially recognised conflict resolution mechanisms.



Citizenship and participation

Enabel's work is aimed at improving access to citizenship, especially by strengthening and modernising the civil registries. A legal identity is crucial for a prosperous life, and it is vital to foster a more balanced relation between citizens and authorities. As a measure of success, we evaluate the share of children under five whose birth is officially registered by a civil authority.

Enabel will also contribute to citizen engagement and meaningful participation by increasing the proportion of people who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by meaningful participation of women in peace-building and by focusing on the fight against corruption.

Gender-based violence

Enabel also has expertise and experience in implementing actions on gender-based violence, including prevention, and support to victims (medical and legal aid, psycho-social support, socio-economic reintegration).

Global experience



Support to operationalising Benin's Republican Police Force

Funding: Belgium

The National Police and the Gendarmerie, two initially distinct security corps in Benin, merged in December 2017 to give birth to the Republican Police. The reform is part of a national effort to fight corruption, search for efficiency and move towards a more citizen-oriented approach. The reform is an opportunity for the launch of major projects such as digitisation, the review of the organic framework of the new organisation and improving national coverage. Based on Belgium's earlier experience with such merger, Benin requested this support to make the new Republican Police Force operational, including various aspects such as community policing, human resources management, communication and cybercrime.



Support to Justice in Burundi

Funding: Belgium

From 2008 to 2015, Enabel implemented three successive projects that sought to strengthen judicial institutions and other ministerial services in Burundi (both in central and remote locations). Support was provided to central ministries, including sectoral planning, setting-up statistical tools, supporting the role of the General Justice Inspectorate, and the creation and strengthening of the Centre for Justice Professional Development. Support was also provided to the Supreme Court of Burundi, including to reduce case backlogs, simplification of procedures in cassation, and the building of new courts. New measures were also introduced to improve the organisation and day-to-day operation of services of pilot high courts in four regions. This included better archiving measures, scheduling of hearings, improvements to the overall criminal justice system, etc. This led to reducing the prison population and the pre-trial/preventive timelines.



Support to internal security forces in Burkina Faso (PARSIB)

Funding: European Union

In January 2016, following political turmoil and the first terrorist attack on Ouagadougou, the authorities requested assistance from the EU to bolster the interior security forces to address this new threat and to kick-start a dialogue on security sector reform. The project included support to intelligence-gathering efforts, crises management, response and communication approaches.

During the first phase (2016-2018), Enabel supported the setting up of a crisis management mechanism in Ouagadougou as well as a broad reflection within the framework of the National Forum on Security. In a second phase (2018-2019), attention was focused on the replication of the crisis management mechanism in Bobo Dioulasso and the implementation of several of the Forum's recommendations (on National Security and Defence Policy, the fight against corruption, territorial networking, community policing...).



Port security in Western and Central Africa

Funding: European Union.
In partnership with Expertise France

The core objective of the project is to protect Central and Western African ports (Dakar, Abidjan, San Pedro, Tema, Lomé, Douala, Pointe Noire, Brazzaville) against safety and security threats, and to provide partner countries with the means to address port-related vulnerabilities. The International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS) is the guiding framework. The ISPS code aims to increase the resilience of ships and port facilities to terrorist violence. The code also aims at close cooperation between local, national and international institutions in order to ensure better protection of maritime installations.

The project is carried out in close partnership with the experts of the Port of Antwerp.



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