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Enabel in Uganda

Cooperation Programme 2023-2028

Uganda has been a partner country of Belgian governmental cooperation since 2000, with Belgium supporting its development agenda through Enabel. The 2023–2028 cooperation programme, with a budget of 80 million euros, is aimed at strengthening the private sector, supporting employment, and strengthening the role of the state in guiding and facilitating progress.

Enabel also implements actions for the account of the European Union, totaling 42 million euros and focusing on sustainable business development and lower secondary education.

Skills, decent work,
and private sector
support

Social protection

Human rights in
business practices

Secondary
education

Maternal and
child health

Health training

Priorities

Belgium's cooperation programme is dedicated to empowering young people and women in Uganda to become economically independent, engaged citizens in a sustainable society that upholds human rights and provides quality basic services. The programme is structured around two key pillars: Skilling and decent jobs (Pillar 1) and Education and Healthcare (Pillar 2).

1 Skilling and decent jobs

Building skills, creating decent work opportunities and private sector support

Every year, over 800,000 Ugandans enter the job market to compete for just 70,000 available opportunities. This challenge is driven by factors such as a lack of relevant technical and soft skills, limited access to affordable finance and a shortage of job-generating businesses. To address these issues and in partnership with the Ugandan Ministry of Education and Sports and the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Enabel has launched a 50 million euro project (WeWork), funded by Belgium and the European Union, as part of the Sustainable Business for Uganda SB4U Team Europe initiative. The goal is to equip 25,000 young people with essential skills and generate or enhance over 20,000 (self)employment opportunities.

This project addresses both the demand and supply sides of job creation. Enabel works with training institutions and private-sector partners to ensure skill development aligns with labour market needs. It also promotes entrepreneurship, investing in access to finance schemes to support youth and 3,600 micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). It also invests in business development services to support the private sector in green growth and the creation of

decent work. Furthermore, the project collaborates with over 200 private companies to provide fresh graduates with their first employment experience, enabling them to build job-readiness skills.

Through this initiative, Enabel strengthens private sector development by bridging the skills gap and fostering the creation of meaningful employment opportunities for young Ugandans.

Decent work and social protection for all

The WeWork project is complemented by the Belgium-funded Social Protection and Decent Work project (16 million euros), jointly implemented by Enabel and the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. This initiative is part of a larger regional programme also active in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, aimed at creating decent employment opportunities for youth and women, particularly in agriculture, tourism, and the green economy. It also aims to ensure adherence to the fundamental principles at work, increase access to social protection mechanism for families and promote dialogue between public services, employers and workers on decent work. Targets are, amongst others, to train 10,000 youth on decent work principles and to accompany 5,000 people to find decent self-employment. Additionally, the project strengthens policy development and national dialogue on decent work through evidence-based policy development and regional networking.

Cross-cutting issues



Climate and environment

Enabel is committed to protecting the environment for current and future generations. We promote green economy value chains: renewable energy (especially solar), sustainable forestry, responsible mining, green construction, waste recycling, and sustainable tourism. Additionally, we support agro-ecological and integrated farming approaches, as well as promote climate smart architecture through rolling out a manifesto for climate-responsive design.



Refugee inclusion

Uganda is Africa's leading refugee-hosting country, with over a million refugees, mainly from South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Enabel empowers refugees and their host communities by equipping them with labour market-relevant skills, enabling them to secure jobs or create sustainable employment. We also offer scholarships to help refugees and the host community access and complete quality secondary education. Additionally, we ensure that they have access to quality healthcare services.

Promoting human rights standards in business practices

Uganda is one of only three African countries to have developed and adopted a National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights. The Advancing Respect for Human Rights in Businesses (ARBHR) project, funded by the EU (5 million euros) and implemented by Enabel and the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, represents the European Union's support for the implementation of the National Action Plan. The project assists 50 businesses in advancing respect for human rights in their operations and supply chains. It particularly seeks to reduce human rights abuses, especially those affecting women and children connected to business activities in Uganda. The project focuses on three themes: natural resource governance, digital rights and internet governance and labour right.

2 Education and healthcare

Improving access, retention and completion of quality secondary education - WeLearn and WeTeach

In Uganda, approximately 7 out of 10 students drop out within the first four years of secondary education, making the country's school dropout rate one of the highest globally. Belgium and the European Union (through the Gender For Development Uganda G4DU Action) are actively working with the Ministry of Education and Sports to tackle this challenge, by supporting 124 schools and making sure that 100,000 students complete lower secondary education. Enabel works with families and communities to address sociocultural barriers to education, reduce educational

costs and improve school infrastructure. The project also focuses on enhancing the quality of teaching and learning by upgrading the skills of 5,000 teachers, and works with local authorities to strengthen school management.

Caring for Mothers' Lives - WeCare

Every day, 16 mothers in Uganda lose their lives due to childbirth-related complications. To prevent these deaths, Enabel collaborates with the Ministry of Health to address the demand, supply and governance of healthcare services. The Belgium-funded initiative (18 million euros) focuses on empowering communities to actively seek medical care, strengthening the emergency medical system and improving the quality of care in selected Health Centre IVs and General Hospitals. Amongst other things, the project targets to provide quality healthcare to 19,000 mothers and to immunise 27,000 children. Additionally, the Ministry of Health and Enabel engage community members and local authorities in the management of health facilities, promoting shared accountability.

Training health workers - WeTrain4Health

To meet the growing demand for healthcare services, Enabel works with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education and Sports to train more than 15,000 health workers for the future. Called "WeTrain4Health", the Belgian 5-million euro project focuses on improving the teaching skills of pedagogical personnel, providing institutional management support, and enhancing school infrastructure to create a conducive learning environment. Targeted schools include Fort Portal College of Health Sciences, Jinja School of Nursing and Midwifery, and Hoima School of Nursing and Midwifery.



Innovation

Innovation has become a necessity to effectively address the various and evolving challenges. Enabel actively engages in co-creation to find solutions to challenges faced by people. We are also scaling up innovative solutions such as the Work Readiness Programme, the Digital Entrepreneurship Academy, Mobile Learning Boxes, Online courses and Academic Management Systems, which equip individuals with the skills, digital literacy, and practical experience needed to thrive in today's workforce and drive sustainable development.

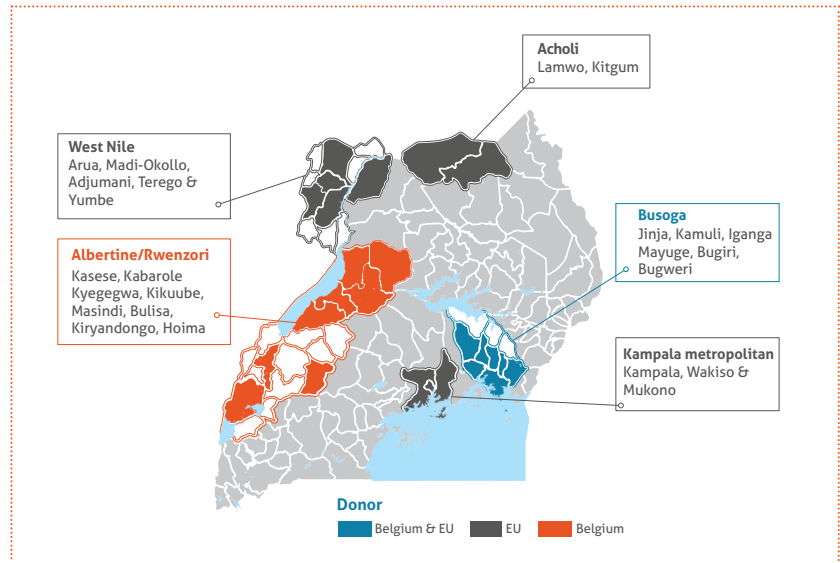


Breakdown of financial commitments 2023-2028



- 60% Decent job creation & private sector support
- 14% Lower secondary education
- 15% Health
- 1% Other

Geographical concentration of the Cooperation Programme



About Enabel

Enabel is the Belgian development agency. It implements Belgium's governmental cooperation. The agency also works for other national and international donors. With its partners in Belgium and abroad, Enabel offers ideas to address pressing global challenges - Climate Change, Economic and Social Inequality, Urbanisation, Peace and Security, Human Mobility - and to promote youth engagement. With 2,000 staff, Enabel manages about 200 projects in twenty countries, in Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Uganda is one of the partner countries of the Belgian international cooperation. Since 2000, Belgium, through Enabel, has supported Uganda's development efforts, with a particular focus on the sectors of education, health, water and the environment. As of October 2024, Enabel had 222 staff members working across 9 projects.



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