Enabel

Security

Context

Peace and security are essential foundations for sustainable development and human well-being. Yet, armed conflicts, organised crime, and political instability continue to disrupt societies: more than 110 million people have been forcibly displaced globally as of 2024 (High Commissioner for Refugees) and global conflicts have doubled over the past five years, resulting in over 233,000 deaths (Armed conflict location & event data project).

One in eight people were exposed to conflict in 2024. According to the OECD 2025 States of Fragility report, countries affected by fragility and conflict account for up to 40% of the world's extreme poor, highlighting the deep socio-economic impacts of insecurity.

These dynamics not only endanger lives but also erode governance, fuel inequality, strain ecosystems, and hinder access to essential services. Responding effectively requires more than crisis management: conflict prevention, stabilisation, and peacebuilding must address root causes, rather than merely treating symptoms. Strengthening peace and security is therefore a strategic priority for international cooperation, enabling collective responses to transnational threats and building long-term resilience.

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Our priorities

Enabel's approach to security is rooted in the broader Belgian Foreign Affairs strategy and the 3D nexus (Diplomacy, Defense, Development) which promotes coherence and collaboration among Belgian actors. This commitment is reflected in five strategic priorities:

Strengthening human security and the rule of law
Enabel supports institutions in the security sector to improve equitable access to public services and rebuild trust between citizens and authorities. A key objective is to increase the proportion of people who feel safe in their communities and are satisfied with their interactions with public security.

Conflict prevention and peacebuilding
Enabel promotes conflict-sensitive approaches to reduce vulnerability and strengthen community resilience. These efforts aim to prevent the emergence and escalation of violent conflicts by addressing root causes and fostering social cohesion.

Combating transnational organized crime
Enabel collaborates with Belgian and international partners to enhance the capacities of security actors, including police units and customs officials. This includes promoting regional cooperation and supporting mechanisms to combat illicit trafficking and criminal networks.

Security sector reform
Aligned with international standards, Enabel supports institutional reforms that improve governance, accountability and service delivery. We do this training, providing equipment, technical support, and awareness-raising.

Promoting integrated action
Enabel uses the Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding Nexus to bring together actors and funding around shared goals and a common fragility analysis.

This approach combines immediate protection of population, the restoration of essential public services, and the prevention and transformation of conflict drivers -ultimately achieving lasting security gains.

Our services

Governance, accountability and community engagement
- Strengthening internal and external oversight mechanisms;
- Support to anti-corruption, human rights protection, and transparency;
- Promotion of community policing and crisis management;
- Support to civil society participation and local security planning;
- Support local mechanisms of conflict prevention and resolution, such as land commissions;
- Collaboration with non-state actors, including community-based security initiatives.

Institutional support to security actors
- Capacity building for police, civil protection, customs, armed forces;
- Reform of human resources, training systems, and operational procedures;
- Support to criminal investigations, forensic services, and intelligence management;
- Crisis management and adaptation to violent extremism and organized crime;
- Cybersecurity frameworks and digital capacity strengthening;
- Port and airport security (e.g. canine brigades).

Our experience

Support to the reform of the Congolese National Police
In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the PARP project supports the reform and professionalisation of the Congolese National Police. Financed by the European union and implemented by a consortium led by Enabel with the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance and Coginta, it strengthens the Congolese National Police through strategic planning, operational support and training. A major milestone was the transformation of the Police Academy (ACAPOL) from an unused facility into a fully functional police academy, thanks to a 1,2 million euros investment in training, cars, equipment and furniture. The project aligned with national reform priorities and helped secure political buy-in resulting in legal and institutional changes to ensure the academy has now an operational budget.

PARP also promotes dialogue between police and communities: this approach helps restore public trust and ensures that police are accountable not only to their hierarchy, but also to the communities they serve.

Reducing resource conflicts through water governance in Mali
In Mali's Ségou and Mopti regions, the PAFHa+ project tackled recurring conflicts over water resources by supporting the creation of Fishing and Aquaculture Councils (CPAs) in 12 communes. These inclusive bodies negotiated and formalised local fishing conventions rooted in law and custom, enabling fair resource access and peaceful dispute resolution. The initiative benefited from national political support and legislative reforms, while its participatory approach ensured strong local ownership. As a result, conflicts significantly declined, ecosystems recovered, and organised fish sales generated new revenues for community services like health and education.

Enabel's expertise

The QR code gives you access to the full range of our expertise: Global health - Social protection - Education & skilling - Economic & business development - Food systems - Natural resources management, biodiversity - Climate governance - Energy transition - Water - Green building - Urban development - Human mobility - Security - Justice - Financial and administrative governance.

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