



Cooperation in Motion

Activity report 2025-2026



Maxime Prévot

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, European Affairs and Development Cooperation

Foreword

We are living in disruptive times. While geopolitical tensions are on the rise, climate pressure increases and multilateralism is being called into question, international cooperation is instrumental and of strategic importance to our foreign policy, our best interests and our values.

As Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, I daily notice that it is essential to combine diplomatic vision with operational capacity. This is exactly where Enabel has an irreplaceable role.

Over the last few years, Enabel has become much more than an implementing agency. It has become a genuine operational bridge between Belgium and its partners, between Europe and Africa, between public interest and private investment. This development reflects a paradigm shift: we are no longer in a traditional aid mode, but in a partnership approach with governments, civil society and the private sector working together to drive transformation.

The past year has called for strategic choices. We refocused our action on three priorities: climate, global health and stability. This focus enables us to set clear directions and maximise our impact where Belgian expertise can really make a difference.

In this demanding environment, Enabel has demonstrated a remarkable ability to adapt. Its strong local anchorage sets the agency apart. With approximately 2,300 staff globally, Enabel is known for its proximity to its

partner institutions and its ability to listen to them and to co-create with them. The agency does not come up with ready-made solutions; instead, it is supportive in co-building. Through this engagement Belgium's impact remains credible and respected.

I witnessed this for myself during my visits to Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Ukraine. Behind the programmes and the numbers are the men and women who turn commitments into tangible results. Health centres that work. Young people who access employment. Communities that strengthen their resilience.

This credibility extends beyond our borders. Today, over 40% of Enabel's resources come from the European Union. The agency has become a trusted implementing partner of the Global Gateway initiative, major investment corridors linking Europe and Africa. This shows that our operational expertise is recognised.

Enabel also mobilises the best of our Belgian public institutions. The agency has established more than 60 partnerships in the justice, health, finance, interior and defence domain so that their know-how can be put at the service of our partners. At the same time, the growing involvement of the private sector reflects a move towards blended approaches, with public funding mobilising private capital in support of sustainable development.

I am, after all, convinced of one thing: the future of Europe and the future of Africa are linked. In the coming

decades, Africa is the continent of demographic and economic growth. What happens there has a direct impact on our continent. Either we build solid and fair partnerships, or we cede this space to others who do not share our values. Enabel's work contributes to this long-term vision, an era of Euro-African cooperation based on shared resilience and prosperity.

In times of geopolitical tension, leaving room for constructive cooperation is more valuable than ever. Enabel does this on a daily basis, anchoring Belgium's engagement in regions where dialogue is fragile, through platforms on which expertise – not conflict – takes centre stage. This is how our country continues to play its role as a bridge builder.

I would like to end with a word of gratitude.

To the employees of Enabel, in Belgium and around the world: Thank you for your commitment and resilience. You are the faces of our international cooperation.

To local partners, institutions, authorities and communities: Thank you for placing your trust in us. Together, in a spirit of mutual respect, we can build lasting solutions.

This report testifies to the work accomplished. It is also an invitation to look to the future, a future in which Belgium, through Enabel, continues to contribute to Europe's global action with ambition, credibility and determination.



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Editorial



Jean Van Wetter
CEO



Delphine Moralis
Chair of the Board

A new world

Over the past years, international cooperation has been undergoing a profound transformation. Geopolitical tensions, climate urgency, demographic shifts and increasing pressure on multilateralism have reshaped the global landscape. In this context of complexity and accelerating transitions, Enabel has continued to evolve, not by adjusting at the margins, but by truly rethinking what international cooperation must mean today.

This evolution is anchored in a simple conviction: global challenges require global solutions, and these can only emerge from genuine partnership. The era of 'aid' as a one-directional transfer from so-called developed to developing countries no longer reflects the world we live in. Today, inequalities, fragility, technological disruptions and climate risks transcend borders. At the same time, economic dynamism, innovation and demographic momentum are increasingly found outside Europe. The future will be shaped by interdependence, and by the alliances we build to navigate it.

Enabel's narrative is therefore deliberately different. We see international cooperation not as charity, but as strategy; not as crisis response, but as long-term investment; not as donor-recipient relations, but as co-creation among equals. This shift has guided our transformation into a partnership-driven state-owned company that operates at the crossroads of diplomacy, expertise, investment and local anchoring.

A central element of this narrative is credibility. Enabel's strength lies in its profound presence on the ground: more than 2,000 of our colleagues work in partner countries, ensuring that solutions are co-constructed with national institutions, private actors and civil society. This local anchorage makes us more than a funding channel. It makes us a connector between Belgian and European expertise, between public purpose and private capital, and between the realities of partner countries and the strategic priorities of Europe.

This approach has also positioned Enabel as a key European actor. With

EU funding now accounting for a significant share of our portfolio, Enabel has become an operational instrument within the EU's Global Gateway strategy. In practice, this means helping structure strategic corridors, preparing bankable projects, reducing risk, and enabling private investment to flow where it is most needed. Public resources alone will never be sufficient to meet global development and climate challenges. But public resources - when used intelligently - can leverage private capital, shift perceptions of risk, and catalyse long-term economic opportunities. This is where Enabel contributes to Europe's strategic ambitions: by building concrete, investable solutions with partners on the ground.

The same vision guides our work in climate justice and digital transformation. Climate finance too often benefits countries with higher visibility and stronger technical capacities, while the most climate-vulnerable risk being left behind. Enabel's role is to ensure these countries can access the mechanisms

designed to support them, structuring climate strategies, strengthening institutions, and helping them take part in global negotiations on equal footing.

In digitalisation, we work to ensure that technological progress reinforces sovereignty rather than dependency. By supporting regulatory frameworks, data governance, innovation ecosystems and the EU–AU Digital for Development Hub, Enabel helps create an environment where African and European actors can jointly shape a fair and inclusive digital future.

For Belgium, Enabel's role has never been more strategic. In a world in which diplomacy increasingly requires operational capacity, connections between institutions, and the ability to deliver credible solutions on the ground, Enabel is a unique asset. Few countries combine a diplomatic tradition with a state-owned company capable of implementing complex programmes, convening diverse partners and strengthening long-term alliances. Enabel brings Belgium's name, expertise and values into places

where cooperation truly matters; from climate negotiations to digital governance, from economic corridors to fragile regions.

Looking ahead, the challenge is clear: rebuilding political and public confidence in the importance of international cooperation. In times of budgetary pressure and competing priorities, we must reaffirm that cooperation is not a cost but an investment, in stability, in resilience, and in shared prosperity. Europe's reindustrialisation and Africa's industrialisation, for instance, are not parallel agendas. They are interconnected strategies for a more sustainable and secure future.

The stories in this report illustrate what Enabel stands for: partnerships that blend credibility with innovation, expertise with humility, and long-term vision with immediate impact. They show how seeds planted years ago - a pilot project, technical support, early-stage financing - can grow into mature ecosystems, new industries or thriving enterprises.

As the world continues to change, Enabel will continue to enable Belgium, Europe and our partners to shape the transitions that define our common future.

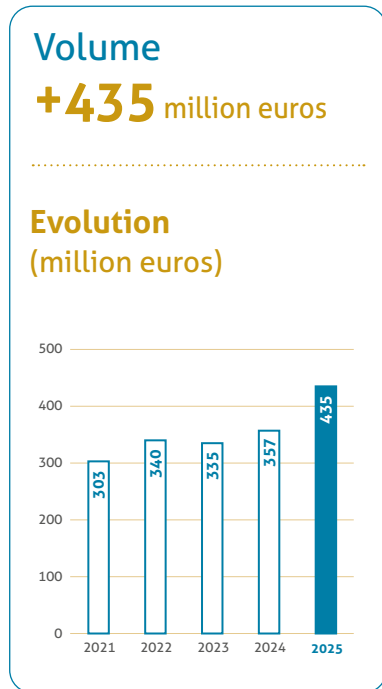
In conclusion, I would like to express my deep gratitude to all of our colleagues. Day after day, they give their all to make Enabel a solid, reliable and human-centred organisation. Our partners in Belgium and around the world also deserve our sincere thanks. Their expertise and commitment strengthen our actions and make our impact possible.

More than ever, we are supporting our staff and partners in the Middle East. In a region that has been subject to extreme tensions for so long, they have shown impressive resilience and remain committed to helping people living under unprecedented pressure. Their courage commands respect and reminds us of the very essence of our work.

Identity card

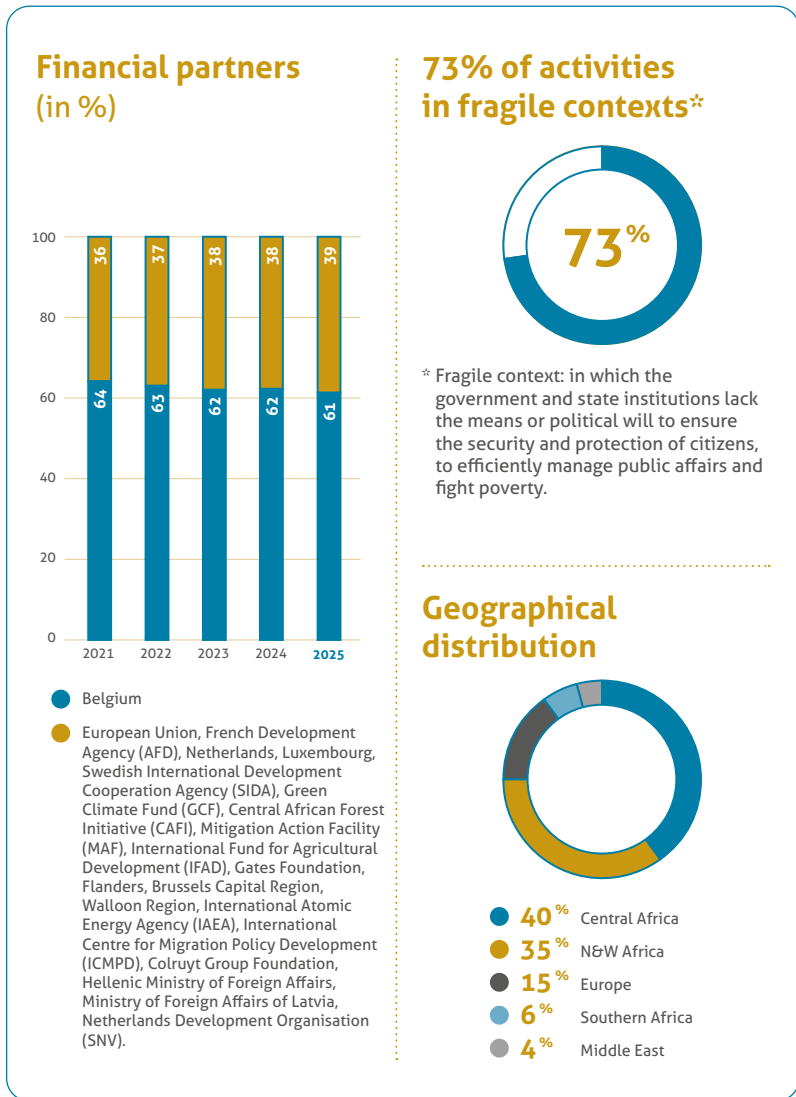
Enabel is the Belgian state-owned company for international cooperation. With our partners, we develop ideas and implement projects addressing urgent global challenges, such as climate change, social and economic inequalities, demographic trends, peace and security.

Activities

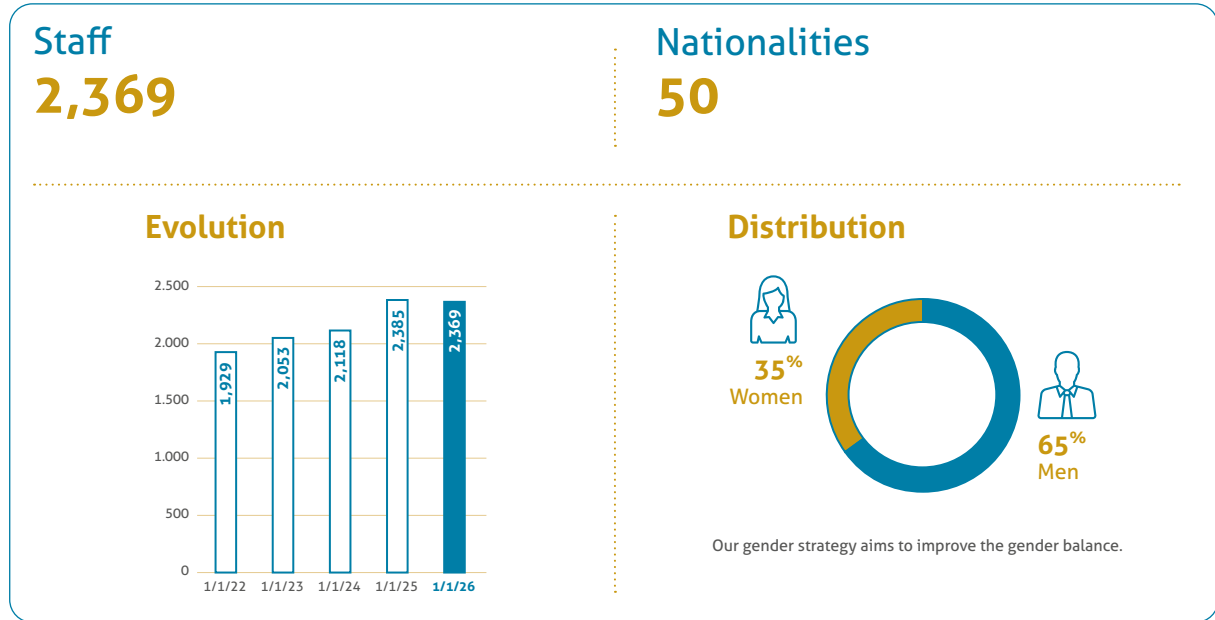


Projects
200 ongoing

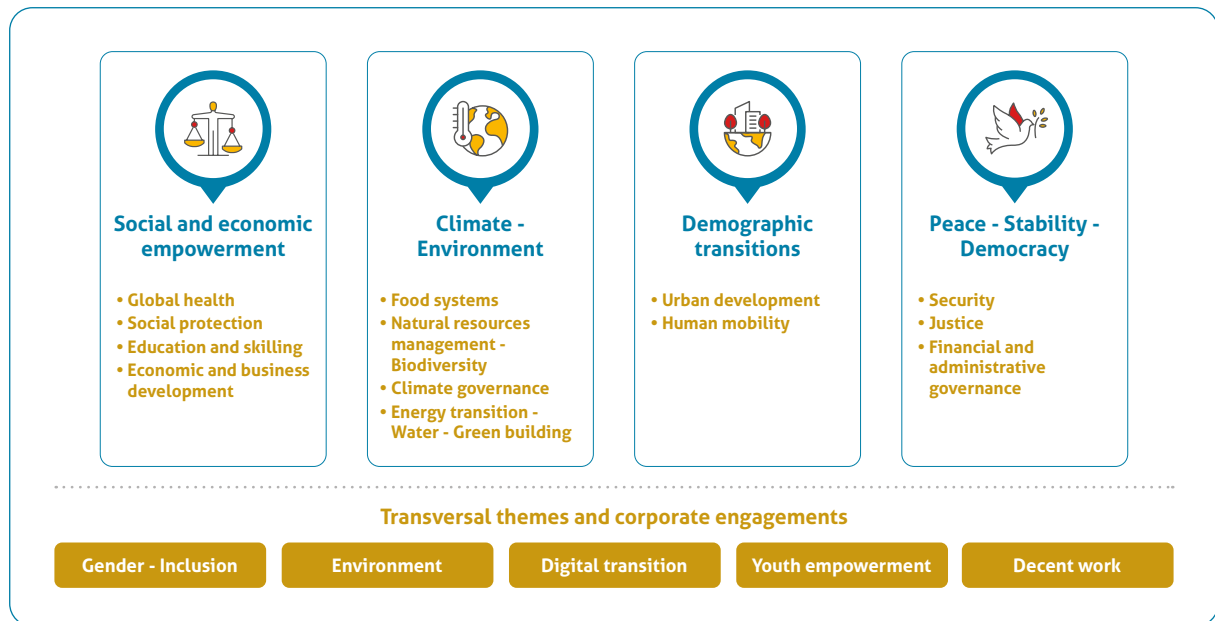
Experience
+25 years



Human resources



Thematic expertise



Results



+4 million

Tonnes of solid waste collected, treated and/or recycled in urban areas

Over the past few years, Enabel has supported seven cities in five countries in setting up effective solid waste management systems.



+1 million

55% women, 45% men

People covered by health insurance

Access to healthcare and social protection has expanded significantly in recent years, helping to improve well-being and resilience, particularly for women and vulnerable groups.



44,000

80% women, 20% men

Survivors of physical, sexual or psychological violence who have received tailored support

Our work has enabled us to provide structured medical, psychological, legal and/or social support. Health projects in Benin, legal advice initiatives in Tanzania and mental and psychosocial care in Palestine account for the largest share of this support.



24,000

76% women, 24% men

Migrants with access to their fundamental rights and quality services

In Uganda, Enabel supports local and national authorities to improve refugees' access to essential public services. In Burkina Faso, Enabel supports local authorities in areas affected by internal displacement to maintain basic social services despite a fragile security situation.



+1,500

Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) whose annual turnover has increased


Enabel strengthens entrepreneurial capacity, improves business skills and broadens the economic prospects of MSMEs.



+/-2.5 millions

Births attended by qualified healthcare staff

Reduction in maternal and infant mortality. Our work has enabled nearly 2.5 million births to be attended by qualified medical staff in nine countries in sub-Saharan Africa.




+800,000
Hectares of land restored

In Tanzania (650,000 ha), these are forest areas and nature reserves, whilst in Benin (127,000 ha), this mainly concerns the expansion of the biosphere reserve located at the mouth of the Mono River, which will eventually be extended by 46% and cover more than 200,000 ha.




+/-120,000
Farmers and producers supported in their transition to agroecology

We are strengthening sustainable food production systems that increase productivity and output, preserve ecosystems and adapt to climate change and extreme weather events (droughts, floods).




+50,000
Smallholder farmers with higher incomes

Enabel promotes agroecological practices and systems that increase production, strengthen economic resilience and improve producers' incomes, whilst preserving the environment.



+/-540,000
People supported in addressing the impacts of climate change

Land restoration, training in agroecology, raising awareness of the fight against climate change and desertification, and influencing public policy: these actions are at the heart of our Sahel Climate portfolio (Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso and Senegal).



+/-200,000
 33% women, 67% men
People supported through education and training

The initiatives carried out in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda reach the widest audience through formal and non-formal education, technical and vocational training, and lifelong learning.

Enabel has identified Key Development Indicators (KDIs) to establish a common, consistent and comparable system for measuring, analysing and communicating its institutional results. In this activity report, we present an initial selection of 11 indicators, based on data available for the last three years (2023, 2024 and 2025).



In Ukraine, Enabel has supported the launch of the country's first official training programme for speech and language therapists. © Patients of Ukraine - Olha Portey

Impact

The world is changing, and so is cooperation. Not at the margins, but in depth.

A more grounded, more agile form of cooperation, co-created with our partners to meet the challenges of our time. A cooperation that remains deeply human, driven by our teams.

In the following pages, we look back at 2025. A pivotal year, which continues to inspire our work in 2026.

The digital version of the report takes you even further. Scan the QR code and discover more stories from Europe, Africa and the Middle East.



Strategic corridors



© Adobe Stock

Connecting regions, transforming economies

The re-industrialisation of Europe and the industrialisation of Africa are closely linked: While Europe is seeking to strengthen its industrial and technological autonomy, Africa is entering a decisive phase in its industrial expansion, driven by demographic dynamism and the opportunity for a technological leap forward.

The African priority corridors are evidence of this linkage. By modernising transport routes and strengthening value chains, corridors facilitate trade and mobility within the African continent and with Europe. As part of the European Global Gateway investment plan, Enabel is playing an active role in 8 of the 12 priority corridors identified in Africa. The focus is on technical assistance, infrastructure, investment and ecological transition.

High-performance ports, decisive assets

Seaports play a major role in making this vision a reality. Port efficiency has a direct impact on the performance of the corridors: transport costs, local competitiveness and economic partnerships.

In West Africa, the Cotonou-Niamey Corridor links the landlocked countries of the Sahel to regional markets.

In partnership with the Port of Antwerp-Bruges, Enabel is drawing on its expertise in port governance to support the modernisation of the Port of Cotonou in Benin – in particular, its competitiveness (the flow of goods has increased by 45% between 2010 and 2019) and its role as a gateway to Niger, Burkina Faso and northern Nigeria.

Enabel is also supporting the management and security of the Benin Corridor via support to the Republican Police in intervention patrolling in sensitive areas in the north and centre of the country.

At the other side of the continent, the focus is on the Dar es Salaam-Kigoma Corridor. In Tanzania, where the port of Dar es Salaam handles 95% of the country's international trade, Enabel coordinates technical assistance for the corridor: While the Port of Antwerp-

Strategic corridors

Bruges and TradeMark Africa are supporting the improvement of the Port's operational performance and the harmonisation of customs processes, Enabel and UN Habitat are supporting the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Enabel is supporting the Tanzanian authorities in structuring the electric vehicle sector and charging infrastructure in collaboration with TAEMA*. It is also working with the University of Dar es Salaam to adapt training courses to the green professions of tomorrow.

Levers for regional investment

The Abidjan-Lagos and Abidjan-Ouagadougou Corridors combine the movement of goods and people and economic development in West Africa.

This dynamic was embodied in the EU-West Africa Business Forum held in Abidjan from 30 March to 1 April 2026. In line with the Global Gateway strategy, projects identified along the corridors were presented to public and private investors.

As for the Lobito Corridor, it links the mining regions of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia ("the Copperbelt") to the Port of Lobito in Angola on the Atlantic coast. By cutting rail freight transport from nearly a month to one week, it aims to boost regional trade, create jobs, and connect landlocked areas.

Through the Global Gateway, Enabel supports the Lobito Corridor Transit Transport Facilitation Agency, which is responsible for its trilateral management. As part of a Team Europe approach, Enabel also aims to support agro-food and mining value chains, financial governance in the mining sector and the training of young people in key trades along the corridors, like agro-industrial processing, rail transport services and energy. Support for the modernisation of the Port of Lobito, in partnership with the port of Antwerp-Bruges, is also being studied.

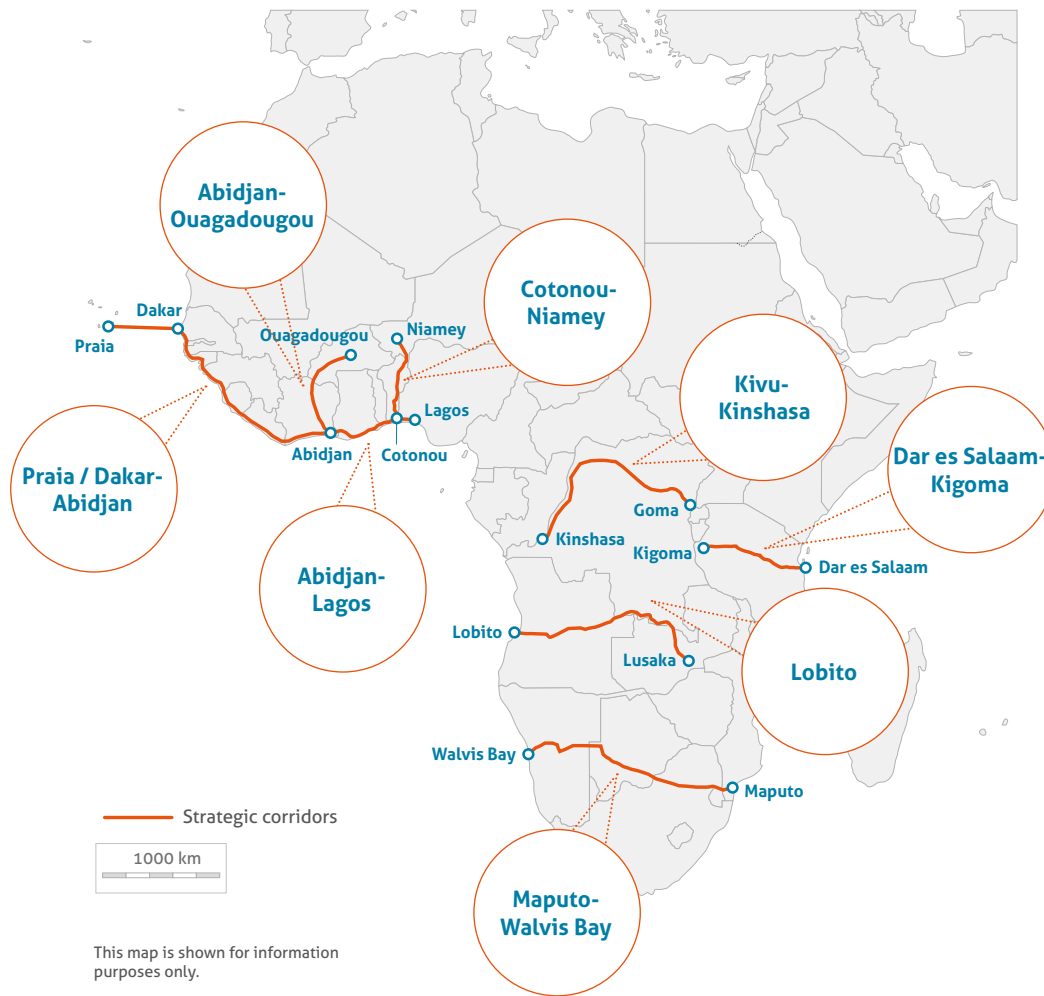
Through these initiatives, the corridors and their ports are becoming real engines of economic transformation and cooperation between Africa and Europe.



"Enabel is supporting the sustainable management of corridors and ports, and promoting productive investment: the aim is to transform the corridors into a structured economic area by improving their ability to attract investors."

Jean-Christophe Charlier
Head of the Governance unit at Enabel

* | Tanzania Electric Mobility Association (TAEMA), the national association that represents actors in electric mobility.



The Kivu-Kinshasa Green Corridor: engine of growth

In Africa, the Kivu-Kinshasa Green Corridor offers an alternative development path for the DR Congo. More than 2,600 km of roads and waterways link the Kivu provinces in the east of Congo to Kinshasa in the west. The area's 540,000 km² Congo Basin forest, the second largest tropical forest in the world, needs to be protected. The Green Corridor is designed as an engine for inclusive green growth and aims to combine ecosystem conservation, socio-economic development and promotion of the green economy.

Enabel is supporting the development of agricultural supply chains: we help producers to organise

themselves, improve food processing and facilitate transport from remote areas to economic centres. Enabel is also promoting river transportation along the Congo river. Finally, Enabel stimulates the development of the local private sector by supporting agro-entrepreneurship and responsible investment.

This initiative echoes the work of the Virunga Alliance, led by Emmanuel de Merode around the Virunga National Park, where an exceptional ecosystem is preserved while creating sustainable economic opportunities for local communities.

Critical raw materials

Reconciling strategic autonomy and global responsibility

In a global context in which industry is boosted anew and geopolitical uncertainty is on the rise, access to critical raw materials has become key to strategic autonomy.

Critical materials are essential to the energy, automotive, military and electronics industries and are at the heart of the world's energy and digital systems. But in the quest for autonomy, particularly for the countries of the European Union, a central question arises: How can we secure a responsible and sustainable supply from mining countries?

European strategic autonomy and African industrial development

In 2025, the European Union identified 34 critical raw materials and 17 strategic raw materials that are essential to its economy. Rare earths, nickel and cobalt are essential for energy transition technologies (wind turbines, solar panels), while lithium, graphite and phosphate play a key role in battery production and energy storage.

With the Critical Raw Materials Act, the EU established a framework to accelerate the development of sustainable and inclusive mining projects, while diversifying its sources of supply and partnerships.

Given their abundant reserves of critical and strategic metals and minerals, African countries are key partners: the development of mining and industrial projects in Africa thus represents both a global geostrategic challenge and a major economic development opportunity.

But it also comes with challenges: while mining offers considerable opportunities for industrial development, dependence on natural resources also poses macroeconomic and governance risks. Beyond economic uncertainties, the mining sector faces energy-intensive operations as well as numerous environmental and social concerns linked to the extraction and trade of these resources.

Enabel operates at the intersection of these dynamics: drawing on its expertise and experience on the African continent, the agency supports African and European public and private players in managing mining resources in a more transparent and sustainable way, creating decent jobs and generating value for local populations.

A comprehensive approach to the mining sector in DR Congo

The Democratic Republic of Congo, which, according to the World Bank, accounted for more than 74% of the world's cobalt production in 2021, is a prime example of the link between geostrategic challenges and local development: At central level, Enabel is supporting Congo's Ministry of Finance in drawing up and implementing its 2025-2027 roadmap to improve the macro-budgetary and financial management of mining and oil resources. This will improve transparency and monitoring of the State's investments and revenues.

At regional level, in the mining hubs of Haut-Katanga and Lualaba, Enabel is supporting skills development to strengthen decent employment, the value chain (extraction, processing industry) and the sustainability of the sector. In Kolwezi (Lualaba), the agency entered a partnership with a mining subcontractor to train young people in industrial electricity according to international standards, while equipping training centres and building the capacities of local trainers.

In Lubumbashi (Haut-Katanga), as part of the European Union for Education and Employment project, Enabel is supporting training centres to offer courses directly linked to mining and related trades (maintenance, mechanics, machine driving, logistics), combined with work placements. This approach takes the actual needs of businesses as the starting point for job training.



At the same time, Enabel is working to improve working conditions in the mining sector. Thus, the agency trained artisanal miners in their rights and in safety at work, supported the labour inspectorate, organised awareness campaigns and strengthened trade unions in partnership with Belgian and Congolese organisations.

Finally, these actions are part of a wider vision linked to the strategic corridors supported by the European Global Gateway initiative – in particular, the Lobito Corridor – which are designed not only as transport infrastructure,

but also as genuine green and inclusive development corridors. Enabel includes skills development in the mining centres along the corridors, targeting key professions in responsible operation, logistics, maintenance and energy services.

Climate

Why the energy transition cannot wait any longer

The energy transition is key to sustainable development, particularly in Africa, where almost 600 million people still have no access to electricity.

Beside a social issue, it is also an environmental one: the energy sector accounts for more than three quarters of global greenhouse gas emissions. Supporting a just energy transition therefore means simultaneously addressing climate, demographic and social challenges, while opening up prospects for low-carbon economic development.

A public health challenge

Cooking kills. In sub-Saharan Africa, almost a billion people still use polluting fuels (firewood, charcoal, etc.) for cooking. The resulting pollution from households causes around 815,000 premature deaths every year, mainly affecting women and children.

Clean cooking is therefore an essential pillar of a just energy transition, as well as a growing market opportunity for climate action and inclusive growth. Deploying clean cooking solutions (natural gas, green electricity) on the continent would require only a fraction of global energy investment, while generating considerable benefits for public health, gender equality and the climate.

Enabel supports its partner countries in strengthening the public policies, markets and skills needed to develop viable, replicable solutions.

In Mozambique, this transition is already underway: clean cooking is part of the national energy transition agenda. Enabel is working with the government to put in place clear regulatory standards, setting thresholds for energy efficiency and emissions.

These standards protect households from dangerous technologies while boosting the confidence of private investors. The reform of public policies thus becomes a lever for creating a secure and attractive market: accelerating access to these solutions means improving the health of families, supporting SMEs, strengthening carbon financing and creating jobs for women and young people across the continent.

In Côte d'Ivoire, we are supporting the improvement of policies, SME financing, innovation, the development of local businesses and the setting up of a one-stop-shop desk for information on clean cooking.

A lever for economic development

The energy transition is creating opportunities for economic diversification and jobs in green economy value chains, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, e-waste management and green hydrogen.

In Tanzania, Enabel and UN-Habitat are supporting the development of the light (2 and 3-wheel) electric vehicle sector by creating conditions for sustainable investment. In particular, Enabel is working with TAEMA, the Tanzanian e-mobility association. We also collaborate with the University of Dar es Salaam to adapt training courses to the future jobs of electric mobility - because without a skilled workforce, there can be no green transition.

In Senegal, Enabel supports access to solutions tailored to local economic activities, particularly in rural areas. We are also working on the end-of-life of solar equipment, assessing the need for dismantling, recycling and waste management.



In Manica province (Mozambique), Donna Isabel Vilanculos's lychee farm is irrigated through a solar pumping installation.
© Enabel - Isabel Corthier



Inspection of electric vehicles in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
© Enabel

In Côte d'Ivoire, Enabel is structuring sectors around the recovery of agricultural residues and the production of alternative fuels.

The agency also provides technical and financial support to SMEs and entrepreneurs. Finally, we stimulate an attractive business ecosystem by consolidating entrepreneurial networks and removing obstacles to financing.

Mobilising climate financing

At the second Africa Climate Summit, held in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) in September 2025, the financing of the energy transition took centre stage. Among the financial mechanisms highlighted are carbon markets, which have been identified as strategic levers for supporting the implementation of governments' climate commitments. They can mobilise additional resources to support clean energy, clean cooking, reforestation or sustainable agriculture projects.

Enabel therefore supports the strengthening of climate frameworks and the institutional capacities needed to access these mechanisms. At the Summit, Belgian Minister Jean-Luc Crucke stated: "*Carbon markets must serve Africa's ambitions. Belgium, as a member of Team Europe, is ready to support this vision.*"

In addition, in 2026 Enabel will be able to mobilise part of the revenue from the European Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) to support an action in Namibia, in connection with the development of the green hydrogen sector and a low-carbon economy. It includes preparing the Walvis Bay port infrastructure to accommodate and secure future green hydrogen value chains, as well

as vocational training in the renewable energy and hydrogen sectors.

By acting as a facilitator, Enabel is helping partner countries to transform ambitious climate and energy strategies into bankable projects, in the service of a low-carbon economy.

The impact of the Green Climate Fund

Among sources of funding, the Green Climate Fund is the world's leading climate finance mechanism. Following Enabel's accreditation with this Fund in 2019, the agency signed, in March 2026, the financing of a project in Mozambique for 42 million euro, aimed at strengthening climate resilience and broadening access to energy in rural areas.

The project will develop access to clean, affordable energy via solar mini-grids and support the productive uses of energy (agricultural processing, cold chains, crafts, irrigation and solar-driven pumps) while strengthening national institutional capacities.

It will directly improve the living conditions of more than 65,000 Mozambicans.

Climate

Namibia's green ambition

With its exceptional renewable energy potential, Namibia is aiming to become one of the world leaders in green hydrogen.

The emergence of such an economy opens up long-term prospects for this southern African country with a population of nearly three million: deployment of renewable energies on a large scale, reduction of the national energy deficit, support to low-carbon industrialisation and creation of local jobs.

With this in mind, strengthening the Port of Walvis Bay is a strategic investment. The aim is to prepare port infrastructures for the low-carbon transition, support the emergence of an economy based on green hydrogen and improve the movement of goods, raw materials – particularly critical minerals – as well people.

Enabel is committed to an integrated Team Belgium – Team Europe approach based on three pillars: skills development and vocational training, the creation of energy hubs and the modernisation of port and logistics infrastructure.

Vocational training and low-carbon industrialisation

Namibia has a particularly high youth unemployment rate, estimated at 45%. It is mainly the result of a mismatch between the skills provided by the education and training system and the real needs of the labour market.

Through the Global Gateway – the European Union's external investment strategy – Enabel and GIZ (the German international cooperation agency) are developing technical qualifying training in the renewable energy and green hydrogen sectors. These training initiatives directly support a fair and inclusive green transition, as they align skills development with actual investments and employment opportunities.

While green hydrogen remains a strategic driver for Namibia, Enabel also aims to strengthen skills for the critical minerals and wind and solar sector, among others. The aim is to encourage the emergence of sustainable jobs throughout these value chains, from extraction and processing to logistics, operations and maintenance.

Port efficiency and strategic corridors

To realise Namibia's ambitions, the development of the Port of Walvis Bay and its infrastructure is a major strategic lever.

The Walvis Bay-Maputo corridor is at the heart of this dynamic: The Ports of Walvis Bay and of Lüderitz (Namibia) and the Port of Maputo (Mozambique) are developed to stimulate regional integration, while the energy transition and the development of low-carbon industrialisation are fostered.

On the strength of its experience in modernising the Port of Cotonou in Benin, in close collaboration with the Port of Antwerp-Bruges, Enabel has recognised expertise in port governance. Alongside the Port of Antwerp-Bruges and GIZ, the agency is positioning itself with the European Union as a key partner in supporting the development of this strategic corridor through the strengthening of port infrastructure in Namibia and Mozambique.

This corridor is also a catalyst for private investment – like CMB.Tech, a Belgian maritime company and leader in the decarbonisation of transport, already active in Namibia – within a Team Belgium approach mobilising Belgian public, private, financial and academic expertise.

With port infrastructure, skills development and green value chains Enabel is helping to create the conditions for sustainable economic development for the Namibian people, in support of the energy transition.



Sand dunes along the shoreline of Sandwich Harbour in Namibia.
© iStock

Looking ahead

Enabel's emerging role in Syria's transition

Syria's political transition since December 2024 has opened a fragile but genuine window for reconstruction after more than a decade of conflict.

While social divisions, destroyed infrastructure and widespread displacement continue to shape daily realities, early signs of recovery are visible: institutions are slowly resuming operations, economic activity is reemerging, and international actors are cautiously returning. In this evolving context, Belgium, alongside European partners, has begun a progressive diplomatic reengagement, aiming to support a rights-based socio-economic recovery to foster peace and stability for an inclusive transition.

As reconstruction needs reach an estimated USD 250-400 billion, the European Union, the UN, bilateral donors, Gulf states, and Turkey are scaling up their involvement. With EU sanctions lifted in 2025 and European agencies preparing in-country presences, opportunities arise for coordinated international action. Belgium's renewed engagement, centred on stability efforts positions it as a constructive actor within broader European strategies.

Enabel proposes a phased, context-sensitive pathway to support Belgium's role. Preliminary exploratory missions were conducted in late 2025 and early 2026 with the goal of establishing high-level contacts to discuss Syria's priorities, align them with Belgium's interests and the EU's stance, and assess operational conditions. This was undertaken to identify potential areas where Enabel could deliver tangible value and support Syria's socio-economic recovery.

Future initiatives may benefit from leveraging Enabel's experience in conflict-affected regions including Ukraine, Palestine and Jordan. Potential strategic entry points for early recovery should focus on enhancing the governance and institutional capacity of Syrian authorities. Support may encompass areas such as port governance, systemic reintegration efforts, digitalization of civil registries, and climate-related issues.



View of the city of Aleppo, Syria. © AdobeStock

Additionally, fostering an enabling environment for job creation will require investments in skills development, technical and vocational education and training (TVET), as well as measures aimed at supporting the private sector.

Through this calibrated approach, Enabel stands ready to contribute to a more stable, resilient, and inclusive Syria, reinforcing Belgium's commitment to peace, regional stability, and European cooperation.

Further consultations and alignment discussions with Belgium and the Syrian authorities will continue in 2026 to identify the most relevant niche for future engagement.

Setting course for Moldova

The opening of an office and start-up of operations in Ukraine also prompted Enabel to engage in broader strategic thinking: How can we leverage Belgium's strengthened partnerships and EU integration expertise in other countries?

In Ukraine, we partner intensely with Baltic states, with Estonia in the health sector and with Lithuania to build shelters, to learn from their EU integration experience. Such partnerships fit well in Team Europe Initiatives and highlight the importance of joint support to EU Accession Countries.

In 2025, Enabel went on a reconnaissance trip to Moldova to identify cooperation opportunities. In February 2026, this culminated in a study visit to Belgium of energy policymakers and technical experts of Moldova and Ukraine, amongst others. In search for answers to their EU accession challenges, they met leading public institutions and companies from the Belgian energy ecosystem such as Elia, Environment Brussels, Engie, Umicore, Sortbat, Sibelga, Deplasse, Vlaams Energiebedrijf (VEB), Homegrade, Yuso, Ampacimon, Octave and Coopeos.

In 2026, the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding is scheduled in Chişinău, Moldova. It will formalise our engagement and establish a structural framework for knowledge-sharing and joint action. By learning from each other in a joint growth path, we contribute to sustainable and inclusive EU integration.

Junior academies in Ukraine

In Ukraine, Enabel is piloting a 'Junior Academy', a public-private partnership to enhance skills development of young people. It is a collaborative model that brings together public authorities, the private sector, and Vocational Education & Training institutions. The initiative aims to address the mismatch between education and labour market needs, helping to build a future-proof workforce for Ukraine's recovery.

The first European company to join was Bosch, partnering with Enabel to enhance training and upskilling in two areas: diagnostics and adjustment of automotive electronic equipment, and the installation of engineering systems. Belgium finances the procurement of state-of-the-art equipment and the training of vocational instructors at the Bosch Training Centre, while Bosch contributes through lab design, curriculum development, and expert guest lectures.

The first pilot of the Bosch Junior Academy is already operational at Boryspil Vocational College with more than 170 students. Five more academies are in development. The project has strong support from Ukraine's Ministry of Education and Science and is implemented in partnership with the Kyiv and Chernihiv Regional Administrations.

The Junior Academy model is scalable and replicable across regions and sectors. This approach will also inform Enabel's upcoming partnership with Belgium's innovative construction material company ETEX, aimed at training and upskilling craftsmen in construction and construction technologies.



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Interview

Ukraine: beyond the war, hope for the future

Viacheslav Chaus is the Head of the Chernihiv Regional Military Administration. Having worked across both the private and public sectors, he stepped into this position mere months before Russia started its full-scale invasion of Ukraine – and has been in the governor’s seat through four years of the war. Enabel asked him about the region's current challenges and his vision for Chernihiv's future – one defined by prosperity, inclusivity, and strong international partnerships.

How would you describe the current situation in the Chernihiv region? How are people coping, and what are the most pressing needs?

Our people first experienced life without electricity, water, heating, and gas in 2022, when part of the region was temporarily occupied by Russian forces. This drove us to strengthen our air defenses – but when confronted with such relentless missile and drone attacks, even the best defenses can only do so much.

Over the past year, more than 24,000 enemy strikes were recorded in our area. While the strikes have been ongoing for four years, this winter saw the most brutal attacks on the energy sector. Russia also deliberately carries out double-tap strikes, targeting energy workers mid-repair and making infrastructure restoration extremely dangerous.

Still, we did everything in our power to ensure our people did not freeze in -20°C temperatures. We opened numerous resilience hubs and made every effort to support people with disabilities and the elderly. With

rolling power outages already a fact of life, our priority was to at least preserve access to heating – and this is where Enabel's mobile boilers proved invaluable.

The region's demographics have shifted – many have fled, but many have also arrived. How is this shift affecting social services?

Chernihiv is Ukraine's second largest region by territory but it's also least densely populated, so access to social services has always been a challenge. The full-scale invasion has only stretched this further, with about 30,000 internally displaced people from other regions and a growing number of war veterans now among our residents. Maintaining the quality and accessibility of healthcare, education and administrative services is a shared priority across communities and all levels of government – and having strong partners to support institutional capacity is essential.

What do you think could draw people back to Chernihiv and anchor them in their communities?

Security comes first. Then it's about

building back better – restoring housing, energy infrastructure, schools and healthcare facilities. This is what will encourage people to stay and motivate those who have left to return. We also need to ensure that businesses remain in the region and are eager to grow, creating jobs for our residents.

I'm glad the government has placed greater focus on vocational education and training. For Chernihiv specifically, developing VET is, I believe, a vital guarantee that people will choose to stay here.

The labour market is evolving, and initiatives such as Enabel's ALMP Facility aim to better match skills with market needs. Which industries do you see as strategic for the region's recovery and competitiveness?

Definitely construction, transportation infrastructure, housing and utility services. Agro-processing – we are an agricultural region, after all. Wood processing, light industry... These are the sectors that will define Chernihiv's future – and to seize that future, we need to equip the younger generation with the relevant skills today.



Viacheslav Chaus
Governor of the Chernihiv region

How do you see economic opportunities developing, particularly for the private sector?

When I stepped into this role in 2021, I made it my personal priority to attract investment to the region. I was optimistic – we had several joint projects with Baltic countries in development. Then February 2022 came, and everything stalled.

Chernihiv is rich in natural resources, particularly in agriculture. We may be the northernmost region bordering the EU, but we are also one of the closest to Kyiv, which works in our favour – logistics are fast, and proximity to the capital drives development. But let's be realistic: when 2,224 Shahed drones enter the region's airspace in a single month, the appeal for foreign investors is close to zero.

What stands out, however, is that our local businesses have proven remarkably resilient, continuing to reinvest in their operations. No major business has fully relocated from the region, which speaks for itself. And we do have preliminary agreements with foreign companies for future

investment – I hope we will be able to act on them once the war is over.

Enabel began its work here in 2024. How would you assess this partnership so far?

I wish all memoranda of cooperation worked as well as the one we have with Enabel. Belgium's support for energy resilience, healthcare and education has been consistent and timely, and we are truly grateful.

My hope is that one day the Chernihiv region will also become a full-fledged partner to our allies – not just a recipient of support, but an equal contributor. I envision a bilateral relationship built on economic, cultural and educational exchange. In healthcare alone, our doctors have developed invaluable expertise in areas like rehabilitation – hard-won knowledge that the world could learn from. That kind of mutual cooperation is my dream. Second only to Ukraine's victory.

Looking beyond the war, what is your vision for Chernihiv's future?

We see several development scenarios

Belgium's investments in the Chernihiv region span healthcare, education, and energy sectors. In the hospitals of Koriukivka and Pryluky, rehabilitation departments will soon reopen following reconstruction, while in Kyinka, the local school has undergone energy-efficient modernisation. Work is also underway at the Regional Blood Centre, which is set to meet EU standards through Enabel's partnership with Red Cross Flanders. These infrastructure initiatives are complemented by capacity-building programmes for healthcare professionals.

Another upcoming project is the Bosch Junior Academy, set to be established at two Chernihiv vocational and educational training schools. Market-driven training is also central to the ALMP (Active Labour Market Policies) Facility – an Enabel-led initiative funding training programmes designed to boost the productivity of the local workforce.

Support for the energy system remains just as vital: last winter, Enabel supplied the region with 28 mobile boiler units for social infrastructure facilities.

ahead, but in all of them, tourism remains a cornerstone. Before the full-scale invasion, Chernihiv was a popular weekend destination for Kyiv residents – offering historical, cultural, and recreational sites – and I believe its potential has yet to be fully explored.

I also see real opportunities in the IT sector. Before the invasion, Chernihiv had one of the most powerful IT clusters in Ukraine. Many people have left, but the cluster still exists and has room to grow. We don't have industrial and tech giants in the region – and frankly, that's a good thing, as it has helped us preserve a clean environment.

Chernihiv may be sparsely populated, but its people are open and reliable. These are people you can build something meaningful with. The most important thing now is to end this war – together.

Health

Building trust in medicines across Africa

Access to safe, effective and affordable medicines is fundamental to public health. Yet across many African countries, patients and health professionals still face the daily risk of encountering products that are ineffective or even dangerous. Substandard and falsified products continue to circulate, particularly where regulatory systems are fragmented or under-resourced.

Ensuring that medicines are safe is not only a technical issue. It is a matter of trust – trust in pharmacies, in hospitals and in health systems as a whole. Strengthening the quality and safety of medical products and the pharmaceutical ecosystem is key to protecting patients and ensuring no one is put at risk.

From a shared vision to reality

For more than a decade, Enabel has been working with African partners to strengthen medicines regulation and promote cooperation across borders. This long-term engagement contributed to a major milestone: the creation of the African Medicines Agency (AMA).

Adopted by the African Union in 2019 and operational since 2025, AMA is designed to support national regulators, align standards and improve the quality and safety of medicines and health technologies across the continent. Throughout its development, Enabel supported the process by facilitating dialogue among partners, contributing technical expertise and helping align international support with African priorities.

"Africa's future will be defined not just by ambition, but by whether we build systems that work, for regulators, for the industry, and most importantly, for patients" said Dr Delese Mimi Darko, Director-General of the African Medicines Agency.

Today, as the Agency moves from establishment to full operation, Enabel continues to accompany this African-led initiative - helping turn a shared vision into practical action.

Building strong foundations at country level

Turning a continental vision into real change for people's health requires strong national systems that can ensure the quality of every medicine reaching families, clinics and hospitals. This is where Enabel's contribution becomes essential.

In Mauritania, Enabel supports national authorities in improving regulatory procedures and strengthening quality control mechanisms. This helps ensure that medicines reaching pharmacies, clinics and health facilities meet safety standards – including in remote areas where oversight is more challenging.

In Senegal, Enabel supports regulatory authorities in reinforcing their frameworks and practices, helping them align with continental standards and engage more effectively in regional and African regulatory initiatives. Together, these efforts contribute to building the foundations on which AMA can operate effectively.



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Bringing partners together for greater impact

Alongside country-level support, Enabel plays a key role in coordinating partners at continental level. As Chair of the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation (AMRH) Partnership Platform, Enabel brings together funders, technical partners and stakeholders to align support and promote a shared approach to regulatory strengthening.

Through the Team Europe Initiative on Manufacturing and Access to Vaccines, Medicines and Health Technologies in Africa (TESS MAV+), led by Enabel, this coordination role is further strengthened. With the support of European agencies, Member States and the European Commission, TESS MAV+ helps align European support with African

priorities, facilitates dialogue between partners and provides targeted assistance to regulatory authorities. By connecting technical support, political dialogue and funding, TESS MAV+ is a central pillar of Africa's progress toward safer, better regulated medicines - demonstrating how Team Europe can add real value when it works as one.

From supporting the creation of the African Medicines Agency to strengthening national regulators and coordinating partners, Enabel contributes to building a stronger regulatory ecosystem across Africa. By connecting local action with continental ambition, Enabel helps ensure that medicines can be trusted through safer health systems and better health outcomes for all.

Human mobility



Workshop on pathways to professional reintegration in Guinea. © Enabel

Public services to support reintegration

Migrants who return to their country of origin may do not always find their place in society again. For many, it is a time of uncertainty - little information available, difficult access to services, and few job opportunities.

For public services in countries of origin, these returns present both a challenge and an opportunity to align with the needs of everyone, including returning migrants. Reintegration thus becomes an opportunity to promote inclusion.

Through the MIGRET project in Côte d'Ivoire and AMIS in Guinea, both funded by the European Union, Enabel promotes this approach to mobility: strengthening the conditions that enable people to rebuild their future.

Creating the conditions for reintegration

Recognising the challenges involved in reintegration, Enabel supports public and private actors to facilitate access to economic opportunities and existing services. Rather than providing one-off assistance or parallel reintegration schemes, Enabel strengthens existing systems that connect returning migrants to social assistance, employment, training, and entrepreneurship services.

In Côte d'Ivoire, through the MIGRET project, Enabel has analysed the challenges faced by returning migrants in accessing rights, services, as well as available socio-economic opportunities. These analyses enable public, private, and civil society actors to adapt their services and accessibility conditions. From reception and follow-up to guidance, psychosocial support, training, job placement, and access to financing, all the actors involved in providing care are considered.

In Guinea, the AMIS project strengthens the links between public employment services, training centres, support structures and businesses in order to connect returning migrants with concrete opportunities. Partnerships with the private sector are essential to ensure career paths are aligned with the real needs of the local economy.

Support is also based on recognising and making the most of the skills acquired during migration. Migratory experiences, however difficult they may be, provide a valuable source of technical, relational and entrepreneurial know-how. Enabel supports tools used by public services, such as skills assessment, which highlight existing skills, identifies training needs and guides young people towards the right career path. Particular emphasis is placed on psychosocial and professional support for women, young people, and people with disabilities.

The goal is to support realistic career paths that build on existing skills and local opportunities.

From the individual to the region: a collective dynamic

Reintegration is, first and foremost, a systemic issue: Do the services that provide access to rights and opportunities exist? Are they accessible and adapted over time?

For returning migrants, the challenge is twofold: having access to services tailored to their experiences, and relying on actors capable of ensuring their inclusion in coordination with national and local institutions.

Rather than creating ad hoc parallel mechanisms, MIGRET and AMIS strengthen existing ecosystems for the benefit of the entire population. Enabel's approach is anchored at a territorial level. It strengthens the management capacities of public services, local authorities and civil society so that they can welcome, guide and support returning migrants in the long term.

By avoiding a one-size-fits-all model that is sometimes ill suited to local realities, Enabel's approach also helps integrate reintegration challenges into national employment, youth and migration policies.

An approach consistent with European developments

These experiences demonstrate that the existence of appropriate systems, along with access to socio-economic opportunities, enables migrants to make free and autonomous choices within a regular environment.

This approach is part of a broader evolution in European policies, which are moving toward a more integrated model that combines mobility and migration governance, cooperation with partner countries, and support for national (re)integration systems.

Projects like MIGRET and AMIS translate these orientations to life through concrete actions - investing in local territories and systems, and recognising mobility as a driver for creating value.

Private sector engagement

Puratos and Enabel: a strategic alliance that gets the cocoa industry moving

Puratos is a global Belgian group specialising in ingredients for the bakery, patisserie and chocolate industries. It was founded in 1919. Today, it is present in over 100 countries and generates annual sales of almost 3.5 billion euros. Cédric Van Belle, Chair of the Board of Directors, talks about the group's cocoa strategy and explains how sustainability and the strategic partnership with Enabel are helping to transform the industry in a sustainable way.

Sustainability is at the heart of your cocoa strategy. Why is this a key matter?

The cocoa strategy of Puratos is the result of a historic development. We entered the chocolate business rather late, in an already highly competitive market. That was in 1989. We very quickly decided to focus on chocolate from specific plantations or from specific regions. While learning the trade, we discovered a major problem in the cocoa supply chain, particularly in Africa: farmers were very poorly paid and struggled to make a living from their work.

We were shocked. Both ethically and strategically. If producers cannot make a living from their work, why would they pass the trade on to their children? In the long term, the very future of cocoa supply is at risk. We set out checking existing sustainable certification labels, but found that they were not perfect, and that part of the premiums inevitably remained within the management structures.

So, we decided to create our own programme, Cacao-Trace, built on two

pillars. Firstly, improving cocoa quality. We pay farmers a premium price in relation to the market price, and have developed expertise in fermentation and drying, which allows us to produce very high-quality cocoa.

Secondly, we have the chocolate bonus. As we are a B2B company, our customers pay an extra 10 cents for every kilo of Cacao-Trace chocolate they buy. 100% of this sum is paid back to the farmers via a foundation.

Depending on the country, this bonus is distributed directly to farmers or invested in community projects such as schools, maternity units, water towers and school kits. Today, this bonus represents more than 3 million euros a year, with approximately 2 million euros going to Côte d'Ivoire. Thanks to this system, producers benefit from significant additional income while improving the quality of their cocoa. For us, it is a real win-win model: we get better quality cocoa while having a real impact on the lives of farming communities.

How is this approach transforming the relationship with producers?

Investing in the quality of cocoa profoundly changes the relationship with producers. We are no longer in a purely transactional logic, but in a win-win partnership. By paying farmers more for quality beans and providing technical expertise, we enable them to improve their production and earn higher incomes.

Depending on the country, we work directly with producers, via our own fermentation centres, or in collaboration with partners and cooperatives. In some cases, such as Vietnam, we know each farmer individually. In Africa, where supply chains are more complex, we prefer to work with cooperatives and partners to guarantee traceability and project management.

This model creates a long-term relationship. Farmers know that their cocoa will be bought at a premium price, which encourages them to invest in their farms. For us, this guarantees a stable, high-quality supply. It is not charity: it is a sustainable win-win economic model. Today, Cacao-Trace accounts for around a third of our



Cédric Van Belle

Puratos Chair of the Board of Directors

chocolate. We aim to reach 50% sustainable sourcing by 2030 and, eventually, 100%.

Why are public-private partnerships essential, and how do Puratos and Enabel team up?

Public-private partnerships are essential, as acting alone is often slower and harder. In many countries, particularly in Africa, administration and logistics make projects more complex. Public-sector partners like Enabel bring credibility, an institutional network and knowledge of local contexts that we do not always have.

The complementarity is clear: Puratos brings its cocoa expertise, investment capacity and technical knowledge. Enabel facilitates local relations, supports the structuring of cooperatives and speeds up the implementation of projects. This collaboration is particularly important when we are expanding into new countries where we do not yet have local teams.

For example, we are looking to diversify our supply beyond Côte d'Ivoire, with projects in Congo, Cameroon and Uganda. In these contexts, the support of a state-owned player helps to reduce risks and accelerate initiatives. It is this complementarity that guarantees the success of our projects.

What role can a state-owned player like Enabel take on in the current crises?

Climate, economic and geopolitical crises are making value chains more fragile. Companies need to both secure their supply and invest in sustainability. A state-owned enterprise can play a key role in facilitating access to markets, bringing players together and speeding up projects.

Local teams are particularly valuable, as they enable us to understand the realities on the ground, facilitate contacts and monitor projects. In complex contexts, such as certain countries in Central Africa, this presence is essential if sustainable initiatives are to be launched and maintained.

Enabel can also make Belgian companies more aware of the opportunities available in Africa. Often it is unknown what a state-owned player like Enabel can mean. By highlighting success stories and supporting pilot projects, risk perception can be reduced and investment encouraged.

What message should be sent to private companies looking to invest in Africa?

For us, Africa is the continent of the future. The demographic trends of the next twenty to thirty years are clear.

Not to be there would be a strategic error. At Puratos, we have a long-term vision, spanning ten, twenty or thirty years. Africa is an integral part of our development.

However, we need to move forward gradually and give priority to partnerships. Starting up on your own is difficult; we strongly believe in joint ventures with local partners. This is how we have developed our activities in several African countries, with partners who know the terrain and facilitate integration.

Beyond the geographical aspect, there is also the sustainable dimension. Investing in sustainability is not charity; it is a strategic choice. In the long term, sustainability and economic performance are reinforcing one another. Companies that make a commitment today are creating dynamics for progress, securing their value chains and meeting the growing expectations of their customers.

In short, we need to see Africa as a long-term opportunity, move forward in partnership and embrace sustainability at the heart of our strategy. Those who make such choices now will have a decisive advantage in the years to come.

Private sector engagement

Enabel and the private sector: natural allies

Enabel develops strategic partnerships with the private sector to boost employment, strengthen value chains and accelerate the sustainable transition. By combining expertise and investment, we turn shared ambitions into concrete actions, driving inclusive growth and creating local economic opportunities.



Training, employment, entrepreneurship

The partnership between Enabel and Brussels Airlines focuses on joint advocacy, coordinated communication and initiatives in the field of international cooperation. The two companies will share information and networks, and co-create projects linked to the Global Gateway, including in the areas of technical assistance, vocational training, employment and entrepreneurship. The partnership also provides for skills transfer through joint training programmes, collaboration within the African Competence Centre and work placements. Initiatives in sustainable tourism and support for local markets will also be explored, whilst aligning their efforts in the area of corporate social responsibility.

Meanwhile, the European Union has entrusted Enabel with an urgent programme at Bujumbura Airport in Burundi. Following technical discussions with the Burundian civil aviation authorities and Brussels Airlines, Enabel is preparing the action plan and budget for the measures to be funded. The initiative aims to improve airport services, strengthen connectivity and support Burundi's economic development.

RioTinto

Investing in women's employment

In Guinea, Enabel has formed a partnership with Rio Tinto (an international mining group) to enhance the employability and economic empowerment of 500 young people, particularly vulnerable girls and women. The partners are co-funding Women's Economic Empowerment Centres, which offer technical and entrepreneurial training in food processing, dressmaking, hairdressing, soap-making and market gardening. This collaboration improves the quality of training, develops occupational standards aligned with market needs, equips the centres and strengthens the capacities of female trainers, whilst promoting the socio-professional integration of female learners. By combining public expertise and private commitment, this partnership provides long-term support for

human capital development and local economic growth, particularly along the Simandou corridor linking the south-east of the country to the capital, Conakry.



A strategic partnership for sustainable value chains

Enabel and AB InBev (the world's largest brewing group) have entered a long-term strategic partnership to advance sustainable development across agricultural value chains, promote circular economy initiatives, and strengthen water stewardship and climate resilience in Uganda, Mozambique and Tanzania.

Formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding, the collaboration builds on previous joint initiatives and sets the foundation for a structured partnership combining the strengths of a state-owned company and a global private sector leader.

AB InBev contributes extensive operational experience, innovation platforms such as the 100+ Accelerator, and wide agricultural supply chains, while Enabel brings strong local presence, technical expertise and deep networks across governments and civil society.

Initial opportunities for collaboration are under development in Mozambique, Uganda and Tanzania. Joint project development focuses on three priority areas:

- **Sustainable agriculture:** Improving yields and supporting and upskilling farmers and cooperatives, including trainings and other labor upskilling activities.
- **Water stewardship:** Protecting watersheds, enhancing community access to clean water, and promoting responsible water management.
- **Energy & Emissions:** Bottle recycling, aggregation hubs and transport solutions for waste management, glass recovery and recycling systems, renewable energy projects, low-carbon logistics, and local resilience initiatives.

In Uganda, both partners are co-designing initiatives to strengthen the barley value chain and promote inclusive

economic development. Actions include training 500 farmers, co-developing a barley production curriculum, and supporting the digitalisation of Village Savings and Loan Associations. Employment promotion, SME support and greening initiatives are being developed, while monitoring and evaluation are jointly conducted to track progress across training, entrepreneurship and financial inclusion.

Investing in sustainable food systems

African food systems face urgent challenges: climate change, food security and fair incomes. On 29 January 2026, Enabel and COLEAD (Committee Linking Entrepreneurship-Agriculture-Development) brought together public and private sector leaders in Brussels – including AB InBev, Rombouts Coffee, Impact Finance Belgium, Colruyt Group, Silva Cacao, Puratos and Group Depre – to explore how strategic investment and innovation can strengthen agri-food value chains and create more resilient and inclusive food systems.

A key message emerged: public-private collaboration is essential and must be structured to generate genuine synergies. Farmers must be recognised as investable entrepreneurs, owners of their products and data, in order to create greater value. Local expertise and intra-African cooperation are crucial for the sustainability of projects.

Innovation must be embedded at the heart of business strategies, with sustainable financial and non-financial support for SMEs. Effective partnerships combine financial and technical contributions, both public and private, plan investments and aim for measurable impact and commercial viability.

This roundtable marks the starting point for Belgian proposals for the EU's Global Gateway Investment Hub. Interested companies are invited to contact Enabel to benefit from alignment and strategic support.



Jean Van Wetter (CEO of Enabel), Maxime Prévot (Minister for Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation), Kristof Waterschoot (Managing Director of the Port of Antwerp-Bruges), Joseph Nganga (Special Envoy for Mission 300). © Enabel

Supporting Africa's ambitions in the fight against climate change

In June 2025, Enabel and the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted Joseph Nganga, CEO of the Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi (2023) and Special Envoy for Mission 300, on a four-day working visit aimed at strengthening Africa-Europe collaboration on climate and energy. The programme included field visits to Belgian stakeholders in the energy transition, investment dialogues with private companies, policy discussions with key European institutions, and a roundtable with leading stakeholders*.

These meetings highlighted both concrete opportunities and persistent obstacles relating to project preparation, regulatory frameworks and financing conditions. The visit also raised the profile of the Africa Climate Summit among Belgian and European stakeholders, facilitated discussions on the role of public finance in mitigating risks associated with renewable energy investments, and mobilised Belgian expertise and investors to support Africa's energy transition.

* | Port of Antwerp-Bruges International (PoABi), CMB.TECH, DEME, AB InBev, Fluxys, Bio-Invest, Credendo, Finexpo, DG INTPA, DG CLIMA, EEAS, ElectriFI, South Pole, ARE, Turbulent, Incofin, SFPIM, GE Vernova, Waterleau, Special Envoy for Climate, Special Envoy for Energy.

Youth in the scope



© Enabel

Young and engaged

Young people play a pivotal role in the future of international cooperation. In 2025, Enabel therefore placed significant emphasis on youth engagement, utilising the BeGlobal programme, the Junior Programme and the Youth Sounding Board to empower young individuals to contemplate and act in response to global challenges.

BeGlobal: forward-looking engagement

The past year was characterised by significant encounters. Through debates, workshops and partnerships with players from youth work and education, young people had the opportunity to make their voices heard on topics such as international solidarity, global inequality and the future of international cooperation. A notable highlight was the youth event organised by BeGlobal in autumn 2025 in collaboration with Je m'engage pour l'Afrique (JMA). The event provided a platform for young people to engage in constructive dialogue with young experts and opinion makers regarding the significant transformations confronting international cooperation.

The keynote speaker was David Van Reybrouck, a writer, historian and outspoken critical voice in the social debate on democracy, global inequality and international solidarity.

In his keynote address, he challenged young professionals to explore uncharted territory and transcend the boundaries of conventional 'development cooperation'. He emphasised that authentic social and global transformation does not emerge from immediate solutions or technocratic responses, but rather from active listening, imaginative thinking and the assumption of responsibility across generations. He explicitly called for young people to be recognised as political and social actors, emphasising that they will bear the longest-term consequences of today's decisions.

In 2025, BeGlobal entered into an agreement with the **Colruyt Group Foundation** to develop a Youth Incubator. The partnership's objective is to inspire and coach dozens of young people from 2026 onwards to develop and implement their ideas for innovative international solidarity projects.



Stefan Goethaert (CEO of Colruyt Group), Jean Van Wetter (CEO of Enabel). © Enabel



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Youth Sounding Board: the voice of young people

Enabel took an important structural step in 2025 by establishing the Youth Sounding Board. This platform brings together a diverse group of young people to engage in dialogue with Enabel's management and Corporate Board. The Youth Sounding Board provides young people with a permanent platform to share their perspectives and recommendations, contributing to the organisation's strategic reflections.

Junior Programme: professionalising young people and fostering global citizenship

On 12 March 2026, Enabel celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Junior Programme, which since 2006 has given nearly 700 young professionals the opportunity to gain up to two years' experience in partner countries of Belgian international cooperation. In 2025 alone, 19 junior experts commenced employment at Enabel or at affiliated NGOs.

The programme is designed for professionals with a bachelor's or master's degree, under the age of 31. It was initiated in the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, at the initiative of the then Development Minister Armand De Decker. Its goal was to mobilise young people around global challenges and offer them a first professional experience in international cooperation.

This programme deviates from the conventional recruitment approach by placing significant emphasis on mentorship and coaching. Prior to departure, the selected junior experts undergo an intensive onboarding programme to ensure they are fully prepared to both work and live in a new environment. In addition to sessions on project management, interculturality, innovation and decolonisation, global citizenship will be a key theme, exploring the connection between global and local challenges. The junior experts will also have the benefit of support and guidance from an external coach during their assignment.

The impact is enduring: a 2025 alumni survey shows that half of former junior experts remain active in international cooperation, often as experts, consultants, project leaders, managers or directors of organisations. 90% of them confirm that the programme still has an influence on their careers, even many years later.

In some countries, European junior experts are also paired with nationally recruited young professionals to encourage intercultural exchange.

Consequently, this provides a real springboard for committed, international work.



"If the US turns into the new Wild West, let Europe become the Warm West. Let us build new European-African partnerships that are respectful, constructive and effective."

David Van Reybrouck
Author

Operations

Strengthening agility and strategic focus

Accelerating and adjusting country programmes

Following the launch of seven new cooperation programmes in 2024, the year 2025 focused on intensifying activities and meeting partner commitments. A shared organisational target of nearly €400 million in annual activities was established to ensure strong and consistent delivery of results.

While no new governmental country programmes were initiated in 2025, the Belgian government mandated Enabel to launch the BeGlobal programme for a five-year period.

Programme review in a changing geopolitical context

Profound geopolitical changes required Enabel to revise several ongoing cooperation programmes, including those in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Rwanda and Palestine.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Enabel initiated a major paradigm shift in its cooperation programme in the DRC. The new strategy focuses on supporting the emergence of development corridors as drivers of sustainable territorial transformation. This integrated model links social, productive, environmental and institutional services to foster local value creation, strengthen economic integration and build resilience.

Two key corridors now guide the cooperation strategy: the Green Corridor (North) and the Lobito Corridor (South). Both corridors align with national priorities and the EU's Global Gateway strategy.

Rwanda

On 17 March 2025, Rwanda ended diplomatic relations with Belgium, leading both countries to discontinue their bilateral cooperation programmes. This affected the 2024–2029 governmental programme and Rwanda's component within the 2022–2026 regional social protection and decent work portfolio.

Several projects were closed, with direct implications for staff and partners. EU-funded programmes, however, continue as planned.

Palestine

Given the evolving context, the Palestine programme is being adapted and extended to remain relevant and effective.

A new approach to cooperation and mutually beneficial partnerships

Aligned with EU and Belgian strategies promoting mutually beneficial partnerships, Enabel strengthened its positioning in Critical Raw Materials (CRM) in 2025. Concrete actions began across several countries to reinforce regulatory frameworks, improve ESG practices, strengthen governance and support local development.

Key initiatives include:

- Tanzania: Preparation of a project to promote responsible investment in the mining sector, linking local actors with European buyers, and advancing vocational training and transparency frameworks for the extractive industry.
- Uganda: Support to local governments in managing mining revenues to foster employment and increase national value addition.
- DR Congo: Support to the Ministry of Finance on macro-fiscal management of extractive resources, combined with efforts to promote decent work and skills development.

These initiatives reinforce Enabel's role within the European CRM ecosystem and help foster a more responsible and inclusive mining sector.

West Africa: leveraging international cooperation for broader partnerships

In West Africa, international cooperation increasingly serves as a catalyst for broader collaboration under Team

Belgium and Team Europe. Key sectors include ports, health, pharmaceuticals and agrifood, each strongly aligned with Belgian priorities on health, climate and stability.

A flagship initiative is the CALAO Corridor (Abidjan–Lagos and Abidjan–Ouagadougou), connecting six countries between Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria.

Another strategic initiative is the SCOPE project (Safety and Security in West and Central African Ports), implemented with the Port of Antwerp and Bruges International (PoABi). Active in Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Cameroon, Nigeria and Senegal, the project focuses on soft capacity-building measures to improve regional connectivity and reduce disaster risks.

Sahel: staying engaged in challenging contexts

Despite complex security environments, Enabel maintained a strong presence in the Sahel. In Burkina Faso and Niger, solid results were achieved.

Late 2025 saw the signing of three EU-funded projects across the Ouagadougou–Koudougou–Dédougou and Bobo-Dioulasso–Banfora corridors, including:

- Strengthening the response to gender-based violence: expanding the successful one-stop centre model in Tenkodogo.
- Strengthening financial and non-financial services: supporting enterprise and cooperative development, with a focus on youth, women and vulnerable groups.
- 'Kalan Sira' education project: improving technical and vocational training and aligning education supply with labour-market needs.

Exploring new opportunities in the Middle East and Eastern Europe

The transition in Syria presents opportunities but remains fragile. Belgium adopted a phased diplomatic re-engagement strategy to support democratic transition and rights-based recovery.

Enabel launched a gradual, context-sensitive operational strategy from Jordan, supported by missions and high-level contacts. This alignment with regional programmes in Jordan and Palestine allows for future expansion should the political and security context improve.

In 2025, Enabel explored cooperation with Moldova, resulting in a study visit to Belgium in February 2026. Moldovan and Ukrainian energy authorities met leading Belgian public institutions and companies. A Memorandum of Understanding is planned for signing in Chişinău in 2026 to anchor long-term collaboration.

Diversification for greater impact

Enabel continues to build partnerships with European and international financial institutions to diversify its client base. This strengthens Belgian foreign policy while enabling Belgian public and private expertise to support development in partner countries, particularly within the EU's Global Gateway strategy.

In 2025, Enabel signed €182 million in contracts with international financial partners. Importantly, 80% of this new financing directly aligned with Enabel's public-service mandate from the Belgian State.

Within EU and Team Europe Initiatives, Enabel signed 22 contracts and 2 budget increases, totalling €152 million. This confirms the EU's recognition of Enabel as a key implementing partner, strengthening Belgium's influence on the international stage.

Green Climate Fund (GCF): A strategic milestone

In 2025, Enabel completed the formulation of its first Green Climate Fund (GCF) proposal for Mozambique. The proposed project aims to deploy 30–40 solar-powered mini-grids, promoting climate resilience and productive renewable energy use in underserved rural areas.

Expected outcomes include:

- 399,000+ tonnes of CO₂e avoided over 25 years;
- clean, reliable energy for 66,000 people;
- improved food security, livelihoods and essential services for 160,000 people.

Beyond infrastructure, the initiative strengthens Mozambique's climate finance environment by supporting the country's Energy Fund FUNAE and operationalising new mini-grid regulations. This achievement positions Enabel as a credible actor in large-scale climate financing.

Organisation



Public-law company

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

Enabel implements the Belgian governmental cooperation policy. The agency actively explores assignment opportunities of third-party donors in view of strengthening Belgium's foreign affairs policy. Enabel can also conduct and coordinate international cooperation initiatives of Belgian federal instances. Thus, Enabel is the interface between Belgian federal public instances and Belgian or foreign donors for international development, 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 2025, the General Meeting was held on 27 March.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is composed of members who have useful and proven experience 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 2025, the Board of Directors convened nine times. The Board members were: Delphine Moralis (chairperson), Caroline Amrom, Karla Basselier, Brigitte Boone, Alain Coheur, Farah Dehon, Amélie Derbaudrenghien, Patrick Daveltere, Guido Gryseels, Patrick Itschert and Bart Staes.

Managing director

The Managing director is responsible for the daily management of Enabel. He is 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
- Khady Thiam, Director People & Talent
- Sven Huyssen, Director Operations
- Danny Verspreet, Director of Finances & IT
- Evelien Masschelein, Director of Expertise & Think.

In 2025, the Management Committee convened 25 times.

Control bodies

- Government's Auditors (Development Cooperation & Budget)
- Board of Auditors (Court of Audit & registered auditors)
- Internal audit

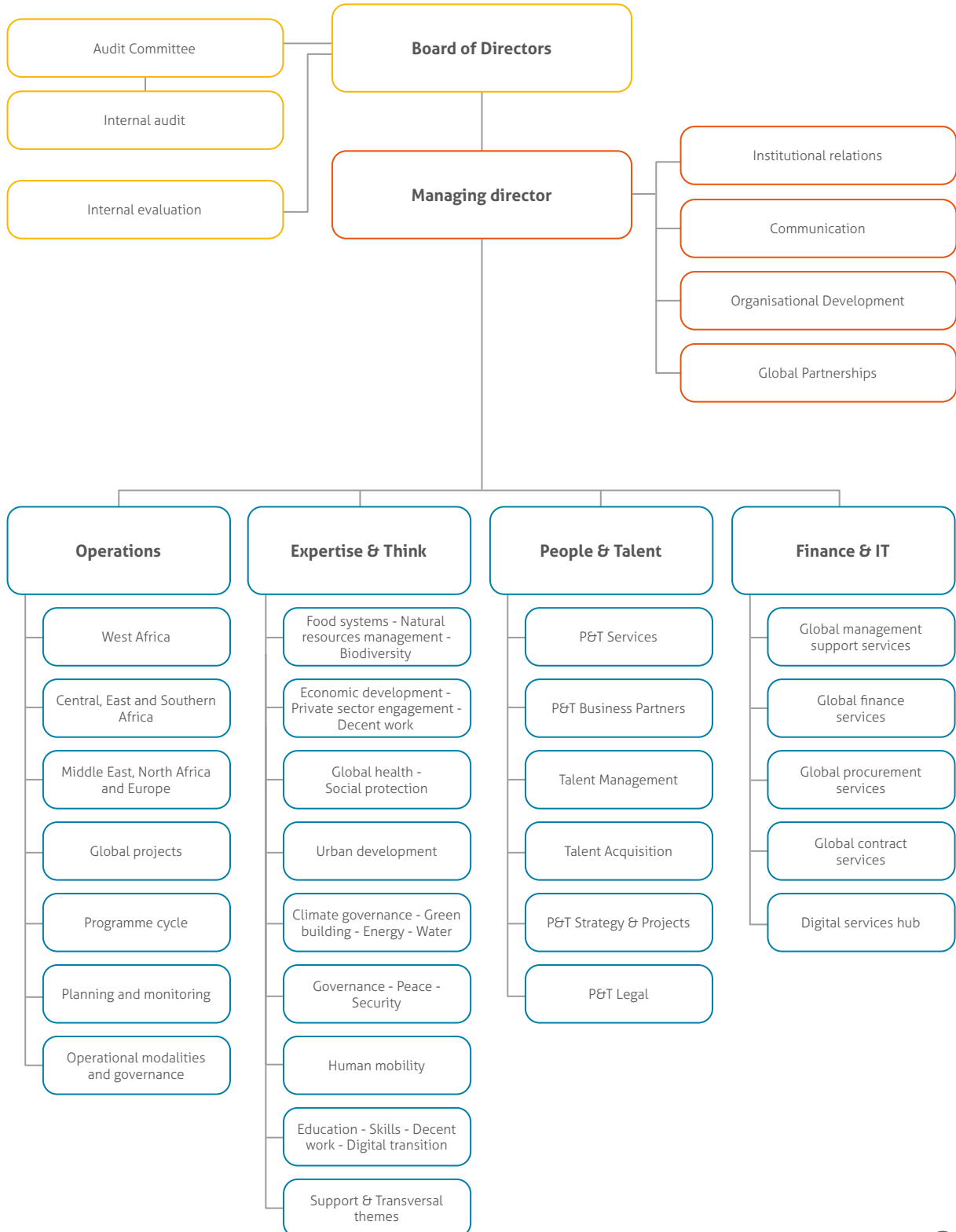
Integrity

In 2025, Enabel remained committed to earning the trust of our donors and partners. The integrity charter of the Belgian international cooperation actors, our own Code of Conduct, our Anti-fraud policy and our Policy against sexual exploitation are pillars of the Integrity policy.

That policy is not a dead letter. In 2025, Enabel used awareness campaigns to address integrity issues regarding conflicts of interest and gifts. As every year, the Enabel network of integrity actors communicated widely during the 'International Fraud Awareness Week' in December. The same network also continuously disseminates and promotes Enabel's Code of Conduct to our external partners and subcontractors.

But trust is not just a matter of words. The increasing number of whistleblower reports confirms that our employees and external partners believe they can report suspected violations in complete safety, that these reports are carefully followed up, and that the organisation makes adjustments where necessary.

Organisation chart



Finances

Balance (euro)

Assets	31/12/2025	%	31/12/2024	%
Fixed assets	2,501,999	1.2 %	2,432,652	1.1 %
Amounts receivable > 1 year	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %
Sub-total	2,501,999	1.2 %	2,432,652	1.1 %
Amounts receivable ≤ 1 year	86,590,228	39.8 %	45,463,033	20.5 %
Investments	112,921,520	51.9 %	151,820,722	68.4 %
Cash assets	7,517,942	3.5 %	13,425,901	6.1 %
Deferred charges and accrued income	7,835,696	3.6 %	8,756,799	3.9 %
Total assets	217,367,384	100 %	221,899,107	100 %
Liabilities	31/12/2025	%	31/12/2024	%
Equity	20,066,778	9.2 %	20,134,329	9.1 %
Provisions and deferred income taxes > 1 year	3,880,533	1.8 %	3,627,954	1.6 %
Sub-total	23,947,311	11.0 %	23,762,283	10.7 %
Amounts payable > 1 year	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %
Provisions and deferred income taxes ≤ 1 year	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %
Amounts payable ≤ 1 year	192,782,700	88.7 %	197,401,379	89.0 %
Deferred charges and accrued income	637,374	0.3 %	735,445	0.3 %
Total liabilities	217,367,384	100 %	221,899,107	100 %

Income statement

	31/12/2025	31/12/2024
Operating revenue	435,600,343	357,089,576
Turnover	407,097,008	329,159,608
Other sales and activities	27,428,518	26,533,347
Non-recurring operating revenue	1,074,818	1,396,622
Operating costs	438,055,645	363,720,256
Purchases	91,281,672	46,728,614
Miscellaneous goods and services	251,993,585	229,830,513
Staff costs	91,021,649	80,167,734
Depreciation	2,226,547	3,075,469
Depreciation current assets		
Provisions for risks and charges	252,579	1,540,565
Other operating costs	1,109,735	2,297,692
Non-recurring operating expenses	169,879	79,668
Operating result	-2,455,302	-6,630,680
Financial costs	-2,833,016	-2,458,134
Financial revenue	5,220,768	8,786,792
Financial result	2,387,751	6,328,658
Result for the financial year before taxes	-67,551	-302,022
Transfers from / to deferred income taxes		
Taxes on the result		
Result for the financial year	-67,551	-302,022
Transfers from / to tax-free reserves		
Result for the financial year to be allocated	-67,551	-302,022

Colophon

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