Enabel in Rwanda

Belgium - Rwanda Governmental Cooperation Programme

Rwanda’s development landscape has changed considerably since the country launched its Vision 2020 strategy, twenty years ago in the year 2000. With a GDP growing at 10.8% per year over the last twenty years, Rwanda’s ambition is to become an upper-middle income country by 2035 and a high-income country by 2050.

The Government of Rwanda implements its National Strategy for Transformation, a national development framework which is also referred to as the Seven Year Government Programme. Within this national development framework the current Belgo-Rwanda cooperation programme focusses mainly on agriculture, health, urbanisation and public finance management sectors. The Sustainable Development Goals, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provide a shared blueprint.
Health

The budget of the health domain is 45 million euros of which 60% of the budget is reserved for a grant to the Ministry of Health represented by the Rwanda Biomedical Center.

Belgium is the first to implement support to reproductive and sexual health through Result Based Financing linking financing to the attainment of agreed upon targets. Our ambition is to work with the Rwanda Biomedical Center and the Ministry of Health at large, to ensure that all women, newborns, children, adolescents and men have universal access to quality integrated Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child and Adolescent Health and Family Planning & Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health services.

The Barame programme (40% of the budget) intervenes in seven Districts: Gakenke and Rulindo in Northern Province; Gisagara in Southern Province; Karongi, Nyamasheke and Rusizi in Western Province and Nyarugenge in the City of Kigali. A strong focus is put on reproductive and sexual health services to support Rwanda’s ambition to enhance its demographic dividend and ensure accessible, evidence-based, improved and innovative health services with a special attention to sexual and reproductive health services with increased citizens’ participation and engagement.

Agriculture

Agriculture remains the backbone for sustained economic growth, contributing around 27% to the Rwandan GDP and employing about 70% of the workforce. With this in mind, a total envelope of 30 million euro was dedicated to the transformation of the agriculture sector. The Belgo-Rwanda agriculture intervention focuses on strengthening the implementation of Rwanda’s Strategic Plan for the Transformation of Agriculture.

14.5 million euros are delegated to the World Bank, through the Multi Donor Trust Fund. The trust fund focusses on transforming agriculture from a subsistence sector to a knowledge-based value creating sector, leveraging private sector investment for the agriculture sector. This in turn, contributes to the national economy and ensures food security.

Through a complementary 15.5 million euros bilaterally managed intervention, Enabel contributes to developing inclusive and sustainable feed, pig and poultry value chains in which all actors run a profitable business. The intervention supports and develops the current actors in the value chains. Starting from what already exists and striving to improve it, all along the value chain.

Two major challenges are addressed at the level of small production systems: poor feeding practices and general farm management on the one hand and limited animal health services on the other hand.

Cross-cutting issues

Environment & Climate Change

Rwanda and Belgium are committed to combating climate change and its impacts. Enabel will ensure that all activities undertaken across interventions are climate-change-resilient. Along the same lines, climate-friendly agricultural and processing techniques will be promoted and, whenever relevant, the use of, for example solar energy and rainwater harvesting, will be encouraged.

Gender equality and youth

Creating a conducive environment for gender equality is an essential objective for the government of Rwanda in order to support inclusive growth. A strong focus on inclusion is imperative to ensure that women and men benefit equally from the interventions, and that opportunities are also made available to the youth population, by addressing issues that hinder access to finance for youth and women.
The intervention also aspires to attract private investments to develop a modern industrialised value chain to produce high quality meat products and eggs to substitute imports as well as for export purposes. The Rwanda Agriculture Board and Enabel will work with the National Industrial Research and Development Agency, a Rwandan specialised institution to facilitate this industrialisation.

3 Urbanisation

Rwanda’s urban population is expected to quadruple from two million in 2015 to 8 million in 2050. This rapid urbanisation is a challenge which, if managed well, can offer opportunities for job creation and economic development.

With a 28 million euro budget, Enabel’s intervention in this sector is meant to improve urban infrastructure so that inclusive and sustainable economic development can expand further. A focus is put on three secondary cities, Rubavu, Musanze and Rwamagana, which have a high economic potential due to tourism assets, fertile land and proximity to bigger cities like Kigali and Goma (DRC).

It starts with a number of quick wins in each district, supporting the development of infrastructure works, for example a street market area in Rubavu, but also the overall capacities of the districts in managing urban economic planning and the establishment of medium-term investments which can make these urban ecosystems thrive.

Equally, the intervention supports the promotion and improvement of construction materials made in Rwanda, aiming at the production of high-quality construction materials to substitute imports as well as to export. It has a specific focus on supporting technical and vocational centres to operationalise work placed learning and to include the use of Made in Rwanda construction materials in their curricula.

4 Public Finance Management

Belgium is supporting Rwanda’s socio-economic transformation through effective and accountable Public Financial Management. Through the Multi-donor Public Finance Management Fund, the programme provides 5 million euros and wants to increase the effectiveness and sustainability of Public Finance Management systems at central and local government levels.

Other actions

Development of Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture – DeSIRA

- Duration: 2019-2024
- Budget: 2 million euro

Enabel signed a 2-million-euro contribution agreement with the Delegation of the European Union in Rwanda, to finance a 5-year Agroforestry Action-Research project. The aim of the research project is to improve resilience of farmers to climate change. This is done through innovative, research-based climate-smart agroforestry, and efficient use of tree resources in the Eastern Province and peri-urban areas of Kigali City.

Private Sector engagement

Rwanda believes that Private Sector Development is key for productive employment and decent work for all. Thus, the interventions will promote the principles of circular economy and short supply chains by supporting the Made in Rwanda approach in the construction sector which will increase job creation and poverty reduction.

Accountability

Rwanda and Belgium believe that citizens’ engagement and participation is a crucial component of a democratic society. The interventions aim to strengthen capable and responsible public institutions committed to citizens’ advancement and efficient service delivery as well as to increase citizens’ participation, engagement and partnerships in development.
About Enabel

Enabel is the Belgian development agency. It executes and coordinates the Belgian international development policy and works mainly on behalf of the Belgian state. The Agency also implements actions for other national and international organisations. With 1,500 staff members, more than 70% of whom are local employees, Enabel manages some 150 projects, mainly in fragile states in Africa.

Rwanda is among the three largest beneficiaries of the Belgian development cooperation. This cooperation supports Rwanda’s sustainable development agenda for the socioeconomic welfare of its population.