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# Social and economic inequality

## What Enabel does

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

This brochure describes how Enabel addresses the global challenge of growing inequalities in its partner countries.





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## Growing inequalities

The world is becoming more and more inequitable, which has a damaging impact on social, environmental and economic sustainability. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development commits all states to be part of a new global compact that will leave no one behind.

It explicitly aims to tackle inequalities within and between countries (SDG 10) and genders (SDG 5) and to promote peaceful and inclusive societies (SDG 16), three goals that exemplify the scope and depth of the new global development strategy.

It means that equality has gained a place as game changer to deliver the transformative change envisioned in the 2030 Agenda. At the same time, how to overcome inequalities remains a complex and sometimes controversial issue. Only if the drivers of inequalities, the institutional factors that perpetuate them and their consequences at local, national and global levels are rightly addressed, 'inclusive growth', 'shared prosperity' and 'leaving no one behind' will become reality. This is one of the major challenges humanity and the development community will face in the coming decade.

## Our expertise

Enabel has accumulated rich expertise over several decades in many development domains with respect to inequality. Also, Enabel easily mobilises Belgian expertise through framework agreements and partnerships with Belgian institutions and public services (Finances, Public Health, inter-municipal services in water and environmental issues) and with many Belgian academic and research institutions. Our expert network includes international organisations, such as ILO, ECF, CIRAD, UNCDF and Food for Cities (FAO).



# Enabel's approach for fighting inequalities

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The vision of Enabel is to build a sustainable world where women and men live under the rule of law and are free to thrive. To contribute to each individual's freedom to thrive, it is essential that we address interrelated aspects and factors that drive inequality. Enabel strives to ensure equal access to quality basic services and social protection mechanisms, to provide sustainable business opportunities and decent jobs and to address discriminating practices and gender stereotypes that are detrimental to inclusion. Enabel adopts a rights-based approach aiming at strengthening the capacities of duty bearers and empowering those in marginalised situations, who face the biggest barriers.

## Sustainable business opportunities and decent jobs

Creating a prosperous environment, in which the private sector can thrive, plays a significant role in the fight against inequalities. Corrective, market-based solutions by public authorities are known to bolster private sector development, especially in the case of women entrepreneurship. Rather than merely taking away obstacles, Enabel focuses on shaping and building inclusive markets that foster women entrepreneurship and digital entrepreneurship that empowers young entrepreneurs.

Enabel supports partner countries in maximising employment impact of investments and economic growth by focussing on decent jobs for youths through Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and employment promotion. Economic inclusion is key, since the focus is on labour market access and participation for the most vulnerable, mainly women, youth and persons with disability.

## Fair and sustainable agricultural value chains

In the agricultural interventions of Enabel the value chain approach is most prominent. Depending on the context, policies and actors, this approach empowers small-scale producers and their organisations to capture a more significant part of added-value along the value chain. Taking into account a human rights and decent work perspective, the how can we make the chain 'fairer' and more inclusive for every actor and particularly the weakest ones is key. Through specific attention to gender inclusiveness, and the contribution of women to agriculture and food security, Enabel also works towards equitable access and control over land as a human right.

## Addressing sexual and reproductive health and rights

Many socio-cultural and environmental factors determine the degree to which people can realise their full potential. Rapid demographic growth is one of these structural

problems as well as the gender problem and gender divide in access to quality, affordable, accessible healthcare and jeopardises sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of women and adolescents. Providing for SRHR and the access to quality family planning services in particular are strong positive levers to change power relations that institutionalise inequality.

## Access to Education, Health and Social protection

Equitable and affordable access to quality public services like education and health are the first redistribution measures for (fragile) countries. Investing in education and TVET for all is a strong corrective structural measure that can lift individuals and societies, in particular the most vulnerable, out of poverty and therefore reduces inequality. Investing in health has an immediate impact by preventing or treating illness and thus preventing people of losing income when they are sick. Decentralised public health facilities providing curative, preventive and promotive health care are needed to protect the most vulnerable in society, with fewer rights in terms of equality. Social protection is a multifaceted strategy in any society to protect the most vulnerable people from hazardous events in their lives.

## Closing the digital divide

Digital devices, services and the internet have become integral part of people's lives. Through the use of mobile phones many have made great advances in financial inclusion, access to information and basic services, birth registration, etc. Vulnerable groups, however, often lack the basic digital literacy to make full use of the advantages of the digital revolution. Enabel works on strengthening digital literacy, digital skills and digital rights awareness to ensure that the compounded effects of the digital divide on inequality are addressed effectively. Enabel empowers partners to reduce the gender digital divide through projects promoting women's political leadership, entrepreneurship and legal empowerment and the fight against gender-based violence.

# Our experience

## Education, training and employment for more inclusion and equality

Enabel has extensive experience working with vulnerable children, youth, women and migrants in the area of education, vocational training and job insertion. Enabel supports equitable access to quality education as a basic social service through the rehabilitation and construction of child-friendly schools; and through support to the quality of training and learning. In Niger, the Sarraounia project prevented hundreds of girls from early drop-out and helped them to get their diploma. It also helped these girls to protect them from early marriage and teenage pregnancies.

Through vocational training and job insertion programmes in more than ten countries, large groups of vulnerable youngsters are trained as a key strategy to address youth unemployment. In Uganda, Enabel gained experience in innovative financing for inclusion through the Skills Development Fund (SDF) under a public-private partnership. The SDF specifically targets at improving the employability and livelihoods of vulnerable youth, women, refugees and persons with a disability.

## Primary health care, SRHR and public health insurance

In nine partner countries, Enabel is running health projects, all of them with a particular attention for SRHR aspects. In five of these countries SRHR is the main focus, including attention for sexual violence and the rights of adolescents. In four of these countries, urban health is an important component. In Kisangani (DRC) alone, over four hundred rape victims are receiving holistic care each year.

In Senegal and Mauritania, large-scale and publicly subsidised health insurance has been a major objective. Uganda, Niger and Burundi are benefitting from this experience. In Senegal, 400,000 people benefit from a performant health insurance since more than four years and more than 4,000 persons are spared each year from catastrophic health expenditure.

Enabel gained much experience in setting up nation-wide mental health services in Rwanda, Burundi and Niger, paying attention to the most vulnerable in society.

## Women entrepreneurship in Guinea

As part of its new entrepreneurship portfolio in Guinea, Enabel implements the Development of Women Entrepreneurship on the Conakry-Kindia-Mamou axis aiming at stimulating inclusivity and increased competitiveness of the economic activities of women entrepreneurs. The focus is on (new) opportunities for women, by taking into account their needs and reducing the obstacles they face on a daily basis in rural and urban areas. It puts women entrepreneurs at the centre of the action, so that they can be sufficiently qualified to:

- make their existing (or new) activities more profitable and enhance their value;
- move on to the creation of a viable business in a more favourable environment and;
- have access to decent and quality employment.

Furthermore, in order to generate sustainable progress in the quality of life of women and their households, this intervention aims to address the root causes related to socio-cultural burdens and attitudes, power relations, social institutions, and legal provisions.

## Closing the digital divide

Enabel supports over 120 Digital for Development (D4D) projects that leverage digital technologies and solutions and reduce the gender digital divide. The interventions focus on capacity building and co-creation with our project partners.

In Mozambique, Enabel uses drones to support renewable energy planning, and in DRC, Senegal and Niger Enabel uses mobile money to support pay-as-you-go access to clean water. In Guinea, Enabel supports the use of open-source data systems to better manage waste management flows. In Morocco, Enabel supports capacity building for the Moroccan administration to leverage digitalisation for more effective public services. In Mali, Enabel is supporting the digitisation of civil registries to ensure universal access, and in Senegal and Benin, Enabel is strengthening digital skills and the digital economy ecosystem as a whole, focusing on youths in the secondary cities and rural areas.



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