



The Luxembourg Development Cooperation – Strategies and Principles

The primary objective of the Luxembourg Development Cooperation is the eradication of poverty, notably in least developed countries. Its actions/interventions are conceived in the spirit of sustainable development, which is reflected in its social, economic and environmental aspects – placing men, women and children in their centre.

These actions are primarily seen as part of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals until 2015. Thus, the main sectors of intervention of the Luxembourg Cooperation are in the social domain: healthcare, education including training and professional insertion measures, as well as integrated local development. Appropriate initiatives in the field of microfinance are both encouraged and supported, be it on the conceptual or operational level.

From a geographic point of view, and in order to maximise its efficiency and impact, Luxembourg's development cooperation operates a policy of targeted intervention in a restricted number of privileged partner countries. Six out of these ten privileged partner countries, which are chosen primarily by taking into account the composite human development index of the UNDP, are located in sub-Saharan Africa. Development cooperation activities with these countries are distinguished by a heightened sense of partnership with both public authorities and civil society. This spirit of partnership, which is achieved through actual ownership of the programmes and projects by the beneficiaries themselves, is the cornerstone of the multi-annual cooperation programmes, the Indicative Cooperation Programmes (ICP).

As concerns Official Development Assistance (ODA), Luxembourg has been since 2000 among the group of (currently five) industrialised countries which allocate more than 0.7 per cent of their gross national income (GNI) to development cooperation since 2000. In 2007, ODA is set to reach 260 million euros, which is expected to exceed 0.90 per cent of the GNI. As in the past, this ODA shall be implemented through the instruments of bilateral and multilateral cooperation, technical assistance and cooperation with development NGOs.

In parallel, the Luxembourg Cooperation is actively participating in the discussion on, and the definition of new standards for the harmonisation and quality of international development aid. It has espoused the conclusions of the Paris Declaration on Aid effectiveness, adopted in March 2005: ownership, alignment, harmonisation, results and mutual accountability.

Furthermore, a significant part of Luxembourg's ODA effort is dedicated to humanitarian assistance, in the larger framework of civilian crisis management, which can be deployed in the case of natural disasters, as well as in post-conflict situations, from the moment of the cessation of hostilities to the resumption of development cooperation activities.

For more than fifteen years, Luxembourg's development cooperation and humanitarian assistance policy has been characterised by consistent and progressive efforts, both in terms of quantity and quality, for the benefit of those populations most in need. It is the expression of an outspoken and well established international solidarity, and is as such an important instrument of the external action of the government of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg.