

THE BELGIUM – SOUTH AFRICA
INDICATIVE DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION
PROGRAMME

2001 - 2005

1. INTRODUCTION

The adoption of the new South African Constitution in May 1996 laid a firm base for democratic development in the country. South Africa is now state party to important international conventions addressing civil and political rights, torture, racial discrimination, discrimination against women and the rights of the child. After the adoption of the constitution, general and local elections have been held with all population groups participating. A relatively strong civil society and a free press also bode well for democracy.

However, democracy remains young and fragile in South Africa and the government faces massive social and economic challenges. Society is still characterised by poverty and unequal distribution of income and wealth between blacks and whites.

It is crucial to maintain the positive political developments in South Africa. A stable democracy is not only important for the people of South Africa, but for all of Southern Africa as South Africa plays a significant role for political stability and economic development in the region.

In view of these challenges to South Africa, Belgium and South Africa agreed to replace the Belgian Transitional Assistance Programme with a long-term development co-operation programme, thus paving the way for a more comprehensive and strengthened partnership between the two countries. This Belgian Indicative Development Co-operation Programme in South Africa (IDCP) is the result of a consultative process, based on South Africa's development priorities as spelt out in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and Belgium's overall development co-operation policy. Its overall objective is to contribute to a reduction of the widespread HIV/AIDS – TB pandemic in South Africa and to provide support to the safety and justice sector in the country. Additionally, it is to support the land reform initiatives in South Africa.

2. SOUTH AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES

South Africa's approach to addressing its social and economic constraints is rooted in the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) and the Growth, Employment and Redistribution (GEAR) Strategy. Government's spending priorities are reflected in the annually released Medium Term Budget Policy Statement.

2.1 Government's medium term development priorities lie in the following critical areas:

Maintenance, rehabilitation and investment in economic and social public infrastructure.
Targeted interventions aimed at improving the efficiency of the criminal justice system. Strong focus on crime prevention, with a particular emphasis on high crime areas, organised crime, crime against women and children, corruption, cross border crime and social crime prevention.
Continued emphasis on improving the quality of service delivery and the efficiency of resource utilisation in all areas of Government.

- Working towards a comprehensive social security system.
- Provision for the impact of HIV/AIDS in welfare expenditure, public health and other services
- Programmes aimed at accelerating employment creation.
- The managed liberalisation of the energy, transport and telecommunications sectors as part of the effort towards reducing input costs throughout the economy.
- The increased application of modern communication and information technologies in the fields of education, health, commerce and government.
- A strengthened focus on agriculture, key export sectors, tourism and the information and communication sector, due to their potential contribution to growth and job creation.
- An accelerated skills development programme in areas that are critical to a more competitive economy.
- Strengthening of the capacity to facilitate access to capital as a key requirement for growth and development of small, micro and medium sized enterprises.
- Strengthening the system of local government.

The Government has outlined an integrated rural development strategy and an urban renewal programme, both of which are aimed at combating poverty and underdevelopment in a co-ordinated and sustainable manner.

These programmes will be key means of delivery on the priorities outlined above, and will entail investment in economic and social infrastructure, human resource development, the enhancement of the development capacity of local government, poverty alleviation, the strengthening of the criminal justice system and social service delivery.

3. BELGIAN DEVELOPMENT POLICY

3.1 Overall Objective

The Belgian delegation outlined the policy framework and institutional set up resulting from the new law on Belgian International Co-operation of 25 May 1999. The law introduces the concept of international co-operation, thereby indicating that co-operation is a dealing between partners placed on equal footing. It clarifies the objectives of poverty reduction, sustainable human development, and partnership. Further it sets criteria for Belgian co-operation activities such as relevance to development, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and viability.

The law also limits the number of partner-countries, territories or regional organisations with which Belgium can have a longstanding bilateral co-operation relationship to 25. Bilateral co-operation programmes are also concentrated on five sectors (public health, education and training, agriculture and food security, small-scale infrastructure, and community building) and three cross-sector themes (gender, environment, social economy).

Information about the implementation modalities

Each individual co-operation activity belonging to the Indicative Co-operation Programme runs through a standardised procedure:

Identification is carried out under the responsibility of the partner country. Identifications can also be carried out, using the study and consultancy fund. For each project or programme, a **partner committee** is created where Belgium (BTC and the Counsellor: Development Co-operation) and the concerned South African institutions are represented. The partner committee assesses the relevance of the proposed project or programme to development and, during the execution phase, ensures that it fulfils the needs of the beneficiaries

After identification, **formulation** and **execution** are undertaken by BTC.

During implementation, the Partner Committee is responsible for checking the results and approval of activity plans. Suggestions can also be made regarding adjustments in the technical and financial file.

Evaluation of projects and programmes takes place during and after their implementation. The evaluation can be made by the partner country or by Belgium or by the two together. In addition to the follow-up evaluation that is an integral part of projects and programmes, the evaluations made by the Belgian partner will always be entrusted to the independent evaluation department.

4. AREAS OF COOPERATION:

The Study and Consultancy Fund will be an important instrument for the implementation of the areas of co-operation.

4.1 HEALTH SECTOR

It is estimated that 4,7 million South Africans are infected with HIV of whom 1,6 million will get sick with TB. TB is the most common opportunistic infection and the biggest killer of people living with HIV/AIDS. An estimated 50% of TB patients are co-infected with HIV. With early detection and treatment, HIV-positive patients can still be cured of TB. In addressing the TB/HIV co-epidemic, the National Department of Health is harmonising TB and HIV/AIDS/STI control activities through the establishment of TB/HIV Pilot Districts. These form part of the ProTest Initiative that is coordinated by WHO/UNAIDS which seeks to increase access to HIV voluntary counselling and testing and improve access to TB/HIV care. The lessons learned from the TB/HIV Pilot Districts will be used in implementation sites called TB/HIV Training Districts throughout the country.

According to the Priority areas of the Department of Health, improving human resource development and management is one of the factors that will strengthen implementation of efficient, effective and high quality health services. Skills development is one of the first steps towards the realization of the above. In light of the above the Department of Health has identified two areas for co-operation with the Belgian Government, namely: the comprehensive programme of HIV/AIDS/STI/TB prevention, care and support and capacity building in support services that will have an impact on the HIV/AIDS crisis.

4.2 SAFETY AND JUSTICE SECTOR

The aim of the Department for Safety and Security is to prevent, combat and investigate crime, maintain public order, protect and secure the inhabitants of South Africa and their property, and uphold and enforce the law.

To achieve this, the Department has set four key operational priorities and two key organisational priorities for the medium term, namely:

- I. Combating of Organised Crime,
- II. Combating of serious and violent Crime
- III. Combating crime against women and children
- IV. Improving basic service delivery to all communities
- V. Budget and Resource Management
- VI. Human an Resource Management

The MTEF of the Department has been aligned and linked to these priorities.

Co-operation with the Belgian Government will be focussed on the Operational Priorities, utilising the resources to enhance human and technological capacity, to strengthen Law Enforcement, and to strengthen the Departments' capability within the Region.

The following sectors, although receiving priority attention, will not be the only areas that could be earmarked for Belgian assistance:

- Serious and Organised Crime – continuation of outstanding projects
- Combating crime against women and children
- Public Order Police – Visible policing as a continuation of the POPS project with the training of visible policing in crowd management, to enable the transfer of POPS capacity to police stations.
- Service Delivery Improvement – Implementation support required in terms of infrastructure based on the premise that we have done development – are now implementing – and will provide vehicles, personnel and building maintenance – we are concerned about the IT needs
- Regional Interventions – including interventions such as the highly successful Operation Rachel, training activities and general capacity building

The Belgian Government has been a valuable donor to the SAPS over the last couple of years, enabling the SAPS to take Law Enforcement and Service Delivery forward.

Future co-operation between the SAPS and Belgium will be utilised to enhance, strengthen and institutionalise the methodologies and curricula developed, and will, be a valuable resource to develop new programmes and implement strategic interventions in the Region.

4.3 LAND REFORM

Land is a very important resource for all the citizens of South Africa, as we need it for residential purposes, for production and livelihood, for animal and plant life, for creation of wealth and pleasure. Access to land has been a problem to the majority of the historically disadvantaged people. Racial policies of the past led to landlessness, homelessness, insecurity – and increasing poverty in the country. This has manifested itself in many ways including the recent land invasions.

The land reform programme of South Africa has three components, namely:-

- **Restitution:** Seeks to restore and or redress persons or communities who, as a result of past racially discrimination, were dispossessed of their property after 19 June 1913. (The Commission on Restitution of Land Rights has been established in terms of the Restitution Act 22 of 1994, as amended, to meet this objective.)

- **Redistribution:** Seeks to facilitate access to land, providing the poor with land for residential and productive purposes in order to improve their livelihoods.
- **Land Tenure Reform:** Seeks to ensure security of tenure to all citizens who occupy land both in urban and rural areas.

Belgium will, although already giving priority to Restitution, not restrict its assistance to this component only.

4.4 SUPPORT FOR THE NEW AFRICAN INITIATIVE

The New African Initiative (NAI), representing a merger between the Millennium Partnership for the African Recovery Programme (MAP) and the OMEGA Plan, is in essence a detailed sustainable development project for the economic and social revival of Africa, involving a constructive partnership between Africa and the developed world. It is a pledge by African leaders, based on a common vision and a firm and shared conviction that they have a pressing duty to eradicate poverty and to place their countries, both individually and collectively, on a path of sustainable growth and development, and at the same time to participate actively in the world economy and body politic. The Initiative is anchored on the determination of Africans to extricate themselves and the continent from the malaise of underdevelopment and exclusion in a globalising world. It is a call for a new relationship of partnership between Africa and the international community to overcome the development chasm. The partnership is to be founded on a realisation of common interest, benefit and equality.

As regards, the specific commitment of the Republic of South Africa to the Initiative and the revival of Africa, the African Renaissance and International Co-operation Fund Act, as promulgated on 22 January 2001, provides for the establishment of the African Renaissance and International Co-operation Fund for the purpose of enhancing international co-operation with and on the African Continent.

Belgium takes note of this initiative and expresses its general support for the New African Initiative.

5. Categories of Aid

Whenever possible, Belgium will endeavour to integrate activities within a specific sector into an overall sectoral approach, in accordance with the recommendations contained in IDCP.

Belgium will, as in the past, also keep open the possibility of initiating project activities with the potential of being implemented in co-operation between South African institutions/NGOs and other institutions/NGOs in the region.

In view of the considerable South African capacity, technical assistance in the form of long-term advisers will be very limited. On the other hand, taking into consideration the innovative oriented nature of some activities, the use of Belgian short-term advisers within various fields is envisaged.

Furthermore, within the overall financial framework the Belgian NGOs are expected to continue being active in South Africa.

6. Utilisation of Belgian Technical Assistants

South Africa possesses a considerable capacity with regard to technical expertise and consultancy companies, and for this reason the need for Belgian advisers and consultants is expected to be limited. However, there may be a need for international advisers with special know-how and expertise in fields such as capacity and institution building with regard to the delivery of public services, democratisation and good governance mutual relations. There may also be a need for public-private initiatives where use can be made of Belgian expertise in the ongoing restructuring process (for example in the health sector)

7. Audit

Under the supervision of the National Treasury of South Africa individual line departments will be responsible for submitting audited accounts of funds channelled through official channels.

8. Consultations

The two parties will hold Joint Committee meetings where development co-operation will be discussed at a strategic level. The Joint Committee will also focus programming, funding levels and identifying new priority areas of co-operation.

Joint Committee meetings are envisaged between the two parties to be held annually, alternately in South Africa or in Belgium. A Mid Term review will also be held.

ANNEXE 8

HEALTH SECTOR

PROGRAMME 1

Comprehensive Programme of HIV/AIDS/STD/TB Prevention, Care and Support.

Extension of existing TB/HIV Pilot Districts and further operational research

Remaining questions to be answered by existing TB/HIV Pilot Districts include: the impact of voluntary counselling and rapid HIV testing (VCT) and tuberculosis preventive therapy (TBPT) on HIV infections averted and TB infections averted, reasons for good and poor adherence to prophylaxis and the cost-effectiveness of VCT and TBPT.

In order to answer the remaining research questions and to help in TB/HIV capacity building, the TB/HIV Pilot Districts will be extended until at least December 2002 and the following research will be conducted:

- Evaluation of the quality of counselling: observe and score counselling skills and content - compare lay counsellors with nurses.
- Effectiveness of VCT: risk behaviour questionnaires of people prior to VCT and repeated 6 months after VCT, modelling to determine HIV infections averted, TB infections averted and disability adjusted life years (DALYs) saved.
- Effectiveness of TBPT: interviews with clients who completed and clients who interrupted TBPT to determine reasons for good and poor adherence.
- Cost-effectiveness: economic evaluation and link costs to outcomes.
- Other relevant research.

Provincial Expansion Plans

Funding will be provided to provinces for the establishment of TB/HIV Training Districts and for the expansion of TB/HIV activities. The plan is for TB/HIV activities to be added to well functioning TB Demonstration and Training districts in a phased approach to cover all districts in the country before the end of the project.

Provincial TB/HIV/STI Coordinators

In order to coordinate the expansion plans, the National Department of Health proposes to hire Provincial TB/HIV/STI Coordinators on contract with the understanding that these coordinators will be absorbed into the Provincial establishments at the end of the project.

National Unit and Support to Provinces

The national unit will provide technical support to the provinces and coordinate advocacy and training activities. Possible areas for funding include hiring staff (including a technical advisor, nurse trainer, data manager/epidemiologist, senior admin officer), equipment, training materials, advocacy activities, workshops, supporting nongovernmental organisations and community-based organisations and Southern African regional initiatives.

PROGRAMME 2

Capacity Building

Mapping of the needs of the Health department in relation to the available know how in the Belgium Health system.

The structure and needs of the South African Department of Health will be outlined and compared to the overall health provision in Belgium and the available expertise for other health systems. Special attention will go to:

- The Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Strategy in particular the following for Provinces: Eastern Cape, Kwazulu Natal, Mpumalanga and the Northern Province.
- Capacity Building will focus on support services that will have an impact on the HIV/AIDS pandemic and /or capacitate officials to be able to cope with the problems associated with HIV/AIDS.
- The direction of health sector development as provided in the different policy frameworks will be taken into account.
- On the basis of this comparison, common areas of functioning and possibilities of sharing experiences and best practices will be outlined.

- Identification of partners in Belgium and their counterparts in South Africa in the Health Systems will be undertaken.

The first phase of the programme will consist of a needs assessment that will provide the background to be used for the identification of capacity building projects in the specified areas.

The second phase of the programme will be informed by the findings of the study. This phase will concentrate on making the necessary preparations for capacity building in the areas of deficiency. Important planning activities will include amongst others:

- Collaboration with institutions of higher learning in South Africa to survey available relevant programmes which would meet the identified needs,
- To engage their support in order to meet the identified needs.
- The National Department of Health, specified provinces, districts and local authorities to identify personnel for Capacity Building.