SPECIAL DOSSIER NIGER

LUXDEV

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

Contents

A Word from the President and the Director

The world of development cooperation has been changing rapidly since the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals in 2000, with all stakeholders realising that certain approaches no longer meet the expectations of our partners or the need for efficiency and effectiveness.

This new way of thinking, which began in Rome in 2003, led to the Paris Declaration in 2005 and the high-level forums in Accra (2008) and Busan (2011). The core principles of the new paradigm relate to the search for effective aid followed by the search for development effectiveness. One of the key components of this new approach is to further empower our respective partners. In addition to empowerment, however, it is also about recognising and accepting that development is a matter for the partner countries: it is they who are in the “driver’s seat”, not the actors and donors from the northern hemisphere.

The Luxembourg Development Cooperation has been fully involved in this process and has endorsed all the principles and commitments taken at European and international level. In this context, we have always understood that LuxDev’s role has been to translate these commitments into concrete actions based on (it goes without saying) the policy guidelines and commitments made as part of the Indicative Cooperation Programmes.

This annual report, which draws in particular on LuxDev’s 15 years of commitment as the bilateral agency of the Luxembourg Development Cooperation in the Dosso region of Niger, illustrates the changes in the way we work.

There can be no denying that this paradigm shift has been a huge challenge for an agency the size of LuxDev. We have had to develop, adapt and decentralise our organisation; redefine our specialist areas; and devise new working methods, tools and instruments. Moreover, we have had to support, motivate and train our employees so that they are equipped to meet these challenges. Indeed, the very culture of the agency has had to be transformed.

Over the course of these 15 years, considerable effort has been devoted to preparing our agency for the new requirements and expectations not just of the Luxembourg government but also of our partner countries. It is not without a degree of pride that we can say today that LuxDev is an agency that has evolved and adapted to its new environment with success. LuxDev is a significant and useful player in the development sector, implementing the programmes of the Luxembourg Development Cooperation in accordance with the policy guidelines and international commitments entered into by the Luxembourg government.

In a world that is constantly changing, we know that we cannot rest on our laurels. We have to adapt to the latest requirements, educate ourselves in the new specialisms, and ensure the on-going training of our employees so that they can advise and assist our partners in a variety of different – and increasingly complex – scenarios. The prospect of adopting the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015 once more presents us with new and significant issues and challenges. Safe in the knowledge that we can count on the motivation, commitment and enthusiasm of our staff, we are confident that LuxDev will again be able to address these challenges, adjust to the changes, and continue to work towards eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable development.

Gaston SCHWARTZ

Managing Director

Jeannot WARINGO

Chairman of the
Board of Directors

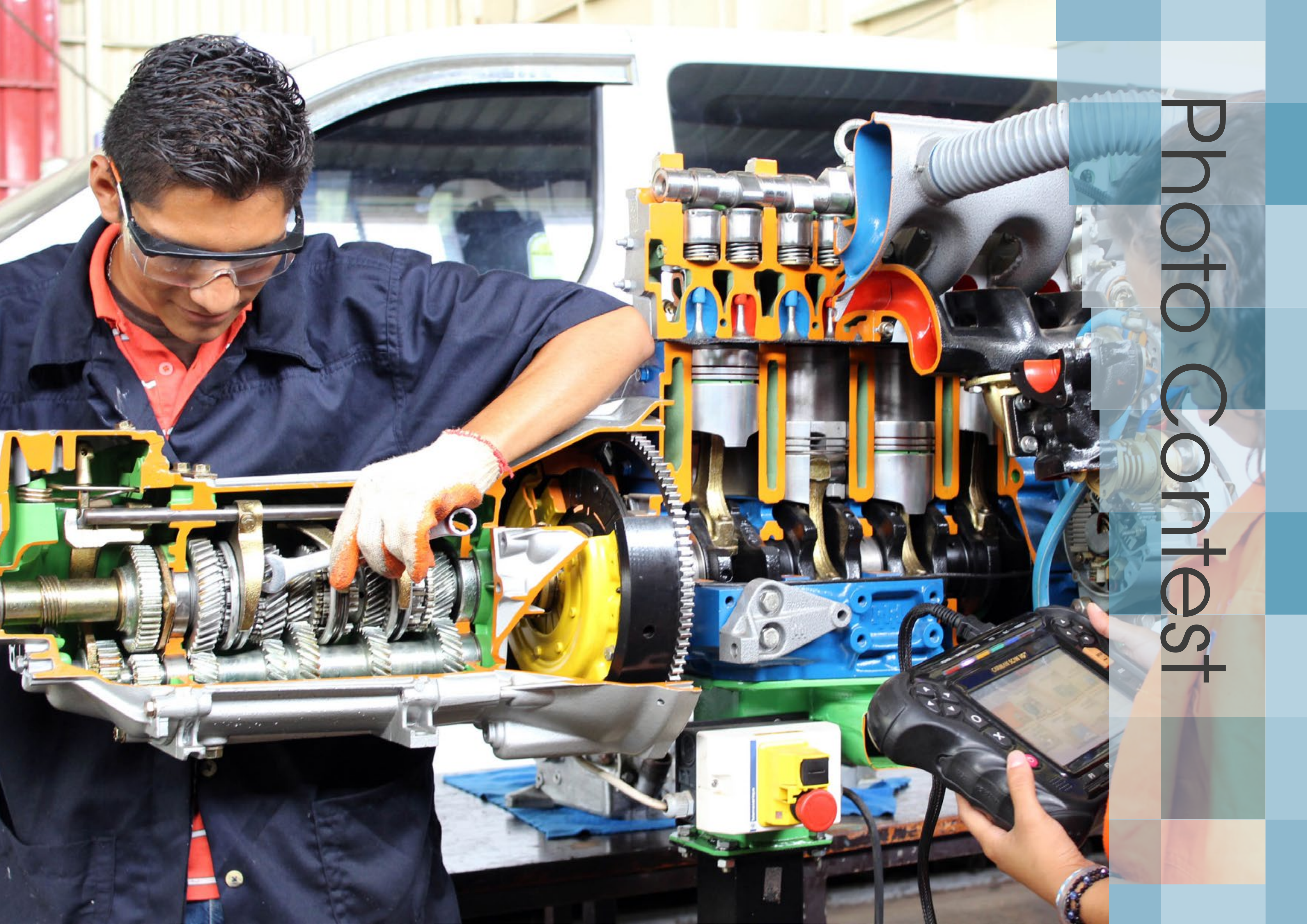


Photo Contest

Richard Delnoye - Laos

Local elections

Nutrition committees (rural development / local governance), Village of Pien, district of Pak Beng, province of Oudomxay, Laos.

Saylom Keoviphakone - Laos

Education is our future

Phonhome consists of a group of multi-ethnic villages where the children hope for a bright future, as shown in the photo: “Get up to read and study”.

Trang Nguyen - Vietnam

Even amidst the problems, there is happiness

Although the H’Mongs are poor and live in a remote region of Vietnam, the young couple are extremely happy to cuddle their new-born twins.

Saylom Keoviphakone - Laos

Water = life.

Richard Delnoye - Laos

Rice harvest.

Sayane Mouhoumoudoune - Niger

Education is still the best investment. It is the most powerful weapon for changing the world.

Christopher Marck - Burkina Faso

Children at the village pump near Bobo-Dioulasso.

Jose Antonio Corpas - Nicaragua

Students have to undertake practical work on car engines as part of their training.

Paula Drenkard - Cape Verde

“Behind you!” – students take part in a theatre performance.

Estelle Chaudron - Nicaragua

Kitchen gardens.

Eusebio Mora - Niger

Access to education in the Dosso region has improved with the school-building programme.

Trang Nguyen - Vietnam

Farmers pack oranges for delivery, the result of successful harvest.

Richard Schmid - Mongolia

The Mongolian steppe.

Richard Delnoye - Laos

Stocks of goats cheese.

Noma Salifou - Niger

Difficulties in opening a workshop after vocational training.

Niger

The last 15 years in the Dosso region

Niger

Introduction

The Millennium Summit (New York, September 2000) saw the largest gathering of heads of state and government of all time. The summit concluded with the 189 member states adopting the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of the Millennium Declaration.

Progress towards the MDGs was patchy in 2008, the halfway point of the 2015 deadline. Significant moves had been made towards achieving some of the goals, especially scaling-up AIDS treatment, growth in agricultural productivity, increased enrolment rates, and improved access to water supplies and sanitation services. However, there were still major disparities between and within countries.

The UNO was pleased to note in its 2014 report that several targets set in 2000 had been met. However, the assessment is not universally positive: the UNO recognises that there is still a long way to go before some of the targets are achieved. For example, the main environmental threats still exist, and have even increased. And, although the number of under-nourished people has decreased worldwide, the target of reducing the percentage of malnourished people by half requires further effort. Similarly, even though the infant mortality rate dropped by 50%, deaths are still largely the result of preventable diseases. Some two billion people gained access to improved sanitation services between 1990 and 2012, but 2.5 billion still do not have access and one billion still defecate outdoors.

Niger

15 years in Niger
A retrospective of cooperation in the Dosso region

It is time to take stock and, in the context of the pivotal year of 2015, LuxDev would like to present a series of snapshots of the 15 years it has spent working alongside our partners in the Dosso region of Niger. Although this can only be a partial and partisan retrospective, it illustrates the ground that has been covered. We invite you to follow in our footsteps via a selection of articles, photos, videos and interviews, so that you can see the investments that have been made and measure the progress, especially in the fields of education, literacy, agricultural development and water & sanitation.

In addition to these concrete achievements, this retrospective tells the story of our involvement in the Global Partnership for Development (MDG 8) and the effectiveness agenda (Paris, Accra, Busan and Mexico). We have invested tirelessly in the devolution of government services, producer organisations and associations, and municipalities since the first municipal elections in 2004, as well as in regional councils since their introduction in 2011. In fact, irrespective of the approach adopted (project or programme), the aid modalities selected (national execution or control) and the instruments deployed, LuxDev has sought not only to work towards achieving the MDGs targeted as priorities by the Niger-Luxembourg development programme, but also to build the capacities of its partners.

"Team of the Niger-Luxembourg Cooperation Programme"

Aichatou KANÉ

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, African Integration and Nigeriens Living Overseas

Luxembourg's first education project is already delivering innovation

Increasing the enrolment ratio of infants, boys and girls in Niger is no mean feat. The country's fertility rate (7.6 children / woman) and crude birth rate (49.8 / 1,000 inhabitants) are still the highest in the world (UNICEF, 2012). As a result, access has remained a priority for the education policies of the authorities in Niger.

The Luxembourg Development Cooperation has been concerned with supporting the efforts of the Niger Ministry of Education since the late 1990s, specifically in the Dosso region. The priority has been to increase the intake capacities of primary schools and to ensure that lessons can be held in reasonable conditions. Classes were mostly taking place on the ground in straw huts made of branches and sorghum straw; children were at the mercy of the vagaries of the weather as well as insects and snakes.

The earliest projects (NIG/008 - Schools and Health) between 1997 and 2002 aimed to improve the social, sanitary and hygiene conditions for children in primary education in the district and town of Dosso.

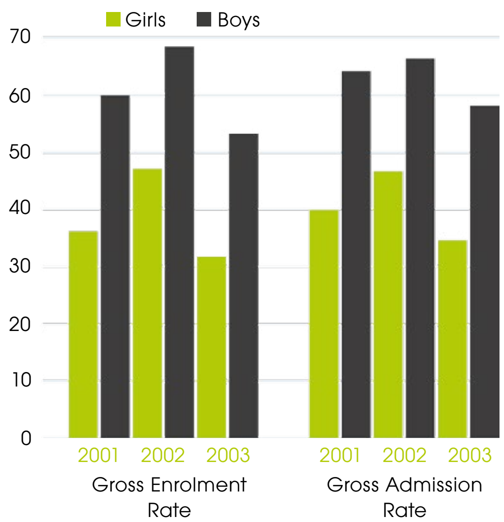
Sixty-four schools were rehabilitated and 16 were built or rebuilt. A total of 253 classrooms were renovated and 86 new classrooms were constructed and fitted out. In addition, other strands were implemented to complement the above:

- 78 water points were constructed in the schools to reduce the risk of vector-borne diseases;
- School sites were protected by planting shade trees and hedges, in particular to prevent herds and flocks scavenging in school yards;
- Teaching staff and school counsellors were trained in health education, environmental education and raising awareness among parents.

A major breakthrough was achieved thanks to the work of ASPAU, an architecture firm in Niger, which devised a construction concept based on the Nubian vault and the use of hollow earth bricks. This classroom model, which was developed within the framework of the Niger-Luxembourg development programme, has numerous advantages:

- No wood is needed for the framework or false ceilings;
- No sheet metal is required for the roofing;
- It provides a more comfortable thermal environment;
- It provides an improved sanitary environment thanks to the absence of bats;
- It reduces maintenance costs.

Indicators



School and Health

The Schools and Health programme entered a new phase between 2002 and 2006 involving all the schools in the department and municipality of Dosso. The aim was to continue constructing and renovating classrooms, equipping them with furniture and connecting them to water points, in particular to replace the huts used by 71 new schools created since 1997 with permanent classrooms.

Education indicators, in particular the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), showed a steady and dramatic progression between 2000 (42%) and 2013 (85%). In similar fashion, the completion rate rose from 32 % (2003) to 75% (2013). These impressive figures demonstrate that our interventions made an effective contribution to Niger's goals in quantitative and qualitative terms.

The operating structure was based on a Project Management Unit (PMU) which, although working in parallel, resulted in a degree of effectiveness. Indeed, during these years, we did not speak forcefully enough about the principles that were to become the basis of the Paris Declaration (2005), particularly alignment and ownership. Nevertheless, the stakeholders in the Schools and Health projects were involved in the delivery at all levels: steering, programming, project ownership, project management, implementation and monitoring. The extent and level of intervention of each stakeholder varied according to the project's main groups of activities:

- School infrastructure (construction of classrooms and toilet-blocks; classroom equipment);
- Construction of water points (wells, boreholes and pumping systems);
- Tree planting (the environment);
- Quality relating to health and hygiene, and parent coordination.

In addition, the statistics show a steady and substantial improvement in the enrolment ratio of girls, which can be attributed in particular to awareness work with parents and training thanks to the support of teaching staff, school heads, management committees and parent associations.

Rural roads

The 140 km or so of rural roads laid as part of the Integrated Rural Development Project (NIG/010 - PDRI) between 2002 and 2005 succeeded in opening up more than 70 villages in the department of Dosso. The roads also connected the villages to the town of Dosso and the national road network. Work to control storm water and operations to replant degraded areas was also undertaken to protect the tracks from erosion and silting.

As a result, key markets became accessible, allowing the smoother movement of people and goods. In particular, access became easier to the health centres in several large villages and health centres in Dosso. New roads were constructed between 2005 and 2009 as part of the NIG/015 – Dosso Ma Za'ada – project, bringing the total of rural roads to 272 km.

The roads had multiplier effects, creating a dynamic for improving the living conditions of men and women residing in the 100 or so villages directly or indirectly served. Scheduling a start time (the date and hour) has become a common and normal occurrence, whereas – before the tracks were constructed – transport was random, and people had to wait several hours for a vehicle that would not always turn up. Transport costs have been significantly reduced and the areas are often open to taxis (motorbikes and other vehicles) from Dosso.

Some rural municipalities in the other departments of the Dosso region are still cut off in 2015, such as Falwel (57,000 inhabitants) in the department of Loga to the north of Dosso. A 27 km stretch of track will be developed to open up the entire area thanks to the Regional Support Fund, set up with the Luxembourg Development Cooperation and administered by the Dosso Regional Council, together with a 15 % contribution from the municipality. Maintenance will be provided using an internal arrangement put in place by the municipality and by incorporating the track into the national road network.

Boubakar MOUNKAILA

Infrastructure Technical Assistant

Market gardens

Partnerships

Partnership agreements were agreed with several international organisations:

- The FAO and its national inputs project, for including input shops in the institutionalisation dynamic at national level;
- The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics and its project to promote vegetable gardens in Africa, which popularised a drop-by-drop irrigation system used in market gardens as well as training fruit-nursery growers.

Agricultural input shops

The following steps were followed to set up an input shop:

- An identification mission was carried out by the municipality and technical services;
- An information and awareness mission explained the principles and functioning of input shops to the beneficiaries, as well as the conditions regarding their construction;
- The populations constructed the semi-permanent building;
- The project covered the construction of the roof, portal and equipment;
- Management committees were set up and trained, and the population formed their own working capital to resupply at the facility in Dosso.

Warehouse receipt systems

Definition: a warehouse receipt system consists of a loan (taken out for several months) that is guaranteed by deposited goods that a bank can dispose of in the event of default (the warehouse receipt).

Warehouse receipts give producers the opportunity to pledge their production at the end of the harvest to take advantage of a group loan with a partner microfinance institution. The stock is secured by the beneficiary group under the supervision of the microfinance institution. The loans are used to finance short-term income-generating activities that are limited to six months. When the lean season approaches and agricultural prices rise, stocks can be released for sale provided that the loan has been repaid in full, with the stock acting as security. There are, therefore, two advantages to warehouse receipts for farmers: the capital gain made on the stock and the earnings made on the income-generating activity.

Market gardens

Thirty-five agricultural input shops, 24 market gardening sites and 120 modern water points were set up between 2003 and 2005 in the Dosso region to enhance food safety and agricultural output. The Integrated Rural Development Project began to provide strong support to groups of producers in 2003, training them to facilitate the emergence of the first farmers' organisations.

Integrated territorial development (Archives)

2015 field visit

2005 → 2006 Basic Education

Indicators

Infrastructure development in the Dosso region from 1995 to 2014

407 Classrooms built and equipped

1,316 Toilet-blocks in schools

233 Shops

5 Administrative blocks for mini-colleges

257 Schools connected to modern water points

Between 2004 and 2009

75 to 33 Pupil / toilet-block ratio

6 to 2 Pupil / desk and chair ratio

52 to 39 Pupil / teacher ratio

Food crisis

The so-called 2005 “famine” in Niger received very broad media coverage (too much coverage) in Europe. The food crisis was caused by poor harvests and a locust invasion in part of the country. However, it is likely that the deficit in serial production was no more than 8%, meaning that 2005 was not one of the most disastrous years (such as 1973 and 1984). Rather, 2005 calls to mind 2001-2002: a mediocre year that the National System for Preventing and Tackling Food Crises (helped by international partners) was able to address without too many problems. The most distinguishing feature of 2005 was the largely unforeseeable surge in prices, which was due to the regional cereal market operating in reverse to previous years. In particular, Nigeria – which usually sells its excess production to Niger in the event of poor crops – bought on the market in Niger on a massive scale in that year. The regional market is no longer regulated in any country: the failures of the Office of Food Products in Niger, together with the political power of traders in the same country and the structural adjustment policies in the region in general, followed the same path. In 2005, the market was not subject to coordinated interventions by neighbouring states (quite the opposite, in fact) or the Economic Community of West African States. As a result, the market was left to its own devices, and operated to the detriment of the people of Niger, making the price of a sack of millet, sorghum or rice almost prohibitive.

Sahel Dimanche

Crise alimentaire aigüe à Tanout

Le Damergou à la diète

La journée du lundi 2 mai 2005, fériée, chômée et payée

Monsieur Aboudou Karimou Adibadé, Représentant résident de l'UNICEF au Niger :

"Pour atteindre les objectifs d'un " Monde digne des enfants", il faut développer (...) un partenariat durable avec tous les acteurs"

First Vice-President of the Regional Council of Dosso

Girls’ education

Regional Directorate of Basic Education

Mangué Kaora school management committees

Developments in construction techniques for schools

In advance of focusing its efforts in the Dosso region, the Luxembourg Development Cooperation devised innovative imported architectural methods (the Wadata artisanal (craft) village) to make gradual use of skills and expertise in Niger. Further architectural analysis was subsequently conducted in the same area for fifteen years, concentrating on the field of school infrastructure.

A variety of construction techniques were employed depending on the requirements of the relevant partners. Backed by the agency, these partners built workshops for the craft trades as well as primary and secondary schools, vocational and technical training centres, administrative infrastructure, shops and markets.

With various initiatives being based on the principle of "wood-free" buildings, efforts were made to ensure the quality of materials by using vaults to provide thermal comfort and reduce problems associated with false wooden ceilings. To meet constraints in accessing fired bricks, several tests were performed to improve "bioclimatic" structures with vaults by developing the use of compressed stabilised earth bricks (CSEBs). Unfortunately, the complex nature of vault-based architecture means that large-scale replication is not possible, especially given the gradual implementation by partners.

Afterwards, the architects hired by the agency focused on a second bioclimatic concept, based on shielding buildings from sunlight and enhancing natural ventilation. Under the specifications, the design aims to provide uniform and optimal natural light together with maximum thermal comfort. The various materials selected for the finishing work – solar chimneys for natural ventilation, hydraulic CSEBs, solar energy (and other techniques at the discretion of the successful bidder) – show the advantages and disadvantages in terms of future maintenance; purchasing, manufacturing and operational costs; and respect for the environment.

The above specifications were met by using, for example, vertical and horizontal sun visors, galleries on the front of the buildings, and a double-roof system. In addition, as in the first phase, CSEBs were used, as were solar chimneys (for the vocational and technical schools) and solar electrification.

Support for communal initiatives for water and sanitation in schools

During 2006 LuxDev and the various PRADEB (Regional Programme to Support the Development of Basic Education) partners were keen to increase the impact of their projects by giving renewed impetus to the education-health-environment nexus. The partners, in particular the municipalities, decided to prepare a proposal within the framework of the EU-ACP Facility for Water and Initiatives in ACP Countries. Following the evaluation of several hundred proposals, the project was received favourably at the end of December 2007 with the signing of a contract with the Delegation of the European Commission in Niger.

LuxDev, which was heavily involved in supporting the bid preparation, saw its efforts rewarded and consequently decided to test out other areas of development funding.

The SICEAS project (Support for Communal Initiatives for Water and Sanitation in Schools in the Department of Boboye) was consistent with the PRADEB intervention logic, more particularly in the field of hygiene, water and sanitation for basic schools.

The project, which was carried out between 2008 and 2011, was firmly rooted in decentralisation and support for associations. The main actors were the mayors from the ten municipalities together with parent teacher associations and mothers' educational associations. The project was conducted in close technical partnership with the regional and departmental water services and the Belgian Development Agency (BTC) in Dosso; this was to ensure optimal alignment of resources and strategies.

In accordance with its stated objective, the SICEAS project has considerably improved drinking water conditions and access to sanitation for the 101 target schools and beyond, including the surrounding populations.

In total, 98 % of the schools were equipped with a Modern Water Point (MWP) and 132 other MWPs were completed to meet the requirements of neighbouring populations. In terms of sanitation, 495 family toilet, 140 school toilet-blocks and eight communal latrines were constructed.

To ensure that the works were sustainable (and in accordance with national policy on managing water infrastructure), delegated management contracts were signed between the municipalities and private operators to run complex facilities for supplying drinking water. At the same time, local committees responsible for managing water points that use hand pumps (which were not involved in the management delegation) were set up.

Le Sahel

NUMERO 7348

LUNDI 25 JUIN 2007

150 FCFA

Sciences et technologie

Bien dormir, cela peut aider à ne pas fumer

P. 11

Suite aux évènements survenus dans le nord

Le gouvernement n'observera aucun répit dans sa lutte contre toute forme de ménace

Le Conseil des ministres s'est tenu vendredi dernier en session extraordinaire, sous la présidence de son Excellence Monsieur Mamadou Tandja, Président de la République, Chef de l'Etat, Président du Conseil des ministres, à l'effet d'examiner la situation née des évènements survenus dans le nord du pays. Dans un communiqué lu, à l'issue de ce Conseil par le ministre de la Communication, Porte-parole du gouvernement, M. Mohamed Ben Omar, les autorités de notre pays réitèrent leur ferme détermination à soutenir nos vaillantes forces de défense et de sécurité et appellent l'ensemble du peuple nigérien à se mobiliser pour faire échec aux menées subversives.

P. 3

Les membres du gouvernement en conseil des ministres vendredi dernier

La CNDHLF et le CSC se prononcent sur la situation

P. 3

Assemblée nationale

Le bureau de l'AN appelle à un sursaut patriotique

P-3

Quatrième congrès statutaire de l'association Jamiyat Nassarat Din

Paix et développement durable dans le contexte islamique

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Clôture des travaux de la revue conjointe Ministère de l'Education nationale/Partenaires techniques et Financiers

La mise en œuvre du PDDE examinée

P-5

Première réunion ordinaire du rassemblement des Jeunes Jama'a

Echanges de points de vue sur la vie du parti

P-5

Nigeria/Pétrole

Fin de la grève générale

P-10

The Tuareg uprising that began in February 2007 is considered to be the first of a series of insurrections that continued until 2009. Faced with various forms of cultural and linguistic assimilation, as well as economic and political marginalisation, the Tuaregs (also known as Kel Tamashek) were driven to an armed struggle in the 1990s. Many abandoned the nomadic lifestyle and settled in the large towns bordering the Sahara, such as Tamanrasset in Algeria and Agadez in Niger, or in the capitals of the Sahelian countries (Bamako and Niamey).

Drinking water: an absolute necessity!

Providing supplies of drinking water is an important component of the Niger-Luxembourg development programme in the department of Dosso. Chikafane was one of numerous villages in the department where good-quality water was not available all year. This village of 350 inhabitants, situated in the municipality of Mokko in the far north of the department, benefited from its first modern water point in 2007 thanks to the intervention of the NIG/015 Dosso Ma Za'ada project. A large-diameter cement well gave a new lease of life to the entire village community.

LA COOPÉRATION, ÇA MARCHE !

15 EXEMPLES, 15 TÉMOIGNAGES

BURKINA FASO KOROTIMI LAMIEN BURKINA FASO MARIAME DRABO BURKINA FASO BRIGITTE LOYARA CAP VERT SANDRA ISABELLE CAP VERT JOÃO JOSÉ « ZÉ » MALI SISSOKO SAFIATOU SY NAMIBIE MARIA IMANUEL NIGER ATTANI GOUMEY & AMADOU HAMANI NIGER BOUREIMA YAOU & BALKISSA GARBA NIGER MAHAMADOU SAIDOU SÉNÉGAL CHEIKH THIAM NICARAGUA MAYBEL GONZALES EL SALVADOR PEDRO PORTILLO LAOS PHOMMASONE VIETNAM HANH & TOAN

LE GOUVERNEMENT DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG

Coopération luxembourgeoise

Extract from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for 2007 brochure: "Cooperation works!"

"The problem of water has always been a real nightmare in this village, which only has one traditional well over 60 meters deep," explained the village chief, Attani Goumey. "Before the new cement well was built, we could only meet a fraction of our water needs. Even in February, we had to go to neighbouring villages, or even Batako (more than six km away) to get water for our families. Everyone – men and women – was mobilised to fetch water." Going to collect water took up a great deal of the population's time, preventing it from attending to other socio-economic initiatives, such as income-generating and socio-cultural activities. The same water problem was the main obstacle to expanding livestock even though the village is situated in a pastoral area. According to Amadou Hamani, a 37 year old farmer from Chikafane: "The lack of water was so acute that some families considered migrating to the south despite their ties to this land. With our single traditional well, which is now nearly 50 years old and a real hiding-place for bats and other birds, we were drinking muddy, dirty water with serious consequences for the health of the community."

The construction of the cement well gave the village of Chikafane a new lease of life, providing a sustainable water supply all year in sufficient quantities and with an acceptable quality.

In 2015 Attani Goumey and Amadou Hamani are still doing very well. The former village chief confirmed that, since the new well was built, no-one living in Chikafane has had to go thirsty: "The well means we're not thirsty any more!"

Eye-witness account
The Mounkaila workshop in Birni

I'm Mounkaila, and I am responsible for the Niyya workshop as well as being president of the Birni Cooperative.

We have worked in partnership with the projects run by the Luxembourg Development Cooperation since 2006.

It all began with the support we were given to organise 10 groups into a cooperative, then our wood and metal work facilities were improved to make desks and chairs. Now we are professionals in this area.

We have larger equipment with new templates that are suitable for manufacturing desks and chairs. We are winning bigger and bigger contracts from the state and other projects – manufacturing contracts for between 300 and 600 desks and chairs.

If the contract is particularly large, we "share" the work between all members of the cooperative.

We are also a training centre, because several apprentices have become bosses. They work on their own account.

Illiterate apprentices have followed literacy courses so they can be more effective.

School furniture made by local craftsmen: a key factor in developing the regional economy

The simplest way to obtain classroom furniture is to consolidate requirements and launch a national or international call for tender. The expected results, however, are well-known: an order is placed with a wholesaler or importer, and the impact on the local economy is negligible. In 2005, however, the Infrastructure Department of the Dosso Regional Directorate for Basic Education used their imagination to devise a new strategy: the standard desks and cabinets would be manufactured – at unit cost and in line with market conditions – by the Dosso cooperative of welder craftsmen, which consists of small local businesses.

Since 2006, when the Luxembourg Development Cooperation extended its operations to the department of Boboye, 13 new wood and metal building workshops have been identified in the municipalities of Birni and Kiota. The workshops were reorganised into six cooperative groups consisting of craftsmen from Boboye. The reorganisation of the carpenters, which received our support, arose from the need to restructure the sector, which consists of business that are often new and lacking in experience and resources.

Among the workshops in Boboye is the workshop of Mounkaila Oumarou (belonging to the group of the same name), which is partly devoted to metalwork (Nyya Da Kokari) and partly to woodwork (Albarka). The workshop is now a "benchmark" in the department of Boboye and even beyond, says Mounkaila Oumarou. "With the Luxembourg project, my workshop has gained a regional reputation for manufacturing classroom furniture".

Literacy

The 2003-2013 Ten-Year Programme for Development of Education in Niger was the national benchmark for implementing the Poverty-Reduction Strategy and meeting the MDGs in the field of education. It aimed to:

- Strengthen the capacity of human resources and supervision structures;
- Increase the school enrolment rate, in particular for young girls, and to reduce disparities between urban and rural areas;
- Promote literacy among rural populations, especially among women;
- Adapt educational supply to social demand for education;
- Improve the system's performance and efficiency by overhauling the curricula and expanding vocational and technical training.

According to the final evaluation of the Programme to Support the Development of Basic Education in Dosso (PRADEB 2005-2010), 140 literacy centres were created, with a total of 7 837 beneficiaries (including 75% women), i.e. a performance 72% higher than the target. System performance had a success rate of 57 %; this equates to 3,610 people acquiring reading and writing skills out of 6,310 tested at the end of the campaign.

The Food for Education initiative was launched in 40 of the centres: food supplies from the World Food Programme resulted in a substantial increase in enrolment. The literacy rate increased from 28.7 % (2004/05) to 30.5% (2008/09).

During this period, the literacy campaigns were run by School Management Committees (COGES) and implemented by service providers, generally NGOs, hired through calls for proposals. The management and training of the COGES was also carried out with the help of service providers from civil society or the private sector (NGOs and consultancy firms).

Both for formal and non-formal education, the PRADEB hired several NGOs to strengthen the capacity of the communities that were more involved in the life of the schools or literacy centres via physical, material and financial contributions.

Discussions continued after the final evaluation to improve and sustain the mechanisms for funding literacy (see p. 22: Regional Fund for Literacy and Non-Formal Education - RFLNFE).

HCVE Œuvrons pour un Etat bien gouverné, avec des dirigeants, des fonctionnaires et des citoyens soucieux de l'intérêt général.

Le Sahel

NUMERO 8092
JEUDI 17 mars 2011
150 FCFA

Renforcement des moyens de la structure
P 3

Validation et proclamation, hier, par le conseil constitutionnel de résultats définitifs des élections législatives du 31 janvier 2011

■ 107 députés déclarés élus

■ Les opérations de vote au niveau de la région d'Agadez annulées

*Le Conseil Constitutionnel de Transition statuant en matière électorale, a validé et proclamé, hier, au Palais dudit Conseil, les résultats définitifs des élections législatives du 31 janvier 2011. Cette importante cérémonie s'est déroulée sous la présidence de Madame Salifou Fatimata Bazeye, présidente de ladite institution, en présence de tous les membres du Conseil. Par cet arrêt, le Conseil a déclaré élus 107 députés à l'Assemblée nationale, ensemble avec leurs suppléants personnels, pour un mandat de 5 ans allant de la période du 17 mars 2011 à 00 heure au 16 mars 2016 à minuit (voir liste en page 2). En revanche, le Conseil a annulé les opérations de vote au niveau de l'ensemble de la région d'Agadez, tout en précisant qu'il sera procédé à de nouvelles élections dans les deux mois à compter de la présente décision. Le Conseil a également annulé les résultats de 650 bureaux de vote, dont : Diffa : 72 ; Maradi : 85 ; Tahoua : 83 ; Tillabéri : 72 ; Zinder : 245 ; Niamey : 47 ; Dosso : 56). **Lire ci-dessous l'intégralité de l'arrêt du Conseil Constitutionnel.***

Une vue des membres du Conseil Constitutionnel lors de la proclamation des résultats, hier

"PAR CES MOTIFS
EN LA FORME

• Valide et proclame les résultats définitifs des élections législatives du 31 janvier 2011 ainsi qu'il suit :

Nombre de circonscriptions	16
Nombre de circonscriptions traitées	16
Inscrits	6.740.493
Inscrits ayants voté	3.181.275
Votants sur liste additive	136.660
Nombre total de votants	3.317.935
Bulletins blancs ou nuls	87.437
suffrages exprimés valables	3.230.498
Taux de participation	49, 22 %

Répartition des voix et sièges

The election followed the coup of 18 February 2010 when the armed forces ousted President Mamadou Tandja and set up a junta, the Supreme Council for the Restoration of Democracy, whose official role was to prepare for the introduction of democracy. In July 2010, the military government, led by Salou Djibo, announced presidential elections for 3 January, adding that the military and members of the transition government would not take part. The vote was ultimately postponed until 31 January.

Swiss-funded innovation in initial teacher training

The Support Programme for the Quality of Education for the Dosso region (PAQUE 2012-2014) was funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. LuxDev was selected as the implementing agency because it is embedded in the Dosso region and due to its recognised expertise in basic education. The intervention adopted a systemic approach to improve the system for initial teacher training.

The approach helped teams from Dosso Teacher Training College (ENI) to design and draft eight training modules covering all the disciplines included in the programme. In addition, there were practical field courses that were organised, executed and evaluated by supervisors from the ENI and inspections.

In order to improve the conditions for carrying out the courses, 329 teaching kits containing 26 000 student manuals and handbooks for teachers, as well as 1,200 dictionaries, were given to the host schools to equip 1,500 trainees and 600 teacher trainers every year. The latter undergo regular training (summer holiday courses) to enhance their skills as tutors and trainers in the teaching profession.

The intervention turned Dosso Teacher Training College into a benchmark centre, which in turn encouraged those in Tillabéry, Diffa and Agadez to organise study missions in 2013 to learn from the Dosso experience.

The various forms of support given to the institution (IT room, micro-teaching classrooms, enhanced documentary resources, training courses for supervisors) also led to the enrolment of student teachers on a massive scale in other regions in Niger, who were attracted by the quality label awarded to the Dosso ENI.

Finally, it was planned to open the first training programme for pre-school teachers in October 2014.

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation trusts the Luxembourg Development Cooperation.

Dosso's Teacher Training College

Regional Fund for Literacy and Non-Formal Education: RFLNFE

LuxDev has long favoured the faire-faire – "Get people to take action" – approach in the field of literacy and non-formal education (LNFE). Rather than setting up and managing teams of trainers, the idea is to run literacy campaigns using operators from the private sector and civil society, in particular specialist NGOs, under the supervision and quality control of the supervising ministry.

From 2011 the strategy aimed (i) to improve the balance between training supply and demand; and (ii) to target the capacity building of the intended beneficiaries on individuals whose economic activities could be stimulated through functional literacy. The audiences targeted for the campaigns are now as follows:

- Professional organisations (economic or micro-finance interest groups, unions / federations / networks / associations / craftsman, breeder and farmer organisations) with particular emphasis on women's' associations and groups;
- School management committees and mothers' educational associations / parent associations;
- Local land commissions and groups responsible for food safety;
- Groups of young children who have dropped out of school / have not been enrolled (aged 9-14);
- Any other basic functional community organisation that is active and contributes to local development and poverty reduction.

Furthermore, the authorities were keen to set up a permanent system to strengthen the capacity of LNFE private operators and public actors in order to implement an approach focusing on the needs of learners in connection with the development of economic activities. LuxDev is supporting the creation of an RFLNFE to enhance this approach. This instrument, which is one of a kind in Niger, aims to:

- Mobilise significant resources for developing LNFE;
- Fully empower the regional and local education actors, including the territorial divisions, for managing resources intended for the development of the sub-sector;
- Provide on-time funding for literacy campaigns and innovative projects on developing the literate environment;
- Harmonise interventions and develop synergies of action;
- Gradually encourage the various contributors to align themselves with national procedures on funding and managing resources allocated to LNFE.

The Dosso region now has a financial instrument that can serve as a "common pot" for all literacy financial partners. In late 2014, LuxDev signed an Operational Partnership Agreement with the Regional Directorate of Education and Dosso Regional Council for topping up the RFLNFE and making it operational. Ultimately, the initiative has the potential to address the problem of inadequate financial resources; it could also serve as a test in preparation for implementing the national fund provided for in the LNFE national policy document.

Regional Support Fund (RSF)

Since we first began operating in Dosso, we have always sought to align ourselves with national policies and the decentralisation progress. As part of the 2012-2015 Nigeriens Feeding Nigeriens initiative (I3N: the benchmark policy of the government of Niger for accelerating the achievement of MDGs 1 and 7), a part of our intervention focused on developing promising agricultural sectors in the Dosso region. We have also relentlessly sought the best channels for supporting community and private investment in the farming industry.

This is the context in which the Regional Support Fund was designed. It was conceived as an instrument for implementing government policy in the agricultural sector, and was set up on observing the dispersion of efforts and resources in the Dosso region and on recognising the need for practices to be aligned. It is, therefore, open to the contribution of other technical and financial partners. The main actors are:

- Technical supervision: Ministry of Agriculture
- Project management: Regional Council;
- Financial operator: Banque Agricole du Niger (BAGRI);
- Delegated project management / project consultant: decentralised technical state services;
- The Regional Chamber of Agriculture takes part in the committee and contributes via facilitators in the field to information on the system and project monitoring;
- Municipalities: beneficiaries of the RSF and interfaces with the developers for submitting funding application files;
- Producer organisations / individual producers: beneficiaries of the RSF.

The principle is based on calls for project proposals. The fund launched an initial call for proposals in two parts (small-scale irrigation and development of agricultural sectors) and two types of applicant: producers (farmers' or individual organisations) and the municipalities in the Dosso region.

The co-financing rate is 85% of the project cost; the remainder can be mobilised either by a personal contribution from the beneficiaries or via a loan taken out with BAGRI.

The first call for proposals financed 82 projects (out of 613 requests) and aroused widespread enthusiasm at regional level.

2015

The expenditure chain becomes a chain of trust

Indicators

Average number of internet users per 100 inhabitants

Africa 2014	20%
Niger 2013	1.7%
Europe 2014	74.8%

Management of Public Finances

A small budget with grand designs… This project in support of Public Finance Management reflects the intentions of the cooperation between Niger and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg: to improve alignment with national systems.

The implementation of the UEMOA guidelines for reforming public finance will be an important issue for the government of Niger until 2017. The intervention by the Luxembourg Development Cooperation is contributing to improving the country's financial governance in the area of devolution and decentralisation.

The outcomes of the programme (which are fully aligned with the axes of the Coordination of Fiscal and Financial Reforms project) aim to improve the performance of the departments of the regional expenditure chain in the Dosso region.

Furthermore, the building of a new regional treasury will lead to the required improvements to staff working conditions as well as relocating and centralising all the expenditure chain departments (treasury, sub-scheduling centre and financial control) on a single site.

The aims of the component devoted to training actors involved in the expenditure chain go beyond the regional framework in Dosso; they form part of an approach that will benefit all the decentralised bodies in the expenditure chain in Niger.

Indeed, the on-going process will give the expenditure chain a clearer framework for its actors by establishing job descriptions, professional frames of reference, and implementation guides for every function. These tools will be developed in consultation with the key departments in the Ministry of Finance, including human resources.

The tools will also form the basis for evaluating the needs for staff capacity building, training and skills' validation.

From an executive agency to a development agency

Following the fast-motion screening of our retrospective "Fifteen Years of Cooperation in Dosso", the audience will have grasped that LuxDev's stakeholder role has undergone significant changes in a constantly changing scenario. Our goal – the fight against poverty – is enduring and is in our genes, but it is now a long time since our project leaders and technical assistants were led the show by sometimes taking the place of local administrations.

After a period of control management, we went through a phase where the watchword was "faire-faire" – "Get people to take action". Gradually, however (especially after 2006), we began to understand that our role should be more systemic. It was in this vein that the instrument known as the Operational Partnership Agreement (OPA) was developed and formalised in 2009. The OPA is designed to transfer responsibility for delivering one or more intervention components to partners in the country of operation by pursuing several objectives: capacity building, mutual accountability, improved ownership and alignment of aid with Nigerien systems and procedures.

From 2011, as part of our efforts to improve the OPA arrangements, various signs made by our government enhanced the scope and outlook of the analysis, leading in particular to the principle of national execution as the reference situation. Consequently, based on the assumption that the OPAs, by delegating implementation to the national party, represented the antechamber of national execution, it became necessary to supplement the mechanism for choosing the instruments most suitable to the context and conditions and to the guidelines (approaches / procedures) that our government was suggesting for delivering bilateral programmes. This is how LuxDev embraced a methodology for diagnosing capacities and risk management for adopting various instruments suited to the diversity of partners and contexts.

These diverse and flexible instruments have allowed us to enter into numerous agreements with communities, decentralised departments, public agencies and funds, microfinance institutions, producer organisations and NGOs. The Luxembourg Development Cooperation does not yet employ sector budget support in Niger (as in Cap Verde) or budgetized aid (as in Senegal), but we are working systematically to anchor our initiatives at the most appropriate level by trying to strengthen local systems.

However, as development agents rather than project managers, we must recognise that the approaches, methods and instruments are not an end in themselves but a means to strengthen the organisations and institutions, and to improve the efficiency of development cooperation for promoting sustainable development and the eradication of poverty. Management delegation, capacity building, improved governance and public finance management, as presented above, are the necessary conditions, but not enough in themselves, for achieving these goals.

Projects

General INFORMATION

Sectors & sub-sectors

Education-Vocational Training & Access to Employment

Microfinance & Financial Sector

Health

Various

Local Development

Sub-sectors

- Agriculture & Food Security
- Decentralisation & Local Governance
- Water & Sanitation
- Natural Resources Management

Explanation of pictogrammes

IDH	Human Development Index
★	Capital
👥	Population
km²	Area
abc	Literacy Rate
👤↑	Life Expectancy at Birth
👥↗	Population Growth Rate

General INFORMATION

Acronyms

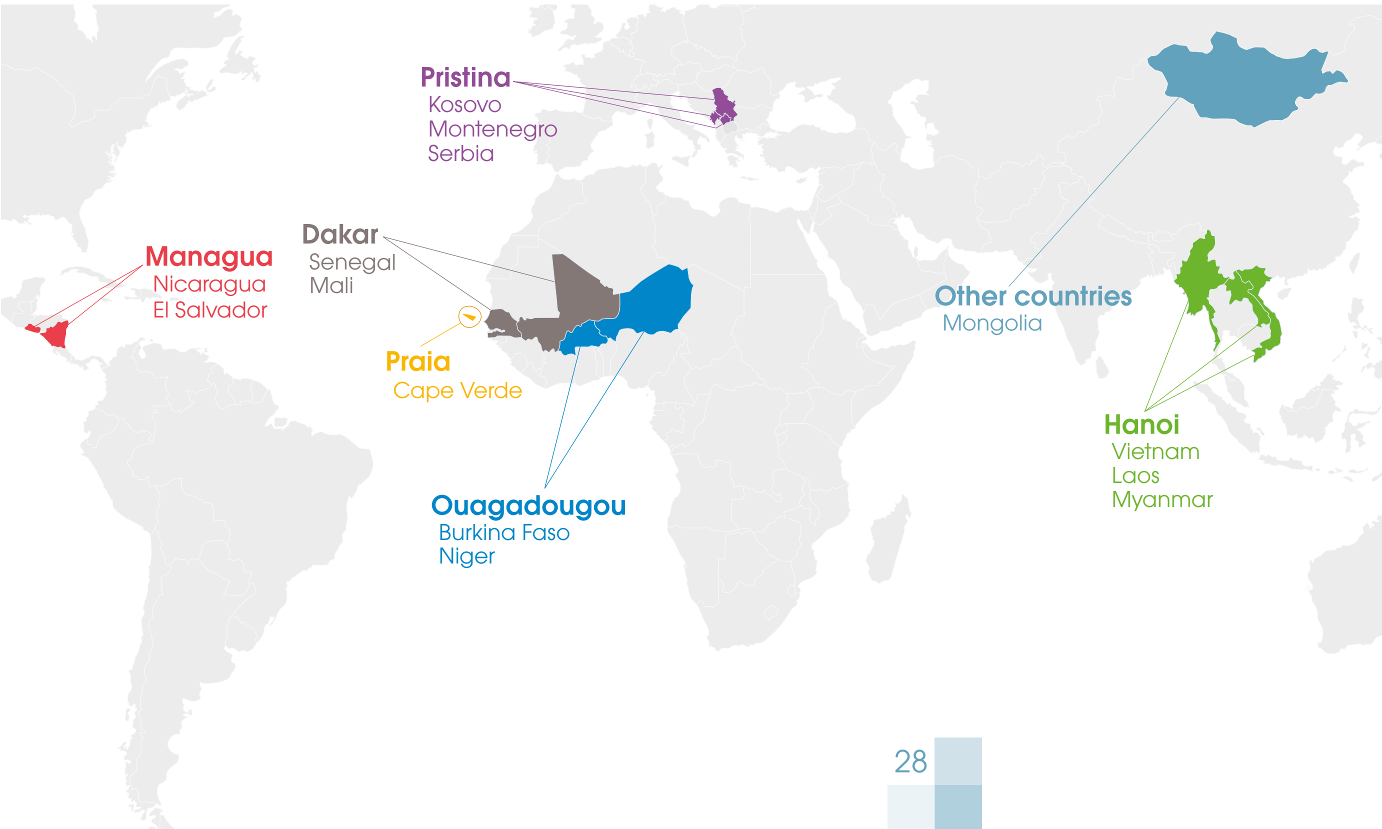
EU	European Union
FSLN	Sandinista National Liberation Front (*Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional*)
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HDI	Human Development Index
ICP	Indicative Cooperation Programme
IMF	International Monetary Fund
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
SAA	Stabilisation and Association Agreement
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNO	United Nations Organisation

General INFORMATION

Human Development Index Ranking (2014)

21	Luxembourg
51	Montenegro
77	Serbia
87	Kosovo
103	Mongolia
115	El Salvador
121	Vietnam
123	Cape Verde
132	Nicaragua
139	Laos
150	Myanmar
163	Senegal
176	Mali
181	Burkina Faso
187	Niger

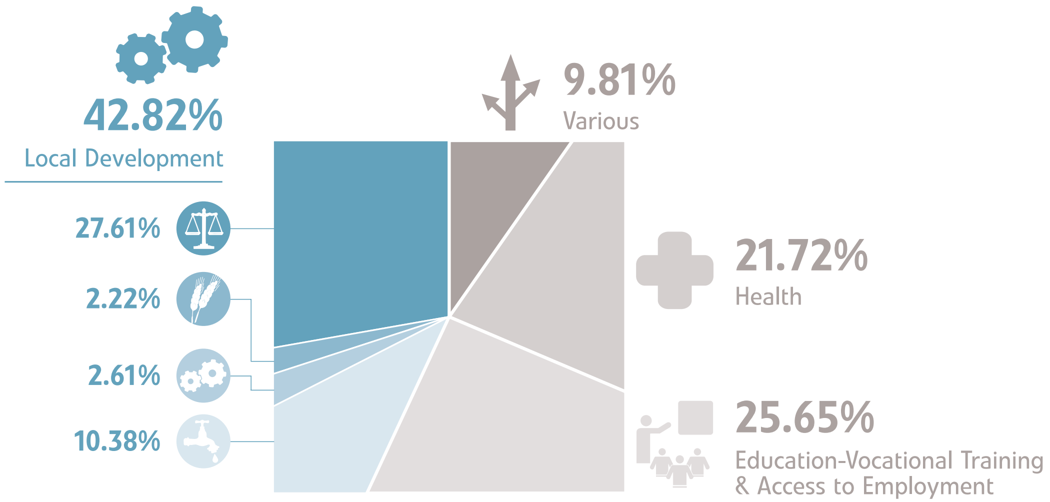
Regional Offices & Other countries



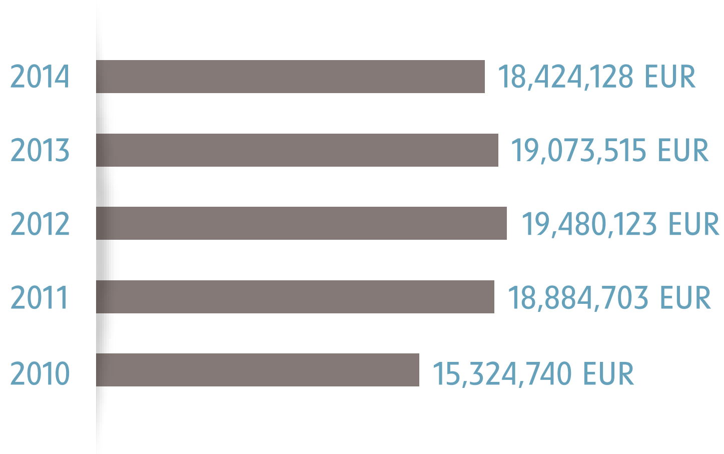
Africa

Regional Office of DAKAR

Distribution of disbursements by sector



Evolution of activities (in millions EUR)



Senegal

Statistics

IDH 163/187

Dakar

13.6 millions

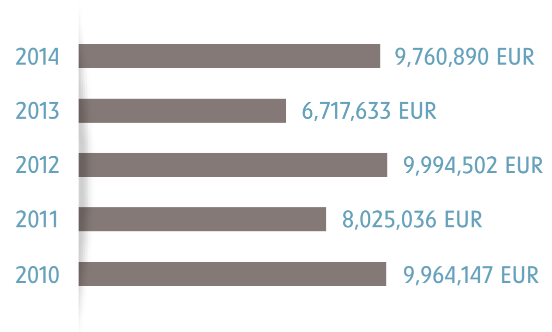
km² 196,722

abc 50%

61 yrs

2.48%

Evolution of activities (in millions EUR)

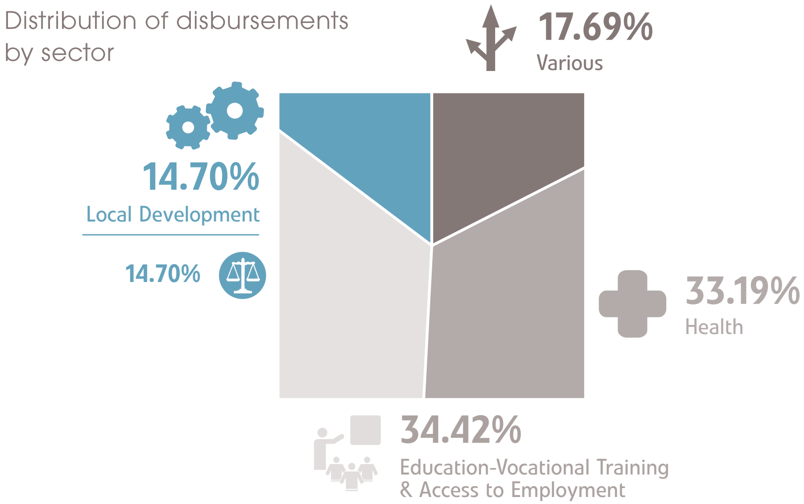


With a surface area of 196,722 km², Senegal is located in the Sahel in the western-most part of Africa. The country's population is estimated at 13.6 million, with approximately 50% of inhabitants living in urban areas, and women making up 50.1% of the total numbers.

Senegal, which is a secular, democratic and social republic, is considered one of Africa's most stable nations. It has been steadily strengthening its democratic institutions since independence from France in 1960, during which time the country has had four presidents: the first, Léopold Sédar Senghor (1960-1980), left power voluntarily in 1980, when he was replaced (in accordance with the constitution) by the prime minister, Abdou Diouf. In 2000, Senegal experienced its first democratic change of power with the election of Abdoulaye Wade, leader of the Senegalese Democratic Party.

On 25 March 2012, Macky Sall won the election, beating the incumbent president, Abdoulaye Wade, with 65.8% of the vote, thereby giving Senegal its second democratic transition. Moreover, for the first time in a presidential race, there were two women candidates. The election won praise for its transparency.

With over 13 million inhabitants in 2014 and a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of USD 1 070, Senegal is still experiencing sizeable population growth (2.7%), even though it has begun its demographic transition.



Senegal's predominantly young population has limited access to basic social services and integration into the job market. Employment currently remains the top priority for households and public policy. The likelihood of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2015 is becoming more and more remote, especially concerning poverty reduction, reducing maternal and infant mortality, improving completion rates in elementary education and access to sanitation.

Repeated shocks since 2005 have contributed to reducing the growth of income per inhabitant to a level that is only slightly higher than the population growth rate. The 2011 household survey indicated that poverty had fallen by only 1.8 percentage points to 46.7% and that, in real terms, the number of people living in poverty had actually increased. Geographical disparities are still relatively pronounced: the poverty rate in rural areas is estimated to be 57% compared to a rate of 26% in Dakar.

Whilst the growth rate for West Africa was 6% over this period, the rate for Senegal was only 3.3%. The increase in GDP in 2013 was 3%, mainly due to the poor performance of the industrial and cereal farming sectors. The services and construction sectors are the main economic drivers. The weak GDP growth is partly explained by inadequate levels of productivity and support infrastructure for production; difficulties in accessing production factors (water and quality inputs); the vulnerability of agriculture to climatic hazards; the poor structuring of agro-pastoral value chains; problems with access to land and suitable funding; and governance issues.

The lacklustre economy can also be attributed to delays in implementing reforms in the energy and business environment sectors; inadequate state capacities; problems with the efficiency of public spending; and the resistance of some actors to change.

Senegal has therefore decided to adopt a new development model based on a strategy that aims at social solidarity by 2035. This approach, entitled the Emerging Senegal Plan, is now the benchmark for social and economic policy in the medium and long term. The plan focuses on greater impetus for creating wealth and jobs; improved governance; developing strategic sectors that have a significant impact on enhancing the welfare of the population; protecting vulnerable groups; and guaranteeing access to basic social services.

Vision Senegal 2035 does not stop at meeting the MDGs; it also targets the country's successful integration into global value chains. The new growth dynamic must be based on enhanced governance in every area of economic and social life, including improved transparency and strengthened accountability.

Strong growth will also be backed up by the pillars of the new Senegal, namely: reforms to the business environment; a modernised public administration; competitively-priced energy; the diffusion of digital technology; and a high-quality infrastructure for supporting output and human capital accompanied by appropriate financing of the economy.

Against this background, most bilateral and multilateral development agencies, including Luxembourg, have an active presence in Senegal. Significant progress has been made in recent years to provide more effective development aid in accordance with the principles set out in the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action.

The initiatives supported by LuxDev are part of the third Senegal-Luxembourg Indicative Cooperation Programme (ICP). The main aim of ICP III is to help to reduce poverty and boost sustainable development in Senegal. This goal is common to all four bilateral components. ICP III is characterised by a double change in direction:

it firmly adopts a programme approach rather than the project approach that has prevailed until now. In addition, it includes an increased use of national execution modalities, thereby requiring a transfer of responsibility for implementing the sectorial programmes of ICP III to the national party.

The Bilateral Cooperation Programme for 2013-2018 has entered its second year of implementation in the following areas:

- Basic health;
- Professional integration and training;
- Decentralisation and territorial development;
- Water and sanitation;
- Support for national execution.

Health

Project	Title	Duration	Total Budget	Disbursed in 2014
SEN/027	Support to the Basic Health Sector of the ICP III	2013-2018	13,930,000	3,240,099

Education-Vocational Training & Access to Employment

Project	Title	Duration	Total Budget	Disbursed in 2014
SEN/028	Vocational Training and Employment Programme of the ICP III	2013-2018	19,400,000	3,359,213

Local Development

Project	Title	Duration	Total Budget	Disbursed in 2014
SEN/029	Decentralisation and Citizenship Education Programme of the ICP III	2013-2018	8,229,095	1,435,159

Various

Project	Title	Duration	Total Budget	Disbursed in 2014
SEN/030	Support to the National Implementation of the ICP III	2013-2018	6,450,000	1,726,418

Mali

Statistics

IDH 176/187

Bamako

16.5 millions

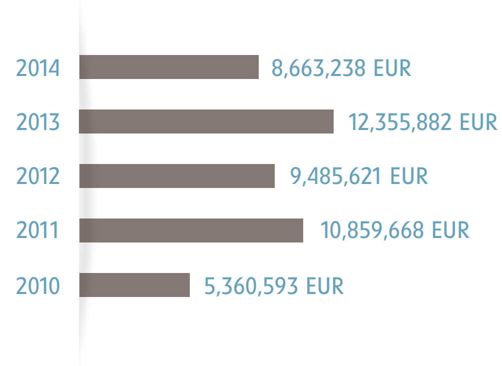
km² 1,240,192

abc 33%

55 yrs

3%

Evolution of activities (in millions EUR)



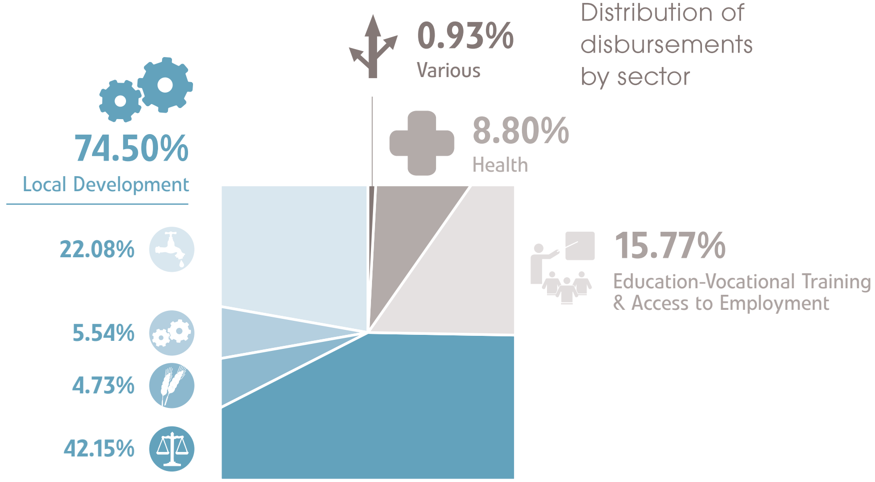
Mali is a vast country located between two distinct geographical and strategic zones: the Sahel-Saharan region and sub-Saharan Africa.

Mali's population is estimated at 16.5 million. It is predominantly (three-quarters) rural, and is distributed very unevenly across the country. Only 10% of Malians live in the three northern regions (Gao, Kidal and Timbuktu) that cover two thirds of the country's territory. The population is also characterised by one of the world's highest growth rates (over 3%) and a very high proportion of young people (47% of the population is less than 15 years old).

Mali, which lies at a crossroads of civilisations between numerous ethnic and linguistic groups, boasts a wealth of cultural riches. It is a secular country by constitution, and is characterised by the co-existence of monotheistic religions and traditional cultures. The religions practised are Islam, Christianity and animism.

Mali's economy is dominated by the primary sector (36% of GDP), particularly agriculture, which employs 80% of the active population. The main sectors are cotton, rice, livestock and gold. The secondary (industry) and tertiary sectors are poorly developed. Agriculture faces two recurrent difficulties: repeated droughts since the 1970s, and falling prices for raw materials (cotton), rising production costs (inputs and fuels). Gold production ranks highest in terms of Mali's export earnings. As the industrial sector is under-developed, Mali imports a high proportion of its consumer goods.

Distribution of disbursements by sector



Mali's political life has been punctuated by regime change and social and political territorial claims. These led to the emergence of an armed uprising in a region called "Azawad" by the Tuaregs.

In 2012, a military coup profoundly destabilised Mali: over the following months the country lost control of its northern regions to the historic Tuareg rebels backed by several armed groups with jihadist influences. This unrest required the military intervention of France and the introduction of a UN integrated mission to stabilise the country. In political terms, order was restored in July 2013 with presidential elections that brought Ibrahim Boubacar Keita to power.

This combination of geographical, climatic, security and political problems means that Mali remains one of the world's poorest countries. In 2014, Mali ranked 176th on the Human Development Index (HDI) drawn up by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The incidence of poverty is high, and most of the poor live in rural areas. In 2014, half of the population (50.4%) lived under the poverty line (set at USD 1.25 a day). Drought and war have subsequently accentuated poverty, which affects urban areas to a much lesser extent (14 %).

In spite of the above, thanks to the return of constitutional order and the stabilised security situation in the south, the constant growth rate is now close to 5%. The macro-economic prospects even appear favourable, with domestic activity driven mainly by agriculture and the tertiary sector. Mali remains, however, vulnerable to security and climatic problems, and does not have sufficient capacity to cope.

Over the last seven years, LuxDev has implemented activities for the southern focus area of the second Mali-Luxembourg ICP. This programme impacted on a diverse set of intervention sectors such as water and sanitation, vocational training, health and food security. LuxDev also carried out a project for safeguarding and enhancing the Timbuktu manuscripts, which were particularly threatened during the jihadist invasion in 2012.

Finally, to meet the urgent needs in the north of the country, LuxDev is drawing on European Union (EU) funding to work on a rapid assistance project for the public services and authorities in post-conflict areas.

The governments of Mali and Luxembourg have been keen to pursue their collaboration, and recently signed a third ICP. Building on its earlier experience, LuxDev – the agent for formulating and implementing projects – is working on drawing up activities that will lead to the sustainable consolidation of the achievements of the earlier programmes in the fields of rural development, vocational training and decentralisation / good governance. The historic areas of intervention of the Luxembourg Development Cooperation in Mali will be maintained (the region of Ségou and Yorosso Circle).

The challenge, after a period of major political and security disorder, is to establish solid foundations for economic recovery, especially in the agricultural sector, whilst consolidating the role of the authorities and national partners. The approach will promote every area of synergy, both domestically (between the three sectors), externally with the other technical and financial partners (joint EU programming) or with the Malian development policies in force.

Further large-scale interventions should complement the activities of LuxDev in Mali, including a programme on the agricultural sector in the region of Sikasso (financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation) and another component for supporting post-conflict areas (EU financing).

Thanks to its volume and distribution, this portfolio of activities should enable LuxDev to make a substantial contribution – and, most importantly, a sustainable contribution – to improving the living conditions of the beneficiaries.

Local Development

Project	Title	Duration	Total Budget	Disbursed in 2014
MLI/015	Conservation of Ancient Manuscripts of Timbuktu	2009-2014	4,000,000	480,246
MLI/017	Water, Sanitation and Urbanisation in the South - ICP 2007-2011	2008-2015	14,772,598	1,911,866
MLI/018	Food Security Programme in the southern Intervention Area of the ICP 2007-2011	2008-2014	4,071,587	409,786
MLI/020	Facilitation Component for Programmes related to the Indicative Cooperation Programme 2007-2011	2008-2014	8,487,712	1,191,768
MLI/501**	Support to agropastoral Industries in Sikasso - PAFA Mali	Formulation	12,927,677	80,136
MLI/801*	Rapid Support to the Malian Authorities and essential social Services in post-conflict Areas	2013-2015	5,000,000	2,460,087

* financed by the European Commission
** financed by the Swiss Cooperation

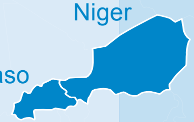
Health

Project	Title	Duration	Total Budget	Disbursed in 2014
MLI/016	Basic Health Services Support Programme	2008-2014	9,037,238	762,541

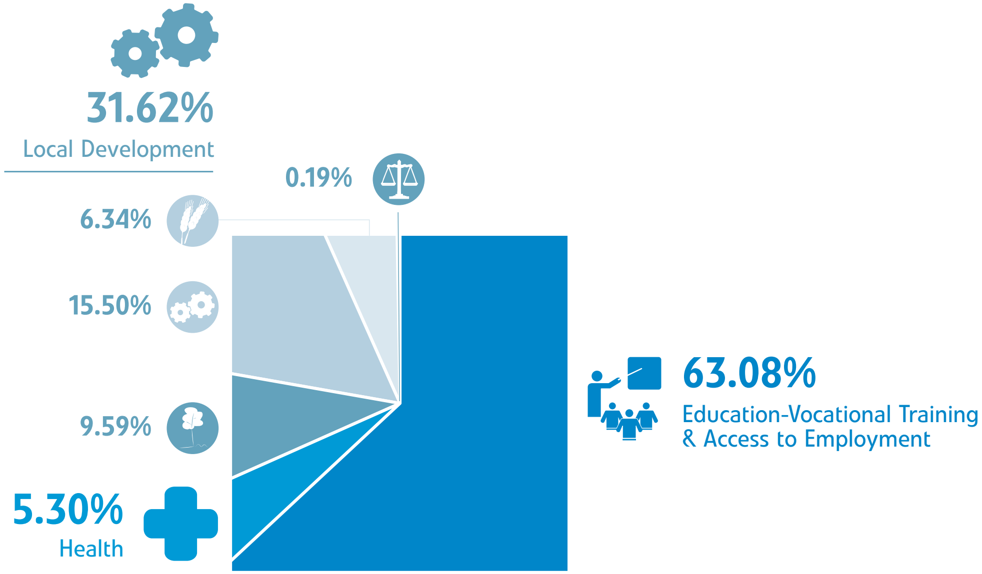
Education-Vocational Training & Access to Employment

Project	Title	Duration	Total Budget	Disbursed in 2014
MLI/019	Vocational Training and Job Insertion Programme (ICP 2007-2011)	2008-2015	15,830,865	1,366,809

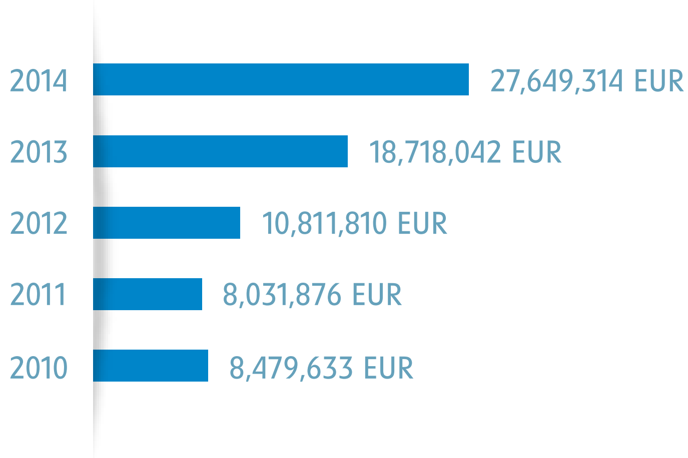
Regional Office of OUAGADOUGOU



Distribution of disbursements by sector



Evolution of activities (in millions EUR)



Burkina Faso

Statistics

IDH 181/187

Ouagadougou

16.9 millions

km² 274,200

abc 29%

55 yrs

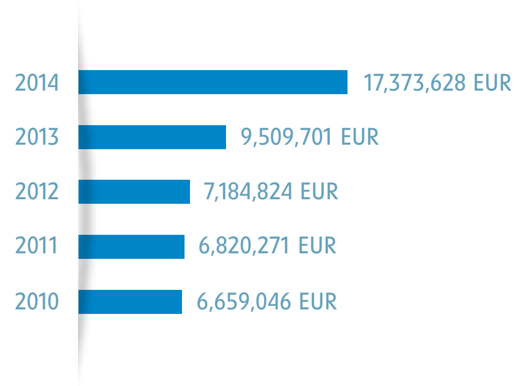
3.05%

Burkina Faso obtained independence from France in 1960. Repeated military coups during the 1970s and 1980s were followed by multi-party elections in the early 1990s. President Blaise Compaoré came to power in a military coup in 1987 and won all subsequent elections. In the autumn of 2014, Compaoré was ousted in a popular uprising that opposed a change in the constitution allowing the president to stand again. The country has subsequently been directed by a transitional government pending new elections at the end of 2015.

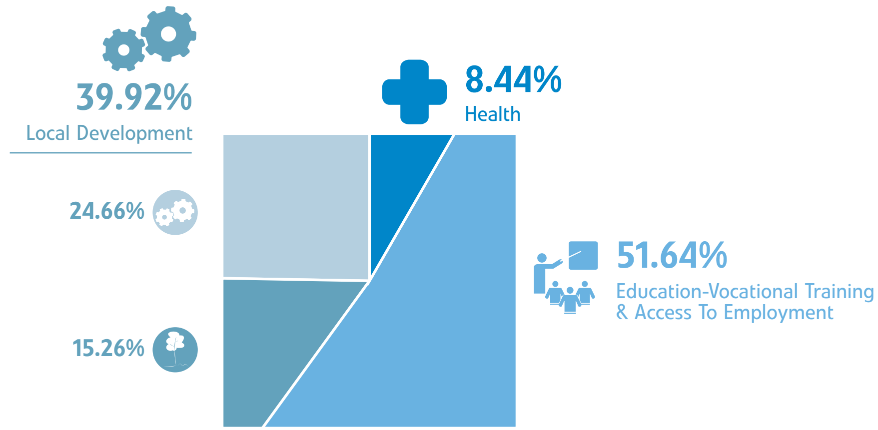
With a per capita GDP of around EUR 1.5 per day, landlocked Burkina Faso (16.9 million inhabitants, 83% of whom live in rural areas) is a poor country (181st out of 187 in the latest HDI ranking). The high population pressure (+ 3.1% a year) absorbs a large share of economic growth (over 6% a year during the last decade). Development aid (on average 10% of GDP over the last five years) and the expansion of gold mining (gold accounted for 80% of Burkina Faso's exports in 2013) contribute strongly to the dynamism of the country's economy.

Agriculture represents 33% of Burkina Faso's GDP and employs approximately 86% of the active population. In common with many of its African counterparts, Burkina Faso suffers from under-investment in this area. Investment in the agricultural sector largely focuses on cotton production. Burkina Faso has a high potential for production and processing in the food industry but it is poorly developed and many investors encounter financial difficulties. The lack of infra-

Evolution of activities (in millions EUR)



Distribution of disbursements by sector



structure policies and the inconsistency of some policies are major obstacles, which explains the mixed performance of the agricultural sector in Burkina Faso.

In 2013, inflation was contained at 2%. The budget deficit, despite a sharp increase in social spending from September 2013, was limited to 3% of GDP. External debt, the sustainability of which does not seem to pose any problem in the medium term, was less than in 2012 (22.9 % of GDP) and amounted to 21.8% of GDP in 2013. However, the total debt increased from 27.3% of GDP in 2012 to 33.3% of GDP in 2013.

The current account deficit presented a worsening trend in 2013 and 2014 due in particular to lower international prices and the stagnation in gold production, Burkina Faso's main export. The drop in world cotton prices, together with a sharp increase in imports largely driven by public investment projects, makes up the remainder.

At the end of 2013, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved the seventh and last review of the Extended Credit Facility, which finished in late 2013.

From 1997 Burkina Faso qualified for the initiative to support heavily-indebted poor countries, and thereby benefited from major debt relief, especially from multilateral creditors and Paris Club creditors. Reaching the completion point in June 2002 paved the way for the final treatment of the debt owed by Burkina Faso to the creditors of the Paris Club, who agreed to the cancellation of over 97% of their claims. Further efforts were granted by multilateral institutions in late 2005 under the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative. The external debt stock of Burkina Faso at the end of 2013 (USD 3 billion) was 80% of the multilateral debt. The IMF reclassified the country as a moderate debt risk at the fourth review of the last Extended Credit Facility.

The total official development assistance received by Burkina Faso in 2012 amounted to just over one billion euros. France (18 %) is the second largest bilateral donor after the United States (20%). The World Bank provides 38% of multilateral aid, followed by the European Union (27%).

The initiatives developed by LuxDev are part of the second 2012-2016 Burkina Faso-Luxembourg Indicative Cooperation Programme. A new cooperation programme for 2017-2020 will soon be drawn up jointly with the national authorities. The main areas and fields of activity in Burkina Faso are as follows:

- The fight against poverty via support for the national programme of multi-functional platforms;
- Education: basic education and literacy;
- Technical and vocational training;
- Support for the forest sector;
- Livestock and recovery of pastoral resources;
- Transfusion medicine;
- Information and communication technologies.

Local Development

Project	Title	Duration	Total Budget	Disbursed in 2014
BKF/015	Second national Forest Inventory	2010-2015	4,619,219	884,973
BKF/016	National Programme for Multifunctional Platforms	2010-2015	12,000,000	2,511,385
BKF/017	Support for the Dissemination of the Azawak Zebu	2010-2015	6,000,000	1,294,200
BKF/019	Implementing the National Forest Resources Management Programme	2012-2017	11,000,000	1,766,391
BKF/021	Support to the Development of ICT in Burkina Faso	Formulation	15,000,000	479,119

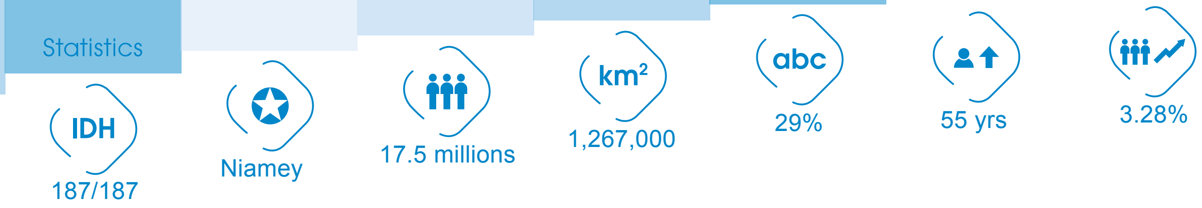
Health

Project	Title	Duration	Total Budget	Disbursed in 2014
BKF/020	Support to Blood Transfusion Sector	2012-2016	7,500,000	1,466,665

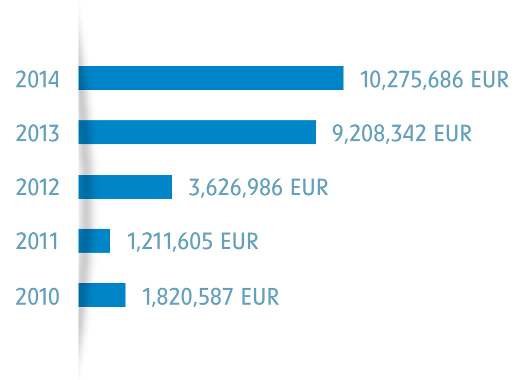
Education-Vocational Training & Access to Employment

Project	Title	Duration	Total Budget	Disbursed in 2014
BKF/018	Implementing the National Education and Technical and Vocational Training Policy	2012-2017	10,000,000	1,634,085
BKF/022	Basic Education Sector Support Programme	2014-2015	15,000,000	7,326,275

Niger



Evolution of activities (in millions EUR)



Distribution of disbursements by sector

Niger is a landlocked sub-Saharan country with a population of approximately 17 million. It is one of the poorest countries in the world. With limited natural resources and human capital, Niger faces enormous challenges and is subject to severe pressures.

This vast, arid country has the world's highest population growth (3.9% annually). In 2014 it ranked 187th out of 187 in the HDI of the UNDP, with a GDP per inhabitant of USD 884 (in purchasing power parity), i.e. one of the lowest in Africa. Poverty is exacerbated by political instability, extreme vulnerability to external shocks, and inequalities that penalise girls, women and children disproportionately. With almost half of the population aged under 15 years, the future socio-economic stakes are high against a background of noticeable climate change for several decades.

Two-thirds of Niger's land area is desert. Only a strip in the south of the country is green. Access to water is a problem for a large part of the population, although water towers are gradually being built in the towns. The desert is advancing at a rate of 200,000 hectares every year. Government reforestation programmes are hampered by frequent droughts together with a rising demand for wood and agricultural land. More than a third of the forest area has been lost since 1990, and it now covers only 1 % of the country.

Niger, which became independent from France in 1960, had a one-party system with a military regime until 1991, when General Ali Saïbou was forced by his people to allow multi-party elections, which resulted in a democratic govern-




ment in 1993. Political struggles led to a cessation in the government and resulted in a coup in 1996 by Colonel Ibrahim Baré. In 1999, Baré was killed in a second coup against the military officers, who restored democracy and held elections, from which Mamadou Tandja emerged victorious.

Tandja was re-elected in 2004 and in 2009, leading a constitutional amendment that allowed him to extend his term as president. A military coup expelled Tandja in February 2010. The presidential elections held at the beginning of the year restored civilian rule on 12 March 2011 with the election of Mahamadou Issoufou in the second round.

Multiple economic, social, environmental and security problems weigh heavily on the MDGs, the main goals being to improve the poor development of human capital; environmental degradation and climate change; high population growth; low and erratic economic growth; food and nutritional insecurity; overall insecurity in the country; and the impact of security problems on neighbouring countries (Mali and Nigeria), especially in the form of migration flows.

Niger's economy is centred on food crops, livestock, and some of the world's largest uranium deposits. Only 18% of the population lives in cities and the majority (one million) live in the capital, Niamey. Niger shares a common currency, the CFA franc, and a common central bank, the Central Bank of West African States, with seven other members of the West African Monetary Union.

Niger's social indicators have risen sharply for 20 years, and this trend is set to continue. The Gross Enrolment Ratio for primary education rose from approximately 29% in the early 1990s to 71% in 2014, and the number of girls attending primary school in relation to boys also increased over the same period, from 25% to 40%. The child mortality rate for under fives fell between 1990 and 2010, from 320 to 114 per 1,000. The prevalence of HIV/AIDS in adults remains at 0.5% - one of the lowest rates in sub-Saharan Africa.

This turnaround in economic growth and social indicators is reflected in the steady improvement in the country's human development index, which rose from 0.229 in 2000 to 0.337 in 2014 – although these results are still one of the lowest worldwide.

The insecurity in the north and south-east of the country is a risk factor for the region's economic and social development. It contributes to exposing the population to recurrent humanitarian crises, and accentuates the deterioration of socio-economic indicators (health, education, jobs, income) in the regions.

The actions developed by LuxDev form part of the second Niger-Luxembourg ICP. A new cooperation programme for 2016-2020 is in the process of being drawn up jointly with the national authorities. The main areas and fields of activity in Niger are as follows:

- Education: basic and secondary education;
- Technical and vocational education;
- Rural development;
- Access to water.

Building national capacities by strengthening and enhancing existing institutions and mechanisms has formed part of the project and programme strategy over the past two decades. The aim has been to improve living conditions for the most vulnerable populations and to enhance sustainable development.

The programme run by the Luxembourg Development Cooperation focused on the Dosso region as a target area for rural development and education at the same time as the interventions in technical and vocational education and the water sector received a national loan. This gradually marked the contribution made by cooperation to the domestic reforms in progress, while capitalising on innovations not just in decentralisation (with the regional councils and municipalities) but also in devolution, with support for the chain of expenditure and the capacity building of technical administrations.

The new country office forms part of this dynamic, with aid more integrated into national systems and major monitoring and analysis work. The positioning of the programme in Niger fits in perfectly with the outlook for developing the terms of international cooperation, which aim to improve aid effectiveness through a variety of measures in terms of ownership, alignment and harmonisation. In this context, LuxDev is implementing two delegated cooperation programmes in technical and vocational training and education.

In Niger, the development initiatives now form part of the Economic and Social Development Plan, which covers 2012-2015, and for which a review process is underway for the next five years.

The Luxembourg Development Cooperation participates in the sectorial consultation frameworks and in the EU's joint programming.

Local Development

Project	Title	Duration	Total Budget	Disbursed in 2014
NIG/018	Support Programme for Sustainable Agricultural Development in Dosso	2011-2016	12,500,000	1,752,285
NIG/020	Support to the Public Expenditure Chain in Dosso	2014-2016	500,000	53,096

Education-Vocational Training & Access to Employment

Project	Title	Duration	Total Budget	Disbursed in 2014
NIG/017	Support for the National Programme for Technical and Vocational Training and Access to Employment for School Leavers	2011-2016	24,700,000	4,336,891
NIG/019	Support to the Decennial Programme for Education Development in Dosso	2011-2016	15,200,000	3,531,471
NIG/719**	Support to the Decennial Programme for Education Development in Dosso	2012-2014	1,590,424	358,744
NIG/817*	Technical and Vocation Education Programme	2012-2016	3,500,000	243,199

* financed by the European Commission
** financed by the Swiss Cooperation

Regional Office of

Cape Verde

PRAIA - CAPE VERDE

Statistics

IDH 123/187

Praia

0.54 million

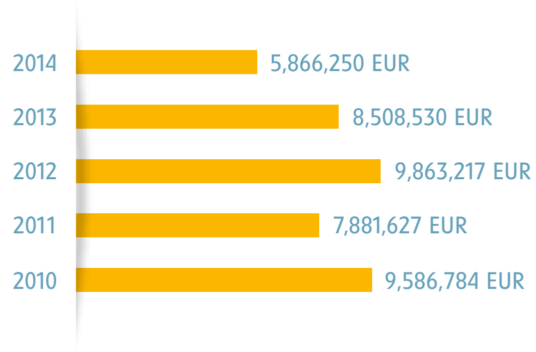
km² 4,033

abc 85%

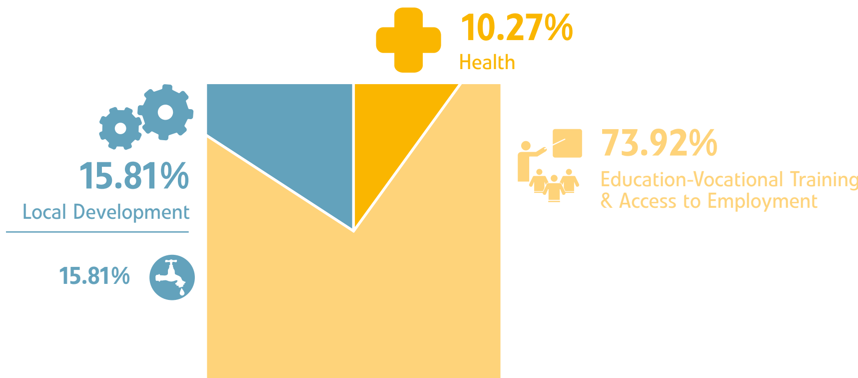
72 yrs

1.39%

Evolution of activities (in millions EUR)



Distribution of disbursements by sector



Cape Verde is an archipelago consisting of a dozen islands (volcanic in origin) in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Senegal. The capital, Praia, is part of Santiago Island, which is the largest island and home to the biggest share of the country's population.

Although most of the islands have a rugged terrain consisting of volcanic soil, others are flat and sandy with scant vegetation and a hot, dry climate. Annual rainfall is approximately 230 mm in Praia, although other islands have even less rain, with the result that surface and drilling water resources are very limited and vegetation is generally scarce. The islands of Santo Antão and São Nicolau are, to some extent, an exception on the north-eastern side, which is more exposed to the moisture from the ocean. Although the connection rate to the water network is very high in Cape Verde, covering the needs of the population and contamination of the scarce resources are real challenges for the future.

These uninhabited islands were discovered and colonised in the 15th century by the Portuguese. Cape Verde then became an important hub in the African slave trade and later a refuelling stop for whaling and trans-Atlantic navigation. After independence from Portugal in 1975 and an attempt at unification with Guinea-Bissau, a one-party system was established and maintained until multi-party elections took place in 1990. Cape Verde can subsequently boast to having one of Africa's most stable democratic governments; the next elections are scheduled to take place before the end of 2016.

In 2014, the resident population of Cape Verde was approximately 538 000 with a demographic growth rate of almost 1.4% a year and a net emigration rate of 6.9%. The succession of droughts in the second half of the 20th century made life so difficult that a large part of the population preferred to emigrate. As a result, Cape Verde's expatriate population is still higher than the population in the country itself (estimated at 500 000 as far back as 2000). The resident population is young, and over 50% is under 24 years of age.

In spite of heavy constraints and limited potential regarding natural resources, Cape Verde has made genuine progress in terms of economic growth over the last 15 years. Real GDP per capita recorded one of the largest increases among sub-Saharan countries, rising from USD 902 in 1990 to USD 3,700 in 2008 and USD 6 300 in 2014. These increases, however, were broken by the economic crisis. A substantial part of the economic fabric is devoted to tourism (25% of GDP).

Cape Verde's growth has been possible thanks to an economic development strategy based on the private sector and the country's integration into the global economy. However, this strategy has been strongly induced from abroad: the transfer of funds from Cape Verdean emigrants (9% of GDP), foreign aid and tourism revenue. Moreover, Cape Verde's trade balance is very uneven, being 4 to 5 times higher than the country's total exports.

The good performance in terms of growth is also reflected in an Human Development Index which, in 2014, placed Cape Verde in 123rd position out of 187 countries. Moreover, Cape Verde is no longer ranked in the group of least developed countries: in 2007 it joined the list of middle income countries.

Cape Verde is, however, still fragile: the economy is vulnerable and highly dependent on foreign aid, and poverty is on the rise. In 2007, 26.7% of the population was considered poor, with half living in extreme poverty. The official unemployment rate is approximately 20%, and the poor are hit hardest. In this context, the cooperation programmes between Cape Verde and Luxembourg in support of vocational training and employment make complete sense, especially in the dynamic tourism sub-sector.

Cape Verde has been a partner country of the Luxembourg Development Cooperation since the late 1980s, and a General Cooperation Agreement was signed as far back as 1993. The first ICP was entered into in January 2002 to define the cooperation relationship between Cape Verde and Luxembourg. The first interventions focused on water, secondary and technical education, and health. Today, the programme carried out by LuxDev in Cape Verde concentrates on vocational training and jobs as well as sectorial support for water and sanitation. In the new ICP negotiated in 2014, it was also planned to support national programmes for developing renewable (solar and wind) energy, which have genuine potential at a time when countries are still devoting many resources to importing fossil fuels for producing electricity.

Local Development

Project	Title	Duration	Total Budget	Disbursed in 2014
CVE/078	Support to the Action Plan for an Integrated Water Resources Management	2012-2016	12,320,000	927,746

Health

Project	Title	Duration	Total Budget	Disbursed in 2014
CVE/075	Support for the Implementation of the National School-Health Programme - Phase III	2010-2015	3,550 000	598,706

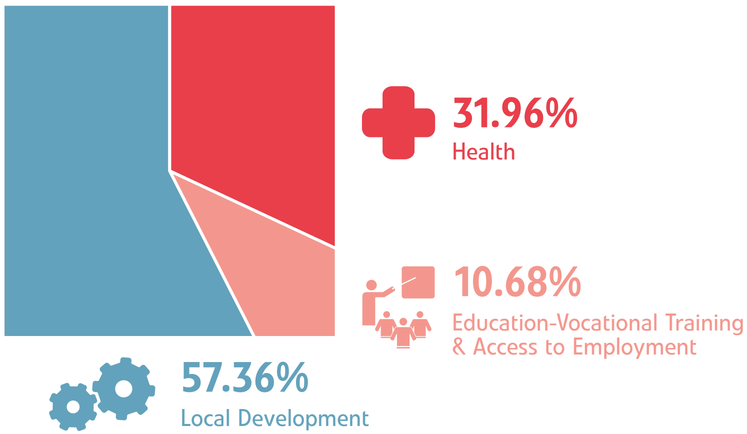
Education-Vocational Training & Access to Employment

Project	Title	Duration	Total Budget	Disbursed in 2014
CVE/059	Hotel and Tourism School in Cape Verde	2006-2015	12,562,300	1,789,708
CVE/071	Support to the National Employment and Vocational Training Programme	2008-2015	17,469,716	1,850,209
CVE/077	Education Sector Policy Support Programme (SPSP)	2014-2016	2,575,000	290,609

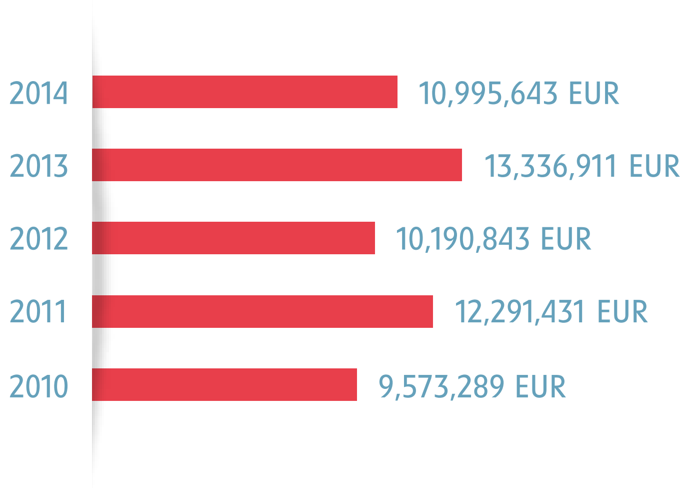
Latin America

Regional Office of MANAGUA

Distribution of disbursements by sector



Evolution of activities (in millions EUR)



Nicaragua

Statistics

IDH 132/187

Managua

5.85 millions

km² 130,370

abc 78%

73 yrs

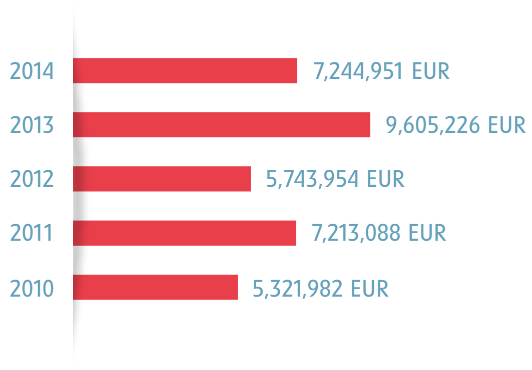
1.02%

With a surface area of 129,494 km^2, Nicaragua is the largest country in Central America. It has two coastlines, the Pacific Ocean to the west and the Caribbean Sea to the east. Nicaragua has a tropical climate on the coastal plains, and a cooler climate in the mountainous regions in the north. The Pacific coast is bordered by a chain of volcanoes, some of which are still active. Nicaragua has two substantial freshwater reserves: lakes Cocibolca and Xolotlan. The country lies in an active tectonic zone, making it vulnerable to earthquakes, with the Caribbean coast exposed to hurricanes.

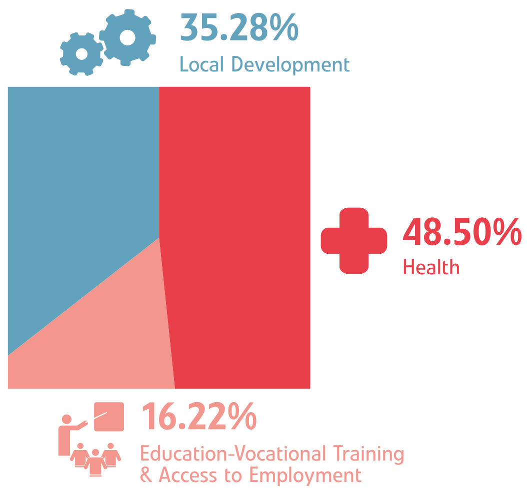
The population of Nicaragua has topped six million and, owing to the country's geographic profile, a substantial proportion of the inhabitants is concentrated in the Pacific region. 60% of the population lives in urban areas; it is also very diverse, and over 50% of inhabitants are aged under 24.

Nicaragua was colonised by Spain in 1524 and won independence in 1821. After forming part of the United Provinces of Central America, it became a sovereign republic in 1854. Its history was marked from the beginning by military interventions by the United States, especially due to the potential for building a canal between the two oceans. The country has also been troubled by lengthy military dictatorships; the last, dominated by the Somoza family, ended in July 1979 with the symbolic victory of the revolution led by the FSLN (Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional).

Evolution of activities (in millions EUR)



Distribution of disbursements by sector



After 1979 Nicaragua was led by the FSLN and its leader Daniel Ortega. The country experienced a difficult period with a US embargo and the internal war with the “Contra” financed by the United States. The elections in 1990 were won by Violeta Chamorro and paved the way to gradual stabilisation with free elections and political alternation. After 15 years in opposition, the FSLN returned to power in 2006. The next presidential elections will be held in November 2016.

Nicaragua is one of the poorest countries in Central America with a GDP of USD 1,904 per inhabitant in 2014. Agriculture, livestock, forestry and fishing account for 15% of GDP, trade 14.5% and manufacturing 13%. Beef, coffee, gold, sugar and peanuts represent 59% of total exports. Tourism is also an important source of foreign currency and accounts for 17% of exports. Approximately 9% of GDP is contributed by emigrants sending money back to their families.

Public spending on education represents 2.8% of GDP and on health 3.2%.

Furthermore, the economy of Nicaragua relies heavily on the informal sector, which employs 75% of the workforce, many of whom have not had the opportunity to finish the six years of compulsory primary education.

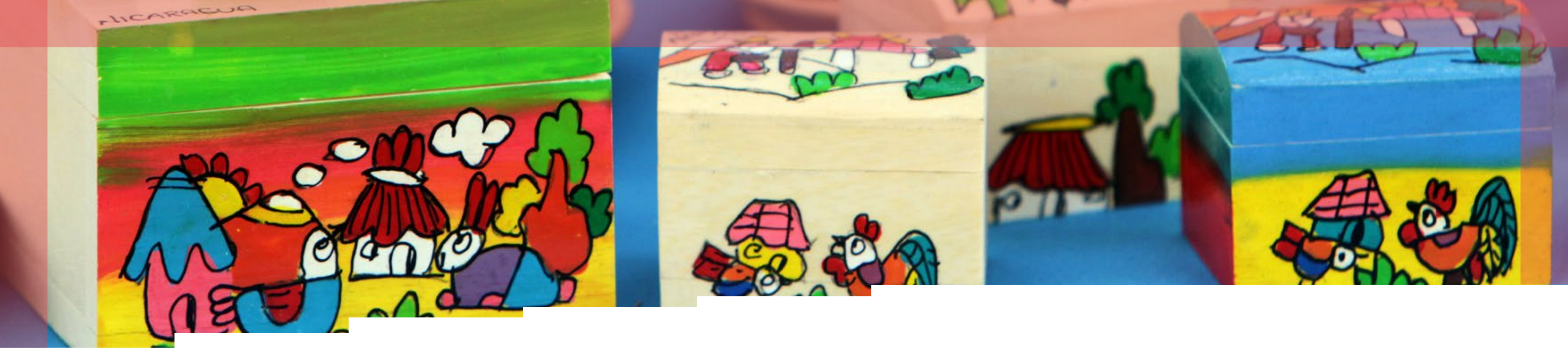
This is one of the reasons why the development cooperation work between Luxembourg and Nicaragua focuses on training, professional integration and the promising tourism sector. This policy makes it possible to develop training programmes with the assurance that they meet the needs of workers and businesses, and to strengthen economic activities linked to tourism, which can be considered a tool for local development (both in urban areas and rural regions).

There is a high incidence of poverty in Nicaragua (42.5% of the population were living under the poverty line in 2009) and there are still considerable inequalities (in 2010 the richest 20% of the population held 51% of the country’s revenues, whilst the poorest 20% held only 4.6%).

Working with a partner from China, Nicaragua recently embarked on a major project to construct a trans-oceanic canal that intends to rival the Panama Canal. However, the plans are arousing a great deal of controversy and opposition: whilst some view the scheme as an engine for the national economy, others see it as a threat to biodiversity and national sovereignty.

Nicaragua has been a partner country of the Luxembourg Development Cooperation since the 1990s, and a General Cooperation Agreement was signed in 2000. The first ICP was developed in 2003, which gradually led to more structured interventions. On signing the second ICP in 2007, training and vocational integration, tourism and health were identified as focal sectors, and remain so to this day.

The year 2014 saw new programmes being identified and the negotiation of an amendment that provides for the extension of ICP III over a three-year period to ensure the transition to a joint programming method with the European Union from 2018.



Local Development

Project	Title	Duration	Total Budget	Disbursed in 2014
NIC/024	The Coffee Route - Phase II	2011-2015	6,136,000	1,669,127
NIC/824*	Colonial and Volcanoes Route	2012-2016	6,880,000	856,925

* financed by the European Commission

Health

Project	Title	Duration	Total Budget	Disbursed in 2014
NIC/025	Support to Nicaragua's Health Sector	2012-2015	10,000,000	3,514,050

Education-Vocational Training & Access to Employment

Project	Title	Duration	Total Budget	Disbursed in 2014
NIC/023	Strengthening of Professional and Technical Competence at National Level	2010-2015	5,000,000	1,001,410
NIC/026	Institutional Support to Vocational Training in Hospitality and Tourism	2014-2017	4,500,000	173,439

El Salvador

Statistics

IDH
115/187

San Salvador

6.13 millions

km²
21,041

abc
85%

74 yrs

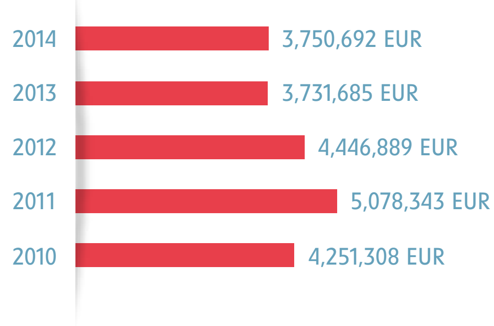
0.27%

Known as the land of volcanoes, El Salvador is home to numerous active volcanoes and is frequently subject to sometimes-deadly earthquakes. The country, which shares its borders with Guatemala and Honduras, is largely mountainous with a narrow coastal strip open to the Pacific Ocean and a central plateau. El Salvador is separated from Nicaragua by the Gulf of Fonseca. The climate is tropical, and the territory is regularly exposed to hurricanes.

El Salvador has been independent from Spain since 1821, and left the fold of the United Provinces of Central America in 1839. The country's recent history has been marked by a civil war lasting 12 years, which came to an end in 1992 with 75 000 dead. The country subsequently saw a democratic transition, with the last presidential elections held in early 2014. Nevertheless, El Salvador is still faced with problems of violence and has a very high homicide rate, with 70 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants a year in recent times.

The population of El Salvador grew from 1.9 million in 1950 to 4.7 million in 1984, and was estimated at approximately 6,125,000 in 2014, meaning that there is a particularly high population density given the country's small size (21,041 km²). The population is mostly made up of mixed race, a mixture of indigenous Amerindians / European descent, and indigenous peoples. 66% of El Salvador's population lives in towns, and almost half consists of young people under 24 years.

Evolution of activities (in millions EUR)



Distribution of disbursements by sector

In spite of its small size, El Salvador boasts one of the largest economies in Central America: it has the region's fifth largest economy based on GDP per inhabitant (USD 8,000 in 2014). However, the economy suffered greatly in the 2008 global recession, although it began a slow process of recovery in 2010 thanks to greater political stability, improved exports and increased remittances sent by Salvadorans living abroad. Remittance flows accounted for 16% of GDP in 2014, and approximately a third of all households benefit from these transfers. The migration rate is still high at 7.1 emigrants for 1,000 inhabitants.

In 2006, El Salvador was the first country to ratify the Dominican Republic - Central America - Free Trade Agreement with the United States, which boosted exports of food, sugar and ethanol. The agreement also supported investment in the textile industry in the face of increasing competition from Asia and the expiry of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement in 2005. El Salvador has favoured an opening of its economy and improved the investment climate by launching a wave of privatisations from telecommunications to electricity distribution, and from banks to the management of pension funds.

With the adoption of the US dollar as the official currency in 2001, El Salvador lost control of its monetary policy; any counter-cyclical political answer to the crisis has to be implemented through fiscal policy, which is limited by legislative requirements and the already high level of debt.

Local Development

Project	Title	Duration	Total Budget	Disbursed in 2014
SVD/022	Support to Caring Communities in El Salvador	2012-2015	13 400 000	3,728 418

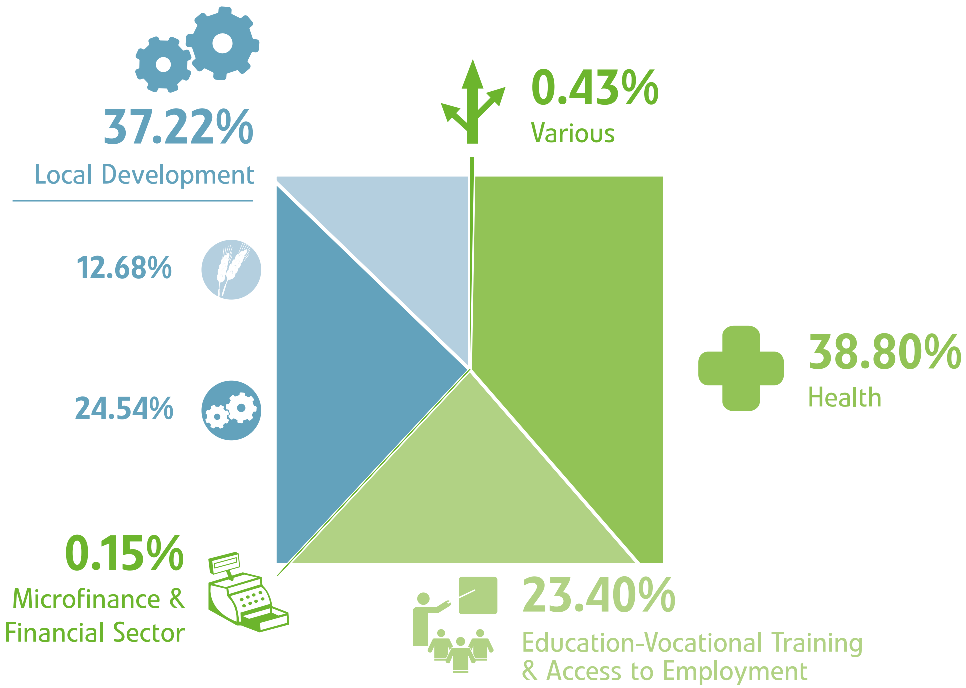
Various

Project	Title	Duration	Total Budget	Disbursed in 2014
SVD/023	Support to the Implementation of the Aid Effectiveness Agenda in El Salvador	2014-2015	1 000 000	84,41

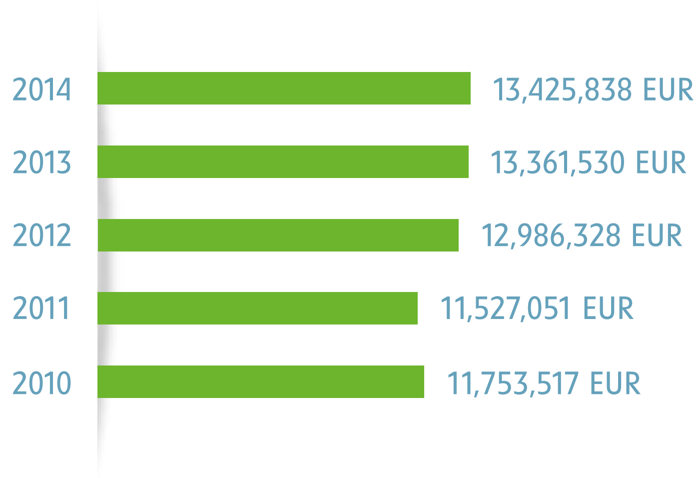
Asia

Regional Office of HANOI

Distribution of disbursements by sector



Evolution of activities (in millions EUR)

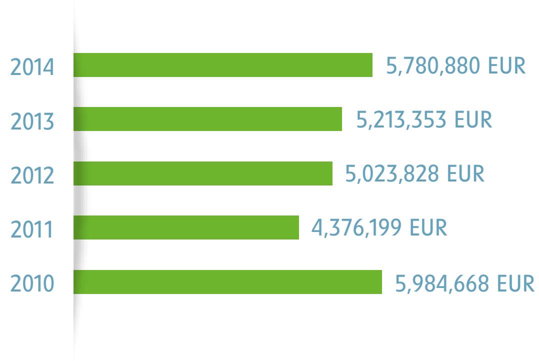


Vietnam

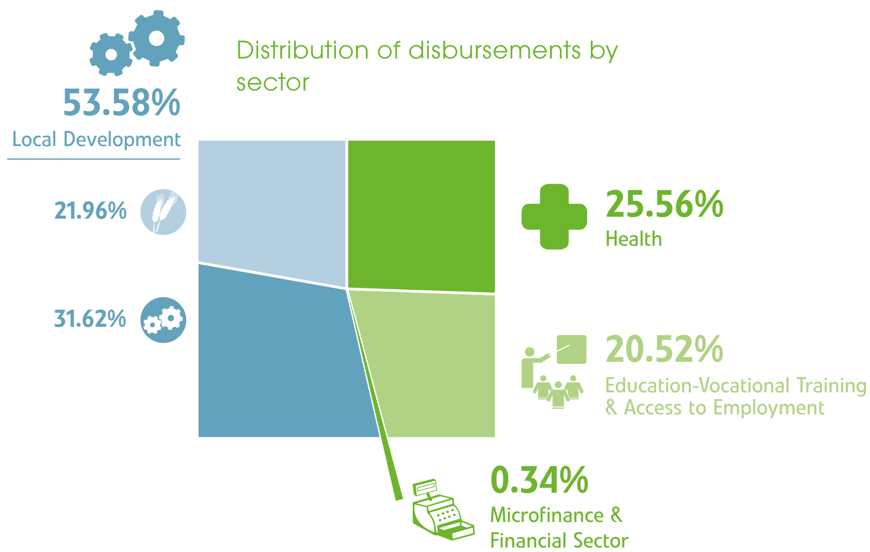
Statistics

IDH	Capital	Population	km²	abc	Life expectancy	Population growth
121/187	Hanoï	93.4 millions	331,210	93%	73 yrs	1%

Evolution of activities (in millions EUR)



Distribution of disbursements by sector



Vietnam is often cited as a model of development. After adopting a vast programme of political and economic reforms (Doi Moi) in 1986, the country experienced a period of strong growth. Indeed, the Vietnamese economy enjoyed a remarkable economic boom in the space of a few years. GDP per inhabitant, which stood at USD 220 in 1994, grew three-fold between 2002 and 2010 to reach USD 1,755 per inhabitant in 2013.

The growth rate in Vietnam was 6.4% a year on average over the last decade, driven by international trade and foreign investment. Protected by its high levels of exports, the country barely suffered during the international economic crisis and its prospects for growth are among the highest in Asia.

Vietnam has to date either achieved – or even surpassed – most of the MDGs, in particular the goals for poverty reduction, education and gender equality. Over the last decades in particular, Vietnam has made outstanding progress in reducing poverty. The percentage of people living below the poverty line, which was almost 40 % in rural areas in the 1990s, dropped to less than 10% in 2012. Particular attention is given to economic development and poverty reduction in rural areas. Special emphasis is placed on creating jobs and increasing incomes through rural industrialisation and expanding the services sector in these zones.

The Vietnamese government launched reforms concerning the key sectors of the economy and anticipating the partial privatisation of public enterprises; their

implementation, however, remains gradual. The tax system was also reformed to offset the decline in customs revenue after the country joined the World Trade Organisation in 2007, and to make the country more attractive in the eyes of investors. To tackle with the global financial crisis, the government introduced several stimulus packages aimed at improving the business climate and to encourage production and exports; to boost consumption and investment; to increase social security and reduce poverty; and to introduce effective tax and monetary policies.

The Vietnamese government launched what it calls “three structural projects over the medium and long term” via its 2011-2020 Strategy for Socio-Economic Development: infrastructure development, training for young people, and modernising the country’s institutions. These schemes are designed to ensure sustained economic growth at a time of international uncertainty. To achieve these goals, Vietnam will have to reform public enterprises, develop the private sector and upgrade the banking system.

The agricultural sector, which represents 20% of GDP, is declining. It is, however, the area that employs the largest part of the population. Industry, which represents 38% of GDP, is the main engine of growth in Vietnam. As for the services sector, it is mainly represented by tourism and telecommunications, both of which are very promising and which should contribute to the economic health of the country on a massive scale in the years to come. The tertiary sector accounted for 42% of GDP in 2013.

The strategic objectives selected for the 2011-2015 Indicative Cooperation Programme are the result of discussions between the governments of Vietnam and Luxembourg, and are based on past experience and the priorities identified by the two parties.

As with previous ICPs, this programme is aligned with the Socio-Economic Development Plan for 2011-2015. It also emphasises the requirements of a middle-income country and the new challenges of an emerging market economy in areas where Luxembourg has a comparative advantage.

The ICP aims to reduce poverty by supporting the key economic areas and social sectors through institutional capacity building and developing human resources in the banking and financial sector as well as the hotel and tourism industry.

Local Development

Project	Title	Duration	Total Budget	Disbursed in 2014
VIE/028	Western Nghe An Rural Development Project - Phase III	2009-2015	6,000,000	943,090
VIE/033	Local Development and Climate Change Adaptation in Hué Province	2013-2017	8,000,000	1,569,456
VIE/035	Technical Assistance to the IFAD Tam Nong Support Project in Tuyen Quang Province	2014-2017	2,000,000	159,381
VIE/036	Irrigation in Cao Bang - Wise Use of Water and Agriculture	2014-2019	5,500,000	99,003

Health

Project	Title	Duration	Total Budget	Disbursed in 2014
VIE/027	Supporting Health Care Policy for the Poor in Cao Bang and Bac Kan	2009-2015	6,499,100	1,472,122

Education-Vocational Training & Access to Employment

Project	Title	Duration	Total Budget	Disbursed in 2014
VIE/031	Strengthening of Human Resources in the Hospitality and Tourism Sector in Vietnam	2010-2015	3,950,000	1,174,541
VIE/034	Bac Kan, Technical and Vocational Education and Training - Phase II	Formulation	2,500,000	11,770

Microfinance & Financial Sector

Project	Title	Duration	Total Budget	Disbursed in 2014
VIE/032	Support Vietnam's Securities Market Consolidation and Improve Training Capacities	2014-2018	3,860,000	8,942

Laos

Statistics

IDH 139/187

Vientiane

6.80 millions

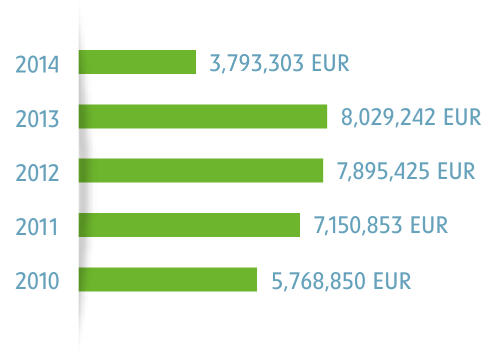
km² 236,800

abc 73%

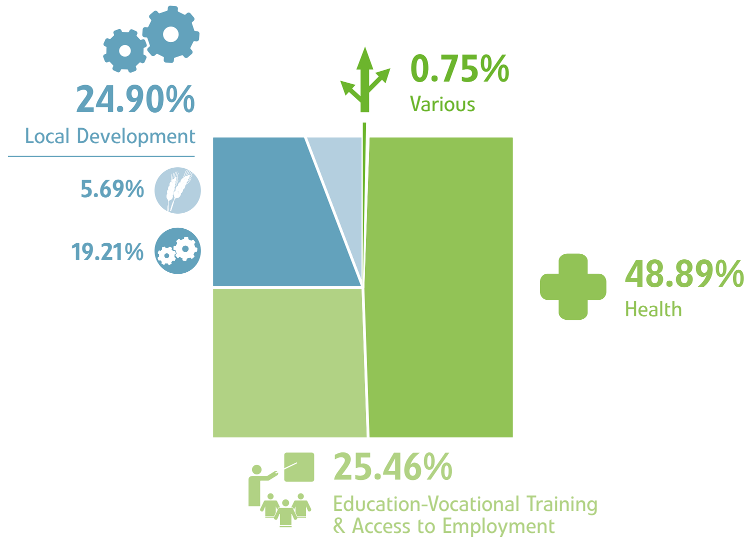
64 yrs

1.59%

Evolution of activities (in millions EUR)



Distribution of disbursements by sector



Known in antiquity as the Kingdom of Lan Xang ("land of a million elephants"), and baptised the "land of a million contradictions" by journalists during the Indochina war, this sparsely-populated country is finally experiencing peace after three centuries of successive wars against the kingdom of Annam, China, Burma, Siam, France and the United States.

Laos, the least developed and most mysterious of the three former states of French Indochina, became the leader of the region's economic and political reforms in the late 1980s. Since 1989, the country has opened up to free trade and foreign investment, with the hammer and sickle disappearing from the national flag for good in 1991.

Whilst Thailand is mired in political crises that are paralyzing its economy; whilst Cambodia is suffering from deep internal divisions; and whilst Vietnam is industrialising at full speed to create jobs for its teeming population, Laos seems keen to take its time to set up one of the most stable political and economic systems in the region.

A landlocked country, Laos spans more than 1 000 km from north to south in the heart of the Mekong sub-region, and has an area of 236 800 km² (barely larger than Great Britain). The south and centre of the country are bordered to the east by the Annamite mountain range. Almost in parallel, the Mekong, the country's major communication axis, defines most of the territory to the west over 1 865

km. The Mekong Valley and its fertile plains are the focus for almost all Laos' rice fields and are the country's leading agricultural region. At its narrowest point, in the central province of Khammouane, Laos is no more than 120 km wide.

With 6.8 million inhabitants, the population of this People's Republic, although small, is very diverse with some 80 ethnicities. The population is also very young, with one in three Laotians aged under 15 years.

A quarter of the population currently lives on less than USD 2 a day per person, even though the country boasts numerous assets, including mineral (tin, gold, copper, zinc, bauxite, etc.) and energy resources. Thanks its powerful water network, Laos produces and mainly exports electricity to Thailand.

The tourism sector generates 6% of the Lao GDP and is the country's third biggest earner of export revenue behind mining and hydropower. In 2013, the country hosted 3.7 million visitors (over 90 % of whom were border tourists), generating revenue of USD 596 million. Although tourist numbers are increasing significantly year on year (and the forecasts for 2014 and 2015 back this up), the fact that it continues to be characterised by border tourism with very short stays and low expenditure means that the country is not exploiting its potential to the full. Promoting a brand image based on sustainable community tourism should, in the long term (if the authorities provide the resources) attract larger numbers of international travellers.

In 2011, Laos posted a growth rate of 8%. According to OECD forecasts, the average annual growth will be 7.5 % over the period 2013-2017, i.e. the highest rate among members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Gross national income per inhabitant rose from USD 310 in 2001 to over USD 1 000 in 2011. According to the World Bank's classification, Laos belongs to the category of least developed countries. Its aim, however, is to join the category of middle-income countries by 2020. It hopes to achieve this status thanks to strong and steady economic growth based mainly on exporting its natural resources to neighbouring countries and by expanding its tourism sector.

In spite of the efforts made by the authorities to promote the country, Laos still suffers from a shortfall in tourist numbers compared to its Asian neighbours. This is due to a range of factors, chiefly the country's poor image together with a lack of infrastructure and qualified personnel. The creation of a hotel school, LANITH (Lao National Institute of Tourism and Hospitality), which has been financed by the Luxembourg Development Cooperation from 2008, aims to fill this gap.

Despite the progress made to meet the MDGs, Laos still has much work to do in certain areas, especially health: 44% of children under five years suffer from stunted growth, and 27% are seriously underweight. Laos continues to have one of the highest maternal mortality ratios in the region, even if it is on track to reduce this gap and reach the MDG maternal mortality target. Laos could also do more to put gender equality at the centre of its plans for national development.

The government of Laos outlined its poverty reduction strategy and meeting the MDGs by 2015 in its seventh National Economic and Social Development Plan for 2011-2015. The plan aims to promote economic growth with equity; to develop and modernise the country's social and economic infrastructure; and to expand human resources. The eighth National Economic and Social Development Plan for 2016-2020 is currently being drawn up.

The actions currently being implemented in Laos by the Luxembourg Development Cooperation form part of the third ICP established

between the two countries for 2011-2015. A new ICP covering 2016-2020 is in the process of being prepared jointly with the national authorities. The main areas of intervention in Laos are as follows:

- Education - training and vocational integration;
- Local development;
- Health.

Local Development

Project	Title	Duration	Total Budget	Disbursed in 2014
LAO/021	Bolikhamxay Livelihood Improvement and Governance Programme	2009-2015	7,600,000	1,041,551
LAO/024	Khammouane local Development Project (KHALODEP)	2014-2021	5,000,000	424,996
LAO/026	Soum Son Seun Jai - Community-Based Food Security and Economic Opportunities Programme	2013-2015	1,700,000	433,824

Education-Vocational Training & Access to Employment

Project	Title	Duration	Total Budget	Disbursed in 2014
LAO/020	Strengthening of human Resources in Hospitality and Tourism Industry in Lao PDR	2008-2016	7,500,000	1,113,697
LAO/023	Strengthening the Rule of Law through legal University Education	2010-2015	5,000,000	829,565

Various

Project	Title	Duration	Total Budget	Disbursed in 2014
LAO/028	Capacity Strengthening of the Ministry of Planning and Investment's Department for International Cooperation	2014-2017	800,000	57,385

Health

Project	Title	Duration	Total Budget	Disbursed in 2014
LAO/027	Lao-Luxembourg Health Sector Support Programme - Phase II	2014-2021	20,000,000	1,985,462

Myanmar

Statistics

IDH 150/187

Naypidaw

55.7 millions

km² 676,578

abc 93%

66 yrs

1.03%

Myanmar is situated at a strategic crossroads between China, India and the Indochina Peninsula. Although approximately 70% of the population is Burmese, the country consists of dozens of ethnic minorities, some of whom have been engaged in an armed struggle against the central government for several decades. After gaining independence from the British Crown in 1948, Myanmar was one of the wealthiest countries in Southeast Asia in the 1950s. This economic prosperity declined sharply under the rule of a military junta from 1962 to 2011, when Myanmar became one of the poorest countries in the region.

The GDP of Myanmar in 2013-2014 was USD 56.8 billion. According to preliminary data from the 2014 national census (which estimated the population at 51.4 million), the average income per inhabitant is around USD 1.105, one of the lowest in Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

The analytical assessment of household living conditions carried out nationwide in 2009-2010 revealed that 26% of the population was living below the poverty line. According to the World Bank (which includes non-food products in the basket of household spending and spatial price differences), estimated poverty could even be as high as 37.5% of Myanmar's population.

The country does, however, boast substantial assets: an abundance of raw materials (mining, timber, oil and gas); a vast domestic market of almost 57 million consumers; a cheap workforce; and strong regional integration as a result of its

Evolution of activities (in millions EUR)

Distribution of disbursements by sector




membership of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (since 1997) and close links with China and India. Agriculture lies at the heart of economic life in Myanmar, with 70% of the population living in rural areas.

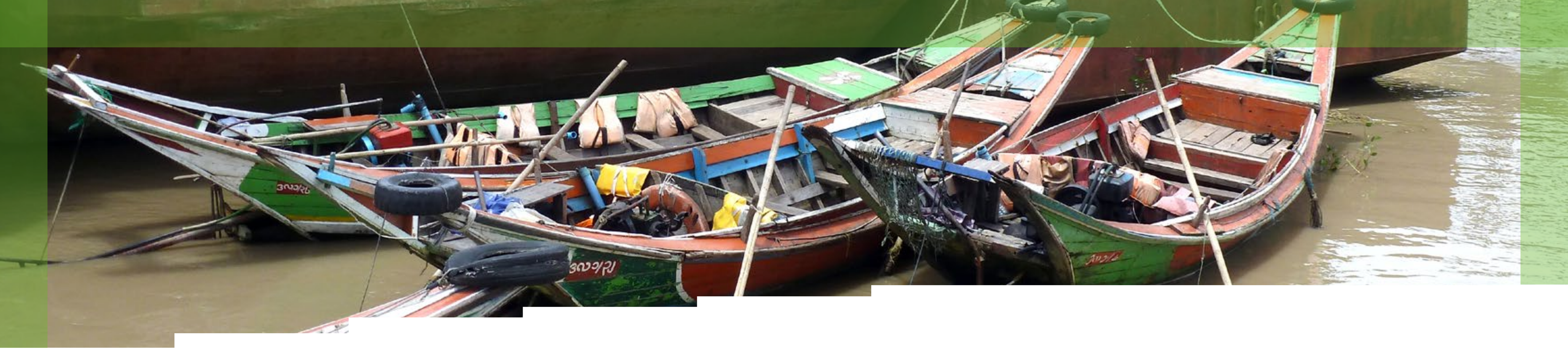
The military powers, after revising the national constitution, agreed to hold elections in November 2010 (boycotted by the National League for Democracy), which strengthened the position of the Union Party for Solidarity and Development but also opened up parliament slightly to the opposition. Although the vast majority of national appointments made by President Thein Sein (the ex-prime minister) are former or current military officers, the government launched a series of political and economic reforms leading to a significant opening up of a country that had for so long been isolated internationally. The president pledged to make the economy one of his priorities, and a new law on foreign investment was adopted on 7 September 2012. The modernisation of the financial system, especially the banking network, is a major challenge for determining the continuation of the overall economic reforms, as well as the development of the private sector and foreign investment.

The EU indicated in April 2012 that it welcomed the development of European trade and investment as a way of contributing to the socio-economic growth of Myanmar while promoting corporate social and environmental responsibility. The lifting of EU sanctions in April 2013 (with the exception of the arms embargo), together with the re-integration of Myanmar into the European Generalised System of Preferences in July 2013, helped to reinforce the EU's contribution to the country's economic development. The United States, Australia and many other countries have also lifted their sanctions regimes either partially or totally.

In spite of the efforts of the Myanmar government to revive the economy and open up to foreign investment, development conditions continue to be weak, and regional equalities substantial. Poor populations mainly live in rural areas and are highly vulnerable to external hazards such as flooding, drought, cyclones and landslides. From a structural perspective, development problems can be largely explained by the lack of job opportunities; weak agricultural productivity; technology gaps and a lack of investment; poor coverage and lack of quality social services; and unfinished policies and programmes. In rural regions, the above factors result in widespread food insecurity and chronic malnutrition.

The Luxembourg Development Cooperation has not implemented any actions in Myanmar to date. The Development of Human Resources in the Hospitality and Tourism Sector and Capacity Building at the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism will start in 2015. This project is considered to be the first intervention funded by Luxembourg from the bilateral development assistance programme in the country.

The project seeks to deliver a plan for developing human resources in the tourism sector. At the same time, it aims to strengthen and re-orient the capacity of both the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and the private sector. The aim is to align them with the needs of the job market and meet the expectations of visitors in terms of service quality.



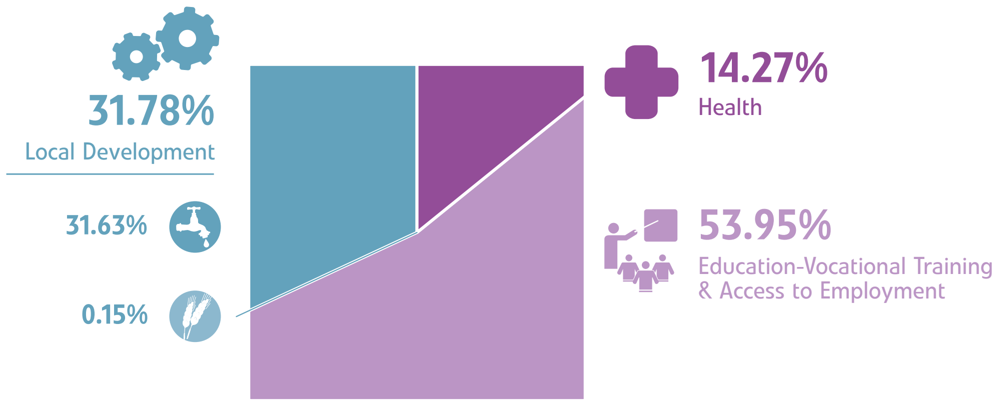
Education-Vocational Training & Access to Employment

Project	Title	Duration	Total Budget	Disbursed in 2014
MYA/001	Development of Human Resources in the Hotel and Tourism Sector and Capacity Development of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism	Formulation	5,000,000	12,476

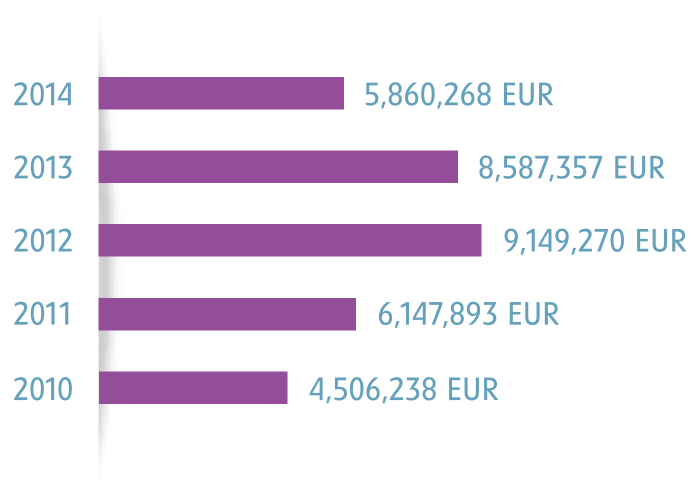
Balkans

Regional Office of PRISTINA

Distribution of disbursements by sector



Evolution of activities (in millions EUR)



Kosovo

Statistics

IDH 87/187

Pristina

1.86 millions

km² 10,887

abc 92%

70 yrs

0.9%

Kosovo, which is the youngest independent state in Europe, covers an area of approximately 10 000 km^2 and has around 1.8 million inhabitants. Over 90% of the population is Albanian, and the Serb minority represents 5.3%. The other minority populations are Bosnian, Gorani, Roma, Ashkali, Egyptian and Turkish. It is estimated that 800 000 Kosovars live outside Kosovo (mainly in diasporas in the EU).

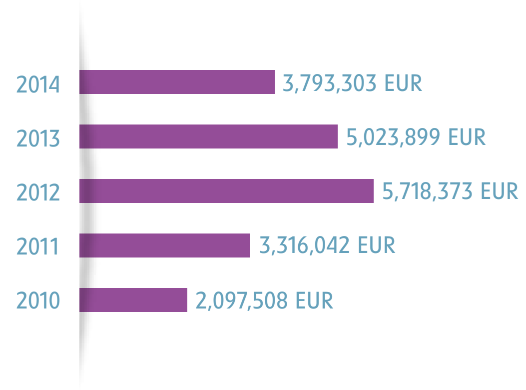
Although Kosovo has made significant progress in the transition towards a market economy and macroeconomic stability, it is still very much dependent on the international community (approximately 10% of GDP) and the diaspora (approximately 15% of GDP) for financial and technical assistance.

The economy is dominated by the trade and services sectors, with agriculture and construction also showing remarkable development. From 2008 Kosovo enjoyed five successive years of economic growth (with an average of 4.5% per annum). However, poverty remains a serious problem with 12.1% of the population living in extreme poverty and 34.5% in relative poverty.

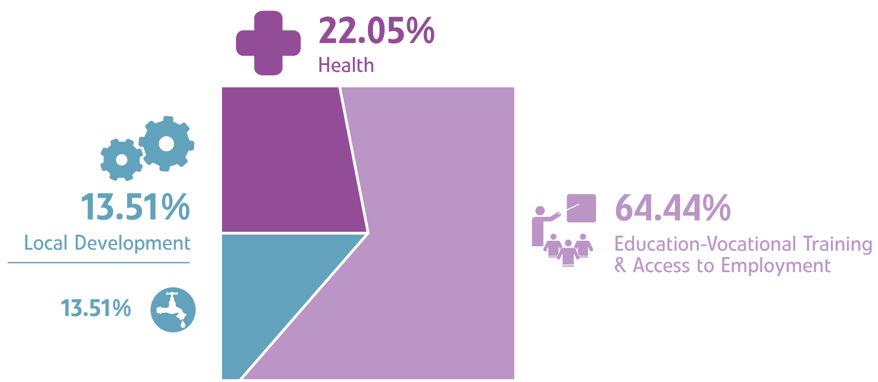
High unemployment encourages emigration and stimulates an extensive informal economy. The challenge of youth employment in Kosovo is even more critical given the high proportion of young people: men and women under 25 represent over half of the population. Indeed, Kosovo's population is the youngest in Europe with an average age of approximately 26.

Kosovo is part of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) within the framework of the EU pre-accession strategy.

Evolution of activities (in millions EUR)



Distribution of disbursements by sector



The SAA has three objectives: stabilisation and swift transition to a market economy; promoting regional cooperation; and the prospect of joining the EU.

Since 2000, the Luxembourg Development Cooperation has helped to mitigate the effects of the prolonged crisis in the Balkans and in Kosovo in particular.

On 23 April 2013, the government of Kosovo signed a bilateral agreement and a memorandum of understanding with the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. The documents define the terms for continuing with the Luxembourg Development Cooperation in Kosovo for 2013-2016 in three areas of intervention: health, education and water & sanitation.

LuxDev, which is considered as the operational pillar of Luxembourg's bilateral development cooperation, has the resources to implement projects that will consolidate the gains of the previous programmes in these areas.

In spite of the progress and political developments observed in recent years, the health sector in Kosovo still faces major challenges. Health reform is one of the main objectives of the new government that was named in December 2014. LuxDev runs a structuring programme in support of the process for reforming the health sector on behalf of the Luxembourg Development Cooperation.

Kosovo has a well-developed health system but faces critical bottlenecks. Action plans and policies have been put in place, and innovative reforms are in progress. However, the standards are not always drawn up properly and quality of care remains problematic.

Spending on public health is the lowest in the region and the allocation is often poorly managed. Private funding of healthcare is very high, representing approximately 40 % of all health funds. This is a significant barrier to equitable access to health care.

Even before independence was declared in 2008, education was first on the list of priority areas for Kosovo. It was clearly identified as a key sector for revitalising the economy of the young republic and ensuring long-term sustainability.

Around 30 000 new jobseekers enter the labour market ever year, but current economic growth generates no more than 15 000 new jobs per annum. More than a third of young Kosovars do not have a job or training – a category that could be designated as "the lost generation".

It is for these reasons that the Luxembourg Development Cooperation is backing the Kosovo Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. It is helping to modernise the formal education system through reforms in vocational training, where LuxDev is playing a crucial role in supporting the implementation of these investments.

Decades of under-investment in the water sector in Kosovo (during the breakup of Yugoslavia and the subsequent conflict in Kosovo), and in particular in the north of the country, mean that significant investment is required to rebuild the dilapidated assets and restore the capacity of service providers.

As part of an overall attempt to rehabilitate the regional network and increase the capacity of the water supply in the Mitrovica region, LuxDev is supporting the implementation of a decentralised water supply project. Luxembourg is financing the upgrading of the equipment under the supervision of the regional operator, and strengthening its operational and management capabilities.

The number and value of LuxDev's interventions continues to be significant, and is contributing to the development of the three mentioned sectors above.

Local Development

Project	Title	Duration	Total Budget	Disbursed in 2014
KSV/018	Institutional and Technical Support for the Water Supply System, Mitrovica Region (Phase II)	2014-2017	4,500,000	243,003

Education-Vocational Training & Access to Employment

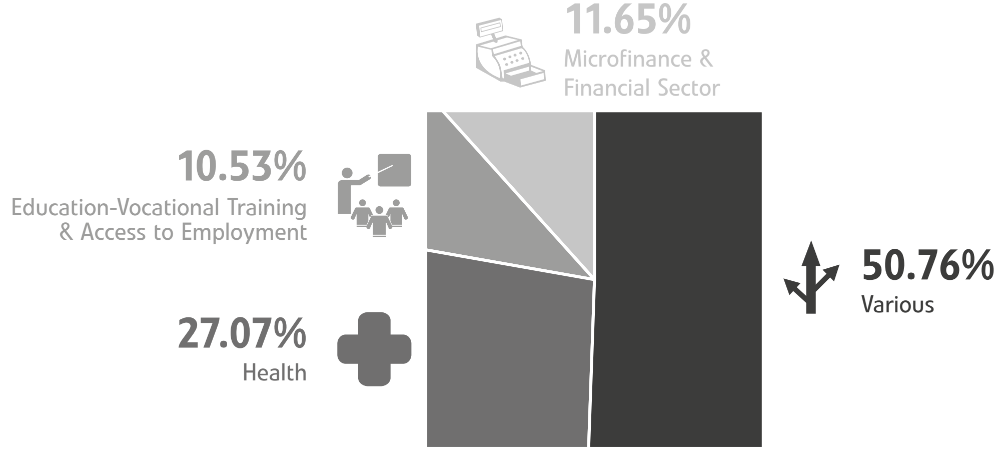
Project	Title	Duration	Total Budget	Disbursed in 2014
KSV/015	Support to Vocational Education and Training Reform in Kosovo: Establishment of Centres of Competence in Ferizaj and Prizren	2010-2016	10,000,000	2,444,524

Health

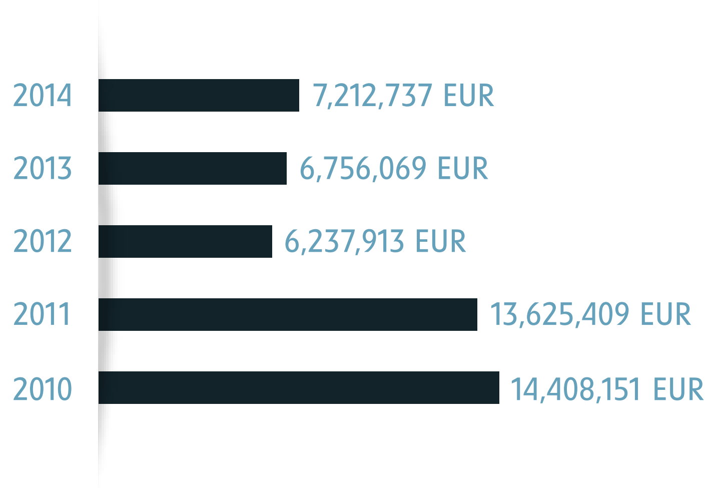
Project	Title	Duration	Total Budget	Disbursed in 2014
KSV/014	Health Support Programme in Kosovo	2009-2015	6,500,000	786,131
KSV/017	Health in Kosovo - Phase II	Formulation	6,000,000	50,116

OTHER COUNTRIES

Distribution of disbursements by sector



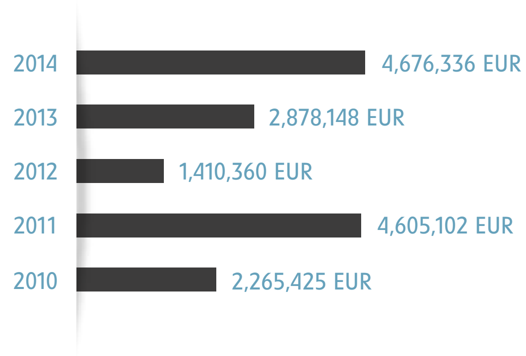
Evolution of activities (in millions EUR)



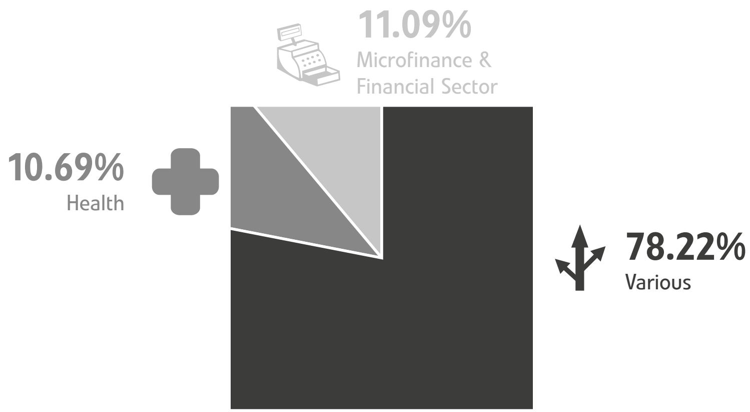
Regional Africa

As some of LuxDev's projects are of an exclusively regional nature, they cannot be attributed to a single country or sector. The AFR/017 and 018 projects were specially designed to operate in the context of the UMOEA region, while two others emerged from the trust fund for EU-Africa infrastructure, which Luxembourg has been a member of since 2007.

Evolution of activities (in millions EUR)



Distribution of disbursements by sector



Health

Project	Title	Duration	Total Budget	Disbursed in 2014
AFR/819***	Satellite enhanced Telemedecine and e-Health for sub-Saharan Africa	2011-2014	4,000,000	500,013
AFR/019	Satellite enhanced Telemedecine and e-Health for sub-Saharan Africa	2011-2014	170,000	-

*** EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund

Various

Project	Title	Duration	Total Budget	Disbursed in 2014
AFR/820***	African Internet Exchange System (AXIS)	2011-2016	5,100,000	3,534,559
AFR/020	African Internet Exchange System (AXIS)	2011-2016	300,000	85,883

*** EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund

Mongolia

Statistics

IDH 103/187

Ulan Bator

2.93 millions

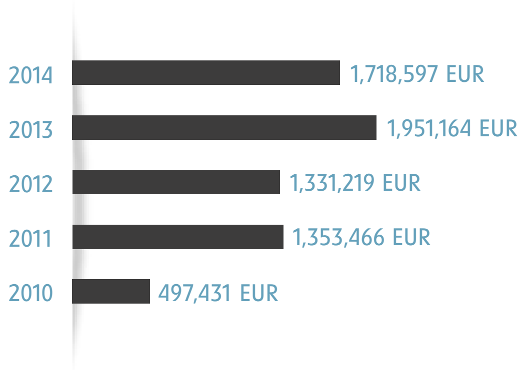
km² 1,564,116

abc 97%

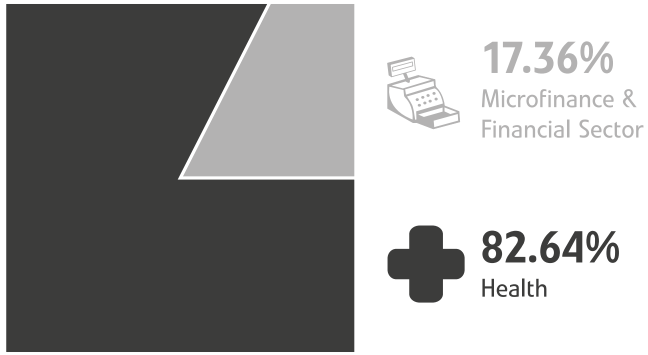
69 yrs

1.37%

Evolution of activities (in millions EUR)



Distribution of disbursements by sector



Mongolia is a landlocked country with a population of around three million. Much of Mongolia's economic activity is based on livestock and agriculture, although the country also has substantial mineral reserves.

Soviet aid used to account for a third of Mongolia's GDP before disappearing overnight in 1990-1991 as the USSR was dismantled. The following decade saw Mongolia suffer deep recession (due to political inaction and natural disasters) as well as a degree of economic growth (due to comprehensive reforms towards a market economy and the privatisation of a majority of state enterprises).

The harsh winters and summer droughts of 2000-2002 led to a massive loss of livestock in tandem with negative growth in GDP. The situation was further exacerbated by the drop in export prices in Mongolia's primary sector and widespread opposition to privatisation. The average growth of almost 9% a year between 2004-2008 was largely generated by the high price of copper and the new gold production. Mongolia experienced runaway inflation of nearly 40% until late 2008.

Thanks to the help of international financial institutions and the donor community, Mongolia has made significant progress in terms of democratisation by establishing sustainable macroeconomic foundations. The country adopted a new constitution in 1992 that includes the principles of democracy and private property. Moreover, Mongolia has become one of the most open economies in the region in order to facilitate private initiatives.

It was at the end of 2008 that Mongolia began to feel the effects of the global financial crisis. Falling commodity prices helped to reduce inflation but also weakened public revenue and led to spending cuts. In early 2009, the International Monetary Fund allocated USD 236 million to Mongolia as part of a "stand-by agreement" and the country began to emerge from the crisis.

The Mongolian economy grew by 6.1% in 2010, largely due to the good performance of exports to neighbouring countries. The economy continues to be heavily influenced by its neighbours. The country buys 95% of its oil and a substantial amount of electricity from Russia, which leaves it highly vulnerable to price rises.

Trade with China accounts for more than half of all foreign trade. In return, China receives more than three-quarters of Mongolia's exports. Remittances from Mongolians working abroad are considerable but have fallen due to the economic crisis.

Microfinance and Financial Sector

Project	Title	Duration	Total Budget	Disbursed in 2014
MON/004	Financial Sector Capacity Building and Training Project	2010-2014	2,000,000	298,367

Health

Project	Title	Duration	Total Budget	Disbursed in 2014
MON/005	Cardiovascular Center, MCH and e-health Expansion	2012-2016	8,371,184	1,384,350

Summary of funds
in different partner countries (EUR)

DAKAR

	Total Budget	Disbursed 2013	Disbursed 2014
Total-Office	109,209,095	19,073,515	18,424,128
Senegal	48,009,095	6,717,633	9,760,890
Mali	61,200,000	12,355,882	8,663,238

HANOI

	Total Budget	Disbursed 2013	Disbursed 2014
Total-Office	115,410,522	13,361,530	13,425,837
Vietnam	48,710,824	5,213,353	5,780,879
Laos	66,531,698	8,029,242	7,632,482
Myanmar	168,000	118,934	12,476

MANAGUA

	Total Budget	Disbursed 2013	Disbursed 2014
Total-Office	64,916,000	13,336,911	10,995,643
Nicaragua	32,516,000	9,605,226	7,244,951
El Salvador	32,400,000	3,731,685	3,750,692

OUAGADOUGOU

	Total Budget	Disbursed 2013	Disbursed 2014
Total-Office	129,868,161	18,718,042	27,649,314
Burkina Faso	71,877,737	9,509,701	17,373,628
Niger	57,990,424	9,208,342	10,275,686

PRAIA

	Total Budget	Disbursed 2013	Disbursed 2014
Total-Office	64,636,016	8,508,530	5,866,250
Cape Verde	64,636,016	8,508,530	5,866,250

PRISTINA

	Total Budget	Disbursed 2013	Disbursed 2014
Total-Office	47,945,164	8,587,357	5,860,268
Kosovo	31,230,164	5,023,899	3,793,303
Montenegro	11,922,000	2,549,934	725,818
Serbia	4,793,000	1,013,524	1,341,146

DIRECT MANAGEMENT

	Total Budget	Disbursed 2013	Disbursed 2014
Total	63,053,843	6,756,069	7,212,737
Regional Africa	28,579,500	2,878,148	4,676,337
Mongolia	12,445,300	1,951,164	1,718,597
Rwanda	15,980,000	1,040,169	31,904
Others (Training, etc.)	6,049,043	886,587	785,899
Total	**595,038,801**	**88,341,954**	**89,434,177**

Credits

LuxDev Coordination | Richard Schmid

Regional Offices Texts | Regional Representatives and Geographical Advisers

Niger Feature | François Bary and Richard Schmid

Videos realisation | Richard Schmid

Graphic Design | Cathy Scheltien

Photos Credits

Cover: Nathalie Oberweis - Niger

Acknowledgements

Thanks are owed to the Regional Office in Niamey, to staff in Dosso and to everyone locally and at headquarters who helped with the report on Niger.

Thanks also to everyone who entered the photo competition and to the individuals who took the photos included in this Annual Report (unfortunately, it is not possible to mention everyone by name).

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