

LUXEMBOURG DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

LËTZEBUERGER ENTWÉCKLUNGSZESUMMENARBECHT
AN HUMANITÄR HËLLEF

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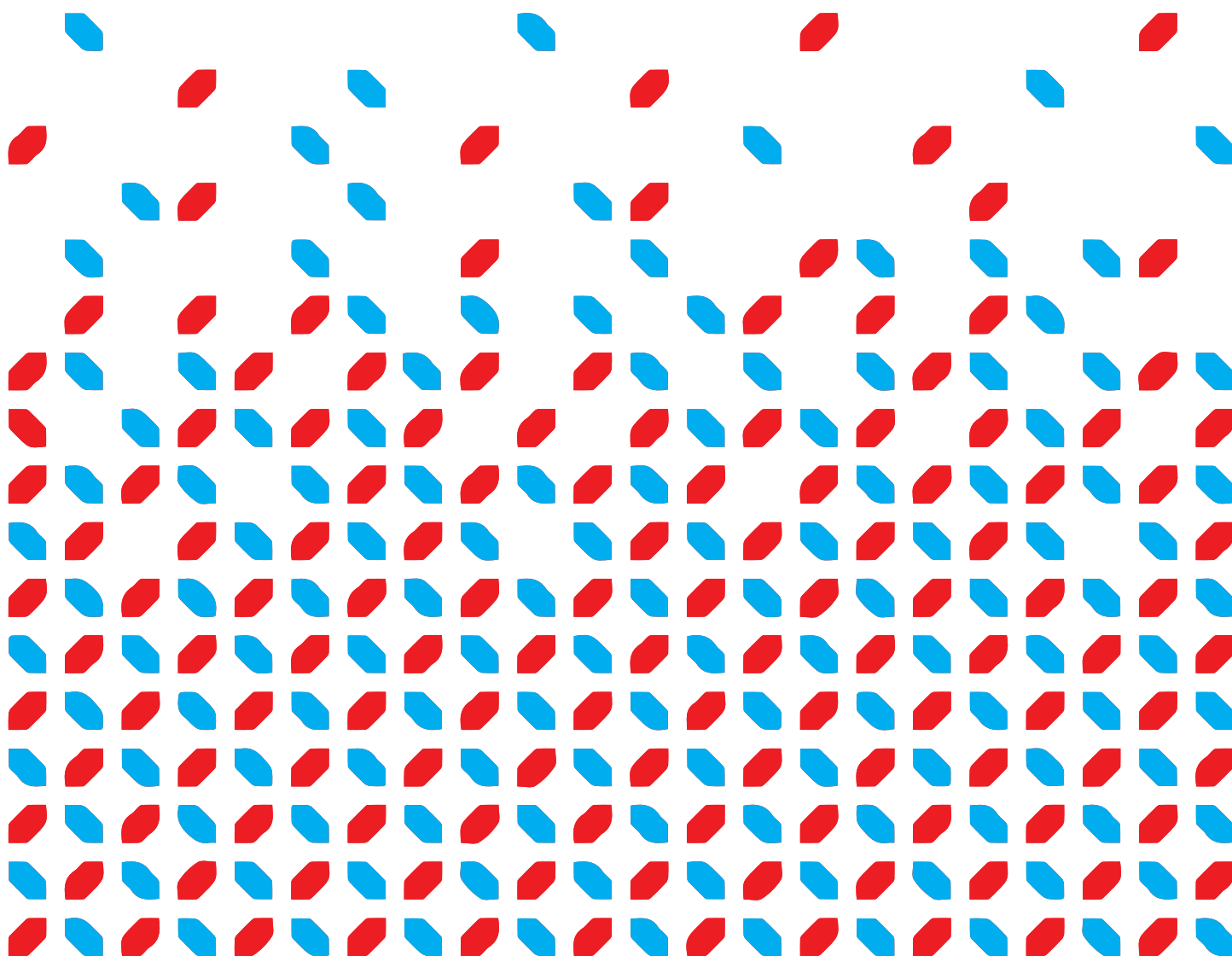


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FOREWORD BY THE MINISTER



Xavier Bettel

Minister for Development Cooperation
and Humanitarian Affairs

Dear friends of Luxembourg Development Cooperation,

I am delighted to present to you the Luxembourg Development Cooperation annual report for 2024. In a constantly changing world, our development cooperation and humanitarian work must adapt to many challenges. The activities outlined in this report reflect Luxembourg's continued commitment as a reliable partner in development cooperation and humanitarian action.

The year 2024 was shaped by conflicts in the Middle East, Sudan and Ukraine. Food security also remained a major concern, particularly affecting countries already devastated by conflicts or natural disasters. In this context, Luxembourg served as chair of the OCHA Donor Support Group (ODSG) from July 2023 to June 2024. Particular emphasis was placed on responding to the humanitarian consequences of climate change and internal displacement, as well as managing risk in fragile settings. In 2024, Luxembourg allocated nearly €96 million for humanitarian interventions, representing 17% of official development assistance.

As for our bilateral cooperation, the military coups by juntas in the central Sahel region led me, in late 2023, to the decision not to extend our bilateral programmes in Burkina Faso, Mali or Niger. Partnerships in development aid are based on the foundations of good governance and shared values, such as democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights. The decision thus marks the end of more than 30 years

of bilateral cooperation with those three countries, even as the needs of their populations persist. Nevertheless, we remain active in the region through other channels, such as multilateral and UN agencies, NGOs and other bilateral donors. As for Senegal, we continue to engage with the authorities on a dispute resolution mechanism, particularly in relation to the evolving human rights situation.

In response to these shifts, the process of identifying new partners continued in 2024, alongside the strengthening of relations with cooperation partners already identified. For instance, in March, I signed the roadmap for cooperation between Luxembourg and Benin and inaugurated our embassy in Cotonou. In September, I signed the general cooperation agreement between Luxembourg and Togo with my counterpart Robert Dussey.

While Ukraine continued to endure the impact of the Russian war of aggression, Luxembourg Development Cooperation stepped up its humanitarian support to the country. A technical and financial cooperation agreement was signed with Ukraine on 19 March as part of that effort. Humanitarian mine clearing in Ukraine is an issue particularly close to my heart. On 9 December, I took part in a ceremony to deliver 110 demining kits to Ukraine. Ukraine can continue to rely on our support.

UN organisations have a mandate to uphold universal values and standards across all nations, but multilateralism as a whole is currently under attack, particularly in the area of global health. While neither Europe nor

the wider international community is in a position to fill the funding gap created by the withdrawal of or reductions in US support, our continued commitment to multilateralism and the sustainable development goals remains vital. That is why, in 2024, we signed our first multiannual strategic partnership framework with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, with a budget of €6 million over four years. We also concluded a new strategic partnership framework for the 2025-2028 period with the World Health Organization, worth €46.5 million. The latter agreement aims to support reforms that have been underway for several years to strengthen the global multilateral health system. We continue to allocate about 30% of our official development assistance annually to programmes and projects run by multilateral organisations.

In 2024, the entire NGDO sector was rocked by a major case of embezzlement within *Fondation Caritas*. Caritas had been a long-standing partner, particularly in the area of humanitarian aid, and we deeply regret the loss of the international service it provided. I would like to express my gratitude to the entire team for its dedication over the years, including the responsible closure of projects reaching their end and the handover of projects that have been extended, at least temporarily, to new partners. Luxembourg's NGDOs are a cornerstone of our development cooperation. They implement 15% of our official development assistance and are actively engaged on the ground, including in countries where we have no direct presence. They have a strong understanding of the needs of the most vulnerable communities and know how to support them toward sustainable development. In 2024, the Ministry co-financed 91 NGDO projects, in addition to 23 multiannual framework agreements.

Luxembourg was also the subject of a "peer review" within the framework of the Development Assistance Committee in 2024. That OECD body brings member countries together to discuss best practices in delivering development assistance projects, assess compliance with shared standards and evaluate the distribution of allocated funds. The report, presented in 2025, highlights not only the scale of the aid provided by Luxembourg but also its distinctive features: exclusively grant-based aid with no economic strings attached, focused on combating extreme poverty in the least developed countries. In 2024, Luxembourg allocated ODA amounting to €551.70 million, once again devoting nearly 1% of its gross national income to official development assistance – a commitment met since 2009.

Luxembourg continues to be a committed and reliable partner on the global stage, and its actions in the field of development cooperation and humanitarian aid are a tangible demonstration of this on a daily basis. I extend my thanks to all those involved in these efforts, especially the practitioners working in the field. It is through their work that we can continue investing in people, empowering communities and shaping a prosperous future.



MINISTERIAL MEETINGS AND VISITS IN 2024

1

JANUARY

09-11/01 - Working visit to Israel and Palestine

2

FEBRUARY

05-08/02 - Working visit to Laos

3

MARCH

04/03 - Visit to the House of Microfinance

11/03 - Visit to LuxDev

15/03 - 23rd Partnership committee meeting with Cabo Verde

- Discussion with the Luxembourg NGDOs' *Cercle de Coopération*

17-19/03 - Participation in the European Humanitarian Forum in Brussels

25-29/03 - Working visit to Benin and Togo

4

APRIL

29/04 - Discussion with Maurizio Martina, Deputy Director-General of the FAO

5

MAY

16/05 - Development cooperation conference

28-29/05 - Working visit to Israel and Palestine

6

JUNE

05/06 - Signing of the new agreement between the State of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Luxembourg Agency for Development Cooperation

18-29/06 - Working visit to Rwanda

26/06 - Signing of academic exchange partnership agreements with the University of Luxembourg, LuxDev and the Interdisciplinary Centre for Security, Reliability and Trust (SnT), agreements concerning the financing of scholarships for the Luxembourg Development Cooperation intervention countries as well as agreements for the implementation of the SnT4Dev initiative.

7

JULY

19/07 - Discussion with Ms Els Debuf, Head of Delegation for Cyberspace at the International Committee of the Red Cross

25-26/07 - Working visit to Geneva

31/07-01/08 - Working visit to Jordan

9

SEPTEMBER

22-29/09 - Working visit to New York during the United Nations General Assembly.

- Signing of the general cooperation agreement between Luxembourg and Togo.
- Signing of the agreement with the International Organisation of La Francophonie to support the *La Francophonie avec Elles* fund.

10

OCTOBER

16/10 - Celebration of the anniversaries of ADA, InFiNe and the ADA Chair at the University of Luxembourg

23-24/10 - International Conference in Support of Lebanon's People and Sovereignty in Paris

29-30/10 - Working visit to Israel and Palestine

11

NOVEMBER

04-05/11 - Bilateral committee meeting in Kosovo

06/11 - Informal meeting of the United Nations General Assembly concerning the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)

07/11 - Signing of the memorandum of understanding as part of Luxembourg's support for the recovery of Kryvyi Rih region with Oleksii Kuleba, Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister for Restoration

08/11 - Discussion with Dr Comfort Ero, President and CEO of the International Crisis Group

14/11 - Launch of the collaborative initiative between UNHCR and LIST for the development of an early warning system for emergencies

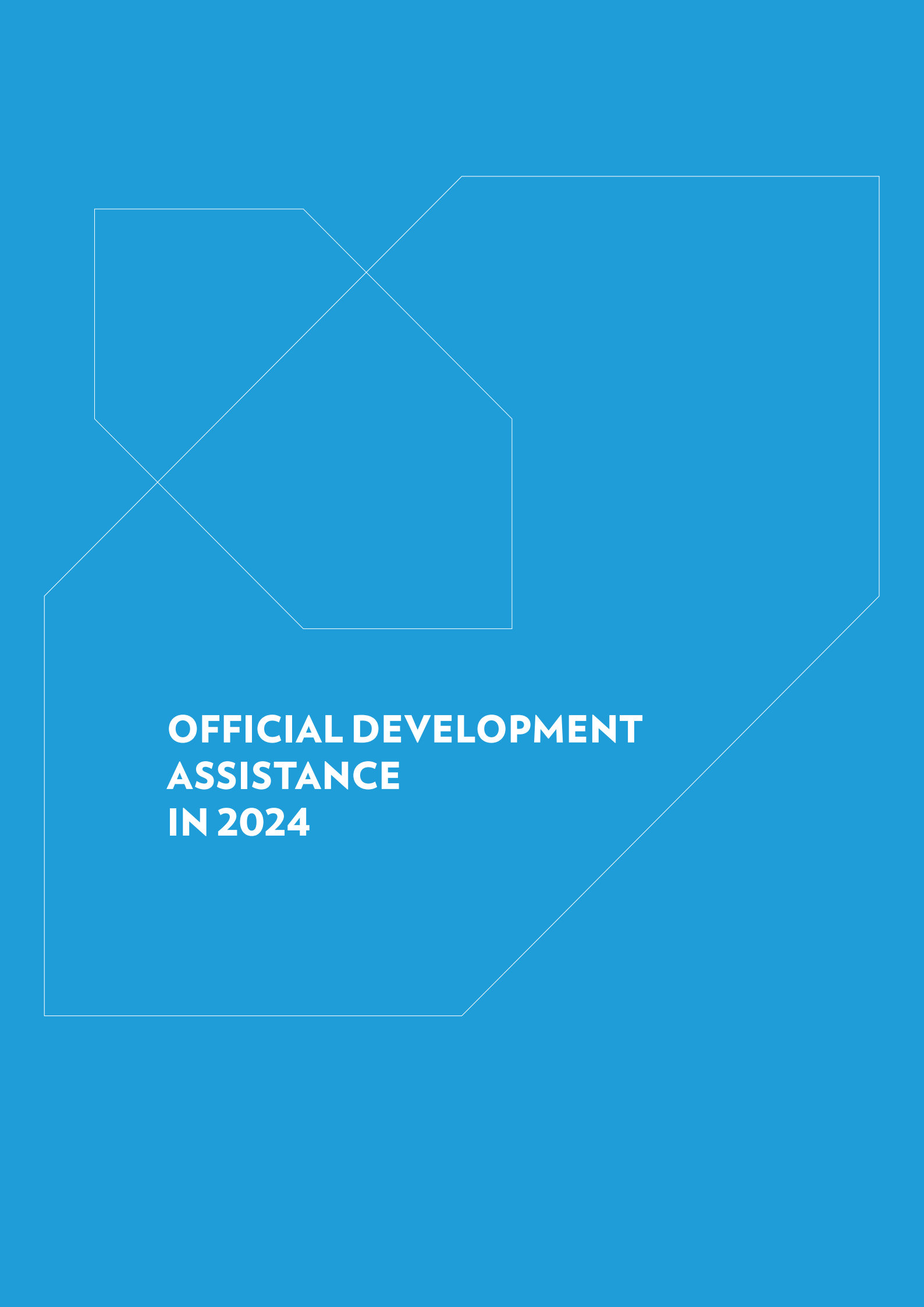
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DECEMBER

09/12 - Ceremony to deliver humanitarian demining equipment in Ukraine

18/12 - Discussion with Friendship Luxembourg, an NGDO

20/12 - Discussion with Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the WHO, and signing of the 2025-2028 strategic partnership framework with the WHO

The background is a solid blue color. Overlaid on this are several white geometric lines that form a series of overlapping, irregular polygons. These lines create a sense of depth and structure, with some lines extending from the top and sides towards the center, and others forming a more complex, interconnected shape in the upper left quadrant.

OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE IN 2024



CHANGES TO OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE IN 2024

The OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) defines official development assistance (ODA) as "government aid that promotes and specifically targets the economic development and welfare of developing countries." ODA data are published by the OECD twice a year, in spring (preliminary report) and autumn (final report). The preliminary report provides an overview of ODA, excluding information on sectors of intervention and geographical location. The final report presents definitive data, including a detailed breakdown by sector and by country.

In 2024, Luxembourg's ODA amounted to €551.71 million, representing 1.00% of gross national income (GNI). Luxembourg is therefore still one of the small number of OECD members – alongside Norway (1.02%), Sweden (0.79%) and Denmark (0.71%) – to have maintained its ODA at 0.7% of GNI or above. In absolute terms, the US remains the most generous donor, followed by Germany, the United Kingdom and Japan.

At the international level, ODA from DAC member countries decreased in 2024 for the first time after five consecutive years of growth, registering a 7.1% drop in real terms compared to 2023. Total ODA reached USD 212.1 billion, equivalent to 0.33% of the combined gross national income (GNI) of OECD Development Assistance Committee members. The decrease is partly due to higher contributions in 2023 to the World Bank's International Development Association and to the IMF's Resilience and Sustainability funds. Bilateral aid from DAC member countries also fell by 5.8%, due to several factors: a decline in aid to Ukraine, reduced humanitarian aid as well as lower costs associated with hosting refugees in donor countries.

BREAKDOWN OF ODA BY MINISTRY IN 2024

In 2024, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Defence, Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade (MFA) managed 80.24% of ODA, i.e. €442.69 million (of which €431.11 million was managed by the Directorate for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs). The remaining 19.76% came from contributions made by the Ministry of Finance (9.59%), the Ministry of Health and Social Security (0.05%), the Ministry for Digitalisation (0.04%), the Ministry of Culture (0.02%), the Ministry of Family Affairs, Solidarity, Living Together and Reception of Refugees (0.02%), the Ministry of Home Affairs (0.01%) and Luxembourg's contribution to the EU's general budget allocated by the European Commission for the purposes of development cooperation in 2024 (€55.29 million, i.e. 10.02% of Luxembourg's ODA). The summary table below (ODA by ministry) gives a detailed view of expenditure by budget item and by ministry in 2024 notified as ODA to the OECD's Development Assistance Committee.

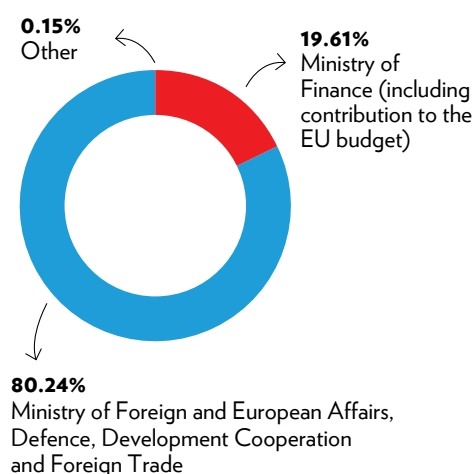
BUDGET ITEM	MINISTRY	APPROVED APPROPRIATION	ODA SHARE IN 2024
Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Defence, Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade		€ 521,091,412	€ 442,690,106
Directorate of Political Affairs		€ 16,481,829	€ 3,897,382
01.2.35.030	Mandatory contributions to the various budgets and other joint expenditure of international institutions and associated fees; other international expenditure	€ 9,440,587	€ 2,673,638
01.2.35.031	Subsidies to international institutions and organisations; subsidies for funding international relief and solidarity actions	€ 1,150,000	€ 676,884
01.2.35.032	Mandatory contributions to peacekeeping operations under the aegis of international organisations and to the EU crisis management mechanisms	€ 4,320,242	€ 380,760
01.2.35.060	Voluntary contributions to international actions of a political or economic nature	€ 355,000	€ 166,100
Directorate of European Affairs and International Economic Relations		€ 1,200,000	€ 915,728
01.3.35.040	Technical and economic assistance and training initiatives at the international level	€ 1,200,000	€ 915,728
Directorate of Defence		€ 35,011,533	€ 1,125,000
01.5.35.035	Luxembourg's contribution in the framework of defence policy	€ 35,011,533	€ 1,125,000
Directorate of Finance and Human Resources		€ 445,858,505	€ 5,638,546
01.1.11.005	Staff remuneration	€ 22,539,545	€ 1,407,211
01.12.xx.xxx.	Embassies in developing countries		€ 4,231,335
Directorate for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs		€ 445,858,505	€ 431,113,450
01.7.11.005	Staff remuneration	€ 7,895,637	€ 3,654,065
01.7.12.012	Mileage and accommodation expenses for travel abroad by staff on development cooperation and humanitarian action missions	€ 800,000	€ 661,849
01.7.12.120	Effectiveness of development assistance: expert reports, monitoring, control and evaluation of development cooperation projects and programmes	€ 900,000	€ 502,366
01.7.12.140	Public information and awareness-raising campaigns in Luxembourg regarding development cooperation	€ 250,000	€ 60,793
01.7.12.190	Training, study and research actions; seminars and conferences	€ 200,000	€ 153,698
01.7.12.230	Expenses in connection with public acts and events of a protocol or social nature; miscellaneous expenditure	€ 300,000	€ 62,347
01.7.32.020	Development cooperation leave and special leave for volunteers from emergency services for humanitarian actions: compensatory and flat-rate allowances	€ 100,000	€ 21,999
01.7.33.000	Contribution to expenditure of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in carrying out actions to raise awareness of development cooperation among the Luxembourg public and other measures with the same purpose	€ 4,650,000	€ 4,511,692
01.7.33.010	Contribution to the Cercle de coopération fees paid by non-governmental organisations and other measures to promote development cooperation	€ 557,328	€ 557,328
01.7.35.000	Development cooperation: contributions to economic and technical assistance programmes and to European Union humanitarian action; miscellaneous expenditure with the same purpose	€ 5,250,000	€ 5,248,830
01.7.35.030	Development cooperation: contributions to the budgets, programmes and thematic priorities of international institutions other than the European Union	€ 55,000,000	€ 54,936,100
01.7.35.032	Development cooperation: mandatory contributions to budgets of international institutions other than the European Union	€ 500,000	€ 419,522
31.7.74.065	Development of software	€ 100	€ 4,148
DCF	Development Cooperation Fund	€ 369,440,440	€ 360,787,790
Reimbursements			-€ 469,077
Ministry of Culture		€ 370,375	€ 128,984
04.0.35.060	Subscriptions to international bodies	€ 370,375	€ 128,984

BUDGET ITEM	MINISTRY	APPROVED APPROPRIATION	ODA SHARE IN 2024
Ministry of Finance		€ 48,735,922	€ 52,927,356
42.0.54.030	Contribution to programmes and projects run by the international financial institutions and development assistance	€ 7,940,000	€ 7,939,900
42.0.54.032	Contribution by the State to financing the costs of the Financial Technology Transfer Agency's activities	€ 1,332,922	€ 685,238
42.8.84.037	Disbursement of "promissory notes" issued to international financial institutions in the context of replenishments of resources	€ 42,050,000	€ 42,048,970
59.0.84.036	Financing of operations arising from Luxembourg's commitments to international financial institutions	€ 5,353,000	€ 2,232,704
Fund to combat drug trafficking			€ 20,545
European Union		€ 384,500,000	€ 55,289,185
12.0.35.001	Quota to be paid to the European Union as a contribution based on gross national income	€ 384,500,000	€ 55,289,185
Ministry of Health and Social Security		€ 415,000	€ 276,407
19.0.35.060	Contributions to international bodies	€ 415,000	€ 276,407
Ministry for Digitalisation		€ 165,000,000	€ 233,939
05.1.41.050	State financial allocation to the Government IT Centre	€ 165,000,000	€ 233,939
Ministry of Home Affairs		€ 79,200	€ 70,588.61
02.2.33.300	Bilateral or multilateral aid for the reintegration of returnees and for actions designed to achieve better management of migration flows; subsidies pursuing the same aim to international organisations and NGOs	€ 25,000	€ 12,500
02.2.35.030	Mandatory contributions to the budgets of international institutions other than the European Union	€ 54,200	€ 58,089
Ministry of Family Affairs, Solidarity, Living Together and Reception of Refugees		€ 1,077,998	€ 92,248
11.1.33.006	State financial contribution to projects implemented under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and other EU programmes	€ 1,077,998	€ 92,248
Total net ODA			€ 551,708,814
GNI		1.00%	€ 55,214,870,000

DISTRIBUTION OF ODA IN %

Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Defence, Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade	80.24%
Directorate for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs	78.14%
Other directorates	2.10%
Contribution to the EU budget	10.02%
Ministry of Finance	9.59%
Ministry of Health and Social Security	0.05%
Ministry for Digitalisation	0.04%
Ministry of Culture	0.02%
Ministry of Family Affairs, Solidarity, Living Together and Reception of Refugees	0.02%
Ministry of Home Affairs	0.01%
	100.00%

TOTAL ODA DISBURSED BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES 2024





BREAKDOWN OF ODA BY TYPE OF COOPERATION IN 2024

The table below (breakdown of gross ODA) gives the distribution by type of cooperation of all Luxembourg's 2024 ODA expenditure, following the rules of the DAC. This reveals that bilateral cooperation, as defined by the DAC, represents 70.48% of all expenditure (DCF and budget lines), while 29.52% was expended on multilateral cooperation. Humanitarian

aid, which is included in bilateral cooperation, was 17.43% of ODA in 2024. NGOs administered nearly a fifth of Luxembourg's ODA (18.58%), of which 13.11% was administered by Luxembourg NGOs approved by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs. The difference between gross and net ODA is due to the reimbursements made to the Development Cooperation Fund (DCF) or directly to the State Treasury during the year.

DISTRIBUTION OF GROSS ODA	2024	% OF BI-LATERAL COOP.	% OF ODA	HUMANITARIAN AID COMPONENT	% BILATERAL HUMANITARIAN AID	% OF ODA
Gross bilateral cooperation	€ 389,160,402.28	100.00%	70.48%	€ 96,182,584.06	24.72%	17.43%
Programmes and projects implemented by LuxDev	€ 143,069,189.30	36.76%	25.91%	€ 76,385.97	0.08%	0.01%
Programmes and projects implemented by multilateral agencies and programmes	€ 95,154,130.98 €	24.45%	17.23%	€ 36,909,697.02 €	38.37%	6.68%
Other bilateral programmes and projects (BI-MFEA other than by NGOs and agencies)	€ 28,543,741.14 €	7.33%	5.17%	€ 12,681,599.36 €	13.18%	2.30%
Cooperation implemented by NGOs	€ 102,579,442.89 €	26.36%	18.58%	€ 36,877,401.71 €	38.34%	6.68%
by national NGOs	€ 72,407,505.39	18.61%	13.11%	€ 14,759,440.71	15.35%	2.67%
by international NGOs	€ 26,862,572.00	6.90%	4.86%	€ 22,032,570.00	22.91%	3.99%
by NGOs based in a developing country	€ 3,309,365.50	0.85%	0.60%	€ 85,391.00	0.09%	0.02%
Programme support	€ 4,400,213.55	1.13%	0.80%	-	0.00%	0.00%
Other	€ 15,413,684.42	3.96%	2.79%	€ 9,637,500.00	10.02%	1.75%

DISTRIBUTION OF GROSS ODA	2024	% OF MULTILATERAL COOPERATION	% OF ODA
Gross multilateral cooperation	€ 163,017,488.44	100%	29.52%
United Nations organisations	€ 49,701,757.69	30.49%	9.00%
European Union institutions	€ 59,092,915.33	36.25%	10.70%
World Bank & IMF	€ 36,933,500.00	22.66%	6.69%
Regional development banks	€ 8,793,223.65	5.39%	1.59%
Other	€ 8,496,091.77	5.21%	1.54%
Gross ODA	€ 552,177,890.72		APD/RNB
Revenue	€ -469,076.62		
Net ODA (excl. revenue)	€ 551,708,814.10		0.99%



BREAKDOWN OF ODA BY INTERVENTION SECTOR IN 2024

The following table (ODA by sector) gives the breakdown by sector of all Luxembourg ODA expenditure. In 2024, Luxembourg Development Cooperation continued to focus on sectors in the category of infrastructure and social services, which made up 28.23% of total aid (and 40.05% of bilateral aid). Education, health, population/health and reproductive health policy, water distribution and sanitation, support for governance and civil society as well as infrastructure and various social services all fall within that category. The humanitarian aid category accounts for 17.42% of aid (22.24% of bilateral aid). The category of infrastructure

and economic services made up 7.54% of aid (10.7% of bilateral aid), the two main sub-categories being investment in the banks and financial services sector (inclusive finance) and the companies and other services sector'. Support for multi-sector and cross-cutting issues represented 2.99% of ODA (4.24% of bilateral aid). The production sector category accounted for 3.66% of ODA in 2024 (5.20% of bilateral aid), the majority of the aid being allocated to agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Finally, we should note that, under multilateral ODA, most of the investments (94.09%) cannot be allocated to a precise sector. This is due to the nature of multilateral aid, which is made of up direct contributions, both mandatory and voluntary, to the multilateral agencies' general budgets.

SECTOR-BASED BREAKDOWN OF GROSS BILATERAL & MULTILATERAL ODA	BILATERAL ODA	%	MULTILATERAL ODA	%	TOTAL BY SECTOR	%
Infrastructure and social services	€ 155,862,088	40.05%	€ -	0.00%	€ 155,862,088	28.23%
Education	€ 57,652,827	14.81%	€ -	0.00%	€ 57,652,827	10.44%
education, unspecified level	€ 27,463,605	7.06%	€ -	0.00%	€ 27,463,605	4.97%
basic education	€ 4,262,678	1.10%	€ -	0.00%	€ 4,262,678	0.77%
secondary education	€ 22,762,986	5.85%	€ -	0.00%	€ 22,762,986	4.12%
post-secondary education	€ 3,163,557	0.81%	€ -	0.00%	€ 3,163,557	0.57%
Health	€ 34,403,723	8.84%	€ -	0.00%	€ 34,403,723	6.23%
general health	€ 28,747,648	7.39%	€ -	0.00%	€ 28,747,648	5.21%
basic health	€ 5,632,381	1.45%	€ -	0.00%	€ 5,632,381	1.02%
non-communicable diseases	€ 23,694	0.01%	€ -	0.00%	€ 23,694	0.00%
Policy on population/health and reproductive health	€ 12,656,645	3.25%	€ -	0.00%	€ 12,656,645	2.29%
Distribution of water and sanitation	€ 5,804,527	1.49%	€ -	0.00%	€ 5,804,527	1.05%
Government and civil society	€ 29,661,610	7.62%	€ -	0.00%	€ 29,661,610	5.37%
government and civil society — general	€ 25,053,920	6.44%	€ -	0.00%	€ 25,053,920	4.54%
public policies and administrative management	€ 1,659,357	0.43%	€ -	0.00%	€ 1,659,357	0.30%
public finance management	€ 2,253,173	0.58%	€ -	0.00%	€ 2,253,173	0.41%
decentralisation and support to sub-national administrations	€ 85,079	0.02%	€ -	0.00%	€ 85,079	0.02%
anti-corruption organisations and institutions	€ 1,444,728	0.37%	€ -	0.00%	€ 1,444,728	0.26%
fiscal policy and support for fiscal administration	€ 1,303,383	0.33%	€ -	0.00%	€ 1,303,383	0.24%

SECTOR-BASED BREAKDOWN OF GROSS BILATERAL & MULTILATERAL ODA	BILATERAL ODA	%	MULTILATERAL ODA	%	TOTAL BY SECTOR	%
<i>development of legal and judicial services</i>	€ 2,806,349	0.72%	€ -	0.00%	€ 2,806,349	0.51%
<i>democratic participation and civil society</i>	€ 3,517,474	0.90%	€ -	0.00%	€ 3,517,474	0.64%
<i>elections</i>	€ 13,780	0.00%	€ -	0.00%	€ 13,780	0.00%
<i>media and freedom of information</i>	€ 280,000	0.07%	€ -	0.00%	€ 280,000	0.05%
<i>human rights</i>	€ 9,215,450	2.37%	€ -	0.00%	€ 9,215,450	1.67%
<i>organisations and movements that defend women's rights and governmental institutions</i>	€ 414,871	0.11%	€ -	0.00%	€ 414,871	0.08%
<i>elimination of violence against women and girls</i>	€ 1,994,180	0.51%	€ -	0.00%	€ 1,994,180	0.36%
<i>facilitating migration and mobility in an orderly, safe, regular and responsible manner</i>	€ 66,094	0.02%	€ -	0.00%	€ 66,094	0.01%
conflicts, peace and security	€ 4,607,690	1.18%	€ -	0.00%	€ 4,607,690	0.83%
Various infrastructure and social services	€ 15,682,755	4.03%	€ -	0.00%	€ 15,682,755	2.84%
Infrastructure and economic services	€ 41,621,102	10.70%	€ -	0.00%	€ 41,621,102	7.54%
Communications	€ 5,372,227	1.38%	€ -	0.00%	€ 5,372,227	0.97%
Energy: production, distribution and efficiency - general	€ 4,560,819	1.17%	€ -	0.00%	€ 4,560,819	0.83%
Banks and financial services	€ 24,446,785	6.28%	€ -	0.00%	€ 24,446,785	4.43%
Enterprises and other services	€ 7,241,272	1.86%	€ -	0.00%	€ 7,241,272	1.31%
Production	€ 20,229,855	5.20%	€ -	0.00%	€ 20,229,855	3.66%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	€ 20,219,965	5.20%	€ -	0.00%	€ 20,219,965	3.66%
Manufacturing and extractive industries, construction	€ 9,890	0.00%	€ -	0.00%	€ 9,890	0.00%
Multi-sector or cross-cutting issues	€ 16,514,209	4.24%	€ -	0.00%	€ 16,514,209	2.99%
Environmental protection	€ 1,540,662	0.40%	€ -	0.00%	€ 1,540,662	0.28%
Other multisectors	€ 14,973,547	3.85%	€ -	0.00%	€ 14,973,547	2.71%
multisector aid	€ 9,945,966	2.56%	€ -	0.00%	€ 9,945,966	1.80%
urban development and management	€ 81,363	0.02%	€ -	0.00%	€ 81,363	0.01%
rural development	€ 3,939,742	1.01%	€ -	0.00%	€ 3,939,742	0.71%
disaster risk reduction	€ 399,497	0.10%	€ -	0.00%	€ 399,497	0.07%
household food security programmes	€ 310,265	0.08%	€ -	0.00%	€ 310,265	0.06%
multisector education and training	€ 166,005	0.04%	€ -	0.00%	€ 166,005	0.03%
scientific and research institutions	€ 130,708	0.03%	€ -	0.00%	€ 130,708	0.02%
Budgetary support	€ 14,016	0.00%	€ -	0.00%	€ 14,016	0.00%
Development food aid/food security	€ 881,576	0.23%	€ -	0.00%	€ 881,576	0.16%
Humanitarian aid	€ 86,545,084	22.24%	€ 9,637,500	5.91%	€ 96,182,584	17.42%

SECTOR-BASED BREAKDOWN OF GROSS BILATERAL & MULTILATERAL ODA	BILATERAL ODA	%	MULTILATERAL ODA	%	TOTAL BY SECTOR	%
Emergency intervention	€ 78,160,203	20.08%	€ 9,250,000	5.67%	€ 87,410,203	15.83%
assistance in materiel and emergency services	€ 55,794,140	14.34%	€ 8,250,000	5.06%	€ 64,044,140	11.60%
basic health care services in emergency situations	€ 3,129,163	0.80%	€ -	0.00%	€ 3,129,163	0.57%
emergency food aid	€ 8,458,500	2.17%	€ -	0.00%	€ 8,458,500	1.53%
coordination of emergency assistance and support and protection services	€ 10,778,400	2.77%	€ 1,000,000	0.61%	€ 11,778,400	2.13%
Reconstruction and rehabilitation	€ 2,016,431	0.52%	€ -	0.00%	€ 2,016,431	0.37%
Disaster prevention and disaster preparedness	€ 6,368,450	1.64%	€ 387,500	0.24%	€ 6,755,950	1.22%
Donors' administrative costs	€ 33,265,635	8.55%	€ -	0.00%	€ 33,265,635	6.02%
Awareness-raising	€ 4,644,409	1.19%	€ -	0.00%	€ 4,644,409	0.84%
Refugee assistance in the donor country	€ 92,248	0.02%	€ -	0.00%	€ 92,248	0.02%
Unassigned / not specified	€ 29,490,181	7.58%	€ 153,379,988	94.09%	€ 182,870,170	33.12%
Total bilateral and multilateral aid broken down by sector	€ 389,160,402	100.00%	€ 163,017,488	100.00%	€ 552,177,891	100.00%



THE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FUND IN 2024

Established by the amended law of 6 January 1996 on development cooperation and humanitarian action, the Development Cooperation Fund (DCF) is an instrument enabling the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs to carry out development programmes and projects extending over several years. The state budget provided the DCF with €369.44 million in 2024; added to which are the assets available on 1 January, i.e. €11.35 million, as well as revenue during the year (€469,076.62). Revenue includes repayments by NGOs and agencies of undisbursed funds from projects co-funded by the Ministry.

In 2024, a total of €360.79 million was disbursed through the DCF. LuxDev, as the state's principal agent responsible for the implementation of projects and programmes falling under the heading of governmental bilateral cooperation, benefited from the majority of this amount, i.e. €143.07 million (39.65%). Humanitarian aid was credited with €96.12 million (26.64%). Next come non-governmental development organisations, which received €43.91 million (12.17%) as part of the co-financing of their projects and programmes and to cover some of their administrative costs, and multilateral organisations and agencies (€37.27 million, i.e. 10.33%). The balance was accounted for by projects implemented by the Ministry directly with other partners (€36.03 million, i.e. 10%) and programme support (€4.4 million, i.e. 1.21%).

DISBURSEMENTS THROUGH THE DCF IN 2024 BY HEADING

	ODA	%
Programmes and projects implemented by LuxDev	€ 143,069,189.30	39.65%
Programmes and projects implemented by multilateral agencies and programmes	€ 37,272,387.56	10.33%
Other bilateral programmes and projects	€ 36,030,210.53	10.00%
Cooperation with NGOs (framework agreements, co-financing and administrative expenses)	€ 43,913,349.39	12.17%
Programme support	€ 4,378,214.19	1.21%
Humanitarian aid	€ 96,124,439.48	26.64%
Total	€ 360,787,790.45	100.00%

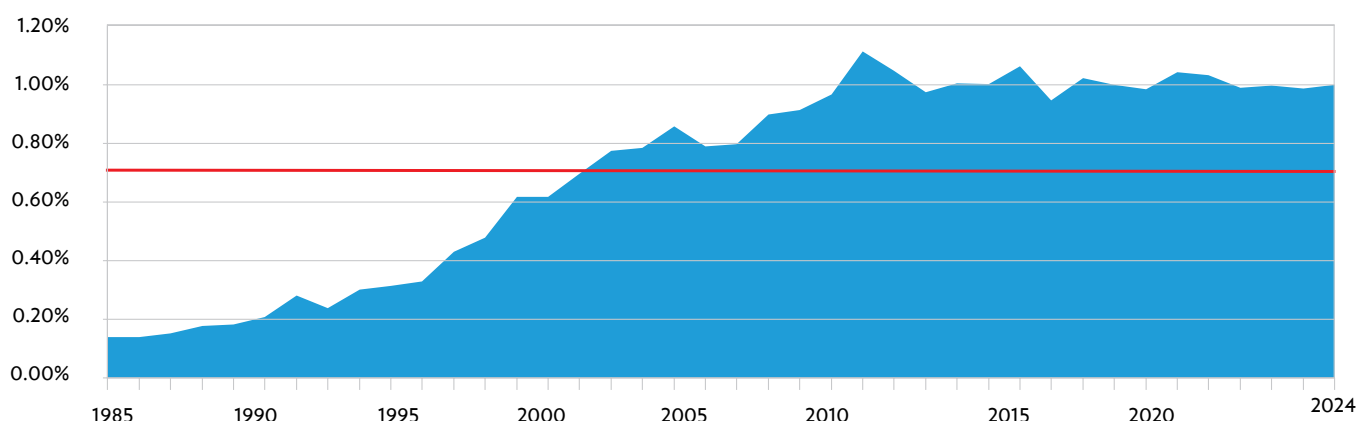


CHANGES TO OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

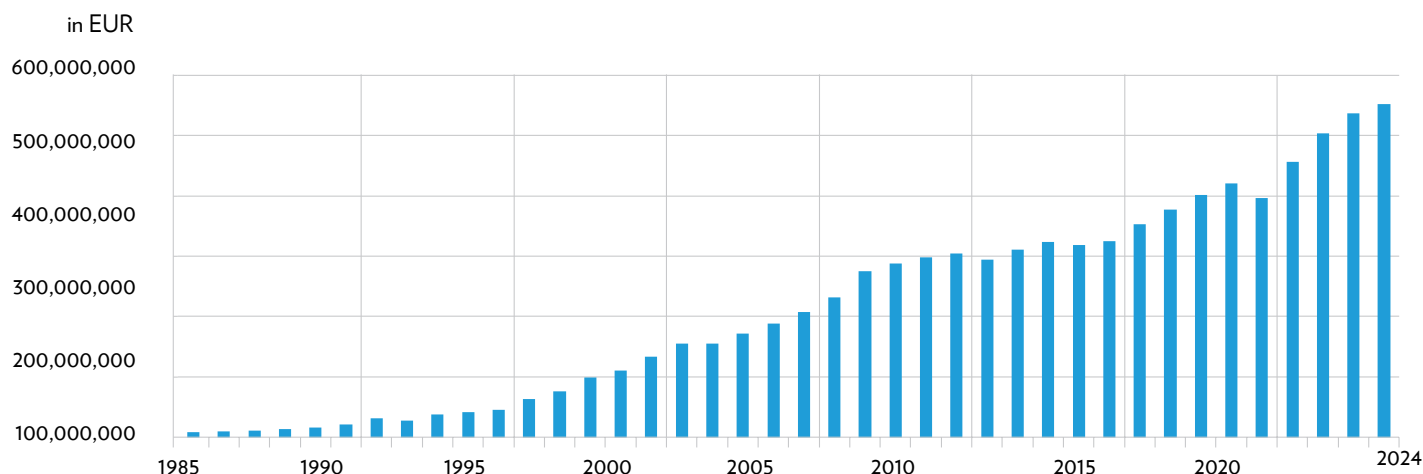
As the graph below shows, Luxembourg's official development assistance initially grew slowly but steadily. At the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, Prime Minister Jacques Santer formally announced Luxembourg's desire "to provide 0.7% of GNI by 2000". This objective was then confirmed and in 1999 during the formation of the government, it was decided to set the rate of 0.7% as an objective to be reached by 2000, then to increase this aid "with a view to reaching 1% at the end of this government's term".

The target of 0.7% of GNI was achieved as planned in 2000 and that commitment was confirmed in subsequent years, with ODA never falling below that threshold. In 2009, Luxembourg's official aid exceeded the threshold of 1% of GNI for the first time. This objective is still current, although in some years the ODA/GNI ratio has varied slightly, at close to 1%, due to reassessments of GNI during the year. Under the coalition agreement, the current government has committed to maintaining the target of 1% of GNI for ODA.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ODA AND GNI 1985-2024



ODA 1985-2024 IN VOLUME TERMS



CHANGES SINCE 1985 TO OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AS A RATIO OF GROSS NATIONAL INCOME

YEAR	NET ODA	GNI	ODA AS % OF GNI
1985	€ 9,082,818.75	€ 6,536,208,567.70	0.14%
1986	€ 9,672,805.34	€ 7,005,669,324.91	0.14%
1987	€ 11,110,587.78	€ 7,370,147,174.39	0.15%
1988	€ 14,201,572.14	€ 8,058,002,126.93	0.18%
1989	€ 16,566,228.47	€ 9,109,318,565.49	0.18%
1990	€ 20,751,910.64	€ 10,001,065,942.16	0.21%
1991	€ 31,284,162.83	€ 11,146,433,184.02	0.28%
1992	€ 27,739,285.42	€ 11,701,516,364.69	0.24%
1993	€ 38,200,392.17	€ 12,671,598,095.19	0.30%
1994	€ 41,596,533.46	€ 13,252,189,519.56	0.31%
1995	€ 46,113,000.00	€ 13,992,800,000.00	0.33%
1996	€ 63,077,000.00	€ 14,705,000,000.00	0.43%
1997	€ 75,596,000.00	€ 15,803,700,000.00	0.48%
1998	€ 98,829,000.00	€ 16,020,300,000.00	0.62%
1999	€ 110,118,000.00	€ 17,868,200,000.00	0.62%
2000	€ 133,433,659.00	€ 19,170,400,000.00	0.70%
2001	€ 155,128,137.00	€ 20,050,300,000.00	0.77%
2002	€ 155,735,183.00	€ 19,897,800,000.00	0.78%
2003	€ 171,677,042.00	€ 20,027,700,000.00	0.86%
2004	€ 188,981,534.00	€ 23,988,000,000.00	0.79%
2005	€ 207,387,692.00	€ 26,007,300,000.00	0.80%
2006	€ 231,510,318.00	€ 25,800,400,000.00	0.90%
2007	€ 275,135,892.00	€ 30,158,600,000.00	0.91%
2008	€ 287,679,785.00	€ 29,729,000,000.00	0.97%
2009	€ 297,817,177.00	€ 25,126,100,000.00	1.11%
2010	€ 304,031,901.10	€ 28,633,700,000.00	1.05%
2011	€ 294,322,548.33	€ 30,250,700,000.00	0.97%
2012	€ 310,447,807.61	€ 30,927,066,000.00	1.00%
2013	€ 323,037,939.00	€ 32,284,000,000.00	1.00%
2014	€ 318,347,926.85	€ 29,970,000,000.00	1.06%
2015	€ 324,941,071.12	€ 34,352,350,000.00	0.95%
2016	€ 353,143,813.00	€ 34,550,000,000.00	1.02%
2017	€ 377,093,413.53	€ 37,790,000,000.00	1.00%
2018	€ 401,296,347.29	€ 40,767,580,800.10	0.98%
2019	€ 420,797,574.94	€ 40,350,000,000.00	1.04%
2020	€ 396,927,971.71	€ 38,520,000,000.00	1.03%
2021	€ 456,095,218.06	46,170,000,000.00	0.99%
2022	€ 503,867,364.90	€ 50,628,760,188.19	1.00%
2023	€ 536,467,742.25	€ 54,420,000,000.00	0.99%
2024	€ 551,708,814.10	€ 55,214,870,000.00	1.00%

The background is a solid blue color. Overlaid on this are several white geometric lines that form a series of overlapping, irregular polygons. These lines create a sense of depth and structure, with some lines extending from the top and left edges towards the center, and others forming a large, open shape on the right side. The overall effect is modern and minimalist.

LUXEMBOURG DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND ITS PARTNERS



AFRICA

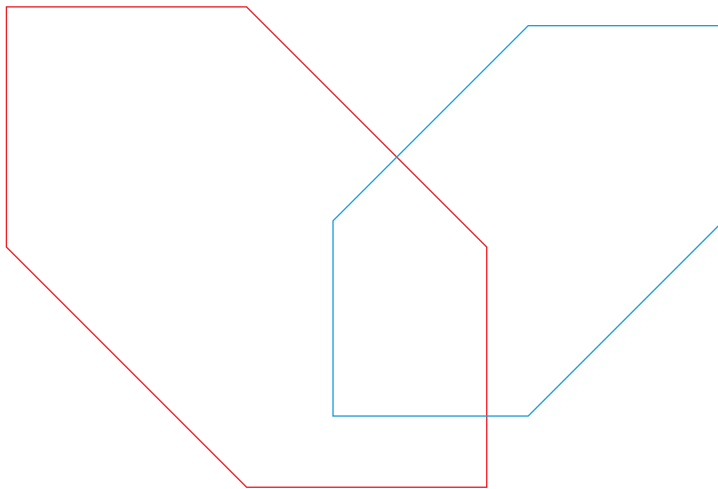
Luxembourg Development Cooperation has been active in the Sahel since the late 1980s, establishing long-standing partnerships with the countries in the region. However, in view of the political and security developments in the Sahel, Luxembourg Development Cooperation had to review its intervention modalities in 2024. In Niger, following the 2023 coup d'état, Luxembourg suspended its bilateral cooperation, as did other like-minded partners. In Burkina Faso and Mali, Luxembourg remained committed to its existing bilateral commitments, but refrained from entering into

any new bilateral agreements or projects with the so-called transitional governments, pending a return to constitutional order.

Despite these changes, it is important to note that projects led by NGOs, humanitarian organisations and multilateral agencies have continued and that Luxembourg has remained committed to addressing the essential and immediate needs of the most vulnerable communities.



REGIONAL AFRICA



While keeping an eye on the deteriorating security and political landscape in the Sahel, Luxembourg has continued and stepped up its commitment to health, human rights, research and regional governance, particularly in West Africa and the Sahel.

We mention below some key examples of this regional cooperation.

In the health sector, support to the Senegalese NGO *ENDA Santé* entered its second year in 2024 as part of the CARES II project (€5.7 million; 2023-2027), which

aims to improve access to diagnosis and treatment for individuals with sexually transmitted infections in Senegal and Guinea-Bissau. The FEVE IMPULSE project, also implemented by *ENDA Santé* as part of efforts to combat HIV/AIDS, entered its mid-term review phase, a critical step in ensuring the project's intended outcomes are achieved and maximising its impact (€7.3 million; 2022-2026).

In addition, in 2024 Luxembourg continued to support the Universal Health Coverage Partnership led by the World Health Organization (the WHO). That programme aims to strengthen the capacity of 116 beneficiary countries to develop and implement robust and comprehensive health policies, strategies and plans that promote universal health coverage and ensure access to high-quality and affordable health care for all. Luxembourg's technical support for this programme is provided by six experts stationed at WHO offices in Senegal, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Cabo Verde and Laos (€29.8 million; 2013-2024).

Secondly, the WHO's Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR), co-sponsored by UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank, aims to build health research capacity in sub-Saharan Africa. As part of this effort, the Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar (UCAD), in Senegal, was selected

in 2020 to act as a sub-regional training centre for the TDR programme and to respond to the high demand for public health master's scholarships for students from Francophone countries in sub-Saharan Africa (€1.23 million; 2022-2024). Lastly, in 2024 Luxembourg Development Cooperation continued its support to the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) in Senegal, Burkina Faso and Niger. This support focuses on improving the response capacities of food safety authorities, particularly with regard to street food (€1.9 million; 2022-2025).

In 2024, Luxembourg Development Cooperation continued partnerships with organisations committed to protecting human rights, in particular through projects implemented by the Front Line Defenders and the International Service for Human Rights NGOs (see Human Rights section).

In order to support the communities most affected by instability in the Sahel, Luxembourg decided for the first time to support the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), a fund to prevent violent extremism and terrorism, through a regional programme in the Sahel focused on empowering women and girls, particularly survivors of extremist violence (€1.2 million; 2024-2026). In addition, in the field of conflict mediation, Luxembourg established a second partnership in 2024 with the Henry Dunant Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD), following the success of earlier cooperation. The Centre works to prevent, mitigate and resolve armed conflicts through dialogue and mediation in the Sahel and the Gulf of Guinea (€4 million; 2025-2026).

In the area of research and support for academic institutions, in 2024 Luxembourg Development Cooperation entered into a new partnership with the University of Luxembourg to launch an inter-university cooperation project in West Africa. The project supports the skills development of young researchers in law and economics from Burkina Faso, Niger, Cabo Verde, Senegal and Benin (€500,000; 2025-2027).

At the end of 2024, Luxembourg renewed its partnership with the International Crisis Group (ICG) for the 2025 to 2027 period, allowing the think-tank to enhance its analysis of political and security developments in the Sahel region and in Ukraine (€600,000; 2025-2027). Lastly, Luxembourg reiterated its substantial commitment to the development of the Sahel region, particularly through its involvement in the Sahel Alliance, which it joined in March 2018. It participated in the coordination bodies, including the most recent General Assembly held in Berlin in July 2024 (€200,000; 2022-2024).



During his visit in March, Minister Bettel signed the roadmap for cooperation between Luxembourg and Benin, which provides for investments of €62 million for the 2022-2026 period. On the same occasion, Luxembourg's embassy in Cotonou was officially inaugurated.

In terms of bilateral cooperation, Luxembourg Development Cooperation continued to fund two programmes through delegated cooperation agreements. This includes the construction and outfitting of agricultural technical high schools (€3 million, with the *Agence Française de Développement* (AFD)) and the programme entitled "Support for the management of the Mono delta biosphere reserve and the development of the Bouche du Roy marine protected area" (€3 million, with the Belgian development agency Enabel).

Bilateral cooperation with LuxDev continued through three projects:

- a tourism, hospitality and catering training school (2023-2026; €17 million), in partnership with the Luxembourg School of Hospitality and Tourism (EHTL) and the Lausanne School of Hospitality (EHL), the Swiss NGO Helvetas and the NGO *EcoBénin*;

- inclusive and innovative finance (2024-2027; €10 million), in partnership with the Luxembourg NGO *Appui au développement autonome* (ADA) and the German agency *Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ);
- digital development (2024-2027; €8.5 million).

LuxDev is also set to implement a new project to support civil society organisations co-financed by Luxembourg (€4.5 million) and the European Union (€6.45 million). The project, which will focus on the protection of minorities, including LGBT individuals, is at the formulation stage, with the full project document expected in 2025.

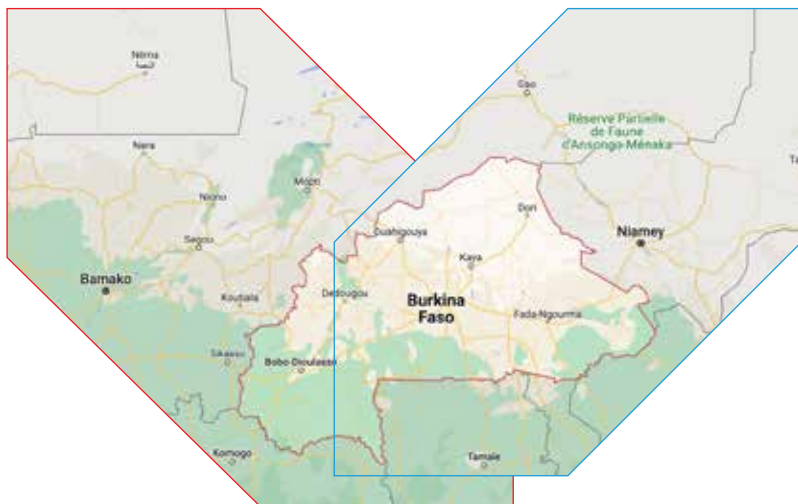
A multilateral programme with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) covering health and sex education (€4.7 million) continued in 2024. In partnership with UNICEF, a programme was launched to uphold children's rights by combating child labour, especially in the Couffo and Zou regions in central Benin (€2.3 million; 2024-2025). The project, designed to strengthen both institutional and community-based mechanisms in highly vulnerable villages and to raise awareness among children and adolescents, was developed in response to recommendations formulated by Luxembourg in the framework of the Universal Periodic Review of Benin in early 2023.

In 2024, Luxembourg contributed €1.1 million to emergency response projects and programmes in Benin. In addition, it supported the humanitarian operations of the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Six Luxembourg NGOs are active in Benin, three under framework agreements and two through co-financed projects.

AFRICA

BURKINA FASO



In Burkina Faso, Luxembourg Development Cooperation has remained committed to serving the population, while adapting its intervention methods to the changing political and security landscape in Burkina Faso following the January 2022 coup d'état. Its interventions are guided by a transition strategy that

identifies the priority sectors for programme implementation.

One area of focus is support for education and technical and vocational training, a sector which has historically received significant support from Luxembourg Development Cooperation. Support continues to be directed more towards enhancing beneficiaries' employability and addressing the educational needs of populations affected by conflict (education in emergency situations). One example is the construction of mobile and prefabricated classrooms. In this emergency context, and in line with a nexus approach, LuxDev has entered into partnerships with the international aid branch of the Luxembourg Red Cross and Catholic Relief Services for the supply of school canteens, the training of canteen staff and the distribution of food to vulnerable households, ensuring continuity of education in crisis situations for internally displaced students.

Another area of focus is support for climate governance and the sustainable management of natural resources to combat climate change, which remains a priority sector. The programme in this area focuses on combating climate change and creating green jobs, ensuring equitable, inclusive and sustainable access to natural resources to reduce inequalities and mitigate sources of tension linked to environmental degradation. Activities include land reclamation, land tenure security for certain natural areas, environmental education and support for Burkinabe businesses active in the green economy.

At the multilateral level, Luxembourg Development Cooperation is financing a project to support the economic and climate resilience of women and young people implemented by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), with a total budget of €5 million (2023-2025). The project is being implemented in four regions (Boucle du Mouhoun, Cascades, Centre-Sud and Hauts-Bassins) and seeks to improve the professional capacity of non-timber forest products organisations, boost entrepreneurial skills among beneficiaries and promote financial education, access to finance and the socio-economic inclusion of women and young people.

In response to the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in Burkina Faso, in 2024 Luxembourg continued its support for humanitarian aid, contribut-



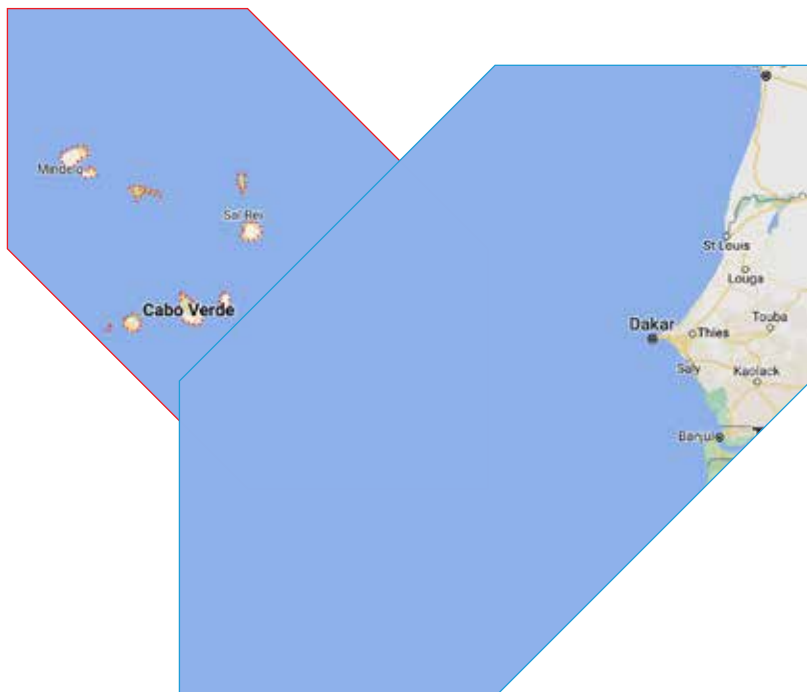
Pupils at Loubila B school

ing €3.4 million to humanitarian interventions implemented by international humanitarian organisations. It should also be noted that Luxembourg Development Cooperation incorporates a humanitarian dimension into its bilateral and multilateral projects, as part of the nexus between humanitarian action, development and peace.

In 2024, 13 Luxembourg NGOs were active in Burkina Faso, and continued to implement their projects through their local partners, despite the political crisis and the increasingly fragile security landscape. As part of the transition strategy, an indicative financial envelope of nearly €24 million per year is planned for Luxembourg NGOs in Burkina Faso.

AFRICA

CABO VERDE



Alongside Portugal, Luxembourg was the archipelago's main development partner in 2024.

The 23rd partnership committee meeting with Cabo Verde was held on 15 March 2024 in Luxembourg. It was co-chaired by Minister Xavier Bettel, who was joined by Serge Wilmes, Minister for the Environment, Climate and Biodiversity. The delegation from Cabo Verde was led by Foreign Affairs Minister Rui Figue-

iredo, accompanied by Alexandre Monteiro, Minister for Trade, Industry and Energy, and Gilberto Silva, Minister for Agriculture and the Environment. The session reaffirmed the shared commitment of both countries to their partnership.

The current Indicative Cooperation Programme (ICP), which covers the 2021-2025 period, is entitled "Development – Climate – Energy" (DCE ICP, €85.4 million). This is the first ICP in which Luxembourg is taking a whole-of-government approach, facilitating the integration and coordination of development actions with other areas such as the energy transition and combating climate change. Activities are implemented by LuxDev and ADA (through an inclusive finance project integrated within the employment pillar). For the first time, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), the Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Biodiversity (MECB) and the Ministry of the Economy's Directorate General for Energy have joined forces to design and deliver a single multiannual programme. The various ICP programmes span the entire archipelago and focus on the following priority areas of intervention: employment, water and sanitation, energy transition, climate action and governance and local development. These areas of intervention are complemented by sectoral budget support in employment and health. The bilateral programme in the energy sector has provided substantial support under an EU Global Gateway initiative in Cabo Verde. Since 2019, Luxembourg has provided €3 million in finance for the preparatory studies for the construction of a pumped-storage hydroelectric plant on Santiago Island and has contributed to the launch of a European Investment Bank (EIB) call for tenders in December 2024, which is now part of the Global Gateway initiative.

As part of multilateral cooperation, two interventions implemented by UN agencies under the DCE ICP were launched in 2023 and continued in 2024. In the employment sector, the International Labour Organization (ILO) is implementing a project to promote the formalisation of employment. Local development is being addressed through a programme implemented jointly by UNDP and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), with the goal of reducing or eliminating inequalities between the islands.



Students from the Cabo Verde School of Hospitality and Tourism

There are currently four Luxembourg NGOs working in Cabo Verde, funded by the MFA. The NGDO *Betebuerg Helleft* is implementing a project to renovate and upgrade school infrastructure in the municipality of Mosteiros, on the island of Fogo. ECPAT is implementing a project to strengthen the capacity of local networks in Cabo Verde so that children, adolescents, families, local authorities and key community

stakeholders are better informed of the risks of sexual exploitation and abuse and are equipped to prevent them. The NGDO *Guiden a Scouten fir eng Welt* is supporting both formal education and vocational training initiatives. The NGDO “*Cap Vert Espoir et Développement*” is implementing a project to build a reception and training centre for pre-school children, school-age children and adults.

AFRICA

MALI



In 2024, Luxembourg's development cooperation with Mali continued to operate under a transition strategy, adopted in January 2021 for an initial period of two years (2021-2022) and then extended by two years until 2024. For the 2023-2024 period, the total financial envelope (bilateral, multilateral and humanitarian) was €42 million. Additional contributions were made to Luxembourg NGOs under a framework agreement, alongside support for various regional programmes and micro-projects.

Under the Rural Development and Food Security Programme, LuxDev provided support to family-run farms and helped young people access economic op-

portunities. The Support Programme for Agropastoral Sectors – Phase II is implemented by LuxDev and jointly funded by Luxembourg and Switzerland in the Sikasso region. It carried out a significant number of activities in 2024 seeking to make a lasting improvement to productivity and employability in the local milk and potato sectors.

Meanwhile, many activities were carried out in 2024 in rural development and vocational training under the two projects implemented by Proman – Sustainable Development in the Kidal Region – Phase IV and Sustainable Development in the Gao Region. The programmes have led to the establishment of grain and feed banks, the construction of boreholes, wells and water supply points and the establishment and deployment of mobile training units. In Kidal, Luxembourg Development Cooperation has also taken action in the health sector, supporting the rehabilitation of several community health centres and the deployment of multi-purpose mobile teams to improve access to health services for remote and vulnerable communities.

Within the framework of multilateral cooperation, a project led by UNFPA continued in 2024 with funding from Luxembourg, focusing on continuing training for midwives and sexual and reproductive health. It included the deployment of 150 midwives across the regions and support for health worker training centres. Luxembourg Development Cooperation's support for two UNDP projects in Mali came to an end in June 2024. One project focused on youth entrepreneurship and the other on support to national stakeholders to help with the effective implementation of political, institutional, electoral and administrative reforms.

In response to Mali's growing humanitarian needs, Luxembourg contributed €4 million in 2024 to humanitarian efforts by its partners in the country. These included long-standing collaborators of Luxembourg Development Cooperation, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), as well as several humanitarian NGOs. In 2024, Luxembourg Development Cooperation also provided an additional humanitarian contribution of €250,000 in response to the devastating floods in Mali, providing assistance in the form of social protection to communities in severely affected areas.



Official launch of "Bamako.ai, artificial intelligence month in Mali"

Five Luxembourg NGOs have implemented development projects in Mali in the Luxembourg Development Cooperation's priority areas of intervention. Meetings between the Luxembourg's embassy in Bamako and representatives of these NGOs were organised in 2024, as well as field visits. The aim was to foster synergies between the activities of the various NGOs, ensure greater impact and enhance the effectiveness of the aid and the coherence of the actions of Luxembourg Development Cooperation in broader terms.

In the same year, the Luxembourg's embassy in Mali financed four local associations and NGOs through the microproject mechanism. These projects focused on diverse themes, including access to culture, gender equality, the promotion of sport and access to water and solar energy in schools.

AFRICA

NIGER



Although the Luxembourg government suspended its bilateral programmes with Niger following the 26 July 2023 coup d'état, in 2024 Luxembourg Development Cooperation continued to support multilateral, humanitarian and civil society programmes, under increasingly complex conditions. Multilaterally, aid to the WFP¹ to support school canteens and to the UNFPA to support reproductive health and rights continued as planned.

On the humanitarian front, Luxembourg contributed a total of €3.7 million in 2024 to projects by international, multilateral and non-governmental humanitarian operators. Additional support was provided to the WFP to ensure the continued operation of the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) in Diffa, a city in the south-east of Niger. Through the ETC, local communities benefit from secure access to digital tools, improving their access to information. In addition, a multiannual water and habitat programme run by the ICRC in the Diffa region and supported by Luxembourg Development Cooperation also continued, while adapting to the realities of a post-coup environment.

In 2024, seven Luxembourg development NGOs worked in Niger in the sectors of agriculture, administrative management policy, training of health personnel, sanitation, basic nutrition, health education, multisectoral assistance for basic social services, financial intermediaries in the formal and informal sectors, education, school facilities and vocational training. Despite an increasingly challenging operational environment and tighter controls on their activities by the Nigerien authorities, these NGOs continued to implement their projects in 2024.



Students in Zinder

AFRICA

RWANDA



In terms of development cooperation, a working visit by Minister Bettel to Rwanda from 18 to 19 June 2024 underscored the deepening of Luxembourg's ties with Rwanda. The visit provided an opportunity to formally launch several new projects supported by Luxembourg and to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) which set out the strategic objectives of Luxembourg Development Cooperation interventions in three key sectors: (i) education, technical and vocational training, and integration into the job market; (ii) climate resilience, adaptation and environmental sustainability; and (iii) inclusive and innovative finance. As part of the same effort to strengthen bilateral relations, Luxembourg's embassy in Rwanda opened its doors in early September, strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Four new bilateral projects were launched in Rwanda in 2024 in the priority sectors. The projects, implemented by LuxDev, aim to:

- establish model schools for vocational training in agriculture, animal health and food processing (ISHEMA project);
- support the digitalisation of vocational training (Digital Skills project);
- support the sustainable management of forest plantations by improving forestry practices and increasing the production of fuels from wood and efficient cooking stoves (SFERE project);

- support the development of Rwanda's financial centre by sharing Luxembourg's expertise, with a particular emphasis on sustainable and impact finance (KIFC project).

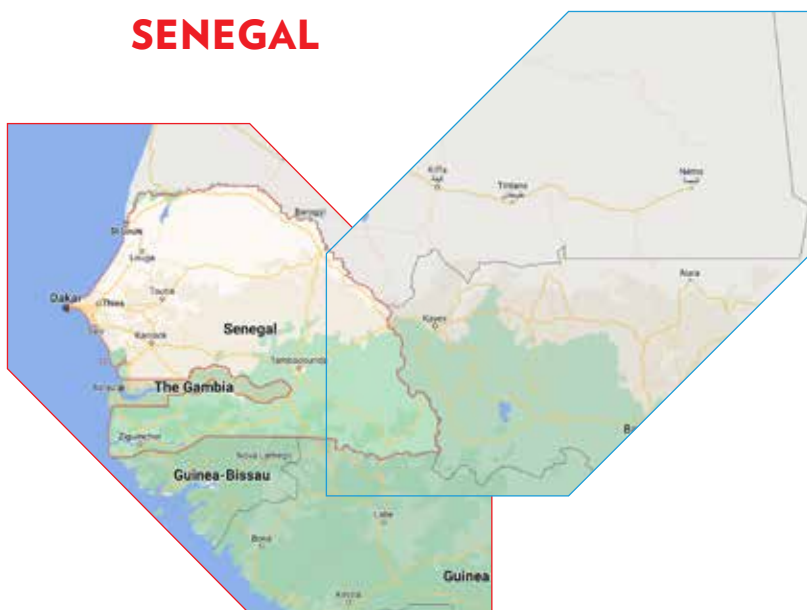
In 2024, two delegated cooperation projects continued: the KWIHAZA – Feeding the cities project, funded by the European Union and Luxembourg and implemented by Enabel (Belgian development agency), and the AFTER II vocational training project, funded by Luxembourg and France and implemented by the French development agency (*Agence Française de Développement* – AFD). Luxembourg also provided financial support for the first-ever Kigali Triennial in 2024. At the bilateral level, Luxembourg Development Cooperation decided at the end of 2024 to increase its contribution to Basket Funding for Pro-Poor Development by €7 million, in view of the promising results achieved over the past year and the ongoing very high level of need. The fund, co-financed by Germany's *Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau* (KfW) and the AFD, seeks to promote inclusive and sustainable growth by improving the quality of local (social) services in rural and disadvantaged districts of the country through the establishment of 'pro-poor' infrastructure.

At the multilateral level, the project entitled "Boosting Decent Jobs and Enhancing Skills for Youth in Rwanda's Digital Economy", implemented by the International Labour Organization (ILO), was launched. The project's main objective is to increase the number of young people with access to decent jobs in the country's digital economy.

Four NGOs are currently receiving co-financing from the MFA in Rwanda (*Fondation Partage Luxembourg*, *Handicap International Luxembourg*, *Christian Solidarity International* and *Amitié am Sand*). They are active in the sectors of education (school facilities, primary education, school construction), vocational training and health (rehabilitation and physical recovery). These actions are complemented by the activities of the NGO ADA, which specialises in empowering vulnerable communities through inclusive finance. Alongside its role in the bilateral KIFC, SFERE and KWIHAZA projects, ADA has been active in Rwanda since 2006, primarily through regional programmes and in partnership with local stakeholders.

AFRICA

SENEGAL



In 2024, bilateral cooperation with Senegal was characterised by the smooth implementation of the activities of the 4th Indicative Cooperation Programme (ICP). In this context, it should be noted that the bilateral programmes implemented by LuxDev in the sectors of health and vocational training have been extended until the end of December 2025. These programmes have also received an additional budget allocation to help secure the attainment of the desired results.



Student in the electrovoltaic workshop at the vocational training centre built by the NGO Youth and Development (JED), supported by *Guiden a Scouten fir eng Welt* and PADEM

Implementation of the Team Europe Initiative (TEI) in Senegal continued as planned. Luxembourg plays a lead role in this initiative, which brings together several European partners (the European Union, Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands and Switzerland) working on training and professional integration in sports-related professions. This thematic focus aligns with the organisation of the Youth Olympic Games in 2026, to be hosted by Senegal.

In addition, 2024 marked the completion of the formulation process for the bilateral programmes of the 5th ICP, with an indicative financial envelope of €154 million and covering a period of seven years. The launch of the programmes under the 5th ICP awaits the conclusion of two developments: the revision of the general cooperation agreement and the conclusion of a dialogue with the Senegalese authorities on a dispute resolution mechanism, particularly in light of the evolving human rights situation.

As regards humanitarian assistance in Senegal, Luxembourg has committed €2 million in support of school feeding programmes in Senegal, in accordance with the strategic partnership framework (2022-2025) with the WFP.

In 2024, nine Luxembourg NGOs (*Frères des Hommes*, *Guiden a Scouten fir eng Welt*, *Handicap International*, CMS, PADEM, *SOS Villages d'Enfants Monde*, SANA, *Chaîne de l'Espoir Luxembourg* and *SOS Sahel*) have implemented development projects in Senegal in various areas such as basic social services, health and sanitation, education and vocational training, agricultural development, women's equality and democratic participation. For the 2022-2028 period, the MFA contribution (80% co-financing) to NGO projects currently planned amounts to €11.3 million.

TOGO



In 2024, Luxembourg further deepened its ties with Togo through the co-accreditation of its embassy in Cotonou, formalised on 10 January. In March, Minister Bettel travelled to Togo for a working visit, where the warm welcome from the government, and in particular President Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, set a positive tone for future collaboration. During the visit a letter of understanding was signed, specifying the priority areas of intervention: (i) technical education, vocational training and integration into the job market, (ii) the environment and the response to climate change, and (iii) digitalisation.

Work to identify bilateral cooperation projects began in May and continued throughout 2024 with the involvement of the Luxembourg embassy in Cotonou. The general cooperation agreement between Luxembourg and Togo was signed by Minister Bettel and his counterpart Robert Dussey in September, during the United Nations General Assembly.

Luxembourg Development Cooperation awarded funding to two programmes through delegated co-operation agreements:

- The first is the Forests4Future: scaling forest landscape restoration in Togo programme, which seeks to strengthen the resilience of forest ecosystems and improve the lives of rural communities in Togo. Luxembourg Development Cooperation is supporting this project with €3 million in funding over a three-year period.
- The second is the ProDigiT: digital transformation of the Togolese economy programme, which seeks to strengthen the digital capabilities of Togo's public and private sectors. The project is receiving funding of €8.8 million over a three-year period, focusing on the digitalisation of public services and the digital transformation of the private sector.

Implemented in partnership with GIZ, these projects represent key drivers in advancing Togo's national priorities.

Discussions on future bilateral cooperation programmes have already begun between the embassy, implementing agency LuxDev and the Togolese authorities. Initial funding requests are expected in early 2025.

Seven Luxembourg NGDOs are active in Togo, five under framework agreements and two through co-financed projects.



CENTRAL AMERICA



COSTA RICA



South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation respectively, and will be implemented from 2025 onwards. The migration project will focus on supporting Costa Rican institutions to streamline administrative processes for migrants. It will build on the results of an ongoing project currently implemented through LuxDev and Oxfam, which supports Nicaraguan refugees and migrants, mainly in northern Costa Rica. The second project will enable Costa Rica to share its expertise in various sectors with countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, within the framework of a regional project on sustainable forest management, a Costa Rica-specific component has been developed. Finally, several micro-projects have supported local civil society.

On 11 December 2024, the ratification of the framework cooperation agreement between Costa Rica and Luxembourg marked a major milestone, enabling LuxDev to establish a local presence in Costa Rica and begin implementing bilateral projects. The first projects, now fully formulated, focus on migration,

CENTRAL AMERICA

EL SALVADOR

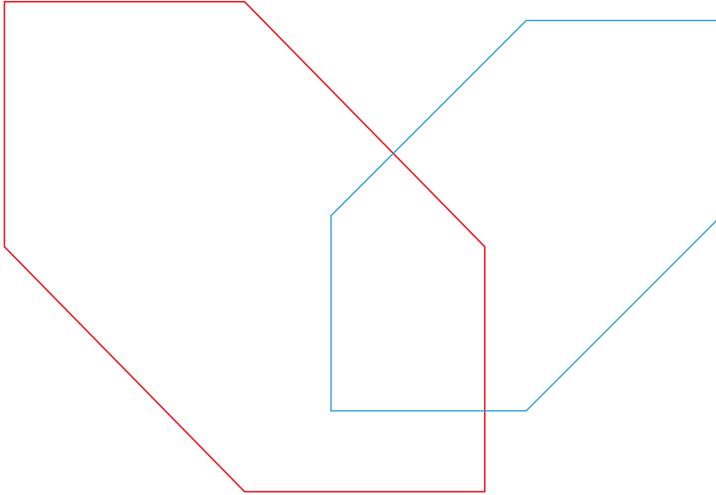


The fourth session of the Commission for Bilateral Dialogue between El Salvador and Luxembourg was held in San Salvador in April 2024, with the participation of Adriana Mira, El Salvador's Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs. At the meeting, the two countries agreed to continue their cooperation and to maintain thematic continuity. Two projects were formulated as part of this process. The first, which has already entered its

implementation phase, addresses youth employment in the digital sector. It aims to support young people who are looking for work, either by connecting them with private sector companies or by helping them to develop their own business. The project is part of the Team Europe Digital Jobs Initiative, and builds on training efforts undertaken as part of a project funded by the European Union and implemented by Expertise France. The second project, set to begin in 2025, focuses on South-South and triangular cooperation and will position the Salvadoran government as both a contributor and a recipient in the development cooperation landscape. At the end of 2022, Luxembourg Development Cooperation launched a new project with its long-standing partner *Fundación Nacional para el Desarrollo* (FUNDE). The project, which will continue into 2025, aims to help strengthen democratic governance and the rule of law in El Salvador through civic participation, alliance-building, strengthening the capacities of citizen organisations and promoting dialogue. The *ATTF/House of Training* is active in El Salvador, offering training for professionals in the financial sector. A Luxembourg NGO, *Action Solidarité Tiers Monde*, is currently working in El Salvador, with a programme focused on strengthening human rights, gender equality, democratic participation and support for civil society.



REGIONAL COOPERATION



In Central America, Luxembourg remains an important partner in the Central American Integration System (SICA), particularly through a regional project for the promotion of female entrepreneurs with the centre for the promotion of micro and small business (CENPROMYPE). This is a key project dedicated to gender equality and the promotion of women's economic rights. As part of the project, CENPROMYPE and Luxembourg Development Cooperation have set up the Female Entrepreneurship Fund, an investment vehicle dedicated to female entrepreneurs in Central America. The fund was officially launched in San Salvador on 21 June 2024.

The Forestry and Climate Fund (FCCF), an impact investment fund launched in 2017 as a Luxembourg-led public-private partnership, continues to promote sustainable timber use and associated value chains in Central America. Luxembourg Development Cooperation supports the FCCF through LuxDev's technical assistance to the fund's investee companies, as part of a project focused on sustainable forest management.

Since 2019, Luxembourg has supported the NGO Front Line Defenders in its work to protect human rights defenders in Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. The project's current phase runs until the end of 2025 and provides support for personal and professional (cyber-)security measures and emergency evacuations and contributes to the legal and medical costs of human rights defenders who are at risk. In January 2023, Luxembourg Development Cooperation launched a regional project with the Alliance for Financial Inclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean, which aims to implement innovative financial inclusion strategies in the region and foster knowledge sharing in this field, with a focus on digital financial services, inclusive fintech, national inclusive finance plans (especially in Costa Rica), green inclusive finance and gender-inclusive finance. A new project was launched in 2024 with the NGO IDEA International, during Luxembourg's presidency of the IDEA Council of Member States. The project aims to strengthen democracy in the Northern Triangle by supporting civil society and independent media.

Other projects include a project for the protection of migrant women with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), a project with UN Women to work on the financial inclusion of women in the Northern Triangle and a project with UNFPA seeking to reduce pregnancies among teenage girls in Afro-descendant and indigenous communities on the Caribbean coast.

ASIA

LAOS



The year 2024 saw the continuation of the programmes in the fifth Indicative Cooperation Programme (ICP V), which covers the 2023-2027 period. With a funding envelope of €95 million, ICP V has expanded its activities to three additional provinces – Champasak, Savannakhet and Luang Prabang – by incorporating the skills development programme. Interventions remain focused on four priority provinces – Bokeo, Bolikhamxay, Khammouane and Vientiane – where efforts target health and nutrition, integrated local development, the development of skills for tourism, agriculture and forestry (STAF), and the promotion of the rule of law, access to justice and good governance.

During Minister Bettel's visit in February 2024, an additional €3 million was allocated to the health and legal education sectors, underlining the continued importance attached by Luxembourg to those areas. In addition, Luxembourg plays a leading role in the Team Europe Strategy in Laos.

Through its health and nutrition programme, Luxembourg continues to support basic and high-quality health services, with a particular focus on maternal and child health as well as combating malnutrition. In 2024, the budget increase formalised on 8 February enabled essential equipment such as medical refrigerators to be provided to the Lao Red Cross to improve blood product storage. Collaboration between Mongolia and Laos in the field of cardiology has also been reinforced. This collaboration seeks to improve cardiology services in Laos through South-South cooperation efforts. Having benefited from Luxembourg's support for the development of its cardiac services since the early 2000s, Mongolia is now sharing its expertise and resources to help build local cardiology capacity in Laos.

The local development programme has carried out development plans in 226 villages. Despite the challenges, the programme has also adapted its scope to include disaster risk reduction, which was previously managed by *Fondation Caritas Luxembourg*. After a case of embezzlement involving the latter, responsibility for disaster risk reduction was permanently transferred to the health programme within ICP V, ensuring the project's continuity.

In the area of skills development, the STAF programme now covers tourism and hospitality training nationwide, with model hospitality schools in Vang Vieng and Luang Prabang, and a third opening soon in Champasak. In 2024, agreements were signed with ten public institutions to train up to 1,000 students from disadvantaged backgrounds. In addition, in late 2024 the STAF programme was selected as a flagship



Young girl living in Nathong village

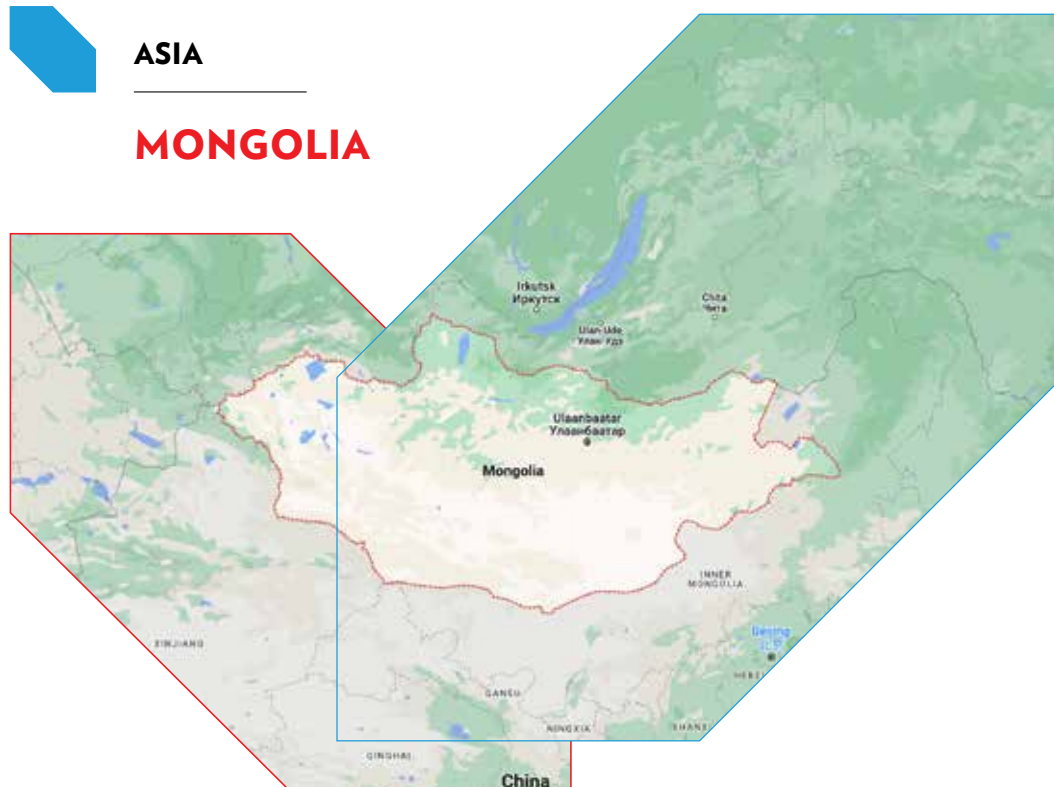
project under the European Union's Global Gateway initiative in Laos.

The programme promoting the rule of law made progress through the implementation of workshops on human rights education and curriculum development, with plans for a broader rollout in 2025. Since 2024, the University of Luxembourg's commitment to the promotion of the rule of law in Laos has been fully integrated into the programme for the promotion of the rule of law, access to justice and good governance, under the management of the Luxembourg development cooperation agency. This integration consolidates efforts and resources to maximise the impact of research projects and scholarship programmes relating to higher legal education.

In addition, Luxembourg's bilateral cooperation has also ramped up support for strategic initiatives such as the Laos-Luxembourg statistical cooperation project (LLPS) and the PaReCIDS project. The LLPS project, which focuses on statistical capacity-building, aims to improve the quality and availability of social and environmental statistical data that are essential for development planning. In parallel, the PaReCIDS project, in collaboration with the Pasteur Institute of Laos and the Luxembourg Institute of Health, focuses on infectious disease surveillance and research, thus strengthening local capacities to respond to health emergencies.

A notable example of effective collaboration is the joint engagement between the European Union, Switzerland and Luxembourg under ICP V, where significant funds are delegated to LuxDev for the implementation of targeted programmes. These multilateral projects complement bilateral initiatives and focus mainly on key sectors such as health, education and agricultural development. One of the most significant of these programmes is the United Nations Joint Programme (UNJP) on reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health. That programme is implemented in collaboration with renowned agencies such as the WHO, UNFPA and UNICEF. In addition, sustained efforts to clear unexploded landmines left over from the second Indochina War are also being funded, with a budget of €1 million allocated for the 2022-2024 period.

MONGOLIA



Since 2022, a new phase of support for cardiovascular diseases, which are a priority public health issue in Mongolia, has continued with the same partners: the Shastin Hospital/National Cardiovascular Centre (NCC) and Luxembourg's National Institute for Interventional Cardiac Surgery and Cardiology (INCCI). The implementation of the new programme will, like previous phases, again focus on supporting the ten-year State Policy on Health (2017-2026).

During 2024, two years after the start of this next phase, significant progress was made. To strengthen local capacity, four cardiologists received six-month overseas training placements, while ten nurses participated in a week-long training in Turkey. In addition, on-site training was provided by visiting experts from the INCCI, Ruijing Hospital and CHA Bundang Medical Center in South Korea.

In the same year, the Mncardio telemedicine tool was improved, thus upgrading the cardiac care infrastructure in Mongolia. In addition, Luxembourg reaffirmed its commitment to financially support the establishment of the NCC in discussions with Mongolia's Ministry of Finance. A new financing mechanism for the support of the NCC has been approved by the Luxembourg government and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). The facility includes a loan from the EBRD to finance the construction of the NCC, accompanied by a Luxembourg grant for the installation of equipment and the provision of technical assistance from LuxDev, which will coordinate the construction and fitting out of the NCC. This comprehensive support also includes capacity building, human resource development and the full operational launch of the NCC.

ASIA

VIETNAM

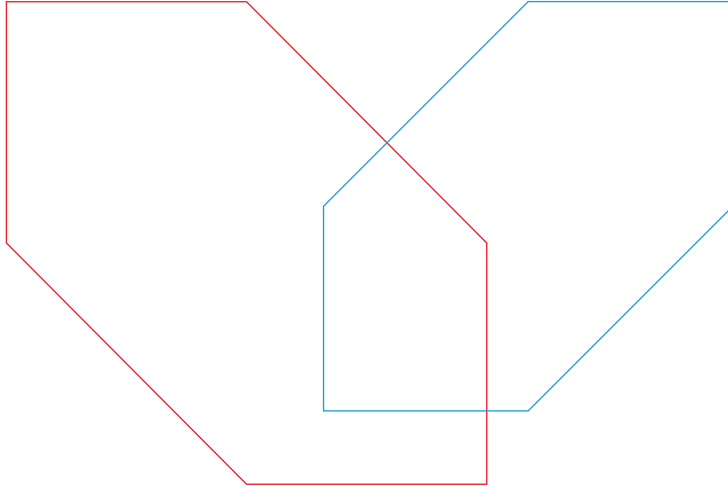


In preparation for joint funding from the Climate and Energy Fund (CEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF), a new project was approved in 2023 in Vietnam's Thua Thien Hue province to improve the resilience of small-scale farmers, especially women. Despite initial delays, the project was launched at the end of 2024 and will be implemented over a two-year period by LuxDev. It seeks to strengthen both climate and economic resilience among small-scale farmers

and entrepreneurs in Vietnam, with a focus on women, by expanding access to financial services, promoting climate-smart farming practices and the strengthening of value chain financing. Concentrated in the province of Thua Thien Hue, it relies on local and national partnerships to tailor financial and technical tools to farmers' specific needs, while embedding gender and sustainability at the project's core.



SOUTH-EAST ASIA



At the subregional level, Luxembourg has been supporting the Mekong River Commission (MRC), based in Vientiane, since 2011. The MRC's mandate is to ensure that the river and the basin's natural resources are properly managed, to provide a favourable economic environment and socially just development, while protecting the environment. Currently, the support amounts to €1 million for the 2021-2025 period.

Another regional project in which Luxembourg has been involved since 2014, together with Germany and Switzerland, is the Mekong Region Land Governance (MRLG) project, currently in its third phase (2023-2025), to which Luxembourg contributes US\$1.5 million. Through support for the development of laws and legal remedies, the MRLG project aims to provide small-scale farmers, especially those from ethnic minorities, with sustainable and equitable access to and control over their agricultural and forest lands. The project thus contributes to improved policies and practices implemented in Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar and Vietnam, supported by regional platforms.

In 2013, Luxembourg Development Cooperation co-founded the Universe Health Coverage Partnership (UHCP), and is one of the nine donors to the body. The UHCP's secretariat is hosted by the WHO. The UHCP's aim is to support beneficiary countries to achieve universal health coverage, i.e. access to high-quality health services that are affordable for all.

Since 2017, Luxembourg has also supported the promotion of inclusive finance. Thus, through the Responsible Inclusive Finance Facility (RIFF-SEA), the Social Performance Task Force (SPTF) continues to support microfinance institutions in Laos, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam in managing their social and environmental performance. RIFF-SEA offers co-financing and training in social performance management, with the aim of raising awareness among regulators, investors and microfinance institutions to ensure that financial services in the region protect and benefit low-income clients.

In Myanmar, in view of the ongoing political crisis, support for multilateral humanitarian projects continued in 2024. Thus, Luxembourg Development Cooperation is assisting the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to support Myanmar's civil society in preventing human rights violations and strengthening accountability measures. Luxembourg is also positioning itself as a key partner in the programme entitled "Building Federal Democracy in Myanmar" (2023-2024), which seeks to establish a new constitutional framework in Myanmar, by establishing effective and accountable institutions and by promoting inclusive and participatory governance at all levels.

AFGHANISTAN



Through various channels and in an increasingly difficult context, Luxembourg continued to support the Afghan population in 2024. The numerous decrees prohibiting women from working not only for national and international NGOs but also in many other sectors, and the problems they have in travelling alone and in appearing in public life, have made it more difficult to implement projects where women are placed on an equal footing with men, both as beneficiaries and as implementing partners.

At the end of 2024, the pilot project “Thrive – Enabling Access to the Job Market for Young Afghan Women”, by the German NGO Kiron Open Higher Education, successfully concluded. The project provided online vocational training and English language courses for young Afghan women, equipping them with the capacity to start their own businesses.

Since June 2023, Luxembourg has also been supporting the NGO Front Line Defenders (FLD) in its mission to protect human rights defenders. FLD provides practical support to human rights defenders at risk (50% of whom are women) through evacuation assistance, protection grants and safety advice. FLD is aimed primarily at marginalised individuals who do not have the opportunity to access other protection mechanisms or other organisations. In 2024, FLD supported 60 individuals, offering them security training and the possibility of relocation to other provinces or countries.

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES



In 2024, the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) was marked by persistent tensions and a severe humanitarian crisis. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict, exacerbated by the ongoing war in the Gaza Strip since October 2023, has led to an escalation in violence and suffering for the civilian population. The relentless bombing has caused widespread destruction of critical infrastructure, deepening the humanitarian crisis. In the West Bank, the blockade and restrictions on movement continue to weaken the Palestinian economy, fuelling high unemployment and deepening reliance on international aid. Against that backdrop, Luxembourg has allocated a total of €13.82 million to the OPT (all types of aid taken together).

In terms of partnerships, Luxembourg is continuing its support for civil society actors through multiannual partnership agreements with the Palestinian Agricultural Development Association (PARC), an NGO working to strengthen sustainable livelihoods and economic inclusion in rural communities, the NGO Palestinian Medical Relief Society, an organisation active in the sector of women's reproductive health, the NGO Teacher Creativity Center, which works in the area of training in psychosocial support for teachers in Palestinian schools, as well as with the NGO Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN), working in the area of transparency and inclusive governance.

Luxembourg's efforts in the OPT are further bolstered by its support for the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI) project in inclusive and digital finance. AFI's local partner for this project is the Palestinian Monetary Authority, as well as the wastewater management project in the West Bank, implemented by the EIB's Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership.

In May 2024, Luxembourg signed a new agreement with both branches of the NGO Bridging Insights, based in Israel and the OPT, to support their project to develop effective conflict resolution strategies.

In 2024, Minister Xavier Bettel conducted three visits to Israel and the OPT to strengthen diplomatic relations and address issues linked to the ongoing conflict. In engaging in dialogue with key stakeholders, the Minister sought to encourage engagement and promote peace initiatives, recognising the crucial importance of stability in a volatile environment. These visits also provided an opportunity to visit ongoing projects and to see first-hand the achievements made and the challenges encountered, mainly as a result of the conflict.

EUROPE

KOSOVO



In Kosovo, a bilateral agreement covering the period from 2023 to 2030 and a letter of understanding allocating €35 million for the 2023-2025 period were signed in Pristina in July 2022. The bilateral agreement reflects a strategic shift in Luxembourg's cooperation approach in Kosovo, acknowledging its status as an upper middle-income country. Luxembourg Development Cooperation is thus adopting a strategy to diversify bilateral relations, intervening not only in basic social sectors such as health and vocational training but also in innovative areas such as digital transformation and renewable energy. In a multi-stakeholder approach, Luxembourg is undertaking numerous initiatives to strengthen links between the private sector, innovation networks and research bodies in both Kosovo and Luxembourg. New bilateral and multilateral projects were officially launched in autumn 2023.

Minister Bettel made a working visit to Kosovo in November 2024, during which the 9th bilateral commission between Kosovo and Luxembourg convened to take stock of the progress made under the cooperation

partnership between the two countries. The visit also marked the launch of new cooperation tools involving the private sector. The many bilateral exchanges have also deepened the excellent relations and long-standing partnership between Luxembourg and Kosovo.

Luxembourg Development Cooperation seeks to promote sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all through vocational education and training through the Skills for Sustainable Jobs programme. Luxembourg focuses in particular on strengthening the technical and vocational education and training system to ensure that it provides the skills that are relevant to a constantly evolving labour market.

In order to contribute to Kosovo's sustainable growth, Luxembourg Development Cooperation supports the Sustainable and Inclusive Growth programme, which plans to set up an innovation fund and a sovereign wealth fund. The programme also promotes digital transformation and cyber security capacity-building within the public administration. In the same area of intervention, Luxembourg Development Cooperation is supporting the Creative Industries Kosovo programme led by UNDP, to contribute to the development of an environment that will foster the growth of the creative economy.

In the field of energy transition, LuxDev is overseeing the Energy Transition and Climate Change Mitigation programme, aimed at supporting the transition to renewable energy and supporting the development and adoption of climate change mitigation measures, to promote Kosovo's sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development. Luxembourg Development Cooperation is also co-financing, alongside Germany, a KfW programme to adapt Pristina's existing district heating system.

Luxembourg Development Cooperation has been a long-standing partner of the Kosovo government in its efforts to strengthen the health sector, with a focus on expanding access to care and improving quality and



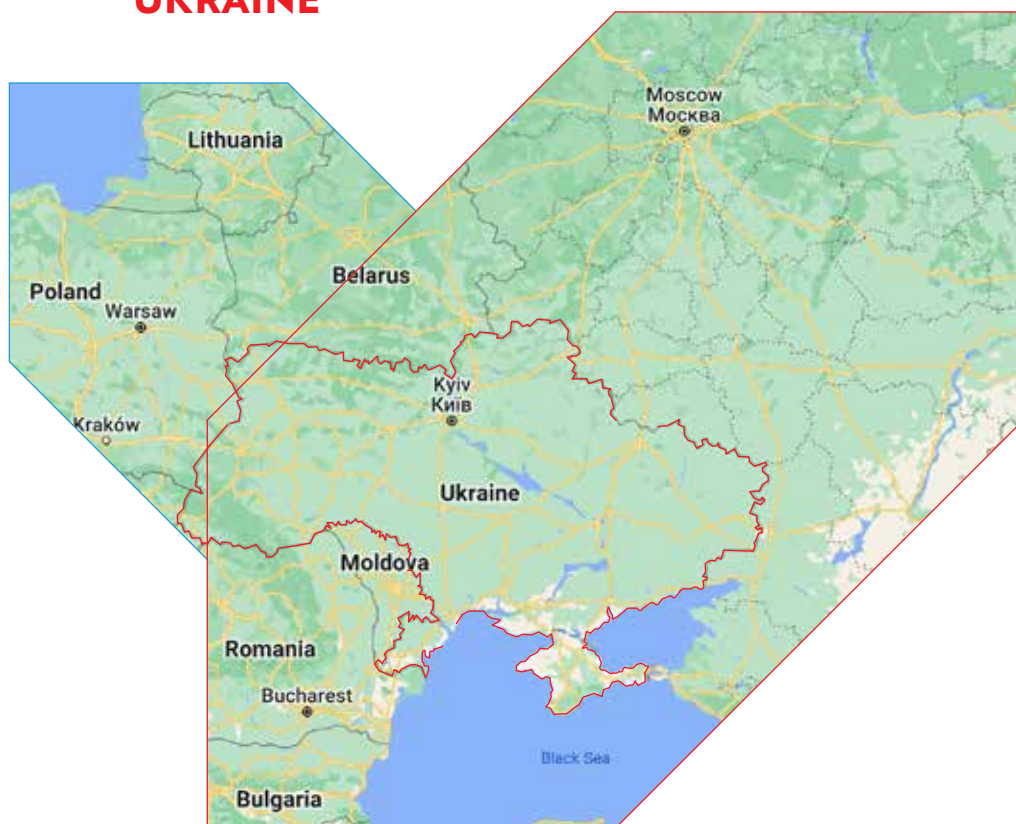
Minister Nagavci observes students during the inauguration of the "Skender Luarasi" VET school's workshops in Suhareke

governance under the Health programme. Through a collaborative approach, Luxembourg's assistance aims to strengthen institutional capacity, improve health service delivery and address the needs of vulnerable communities across the country. In addition, Luxembourg Development Cooperation also supports UNICEF in the implementation of early childhood development programmes.

In support of Kosovo's path towards European integration, alongside Norway Luxembourg is contributing to the Technical assistance in the context of European integration programme. This initiative focuses on strengthening the capacities of the ministries responsible for implementing the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA), which provides the framework for Kosovo's EU accession over a period of ten years. In order to fulfil its obligations under the SAA, Kosovo is expected to pursue democratic reforms, achieve social and economic development and gradually align its legal framework with EU legislation.

Finally, Luxembourg Development Cooperation provides support to civil society organisations in three areas of intervention, namely the economic and social empowerment of women, the promotion of the social and economic inclusion of minorities and marginalised groups, and independent media. Luxembourg Development Cooperation also supports the Kosovo Luxembourg Foundation, which works to reduce poverty in targeted municipalities in Kosovo by supporting individuals and small family-run businesses through training, financial support and the creation of partnerships.

UKRAINE



Ukraine continues to suffer the human and material consequences of Russian aggression, including the destruction of civilian infrastructure, such as hospitals, energy infrastructure and residential buildings. In 2024, Luxembourg Development Cooperation significantly stepped up its humanitarian and recovery support to Ukraine, bringing its overall aid to €96.2 million since the start of the Russian invasion in February 2022.

A key milestone in 2024 was the signing of the technical and financial cooperation agreement between the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and Ukraine during the visit of Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal to Luxembourg on 19 March 2024. In addition, Minister Xavier Bettel and Oleksii Kuleba, Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister for Restoration of Ukraine and Minister for Communities and Territorial Development, signed a memorandum of understanding for the implementation of support from Luxembourg for recovery in the Kryvyi Rih district. The project has a total budget of €50 million for the 2024-2029 period and targets education, vocational training, entrepreneurship and governance. Several activities were implemented in 2024, including the delivery of laptops for primary school students and teachers in the district.

In view of the energy crisis in Ukraine, Luxembourg has scaled up its support to the energy sector, contributing a total of €8 million. This support targets Kryvyi Rih through the provision of energy equipment to meet the district's most urgent needs and to strengthen its long-term energy resilience. A contribution was also made to the Ukraine Energy Support Fund, managed by the Energy Community.

In addition, Luxembourg continued to support humanitarian demining in Ukraine with a total contribution of €12 million in 2024 for projects with UNFPA, the HALO Trust and NATO. On 9 December 2024, Minister Xavier Bettel also attended a handover ceremony for 110 humanitarian demining kits to Ukraine, alongside Natalia Anoshyna, Chargé d'affaires of the Embassy of Ukraine in Luxembourg.

In addition, Luxembourg Development Cooperation continued its support for Ukraine's startup ecosystem, by funding the participation of Ukrainian startups in fairs and events held in Luxembourg, including Venture Days and the Nexus2050 conference. In October 2024, the Ukraine edition of Catapult – an acceleration programme for Ukrainian fintechs – took place, organised by the Luxembourg House of Financial Technologies.



MULTILATERAL COOPERATION



MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

Multilateral cooperation is a cornerstone of Luxembourg's development policy, accounting for around 30% of its annual official development assistance (ODA) budget. It enables Luxembourg to contribute actively to the attainment of the 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) outlined in the United Nations Agenda 2030.

2024 was marked by the strengthening of strategic partnerships, the launch of new programmes and active engagement in major multilateral platforms.

New partnership with the UNICC

In July 2024, Luxembourg entered into a strategic partnership with the United Nations International Computing Centre (UNICC). Covering a period of five years and with a total commitment of €3.95 million, this strategic partnership includes a contribution from the Grand Duchy to the UNICC Cybersecurity Fund. The Fund aims to strengthen cybersecurity measures across the United Nations system and its affiliated organisations. Another component is the establishment of a UNICC presence and data centre in Luxembourg, allowing the UNICC to benefit from

Luxembourg's expertise and technical capabilities. A third component is access to Luxembourg's super-computing capabilities for the UN system, enabling it to enhance its data processing and analytical capabilities to effectively address complex global challenges.

First strategic partnership framework with the OHCHR

Luxembourg has also strengthened its partnership with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights by signing a strategic framework in July 2024, providing support of €6 million for 2024-2027. This partnership focuses primarily on developing countries, supporting programmes in Myanmar, Rwanda and several regional offices. The funding aims to combat human rights violations and strengthen the protection of vulnerable populations. Luxembourg has also provided additional support to the OPT and has contributed to the special technical assistance trust fund to support the participation of the least developed countries and small island developing states in the work of the Human Rights Council (the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund).

Enhanced collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO)

On 20 December 2024, Director-General of the WHO Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus made a working visit to Luxembourg, at the invitation of Minister Bettel. The visit marked the signing of the new strategic partnership framework for 2025-2028, with a financial commitment of €46.5 million. This represents Luxembourg's largest financial contribution to the WHO to date, making the Grand Duchy currently the WHO's largest per capita financial contributor. Minister Bettel also announced a financial contribution of €500,000 from the MFA to the WHO's Mpox Response Appeal programme.

Renewed commitment to UNRWA

In response to the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the OPT and the broader region, Luxembourg reaffirmed its support for UNRWA, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, by allocating a contribution of €9.8 million for 2024. In October 2024, a new strategic partnership framework was signed, with a contribution of €30 million for the 2025-2027 period. This partnership aims to improve access to essential services such as education and health for Palestinian refugees.



Young participants in community workshops at the Instituto Abel González Caballero in Limón, Honduras



Young participants in community workshops at the Instituto Abel González Caballero in Limón, Honduras

Specific programmes and projects

With regard to funding, Luxembourg continues to honour its commitment to the 2019 United Nations Funding Compact, by allocating at least one third of its contributions to core resources, thus ensuring predictability and flexibility of funding for multilateral organisations. The remainder of the contributions are divided into thematic funding and projects known as “multi-bi” initiatives, mainly implemented in Luxembourg’s partner countries.

2024 saw the launch of a number of new projects, including with UNDP for mine clearance initiatives in Ukraine and Laos, with UNICEF in Benin on a project on cybersecurity for children, with UNFPA in Rwanda and Laos, and with the OIF in Francophone Africa.

Luxembourg Development Cooperation has also granted an additional €2 million to the Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan, supporting the ABADEI strategy to prevent a humanitarian and socio-economic disaster in Afghanistan, in particular by addressing the growing needs of women and girls.

Lastly, in line with Luxembourg’s commitment to the reform of the UN development system, Luxembourg has also contributed to the Joint SDG Fund and the Special Purpose Trust Fund for Resident Coordinators.

Annual consultations, executive boards and governance

As part of its strategic partnerships with UN agencies and multilateral institutions, Luxembourg organises

annual high-level consultations to assess the impact of these collaborations and to set out new priorities. These dialogues provide an opportunity to take stock of cooperation priorities, implementation strategies and results in the field.

In 2024, Luxembourg took part in meetings with UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women and UNCDF in New York and with the WHO, UNAIDS and the ILO in Geneva.

Beyond the annual consultations, Luxembourg Development Cooperation also plays an active role in the governance bodies of multilateral organisations. This is illustrated, for instance, by its commitment to the UN Women executive board and the election of Christophe Schiltz, Luxembourg’s IFAD governor, as chair of IFAD’s governing council, thus marking an important milestone for Luxembourg’s contribution to this institution.

In addition, from June 2023 to June 2025, Luxembourg is representing the “Point Seven” constituency on the Board of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The constituency is made up of Ireland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. In this context, Luxembourg Development Cooperation organised a seminar in Luxembourg on 30 and 31 January 2024, bringing together constituency members to finalise governance documents and redefine certain strategic positions. In 2024, the Global Fund Board meetings were held in Geneva from 22 to 24 April, and in Lilongwe from 20 to 22 November.

Luxembourg Development Cooperation also hosted an event in Luxembourg with the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) to present CEPI’s work to Luxembourg stakeholders in the health and research sector. Founded in 2017, CEPI is a public-private partnership focused on funding the research, development and manufacture of vaccines against emerging infectious diseases. The partnership also supports equitable access to these vaccines, strengthening international collaboration in this area.

In June 2024, Luxembourg participated in the Global Forum for Vaccine Sovereignty and Innovation in Paris, organised by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, France and the African Union. On that occasion, Gavi presented a new financial mechanism, the African Vaccine Manufacturing Accelerator, which aims to support at least four vaccine manufacturers in Africa. The initiative seeks to support the African Union in achieving its goal of producing at least 60% of the total doses of vaccines needed in Africa by 2040. Luxembourg is allocating €3 million to this initiative, under the Team Europe framework.

In addition, Luxembourg participated, alongside Belgium and Canada, in the fifth evaluation of the WHO conducted by the Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN), the three countries playing the role of institutional leads. This evaluation of the WHO by MOPAN measures the WHO's organisational effectiveness and the impact of its development assistance programmes.

Finally, the Summit of the Future, held in 2024 under the theme "Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow", brought together world leaders to address global challenges and rethink the multilateral system. Through the intervention of Luc Frieden at the United Nations General Assembly, Luxembourg stressed the importance of strengthening global cooperation and reforming international institutions. The summit resulted in the adoption of a Pact for the Future, which sets out strategic guidelines for the UN system.



EUROPEAN UNION

Agenda 2024 was dominated by the evaluation and then the mid-term review of NDICI – Global Europe, the financing instrument for external action. In its conclusions on the mid-term evaluation of the instrument, the Council notes that the instrument is overall fit for purpose. Luxembourg underscored the importance of achieving the goals set, particularly the climate and gender objectives, along with qualitative reporting and simple and transparent procedures to support effective cooperation. The mid-term review of the NDICI ultimately resulted in a pro rata cut to the programmable geographical and thematic envelopes, which has impacted the 2025-2027 budget programming of the partner countries in different ways. One of the main outcomes of the review was the creation of a budget dedicated to "Actions in countries with complex contexts", designed to increase the flexibility of the EU's commitment and to compensate for the removal of multiannual programmes for Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Iran. The review also signals a broader shift towards regionalising funds, notably through the introduction of investment envelopes, intended to facilitate the implementation of the Global Gateway strategy. In a joint initiative led by Luxembourg, France, Germany and Belgium, 14 EU Member States signed a declaration reaffirming the importance of meeting, by the end of the budget cycle, the minimum allocation set by the NDICI Regulation for sub-Saharan Africa,

as well as maintaining the least developed countries as a priority group for EU development aid.

Monitoring the implementation of the Global Gateway strategy has been one of the Council's other priorities. A list of 50 flagship projects was adopted, including the Luxembourg bilateral project entitled "Skills for tourism and forestry" (STAF) in Laos, co-financed by the European Union and Switzerland. The negotiations on the Council's first conclusions on the Global Gateway, which began under the Hungarian Presidency and which have involved considerable debate regarding the scope and role of this strategy within EU external policy tools, is expected to be concluded in 2025. Luxembourg has been advocating a pragmatic approach tailored to the needs of local communities, the political context and market maturity, calling for a case-by-case analysis. In this framework, Luxembourg has continued to push for greater attention to the challenges of involving SMEs in the implementation of the Global Gateway strategy and the creation of lasting partnerships between the European private sector and that of our partner countries, especially in areas with high added value for Luxembourg.

Building on the momentum from the Spanish Presidency's 2023 focus on the social, green and digital transitions, the Belgian Presidency placed strong emphasis on the importance of mutually beneficial partnerships, with human development at the heart of its concerns. This was reflected in the adoption of Council conclusions on global health and the hosting of a high-level conference on the subject. Luxembourg was also invited by the Commission to share its long-standing experience with innovative financing mechanisms in the framework of the meeting of Directors for Human Development in October 2024.

In response to multiple challenges and the deteriorating situation in the Sahel, guidelines on the EU's commitment to development cooperation in politically constrained contexts were adopted in June in the CODEV working group, in an initiative welcomed by Luxembourg. These principles reaffirm the Member States' intention to maintain a flexible, coordinated and operational Team Europe presence that supports local communities while avoiding the legitimisation of unconstitutional regimes.

Lastly, the Council adopted new conclusions on food security and nutrition, within which Luxembourg affirmed its commitment to a holistic approach to the transformation of food systems and to the effective implementation of the nexus between humanitarian action, development and peace. In addition, the Council adopted its conclusions on the European

Court of Auditors' special report on the Global Climate Change Alliance and on the European Court of Auditors' special report on the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa.

On the humanitarian front, 2024 saw a total disregard for international humanitarian law, a worsening crisis in global hunger, economic instability, recurrent climate shocks and escalating geopolitical tensions. These interdependent dynamics have significantly deepened the vulnerability of already at-risk populations around the world, while the international community has been able to respond to only 43% of the humanitarian needs identified. Against this backdrop of growing humanitarian needs, shifting geopolitical realities and increasing restrictions on humanitarian access, the third edition of the European Humanitarian Forum was attended by Xavier Bettel, Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs. Luxembourg, a steadfast advocate of maintaining an official development assistance (ODA) target of 1% of its gross national income, has committed to continue to earmark 15% of this ODA for humanitarian operations. Like most EU Member States, Luxembourg has maintained its commitment to responding to the catastrophic humanitarian situations in Gaza and Ukraine, while continuing to be attentive to other protracted and alarming humanitarian crises, such as those in Sudan, the Sahel, Syria and the Democratic Republic of Congo. This continued commitment was manifested in Luxembourg's many pledges at funding conferences throughout 2024, supporting efforts in Ukraine, Gaza, Lebanon, the Sahel, Sudan and Ethiopia and other areas.

In the face of a total disregard for international humanitarian law (IHL) and the insufficient protection afforded to humanitarian workers, at the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Luxembourg clearly and unequivocally reaffirmed the relevance and essential nature of IHL, while renewing its commitment alongside the EU through 10 strategic pledges. In the same spirit, the Council conclusions on protection in humanitarian contexts highlighted the critical importance of protecting civilians, ensuring compliance with IHL and strengthening coordinated responses to protection risks, in particular for the most vulnerable populations in crisis settings.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

Luxembourg Development Cooperation attaches great importance to the role and activities of non-governmental development organisations (NGDOs), which, as representatives of civil society, act as a bridge between local populations and the international community in defending the rights of communities. In 2024, 90 non-profit associations or foundations had approval from the Ministry, which gives them the status of NGDOs and makes them eligible for subsidies from the Ministry.

During 2024, 23 framework agreements and 91 development projects were co-financed in the Global South. In the field of awareness-raising and education for development (AR/ED) in Luxembourg, 15 framework and multiannual agreements (2022-2024) and 11 annual projects received subsidies from the Ministry. In addition, 2 multiannual AR/ED initiatives were funded: the Rethink Your Clothes campaign and CITIM (the Third World Information Centre).

In 2024, the Ministry decided to review its cooperation modalities with NGDOs in the AR/ED sector. Building on the measures adopted in 2023 to enhance the impact of actions – such as extending the duration of framework agreements, harmonising co-financing rates, expanding eligibility for co-financing to cover business travel other than field visits, and developing a methodology specific to the AR/ED sector – the Ministry is embarking on a new step forward in collaboration with NGDOs. This approach aims to deepen impact measurement by replacing calls for project proposals with enhanced collaboration between NGDOs.

As part of its 2023 mutual evaluation report, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) noted that the Ministry needed to (i) develop and implement procedures to apply a risk-based approach to overseeing the NGDO sector, and (ii) conduct systematic sector awareness-raising to improve understanding of the risks of fraud, misappropriation of funds, money laundering, terrorist financing, or any other illegal activity linked to the use of Ministry funds.



Primary school in Mosteiros, Fogo, Cabo Verde

In response to the report's findings, and specifically Recommendation 8, the Ministry has designed a tool to apply a risk-based approach to accredited NGDOs. This tool aims to strike a balance between proportionate oversight and appropriate mitigation measures. Recommendation 8 seeks to ensure that non-profit organisations (NPOs) are not exploited by terrorist organisations seeking to (i) present themselves as legitimate entities; (ii) channel funds through NPOs to terrorist financing, including evading asset freezes; and (iii) conceal or obscure the covert diversion of funds from legitimate purposes to terrorist objectives.

Lastly, in 2024, in consultation with the Luxembourg NGDOs' *Cercle de Coopération*, the Ministry launched a self-assessment guide on the Charter against sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse. This initiative was launched publicly through an information session organised in collaboration with the NGDOs' *Cercle de Coopération*, coinciding with the publication of the guide on the websites of the Ministry and of the *Cercle de Coopération*. After using the guide, NGDOs took a knowledge test, with a certificate showing they had passed the test serving as a mandatory condition for maintaining their ministerial accreditation.

The cessation of the activities of *Fondation Caritas Luxembourg* (FCL) marked the loss of a significant partner in both humanitarian action and development cooperation. FCL was well established in humanitarian operations in countries such as Ukraine, South Sudan and Syria and had recognised expertise in key themes such as food security. In terms of development cooperation, FCL was a key partner in Mali, Laos and Kosovo.

After discussions with FCL representatives, the Ministry decided to support four of FCL's local partners in Moldova, Kosovo, Turkey and Mali, allocating a total of €541,357. In 2025, Luxembourg will provide €1,082,570 to Dutch Caritas (*Stichting Cordaid*) to finance the operation of health facilities in South Sudan and to develop an exit strategy to close the project.

On the bilateral front, LuxDev will ensure the continuity of the disaster risk reduction project in Laos, with funding of approximately €1.25 million over a three-year period. In Mali, LuxDev is now

working with Caritas Switzerland, which will carry forward key actions to achieve the initially planned results, using the remaining €289,229 from the original budget.

Caritas has also played an active role in Luxembourg in the field of awareness-raising and education for development, through two multiannual programmes for the 2022-2024 period. One of them, the Rethink Your Clothes campaign, was conducted in partnership with the NGO *Fairtrade Lëtzebuerg*, which has now taken over its management and expanded its activities to ensure the programme's continuity and coherence. Among the achievements of this campaign, the *Lët'z Refashion* centre, dedicated to sustainable fashion, has been taken over by HUT (*Hélefum Terrain*, the new entity continuing FCL's activities in Luxembourg). The centre will benefit in the future from the support of new donors, exemplifying the durability of the actions launched within the framework of Rethink Your Clothes.



INCLUSIVE AND INNOVATIVE FINANCE, COOPERATION WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND RESEARCH, DIGITAL FOR DEVELOPMENT (D4D)



INCLUSIVE AND INNOVATIVE FINANCE

By leveraging Luxembourg's expertise as a global leader in finance, Luxembourg Development Cooperation is promoting inclusive, sustainable solutions to strength local financial systems and improve access by vulnerable groups to suitable services, thus contributing to socio-economic development. Leveraging new financial tools, innovative finance may be seen as a diverse set of financial solutions and mechanisms that create effective ways to channel both private capital from financial markets and public resources towards tackling development challenges.

In 2024, a key milestone in this sector was the establishment of the International Social Finance Accelerator (ISFA), an initiative that complements and expands the framework of the International Climate Finance Accelerator (ICFA). Launched in partnership with the Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Biodiversity, the Ministry of Finance and private partners, the ISFA aims to support social impact fund managers in their initial phases, offering them financial and technical support to structure innovative solutions that mobilise financial capital for social impact, with a focus on poverty reduction and improved living conditions in the most vulnerable regions.

Luxembourg Development Cooperation has also sought to consolidate its commitment to the fintech sector to promote inclusive finance by signing a partnership with the Luxembourg House of Financial Technology (LHoFT), with the aim of expanding the scope of its CATAPULT: *Inclusion programme to cover South-east Asia and Central America*.

Support for the Inclusive Finance Network Luxembourg (Infine.lu), the Luxembourg inclusive finance platform, and the Consultative Group to assist the Poor (CGAP) has also been renewed.

The year 2024 also featured the European Microfinance Week, an annual fixture for experts in the sector, which took place from 13 to 15 November 2024. It was organised by the European Microfinance Platform (e-MFP) and the Inclusive Finance Network Luxembourg ASBL (InFiNe.lu), with the support of the Directorate for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs. On 14 November 2024, at a ceremony chaired by H.R.H. the Grand Duchess at the EIB, the European Microfinance Prize was awarded to Rural Finance Initiative Limited (RUFIL), a microfinance institution in Uganda, in recognition of its efforts in the field of financial inclusion for refugees and forcibly displaced persons.



COOPERATION WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Since the 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, it has been widely recognised that mobilising the private sector is essential in order to help implement the sustainable development goals (SDGs) globally. It is with this in mind that the formation of a closer relationship between Luxembourg Development Cooperation and private sector stakeholders continues to be encouraged, with the specific aim of identifying innovative solutions and making them available to help achieve development objectives in developing countries. All the initiatives in this framework place a central focus on the responsible conduct of businesses in relation to human rights and compliance with environmental criteria and the principle of untied aid.

In 2024, the Directorate for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs continued the deployment of the LuxAid Challenge Fund and the LuxAid Demonstration Fund. The first instrument, the LuxAid Challenge Fund, targets innovative and high-impact young companies offering solutions to a specific development challenge identified in one of the Luxembourg Development Cooperation partner countries. The second instrument, the LuxAid Demonstration Fund, is aimed at more mature companies and focuses on scaling up an innovative solution that has been tested on a smaller scale and whose impact has been proven. These two instruments were launched in Senegal, Kosovo and Rwanda in 2024. In addition, two editions of the Business Partnership Facility selected a total of five projects in Kosovo, Cabo Verde, Tanzania and Burkina Faso, including two projects led by Luxembourg companies.

It should be noted that business due diligence plays a central role in the implementation of these instruments; the outcomes of the interventions and the award of funds to businesses are conditional on specific commitments relating to respect for human rights and environmental criteria. In general, the Directorate for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs has continued to follow the work of the Enterprises and Human Rights working group, which is responsible for implementing and monitoring the second national action plan on business and human rights (2nd NAP).



SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND COOPERATION

In 2024, the Directorate for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs continued its efforts to find specific areas for its collaboration with the research ecosystem in Luxembourg through collaborations and joint projects. In this context, Luxembourg Development Cooperation systematically supports the development of capacities and expertise both in Luxembourg and in the developing countries, and works both to strengthen existing institutional ties and to build new partnerships with the academic and scientific world.

For example, the Directorate for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs and the National Research Fund (FNR) have launched a joint instrument called LuxAid BRIDGES, which finances innovative research projects involving Luxembourg researchers and partners in developing countries through annual calls for projects. The first call for projects, launched in September 2023, led to the selection of three projects in 2024, two led by the Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology (LIST), in Bangladesh and Senegal, and one by the University of Luxembourg's Faculty of Law, in Laos.

In 2024, two agreements were signed with the University of Luxembourg to fund scholarships for students from the Luxembourg Development Cooperation intervention countries. The scholarships aim to contribute to the development of research and academic excellence in developing countries, while building collaborative ties between the University of Luxembourg and higher education institutions in the Luxembourg Development Cooperation intervention countries. Initially, scholarships will target students from Laos, Costa Rica and Cabo Verde.

Finally, in 2024, together with the NGO *Appui au développement autonome* (ADA), the Ministry continued its financial support to the ADA Chair at the University of Luxembourg's Faculty of Law, Economics and Finance. The Chair works on research in European and international financial law with a particular emphasis on all aspects of inclusive and innovative finance and fintech. He or she organises the annual certification of professionals in the sector through the Certificate in Law and Regulation of Inclusive Finance, organises conferences on relevant topics relating to financial law and inclusive finance, publishes high-quality research in the field of financial law and inclusive finance and participates in national, European and international conferences.



DIGITAL FOR DEVELOPMENT (D4D)

Luxembourg Development Cooperation supports an inclusive, green, human-centred and reliable digital transformation in its partner countries, to contribute to sustainable development. Mobilising innovative approaches and instruments in key areas of expertise such as information and communication technologies (ICT), digital skills, cybersecurity and digital financial services, it collaborates with partners such as the Luxembourg House of Cybersecurity and the University of Luxembourg (SnT).

In 2024, Luxembourg maintained its commitment within the European Commission's Digital for Development Hub (D4D Hub), promoting the alignment of EU digital initiatives to increase their impact. This strategic multi-stakeholder platform promotes new international partnerships in the field of digital transformation between the EU and partner countries, particularly in Africa. The shared aim is a human-centric approach to digital transformation: facilitating multi-stakeholder partnerships, sharing expertise and encouraging investment from various European and global partners. In this context, Luxembourg Development Cooperation is actively contributing to activities within the Africa branch as well as to the cyberspace working group, which Luxembourg co-chairs together with France and the European Commission.

In this context, Luxembourg has also continued its commitment within the African Union-European Union (AU-EU) D4D Hub. Implemented by five Euro-



pean development agencies, including LuxDev, and with €8 million under European funding, this project aims to help bridge the digital divide, including the gender divide, and to use digital innovations to foster sustainable and inclusive development in Africa. The AU-EU D4D Hub also benefits Luxembourg Development Cooperation's partner countries, including Cabo Verde.

Luxembourg is also pursuing its commitment to cybersecurity through the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise and the EU Cybernet network, working with over 115 international partners to build global capacity and expertise in this area.

Launched in July 2024, the SnT4Dev initiative, with a budget of nearly €10 million over seven years and implemented by SnT and LuxDev, will deepen cooperation between SnT and universities in Senegal and Benin, two Luxembourg Development Cooperation partner countries, with the aim of building local human capacities to promote economic development in ICT and research.

In addition, the first French-language training cycle under the project entitled "Information and Communication Technology Policy and Regulation – Institutional Strengthening" (iPRIS) took place in Luxembourg in September 2024. The project, led by the Luxembourg Institute of Regulation and Luxembourg Development Cooperation, together with the Swedish cooperation agency and the European Commission, aims to enhance meaningful, inclusive and sustainable connectivity in sub-Saharan Africa by strengthening the capacity of national regulatory institutes to implement strategic projects.

Luxembourg Development Cooperation's D4D projects focus on modernising public administrations, developing digital financial services, strengthening core competences and building capacity in cybersecurity. Efforts to mainstream these areas in a cross-cutting manner in bilateral and multilateral programmes as well as in humanitarian action will continue beyond 2024.

The background is a solid blue color. Overlaid on this are several white geometric lines that form a series of interconnected, irregular polygons. These lines create a sense of depth and structure, with some lines extending from the top and bottom edges towards the center. The overall effect is a modern, minimalist design.

HUMANITARIAN ACTION



HUMANITARIAN ACTION

In 2024, the Directorate for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs allocated a total budget of €96 million to humanitarian interventions.

The year was shaped by three high-intensity conflicts and millions of people in need of humanitarian assistance. The wars in the Middle East, Sudan and Ukraine were characterised by a total disregard for international humanitarian law and the deliberate obstruction of humanitarian workers' efforts to save lives – often in vain. Population displacement reached record levels once again. As in previous years, the most vulnerable have been left behind: about one in five children worldwide – an estimated 400 million – live in conflict

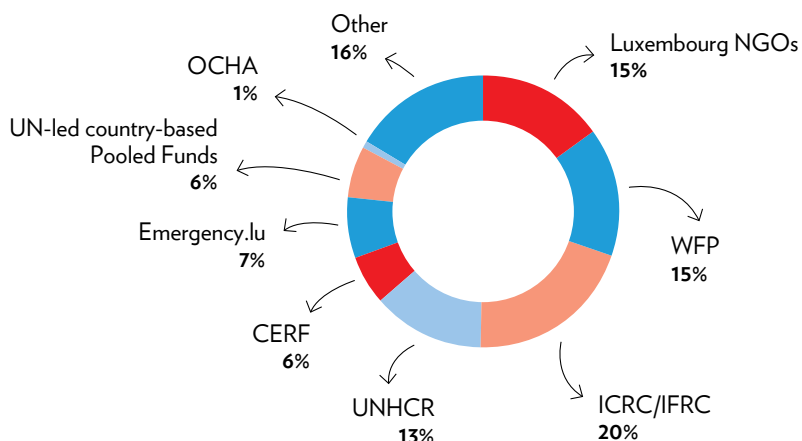
zones or have been forcibly displaced. And women and girls have been particularly impacted, due to inadequate health care and an epidemic of gender-based violence.

As of 25 November 2024, global financial requirements for the year had soared to US\$49.6 billion, up from US\$46.4 billion at the start of the year, targeting aid for nearly 198 million people across 77 countries. Yet, despite massive efforts by humanitarian organisations to meet the objectives set out in the response plans and their appeals, funding in 2024 did not match the scale of needs. Only US\$21 billion, which is 43% of the amount required to meet the needs reported in the Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO), had been received as of 25 November.

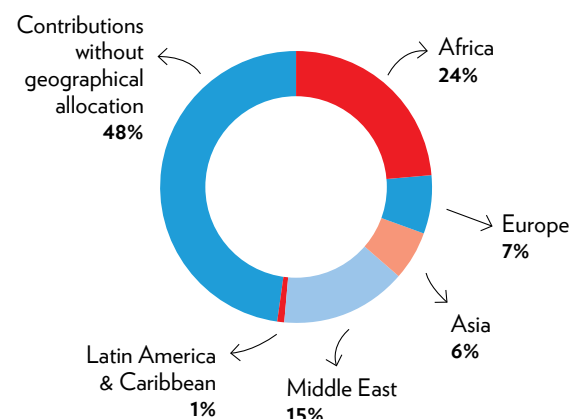
DISBURSEMENTS ACROSS ALL ALLOCATIONS

HUMANITARIAN ACTION		%	'% OF ODA
Emergency aid	€ 87,410,203.09	90.88%	15.84%
assistance in materiel and emergency services	€ 64,044,140	66.59%	11.61%
basic health care services in emergency situations	€ 3,129,163	3.25%	0.57%
emergency food aid	€ 8,458,500	8.79%	1.53%
coordination of emergency assistance and support services	€ 11,778,400	12.25%	2.13%
Aid for reconstruction and rehabilitation	€ 2,016,431	2.10%	0.37%
Disaster prevention and disaster preparedness	€ 6,755,950	7.02%	1.22%
Total	€ 96,182,584	100.00%	17.43%

HUMANITARIAN AID BY PARTNER



HUMANITARIAN AID BY REGION





Minister Bettel with a UNHCR official at the Zaatar refugee camp in Jordan

INTERNATIONAL CRISES

Luxembourg has maintained its commitment to major humanitarian crises around the world. Thus, in 2024 Luxembourg made a total contribution of nearly €15.3 million to the humanitarian response in the Sahel, spanning Niger (€7.1 million), Burkina Faso (€3.2 million), Mali (€4.1 million) and Chad (€0.9 million).

With total contributions of €5.3 million, €4 million and €3.4 million respectively, three other priorities for Luxembourg's humanitarian action in 2024 were the humanitarian responses in Ukraine, Syria and Ethiopia. Other humanitarian contributions in 2024 were for the humanitarian crises in Sudan (€2.4 million), South Sudan (€1.78 million), Afghanistan (€1.45 million), Yemen (€1.4 million), the Central African Republic (€1.53 million) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (€1.3 million). Luxembourg also responded to sudden-onset crises such as floods in Laos and Vietnam (Typhoon Yagi), Mali, Brazil and Japan, mpox epidemics in the DRC and the Marburg virus in Rwanda. At the end of the year, Luxembourg mobilised another €4 million to address the devastating humanitarian consequences of the war in Lebanon.

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES (OPT)

In 2024, Luxembourg allocated a total of €6.7 million for humanitarian protection and emergency humanitarian aid projects in the OPT, including €1.4 million in support of the humanitarian response in the Gaza Strip. Aid delivery to the OPT was carried out through United Nations agencies such as UNRWA, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United

Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross and the NGOs *Handicap International Luxembourg*, *SOS Villages d'Enfants Monde*, *CARE Luxembourg*, *Comité pour une Paix Juste au Proche-Orient*, *Action Solidarité Tiers Monde* and the HALO Trust.

In 2024 Luxembourg continued its support for the West Bank Protection Consortium project managed by the Norwegian Refugee Council, an NGO, and forged new partnerships, including with the UN's 2720 Gaza mechanism to support the Jordanian humanitarian corridor and with UNOSAT to assess the impact of the conflict on buildings in the Gaza Strip.

CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE OCHA DONOR SUPPORT GROUP (ODSG)

From July 2023 to June 2024, Luxembourg served as chair of the OCHA Donor Support Group (ODSG). During this period, Luxembourg organised four official meetings, including two high-level meetings, the most recent one taking place in Luxembourg, as well as a field visit to the CAR. Luxembourg's chairmanship of the ODSG came at the middle of the implementation of OCHA's 2023-2026 strategic plan, which focuses on a humanitarian system that is more people-centred and less bureaucratic, seeking to further strengthen the resilience of affected communities. Within that framework, as chair Luxembourg focused on initiatives to reform OCHA, such as the reform of the humanitarian programme cycle (HPC) and the Flagship initiative, both aimed at improving the effectiveness of the humanitarian system in terms of resources and aligning it more closely with the actual needs and priorities of the people concerned. In March 2024, Luxembourg also hosted the Flagship initiative's first global learning forum, welcoming around 100 participants including local stakeholders, humanitarian coordinators and OCHA heads of offices from the four pilot countries¹, as well as donors, UN agencies, NGOs and academic institutions. In addition, as chair Luxembourg placed particular emphasis on responding to the humanitarian consequences of climate change and internal displacement, as well as managing risk in fragile settings, while addressing the issue of misappropriation of aid. The high-level meeting in Luxembourg also explored the humanitarian system's collaboration with development partners and international financial institutions.

¹ Niger, South Sudan, Colombia and the Philippines



Flagship Initiative First Global Learning Forum in Luxembourg

Overall, Luxembourg's chairmanship gave the country strong visibility, deepening its ties with OCHA's senior leadership and other donor countries. It also helped to reaffirm the role and added value of the ODSG, which had lost momentum under the previous chairmanship of Saudi Arabia and during the COVID-19 pandemic. A testament to the success of this chairmanship is the interest shown by several donors – including DG ECHO, Canada, Denmark and the Netherlands – in serving as the next chair.

LAUNCH OF TWO STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

In an increasingly complex global context where supporting innovation in humanitarian action – particularly innovation driven by affected populations, including refugees and internally displaced persons – has become an imperative, Luxembourg has decided to establish a partnership with the UNHCR Innovation Service and the Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology (LIST). This partnership seeks to develop an effective early warning and early response system (EWERS) for forced displacement, by leveraging digital technologies. The goal of this initiative is to create a system that can detect escalating emergency risks likely to lead to forced displacement, through early warning indicators, able to deliver alerts before crises erupt, together with real-time updates. This project also aims to second or place part of the project team at LIST in Luxembourg.

As innovative ideas implemented responsibly in the fields of technology, digitalisation and finance remain a priority for Luxembourg's humanitarian action strategy, Luxembourg has supported a second initiative in the field of innovation. A strategic partnership has

been established with the WFP, the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) and LIST. This ambitious partnership aims to harness technological advances, especially in artificial intelligence (AI), to address the challenges of food insecurity and acute hunger, while improving the effectiveness and impact of humanitarian operations.

UNOSAT

Luxembourg has decided to allocate €500,000 to UNOSAT to finance a range of activities in 2025. The agency focuses on using space technologies and geospatial data and responding to the identification of emergency needs on behalf of humanitarian and UN organisations such as OCHA, UNESCO, etc., as well as for UN Member States. This funding will support UNOSAT's emergency mapping service in three areas: (i) assessing damage to buildings in Lebanon caused by conflict; (ii) evaluating the impact of the conflict on buildings in the Gaza Strip; and (iii) assessing how conflicts have affected cultural and natural heritage.

LETTER OF INTENT WITH THE WFP ON CYBERSECURITY

During a visit by representatives of the WFP's Technology Division in January 2024, Luxembourg and the UN agency explored opportunities for future collaboration in cybersecurity and data management. While a firm decision by the WFP on such a commitment had been awaited for several years, the beginning of 2024 saw renewed interest in the dialogue. The recent launch of the new WFP global data strategy for 2024-2026 created a timely opportunity to bring these discussions to fruition. The collaboration prospects were formalised through a non-binding letter of intent, with the aim of accelerating WFP's decision-making process and strengthening its bilateral relationship with Luxembourg – an approach that proved successful.

The year 2025 will thus mark the launch of a pilot phase of a strategic partnership on cybersecurity and data management. This may eventually pave the way for the WFP to have a physical presence in Luxembourg.

LUXEMBOURG AND INTERNATIONAL NGOs

In 2024, Luxembourg allocated a total of €15 million to Luxembourg and international NGOs active in the humanitarian field, compared to €20.8 million dis-



School canteen, Sinthiou Garba, Senegal

bursed in 2023. This reduction is mainly due to the cessation of the activities of *Fondation Caritas Luxembourg*, following the embezzlement of funds from the Foundation (see box). In addition, due to the unstable situation in Niger, the Ministry, in agreement with Luxembourg Red Cross International Aid, decided to defer two annual instalments, totalling €2 million, to 2025. In terms of budget allocations specifically for international NGOs and organisations, the 2024 figure stood at approximately €5.4 million, down from about €6.1 million in 2023.

Luxembourg has also decided to continue its partnership with the Henry Dunant Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue – a partnership dating back to 2023 – by concluding a multiannual MoU covering the 2025-2026 period. Luxembourg will strengthen its partnership by increasing its contribution to a total of €4 million for 2025-2026 to support the following three activities: (i) core funding; (ii) local mediation in the Sahel and Gulf of Guinea; and (iii) dialogue for digital peace aimed at mitigating digital conflicts through mediation.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)

The partnership with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) continued in 2024, particularly with the ICRC Delegation for Cyberspace in Luxem-

bourg, which was inaugurated at the end of 2022. In 2024, significant efforts were made to transform the ICRC's Delegation for Cyberspace in Luxembourg into a Global Cyber Operational Hub. These efforts will continue in 2025.

2024 also saw two major events: the Symposium on Cybersecurity on Data Protection in Humanitarian Action, held in Luxembourg at the end of January, and the Regional Symposium on Cybersecurity and Data Protection in Humanitarian Action, held in Nairobi at the end of November. Preparations will soon begin for the next symposium on data protection and cybersecurity in humanitarian action. This event is scheduled to take place in Luxembourg during the first half of 2026.

Talks will also begin in 2025 on the establishment of the new strategic partnership framework between Luxembourg and the ICRC covering the 2026-2029 period.

EMERGENCY.LU

Emergency.lu is the operational arm of Luxembourg's humanitarian action.

Through its satellite communication platform, Luxembourg continued to provide telecommunication services in support of humanitarian organisations in Niger, Chad, Venezuela, Panama and Syria, at the request of the WFP, the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and UNICEF.

As part of the ETC, Luxembourg also contributed to the Services for communities Sahel project, which aims to bridge the digital divide in the central Sahel and meet the information and communication needs of communities. By providing basic telecommunication services, the ETC will ensure that communities in Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali have access to the tools needed to access potentially life-saving information, and to a basic communication network. The first site has been operational in Diffa since mid-2023. A second centre opened in August 2024 in Dori, Burkina Faso.

The crisis in Sudan and the conflict in Darfur have resulted in the looting and destruction of a large number of UN offices, guesthouses and warehouses across the region, as well as the evacuation of international staff and the relocation of national staff. In response, the UN launched activities in Farchana, Chad, one hour from the border. At the request of OCHA and as part of the International Humanitarian Partnership, one Ministry official and four volunteers from the



Emergency.lu mission in Panama

CGDIS Humanitarian Intervention Team (HIT) installed prefabricated containers, two generators and a satellite communication terminal to support humanitarian operators in the region.

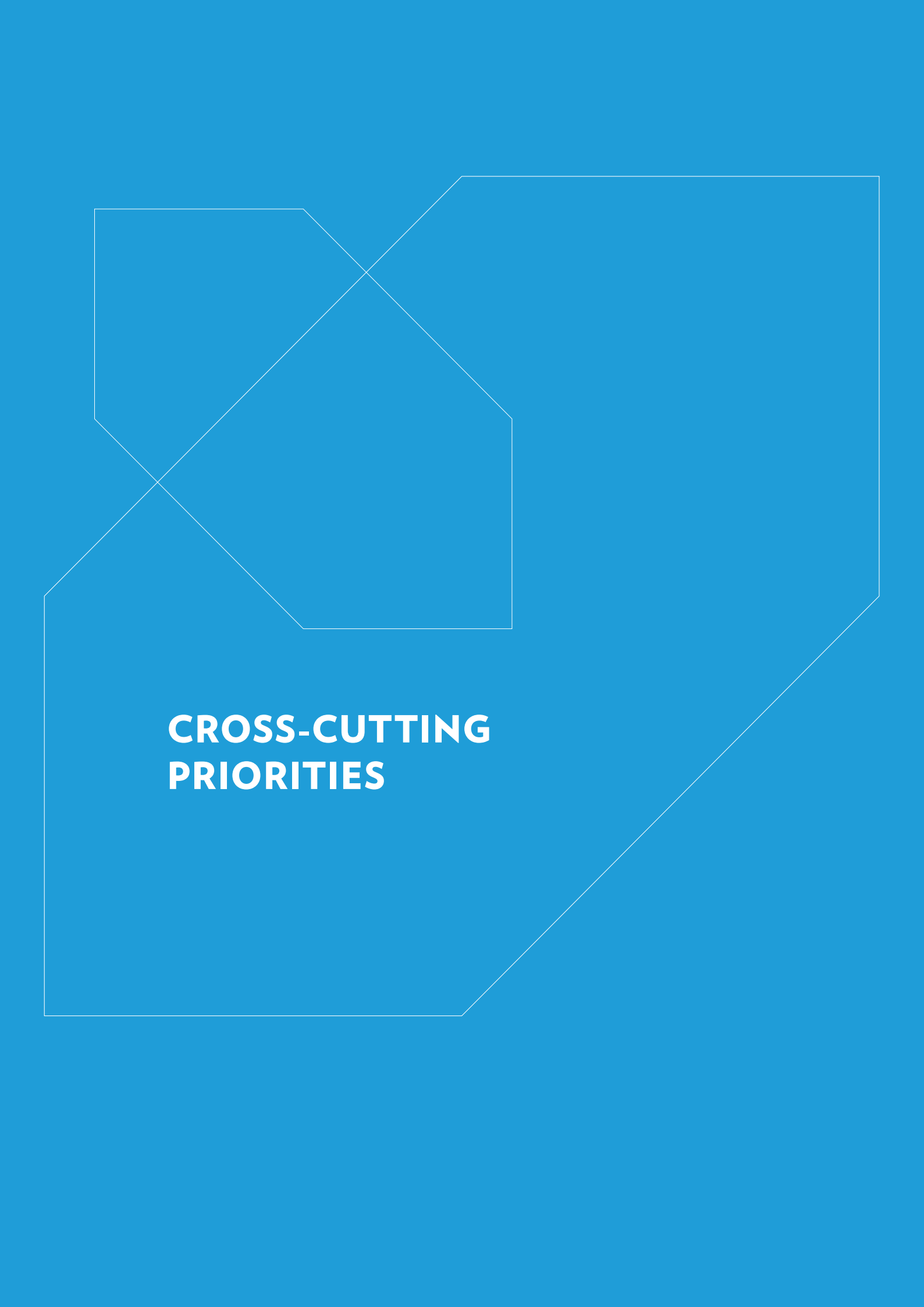
Following the damage caused by Hurricane Beryl, which struck the Caribbean in early July, Luxembourg responded positively to a request from OCHA for international assistance to support affected populations in Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The Luxembourg government sent a HIT member to assist in the relief efforts, as part of OCHA's United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team. Two additional HIT members were deployed to the affected areas to support the UNDAC team with logistical and technical resources, including the emergency.lu satellite communications platform. In response to the damage caused by Cyclone Chido, which struck Mayotte on 14 December 2024, and in response to a request from the French government via the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism, Luxembourg deployed two emergency.lu satellite communications systems to support humanitarian efforts in the archipelago.

In response to the declaration of the Marburg virus disease (MVD) outbreak in Rwanda in September 2024, and at the request of the Rwandan government under the European Civil Protection Mechanism, Luxembourg provided 330 pallets of personal protective equipment and medical supplies to Rwanda. These emergency items, provided by the Ministry of Health and Social Security, were collected and transported under the coordination of the Directorate for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs, in close cooperation with the Grand Ducal Fire and Rescue Corps (CGDIS), private sector partners and the Luxembourg embassy in Rwanda. Using the same mechanism, Luxembourg also provided medical equipment to the Lebanese authorities.

In December 2024, Luxembourg delivered 110 humanitarian demining kits worth €1 million to Ukraine. This donation forms part of Luxembourg's broader support for humanitarian demining in Ukraine, currently the most heavily mined country in the world.

In line with the 2023-2028 coalition agreement and in order to strengthen Luxembourg's direct emergency response capacities, in 2024 the Ministry established a humanitarian stockpile. This stockpile is intended to support humanitarian agencies (enabling response) and to provide direct assistance to communities affected by disasters and humanitarian crises (lifesaving support).

As part of its capacity-building efforts, the Ministry hosted 200 participants from 25 different humanitarian organisations for eight training courses held in the Grand Duchy in 2024. The organisation and financing of these courses is a benefit in kind provided by Luxembourg to the ETC, the WFP, UNHCR and OCHA.

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CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES



ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The major global environmental changes, and in particular climate change, loss of biodiversity and desertification, are adversely impacting the human and natural systems on which human well-being and economic activities are based. They will continue to influence countries' development conditions. These changes constitute threats and a major challenge for societies in their ability to meet basic human needs, promote justice, peace and security and pursue sustainable growth and development.

Environment and climate issues are therefore a key element of the overall aim of Luxembourg Development Cooperation's general strategy, and one of the three cross-cutting issues on which its actions focus. In line with the additionality of international climate financing provided for in the government's coalition agreement, there is more of a need than ever to strengthen and optimise the cross-cutting incorporation of the environment and climate change within development cooperation activities.

Luxembourg Development Cooperation's environment and climate change strategy, presented in 2021, aims to frame all its activities and/or aid within sustainable, inclusive, renewable or low-carbon development dynamics that are resilient to the effects of climate and environmental change, in accordance with internation-

The year 2024 saw the three Rio Conventions' Conferences of the Parties (COP): the climate COP, the biodiversity COP and the desertification COP. The MFA led the delegation for the latter, which is a lower-profile negotiation space that fosters in-depth and constructive dialogue. Significant progress was achieved on issues of inclusiveness and equality, reflecting a more participatory dynamic. However, no consensus could be reached on the major issues related to drought, despite it being a central concern of environmental and climate crises, with increasing impacts on ecosystems and vulnerable communities.

al environmental conventions, Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement goals.

In 2024, Luxembourg Development Cooperation also continued its involvement in the interministerial management committee of the Climate and Energy Fund (CEF), chaired by the Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development, whose remit includes the multiannual planning of CEF expenditure and the drafting of opinions and, where appropriate, recommendations concerning the financing of eligible investments.



GENDER

The promotion and the protection of gender equality remain priorities of Luxembourg's foreign policy, including in relation to development cooperation, where gender is at the core of the work done. To effectively strengthen gender equality, the intersection between gender and other factors, such as age, ethnicity, socio-economic status or any disability, must be taken into account. It is also vital to address discriminatory structures, and gender-based social norms and stereotypes that are the root causes of gender inequality. Action by women in the public and private spheres of life is crucial.

Since the commitments made at the Generation Equality Forum in July 2021, Luxembourg has been able to make tangible progress. In addition to taking

positions in international and European fora, Luxembourg has implemented several tangible measures.

Following a revision of its gender strategy, making it resolutely progressive and tailored to meet current global challenges, Luxembourg Development Cooperation has developed several operational tools and sector-specific sheets to ensure gender is integrated and actually taken into account in the management of Luxembourg Development Cooperation's programming and project cycle. More specifically, the various actors within Luxembourg Development Cooperation are being equipped with the appropriate tools to facilitate the implementation of different development cooperation and humanitarian aid activities.

Luxembourg Development Cooperation is also continuing its work on developing actions to prevent and combat all forms of sexual and gender-based violence with all its partners, including Luxembourg's NGOs, through the improvement of their internal procedures for the prevention, detection, response to and protection against all types of sexual and gender-based violence.

With its multilateral partners, Luxembourg Development Cooperation is pursuing a number of partnerships that work directly to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women. In 2024, Luxembourg Development Cooperation continued to provide financial support to the core budgets of UN Women and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), as well as to the gender funds of UNICEF and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Luxembourg Development Cooperation also supports a large number of initiatives that bring together various UN partners with the aim of advancing women's rights across different sectors. Thus, the Education Plus initiative, implemented by UNAIDS, and co-led by UNFPA, UN Women, UNESCO, UNDP and UNICEF, aims to mobilise high-level political commitment to ensure access to secondary education for girls, including education on health and on reproductive rights. Thus, by the end of 2023, 15 African countries (Benin, Cameroon, Eswatini, Gabon, Gambia, Lesotho, Malawi, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Uganda, Senegal, Tanzania, Kenya, Botswana and Zambia) had made political commitments to join the Education Plus initiative. In addition, support for the UNICEF/UNFPA joint programme for the eradication of female genital mutilation continues and, since 2022, Luxembourg has funded the UN Women sustainable finance programme, which aims to increase the volume and quality of funding for gender equality.

In 2024, Luxembourg Development Cooperation reaffirmed its commitment to gender equality by funding individual projects implemented by UN agencies, both regionally and in Luxembourg's partner countries.

Two new projects have been launched. In Rwanda, UNFPA initiated a programme focused on improving young people's access to education and economic opportunities, while also offering support around sexual and reproductive health. The programme is based on three major components: sexual and reproductive health education and awareness-raising in technical and vocational training schools, the reintegration of vulnerable young people into the education and vocational system, and the establishment of a rigorous monitoring and evaluation system. Gender equality is a cross-cutting focus of the programme, with particular attention paid to young mothers and people with disabilities. In addition, combating gender-based violence is a priority, with the creation of a secure and respectful environment.

In September 2024, with funding from Luxembourg, UNFPA also launched the Global Coalition for Transnational Solidarity and Action. This coalition brings together a range of stakeholders to improve cooperation and the effectiveness of maternal health interventions, using evidence-based practices and an intersectional approach. It also promotes the exchange of strategies and advocates for social justice. Its funding is aligned with Luxembourg Development Cooperation priorities, especially the commitment to "leave no one behind". It reinforces existing efforts, such as the Luxembourg-funded project in Central America, and enables a systemic approach to tackling inequalities in reproductive health.

Beyond these projects, which directly target SDG 5, all new projects with UN agencies financed by Luxembourg in 2024 incorporate a gender perspective. A notable example is a project in Benin with UNICEF that tackles child trafficking and child labour. It is based on the OECD Gender Equality Marker G2 recommendations. It focuses on empowering girls and female adolescents, encouraging their leadership and social participation. It also raises awareness among boys and male adolescents about positive masculinity, encouraging them to become allies in the fight for gender equality.

In addition, more than half of the projects underway in 2024 had the primary or secondary objective of empowering women and promoting gender equality.

For example, in Central America, relying on assistance from Luxembourg, UNFPA continued its support for a regional programme to reduce the number of pregnancies among teenage girls in Afro-descend-



Young participants in community workshops at the Instituto Abel González Caballero in Limón, Honduras

ant, Creole, Garifuna and Miskito communities in the coastal regions of Central America and the Caribbean. Luxembourg's contribution totals €6 million for the 2023-2026 period.

In Brazil, Luxembourg decided to continue its support for the joint work by UN Women, the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and UNFPA to combat the inequalities and human rights violations faced by Venezuelan women and girls who are migrants, asylum seekers or refugees. Luxembourg's contribution of €1.5 million to the third phase of this programme (2023-2025) will enable the three agencies to work together on incorporating human rights and gender equality into the new generation of public policies on migration, asylum and statelessness.

In Benin, Luxembourg is supporting a UNFPA project to train approximately 740,000 girls and boys on sexual and reproductive health, economic empowerment, leadership and participation and to support the associated institutional ecosystem. With a budget of €4.75 million for the 2023 to 2025 period, the project hopes to encourage young people to become powerful agents of change. With a contribution of €500,000 for the 2023 to 2025 period, Luxembourg Development Cooperation is also working alongside UN Women in Ethiopia to support the Ethiopian government in developing and adopting a national action plan on women, peace and security for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000).

In Mali, Luxembourg is contributing €4.7 million to the training of 150 midwives as part of a project implemented by UNFPA (2023-2024). The project's expected outcomes are to assist 80,000 deliveries, to

improve the knowledge of 300,000 women in health and rights, and to provide holistic care for 1,000 cases of rape and GBV (gender-based violence).

In Burkina Faso, UNFPA is pursuing the implementation of a project to strengthen the resilience of women and young people to the effects of climate change and to bolster their contributions. Luxembourg is supporting this project with €5 million for the 2023 to 2025 period. The project focuses on three areas: capacity building, improving the financial inclusion and socio-economic integration of women and young people, and strengthening women's economic empowerment in order to prevent GBV.

The West Africa region has some of the lowest health indicators in the world, particularly for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Thus, the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) is continuing to implement a regional programme launched in 2023, with a budget of €1.5 million. This project aims to support IPPF's national partners in the West Africa region, specifically in Senegal, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde and Benin, to defend and strengthen the SRHR of the poorest and most disadvantaged populations, who are often underserved and deprived of care.

In addition, in Senegal, Luxembourg is contributing €500,000 for the 2022-2025 period to fund the VIMOS project, which is implemented by civil society actors and focuses on preventing sexual violence and female genital mutilation among young women, as well as on the development and support of care for victims.

Furthermore, in the Sahel, Luxembourg is continuing its support for gender equality through several dedicated programmes (e.g. the UNFPA Illimin project on sexual and reproductive health and education in Niger; the World Food Programme's project entitled "Breaking Barriers for Girls' Education in Niger"; and the FEVE IMPULSE sub-regional project on sexual and reproductive health and awareness, run by *ENDA Santé*), as well as in a cross-cutting manner through all its bilateral commitments.

In Afghanistan, the Thrive project run by German NGO KIRON Open Higher Education provides Afghan girls and women with access to online courses and marketing training, as well as English language courses, so that they can set up a small business and have a certain degree of financial independence. Since November 2023, 50 women have taken part in this project.



HUMAN RIGHTS

Luxembourg Development Cooperation aims primarily to strengthen the respect for and protection and realisation of human rights in order to create an environment that offers equal opportunities, so that each individual can freely determine the course of his or her existence.

Within the United Nations, Luxembourg's action is undertaken with the aim of achieving the Agenda 2030 sustainable development goals. As part of its mandate at the Human Rights Council 2022-2024, Luxembourg is committed to a human rights-based approach to international development.

In terms of its partner countries, the Luxembourg Development Cooperation's actions form part of a human rights-based approach, in the sense that an improvement in governance seeks to strengthen the institutions of the State in fulfilling their roles as bodies bound by obligations. Appropriate legal and administrative frameworks and institutions are necessary in order to address the needs and rights of people. Support must also be given to rights holders so that they are in a better position to claim and exercise their fundamental rights, which comprise civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights.

Luxembourg seeks to maintain a regular political dialogue at ministerial level with its partner countries. The Indicative Cooperation Programmes include the field of human rights in a cross-cutting manner, and are the subject of an annual review as part of the partnership committee meetings that take place alternately in Luxembourg and in the relevant partner country.

Through its humanitarian strategy Luxembourg remains committed to promoting respect for international humanitarian law, and ensuring respect for human rights, as well as supporting efforts to build a lasting peace, notably through transitional justice activities.

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE (ICTJ)

In 2024, the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) programmes in Tunisia, Colombia and East Africa continued, with the support of Luxembourg Development Cooperation (€1.95 million for the 2023-2026 period). The ICTJ works for the acknowledgement of human rights violations and the restoration of dignity, which lays the foundations for

peace in the long term and helps prevent the recurrence of renewed cycles of conflict, abuse and marginalisation. Luxembourg Development Cooperation is also supporting the ICTJ to provide its comparative experience and knowledge to discussions on transitional justice in Ukraine. Drawing on lessons learned from various transitional justice contexts, the ICTJ advocates for victim-centred justice measures and a broader understanding of accountability, going beyond criminal justice.

Luxembourg Development Cooperation also supports the ICTJ in its research activities. The ICTJ continued a study launched in 2023 on the implications of digital transformation for transitional justice, focusing in particular on the specific impact of social media in shaping shared narratives, countering disinformation and highlighting the social value of truth. In September 2024, the ICTJ published a study examining the role of mental health and psychosocial support in transitional justice policies, with case studies from Colombia, Canada, Australia and Sierra Leone. The study explores how a psychosocial approach can be integrated into formal transitional justice processes, including restorative justice, truth-seeking initiatives and judicial mechanisms that seek to establish criminal accountability.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (ISHR)

Luxembourg contributes to the implementation of the ISHR's regional programme in Africa. Backed by a €300,000 contribution from Luxembourg over a three-year period (2023-2025), the activities help strengthen partnerships with various local actors in African countries where Luxembourg Development Cooperation is active. The aim is to consolidate laws and systems that protect the freedom of expression, association and assembly of human rights defenders (HRDs), including through NGO engagement with the African Union's African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. The ISHR places particular emphasis on building the capacity of national organisations, enabling them to raise their demands with their own governments and press for legal frameworks that protect HRDs.

UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (OHCHR)

In 2024, Luxembourg Development Cooperation reinforced its support for the regional office of the

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) through the signing of the first strategic partnership framework in July 2024, which provides for a budget of €6,000,000 over four years. For Luxembourg, such a framework makes it possible to adopt a strategic approach to human rights and to make coherent progress on human rights commitments.

In line with its primary development cooperation objective of contributing to the reduction and, ultimately, the eradication of extreme poverty, Luxembourg has chosen to continue its support to the OHCHR, and to do so in developing countries as a priority. Accordingly, the partnership framework envisages financial support for country programmes in Myanmar and Rwanda, as well as to the country and regional offices for East Africa (based in Addis Ababa and covering Ethiopia, Djibouti, Tanzania and the African Union), the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), West Africa (based in Dakar and covering Senegal, Benin, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia and Togo) and Central America and the Dominican Republic (based in Panama and covering Belize, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama). In view of the significant needs of the OHCHR, Luxembourg allocated an additional €500,000 at the end of 2024, specifically to support the OHCHR office in the OPT.

FRONT LINE DEFENDERS

In 2024, Luxembourg continued its support for the NGO Front Line Defenders (FLD), world leader in the protection and security of HRDs. In the region of Central America FLD is leading a three-year project (2022-2025) with a budget of €300,000, designed to provide holistic protection and support for the safety of HRDs in El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua.

Luxembourg also supported a project by FLD in Afghanistan, covering the 2023-2024 period, which provided direct assistance to the most marginalised HRDs. Lastly, Luxembourg supports FLD through a regional approach in Africa for the 2023-2026 period, focusing on the countries where Luxembourg Development Cooperation is active, namely Senegal, Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, Benin and Rwanda. In 2024, the geographical scope of the project was expanded to include Côte d'Ivoire. Support from Luxembourg Development Cooperation also enabled FLD to finance the participation of HRDs from the region in the 2024 Dublin Platform for Human Rights Defenders. Overall, the situation of HRDs in western and central Africa

is deteriorating. Often, national security is advanced as a reason for restrictions on civic space, such as the freedoms of association and expression, endangering the activities and often even the personal freedom of HRDs.

UNESCO

Since 2019, Luxembourg has contributed €100,000 per year to support the International Programme for the Development of Communication, managed by UNESCO, which helps to mobilise the international community around discussion of progress with the media in developing countries.

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY AND ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE (IDEA)

Despite the difficult context for work on the ground since the coup d'état in 2021, Luxembourg Development Cooperation remains present in Myanmar. Thus, Luxembourg is also positioning itself as a key partner in the Building Federal Democracy in Myanmar programme (€800,000 for 2023-2024), which seeks to establish a new constitutional framework in Myanmar, by establishing effective and accountable institutions and by promoting inclusive and participatory governance at all levels. Luxembourg held the annual Presidency of International IDEA's Council of Member States from December 2023 to December 2024.



Residents of the Zataari refugee camp in Jordan

MEKONG REGION LAND GOVERNANCE

Since 2014, Luxembourg Development Cooperation has been contributing, alongside Switzerland and Germany, to the Mekong Region Land Governance Project (MRLG). The MRLG project is being implemented in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam by a consortium of two international NGOs, Land Equity International and GRET. The project contributes to improved policies and practices, as well as their practical implementation, enabling small-scale farmers, especially those from ethnic minorities, to have sustainable and equitable access to land and control over their agricultural and forest lands. The continuation of Luxembourg's support for this project (€1.4 million for 2023-2025) reflects the need to address the links between climate and human rights. Protecting and respecting the collective rights of indigenous peoples is particularly important for biodiversity and forest conservation.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Within the framework of the private sector engagement instruments, Luxembourg Development Cooperation is committed to promoting responsible business conduct, based on the OECD and United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Due diligence plays a central role within the Business Partnership Facility, the LuxAid Challenge Fund and the LuxAid Demonstration Fund, which are among the instruments for partnering with the private sector. As such, funding for European businesses and businesses in developing countries is conditional on concrete commitments to socially and environmentally responsible business conduct. The Directorate for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs has actively participated in the work of the Enterprises and Human Rights working group, responsible for implementing and monitoring the second national Business and Human Rights action plan. Since September 2023, LuxDev has been a signatory of the National Business and Human Rights Pact, demonstrating the agency's concrete commitment to identifying risks and preventing human rights violations. In addition, Luxembourg signed the Joint Declaration on Living Income and Living Wages on 1 June 2023 together with the Netherlands, Germany and Belgium. The declaration puts forward tangible actions to support the implementation of decent wages and incomes in global supply chains.

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DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS

OECD DAC

Luxembourg has been a member of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) since 1993. With 1% of its gross national income (GNI) allocated to official development assistance (ODA), Luxembourg is a steadfast advocate within international bodies for the importance of ODA, particularly for the least developed countries (LDCs). It is worth noting that Luxembourg is one of the few countries that does not include international climate finance or refugee hosting costs within its ODA figures.

Luxembourg's overall development cooperation strategy takes into account the recommendations from DAC peer reviews. The most recent peer review took place in 2024, with the Netherlands and Estonia acting as examiners. The report includes ten recommendations for Luxembourg's development cooperation policy.

Relations with the DAC Development Cooperation Directorate are excellent, and Luxembourg is one of its top donors. Luxembourg relies on the DAC to ensure the quality and effectiveness of "genuine" aid. Policy coherence plays a key role in this area, and a study was conducted jointly with the DAC to strengthen this aspect in Luxembourg's policies.



EVALUATION

In 2024, the directorate's evaluation unit commissioned external evaluations of civil society interventions and its bilateral portfolio, particularly in the area of inclusive finance and its cooperation with Cabo Verde. All evaluations are based on the evaluation criteria commonly selected in the evaluation area by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC).

The interventions of eight Luxembourg NGDOs active in Nepal, namely the NGDOs *Coopération Humanitaire Luxembourg*, *Les Amis du Tibet*, *Life Project for Youth*, *ECPAT*, *FNEL scouts et guides*, *Aide à l'Enfance de l'Inde et du Népal*, *Pharmaciens Sans Frontières* and *Handicap International Luxembourg*, were evaluated. The goal was provide a diagnosis of the organisational performance of these NGDOs both at their headquarters in Luxembourg and on the ground in Nepal, an analysis of their relationships with their local partners, to identify opportunities for synergies between existing interventions and local partners with a view to possible future joint interventions, and to explore possibilities for creating a coherent and complementary approach among these NGDOs, aligned with Nepal's domestic policies.

The 2022-2026 strategic plan of the European Micro-finance Platform (e-MFP) was evaluated to provide a mid-term review and recommendations for refining its operations, activities and branding, to ensure alignment with e-MFP's strategic objective.

The 2022-2025 Operational Development Plan (ODP) of the NGDO *Appui au Développement Autonome* (ADA) was evaluated, with the aim of drawing initial conclusions regarding the implementation of ODP activities, particularly in Guatemala and Senegal, and defining future strategic directions.

The objectives of the evaluation of the ADA Chair were to assess the framework and strategy of the intervention, its governance, management and achievements; to identify the key lessons learned from the framework, design, management and implementation of the intervention; and to formulate strategic and operational recommendations for ADA, the Ministry and the University of Luxembourg to support the continuation and development of the Chair's activities beyond 2025. The evaluation also aimed to provide an

analysis of the potential challenges and opportunities for ADA, the Ministry and the University.

The directorate's evaluation unit also continued its work in the evaluation networks of which Luxembourg is a member. This included participation in meetings of the OECD/DAC Network on Development Evaluation (EVALNET), the COVID-19 Global Evaluation Coalition, the Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN), the German-speaking Evaluation Network (DACH) and the *Société luxembourgeoise de l'Evaluation et de la prospective* (SOLEP – Luxembourg company for evaluation and forecasting).



INFORMATION SYSTEM

The programme that is being put in place aims not only to collect information on the development programmes implemented by the various partners but also to present activity data for internal and external reporting purposes (International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) and Debtor Reporting System (DRS)), increasing the reliability of data and their centralisation, and introducing a system able to communicate with the SAP financial system.

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COHERENCE OF POLICIES



COHERENCE OF DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

In terms of external policies in a development cooperation context, Luxembourg has developed several tools to ensure it adopts a coherent policy in support of sustainable growth within the context of meeting the sustainable development goals. The 3D approach (diplomacy, development and defence) implemented within the framework of Luxembourg's foreign policy, as well as the governmental strategy of taking a practical and holistic approach to social, security, climate and migration issues, as set out in the coalition agreement, constitute the main reference framework for ensuring coherence between national and foreign policies. The Development – Climate – Energy Indicative Cooperation Programme (2021-2025) between Cabo Verde and Luxembourg marks the first opportunity for the implementation of an approach by Luxembourg Development Cooperation that involves all Luxembourg actors and sources of financing likely to contribute to the sustainable development of Cabo Verde.

All development cooperation actions feature a multi-stakeholder approach in order to increase their effectiveness. This approach fosters diverse partnerships with international, national and local NGOs and also seeks to promote increased collaboration with private sector and research actors,

in particular within its partner countries. The state of progress regarding development policy coherence is also closely monitored by the development NGOs' *Cercle de Coopération*.

Nationally, the Interministerial Committee for Development Cooperation (ICDC) is responsible for interministerial coordination on development cooperation and coherence of development policies. The Committee meets at least six times a year.

Internationally, as part of its monitoring and review mechanisms, the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages Member States to conduct regular reviews of progress at national and sub-national levels (known as Voluntary National Reviews). These national reviews serve as the basis for regular reviews by the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), convened under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Luxembourg has already carried out two voluntary national reviews (in 2017 and 2022).

In order to strengthen policy coherence, Luxembourg is also supported by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which makes recommendations for the adjustment of Luxembourg's mechanisms to make them even more effective and efficient. Between 3 and 7 June 2024, the peer review took place, a regular evaluation to which members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee are subject. Prior to the evaluation, an annex on Coherence of Development Policies was submitted. In their conclusions, the peers noted that the instruments for increasing the coherence of development policies had evolved since the last peer review (2017), referring in particular to the *Nohaltegekeetscheck* (sustainability check). At the same time, the peers also observed that institutional mechanisms to address cases of policy incoherence (for example, in tax matters or corporate due diligence) are still insufficient due to the lack of clarity regarding responsibilities among the various ministries involved.





INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

The Law of 9 May 2012 amending the amended law of 6 January 1996 on development cooperation and humanitarian action defines the responsibilities of the Interministerial Committee for Development Cooperation (ICDC). It has the remit of giving its opinion on the broad outlines of development cooperation policy and the coherence of development policies (Article 50). The law also asks the government to submit an annual report to the Chamber of Deputies on the work of the Committee, including the issue of the coherence of development policies (Article 6). The Grand Ducal Regulation of 7 August 2012 lays down the make-up and mode of operation of the Interministerial Committee for Development Cooperation.

In 2024, the ICDC met five times. In addition to the routine updating on the flagship activities of Luxembourg Development Cooperation at each meeting, the work of the ICDC placed special emphasis on policy coherence. The first ICDC meeting focused on multilateral cooperation in global health after the COVID-19 pandemic. Representatives of the NGOs' *Cercle* were invited to the ICDC's meetings for all discussions on policy coherence, and one of the meetings was facilitated by the *Cercle*. At this meeting, the *Cercle* presented the new publication on the coherence of development policies (entitled "Fair Politics 2024"). Other meetings focused on the OECD peer review of Luxembourg. The ICDC also hosted the presentation by the Center for Global Development on the Commitment to Development Index.

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**CONTRIBUTING
TO LUXEMBOURG
DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION**



CONTRIBUTING TO LUXEMBOURG DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Programme support manages and facilitates operations to deploy human resources for development cooperation. Specifically, this relates to junior professional officers (JPOs) and volunteers at the United Nations, junior professionals in delegation (JPDs) at the European Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS), as well as the junior technical assistants (JTAs) in the framework of a vocational internship programme managed by LuxDev, the Luxembourg agency for development cooperation, and financed by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Defence, Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade.

In order to give young graduates the opportunity to acquire further training and improve their skills by

acquiring initial experience in Luxembourg Development Cooperation, the Directorate for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs also offers field placements or work placements, with a salary paid for those lasting four weeks or longer. The cooperation volunteer service (SVC), managed by the National Youth Service (SNJ), is the other element of this varied range of programmes for young graduates interested in development cooperation.

In addition, the Directorate for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs grants financial support to aid workers working on behalf of various accredited Luxembourg NGOs. In order to enable the members of these NGOs to also participate in development programmes and projects and to assist the target populations, the law makes provision for development cooperation leave of six days per year per beneficiary. Development cooperation leave and aid worker status are granted in the form of ministerial orders.

OVERVIEW OF THE DEPLOYMENT OF YOUNG HUMAN RESOURCES IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN 2024

19 JPOs	6 JPDs	13 JTAs	2 UN Volunteers
OCHA (New York)	EEAS (Strasbourg)	SEN/031 (Dakar)	WFP (Matam-> Dakar)
OCHA (Geneva -> New York)	EC (San José)	SEN/032 (Dakar)	WHO (Vientiane)
OCHA (Dakar)	EC (Ulaanbaatar)	SEN/BP (Dakar)	
UNDP (Amman)	EC (Podgorica)	SEN/037 (Dakar)	
UNDP (Panama City-> Nairobi)	CE (Dakar)	SEN/301 (Dakar)	
UNDP (Praia)	EC (Cotonou)	LAO/336 (Vientiane)	
UNHCR (Copenhagen -> Nairobi)		LAO/035 (Vientiane)	
UNHCR (Niger -> Luxembourg)		LAO/037 (Vientiane)	
UNRCS (Cotonou)		CVE/401 (Praia)	
UNRCS (Vientiane -> Istanbul)		KSV/ 021 (Pristina)	
ILO (San José)		KSV/ 023 (Pristina)	JPOs (Junior Professional Officer) at the United Nations
UNAIDS (Kigali -> Johannesburg)		KSV/ 025 (Pristina)	JPDs (junior professionals in delegations) at the European Commission or the European External Action Service
UNCDF (New York)		RWA/027 (Kigali)	JTAs (junior technical assistants): vocational internship programme managed by LuxDev and funded by the MFA
OHCHR (Yaoundé -> Panama City)			UNVs (UN volunteers) at the United Nations
UNFPA (Cotonou)			
UNICEF (Juba)			
UNRWA (Amman)			
WFP (Rome)			
WHO (Geneva)			

PERSONAL STORY



LUCIE JUNG

Junior Technical Assistant
at LuxDev

THIS DIVERSITY IS INTERESTING BECAUSE IT HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPORTANCE OF STRONG COORDINATION BETWEEN POLITICAL AND TECHNICAL DIMENSIONS.

“

After gaining some experience within political institutions, where I had the opportunity to work on development and humanitarian assistance issues, I wanted to get closer to the field – and, above all, to the beneficiaries. I wanted to better understand the realities on the ground, and to grasp the challenges and needs linked to development issues. That is why I decided to participate in the JTA programme.

Currently, I am a JTA supporting the programme of officers and the resident representative of LuxDev Senegal, unlike other JTAs who are attached to a specific programme. This allows me to follow a range of dossiers and to work more on coordination aspects with partners from the various Senegalese ministries, the embassy and other technical and financial partners in Senegal. This diversity is interesting because it high-



Discussion with the women's economic interest group (EIG), beneficiaries of the MAE/022 Food Security project in Podor, July 2024

lights the importance of strong coordination between political and technical dimensions.

It also gives me the opportunity to understand the different procedures governing the operation of a development cooperation agency.

My work may seem highly administrative, but when it involves cross-cutting issues such as human rights and gender, it becomes strategic, analytical and even diplomatic. These are often the moments when cultural differences become most apparent, requiring special attention, agility and respect. That is precisely what makes the job so fascinating, in my opinion.

Opportunities to go on a mission are real highlights for me. Since I am not attached to a specific programme, I have had the opportunity to carry out a variety of missions: from a health centre on the Saloum islands to a technical training centre in Sédhiou in Casamance,



Discussion with a beneficiary of the MAE/022 Food Security project during a materiality check in Saint-Louis, February 2025



Visit to the Dagana Vocational Training Centre (VTC) and its catering programme, January 2024



Discussion with villagers on water access issues near Kébémér, beneficiaries of the SEN/011 Water and Sanitation programme, January 2024

and even to a livestock project run by a women's economic interest group of about a dozen Fulani women in Podor, in northern Senegal.

These missions have allowed me to see the strength and resilience of young girls at the regional centre supporting survivors of violence, and to discover an abandoned village, scarred by the conflict in Casamance, cleared of landmines and waiting for the return of those who had fled. What stands out the most is seeing the resilience, and at times the passion, of certain beneficiaries who, in the face of adversity, keep getting back up again.

It is seeing what might seem like a small action, a disbursement or an administrative procedure actually having a significant and tangible impact, bringing meaning to the beneficiaries. This reinforces the idea that development cooperation is not a sector to be dismantled, but one to be improved.

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