

## IMPLEMENTING THE AAA

**BELGIUM, November 2009**

In implementing the AAA Belgium focuses on the following priorities:

### **Division of labour**

In its programming since 2007 Belgium is implementing a sector concentration strategy that limits interventions to two sectors. This strategy is to date implemented in more than 50% of Belgian partner countries, in Indicative Cooperation Programmes (ICPs) that were concluded in 2008 and 2009.

### **Improving predictability of aid**

Belgium has extended the duration of its ICPs from 3 to 4 years, in order to improve predictability of its aid to partner countries. Also, since 2008, Belgium pursues strategy of long-term engagement for its bilateral programmes of minimum 12 years.

### **Using country systems**

A manual –vademecum on the use of country systems in projects– is under development in 2009, aiming to make assessment of country systems compulsory, to use them as the preferred modus operandi, or to take measure to enhance them if required standards are not met.

### **Results-oriented approach**

In order to increase the focus of development cooperation on results, Belgium uses a results-based planning matrix in its ICPs since 2008. A DGD network on results-based management has been active in training staff, dealing with country programming, and assessing NOG project proposals and evaluations as well as the performance of multilateral organisations.

### **Cooperation in fragile states and situations of conflict**

A large share of Belgium's development cooperation is in fragile states, which poses an extra challenge to the implementation of the AAA. Belgium actively contributes to the monitoring of the Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States and Situations, and established an internal network on 'Fragility'.

### **Aid effectiveness and Civil Society**

Early in 2009 Belgian Development Cooperation has concluded an agreement with the Belgian CSOs on working together towards increased aid effectiveness. Now Belgium is working on translating this agreement into change in programming and financing practices, and involvement of the CSOs in policy work.