



Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken

Netherlands country update at the DCED Annual Meeting 2016

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Recap: Dutch aid and trade policy agenda

Integrated policy agenda for foreign trade (“trade”) and development cooperation (“aid”) since 2012.

Objective:

More **coherence** and **synergy** between the policy agendas.

Result:

- More attention for sustainability and (adverse) development impact of trade promotion and agreements;
- Private sector development and engagement a central theme, connecting to different parts of Dutch development cooperation.



Recent policy developments

Migration was a key development in 2015: For both foreign affairs and development practitioners.

Two rough causes of migration (simplified):

- **Economic drivers** for migration
- **Conflict-driven displacement** and migration (refugees)

Destinations sometimes Europe, but also a lot **within the region**. This raises human well-being, security and stability concerns.

Including **PSD-approaches in the response to forms of migration** is a necessary, although not a sufficient step.



Example 1: Local Employment in Africa for Development (LEAD)

Situation:

Young people are motivated by the lack of economic perspective in their home country to choose for irregular migration to Europe. These people are ambitious, daring – entrepreneurial.

Intervention:

May 2015 announcement of a €25 mln grant scheme. Open for CSOs and social enterprises to stimulate local entrepreneurship and employment for youth in African countries.

Outcomes (so far):

Four projects by SPARK, Hivos, Oxfam Novib and SOS Child Villages to be implemented in Algeria, Egypt, Lybia, Somalia, Mali, Nigeria and Tunesia.

Long-term vision:

Set an example to other European countries that stimulating (youth) employment is part of the structural response to (economic) migration.



Example 2: PSD in displacement contexts

Situation:

Conflict-driven displacement **very different** situation, but **also requires** an increased role of the private sector as **job and income generators**. Jobs to refugees is a politically sensitive issue, but need is increasingly recognized by authorities and business.

Objective:

More **structural support for refugees in the region**, through future perspectives for both displaced as well as host societies.

Integrated use of humanitarian aid, development cooperation, economic relations, political cooperation, security and human rights.

Activities so far:

Recent scoping mission with the private sector to **Lebanon and Jordan** to explore opportunities for the private sector to promote economic development and job creation for refugees and host communities. Promising initiatives.

Netherlands leads a substantive EU program in the Horn of Africa (RDPP) to **strengthen support for refugees** and host societies.



Other developments

Task Force Innovative Finance for Development

- Knowledge hub and knowledge development team.
- Innovative financing tools, including guarantees, DIBs, etc..

General elections

Taking place in March 2017 – new cabinet