



Develop2Build (D2B) strategic plan for 2016

Objectives for 2016

Each year RVO.nl draws up a strategic plan for the deployment of D2B, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In the strategic plan, the focus for project identification is determined for the coming year, based on the existing project portfolio, current policy priorities and developments relating to other Dutch programmes and activities. As a complement to the policy rules, the strategic plan is a flexible guideline for putting together a project portfolio that is as balanced as possible, based on the current policy priorities.

The main theme for 2016 is the active elaboration and expansion of the D2B project portfolio. For this purpose, D2B has a programme budget of 10 million euros up to the end of 2016 for concluding grant agreements with recipient governments. The following factors are underlined in this process:

- Further building the D2B programme and D2B project portfolio on the basis of the course adopted in 2015 for a rapid development of the portfolio (active focus on project identification in a select group of countries with proven potential for rapid project identification: partner countries, countries with an active Dutch embassy and countries where there is significant Dutch business activity).
- Where relevant (specifically at the edges of Europe and in Sub-Saharan Africa), the emphasis for project identification is on projects with the potential to counteract the socio-economic reasons for migration towards Europe (especially of women and young people). An active search will be carried out for projects in Jordan and Lebanon, which are new on the D2B country list and which are facing the consequences of the Syrian refugee crisis.
- In addition, there is a particular focus on the follow-up to the international investment conference "*Back to Growth: Investing in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone*" of 30 November 2015.
- In 2016, D2B will concentrate on the possibilities in the new countries on the list: Haiti, Togo and Chad.

Review of 2015

The D2B programme was officially started up half-way through 2015 and this period was used for building up the programme. The implementation process was established, the programme was made known in the field and D2B team staff identified the first projects. In 2015, the search was above all for projects that were already known in other PSD programmes within RVO.nl and it focused on projects put forward by Dutch embassies. On this basis, the formulation stage was initiated for six projects in diverse sectors such as drinking water, security and the rule of law, healthcare, and transport infrastructure. In 2016, D2B staff will work in consultation with the governments involved to formulate a D2B project and to conclude a grant arrangement in order to implement the project. Other leads from 2015 will be examined to determine whether they are suitable for further development.

Plan of approach in 2016

1. Milestones in 2016

D2B will work to reach the following specific milestones in 2016:

- Move at least 12 projects from the identification stage to the formulation stage;
- Conclude at least 10 grant arrangements;
- Develop one or two projects in a fragile state;
- Keep capacity available so as to be able to act on behalf of one or two projects arising from current events or political wishes, or provide additional help in order to implement key projects.

2. Active search for projects in the most relevant countries

In order to develop the project pipeline further, in 2016 the D2B team will respond actively when it sees that there are development or other needs relating to support for projects relevant to development. With this in mind, D2B will visit some 15 countries in 2016 in order to identify and define such projects. In doing this, D2B will focus on (existing leads in) partner countries, countries in which Dutch business is actively involved, and countries that are struggling with the consequences of the refugee crisis (Jordan and Lebanon) and those hit by the Ebola outbreak (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone). In these countries D2B will look at projects which offer ways of easing local infrastructure bottlenecks, which fit in with the policy priorities of the Netherlands and which offer prospects for escaping poverty through private sector development, above all to those people who are at the bottom of the socio-economic ladder (including women and young people). During project development, D2B will look toward increasing the development impact.

3. Role of diplomatic missions

The Dutch diplomatic missions play a major role in D2B's identification process by putting forward project ideas or advising on leads. It is preferable for the project to fit in with the relevant diplomatic mission's priorities and annual plan. The missions are also often good at evaluating whether the project fits into a programmatically coherent approach based on focus and synergy, as stipulated in D2B's policy rules. The diplomatic missions can also be involved in determining whether there is support for the project from the recipient government if this is not yet known. The advice of the embassy is conclusive in making decisions on project leads.

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