

Belgium

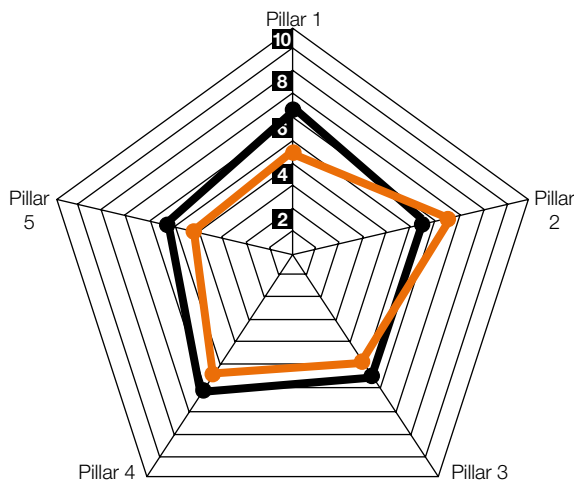
HRI 2010 ranking: 18th

Policy framework

Belgium's humanitarian aid is managed by the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation (DGDC) and distributed among multiple DGDC directorates within the Department of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, and Development Cooperation. Its 2006 *Strategic Plan for Humanitarian Aid* is the main policy framework to guide its humanitarian funding. It designates the Great Lakes region as a priority. Belgium has continued to face critical challenges in responding in a timely manner to sudden onset emergencies due to the constraints imposed by a 1996 Royal Decree. This regulation requires all humanitarian funding to be subject to an extensive approval process, to be project-based and generally of limited duration. These restrictions were partially overcome by the creation of the Belgian First Aid and Support Team (B-FAST), a rapid response structure aimed at sending emergency aid teams to crisis-affected countries. Belgium has more than doubled its development and humanitarian aid budget since 2004 with an additional increase of its ODA in 2009. Its ODA/GNI ratio also increased from 0.48% in 2008 to 0.55% in 2009, and Belgium intends to reach the UN target of 0.7% by the end of 2010. In 2009 humanitarian assistance represented 8.83% of its ODA and 0.031% of its GNI.

Belgium has endorsed the *Principles of Good Humanitarian Donorship* and incorporated them in its 2006 *Strategic Plan for Humanitarian Aid*. It has not yet developed a domestic implementation plan.

HRI 2010 scores by pillar



— Belgium
— OECD/DAC average

Pillar 1 Responding to needs
Pillar 2 Prevention, risk reduction and recovery
Pillar 3 Working with humanitarian partners
Pillar 4 Protection and international law
Pillar 5 Learning and accountability

* The OECD/DAC average does not include scores for Austria, Greece or Portugal.

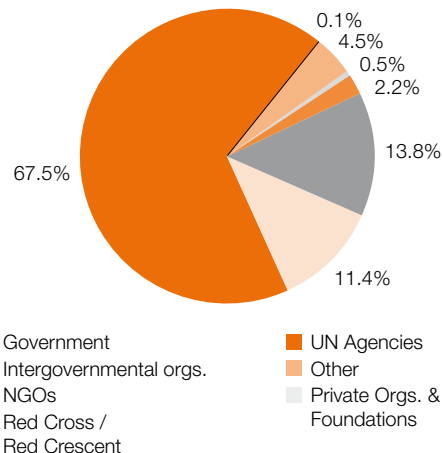
Performance

Belgium ranked 18th in the HRI 2010. Based on the patterns of its scores, Belgium is classified as a Group 3 donor. Donors in this group tend to perform poorly in Pillar 3 (Working with humanitarian partners), Pillar 4 (Protection and international law) and Pillar 5 (Learning and accountability). Other donors in this group are Austria, France, Italy, Japan, Portugal and Spain.

Belgium's overall score was below the OECD/DAC and the peer group's average. In line with the overall Group 3 pattern, its score in Pillar 2 (Prevention, risk reduction and recovery) was both above the OECD/DAC average and the highest of all donors. It also scored above the Group 3 average, but below the OECD/DAC average, in Pillar 3 and above the Group and close to the OECD/DAC average in Pillar 4. Its lowest score was in Pillar 5 (Learning and accountability), which was close to the Group 3 and below the OECD/DAC average.

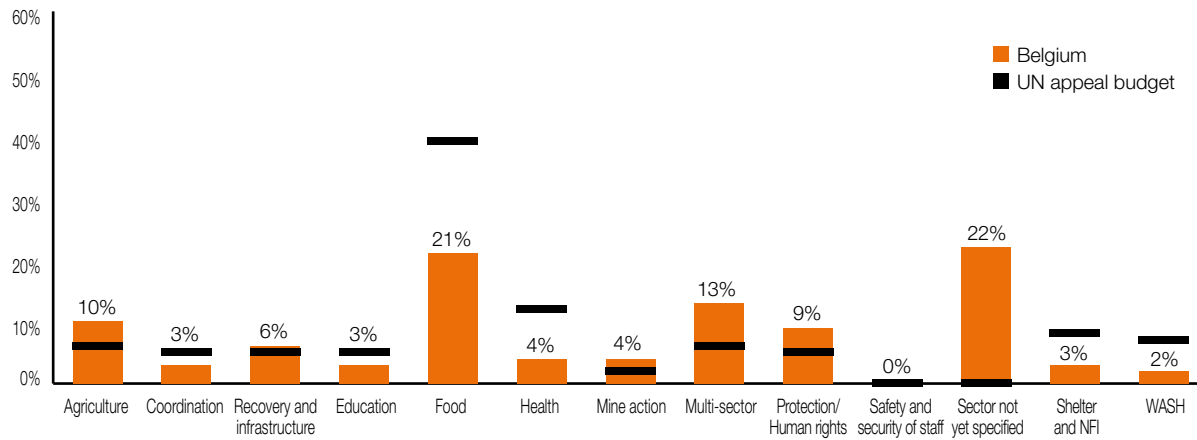
Belgium did best compared to its peers in the indicators on *Funding for reconstruction and prevention*, *Funding for accountability initiatives*, *Funding UN and Red Cross Red Crescent appeals*, *Funding based on level of vulnerability and to forgotten crises* and *Linking relief, rehabilitation and development*. It scores were relatively the lowest in the indicators on *Timely funding to complex emergencies*, *Funding and commissioning evaluations*, *Timely funding to sudden onset disasters*, *Participation in accountability initiatives* and *Funding to NGOs*.

Aid distribution by type of organisation



Source: OCHA/FTS October 2010.

Sectoral distribution of funding to UN appeals, 2009 (%)



* Distribution of donor funding to these sectors includes flows within and outside an appeal that has been reported to OCHA/FTS. This is compared to the “distribution of needs” based on the 2009 UN appeal budget allocation.
Source: OCHA/FTS October 2010.

Recommendations

Pillar 1 is an area where Belgium’s performance is weaker compared to its peers. In particular, Belgium scores below average in the indicators related to timeliness. Belgium received the lowest score of OECD/DAC donors in *Timely funding to complex emergencies*. It provided 4% of its funding within the first three months after the launch of an appeal, while Group 3 averaged 40% and OECD/DAC donors 34%. It was also below average in *Timely funding to sudden onset disasters*, providing 15% of its funding within the first six weeks, while the Group 3 average was 47% and the OECD/DAC average was 70%. The qualitative indicator supports this, as Belgium’s partners ranked it below average in *Timely funding to partner organisations*.

- Belgium should review the timeliness of its funding and engage in dialogue with its partners to discuss their perceptions of its performance in this area.

Also within Pillar 1, Belgium’s partners consider it to be below average in terms of the impartiality of its aid.

- Belgium should engage in a dialogue with partners to discuss their perceptions of how it is performing in the area of aid impartiality.

Belgium scored below average in *Funding and commissioning evaluations*, the indicator which measures the number of evaluations and the existence of evaluation guidelines. Belgium does not have evaluation guidelines and has commissioned only one evaluation.

- Belgium should consider developing evaluation guidelines and commissioning more evaluations to promote learning.

For a more detailed analysis, please see www.daraint.org.

Strengths

Indicator	Donor score	OECD/DAC donor average	% over average
Funding for reconstruction and prevention	10.00	4.12	143%
Funding for accountability initiatives	3.79	2.75	38%
Funding UN and Red Cross Red Crescent appeals	6.04	5.05	20%
Funding based on level of vulnerability and to forgotten crises	6.95	6.11	14%
Linking relief, rehabilitation and development	7.04	6.32	11%

Areas for improvement

Indicator	Donor score	OECD/DAC donor average	% below average
Timely funding to complex emergencies	0.59	4.35	-86%
Funding and commissioning evaluations	0.65	4.25	-85%
Timely funding to sudden onset disasters	1.49	6.97	-79%
Participation in accountability initiatives	2.39	4.73	-50%
Funding to NGOs	2.44	4.40	-45%