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