

A. Africa

Poverty reduction

Norway's strategy and policy

- Norway's development cooperation efforts are based on the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Norway is currently contributing to development in various areas in 46 African countries and through several different channels, and 40% of Norway's bilateral assistance is allocated to Africa.
- Long-term cooperation is based on countries' own poverty reduction strategies. Central elements are countries' responsibility for their own development, an emphasis on good governance and more effective coordination of development assistance.
- In line with the Paris Declaration, Norway has increased its funding through budget support and joint financing arrangements with other donors.
- Norway has sought to align its development assistance with national systems and procedures. In doing this, Norway aims to reduce the transaction costs for recipients and to strengthen fragile administrative systems.

Main priorities for 2007

Good governance and anti-corruption efforts are prerequisites for the development of sound economies and functioning democracies. This is why projects and programmes designed to strengthen fragile states or fight corruption are high on the Norwegian development agenda.

High-priority areas in this year's development cooperation budget are environment and sustainable development, women and gender equality, good governance, anti-corruption efforts, oil and energy, peace building, human rights and humanitarian assistance.

Women and gender equality in poverty reduction

Norway has drawn up action plans for priority areas that are of vital importance to gender equality and the rights of women and girls. These are the Action Plan for the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (launched in 2006), and the Plan of Action to Combat Human Trafficking (2006–2009). The Government will also follow up its International Action Plan for Combating Female Genital Mutilation from 2003.

A new Action Plan for Women's Rights and Gender Equality in Development Cooperation 2007–2009 was launched in March 2007. Norway will work to enhance recognition and realisation of women's rights, and to strengthen their economic opportunities and ability to influence social development. One key issue is the right and opportunities of women to participate in national and local government on an equal footing. Securing women's legal, economic and social independence is a second key objective. Norway will concentrate on four thematic priority areas: women's political

empowerment, women's economic empowerment, women's sexual and reproductive health and rights, and last but not least, combating violence against women.

The International Action Plan for Combating Female Genital Mutilation mentioned above forms the basis of Norway's international effort against this custom. The plan focuses on three main areas:

- 1) Preventing female genital mutilation and promoting social mobilisation against it
- 2) Treating and rehabilitating girls and women who have undergone mutilation
- 3) Building competence at all levels in the efforts to combat genital mutilation.

Female genital mutilation - Ethiopia as a pilot country

In 2004 Ethiopia was chosen as a pilot country and a number of projects financed by Norway have been implemented. Save the Children, Care and several other NGOs are important partners. Save the Children has perhaps the widest range of approaches: it uses radio programmes to focus on the rights of the child, works with children and youth groups, trains local change agents and seeks to identify alternative income-generating activities for traditional circumcisers. As a result, more than 6000 girls escaped genital mutilation in 2006. Another central partner in Ethiopia is Norwegian Church Aid and its local partner Kembatta Women's Self-Help, which focuses on reproductive health, equal opportunities and human rights. Norway also supports projects to combat female genital mutilation in Eritrea, Egypt, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Somalia, Sudan and Tanzania.

Women and education

Norway is committed to supporting good quality education with a rights-based perspective. The strategy *Education – Job Number 1* sets out how Norway will contribute to achieving the goals of UNESCO's "Education For All" initiative and millennium development goal 2 on education.

Girls' education has been one of Norway's focal areas for a long time. One example is the African Girls' Education Initiative, implemented by UNICEF and financed by Norway. Norway is also an active partner in the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI). To improve the quality of education, Norway supports in-service teacher training in a number of countries, including Madagascar, Eritrea and Angola.

Norwegian universities, supported by the Norwegian Government, have for several years been cooperating with African universities in research and higher education. A new multi-million agreement was signed late 2006, facilitating even stronger cooperation with partner universities in Africa and elsewhere in the developing world.

Energy policy in poverty reduction

The Norwegian Government is giving priority to development of the energy sector in Africa, at both national and regional level. This is a means of poverty reduction and also makes use of Norway's experience and expertise in this field. For instance, Norway is providing substantial assistance towards the development and management of a nationwide electricity transmission grid in Mozambique. In Uganda, projects relating to the generation, transmission and distribution of hydropower have been running for many years.

Water and sanitation

Norwegian support for water and sanitation is channelled mainly through multilateral organisations. Norway supported the establishment of the African Water Facility (AWF) in the African Development Bank and is cooperating with the World Bank's Water and Sanitation Programme (WSP).

Health priorities

Norway cooperates and coordinates efforts with other donor countries, organisations and private foundations such as the GAVI Alliance the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), the Measles Initiative, and the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM).

Health programmes account for 10–15% of the Norwegian development assistance budget. Two thirds of this is channelled via international programmes such as GAVI and various UN agencies.

Norway seeks to integrate maternal, newborn and child health programmes, both in its support for efforts to achieve MDGs 4 and 5 and in its general child and maternal health programmes. The programmes focus on providing a continuum of care. The tools used to reach the MDG targets range from building sustainable health systems to providing vaccines and clean water, increasing access to education for girls, and empowering women to establishing international alliances and partnerships.

In addition to its involvement in global efforts to achieve MDGs 4 and 5, Norway is developing partnerships in selected countries where mortality among children under the age of five is particularly high.

Norway is contributing to the implementation of the national health plans in Mozambique and Malawi. Special concerns for Norway are the reproductive health of women and the development of systems for health service delivery.

Governance of natural resources

The management of natural resources, including oil, fish, wildlife and timber, is an important concern for Norway. Although the extractive industries tend to bring more immediate wealth, Norway constantly emphasises the importance of maintaining renewable resources. Norway itself has substantial natural resources, and long experience of their management and a well-functioning welfare state, and therefore seeks to play a leading role in helping others to improve governance of their natural resources.

An example from Tanzania

One example is the programme Sustainable Utilisation, Good Governance and Revenue Collection in Tanzania. An important objective of this Norwegian-funded programme is to ensure good governance as regards the management and sustainable use of natural resources. It will focus on revenue collection from natural resources, in cooperation with the Tanzania Revenue Authority, local government bodies and Tanzanian NGOs.

A Norwegian-funded study undertaken by the TRAFFIC Network in cooperation with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism documents the effect of increased exports of timber and the logging boom in the south of Tanzania. The report emphasises the immense value of forest resources to Tanzania. However, in recent years these forest reserves have been exploited unsustainably. Furthermore, income from timber and timber exports have only partially benefited society as a whole. Loss of government revenue is a major concern. The report therefore gives some general advice on improving the management of Tanzania's forest resources, aiming at sustainability and equitability.

Two further and more practical approaches in the field of resource management are the Oil-for-Development initiative and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

Oil for Development

The aim of the Norwegian Oil for Development initiative is to assist developing countries that have petroleum resources (or potential petroleum resources) in their efforts to manage these resources in a way that generates economic growth, promotes the welfare of the population in general, and is environmentally sustainable. The initiative therefore builds on three main thematic pillars:

1. Resource management
2. Revenue management
3. Environmental protection

The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)

Norway has supported the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) politically and financially since its inception. The EITI is intended to improve resource revenue transparency, and once it has been fully implemented, be an important factor in the governance of natural resources. The initiative's multi-stakeholder character at all levels may serve to enhance participatory decision-making. Norway is host nation for the EITI International Secretariat, and will further step up its support to the EITI through support to the Secretariat, to the World Bank EITI Trust Fund and through assistance to EITI within the framework of the bilateral Oil for Development initiative.

Means of implementation

Norway provides general budget support to five African countries. This is supplemented with support for capacity building for financial management. A focus on improved domestic resource mobilisation is an important means of reducing aid dependency. Norway is therefore working closely with finance ministries and the offices of the auditor general in these countries. One result of Norway's commitment to the Paris Declaration is the signing of Joint Assistance Strategies with Uganda, Zambia and Tanzania.

The Norwegian Government recognises that facilitating market access for developing countries is essential to encourage economic development and reduce poverty. A comprehensive assessment of the Norwegian general system of preferences (GSP) was therefore carried out in 2007. The Government is now considering further expansion of the GSP to include more countries. Efforts must also be made to build up capacity in developing countries for exporting to markets in developed countries. The Government has launched an action plan for trade-related development cooperation.

Other frameworks of cooperation

Regional frameworks of cooperation

Support for conflict resolution and peace building is a high priority for Norway. Emphasis is therefore put on the cooperation with regional and sub-regional organisations. Norway focuses particularly on supporting the civilian components of peace-building operations.

To contribute to development of power and energy trade in Africa, and thus improve the overall conditions for private sector development, Norway is supporting both national and regional initiatives. In southern Africa, Norway is coordinating donor cooperation with the South African Development Community (SADC) in the electricity sector as well as supporting SADC in this sector. Within the Nile Basin Initiative Norway has been given the role as lead donor when it comes to promoting regional power trade.

To increase and facilitate trade with Africa Norway has among other things supported UNCTAD's Asycuda system for customs data. Norway has played an active part in strengthening the integrated framework for trade-related technical support to the least developed countries. African countries have also benefited from Norwegian financial support to the IF.

Other issues of importance

Norway is planning to intensify its efforts and increase financial support within the areas of climate, environment and clean energy, as further described in the next chapter of this report. Norway has for instance supported the UNDP's programme for implementation of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) in Ethiopia and Uganda. The activities hereby carried out are regarded as central to the development of strategies for adaptation to climate change in these countries. In Ethiopia Norway has been given the role as lead donor (chef de file) for the implementation of the CCD, and has contributed to the expansion and harmonization of various programmes to combat desertification and to improve food security in Ethiopia.

Boost for climate-related and environmental development cooperation in 2008

The Norwegian Government is proposing to increase the budget for climate-related and environmental development cooperation by NOK 480 million in 2008. The Government is proposing that Norway's total budget for development cooperation be increased by NOK 1.54

billion to NOK 22.3 billion in 2008. Most of the additional funds will be earmarked for climate-related and environmental development cooperation.

Focus on deforestation

At present, deforestation in developing countries is releasing carbon dioxide corresponding to about 20% of total global greenhouse gas emissions. Reducing deforestation is of crucial importance not only in relation to climate change, but also in order to maintain biodiversity and safeguard people's livelihoods.

Norway is prepared to increase its support to about three billion NOK a year on condition that satisfactory mechanisms, for example under the UN or the World Bank, are established for certification and for handling large transfers of funding for forest-related measures.