Norwegian Development Cooperation

Development policies

The broad objective of Norwegian development policy is to support the global efforts to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development in accordance with the UN Millennium Development Goals. Norwegian development policy aims to influence the following three most important factors that affect both poverty and development at the national level:

- A well-functioning state that safeguards peace, security and human rights, delivers basic services to the population, and ensures that there are good conditions for healthy economic activity and trade
- An active business sector
- A vibrant civil society, with free media and active pressure groups

Wealth-creation and growth in developing countries are still being hampered by poor management of natural resources, a lack of capital, expertise and infrastructure, and trade barriers of different kinds. Norwegian development assistance is focused on securing improvements in these areas. Norway maintains its strong commitment to assisting vulnerable, fragile states emerging from conflict, and provides extensive humanitarian assistance to alleviate suffering, provide protection and give vulnerable groups prospects of a better and safer future.

Priority countries

Norwegian development cooperation is focused on development countries in the five continents. Particular attention is given to African countries and states emerging from conflict.

Priority areas

Priority areas of Norwegian development cooperation are as follows:

- Climate change, environment and sustainable development
- Peacebuilding, human rights and humanitarian assistance
- Oil and clean energy
- Women and gender equality
- Good governance and the fight against corruption
- Efforts to reach the health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs 4, 5, and 6)

Other important priority areas include public welfare services, particularly in the health and education sectors, children's rights and protection, human trafficking, efforts to combat HIV/AIDS and business sector development.
Coordination and implementation

Norwegian development policy is defined and coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs which works out strategies for cooperation with individual countries. The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), the directorate under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is the main actor which administers government-to-government development cooperation.

Implementation of Norway’s development cooperation is guided by the principles of national ownership, alignment with recipient countries’ systems, harmonization among donors, results-based management and mutual accountability. An important aspect of this work is to increase predictability in long-term development assistance by entering into agreements with selected partner countries and UN organizations that contain multi-year commitments.