

## KEY QUESTION

### 2

## What are Norway's strategic priorities for development?

### Education, humanitarian assistance, and global health are among top priorities

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) sets priorities for development policy in 'white papers', which summarize government strategies. The most relevant overarching paper for Norway's ODA is entitled 'Common responsibility for a common future – the Sustainable Development Goals and Norwegian Development Politics', and was published in April 2017. The policy is strongly aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Other important white papers focus more specifically on climate change and the environment (2011), global health (2012), fair distribution and growth (2013), global education (2014), the role of human rights in foreign and development policy (2014), private-sector engagement in development cooperation (2015), human rights in development policy (2015), and equality and foreign development policy (2016).

Cross-cutting priority issues within Norwegian ODA are a focus on vulnerable states, human rights, democracy, women's rights and gender equality, and fighting corruption. Regarding individual sectors, the government defines five priorities for Norwegian development cooperation: 1) education, 2) humanitarian assistance, 3) global health, 4) private sector development, and 5) climate, environment, and sustainable energy, which focuses on climate-change adaptation and mitigation.

Since Erna Solberg became prime minister in 2013, education and in particular girls' education has been a key focus. Between 2013 and 2017, the government of Prime Minister Solberg has doubled its ODA spending on the sector, going from NOK1.7 billion (US\$270 million) to NOK3.4 billion (US\$540 million).

The impact of the refugee crisis in Norway has meant significant increases in budget allocated to humanitarian assistance. In 2017 this amount reached a record NOK4.7 billion (US\$698 million).

### Environmental protection and humanitarian assistance are the largest sectors of bilateral funding

Norway considers funding through multilateral organizations as an effective way to pursue its theme-focused agenda termed 'global schemes'. Core contributions to

### Norway's key development priorities:

- **Education:** Norway fulfilled its commitment to double spending between 2013 and 2017, from NOK1.7 billion (US\$270 million) to NOK3.4 billion (US\$540 million); focus is on girls' education
- **Humanitarian assistance:** A record NOK4.4 billion (US\$698 million) has been budgeted for humanitarian assistance for 2017; up 50% since 2013
- **Global Health:** The focus is on women's and children's health as well as on fighting AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria
- **Private sector development and job creation:** In 2017 Norway committed NOK1.17 billion (US\$19 million) to business development and to Norfund
- **Climate, environment, and sustainable energy:** Proposed budget for 2017 of NOK2 billion (US\$317 million), with a focus on the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

multilateral organizations accounted for 23% of ODA in 2015, or US\$1.3 billion. On top of this, earmarked funding to multilaterals is significant: it accounted for 23% of bilateral ODA in 2015, bringing the total amount of ODA delivered through multilateral organizations to US\$2.5 million, or 46% of total ODA. Norway is traditionally a strong supporter of United Nations (UN) agencies, and is set to channel NOK3.3 billion (US\$524 million) to them in 2017, according to the ODA budget.

The strategic orientations of Norway's ODA are reflected in its bilateral funding. In 2015, the largest share was used to cover the costs of hosting refugees in the country (14%; or US\$594 million). In line with Norway's strategic priorities, the second- and third-largest sectors of bilateral ODA were environmental protection (12%; US\$525 million) and humanitarian assistance (12%; US\$519 million). The share for the environment is driven by programs to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions resulting from deforestation, particularly in Brazil (US\$193 million in 2015). Funding to government and civil society (US\$461 million; 11%), and to education (US\$402 million; 11%) fol-

low.

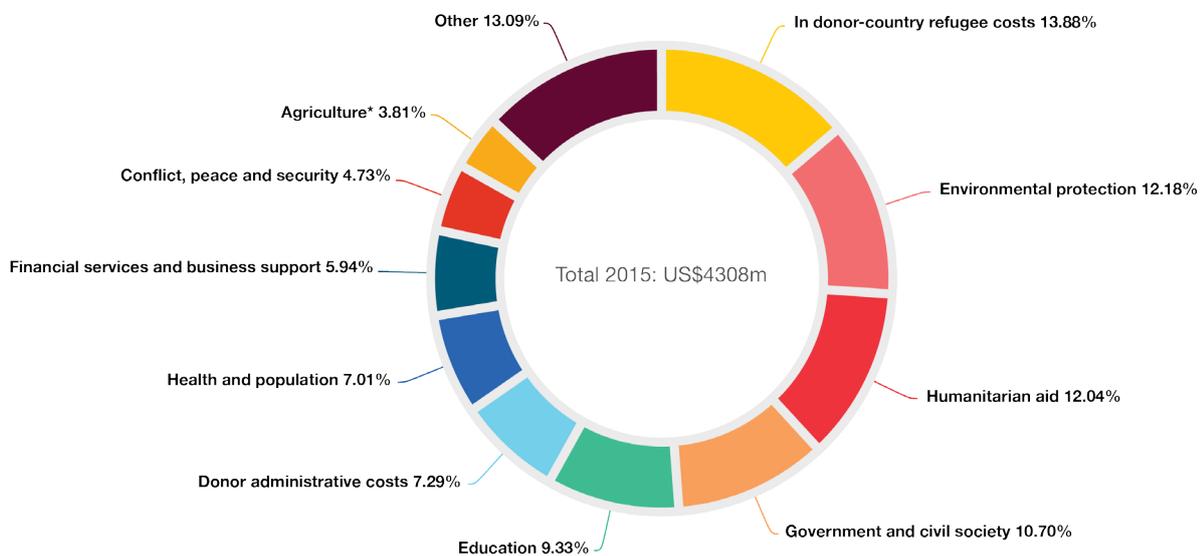
Global health is a top priority of Norway’s development policy, with the majority of this spending made up of multilateral core contributions. In total, Norway spent 14% of its ODA on health in 2015 (US\$756 million). This includes both bilateral cooperation for health (US\$302 million, or 7% of bilateral ODA), and core contributions to multilateral organizations (60% of total health ODA, or US\$454 million). Key recipients are Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Gavi) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund).

Norway has made a range of international commitments in the sectors it prioritizes; the largest ones target humanitarian assistance, global health, and climate protection. They include, among others, a NOK10 billion alloca-

tion for Syria and its neighboring countries for 2016 to 2020 (US\$1.5 billion), NOK2 billion (US\$304 million) for the Global Fund for 2017 to 2019, and NOK1.6 billion (US\$258 million) to the Green Climate Fund for 2015 to 2018.

As part of its forestry initiative (Norway’s International Climate and Forest Initiative; NICFI), Norway pledged US\$350 million annually until 2020 to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions caused by deforestation. In addition, Norway’s doubled its annual contribution to the Global Partnership for Education, from NOK290 million in 2015 to NOK590 million in 2017 (close to US\$100 million).

NORWAY'S BILATERAL ODA BY SECTOR



Source: OECD CRS. \*Includes agriculture, forestry, fishing, and rural development.