

DEEP DIVES

topics



Norway's nutrition ODA

Nutrition is an important cross-cutting area of Norway's development policy

Nutrition plays a role in Norway's development policy as part of its focus on global health, specifically within maternal and child health policy. Nutrition is one of Norway's lesser-funded priorities. However, due to its inclusion within other development areas, it is difficult to specifically quantify Norway's engagement in the area of nutrition.

According to OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) data, Norway spent just US\$600,000 as bilateral ODA on basic nutrition in 2016. Its total investment in nutrition is higher: on the multilateral level, the Norwegian government has pledged US\$111 million to the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition (New Alliance) in 2014. The New Alliance, a multi-sectoral partnership, aims to achieve sustained agriculture-led growth in Africa and is committed to reducing poverty and hunger through accelerated implementation of food security strategies throughout Africa.

The Norwegian private sector plays a lead role in the country's global nutrition policy.

The MFA leads Norway's nutrition policy

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) shapes Norway's policy on nutrition. Within the MFA, the Department for Economic Relations and Development in the Development Policy Section, is a relevant actor. In the past, senior advisor Åse Elin Laura Bjerke, Section for Global Initiatives, has taken a lead role on nutrition, together with Bodil Blaker, the Specialist Director at the Ministry of Health and Care Services.

Further information: 'nutrition-sensitive' and 'nutrition-specific' interventions

'Nutrition-sensitive interventions' are those that address underlying causes of malnutrition and take into account cross-sector actions and impacts (i.e., improving access to diverse foods). 'Nutrition-specific interventions' address the immediate causes of undernutrition and have the improvement of nutrition (i.e., support for exclusive breastfeeding, supplementary feeding, etc.) as their primary objective.