For Syria, where an estimated 2.8 million children are out of school because of conflict, Norway and partners are funding an international competition to develop an open-source smartphone app to help Syrian children learn how to read in Arabic.
ODA funding trends

- Norway is the tenth-largest donor country in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), spending US$4.3 billion on net official development assistance (ODA) in 2018. This corresponds to 0.94% of its gross national income (GNI), making Norway the third-largest donor in proportion to its economic size. There is a cross-party consensus to maintain ODA at around 1% of GNI; this target was not met in 2018 due to Norway’s economic performance, which fared better than what was estimated in the budget.

- Lower costs of hosting refugees in Norway have been driving decreases in Norway’s ODA: After falling by 10% between 2016 and 2017, it decreased again by 4% between 2017 and 2018. When excluding these costs, net ODA increased by 3% between 2016 and 2018. Costs associated with hosting refugees are set at 1% of total ODA budget for 2019, well below levels reached in previous years (2016: 18%).

- The government’s 2019 ODA budget stands at US$4.6 billion (NOK37.8 million), the largest ODA budget to date.

Strategic priorities

- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a ‘North Star’ for the government, and form the basis of the government’s development policy. To
engage effectively with the Norwegian government, it is thus important to frame suggestions within the SDG framework.

• In a 2017 white paper, the government spells out five sectoral priorities: 1) education, with a focus on girls, 2) global health, 3) private-sector development and job creation, 4) climate, renewable energy, and environment; and 5) humanitarian assistance.

• The government identifies four cross-cutting issues for its development policy: 1) human rights, 2) women’s rights and gender equality, 3) climate change and the environment, and 4) the fight against corruption. Among those, gender equality is a top focus.

**NORWAY’S BILATERAL ODA BY SECTOR, 2017**

Total: US$3,151 million

- **Humanitarian aid**: 17.1% (US$538m.)
- **Education**: 12.1% (US$382m.)
- **Government & Civil Society**: 9.9% (US$313m.)
- **Health & Population**: 8.2% (US$256m.)
- **Environment Protection**: 12.3% (US$387m.)
- **Financial Services & Business Support**: 6.7% (US$210m.)
- **Donor Admin Costs**: 8.0% (US$262m.)
- **Conflict, Peace & Security**: 4.9% (US$155m.)
- **Refugees in Donor Countries**: 4.8% (US$149m.)
- **Other**: 12.4% (US$391m.)

OECD CRS. Gross disbursements. *Includes agriculture, forestry, fishing, and rural development. In 2017 prices.

**Outlook**

• Driven by Norway’s economic growth, the ODA budget is likely to continue increasing in volume if the 1%-to-GNI target holds. Despite cross-party backing, an increasing number of voices publicly raised concern over the 1%-of-GNI target in the second half of 2018, arguing that focus should be on effectiveness and efficiency rather than tied to a specific amount size of funds.

• Thematic priorities are likely to remain unchanged, as the government of Prime Minister Solberg was re-elected in the fall of 2017. In power since 2013, Solberg will continue to head a coalition composed of her Conservative Party and the Progress Party, joined by the Liberal Party and the Christian Democratic Party in 2018 and 2019.

• Norway focuses increasingly on private-sector development in partner countries, especially where access to capital is scarce. Norfund, a state-owned investment fund that supports the building of sustainable businesses in partner countries, receives government funding that has increased in recent years.
How much ODA does Norway provide?

**Norway is committed to continue spending 1% of its GNI on ODA**

Norway is the third-largest donor in relation to the size of its economy among members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC). In 2018, it spent 0.94% of its GNI on development cooperation, or US$4.3 billion. In absolute terms, this makes Norway the 10th-largest DAC donor. Norway has reached the United Nations (UN) 0.7% ODA-to-GNI target since 1976 and is committed to maintain spending at about 1% of its GNI. It has met this commitment since 2013. Numbers for 2018 are based on the new methodology for measuring ODA loans which the OECD DAC will apply to ODA reporting for 2018 onwards. Preliminary ODA figures for 2018 using this new methodology were first released in April 2019. This methodology, called ‘grant-equivalent’ methodology, provides a more accurate way to count donor efforts in concessional ODA loans because only the ‘grant’ portion of loans, expressed as a monetary value, is counted as ODA. This reform had no impact on Norway’s ODA volumes.

While the commitment receives cross-party backing, an increasing number of voices, including former diplomats, publicly raised concern over the 1% ODA-to-GNI target in the second half of 2018, arguing that the focus should be on effectiveness and efficiency rather than tied to a specific amount of funds.

To allow for comparison overtime, the OECD still publishes net ODA disbursements according to the cash basis methodology. These numbers are also published in constant prices, i.e., adjusted to take into account inflation and exchange rate fluctuation. Net ODA decreased by 4% between 2017 and 2018, due to lower costs of hosting refugees in Norway, some of which are ODA-eligible. This follows a 10%-decrease between 2016 and 2017, also driven by decreasing costs of hosting refugees. Costs of hosting refugees made up 11% and 18% of total ODA in 2015 and 2016 respectively. They have impacted development funding in two major ways: funds were reallocated from development programs to cover these costs, and reported ODA increased, driven by additional refugee-related costs outside of the ODA budget. As a result of a more restrictive national refugee policy since early 2016 – and of tighter border control in Europe – these costs decreased to 2% of ODA in 2018, and are expected to remain at low levels looking forward. In 2019, they are set at NOK550 million (US$67 million, or 1% of total ODA budget).

Driven by Norway’s economic growth, ODA is likely to continue increasing in the coming years. The budget for 2019 is the largest to date, with ODA set at US$4.6 billion (NOK37.8 billion), a projected 1% of its GNI. This represents a 8% increase from 2018. Additional funding will target the country’s five main thematic priorities:

1. education,
2. global health,
3. private-sector development and job creation,
4. climate, renewable energy, environment; and
5. humanitarian assistance.

Further information: 2017 prices

To compare ODA levels in any given year with ODA levels provided in other years, figures need to be adjusted to account for inflation and exchange rate fluctuations. The OECD provides data that accounts for these fluctuations. In this profile, and unless indicated otherwise, figures are stated using 2017 prices.
NORWAY’S GROSS/NET ODA DISBURSEMENTS
US$ millions; in 2017 prices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Loan repayments</th>
<th>Net ODA</th>
<th>Net ODA as % of GNI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>3.852</td>
<td>3034</td>
<td>1.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>4.274</td>
<td>4047</td>
<td>1.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>4.605</td>
<td>4561</td>
<td>1.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>4.148</td>
<td>4125</td>
<td>0.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>3.952</td>
<td>3962</td>
<td>0.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019 (estimate)</td>
<td>4.575</td>
<td>4575</td>
<td>1.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


TOP 10 DAC DONOR COUNTRIES, 2018
Total ODA disbursements; US$ billions; in current prices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>ODA Disbursements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>34.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>19.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>14.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>12.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TOP 10 DAC DONOR COUNTRIES, 2018
Total ODA as a % of GNI

- Sweden: 1.04
- Luxembourg: 0.96
- Norway: 0.94
- Denmark: 0.72
- United Kingdom: 0.7
- Germany: 0.61
- Netherlands: 0.61
- Switzerland: 0.44
- Belgium: 0.43
- France: 0.43
What are Norway’s priorities for global development?

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

The Norwegian government has closely aligned its development policy with the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ensuring alignment with global priorities. Priorities of Norway’s development policy are spelled out in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ (MFA’s) white paper, ‘Common responsibility for a common future – the Sustainable Development Goals and Norwegian Development Policy’ (2016-2017). They include:

1. Education
2. Global health
3. Humanitarian assistance
4. Private-sector development and job creation
5. Climate, renewable energy and the environment

These priorities are also reflected in the 2019 budget (see box), and additional funding since 2017 is mainly directed towards these areas. In the 2019 budget, two priority areas have been reshuffled: ‘private-sector development and job creation’ became ‘private-sector development, agriculture, and renewable energy’; and ‘climate, renewable energy, and the environment became ‘climate, environment, and the ocean’.

Since 2013, the successive governments of Prime Minister (PM) Erna Solberg have placed a focus on education, and particularly on girls’ education. Between 2013 and 2017, funding to the sector doubled, going from NOK1.7 billion (US$206 million) to NOK3.4 billion (US$411 million), according to the government. The government plans on continuing to increase its funding to the sector, with spending levels at NOK3.8 billion in 2019 budget (US$460 million). Norway provides strong support to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE): It committed NOK2.07 billion (US$276 million) for 2018 to 2020, the third-largest pledge by any donor.

Humanitarian assistance is another growing focus area, and the most largely funded in 2019, at a record-high NOK5.4 billion (US$652 million). The government’s 2018 humanitarian strategy emphasizes the connection between long-term development assistance and emergency humanitarian activities. It promotes an integrated and rights-based approach, and highlights the need for innovation and reform in the humanitarian sector, as well as promotes effective, flexible, and predictable funding for humanitarian efforts. Norway’s pledges in the humanitarian sphere include, among others, a NOK10 billion

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**Norway’s development priorities in 2019:**

- **Education:** Focus is on girls’ education. Norway fulfilled its commitment to double spending between 2013 and 2017, reaching NOK3.4 billion (US$411 million) in 2017.
- **Global Health:** Global health is a long-standing priority of the Norwegian government, which plans on sustaining high levels of funding to the sector until 2030. Focus is on women’s and children’s health, and on fighting AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.
- **Humanitarian assistance:** Norway’s funding for humanitarian assistance is steadily increasing. A record NOK5.4 billion (US$652 million) is budgeted for humanitarian assistance for 2019, accounting for 14% of Norway’s total ODA budget.
- **Private-sector development, agriculture and renewable energy:** support to the private sector in low-income countries has been an increasing focus, included through Norfund.
- **Climate, environment and oceans:** Norway strongly supports multilateral working in the field, with a focus on the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Since 2007 Norway has contributed close to NOK3 billion annually in efforts to fight deforestation (US$360 million).

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**Other relevant development strategies (white papers):**

- Climate change and the environment (2011)
- Global health (2012)
- Fair distribution and growth (2013)
- Global education (2014)
- Private-sector engagement in development cooperation (2015)
- Human rights in development policy (2015)
- Equality and foreign development policy (2016)
- Humanitarian strategy (2018)
(around US$1.2 billion) allocation for Syria and its neighboring countries for 2016 to 2020, and NOK1.68 billion (US$203 million) for the CERF (2018 to 2022).

Global health is a traditional focus for Norway, continued under the government of Prime Minister Erna Solberg. The bulk of financing to the sector is channeled through multilateral organizations: in 2016 (the latest year for which complete health ODA data is available), Norway channeled 59% of its health ODA as core contributions to multilateral organizations and 23% as earmarked funding to multilaterals. Major recipients include the Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Gavi), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (Global Fund), and the Global Financing Facility (GFF). Pledges to major global health initiatives include US$360 million for the GFF (2019 to 2023), US$304 million to the Global Fund for 2017 to 2019. Norway hosted the GFF replenishment conference in Oslo in November 2018, reaffirming its leadership in the global health space. Total funding levels for global health are set at NOK4.8 million for 2019 (US$580 million) according to the government.
How does Norway spend its ODA?

**Norway heavily relies on multilateral organizations and CSOs to channel its ODA**

Norway is a strong supporter of multilateral organizations. It channels a quarter (24% in 2017) of its ODA as core contributions to multilateral organizations, significantly below the average among members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of 40%. However, Norway chooses to channel much of its multilateral funding in the form of funding earmarked for specific thematic priorities or regions (reported as bilateral ODA to the OECD). When considering these funds, a total of 54% of Norwegian ODA flows through the multilateral system, slightly above the DAC average of 53%.

Alongside multilaterals, civil society organizations (CSOs) are a key implementer of Norwegian ODA. In 2017, 27% of Norwegian bilateral ODA was channeled through CSOs, well above the DAC average of 17%. The remaining share of bilateral ODA was mostly implemented in country programs by Norwegian embassies and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad).

**Norway increasingly focuses on private sector development**

Norway’s strategic priorities are reflected in its funding allocations. According to OECD data, in 2017, 17% of bilateral ODA went to humanitarian aid (US$38 million), the largest sector of bilateral ODA. This was followed by environmental protection (US$387 million, or 12%) and education (US$382 million, or 12%). Bilateral funding for humanitarian assistance and education has been steadily increasing since 2012. Global health comes fifth, with US$228 million, or 8% of bilateral ODA. This sector also receives significant multilateral funding (See Sector: Global Health for Norway).

In recent years, private sector development and job creation have become more important to Norway’s development cooperation. This is reflected in increased ODA for financial services and business support (from US$92 million in 2013 to US$210 million in 2017, a 129% increase in real terms, according to OECD data). Much of Norway’s support to economic development goes through Norfund, a state-owned investment fund supporting private-sector activities in partner countries, whose investments are not ODA-eligible.

Since 2014, Norway has provided all its bilateral ODA in the form of grants (as opposed to loans). It does so to reduce the debt burden of low-income countries.

**Norway differentiates partners for long-term development cooperation and partners for conflict prevention**

Geographically, sub-Saharan Africa receives by far the largest share of bilateral ODA (19% between 2015 and 2017, according to OECD data), followed by the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region (12%) and Asia (9%). Funding to the MENA region more than doubled between 2013 and 2017 (from US$206 million to US$454 million), driven by increased humanitarian assistance to the region.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)’s 2017 white paper on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Norway focuses its bilateral cooperation on 16 countries. This funding concentration comes from the government’s desire to pursue a holistic and cross-sectoral approach to development in each of its partner countries.

A November 2018 recommendation from Parliament to the government defines the criteria for selecting partner countries. It outlines two categories of partners:

1. Partners for long-term development cooperation, with which Norway already has a long-standing engagement. These include Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nepal, Tanzania, Uganda, Ghana, Myanmar, Indonesia, and Colombia. Overtime, Norway will disburse a significant proportion of its bilateral assistance to this group of countries.

2. Partners for stabilization and conflict prevention, as Norway aims to reinforce its overall efforts in vulnerable states, with a holistic and long-term perspective. These include Afghanistan, Mali, Niger, Palestine, Somalia, and South Sudan.

In addition, Norway will continue to provide humanitarian assistance to other ODA-eligible countries as needed, including in countries which do not belong to either of the categories above.

Norway’s ODA mostly goes to low-income countries, although this is not obvious at first look at ODA data. Between 2015 and 2017, due to high costs of hosting refugees in Norway, earmarked funding to multilaterals, and support to CSOs, the share of Norway’s bilateral ODA is...
not reported as being allocated to a specific country was 56%. This means that low-income countries officially accounted for less than one-quarter of bilateral ODA (22% from 2015 to 2017). However, when only considering bilateral ODA allocated to specific countries, they received just over half (51%) of all bilateral ODA. In addition, Norway’s on-going forestry investment as part of the Norwegian International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI) drives high levels of ODA to certain middle-income countries with large rainforests, e.g., Indonesia and Brazil. Between 2015 and 2017, nearly all of Norway’s funding to Brazil – the second-largest beneficiary of Norway’s ODA – was channeled through the NICFI.

For a deeper understanding of funding at the recipient level, please consult data from the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI). IATI is a reporting standard and platform on which organizations and governments voluntarily publish data on their development cooperation, including more recent activity than is available through OECD data.

Data can be searched by recipient country, the ‘publisher’ (including funders that do not report to the OECD), and other filters. Click here for more information on IATI’s data. Click here to go directly to IATI’s ‘d-portal’, a user-friendly interface for data searches.

Norway is a strong supporter of the multilateral system

Norway considers funding through multilateral organizations an effective way to pursue its priorities. Norway supports multilateral organizations both through high levels of core contributions (US$998 million in 2017, or 24% of its total ODA), and through significant amounts channeled through multilateral organizations as earmarked funding (US$1,235 million, or 30% of total ODA). This brings the total amount of Norway’s multilateral ODA to US$2.2 billion, or 54% of its total ODA, slightly above the OECD DAC average of 53%. Funding channeled through multilateral institutions has increased by an annual average rate of 7% between 2013 and 2017 (it was US$1.7 billion in 2013). Norway strongly supports the UN system: UN agencies received 42% of Norway’s multilateral ODA in 2017. 12% was channeled through the World Bank, and 10% through regional development banks. Norway strongly support thematic funds, including within Global health initiatives: key partners for Norway’s multilateral ODA include the Global Fund, Gavi, and the Global Financing Facility (GFF).
NORWAY’S BILateral ODA BY SECTOR, 2017

Total: US$3,151 million

Humanitarian aid 17.1% (US$538m.)
Environment protection 12.3% (US$387m.)
Education 12.1% (US$382m.)
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Health & Population 8.2% (US$258m.)
Donor Admin Costs 8.0% (US$226m.)
Conflict, Peace & Security 4.9% (US$155m.)
Refugees in Donor Countries 4.8% (US$150m.)
Agriculture* 3.6% (US$115m.)
Other 12.4% (US$391m.)

OECD CRS. Gross disbursements. *Includes agriculture, forestry, fishing, and rural development. In 2017 prices.

THE TOP 10 RECIPIENTS OF NORWAY’S ODA

average 2015-2017, excluding debt relief; US$ millions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Grants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syrian Arab Republic</td>
<td>191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Bank and Gaza Strip</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Sudan</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OECD CRS. Gross disbursements, in 2017 prices.
NORWAY’S BILATERAL ODA BY INCOME-GROUP, 2015-2017

average 2015-2017: US$3.4 billion

- Low-income countries: 22.3% (US$751m.)
- Lower middle-income countries: 11.2% (US$377m.)
- Upper middle-income countries: 10.2% (US$343m.)
- Unallocated by income: 56.3% (US$1.896bn.)

OECD CRS. Gross disbursements, in 2017 prices.
Who are the main actors in Norway’s development cooperation?

MFA steers strategy and established a Minister of International Development post in 2018; embassies execute bilateral programs

Norway’s coalition government is led by Prime Minister (PM) Erna Solberg. The Conservative Party (H) of Solberg and the Progress Party (FrP), both in power since 2013, were re-elected in October 2017. The Liberal Party (V) joined the coalition in January 2018, and the Christian Democratic Party (KrF) joined in January 2019, after a year of cooperation with the government on an ad-hoc basis.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) is responsible for setting the strategic direction of development cooperation. Since October 2017 it has been led by former Minister of Defense Ine Eriksen Søreide (H). In January 2018, the minister of the European Economic Area and EU affairs within the MFA was replaced with a minister of international development, who is a co-minister to the minister of foreign affairs. Dag-Inge Ulstein (KrF) has held this position since January 2019, following the KrF joining the governing coalition. Ulstein is thus in charge of development policy. His state secretary is Aksel Jakobsen (KrF).

The MFA and Norway’s embassies administer the majority of development assistance. The MFA has more than 500 staff members working on development cooperation, half of whom are based in Norway’s embassies overseas. The minister of international development is responsible for managing relations with the UN system, the World Bank, regional development banks, and other global funds and programs. This minister also oversees Norad and Norfund and is supported by a range of departments within the MFA. The Department for Regional Affairs manages bilateral development cooperation (see below). The Department for Economic Relations and Development is in charge of development policies, climate and the environment, and multilateral development banks. The Department for UN and Humanitarian Affairs is responsible for cooperation with UN agencies, humanitarian affairs, and global initiatives.

Other relevant ministries include the Ministry of Climate and Environment, which manages the budget for the Norwegian International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI), the Ministry of Justice, which manages budget lines for costs related to hosting refugees in Norway, which are partly reported as ODA, and the Ministry of Education and Research.

Norwegian embassies lead programming of bilateral cooperation in partner countries, on the basis of the priorities outlined in the MFA’s annual appropriation letters. Leadership and program officers in Norwegian embassies, and regional sections within the MFA’s Department for Regional Affairs and Development play a key role in developing these letters. Within these priorities, embassies have ample financial and programming authority. They develop annual work plans and agreements for bilateral programs, which are then reviewed by Norad.

Norad, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, and Norfund, Norway’s development finance institution, play key roles in policy development, priority setting, and implementation. Both agencies operate under the supervision of the MFA.

- Norad is responsible for providing advice and quality assurance to the MFA and embassies. It provides technical advice on the planning and implementation of bilateral programs, conducts evaluations, and manages funds based on the strategic directions outlined in its appropriation letter from the MFA. Norad has a staff count of 230 and is led by Director Jon Lomøy. It has no country offices.
- Norfund is a state-owned investment fund. Established in 1997, it supports private-sector activities in developing countries and focuses on renewable energy, agribusiness, and financial institutions. In 2017, Norfund was managing investments worth over NOK20.4 billion (US$2.5 billion) with a staff count of 71 employees.

Following the establishment of the post of minister for international development in 2018, the division of roles and responsibilities between Norad and the ministry is being re-evaluated. Three scenarios are currently discussed: 1) an ‘integrated model’, where the minister’s remit is strengthened and Norad’s abolished 2) a ‘delegated model’ where the ministry provides skills and Norad handles the management of ODA, or 3) a new Ministry of Development that is separate from the MFA and includes a lot of the work that Norad does currently.

Parliament: Within the Norwegian Parliament, the
Committee of Foreign Affairs and Defense is in charge of development policy. Its main role is to scrutinize government and prepare recommendations on draft legislation. It comments and votes on the government’s ‘white papers’, which outline strategies regarding development and the MFA’s budget. The Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs is the most relevant to budget development, including for ODA. Usually, Parliament only passes minor amendments to government drafts.

Civil Society: Norwegian CSOs and faith-based organizations play an important role in development policy. Domestically, Norwegian CSOs educate the public about development issues, act as watchdogs by critically assessing development policy, and carry out lobbying activities targeted at Parliament and the government. CSOs also implement development projects, partly with government funds. Norway channels 27% of its ODA through CSOs. In total, 50 CSOs coordinate their advocacy and research work within the umbrella association, Forum for Utvikling og Miljø (Forum for Development and Environment; ForUM).
How is Norway’s ODA budget structured?

Norway uses ‘thematic cooperation’ budget lines to pursue its strategic priorities

The 2019 ODA budget is the largest to date, at NOK37.8 billion (US$4.6 billion). The government’s budget proposal, which was approved in November 2018 by Parliament, represents an 8% increase over the 2018 budget (an increase of NOK2.7 billion, or US$326 million.) ODA comes from two main sources: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and the Ministry of Climate and Environment.

The MFA provides 92% (NOK34.6 billion, or US$4.1 billion) of the ODA budget. The MFA’s ODA budget provides detailed information on the allocation of funding, and can be divided into four major categories: 1) thematic cooperation, 2) bilateral cooperation, 3) multilateral funding (outside of specific thematic cooperation), and 4) administration costs:

- **Bilateral cooperation comprises regional budget lines** for Africa, Asia, Middle East and North Africa (MENA region), and Latin America.

- **Multilateral funding includes spending not connected to a specific thematic area**, and funds disbursed to UN development agencies and certain international financial institutions. Funding for the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB; NOK162 million or US$20 million in 2019) is disbursed by the MFA, but sits outside of the official ‘multilateral spending’ envelope.

- **Thematic cooperation combines bilateral and multilateral funding to advance specific areas.** It receives by far the largest share of funding by the MFA, 68% of all Norway’s ODA expenditure in 2019. There are currently 10 thematic budget lines in Norway’s ODA budget. Those that receive the most funding are in line with Norway’s strategic priorities (see table).

In addition to the MFA, the Ministry of Climate and Environment provides NOK3.2 billion (US$382 million) in ODA, mainly for Norway’s International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI). The initiative aims to slow, halt, and eventually reduce greenhouse-gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in partner countries.
What are important milestones in Norway’s annual budget process?

Indicative ministerial budget ceiling is set in March; budget details are determined from April to August

The budget process runs over a two-year period. Preparatory work starts about a year before the actual fiscal year, and the ongoing budget may be amended in the spring (March/April) and in the autumn (August).

- Ministries prepare initial internal budget drafts: From November to the end of January, Norway’s development agency Norad and Norwegian embassies prepare budget input to submit to the relevant ministries, which in turn start their preparations for developing their budget for the following year. Budget suggestions by the ministries are due by January 25 each year. Key stakeholders during this period are senior staff at the Norwegian embassies, Norad, and Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA)’s senior officials.

- First budget conference – government decides on indicative ministerial budget ceilings: By March, Norwegian embassies and Norad have prepared their preliminary internal budgets. MFA and Norad leadership ultimately make decisions on budget allocations. In parallel, embassies start identifying bilateral projects for the coming year. Ministerial budget proposals are presented to the government at its first budget conference around March 10, on the basis of which the government sets indicative budget ceilings for each ministry. Budget ceilings are handed out around March 20.

- The MFA further refines internal budgets: Once the government has set the MFA’s indicative spending, the MFA further develops its budget from April to July/August.

- Second budget conference – government makes final decision on overall draft budget: Usually in late August/September, the government holds its second budget conference to agree on final ministerial budget caps and political priorities. At this stage, the government approves the overall ODA volume and funding for major initiatives; it usually does not debate further details of the ODA budget.

- The government presents its budget proposal to Parliament: Around September 20, the government approves its ‘Yellow Book’, its first budget proposal. In the beginning of October, the budget proposal is presented to Parliament. From October to December, the MFA and the other ministries adapt their budget draft to fit within the final caps.

- Parliament debates draft budget: From October to November, Parliament debates the government’s budget draft. The Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs can amend the proposed ceilings and detailed allocations for main expenditure areas until November. The Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defense may propose amendments, but in practice, the Committee on Finance leads on reallocations between budget lines. The additional proposals need to be presented by November 10.

- Parliament approves budget: By mid-December, the Parliament signs off on the budget for the upcoming year.
Norway Donor Profile

- **November - February**: Ministries prepare initial internal budget draft
- **March**: First budget conference – Cabinet decides on indicative ministerial budget ceilings
- **April - July**: Ministries further refine internal budgets
- **Late August**: Second budget conference – Cabinet makes final decision on overall draft budget
- **October - November**: Parliament debates draft budget
- **December**: Parliament approved budget
Global health remains a key priority, reaffirmed by Norway’s leadership on the GFF replenishment

Over the past ten years, Norway has been an international champion and influential actor in the field of global health. Former Prime Minister (PM) Jens Stoltenberg placed global health high on the government’s agenda, and current PM Erna Solberg has maintained this focus during her two terms.

In 2016 (the latest year for which full data is available), Norway was the eighth-largest donor country to health. Its total ODA to the sector stood at US$568 million and accounted for 12% of its total ODA. This share is well above the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)’s Development Assistance Committee (DAC) average of 8% and ranks Norway sixth in relative terms. Norway has steadily increased its support for health since 2011 (when it was US$393 million), mostly due to increased engagement with health-related multilateral organizations. In 2019, the government’s total budget for global health is set at NOK4.8 billion (US$580 million).

Norway’s white paper, ‘Global health in foreign and development policy’ (2012), which remains the most relevant paper, outlines three priorities for the sector:
1. mobilizing at an international level for women’s and children’s rights and health;
2. reducing the burden of disease, with an emphasis on prevention; and
3. promoting human security through health.

It is still an accurate statement of the current government’s priorities. Norway also tackles global health issues through its work on gender equality: core components are sexual and reproductive health and rights, maternity health, and safe and legal abortions. Health is also a key component of Norway’s humanitarian efforts. In its 2018 humanitarian strategy, the government committed to provide support for lifesaving and basic health services in connection with Norway’s humanitarian efforts. This commitment aimed to increase support for SRHR in crisis situations, as well as to promote closer coordination between humanitarian and development efforts in health.

Much of Norway’s funding for global health goes through the multilateral system. In 2016, Norway channeled US$337 million of its health ODA to multilateral organizations as core contributions, or 59% of its total health ODA (DAC average: 56%). Key recipients of multilateral ODA to health are Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Gavi); the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund); and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Gavi and the Global Fund will continue to be major partners for the country; Norway has pledged US$304 million to the Global Fund for 2017 to 2019, and US$1.0 billion to Gavi for 2016 to 2020, setting it to become the second-largest donor country to Gavi after the UK. In addition, it has committed US$285 million to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative for 2014 to 2019. Norway’s commitment to multilateral funding for global health was cemented in the whitepaper entitled “Norway’s Role and Interests in Multilateral Cooperation”, published in June 2019.

In September 2014, Norway co-launched the Global Financing Facility (GFF) in support of the ‘Every Woman Every Child’ initiative, in partnership with the World Bank and the governments of Canada and the US. In November 2018, Norway co-hosted the GFF replenishment conference in Oslo with the government of Burkina Faso, the World Bank Group, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. On this occasion, it pledged US$360 million to the organization for the 2018-2023 period, the largest commitment of all donors.

In 2017, Norway’s bilateral ODA to health amounted to US$258 million according to OECD data. More than half of this amount was channeled as earmarked funding through multilaterals (57%, or US$147 million).

Bilateral ODA investments focus on basic health care (34% in 2017), health policy and administration (16%), and infectious disease control (14%). Geographically, Norway prioritizes four countries for health cooperation, two in Africa (Malawi and Niger) and two in the MENA region (Palestine and Syria).
Strategic orientation for global health is set within the MFA

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) traditionally sets Norway’s global health priorities. Norway’s Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN and other international organizations in Geneva is a key actor in the implementation of Norway’s multilateral funding for health. The Mission in Geneva represents Norway at the World Health Organization (WHO) and participates in the governance of global health organizations. Within MFA, the Department for Economic Relations and Development has a Development Policy Section, which has responsibility over global health investments. Bilateral global health programs are handled directly by the individual bilateral departments, under the Department of Regional Affairs. At Norad, global health issues fall under the mandate of the Department of Global Health and Education.

NORWAY’S ODA TO HEALTH
US$ millions

OECD CRS, and imputed multilateral contributions to the health sector: DAC secretariat estimations. In 2017 prices.
RECIPIENTS OF NORWAY’S HEALTH ODA, 2016
Total: US$568 million

- Bilateral: 43.7% (US$231m.)
- Global Fund: 13.2% (US$79m.)
- GAVI: 26.4% (US$144m.)
- Other: 20.8% (US$118m.)

OECD CRS and imputed multilateral contributions to the health sector: DAC secretariat estimates. In 2017 prices.

NORWAY’S KEY GLOBAL HEALTH COMMITMENTS
US$ millions


Data from government and listed organizations
TOP 10 DAC DONORS TO HEALTH, 2016
Total health ODA; US$ millions; in 2017 prices; incl. bilateral and multilateral funding

- United States: 10,048
- United Kingdom: 2,309
- Germany: 1,194
- France: 971
- Japan: 871
- Canada: 799
- Netherlands: 589
- Norway: 568
- Sweden: 530
- Australia: 372

OECD CRS and imputed multilateral contributions to the health sector (DAC Secretariat estimates)

TOP 10 DAC DONORS TO HEALTH, 2016
Health ODA as % of total ODA

- United States: 28.1
- Canada: 19.2
- Luxembourg: 15.8
- United Kingdom: 13.3
- Ireland: 13.2
- Norway: 12.3
- Netherlands: 11.1
- Australia: 10.6
- Korea: 10.4
- Sweden: 10.3

OECD CRS and imputed multilateral contributions to the health sector (DAC Secretariat estimates)
Norway shows leadership by hosting the secretariat of CEPI, a vaccine development initiative

According to G-FINDER, Norway provided US$4 million in 2017 for research and development (R&D) on poverty-related and neglected diseases, referred to as ‘global health R&D’ in this profile. Norway’s funding for global health R&D has remained low following a peak in 2011, and represented just 0.2% of global spending in 2017. However, total funding is likely higher, as funding to specific initiatives is not covered (see below).

Norway focuses its funding on tuberculosis, which received US$1.5 million (41%) of its global health R&D funding in 2017. Other areas of funding include diarrhoeal diseases (28%), kinetoplastid diseases (13%), and malaria (13%). These figures may differ from the trend numbers presented in the chart due to changes in the scope of the G-FINDER survey from year to year.

Norway’s global health research strategy mainly focuses on the field of immunization: In 2017, 48% of its funding went to the development of preventive vaccines. The government supports and hosts the permanent secretariat of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI). CEPI is a global vaccine development fund that aims to develop vaccines against Lassa fever, the Middle-East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS), and Nipah—three diseases that have the potential to become major epidemics. CEPI aims to have two candidate vaccines for each of these diseases tested within five years of its inception.

Norway’s strategy documents emphasize the importance of research related to communicable diseases in developing countries, and research to strengthen its own knowledge base on non-communicable diseases. In its 2017 White Paper ‘Common future, common responsibilities’, the MFA outlines CEPI as the government’s most important new initiative in global health. Norway supported CEPI’s launch at the World Economic Forum in January 2017 with a commitment of NOK1 billion (around US$120 million) until 2021. It plans to provide up to NOK600 million more between 2021 and 2025 (US$73 million).

Norway also funds global health R&D through a national program, the ‘Program for Global Health and Vaccination Research’ (GLOBVAC). GLOBVAC is a joint program by Norad and the Research Council of Norway (RCN) and plays a crucial role in Norwegian knowledge production. It strengthens its national capacity in global health and vaccine research, while also contributing to capacity-building in partner countries. GLOBVAC initially planned to deliver NOK594 million (US$72 million) in financing for 2012 to 2020; the government has since increased its allocations between 2018 and 2020 by NOK105 million (US$13 million). It disbursed NOK120 million (US$15 million) in 2017. GLOBVAC focuses on vaccination research and other research with potential for high impact that can contribute to improvements in health equity in developing countries. Norway supports 51 projects through GLOBVAC.

Further information: G-FINDER

G-FINDER is a data source developed by Policy Cures Research that provides information on global investments into R&D for neglected diseases. Figures in this section are based on the G-FINDER survey, which covers basic research and product-related R&D (drugs, vaccines, and diagnostics) for a select group of diseases. The G-FINDER scope has been defined by an expert committee, in line with three criteria: the disease disproportionately affects people in developing countries, there is a need for new products, and the commercial incentives are insufficient to attract R&D from private industry.

For more information: www.policycuresresearch.org

Funding for global health R&D comes from the Research Council of Norway and the MFA

Two public institutions provide funding for global health R&D: the RCN and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA; including the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, Norad).

RCN distributed more than half of global health R&D funding in 2017 (62%), mostly to Norwegian universities. RCN serves as the advisory body for the government authorities on research policy issues. It awards research grants and is overseen by the Ministry of Research. The RCN follows the research policy guidelines of the government and parliament, and additionally advises the government. The MFA, including Norad, provides the remaining global health R&D funding (38% in 2017).
NORWAY’S R&D FUNDING FOR NEGLECTED DISEASES
US$ millions; in 2017 prices

Policy Cures Research, G-FINDER Public Search tool
Education is a top focus of Norway's development policy, particularly for girls

Norway is the sixth-largest government donor to global education, spending US$426 million on education official development assistance (ODA) in 2016, according to OECD data from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD; latest year for which full data is available). This represents 9% of Norway’s total ODA, above the DAC average of 8%. Norway is the 10th-largest donor to education as a proportion of its total ODA.

The successive governments of Prime Minister (PM) Erna Solberg have made education Norway’s top development policy priority since 2013. This focus was reiterated in Norway’s April 2017 white paper on development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ‘Common responsibility for the common future – the SDGs and Norwegian development policy’. In line with this political priority, funding to education has grown and will continue to do so. According to the government, and in line with PM Solberg’s pledge, the education ODA budget doubled between 2013 and 2017, to reach NOK3.4 billion in 2017 (US$411 million, or 13% of total ODA). Budget for education, research and professional cooperation ODA stands at NOK3.8 billion (US$460 million) in 2019, a NOK160 million increase from 2018.

OECD data confirms this trajectory. Education ODA as reported to the OECD DAC increased by 78% between 2013 and 2016, going from US$239 million to US$426 million in the time-period. The increase is driven by greater spending on primary education, which grew from US$123 million in 2013 to US$260 million in 2016. This is in line with Norway’s focus on achieving universal primary education as a fundamental human right and key driver of development.

In its 2013-2014 ‘Education for Development’ strategy, the Norwegian government emphasizes primary education, system-level improvements, facilities, and teacher training as focus areas. The strategy was published in June 2014 but is still an accurate statement of the current government’s priorities. The strategy outlines three overarching goals:

1. ensuring all children have the same opportunities to complete schooling;
2. ensuring all people acquire basic skills; and
3. ensuring that as many kids as possible acquire skills that contribute to transitioning into the labor market.

In its 2018 humanitarian strategy, the government committed to continue to give priority to education in situations of crisis and conflict, as well as to promote closer coordination between humanitarian and development efforts in education. According to the government, Norway spent 9% of its humanitarian assistance budget on education in 2016, and 12% was set aside for this purpose in the 2018 budget.

Further information: ‘basic’ and ‘general’ education

In this profile, ‘basic education’ refers to the OECD Creditor Reporting System (CRS) sector code ‘basic education’ (112), which includes primary education, basic skills for youths and adults, and early childhood education. ‘General education’ refers to the OECD CRS sector code ‘education, level unspecified’, which includes education policy and administrative management, education facilities and training, teacher training, and educational research.

Around these three main goals, the strategy outlines specific prioritized actions, including:

- Working toward free, high-quality primary education for all, including for girls and marginalized populations, such as those with disabilities;
- Ensuring literacy and other basic skills;
- Working to ensure that girls start and complete secondary education;
- Working to provide safe and secure school facilities;
- Ensuring continuity of education during humanitarian crises, including increasing funding for education as a component of humanitarian assistance;
- Helping improve national education systems and teacher training;
- Building up opportunities for high-quality vocational training.

In addition, Norway is one of few countries globally which regards education as an explicit component of its humanitarian assistance policy and shows international leadership. It is one of five founding donors to the Education Cannot Wait (ECW) initiative, a special fund launched in 2016 that aims to improve access to education services in humanitarian emergencies and crises. Norway contributed US$22.2 million to ECW since its launch, making it seventh-largest contributor. In its 2018 humanitarian strategy, the government committed to continue to give priority to education in situations of crisis and conflict, as well as to promote closer coordination between humanitarian and development efforts in education. According to the government, Norway spent 9% of its humanitarian assistance budget on education in 2016, and 12% was set aside for this purpose in the 2018 budget.
Norway also assumes international leadership in bringing global education in general, and particularly girls’ education, higher on the development agenda: Solberg co-initiated the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity and hosted the Oslo Summit on Education for Development in 2015. The Commission aims to set the course on how to promote and find innovative financing solutions for education in order to achieve the SDGs. In 2018, Norway committed NOK2.1 billion (US$276 million) to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) for 2018 to 2020, a NOK600 million increase compared to its previous 2015-2017 pledge. As of December 2018, Norway was the third-largest donor to the GPE, having contributed US$566 million since 2002 (10% of total funding).

In total, 63% of Norway’s education went through multilateral organizations in 2016, either as core contributions (7%) or as earmarked funding (55%, reported to the OECD under bilateral funding). Key partners include the United Nations’ Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), GPE, and the World Bank.

Norway’s bilateral investments focus on ‘basic education’ (63% of bilateral education ODA in 2017), which mostly consists of support for primary education. Other funding priorities include ‘general education’ (23% in 2017), which primarily consists of support for system strengthening, facilities, and training. Funding to both basic education and general education has grown exponentially between 2013 and 2017, with respective increases of 80% and 108%.

A separate action plan for increasing the use of digital learning platforms and solutions in the educational efforts will be developed in 2019.

**Norad leads on education policy development**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) is responsible for Norway’s global education portfolio and sets strategic priorities. Traditionally, Norad’s Department for Global Education and Health advises the MFA on development assistance for education and carries out evaluation processes. Norad’s Department for Global Health in Education also plays a key role in evaluating progress around Norway’s education priorities.
NORWAY’S ODA TO EDUCATION

US$ millions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Multilateral education ODA</th>
<th>Bilateral education ODA</th>
<th>Education ODA as % of total ODA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>253 (1.3%)</td>
<td>7 (0.1%)</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>342 (10%)</td>
<td>10 (2.9%)</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>426 (7%)</td>
<td>93 (%)</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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OECD CRS, and imputed multilateral contributions to the education sector: DAC secretariat estimates. In 2017 prices.

NORWAY’S BILATERAL ODA TO EDUCATION ACROSS SUB-SECTORS, 2017

Total: US$382 million

- **Basic education** 63.3% (US$242.1m.)
- **Post-secondary education** 9.2% (US$35.3m.)
- **Vocational training** 4.4% (US$17m.)
- **Secondary education** 0.1% (US$0.5m.)
- **General education** 22.9% (US$87.5m.)

OECD CRS. In 2017 prices.
TOP 10 DAC DONORS TO EDUCATION, 2016
Total education ODA; US$ millions; in 2017 prices; incl. bilateral and multilateral funding

OECD CRS and imputed multilateral contributions to the education sector (DAC Secretariat estimates)

TOP 10 DAC DONORS TO EDUCATION, 2016
Education ODA as % of total ODA

OECD CRS and imputed multilateral contributions to the education sector (DAC Secretariat estimates)
Focus is on food security, climate smart agriculture and sustainable fishing

Norway was the sixteenth-largest donor country in development funding for agriculture, forestry, fishing and rural development in 2016 (latest year for which full data is available). It invested a total of US$131 million, corresponding to 3% of its official development assistance (ODA). This is below the members’ of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)’s Development Assistance Committee (DAC) average of 7% and makes Norway the 28th-largest donor to agriculture in relative terms of 29 DAC members (in 2016). Between 2015 and 2016, ODA to agriculture, forestry, fishing and rural development dropped by 22%, driven by decreases in bilateral funding, before increasing again to reach US$115 million in 2017. Based on government data, bilateral funding to agriculture stood at US$108 million in 2018. (Note: Government data is not comparable with OECD when it comes to core contributions to multilaterals.)

Although agriculture is historically one of Norway’s development priorities, in a December 2017 recommendation to the government, Norway’s parliament highlighted the need to increase efforts towards food security and climate-smart agriculture. A new, separate budget line for agriculture and food security at NOK902 million in 2019 (US$109 million shows the government’s efforts in this area. In the 2019 budget, the government announced a NOK60 million increase (US$7 million) in the 2019 budget specifically for climate-smart agriculture and food security. Norway follows a rights-based approach; its support includes increasing smallholder’s participation in decision-making, building resilience, and enhancing productivity, particularly towards women.

Norway’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) published an ‘Action plan for sustainable food production system’ in June 2019, after phasing out Norway’s agriculture and food security strategy in December 2016. The action plan draws on extensive consultations with academics and civil society, and takes a holistic approach to food production systems. Norway will prioritize its partner countries as well as regions vulnerable to famine and with poor access to nutritional food, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. Food production and value creation and market are two thematic areas of the action plan, along with nutrition and diet, and policies and governance.

Norway’s priority countries for bilateral agriculture and food security cooperation

- Malawi
- Mozambique
- Mali
- South-Sudan
- Nigeria
- Niger
- Ethiopia
- Tanzania

Food production includes:

- increased sustainability and climate-adapted food production, and
- increased productivity from a varied agriculture, fisheries, and aquaculture. Value creation and markets includes increased sustainable value creation and business development in the food sector, with the aim to give stable access to healthy and safe food with less food waste.

The plan also sets eight concrete targets:

1. increased knowledge and technology,
2. increased biodiversity in food production,
3. increased climate-friendliness and sustainability,
4. preparedness to natural disaster and negative consequences of climate change has increased,
5. improved sustainable value chains from resources to market,
6. strengthened food security and animal and plant health,
7. improved measures for better nutrition for school children and adults, and improved knowledge about mother and child health, and
8. increased number and improvement of global and regional frameworks and national policies for sustainable food systems. The action plan will be implemented through both development projects and political dialogue.

Drawing on its expertise with marine resources, Norway is one of very few countries who focus on fisheries, falling under the scope of agriculture ODA by OECD reporting standards. In 2016, the government launched a program called ‘Fish for Development’, as a way to reduce poverty
through promoting food security, sustainable fisheries management, and more profitable business activities. In 2017, the program’s budget stood at NOK170 million (US$21 million).

Norway channels most of its ODA to agriculture and rural development through bilateral cooperation. In 2017, it amounted to US$115 million, up from US$90 million in 2016. Increased funding went to agricultural development (largest sector of agriculture bilateral ODA, 26% of the total), fishery development (17%), and fishing policy and administrative management (10%), in line with Norway’s policy priorities.

About a fifth of Norway’s total cooperation for agriculture is channeled to multilateral organizations as earmarked funding (22% in 2016). For instance, US$25 million went to specific programs carried out by the United Nation’s (UN) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 2017. Geographic priorities include eight countries, all in sub-Saharan Africa (see box).

Core multilateral contributions to agriculture and rural development stood at US$39 million in 2016, remaining stable compared to 2015. The largest recipients were the World Bank’s International Development Association (IDA), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the African Development Fund (AfDF). Norway also collaborates with the Consultative Group on Agricultural Research (CGIAR), the Crop Trust, and the World Food Programme (WFP), among other organizations.

**Decision-making and funding is split between different MFA departments**

The most relevant departments in setting agriculture priorities within the MFA are the Department for UN and Humanitarian Questions, the Section for UN Politics, and the Private Sector Section under the Department for Economy and Development. This is because a lot of Norway’s support for agriculture is channeled through private-sector development, research programs, and international financing channels (e.g., the FAO, IFAD, WFP). The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) steers programming through its Department of Climate, Energy and Environment and the Section for Environment and Food Security. Responsibility for the ‘Fish for Development’ program funding and implementation lies with the MFA and the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries, a Norwegian government agency that provides input for policy-making around fisheries. The secretariat sits within Norad. The Norwegian private sector also plays a lead role by pushing the topic in the public debate. The EAT Foundation is also a leader in this area.
RECIPIENTS OF NORWAY’S AGRICULTURE ODA, 2016
Total: US$131 million

- Bilateral: 66.7% (US$86m.)
- IDA: 11.5% (US$15m.)
- Other: 19.9% (US$25m.)

OECD CRS and imputed multilateral contributions to the agriculture sector. DAC secretariat estimates. In 2017 prices.

TOP 20 DAC DONORS TO AGRICULTURE, 2016
Total agriculture ODA; US$ millions; in 2017 prices;
incl. bilateral and multilateral funding

- United States: 1,904
- Germany: 1,236
- Japan: 1,071
- United Kingdom: 713
- France: 447
- Netherlands: 292
- Italy: 259
- Canada: 246
- Switzerland: 230
- Spain: 212
- Belgium: 188
- Korea: 176
- Australia: 174
- Denmark: 158
- Norway: 131
- Poland: 113
- Finland: 99
- Austria: 82
- Ireland: 72

OECD CRS and imputed multilateral contributions to the agriculture sector (DAC Secretariat estimates)
TOP 28 DAC DONORS TO AGRICULTURE, 2016
Agriculture ODA as % of total ODA

OECD CRS and imputed multilateral contributions to the agriculture sector (DAC Secretariat estimates)
Norway’s nutrition ODA

Norway’s focus on nutrition is increasing, with a new 2019-2021 Action plan for sustainable food systems

At the policy level, Norway considers nutrition both an element of its work on global health (specifically within maternal and child health), and a pillar of its work on sustainable food systems. Despite being one of Norway’s lesser-funded sectors, nutrition is growing in importance. In June 2019, the government published an ‘Action plan for sustainable food systems’, of which nutrition is one of four pillars (alongside food production, value creation and markets, and policies and governance). Within nutrition, the action plan highlights a focus on sustainable consumption patterns based on increased knowledge and access to a varied and healthy diet, safe food, and clean drinking water. Increased funding for nutrition is expected within the context of the action plan, although no specific funding targets are provided.

Overall, nutrition-related activities usually fall under other development areas (e.g., health, humanitarian aid, food security). Due to this, it is difficult to quantify Norway’s current engagement in the sector. According to OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) data, Norway spent less than US$1 million in bilateral funding for basic nutrition in 2017. In Norway’s ODA 2019 budget, nutrition is included, among others, in the budget line on food security and agriculture, though no figure for nutrition specifically is quoted. The government does not report to the Stakeholder Group for the Global Nutrition Report.

As part of Norway’s strong commitment to multilateral funding, the World Food Programme (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and the World Bank’s International Development Association (IDA) are important partners with regards to nutrition.

Nutrition-specific:
Interventions that address underlying causes of malnutrition and that take into account cross-sector actions and impacts (i.e. improving access to diverse foods).

Nutrition-sensitive:
Interventions that address immediate causes of undernutrition and have the improvement of nutrition (i.e. support for exclusive breastfeeding, supplementary feeding, etc.) as their primary objective.

A few initiatives and spending are noteworthy. In June 2017, Norway announced the establishment of a sustainable fisheries action network as part of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025). Norway’s focus on fisheries and aquaculture to improve food security largely falls under its agriculture investments (see agriculture sector). In parallel, Norway’s emergency food assistance (counted towards its humanitarian assistance) has risen in past years.

The Norwegian private sector plays a lead role in the country’s global nutrition policy, with conversations driven by the EAT Forum (a non-profit founded by the Stordalen Foundation, Stockholm Resilience Centre and the Wellcome Trust to catalyze a food system transformation), the EAT Stockholm Food Forum hosted annually in June in Stockholm, and the latest EAT-Lancet Commission on Food, Planet, and Health.

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 key actor driving related policies.
END NOTES
donor tracker

About the Donor Tracker

The Donor Tracker seeks to advance and support progress in global development by providing advocates with easy access to high-quality quantitative and qualitative strategic information to support their work. The Donor Tracker is a free, independent website for development professionals that provides relevant information and analysis on 14 major OECD donors.

For more in-depth information on the six donor countries covered in this analysis and to find out more about strategic priorities, funding trends, decision-making, and key opportunities, please visit: donortracker.org and follow us on twitter @DonorTracker

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