

## KEY QUESTIONS

### the big six

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### 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 the 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

#### 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).

#### 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 fund-

ing 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.