

KEY QUESTIONS

the big six



What are the Netherlands' priorities for global development?

Focus is on four thematic priorities

The objectives and priorities of Dutch development policy are laid out in the policy document: 'Investing in Global Prospects: For the World, For the Netherlands' (also referred to as the 'BHOS policy'). Released in May 2018 under Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation Minister Sigrid Kaag, the document substantiates the Coalition Agreement released in November 2017. It stresses that development cooperation, as an integral part of foreign policy, aims to combat the root causes of poverty, migration, terrorism, and climate change within the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

To do so, the government works on four overarching, closely linked main objectives: 1) preventing conflict and instability, 2) reducing poverty and social inequality, 3) promoting sustainable inclusive growth and climate action worldwide, and 4) promoting economic growth of the Netherlands. Gender equality and strengthening the position of women and girls is a cross-cutting objective of the policy.

These objectives are implemented through a focus on four traditional thematic priorities based on the added-value and expertise of the Netherlands. These priorities remain unchanged under the May 2018 BHOS policy: 1) sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR, including HIV/AIDS), 2) water management, 3) agriculture, incl. food security, and 4) security and the rule of law. The Netherlands puts a strong emphasis on the interlinkages between these priority themes in its policies and programs. Existing efforts across these sectors will increasingly focus on unstable regions defined in the BHOS: the West African Sahel, the Horn of Africa, and North Africa and the Middle East. In addition to that, the policy outlines that it will increase funding across various areas, including climate protection, education, humanitarian assistance, private-sector development, and women's rights and gender equality.

Global health, and particularly SRHR, is a major priority area of Dutch development cooperation. Health accounted for 7% of Dutch bilateral ODA in 2017. However, total ODA to health is much higher, as the Netherlands channels half (50% in 2016, latest year for which data is available) of health ODA multilaterally. Total health ODA stood at US\$589 million in 2016, or 11% of Dutch ODA, which is

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- Security and the rule of law
- Water management
- Agriculture, incl. food security

above the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) average. The Dutch government continues to be a global leader on SRHR: in 2017, it launched the global initiative 'She Decides' to support organizations that focus on SRHR and family planning (see 'Sector: Global Health').

The fight against climate change is another key issue for the Dutch government. It committed to step up its support to climate financing in low-income countries and according to the BHOS expected to spend €400 million (US\$451 million) of ODA resources in 2018 on climate-related expenditures. A Dutch Climate and Development Fund (DFDC) was launched at the end of 2018, which will provide €160 million (US\$180 million) to climate protection projects between 2019 and 2022. In addition, climate financing will be increased by €20 million (US\$23 million) in 2019 and €40 million (US\$45 million) annually from 2020 onwards. According to the government's current predictions, climate financing within the development budget will rise to €480 million (US\$541 million) annually by the end of this government's term of office (2021).