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Report to the Storting (white paper)

Partner Countries in Norway's Development Policy
Executive Summary



Norway's development efforts are designed to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which world leaders adopted at the UN summit in 2015. The main aim is to eradicate extreme poverty, ensure inclusive and sustainable development and promote prosperity, peace and justice throughout the world by 2030. To achieve the SDGs, all the world's countries will have to cooperate closely.

Norway's development efforts started in the 1950s and 1960s. They have been expanded as part of a growing global engagement in this field. Norway's efforts have tended to be spread over a wide range of geographical and thematic areas. To ensure good, lasting results, our efforts need to be concentrated on fewer carefully chosen partner countries and priority areas.

The new partner country initiative is a strategic tool for concentrating Norway's aid. The aim is to achieve better results in partner countries so that they can become independent of aid in the long term. This requires an integrated approach to development that takes into account the varied and complex challenges that different

countries must deal with. We need to make use of a wide range of policy instruments to help our partner countries to address these challenges.

Our partnerships with selected countries are to be based on a mutual desire to cooperate to promote development and on a common understanding of goals and priorities. Norway's efforts must be in line with the partner countries' own priorities and plans and, must be considered in conjunction with the efforts of other stakeholders.

Our partnerships are to include a political dialogue on bilateral issues such as development, good governance and human rights, trade and investment, and regional and global questions. Strengthening the international legal order and protecting democracy, human rights and good governance will be key areas. A well-functioning business sector is a vital basis for job creation and economic growth, and for reducing poverty and increasing state revenues.

A large proportion of Norwegian aid is channelled through global thematic initiatives, often via multi-donor funds run by multilateral organisations. Norway also provides funding through bilateral channels. The bilateral and multilateral funding must be considered together and must be designed to be mutually reinforcing and to give the best possible overall result.

Weak public institutions and structures and a lack of expertise are still important barriers to development in many countries. Norway has long experience of using technical cooperation as a tool for building up institutional expertise and capacity in the public sector in developing countries. The aim is to promote the development of national policy, legislation, structures and systems based on international norms and standards, including the human rights principles of equality and non-discrimination. Close dialogue with national authorities that show genuine willingness to build up state structures on the basis of national policy and priorities is vital to the success of technical cooperation. Norad has established the Knowledge Bank, which is to promote systematic knowledge sharing and transfer between programmes whose aim is to strengthen public-sector expertise and capacity in partner countries and certain other countries.

The Government is proposing two categories of partnerships: one for long-term development cooperation, and the other for stabilisation and conflict prevention. Specific criteria have been used to select countries for the two types of partnership. Partner countries in the category for long-term development cooperation are Ethiopia, Colombia, Ghana, Indonesia, Malawi, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Tanzania and Uganda. Partner countries in the stabilisation and conflict prevention category are Afghanistan, Mali, Niger, Palestine, Somalia and South Sudan. Efforts in this group of countries are to be in line with the priorities set out in the strategic framework for Norway's engagement in conflict prevention, stabilisation and resilience building, which the Government published in 2017.