

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Government of Norway's review of its international development aid policy under Project Vendepunkt (Turning Point). As the UN Migration Agency and a long-standing, committed partner to Norway, IOM brings an operational and evidence-based perspective on human mobility across contexts of origin, transit and destination. In a rapidly evolving global environment marked by conflict, displacement, climate impacts and constrained development financing, human mobility is increasingly shaping development, stability and resilience outcomes. When effectively governed, migration can contribute to economic opportunity, strengthen resilience and support sustainable development; when left unaddressed, it can exacerbate fragility and undermine development gains. Against this backdrop, integrating migration more systematically across development cooperation offers a practical pathway to address the drivers of displacement and instability, improve effectiveness and support more coherent responses – particularly within humanitarian-development-peace approaches. Norway's strong commitment to multilateralism, principled engagement and results-oriented development cooperation provides a solid foundation for leveraging migration more strategically as an enabler of these efforts.

Building on this shared vision, IOM proposes the following recommendations, aligned with Norway's core priorities, with a view to supporting more effective, coherent and sustainable development outcomes.

1. Human mobility and prevention of forced displacement as cornerstones of development, stability and resilience

To maximize the impact of its development policy, Norway may wish to consider positioning properly-managed human mobility and the prevention of forced displacement as central pillars of development, stability, and resilience. Building on its longstanding leadership in this area, there is an opportunity to further strengthen outcomes by more systematically aligning mobility, protection and resilience efforts across sectors. In this regard, Norway could scale up investments in addressing the adverse drivers of irregular migration and displacement, including livelihoods, governance and gaps in service delivery in fragile contexts, while ensuring that migration considerations are consistently integrated across key development sectors. Adopting a **routes-based perspective** – recognizing migration as a continuum from origin through transit to destination and return – would enable more coherent and impactful interventions along key corridors, improving alignment between development, protection and migration responses.

Strengthening evidence-based policymaking will be equally important. Norway could continue to invest in **data systems, population tracking methodologies** and robust **monitoring frameworks**, alongside mechanisms to assess migration governance capacities and needs. This would help ensure interventions are clearly linked to measurable development, economic and stability outcomes. In parallel, voluntary return and sustainable reintegration could be further reinforced as core components of **comprehensive migration management**, embedded in protection-sensitive approaches with strong development linkages in countries of return.

Reducing vulnerabilities and building community resilience also requires stronger investments in health. Expanding access to **health services**, including **mental health and psychosocial support**

along migration routes, and promoting migrant-inclusive health and cross-border cooperation would contribute significantly to more sustainable and inclusive development outcomes.

Building on its strong innovation track record, Norway is well positioned to scale **integrated, multi-year approaches** that bridge the **humanitarian-development-peace continuum**. This includes investing in **interconnected solutions** across climate adaptation, migration governance, digital systems and service delivery, supported by **flexible financing** and programmatic approaches rather than stand-alone projects. In this context, migration can be more explicitly positioned not only as a response to displacement, but also as a strategic driver of labour market transformation and demographic sustainability, including through its contribution to workforce renewal, productivity, and the sustainability of social protection systems in ageing societies.

Norway may wish to further strengthen **safe, orderly and regular migration pathways**, including refugee resettlement and complementary pathways as a lifeline for displaced populations, as well as **well-regulated and skills-based mobility systems** that are responsive to labour market needs while supporting broader economic resilience and development. Complementary investments in **pre-departure preparation and skills development** – including vocational training, language acquisition, skills recognition, cultural orientation and employment readiness – can enhance employment outcomes, support economic resilience in countries of origin and return, and contribute to more **predictable and well-managed mobility systems**.

2. A streamlined and integrated approach, combining humanitarian response with sustainable solutions to displacement

To address the scale and protracted nature of displacement, Norway may wish to further strengthen integrated, multi-year approaches that bridge humanitarian response and long-term development. Elevating such approaches within the development aid policy would contribute to improved efficiency, strengthened resilience, reduced dependency and more sustainable and stabilizing outcomes in fragile contexts. In this regard, Norway could prioritize **early action and continuity of financing** to ensure a timely transition from emergency assistance to longer-term solutions. Strengthening **institutional capacity at national and local levels** and supporting **inclusive approaches** – particularly in countries hosting large, displaced populations – while promoting accessible and equitable systems would help reduce fragmentation, limit parallel service delivery structures and support more sustainable responses. Complementing this, investing in **area-based approaches** that simultaneously support displaced populations and host communities would contribute to reducing tensions and strengthening social cohesion, in turn contributing to conflict prevention.

Ensuring that responses are **inclusive by design** will also be essential. Norway may wish to promote approaches that leverage the capacities of a wide range of actors, including diaspora and the private sector, while maintaining a strong focus on women, youth and other vulnerable groups, to ensure equitable access to services and opportunities. At the same time, **embedding protection from sexual and gender-based violence** as a core component of responses – consistent with Norway's leadership on the Call to Action on Protection from GBV in Emergencies and its Women, Peace and Security commitments – will remain critical.

Furthermore, strengthening access to **legal identity and civil documentation** and preventing **statelessness** among displaced and migrant populations should be considered a key foundation for protection, access to services and the achievement of durable solutions, including for children born in displacement. **Local development strategies** should closely align with **reintegration support**, including through investments in skills development, job creation and private sector engagement, while reinforcing national capacity to sustainably reintegrate returnees.

Norway's continued leadership in **global efforts to advance durable solutions to internal displacement** will be critical, including through the implementation of the UN Secretary-General's Action Agenda and the UN system-wide approach to internal displacement. Strengthening engagement with mechanisms such as the Solutions Champion agencies and the Global Solutions Hub on Internal Displacement would further enhance coherence, scale and impact, positioning internal displacement more firmly as a core development challenge.

3. Climate-related mobility as an essential dimension of development, resilience and risk-reduction strategies

To address the growing impact of climate change on human mobility, Norway may wish to further strengthen **forward-looking, prevention-oriented approaches** within its development aid policy. Climate change is increasingly shaping human mobility patterns, particularly in fragile and resource-constrained contexts, and without anticipatory action, risks undermining development gains and amplifying instability and humanitarian needs. In this context, Norway could support governments to more **systematically integrate human mobility** into national climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction frameworks. Strengthening investment in **data systems, risk analysis** and **early warning mechanisms** would also enable more effective **anticipatory action**, helping to reduce displacement risks before they materialize. Complementary investments in **resilient livelihoods** and **service delivery in high-risk areas** would further reduce pressures that lead to forced displacement. Integrating **health considerations into climate mobility responses** will be equally important. Norway may wish to support efforts to strengthen health system resilience in climate-affected settings, including disease surveillance, continuity of care and access to essential services during displacement, thereby mitigating both immediate and long-term impacts on vulnerable populations.

At the same time, there is an opportunity to invest in **innovative approaches** that recognize mobility as part of the solution to climate change. This includes supporting skills development for people on the move in sectors such as the **green and just transition**, helping to address emerging labour market needs while enhancing adaptive capacity. Strengthening **food security** and **climate-resilient livelihoods** in vulnerable regions would further reinforce local resilience and reduce displacement pressures.

Ensuring that **climate mobility responses are rights-based and protection-sensitive** should remain a central consideration, particularly for women, children and indigenous communities who face disproportionate displacement risks and specific protection needs. Where movement is unavoidable, Norway may wish to support **safe, informed and dignified mobility options**, as well as planned relocation where appropriate, enabling **mobility to function as an adaptive strategy** that contributes to stability rather than a last resort.

4. A more efficient and coherent multilateral system enabled by flexible, predictable multi-year funding

To address increasingly complex and interconnected challenges, Norway may wish to continue reinforcing a strong, effective and well-coordinated multilateral system through its development aid policy. In a context of constrained resources, prioritizing efficiency, coherence and measurable impact will be key to maximising results. Norway's continued leadership in promoting flexible and coordinated funding will play an essential role in ensuring agility and more sustainable and effective outcomes across the aid ecosystem. In this regard, Norway could **further expand predictable, flexible and unearmarked multi-year funding** to multilateral partners, enabling longer-term strategic planning and adaptive responses on the ground. Such approaches can improve sequencing across the humanitarian-development nexus, strengthen accountability for results and reduce transaction costs associated with short-term, projectized funding.

At the same time, Norway may wish to further promote **joint approaches across the multilateral system** by incentivizing UN partners to plan and deliver collectively at country level. This would help **reduce fragmentation and enhance coherence and impact**. Building on its strong tradition of innovation, Norway could also support **new financing approaches and instruments**, including co-financing with the private sector, diaspora engagement mechanisms and pooled funding arrangements, to mobilize additional resources and demonstrate scalable models for other donors. Finally, there is an opportunity to further strengthen the effectiveness of development cooperation by supporting more **coherent and coordinated responses** that connect interventions and objectives across entire migration corridors to achieve broader impact.

Across these recommendations, the ability to collect, analyse and act on human mobility data will be essential for strengthening preparedness, enabling anticipatory action and supporting evidence-based decision-making. As digital technologies, big data and artificial intelligence increasingly shape development cooperation, Norway can help ensure they are used responsibly, in a rights-based and human-centred manner. Continued investment in collaborative learning and knowledge exchange would further support the adaptation and scaling of effective and innovative approaches for broader, system-wide impact.

As Norway refines its development policy under Project Vendepunkt, integrating migration as a cross-cutting enabler of prevention, stability and sustainable development will be key to maximizing impact. IOM remains a committed partner to the Government of Norway and stands ready to support its forward-looking, results-oriented approaches that respond to today's complex human mobility and development challenges and opportunities.