



Norwegian Ministry of Finance

Report

Norwegian Ministry of
Foreign Affairs

One year closer 2019

Norway`s progress towards the implementation of
the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development





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Preface

We are pleased to introduce the annual report on Norway's follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This report shows that our efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals can turn challenges into opportunities. By seeking to combat poverty and climate change, we are also compelled to find innovative solutions in other areas.

The report confirms that we are moving in the right direction. Norway has, according to the OECD, achieved 25 of the 102 relevant indicators, and is not far from reaching several others. Status for the five goals under special review at the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) 2019, signals that Norway is in a good position to realise the 2030 Agenda at national level.

Primary and lower secondary education are compulsory in Norway. Around 98 % of pupils go on to upper secondary education (SDG4). Overall, pupils' proficiency in mathematics and reading is improving. Norway has a low rate of unemployment, and having a business-friendly environment combined with active employment policies helps vulnerable groups to enter the labour market (SDG8).

Most people in Norway enjoy a high standard of living, and income inequality is low. Our goal of achieving a sustainable welfare society has led the Government to put in place extensive policies to provide equal opportunities for all. Generous social services and a progressive tax and transfer system contribute to the redistribution of income and wealth. Access to quality education, comprehensive social policies and a strong

push to create more employment opportunities are important contributions to equal opportunities for all Norwegians (SDG10).

Norway has a target of reducing carbon emissions by at least 40 % compared with 1990 levels by 2030. Levies on fossil fuels have been increased, the use of oil for heating has been banned and there are strong incentives to encourage the use of plug-in hybrid cars and electric cars (SDG13).

The new Equality and Anti-Discrimination Act (2018) prohibits discrimination in any form. The Government gives high priority to reducing the prevalence of domestic violence (SDG16).

Norway has over the decades benefitted greatly from the multilateral system. However, the international arena is changing rapidly. Multilateralism is under pressure, and is being challenged by more transactional, zero-sum politics.

Norway is a consistent and trusted partner, and a staunch supporter of a rules-based multilateral order. We have shown, through decades of active diplomacy that we speak with an independent voice and in support of a rules-based world order.

Norway plays an active role in national, regional and global partnerships to promote inclusive development. We see development as inextricably linked to peace and stability. Universal health coverage and education for all are key priorities for Norway. Globally, life

Norway has a target of reducing carbon emissions by at least 40 % compared with 1990 levels by 2030.

expectancy has increased and infant mortality rates have fallen. The number of pupils, and especially girls, that receive primary and secondary education has never been higher.

Equality in dignity and rights is a principle enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Norway's support for people with disabilities in the developing world has increased significantly. This report reaffirms our commitment to leaving no one behind.

The High-level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy, co-chaired by the Prime Minister of Norway and the Prime Minister of Palau, recognises that economic production and ocean protection are integral to the SDGs. An Action Agenda will be presented in 2020.

With only 11 years to go before 2030, we have no time to lose. Making funding available through domestic resource mobilisation will be essential building the support needed to achieve the SDGs. Norway's commitment to providing 1 % of GNI to official development assistance stands firm, and we urge others to follow suit.

Good governance is vital. Protecting human rights, combating illicit financial flows and supporting an equitable legal system and sound macroeconomic policies are all crucial if we are to succeed.

Norway will continue to be a consistent partner for our common future. We will play an active role in mobilising support for the 2030 Agenda, nationally as well as internationally, in cooperation with our partners.



Ine Eriksen Søreide
The Minister of
Foreign Affairs

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ine Eriksen Søreide".



Dag-Inge Ulstein
The Minister of
International Development

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dag-Inge Ulstein".



Siv Jensen
The Minister of
Finance

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Siv Jensen".

Prime Minister Solberg

“At a time when we need more, not less, global cooperation, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is the roadmap that ensures everyone wins, even at the national level,” says Prime Minister Solberg.

Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg was recently reappointed by UN Secretary General António Guterres to a new term as Co-Chair of the SDG Advocacy Group, together with H.E. President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo of Ghana.

The co-chairs and members of the group have a mandate to push for results throughout the world on all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Since the very first High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, Prime Minister Solberg has promoted the SDG agenda as the main track for successfully and sustainably addressing challenges that confront political leaders and citizens around the world.

Governments working in isolation will be unable to achieve sustainable development. Success requires local, national and international partnerships consisting of political leaders, business leaders, civil society organisations, labour unions, employers’ organisations, academic institutions and faith-based groups as well as the efforts of every citizen.

As the world nears the 10-years-to-go mark, in 2020, we must make the most of 2019 to achieve and demonstrate the results that will pave the way for a Decade of Delivery through 2030.



Executive summary

When world leaders adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), they also made a commitment to report annually on the results they achieved, both at home and abroad, in the lead-up to 2030.

This report presents Norway's efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for the year 2018, at both the national and international level.

Stakeholders from civil society, business and industry, trade unions, academia and the coordinating ministries have all reported on their contributions to achieving the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

This report does not attempt to give an exhaustive account of Norway's follow-up of the SDGs. Its aim is to provide a snapshot of achievements at the national and international levels, and to identify issues that need to be addressed before 2030.

There is a relatively high level of public awareness about the 2030 Agenda in Norway – and it is increasing. The Government will continue to give priority to awareness-raising in the coming year. To a growing extent, the 2030 Agenda in general and the SDGs in particular are guiding operational planning in companies, organisations, local government and academia. At the same time, the Government is under pressure from stakeholders who are urging Norway to acknowledge the remaining challenges and to move away from a 'business as usual' approach, and to do even more to ensure that Norway's efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda have the intended transformative effect.

At the domestic level, implementation is largely on track: Norwegians enjoy universal access to drinking water and clean energy, and there is a low crime rate and universal health care. The level of inequality is low and the economy is stable. All of these factors are contributing to the achievement of the SDGs at home.

Nevertheless, Norway also faces challenges at the national level, when it comes to drop-out rates in the education system (SDG 4), emissions (SDG 13), preservation of biodiversity (SDG 15) and marine litter, which is threatening the health of our oceans (SDG 14).

It is now four years since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. This report also shows that Norway's international cooperation is geared towards promoting the 2030 Agenda and its implementation. Norway's primary areas of engagement are health, education, agriculture and renewable energy, climate, environment and the oceans, private sector development, and humanitarian support. In addition, women's rights and gender equality, human rights, climate change and environment and anti-corruption are cross-cutting issues in all our efforts.

The principle of 'leaving no one behind' is at the core of the 2030 Agenda, and underpins all Norway's efforts to implement the Agenda. As this report shows, reaching the most vulnerable and marginalised people involves addressing complex and multidimensional challenges, including power relations between key actors in the country or region concerned.

The role of civil society in its broadest sense is indispensable in our joint efforts to incorporate the SDGs into all our planning, monitoring and evaluation practices. If the 2030 Agenda is to be within reach, it is vital that we take an integrated approach to pursuing the goals.

The report has three main parts. First, it presents the global leadership role of Prime Minister Erna Solberg. The second part focuses on important domestic partnerships, the principle of leaving no one behind and UN Reform. The final part provides an overview of Norway's follow-up of the 17 SDGs at the national and international levels.

“Leave no one behind”

To leave no one behind (LNOB) is a key commitment of the 2030 Agenda and therefore a priority in all development efforts. Ending extreme poverty in all its forms, reducing inequalities, addressing discriminatory barriers and inclusive politics are vital measures in order to realize LNOB.

Adopting a human rights approach to LNOB can help draw attention to the structural reasons why certain groups, individuals or countries remain excluded from the benefits of an inclusive development.

While the underlying reasons for being identified as marginalised or vulnerable are complex and multi-dimensional, socio-economic conditions and power relations are often part of the mix

Some Norwegian activities in support of LNOB are highlighted below

The right to identity is a human right. Norwegian health assistance is directed to support birth and cause-of-death registers, health information systems, use of data for planning and other ways of learning how to include people left behind. Norwegian Institute of Public Health follows up register activities in selected countries. The University of Oslo contributes to the development of health information systems in many countries. Telenor is successfully supporting birth registration on a mobile platform in Pakistan.

Modern slavery is one of the greatest human rights challenges in today’s global economy.

Modern slavery is one of the greatest human rights challenges in today’s global economy. Victims are among those at risk of being left behind as many countries develop. The Norwegian government continues to support contributions to ending modern slavery. A prime objective is to achieve slavery-free supply chains in vulnerable industries.

Commitment to sustainability and inclusion are key triggers for Norwegian support to civil society organisations. Civil society stakeholders often know a great deal about excluded, marginalised and vulnerable groups, and are often well positioned to reach them. Norwegian support to the Atlas Alliance, an umbrella organisation of Norwegian NGOs working for the rights of people with disabilities, is a good example.

Inclusive policies have an equalising effect. By cooperating directly with diverse government institutions in partner countries, Norway helps to strengthen those countries’ own ability to implement policies. Improving statistics (in cooperation with Statistics Norway) is one way to shore up the knowledge base for policy development and implementation.

Research is another way to boost knowledge. Norway supports the NORGLOBAL research programme, whose targets include marginalised groups and vulnerable states. Norway also supports the Inclusive Education Initiative (IEI), a multi-donor trust fund supporting countries in making education progressively inclusive for children with disabilities.

National Partnerships



SDGs and the universities in Norway

In 2016/2017 academicians at the University of Bergen started exploring how to engage *the whole of the university* in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The goal was to allow the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs to inspire teaching and curriculums, determine research and outreach and transform how universities act within their network and how they take ethical responsibility for use and abuse of knowledge in a globalised world. The first conference in 2018 centred on the transformative shift of the 2030 Agenda and outlined an “SDG direction” for the university sector in Norway.

During the conference, the University of Bergen took the initiative to form a National Committee for the 2030 Agenda in the university sector. The committee enlists Norway’s largest universities as well as student organisations and government ministries in the work of Agenda 2030 nationally.



The interconnectedness of SDGs, including some debate over inconsistencies, energises researchers and stimulates cross-disciplinary cooperation.

The conference in 2019 was a product of cooperation between universities to promote ideas for change, generate mutual learning and promote best practices. The universities have agreed to create a platform for sharing ideas and best practices to help reform disciplines and curriculums in line with the SDG challenges. The interconnectedness of SDGs, including some debate over inconsistencies, energises researchers and stimulates cross-disciplinary cooperation. A common knowledge base for promoting and understanding the eco-social-environmental paradigm of the 2030 Agenda is evolving.

The National Committee for the 2030 Agenda seeks to make the university sector a force in national 2030 Agenda implementation. Under the leadership of the Committee, the university sector takes responsibility for mediating what its participants see as relevant knowledge. Interaction with government ministries is ongoing. Representations at UN high-level forums and contributions to the public have grown in scale. These policy-knowledge interface will be prioritised in years to come.

Civil Society

Civil society plays a key role in achieving the SDGs. The Guiding Principles for Support to Civil Society (2018) describe the SDGs as a shared vision for the future. These principles emphasise the role of the state in terms of responsibility, national ownership, review and follow-up of the SDG implementation process, and call for “intensive engagement” by civil society.

Efforts designed to achieve one goal might undermine or counteract pursuit of another goal. Initiatives to alleviate poverty (SDG 1) and reduce inequality (SDG 10), for example, can have a negative effect on indicators and targets for responsible consumption and production (SDG 12).

This challenge, however, also presents an opportunity. The SDGs arose from a comprehensive view of global challenges such as environmental degradation, inequality and poverty and an understanding that such challenges are interlinked and must be addressed both globally and regionally across sectors and thematic areas. That is what makes the 2030 Agenda transformative, – a transformation still to be realized. This makes the civil society partners call for concerted efforts to build an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future for our people and the planet.

The support to civil society, amounting to about 25 per cent of the total Norwegian aid budget, is being tuned to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Here follows a few selected examples (out of many) on how the civil society engages with the global goals:

SDG1 – Ending poverty:

Norwegian civil society partners in the South play an important role in the advances these countries make to achieve SDG 1. SOS Children’s Villages supports children who have lost their parents or who live in at-risk families both globally and in Norway. The organisation’s partners help parents and caregivers to obtain decent work (SDG 8) and access to children’s

education (SDG 4). Parents of disabled children learn how to provide parental support. Support to the Strømme Foundation translated into more than 228 000 jobs since 2014. Four years later more than a quarter of the target group are elevated out of poverty.

SDG 2 – Ending hunger:

Norwegian civil society addresses SDG 2 in a variety of ways. To confront the causes of poverty and ensure food security for farming communities in Sri Lanka, Caritas Norway provides training in pond fish culture to reduce malnutrition. The Development Fund (DF) contributes to food and nutrition security for small farmers, including female small farmers. Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) methods lead to increased and better crops. Thereby small farmers have better food supply and improved financial security.

SDG 3 – Global health and well-being:

In 2018, the Norwegian Nurses Organisation (NNO) worked with its sister organisations in Malawi and Rwanda to improve pay and working conditions for nurses and midwives. Training provided a more qualified healthcare workforce and new leadership opportunities for women. Norway’s National Association for Heart and Lung Disease, is working to end the tuberculosis (TB) epidemic at home and abroad (Target 3.3). There are about 300 new cases of TB in Norway every year. Globally, more than 10 million people get TB every year, – 1,6 million die annually. Unless accelerated efforts are put in place, the world will not achieve the global target of reducing the TB incidence by 80 per cent and reducing TB deaths by 90 per cent by 2030.

Mercy Ships provided access to safe, timely and affordable surgeries for more than 2000 people in 2018. Mercy Ships is important to reach the marginalized and poor people that otherwise would not receive medical treatment. The organization also builds long-term capacity by also train local medical personnel.

Organizations like Norwegian Church Aid, Save the Children, CARE Norge, Fokus, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and Marie Stope's International are important for the operational and normative work on Sexual and Reproductive Health. Through these organizations people get access to family planning information and tools in hard to reach areas.

SDG 4 – Quality education:

Norway's Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) has provided in-service training for primary teachers in South Sudan. In Myanmar the agency partners with ethnic minority teacher training centres and in Thailand ADRA operates development program for both primary, technical and vocational education (TVET) teachers. In line with target 4.3, the Norwegian Students' and Academics' International Assistance Fund (SAIH) supports the national student union in Colombia in its efforts to enhance academic freedom and ensure access to higher education. In 2018, the student union played a vital role in securing funding for higher education and promoting higher education as a right.

Save the Children Norway leads on education within Save the Children International, and is an essential service provider and advisor to the Norwegian Government in the area of global education.

Strømme Foundation supports children to achieve an education in several countries in the Sahel. Through their Speed Schools programme, children go through an accelerated learning programme enabling them to re-enter the school system.

SDG 5 – Gender equality:

The Strømme Foundation strengthens partners through a one-year adolescent empowerment programme for female teenagers. It provides alternative education for out-of-school adolescents from marginalised communities in Nepal and Bangladesh. The programme teaches life skills, literacy and vocational

skills. From 2014 to 2017, the programme helped prevent 1 100 child marriages. The prevalence of child marriage has been reduced by 50 per cent in programme locations. The fact that girls have returned to school, testify to the interrelationship between SDG 5 and SDG 4.

SDG 6 – Clean water and sanitation:

Norwegian Church Aid has worked on conflict transformation through livelihood recovery in South Sudan. Lack of access to water has been a driver of conflict. After two years of implementing the programme, including the drilling of water wells and establishing local seed distribution centres, the prevalence of local conflict has declined.

SDG 7 – Affordable and clean energy:

The Norwegian branch of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and its partners have helped five new districts in Uganda to form district-level renewable energy strategies. The aim is to increase the public's access to energy, including access to solar energy and sustainable bioenergy for households, businesses, health clinics and schools.

SDG 8 – Decent work and economic growth:

The Norwegian youth organisation Changemaker works with partners for a more just tax system, while reducing debt and capital flight. The Norwegian Association of Disabled (NAD) has supported an economic empowerment project in Uganda since 2006. Best practices from this programme were replicated in a new programme in Malawi. A significant increase was reported in the number of people with disabilities engaged in income-generating activities.

SDG 9 – Industry, innovation and infrastructure:

Although infrastructure projects have a positive impact, they also hold potential negative consequences for people and the natural environment. Civil society actors can facilitate dialogue, and affected populations can organise and advocate. WWF Norway built capacity in Kenya and Tanzania in Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) guidelines and policies in 2018. The policies enable inclusive decision-making in the early stages of infrastructure projects and improved environmental impact assessments.



SDG 10 – Reduced inequality:

People with disabilities have fewer economic opportunities than those without disabilities. This imbalance can create inequality. The Atlas Alliance works to extend the benefits of decent work and economic growth to people with disabilities. The alliance provides entrepreneurship and vocational training. Access to formal financial services such as microfinance and informal financial services such as saving and credit groups, are key stepping stones for change.

SDG 11 – Sustainable cities and communities:

More than half the world’s population now lives in urban areas. Cities are already by far the largest consumers of energy, and account for 80 per cent of the world greenhouse gas emissions. The Norwegian youth organisation Spire has, in collaboration with the Oslo City Council and the Norwegian Farmers’ Union, organised lectures and workshops on urban farming to increase understanding of how food is produced, and urban alternative production. Increased knowledge about food production can lead to less food waste.

SDG 12 – Responsible consumption and production:

Decoupling economic growth from resource use is one of the most critical and complex challenges of today. The environmental impact of consumer goods production and consumption has led Norwegian civil society to explore the human and environmental impact of imported goods. The Norwegian organisation Future in Our Hands helped to increase awareness about working conditions and wage levels in the Turkish textile industry and its supply chains. Civil society organisations have also worked to establish an ethics information law to ensure that consumers, organisations, the media and others have the right to learn where and how products are produced.

SDG 13 – Climate action:

Norway offers support for climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing countries. The single largest programme is Norway’s International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI) with an allocation of around USD 300 million in 2018. This includes support to non-governmental organisations, including civil society. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation could deliver a quarter of the climate change mitigation the world needs to stay on a



two degrees warming pathway. Changemaker considers actions so far are insufficient to reach the goals set by the Paris Agreement. Non-governmental organisations insist that companies must see their corporate responsibilities in a holistic manner and make progress on all goals set out in the 2030 Agenda.

SDG 14 – Life below water:

Plastic waste in the oceans is a pressing global concern that has received increasing attention in Norway and in Norwegian international development policy. The World Wildlife Fund (WWF), in line with Target 14.5, advocates conservation of at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas by 2020. According to WWF, Norway is far from fulfilling this SDG target, as less than 2 per cent of marine waters in Norway's exclusive economic zone are protected.

SDG 15 – Life on land:

To protect the rainforests, Rainforest Foundation Norway advocates improved safeguards and ambitions in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the UN's specialised air navigation agency. Rainforest Foundation Norway works to promote the inclusion of forest management in national climate targets. This work has drawn attention and sparked media reports in several other countries.

SDG 16 – Peace, justice and strong institutions:

Seven of the 10 largest countries receiving Norwegian aid in 2018 were affected by conflict and crisis, and 13 per cent of Norwegian aid was allocated to governance in 2017. Reducing illicit financial flows is the main SDG focus of the Norwegian branch of Tax Justice Network (TJNN). Domestic resource mobilisation is high on the agenda in partnerships with several research institutions. At national level, TJNN has urged Norway to be proactive in promoting better international standards for financial transparency. In 2018 TJNN participated in parliamentary hearings on a proposed registry for beneficial owners, an indicator relating to SDG Target 16.4.

SDG 17 – Partnerships for the goals:

Debt Justice Norway (DJN) monitors debt sustainability in developing countries. Almost half of low-income countries are now in high risk of a new debt distress. A debt crisis could derail sustainable development. Therefore, DJN focuses on Target 17.4, which calls for assisting development countries in attaining long term debt sustainability by strengthening global systems to ensure responsible lending and borrowing. DJN also works to strengthen global debt resolution systems so that restructuring can take place in a predictable, equitable and effective manner, conducive to attaining the SDGs.

Norad, NOREC and Statistics Norway

Norad and the 2030 Agenda

The white paper *Common Responsibility for Common Future* (Meld. St. 24 (2016–2017)) was developed to follow up the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Norwegian international development policy. This white paper forms the basis for Norad's grant management of NOK 10 billion (USD 1.15 billion) in 2018. The overall goal of Norwegian aid is poverty reduction within the SDG framework. Hence, programmes supported by Norad are linked to the SDGs.

Norec (Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation) and the 2030 Agenda

The reciprocal exchange programmes between South and North are the key instruments for realizing the SDGs. Norec's recent relocation to Norway's west coast allows for closer interaction with the many ocean-related industries addressing multiple SDGs. Given that SDG14 is a priority, this offers a welcome opportunity to enrol more such enterprises in the exchange programmes. As a Centre of Excellence, Norec will approach knowledge distribution and results communication more systematically. This is in line with the BAPA +40 outcome document, which concludes that personnel exchange is an important means to strengthening south-south cooperation on the SDGs.

The reciprocal exchange programmes between South and North are the key instruments for realizing the SDGs.

Statistics Norway and the SDGs

Norway is committed to delivering data through existing reporting mechanisms and encourages open statistical data and the reuse of already reported figures internationally, including for Global SDG Indicators and monitoring. The intention is to publish relevant SDG indicators on a suitable platform to facilitate transparency in national reporting consistent with the needs of local stakeholders, civil society and businesses.

Through statistical capacity development, Norway is working towards SDG Targets 17.18 and 17.19, which pertain to data, monitoring and accountability, as well as Target 16.9 on birth registration for all. In 2018 Statistics Norway implemented NOK 22 million (USD 2.5 million) in development projects to strengthen statistical capacity in Ghana, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mozambique, Uganda, Ukraine, Sudan, Somalia, as well as in several cross-cutting projects.

The research project "Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 2: the connection between poverty and food security," analysed the benefits of utilising household budget surveys for food security and poverty analyses in Malawi and Sudan. Further, Statistics Norway, the Norwegian Tax Administration, the Norwegian Mapping Authority and the Brønnøysund Register Centre have teamed up in partner countries to facilitate use of data for administrative purposes and statistics production. Along with national statistics offices in Denmark and Sweden, Statistics Norway presented register-based statistics at the second World Data Forum in Dubai in October 2018.



Norad: Communicating the SDGs in Norway

If the Sustainable Development Goals are to be achieved, they must become known to the public. The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) has been mandated by the Storting (Norway's parliament) to carry out an information programme to increase awareness of the SDGs in the Norwegian population. The goal for 2020 is that 60 per cent of the Norwegian population is familiar with the SDGs, up from 53 per cent in 2018.

Among Norwegians, the communication concept links the SDGs to Norway's culture of outdoor life, where cooperation and community are strongly valued. In the Night Treks for the Sustainable Development Goals, participants take to Norway's hiking trails under the night-time sky. Mountain peaks all over Norway, from Oslo and Ålesund to Gaustatoppen and Keiserarden (in Bodø), are attractive goals.

These treks are built around the pillars *unique*, *spectacular*, *safe* and *accessible*. Collaborating with the Norwegian Trekking Association (DNT) and the Norwegian Red Cross ensure a positive hiking experience. These treks attract politicians, civil society, businesses, editorial media and most importantly, the general population. 48 000 have participated in the treks so far, and 10 million have viewed the information videos. See video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mzcyt9fNIBU>

Reform in the UN development system

Success of reforms in the UN development system requires commitment and leadership in all the organisations, as well as collaboration at headquarters to strengthen results-based management and remove obstacles to wider collaboration and greater efficiency.

Norway is a consistent partner and strong promoter of UN collaboration and coherence at country level. Since the early phase of the Delivering as One approach, this commitment has been reflected in our funding profile. Over the years, Norway has been a major contributor of voluntary core funding to many UN organisations and an early and major contributor to global and country-level joint UN funds and programmes. Annual monitoring of the Delivering as One implementation confirms that UN country teams have enhanced coordination and collaboration, especially in countries that have asked the UN to operate according to this modality.

The call for integrated approaches in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development heightened expectations that the UN development system would work more collaboratively in providing support to host countries. Norway engaged actively in negotiating General Assembly resolution 71/243 – the *Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system* – and is pleased with the outcome. This broad-based resolution is the main instrument to better position United Nations operational activities for development to support countries in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda in a coherent and integrated manner.

Norway supports the Secretary General's approach to the reform process. In particular, we are pleased that member states agreed to establish impartial, independent and empowered Resident Coordinator positions to lead UN country teams. Norway also backs the decision to make the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) the main instrument for planning and implementation of UN activities.

We stay committed to engaging actively in implementing the reforms. We expect the governing bodies of UN funds, programmes and special agencies to take steps to ensure that their policies and guidelines are in full alignment with the provisions of the two reform resolutions.

Norway welcomes the Funding Compact between member states and the UN Sustainable Development Group. Norway is prepared to do its part. We will consider further increasing the level of core contributions and support to inter-agency pooled funds. Multi-year indicative pledges for such contributions were introduced in 2019. The Joint Fund for the 2030 Agenda, to which Norway contributed USD 15 million, is a key instrument for facilitating integrated and cross-sectoral implementation.

Norway is a consistent partner and strong promoter of UN collaboration and coherence at country level.



White paper on Multilateral Cooperation

In June 2019, the Government presented a new white paper to the Storting (Norway's parliament) on Norway's role and interests in multilateral cooperation. Binding international cooperation is crucial for Norway's security, economic strength and welfare. While until recently such cooperation could be taken for granted, the inclination to use multilateral organisations to solve common challenges through compromise and cooperation appears now to have weakened. That is why a central goal of Norwegian foreign policy for the years ahead is to support binding international cooperation and the multilateral system, thereby strengthening our ability to address common challenges and safeguard Norwegian and global interests.

For the future Norway must give priority to reforms to make institutions more efficient and representative, while seeking closer cooperation with like-minded countries in Europe. This will require collaboration on shared issues with countries that are different from Norway, as well as strengthening Norway's public administrative focus on multilateral issues and ensuring that multilateral efforts receive adequate resources and appropriate expertise.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) underpin Norway's involvement in the multilateral system. Achieving the SDGs will require us to view challenges in health, the environment and economic development in larger contexts. Norway will do its part to support the multilateral system to enable the organisations within it to achieve the goals.

The sustainable development goals



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represents a universal call to action. The following pages highlight national and international partnerships in support of the SDGs. Also for Norway will reaching the goals with their many targets require a high level of commitment. The status report that follows tells how the public sector implements the SDGs. It confirms that Norway's follow-up is well underway. Many goals are within reach, others will require hard work to accomplish.



"The 2030 Agenda is our roadmap and its goals and targets are tools to get there."

- UN Secretary-General António Guterres

1 NO POVERTY

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

National level

The majority of the population in Norway enjoys a high standard of living. From an international perspective, prevalence of poverty in Norway is limited.

The most common poverty indicator applied nationally is the share of the population with an income below 60 per cent of a three-year average of the median income. According to this indicator, 9.6 per cent of the population live in households with a persistent low income (approximately 10 per cent for women and 9 per cent for men). The share of the population living in low-income households was relatively stable from 2000 to 2010, but has risen slightly since then. This may be related to the aftermath of the financial crises, the fall in oil prices in 2014 (which dampened economic growth and employment) and demographic changes due to immigration.

Norway's general income level has increased over a long period, and low-income groups have also benefited from the rise in real income. In the past few years, the rise in Norwegian household income has weakened. Some groups, such as families with small children and single parents, have experienced a real-income decline in some years.

Low income among the elderly has been significantly reduced over time, due to an increase in the minimum pension as well as higher earnings and a higher pension basis for new retirees. The proportion of young single people and single parents with low income has increased. For immigrants, the proportion remains at a high level.

Though the prevalence of low income has risen somewhat, poverty defined as a lack of basic material needs remains at a stable low level. Because of Norway's high level of general prosperity, persons in low-income households do face the risk of being unable to take part in society on equal terms due to economic constraints.

The number of children growing up in low-income families has increased in recent decades. About 106 000 children live in families with persistent low income, which accounts for 10.7 per cent of all children. More than half of these families have an immigration background. Children living in single-parent households are especially at risk.

The increase in child poverty is of special concern to the Government due to the negative consequences of poverty on children's quality of life and prospects. A wide range of measures have been implemented to give children in



Proportion of various groups with persistent low income. Per cent

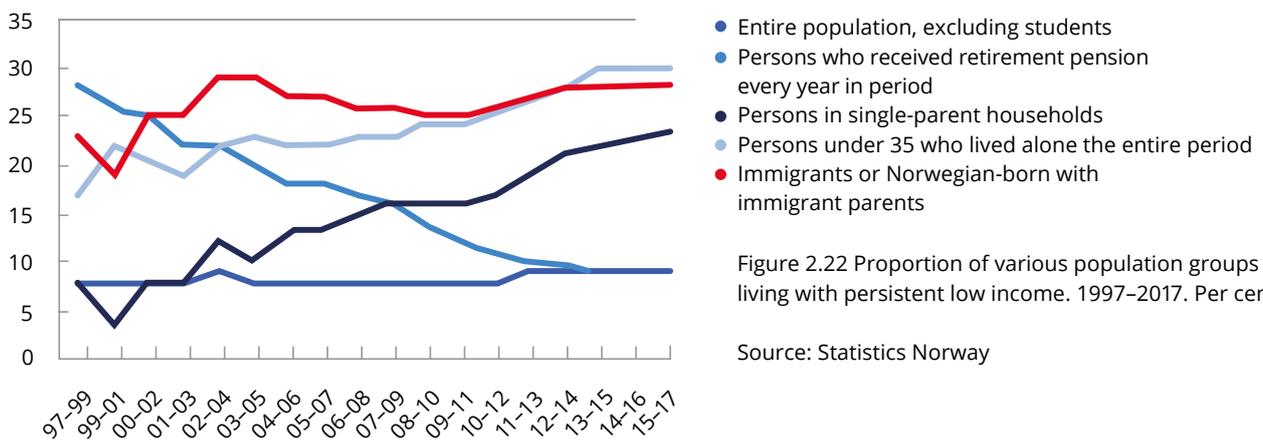


Figure 2.22 Proportion of various population groups living with persistent low income. 1997–2017. Per cent

Source: Statistics Norway

economically disadvantaged families equal opportunities to participate in social and learning activities. Such measures include free part-time access to day care and reduced parental contributions for low-income families as well as a national grant scheme for leisure and holiday activities. To prevent intergenerational transmission of poverty, measures targeting vulnerable parents and families with multiple problems are also in place.

Low income in Norway is mainly associated with weak or non-existent attachment to the labour market. Increased work participation is the most important measure to reduce poverty. A nationwide labour market inclusion effort mobilises employers and other stakeholders to include people with disabilities and people who lack work experience. A new youth effort has been implemented to improve employment and activity rates

Low income in Norway is mainly associated with weak or non-existent attachment to the labour market.

for people under age 30. Integration measures are also being implemented in the immigrant population to improve language skills, job skills and employment.

Income security schemes and a social safety net reduce the extent and severity of poverty in Norway. Universal and free access to education, health and welfare services make a substantial contribution to the living conditions of low-income and other vulnerable groups.

International level

The overall aim of Norwegian development assistance is to fight poverty. Norway's commitment to help eradicate poverty and provide development assistance currently amounts to about one per cent of Norwegian GNI. The high level of development cooperation funding continues to enjoy broad political and popular support.

Fighting poverty while "leaving no one behind" requires promoting human rights and equality. Enabling the transition from living in poverty to sustainable living is a key focus. Norwegian international development cooperation aims to be people centred, climate smart and gender sensitive, promoting human rights and prioritising those who are most in need, including marginalised and vulnerable groups.

A World Bank report released in September 2018 showed that fewer people are living in extreme poverty around the world. However, but the decline in poverty rates has slowed, highlighting the need for an increase in pro-poor investments. Extreme poverty is also increasingly concentrated in one region, sub-Saharan Africa. The advances and setbacks that countries there experience will determine whether the world succeeds in achieving SDG 1. African countries south of Sahara remains a priority region for Norwegian international development cooperation. It includes major programmes and projects implemented by a variety of partners in sectors such as health, education, food security, climate and renewable energy.





2 ZERO HUNGER

Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

National level

Food security in Norway is good and is based upon the following three pillars: Sustainable management of resources for food production; continuous production of safe food from land and sea, and a well-functioning and fair trade system.

As a leading seafood nation, Norway emphasizes the role of the ocean as a key provider of food, nutrition and livelihood in the implementation of the Decade of Action on Nutrition. Reducing food loss and waste is by far the cheapest and most environmentally friendly way to increase food supply globally. Less food lost or wasted will make more food available without adding pressure to the environment, including the ocean. SDG 12.3 on reduced food loss and waste is also important to achieve SDGs 2 and 14.

National food security and Norway's path towards achieving SDG 2 hinge on a combination of political goals at the national level. Likewise, it hinges on international cooperation and regulations to ensure safe food through trade with international partners. Food

safety regulations are harmonized through the EEA Treaty, and Norway is an active participant in ongoing efforts to develop and adapt policies and regulations – in close cooperation with stakeholders in Norway.

The nutritional status of the Norwegian population is satisfactory. However, as in many other countries, the lack of physical activity and unhealthy diets triggering obesity, remain a challenge. The indicators for measuring nutritional status under SDG 2 are 2.2.1 and 2.2.2, respectively (childhood stunting and childhood obesity). There are no data available for Norway for indicator 2.2.1. Indicator 2.2.2, however, shows that the current situation is not acceptable: In 2016 26,5 % of children and 23 % of adults were overweight or obese.

Environmental degradation and climate change challenge food production.



2 ZERO HUNGER



The Government's cross-sectorial action plan for healthier and better diets (2017 – 2021) with, inter alia, measures and initiatives for schools, kindergartens and the health services, is the main political instrument to counter this development. Partnership and collaboration with the industry is an important and integral part of the action plan. In this context, it is vital to recognize the links between healthy diets, food production and sustainable development.

Environmental degradation and climate change challenge food production. 2018 was a challenging year for Norwegian farmers due to serious and long-lasting drought. Food production in Norway, both from in agricultural sector and in the maritime sector, will for decades to come be dependent on the adaptability of the sectors to climate change.

The Government has decided that Norway is to reduce its emissions of greenhouse gases by at least 40 % by 2030 as compared to 1990 levels. Emissions from the agricultural sector are included in this ambitious goal. Agriculture must therefore carry out its share of reductions as far as possible. It is essential that total greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture are reduced.

Genetic resources in conservation facilities

This indicator measures the number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium- or long-term conservation facilities. Plant genetic resources of cultivated plants are conserved in a dual procedure; seed propagated crops are conserved at NordGen in joint Nordic activities. Vegetatively propagated crops are conserved nationally in clonal archives. Amongst the latter are an in-vitro-archive for disease free potato and shallots, and a cryo-archive for securing mainly potato and strawberry. Norway has 333 species conserved in 22 clonal archives. This number includes ornamental, medicinal and aromatic plant species (Indicator 2.5.1).

In the archives an estimated total of 2440 accessions are conserved, with a preliminary redundancy level of 15 per cent. NordGen is responsible for long term conservation of Norwegian seed crops. Today, there is 2216 such accessions in NordGen from Norway. Of these, 114 are conserved temporarily.

Norway established the Svalbard Global Seed Vault in 2008. It is managed together with our partners, and is party to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya protocol.

The major crop groups are forages, cereals and vegetables. The accessions are stored in NordGen basic storage, active storage and secured at Svalbard Global Seed Vault. In addition, a number of animal genetic resources are conserved as frozen semen.

International level

The multilateral system is a key partner for Norway's support to SDG2. FAO, IFAD and WFP are close collaborators. Norway is pleased to support FAO's work related to amongst other areas Fall Army Worm and Antimicrobial Resistance. We also support the activities of IFAD's Facility for Refugees, Migrants, Forced Displacement and Rural Stability (FARMS) in Niger. The refugees participating in this program receive support to start producing their own food.

Norway has developed a strong portfolio of supporting agricultural research through the Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers (CGIAR). An example relates to increased production and consumption of a bio fortified variety of orange-fleshed sweet potato (OFSP), rich in vitamin A. Lack of this vitamin may lead to blindness as well as reduced growth and immunity. By increasing the consumption of the OFSP, the sight of hundred thousands of children have been saved.

Through research-based support for climate-smart agriculture in Mozambique, Norway has contributed to improved livelihood for 20.000 households. 61.000 small-scale farmers have benefited from this and output has increased significantly.

Norway supports nutrition programs. Due to slow pace to bend the curve on nutrition, Norway have provided funding to Power of Nutrition, Scaling up Nutrition and UNICEF.

Norway gives an annual contribution equal to 0.1 percent of the value of the agricultural seeds and plant material trade in Norway to the Benefit-sharing Fund of the International Plant Treaty. This annual contribution is made in recognition of the contribution that farmers in developing countries are making to preserve crop diversity. Norway also supports the ten-year project of the Global Crop Diversity Trust to collect and test crop wild relatives to identify climate resilience traits. Norway has established the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, which is managed with our partners, and is party to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya protocol.



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

National level

Norway has a well-developed system of universal health coverage. The system is supportive of the country's comparatively high life expectancy, which in 2018 was 84.5 years for women and 80.9 years for men, up from 84.2 and 80.6 respectively in 2016. Norway has decided to prioritise Targets 3.3, 3.4, 3.5 and 3.9. In addition, there are several other areas that influence overall health status, including antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

A steady decrease in both prescription and use of antibiotics in Norway has been a positive development. If the trend continues, the goal of a 30 per cent reduction will be reached by the end of 2020. In 2011, over 2 million prescriptions for antibiotics were filled in Norway, compared to 1.7 million in 2018. Antibiotic resistance in sexually transmitted infections, notably gonorrhoea, is an increasingly significant challenge. In 2017, 1 399 new cases were detected, increasing to 1 658 in 2018. The increase of repeated infections among men who have sex with men is particularly worrying in terms of antibiotic resistance.

Reporting on Indicator 3.3.1 shows a steady decrease in new HIV infections in Norway in the last decade. From 2017 to 2018, the number of new cases fell from 213 to 191. A national strategy against viral hepatitis was launched in 2018 to enhance national efforts already in place. A key part of the strategy centres on diagnosis in order to ensure effective treatment and reduce the incidence of hepatitis C by 90 per cent by 2023.

Hepatitis B incidence in Norway (Target 3.3.4) seems high compared to many other European countries, with 364 reported cases in 2017. This is due to the diagnosis of chronic, non-symptomatic cases when screening new residents from high-endemic countries. In 2018, 352 chronic cases were found compared to only 12 acute cases. In 2017 the vaccine against hepatitis B was included in the recommended general childhood immunisation programme.

With regard to Target 3.4, Norway saw an 21 per cent reduction in premature mortality from non-communicable diseases (NCD) between 2010 and 2017. Most of the reduction was in mortalities from heart disease and cancer, while mortalities from COPD and diabetes



appeared constant. There has also been an increase in people who are overweight and a statistically non-significant increase from 11 per cent to 12 per cent in daily smokers from 2017 to 2018. The overall number in daily smokers is down from 21 per cent in 2008. If Norway is to achieve Target 3.4 at national level, this calls for continued action against NCD risk factors.

The number of overdose deaths (Target 3.5) fell from 282 in 2016 to 243 in 2017, a 13 per cent decrease. This positive downward trend appeared in municipalities taking part in a national substance overdose project. To further address this health issue, Norway recently introduced a new national substance overdose strategy to strengthen prevention and treatment.

As to reducing illness and death caused by pollution (Target 3.9), Norwegian monitoring shows a stable or decreasing level of air pollution, with levels falling sharply from 2003 to 2015 due to targeted interventions. The main sources of air pollution are road traffic, wood burning and long-range pollution. The Global Burden of

Disease project estimates that 1 400 premature deaths per year in Norway can be attributed to fine fraction particulate matter measuring 2.5 micrometres and smaller. Although monitored levels of pollutants have declined, they require close attention.

International level

Global health remains a priority for Norway. Because we recognise the critical importance of health in nation building, we place universal health coverage (UHC) at the centre of our efforts. Alongside measures to achieve UHC, we must ensure that health promotion and health security are given high priority.

For 2019, Norway plans to allocate NOK 4.8 billion (USD 560 million) in development assistance for health. Norway targets aid to the poorest countries and supports countries in strengthening their systems and mobilising domestic resources.



Renewed commitment to food security and the promotion of good nutrition released NOK 50 million in new nutrition-related programmes to enhance health and education outcomes.

Norwegian investments in global health are primarily made through multilateral channels, including the Global Financing Facility for Women and Children's Health, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. All three focus on increasing access to the most vulnerable and marginalised in society, thus "leaving no one behind".

In Malawi, education of health personnel has been a priority for several years, especially in reducing maternal and child mortality. In 2018, four doctors and 320 nurses concluded their specialization in maternity medicine and a maternity ward in one of Malawi's southern districts.

To address the growing challenge of epidemic outbreaks, Norway supported establishment of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI, launched 2017). CEPI is a broad coalition which seeks to finance and coordinate the development of new vaccines to prevent and contain infectious disease epidemics.

Since 2016 Norway has scaled up efforts in support of girls' and women's rights to control and make decisions about their own sexuality and body. This is crucial for gender equity and crucial for fighting poverty and ensuring sustainable development. In this area, investing in education is paramount. Norwegian support to UNFPA, the UNAIDS and UN Women as well as non-governmental organisations, must be seen in this perspective.

Inadequate staffing challenges quality health services

In 2018 Norway partnered with the new Working for Health programme established by the WHO, ILO and OECD to support health worker recruitment, training,

and use. Further, Norway supports strengthening the health workforce through global health partnerships, research, higher education and capacity-building programmes at country level.

Better data is needed to plan services and identify who is being left behind. Norway invests and engages in the Health Data Collaborative to align international investment behind national health information systems. Furthermore, Norway supports the University of Oslo's work developing the District Health Information System (DHIS2). The system has been adopted in over 60 countries and will be introduced in another 20 countries within three years.

Renewed commitment to food security and the promotion of good nutrition released NOK 50 million (USD 5.8 million) in new nutrition-related programmes to enhance health and education outcomes.

The fragmentation of global health architecture and the need to improve technical assistance to countries led Prime Minister Solberg, President Akufo-Addo and Chancellor Merkel to ask WHO Director-General to lead a process to develop a joint action plan to enhance impact, collaboration and efficiency across organisations and programmes. WHO and its partners are preparing to launch the full plan during the UN General Assembly later this year.

Globally, political opposition to realising reproductive and sexual health and rights is a barrier to achieving SDGs and to the principle of leaving no one behind. Norway supports efforts to realise human rights and gender equality to ensure health for all.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

National level

Norway can demonstrate solid results and progress on many SDG 4 indicators. However, some challenges remain.

With respect to Indicator 4.1.1, 84.7 per cent of girls and 81.2 per cent of boys achieved above the minimum proficiency level in mathematics in the 2015 PISA Survey. In 2015, 90.8 per cent of girls and 79.5 per cent of boys achieved sufficient proficiency in reading. Overall, Norway has improved on mathematics and reading proficiency. While there was a distinct gender gap in favour of girls for reading, the gap has narrowed since 2009. In 2019, a government-appointed independent expert committee reported on why gender differences in school performance occur and proposed new policy measures.

Norway has 10 years of compulsory primary and lower secondary education (Indicator 4.1.4). In 2017, 98.1 per cent of pupils continued to upper secondary level. However, only 69.5 per cent of men who began upper secondary in 2012 had completed it after five years, compared to 79.8 per cent for women. The overall average was 74.5 per cent, an increase of 1.5 percentage

points from 2011 and around 5 percentage points more than for those who began in 2006. The dropout rate in upper secondary school remains a challenge for Norway.

In 2018, 97.6 per cent of children aged five attended kindergarten (Indicator 4.2.2), the same share as in 2012 and 2017. As regards Indicator 4.3.1, 60 per cent of 25- to 65-year-olds in 2017 had participated in formal and non-formal education and training in the past 12 months, a level similar to that of 2012. And for Indicator 4.3.2, 28.4 per cent of men aged 19 to 24 were enrolled in higher education in 2018, compared with 42.8 per cent of women. These figures were similar to those of 2017.

Norway addressed Indicator 4.7.1 in *Core curriculum – values and principles for primary and secondary education* (2017). This document states: “Schools shall facilitate for learning in the three interdisciplinary topics health and life skills, democracy and citizenship, and sustainable development.” A Statistics Norway report in 2017 was of relevance to Indicator 4.c.1. It showed that most upper secondary teachers were highly educated, while six per cent had not completed initial teacher education.



Photo: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs

International level

Education remains one of the five key priorities of Norwegian development policies. Norway's commitment to achieving SDG 4 is strong and, accordingly, its development assistance allocation to achieve this goal is substantial.

Most of the Norwegian support to education, totalling NOK 3.6 billion in 2017, is directed at Targets 4.1 and 4.5. To reach the most marginalised groups, Norway emphasises girls' education and supports inclusive education focusing on children with disabilities (Indicator 4.5.1). Also motivated by the principle of leaving no one behind, Norway was instrumental in establishing Education Cannot Wait to harmonise humanitarian and development assistance to education in crisis and emergencies. To further improve quality, Norway supports programmes on teacher policies (Indicator 4.c.1).

Norway's support for capacity building in higher education and research in developing countries involves more than 60 universities. Norway increased support to Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) through programmes such as Employment and

Skills for Eastern Africa. One goal is to provide relevant skills for employment and societal transformation (Indicator 4.3.1). Norway also supports programmes to increase digital skills (Indicator 4.4.1).

Since 2013 more than 250 study programmes have been developed, primarily at the master and PhD levels, with over 18 000 students enrolled (Target 4.3). Gender equality and human rights are mainstreamed through curriculums (Target 4.7) and research projects. Around 2 400 scholarships have been awarded (Indicator 4.b.1). In line with the principle of leaving no one behind, the scholarships are gender equitable and made available to under-represented groups including indigenous peoples (Indicator 4.5.1).

Born into an armed conflict, many children and youth in Colombia joined the armed forces or fled their hometowns, foreclosing the possibility of going to school. Education is fundamental for reconciliation and the integration of ex-combatants into civilian life. Following the peace agreement, both youth and adults in Colombia are now resuming their studies.

UNIO - Confederation of Unions for Professionals

The Confederation of Unions for Professionals (UNIO) represents educational groups and professions that are crucial to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While the SDGs belong in all phases of education, it is particularly relevant in institutions of higher learning. A major push for research and knowledge development is needed to foster the interdisciplinary nature of the SDG goals, and what they mean for the educational system.

Achieving the SDGs will require concrete changes throughout society. To equip change actors for the tasks they face, the knowledge area between academia and academic practitioners must be expanded.





5 GENDER EQUALITY

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

National level

Norway has a high degree of gender equality and ranks second out of 149 countries in the World Economic Forum's *Global Gender Gap Report*. The employment rate is nearly as high for women as for men. There are good parental benefits, extensive flexible work arrangements, a statutory right to leave to care for sick children and an entitlement to part-time work in connection with care of children under 12. Parents of young children have a statutory right to day care with a price cap, and day care is offered to young school-children outside school hours.

The gap between women's and men's pay has been reduced in the past decade and is smaller than in most countries. In 2018, women's pay was 87.1 per cent of men's pay (including both part-time and full-time employees). Gender differences in employment status (full-time/part-time), industry/sector, education, work experience, and skills and expertise are important factors in the pay gap, but do not fully explain it. Gender-based pay discrimination is prohibited by law.

The principle of non-discrimination is enshrined in Norway's Constitution. The Equality and Anti-Discrimination Act, which entered into force in January 2018, prohibits discrimination and obliges public authorities, employers and employer and employee organisations to work actively to promote equality and prevent discrimination.

To strengthen anti-discrimination efforts, the Equality and Anti-Discrimination Act will be enforced by the Anti-Discrimination Tribunal and the courts. The tribunal can impose fines, and it can award compensation in employment matters. This is a big step forward in making the protection against discrimination more effective.

In the Storting (Norway's parliament) 40.8 per cent of members are women. On municipal councils, 39 per cent of members are women and 28 per cent of chairpersons are women. The Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Finance are all women (Indicator 5.5.1).



In the public sector, women in managerial positions increased from 46 per cent of the total in 2013 to 53 per cent in 2017. The Government works to increase the number of women board chairpersons in state owned companies and has achieved positive results. In 2018, 45 per cent of board chairpersons were women, compared to 36 per cent in 2014. At the end of 2017, 24 per cent of CEOs in state-owned companies were women. On average, 37 per cent of the members of executive committees in state-owned companies were women (Indicator 5.5.2).

In the 200 largest private companies in Norway in 2018, only one of 10 CEOs was a woman. In the executive committees of those same companies, 22 per cent of the members were women. The Government wants to support efforts in the business sector to recruit managers from the entire population. A best-practices list titled “How to achieve gender balance at the top in business” has been distributed to the 500 largest Norwegian companies. The Government has allocated NOK 2 million to measures to increase the proportion of women in top business management positions.

The Government gives high priority to efforts to prevent and combat violence and sexual abuse, and it implements a wide range of action plans to this effect. A plan was presented in October 2016 to intensify domestic violence reduction efforts and to strengthen measures addressing the needs of children at risk of violence and abuse. A governmental action plan to prevent and combat rape was launched in March 2019. Recent research shows that Sami women are subjected to violence more frequently than women in the population at large. Sámediggi (the Sami parliament) and the Government have initiated further research on this topic.

In 2018 the police were notified of 3 509 cases of women subjected to violence in close relationships, including violence perpetrated by a current or former partner as well as violence committed by other family members, carers, etc. According to statistics obtained from the National Criminal Investigation Service, 25 people were killed in this way in Norway in 2018. Six of the victims were women killed by a present or former partner.



Photo: Getty Images

In 2013–2014 the Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies conducted a study and issued a report on the prevalence of violence and rape in Norway. In this cross-sectional study of Norwegian men and women between 18 and 75 years of age, 14.4 per cent of women reported “less severe” physical violence (pinching, scratching, hair pulling or slapping) by a romantic partner/ex-partner during their lifetime. 8.2 per cent of the women had been exposed to severe physical violence (kicked, strangled, beaten up) by a romantic partner/ex-partner. Two thirds of both male and female victims of severe violence from a partner/ex-partner were also exposed to controlling behaviour by a partner or ex-partner.

There are no existing statistics that fully address indicator 5.2.1 (violence on close relations). In 2018 the police were notified of 3 509 cases of women subjected to violence in close relationships, including violence perpetrated by a current or former partner as well as violence committed by other family members, carers, etc. According to statistics obtained from the National Criminal Investigation Service, the total number of people who were killed in Norway in 2018 was 25. Six of the victims were women killed by a present or former partner.

The 2013–2014 study on violence and rape in Norway conducted by the Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies is also relevant to this indicator. In this cross-sectional study of Norwegian men and women between 18 and 75 years of age, the prevalence of lifetime rape was shown to be 9.4 per cent for women. Of the women who reported rape, 49 per cent had been raped before the age of 18. There was no indication that rapes of young women had decreased over time. As many young as older women reported rape before the age of 18. Many of the women who reported rape had been afraid of being severely injured or killed (44 per cent) or were physically injured (29 per cent). Only a few of the women (11 per cent) who reported rape had had a medical examination or treatment in the initial weeks afterwards, and almost a third (29 per cent) had never told anyone about the rape.

International level

Norway prioritises gender equality in foreign and development policy through targeted programmes and as a cross-cutting issue. The focus areas are girls’ education, women’s political and economic empowerment, freedom from violence and harmful practices, and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

In 2018 the police were notified of 3 509 cases of women subjected to violence in close relationships.

In 2016, Norway launched an international “gender equality for development” programme (LIKE). The programme is designed for institutional cooperation in which partner countries can learn from Norwegian experience. To increase the number of countries benefitting from the programme, Norway expanded this programme in 2018.

Achieving gender equality by 2030 will require urgent action to eliminate the many root causes of discrimination that still curtail women’s rights in the private and public spheres. To ensure realisation of the SDGs, Norway is a strong supporter of UN Women’s mandate and contributes to women’s rights and gender equality both globally and at country level. UN Women received NOK 188 million (USD 22 million) in 2018.

In 2018, Norway supported women’s inclusion in all peace processes the country was involved in, including processes in which Norway has played a formal role, as in Colombia and the Philippines, as well as in South Sudan, but also in other peace and reconciliation processes, such as the Geneva-based Syria talks. Formal cooperation with Mozambique on Women, Peace and Security commenced in 2017. Other

initiatives were implemented to support women’s influence in peace and reconciliation processes in a number of countries, such as Mali.

Women’s rights are under pressure everywhere, in particular with regard to sexual and reproductive health. For the Norwegian Government, promoting sexual and reproductive health and the rights of girls and women – as well as men and boys – is a major priority. Norway provides considerable financial support for this purpose to the UN, including to the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), which received NOK 818 million (USD 100 million) in support in 2018. Norway also support and work through global platforms that mobilise a broad range of actors, such as Every Woman Every Child. In addition, Norway support a number of international NGOs. In 2017, Norway announced a NOK 700 million (USD 80 million) increase in its funding to sexual and reproductive health and rights, from 2017 to 2020. This is an addition to the existing support of NOK 1.19 billion (USD 137 million) for this purpose in 2016.

Norway is stepping up its efforts to combat sexual violence against women both at home and abroad.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

National level

Norwegians enjoy universal access to safe and affordable drinking water, adequate and equitable sanitation and sewerage for all. The proportion of the population using safely managed drinking water services is 100 per cent. The Norwegian water sector is well regulated and of a high technical standard. Identified challenges are mainly related to aging drinking water networks, a number of small-scale water supplies which remain undocumented and the need to maintain preparedness. Norway has committed to the Protocol on Water and Health and has set national goals for the achievement of SDG 6. Actions accomplished include revision of drinking water legislation, registration of small-scale supplies and enhancement of a risk-based approach to improve monitoring (Target 6.1).

Due to aging water and sewage pipes, the main Norwegian target under the Protocol on Water and Health is an increased renewal rate. Norway has strict regulations concerning discharges of hazardous substances and water pollution. Dumping of waste is virtually eliminated in Norway, and there are national waste management

systems and legislation to protect water from contamination. Most wastewater and sewage is treated, and 85 per cent of the population is connected to sewer systems over 50 population equivalent (pe). The proportion of the population using safely managed sanitation services is 85 per cent, while sanitation facilities for the remaining 15 per cent are considered basic managed. Further work involves phasing out facilities with untreated discharges and upgrading mechanical facilities into primary treatment plants connected to larger urban settlements along the national coast and covered by the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD) (targets 6.2, 6.3).

Norway is working towards integrated water resources management implementation and scores 63 per cent on Indicator 6.5.1. This level of attainment is closely linked to Norway's implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive. The directive has been implemented through national legislation, and the first river basin management plans were adopted in 2016. Pursuant to the plans, measures to secure good ecological and chemical status for most water bodies by 2033 or earlier will be initiated in due course. Norway's score is



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Photo: Getty Images

expected to increase with the adoption of new river basin management plans under the directive, in 2021. On Indicator 6.5.2, Norway scores 59.5 per cent, which corresponds to the Norwegian part of the Finnish-Norwegian International River Basin District that drains to the Norwegian coast, where a formal bilateral agreement for joint management was signed in 2013. The remaining 40.5 per cent corresponds to the Norwegian part of several transboundary catchments that drain from Norway mainly into Sweden. Norway and Sweden cooperate closely on water management on the basis of a joint strategy document at agency level (Target 6.5).

International level

Norway provided approximately USD 17 million in support to SDG 6-related activities in 2018. Most of the support is provided through components in sector programmes, such as health, education, rural development and humanitarian assistance. Through Norwegian Church Aid, about 1.5 million people gained access to water and 350 000 to sanitation.

Norway seeks to foster cooperation on transboundary water resources and improved water resources management (Targets 6.5 and 6.a), in part with a view to developing hydropower resources. Norway assists in establishing cooperation on joint management of transboundary water resources, especially in the Nile, Euphrates and Tigris river regions and in the Himalayan region. Norway also supports better wastewater treatment and management in developing countries through the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) (Target 6.3). In addition, Norway plays an active role in European cooperation under the Protocol on Water and Health.

Norway provided approximately USD 17 million in support to SDG 6-related activities in 2018.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

National level

Securing an efficient, climate-friendly energy supply requires assessing supply security, climate change and economic development together. Norway has secured universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services for all, so virtually all SDG 7 targets on energy have been achieved at the national level, or are in line with (pre)-existing national policies and goals (Target 7.1).

Compared to other countries Norway has a very high proportion of renewable energy in its energy mix, due to a combination of policy and natural conditions. Almost all electricity production (approximately 98 per cent) comes from renewable energy sources, mainly hydroelectric power generation. The share of renewable energy in Norway's total energy consumption (including transport) is around 71 per cent. Policies targeting both supply and consumption contribute to the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy across the board (Target 7.2).

Norway also seeks to improve national energy efficiency through a number of policies and other instruments, including new energy requirements for house construction, infrastructure and industry (Target 7.3).

International level

Access to energy is a matter of importance for sustainable development. About 840 million people lack access to electricity, 87 per cent of whom live in rural areas. About 3 billion people lack access to clean cooking fuels. The situation is particularly challenging in Sub-Saharan Africa, where about 570 million people lack access to electricity and only 44 per cent of the population has access to electricity. To reach the SDG 7 target, efforts must be scaled up significantly, with particular attention to access to clean cooking fuels.

The share of renewable energy in the global energy mix has increased to 17.5 (globally) per cent and 25 per cent of the electricity is generated by renewable sources. Norway has doubled its budget for renewable energy from 2019 compared to 2017. The largest portion of this budget is going to Africa. Norway's overall objective is to help achieve SDG 7 on universal access to modern energy and SDG 13 on reduced emissions of greenhouse gases.



Photo: Getty Images

Support for sector reforms, institutional development and capacity building aim at improving the investment climate and business environment for renewable energy. Norway supports public investments in power grid extension, off-grid electricity services for rural areas and initiatives to promote cleaner cooking. Further, Norway supports renewable energy projects to 10 partner countries in addition to supporting multilateral development bank programmes and other international initiatives and partnerships.

In 2018, Norway committed more than USD 67 million (NOK 570 million) in bilateral and multilateral development assistance to projects providing access to energy and to renewable energy projects (targets 7.1, 7.2).

Norway co-facilitates the multi-stakeholder SDG 7 Technical Advisory Group. It group brings together representatives from governments, UN entities, international organisations and other stakeholders. The group prepared 27 policy briefs on SDG 7 and its interlinkages with other goals for Accelerated SDG 7 Action. These will frame discussions in the HLPF and serve as a foundation for concerted action.

Norfund is Norway's main instrument for energy production investments in low- and middle-income countries. Clean energy is Norfund's largest business, and at the end of 2018 Norfund had an energy portfolio of USD 1.15 billion. In 2018, Norfund invested an equivalent of USD 113 million in renewable energy. By the end of 2018, Norfund had 30 operating power plant in its' investment portfolio. These plants with an installed capacity of 4100 MW produced 17.4 TWh in 2018 (64 per cent in Sub-Saharan Africa).

Norway supports public investments in power grid extension, off-grid electricity services for rural areas and initiatives to promote cleaner cooking.



Floating wind farms for a renewable future

World-class offshore technologies are being applied to develop and commercialise floating wind farms to produce clean energy. The Norwegian energy company Equinor plans to supply offshore oil and gas installations with power from floating offshore wind turbines. An investment decision for Tampen Hywind is expected in 2019. The project will reduce emissions at five offshore oil and gas installations by 200 000 tons of CO₂. Offshore wind resources are stronger and more stable than onshore wind. The potential of renewable power production from floating offshore wind farms is therefore vast.



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

National level

In recent decades Norway has enjoyed higher economic growth, a higher employment rate and lower unemployment than many other advanced economies. Good macroeconomic management, a flexible labour market and favourable changes in terms of trade have supported this development. The petroleum sector contributes substantially to value creation and employment in Norway.

Growth in the Norwegian economy declined following the oil price fall in 2014, but has picked up gradually in the years since. Investments in the petroleum sector are rising again, after declining for four consecutive years due to the oil price fall. Some oil and gas price recovery and significant cost reductions have led to increased profitability on the Norwegian continental shelf, and there are indications of strong growth in petroleum investments in 2019. However, in the longer term, Norway's mainland industries will probably have to find their basis for growth in other markets.

Experience suggests that high economic growth and full employment are best achieved in an environment of openness to international markets, strong competition, favourable long-term business conditions and incentives to work, invest and build expertise. A simple tax system whose broad tax bases help to keep rates low is another factor in value creation and growth. Transfer schemes should provide incentives for education and work.

The Norwegian labour market is quite flexible. By international standards it has low unemployment and relatively high employment, especially among women and the elderly. The labour market model underpins employment also in periods of substantial relocation between sectors while protecting rights and promoting a stable work environment for all. Regulations and a long-term commitment to cooperation between labour unions, employer's organisations and government has supported this model.

The Government has carried out several measures to make it easier to establish and operate new businesses.



Experience shows that long periods of unemployment and lasting absence from the labour market tend to weaken future employment prospects, especially for young people. The Government emphasises an active employment policy and the use of labour market measures to help vulnerable groups gain and keep employment. Youth, immigrants, the long-term unemployed and people with reduced work capacity have priority in labour market programmes.

While well-organised and orderly migration (indicator 10.7) may contribute to economic development, irregular and uncontrolled migration has negative effects. The Government strives to secure a sustainable policy regarding immigration from countries outside the EU/EEA.

Good governance in a country is the most important factor in achieving economic progress. Internationally, Norway works to promote good governance in developing countries, through foreign aid as well as our participation in international institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and the United Nations. Norway also works for strong

and sustainable economic growth by promoting free international trade and investment.

Over the past decade, population aging has contributed to lower labour force participation rates. In Norway, a downward trend was reinforced by the sharp fall in the price of oil in 2014, which weakened both economic growth and the labour market.

Over the last two years the labour market has improved again. The employment rate is increasing and the unemployment rate at the beginning of first quarter of 2019 was below 4 per cent of the labour force. This is close to the level before the 2014–2015 economic setback.

Over the past decade, population aging has contributed to lower labour force participation rates.

Norway: Unemployment rate. Per cent of work force (AKU)



The Norwegian model

Tripartite cooperation between employer organisations, employee organisations and government has a long history in Norway. The Norwegian system of wage formation with centralised collective bargaining between a few strong organisations on the workers' and employers' sides is an important part of the model. The centralised aspect of the negotiations facilitates a relatively equal distribution of income. Combined with a well-functioning insurance system for the unemployed, the model has contributed to labour market flexibility. Further, the Norwegian model has proven its strength in challenging times when the economy has come under pressure. The model has also paved the way for major reforms of the welfare system, including the pension system.

International level

An estimated 172 million people worldwide were unemployed in 2018, which corresponds to an unemployment rate of 5.0 per cent. For a large part of the world's population, poverty means that unemployment is not an option, even when there are no decent jobs available, since a "social safety net" is often absent and pursuing any kind of economic activity is essential for survival. Unemployment rates are therefore lowest in low-income countries, at 3.3 per cent on average, followed by lower-middle-income countries at 4.0 per cent. Young people (ages 15–24) are significantly more likely than adults to be unemployed, exhibiting an unemployment rate of 11.8 per cent. It is therefore particularly important to reduce the proportion of young people who are not in employment, education or training (Target 8.6).

Norway provides financial support to the African Development Bank's Youth Entrepreneurship and Innovation Multi-Donor Trust Fund in support of the bank's Jobs for Youth in Africa Strategy. This support is additional to the substantial Norwegian core funding allocated to the African Development Fund. The core

funding is critical for the bank's implementation of its Jobs for Youth in Africa Strategy. The goal of the strategy is to equip 50 million youths with job skills and create 25 million jobs by 2025 (Indicator 8.6.1).

Because nine out of 10 jobs in developing countries are in the private sector, there is significant potential to increase tax revenues, which can be used for investments in infrastructure, services, health and education. Due to low base level, the expected social return on these investments is high.

Norway promotes inclusive and sustainable economic growth by engaging in and supporting international institutions such as the IMF, the multilateral development banks (MDBs) and the UN. MDBs promote private sector development in low-income countries by providing technical assistance and supporting programmes to stimulate investment. Increasingly, the MDBs provide guarantees and new financial instruments that promote private sector investment and attract additional financial resources (Targets 8.1, 8.2).



Photo: Getty Images

Norway supports the G20 Compact for Africa initiative, which aims to improve regulatory frameworks and increase domestic business investment as well as investment from G20 countries. Norway provides financial support to International Finance Cooperation's newly established trust fund in support of the initiative. Norway also supports multi-donor trust funds in the World Bank Group focusing on private sector development, small enterprise development, job creation and employment, including a fund for Conflict Affected States in Africa (CASA) and the Umbrella Trust Fund for Jobs.

Sustainable economic growth and job creation are linked to open trade and integration of developing countries into the global economy. Within Aid for Trade, Norway gives priority to the least developed countries. By 2020 Norway will have contributed NOK 300 million (USD 36 million) to the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to LDCs. Additionally, Norway financially supports the United Nations Industrial Development Organization's (UNIDO's) activities in developing countries to facilitate

increased trade through improvements in quality standards. Good governance is a key factor in achieving economic progress.

Norway works to promote good governance through various channels and partnerships, such as core support to the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank's fund for the poorest countries. Norway supported the introduction of Governance and Institutions as a new special theme for IDA 18, with 12 concrete policy commitments aimed at strengthening core government systems and developing the public sector on the basis of transparency. This is fundamental to creating an enabling environment for private sector investments and inclusive economic growth. Norway is also contributing to the elimination of child labour through its global education initiative, and has launched a national action plan to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (Target 8.7). Norway sponsors decent work initiatives in partnership with the International Labour Organisation (ILO), including universal ratification of the ILO's eight core conventions.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

National level

The current government has made transportation one of its main priorities. A key objective is to implement the highly ambitious National Transportation Plan 2018–2029 and to develop a transportation system emphasising value creation, safety enhancement and development of a low-carbon society. Never before has the level of funding for road and railroad maintenance been as high as it is now; nor has the level of funding for new investments been higher. These record-high investments will benefit the whole country and result in more efficient daily commutes, safer transportation and increased mobility (Target 9.1).

In Norway, around 30 per cent of the workforce is employed in the public sector. To ensure a sustainable welfare-based society, one of the main priorities for the Government is to promote private sector job creation. The Government's Inclusion Initiative is an important measure to help people currently outside the labour force to obtain a job in either the private or the public sector (Target 9.2).

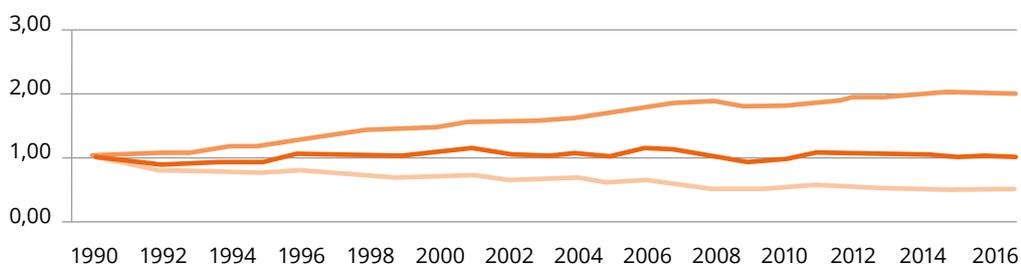
Regulation of the Norwegian financial sector and capital markets is aimed at providing access to sound financial services for all types of economic units. The capital market in Norway is largely well-functioning, and firms' access to capital from banks and securities markets is currently good. The government is considering recommendations from the Capital Access Commission on ways to improve the functioning of capital markets (Target 9.3).

In 2017 the intensity of greenhouse gas emissions from Norwegian economic activity was 2.2 per cent lower than the year before (Indicator 9.4.1), extending a downward trend since 1990. Emission intensity has been halved since then. Production has increased by 107.4 per cent since 1990, while emissions only increased by 3.5 per cent. During the same period, emission intensity has been reduced by 60 per cent in the manufacturing industry. The same applies to agriculture, forestry and fisheries. One main priority for the Government is to restructure and develop Norway into a low-emission society (Target 9.4).



Photo: Getty Images

Total emissions, output and emission intensity. Index 1990=0



Source: Statistics Norway

- Output, constant 2005 prices
- Greenhouse gas emissions, CO2-equivalents
- Emission intensity for greenhouse gases. Tonnes CO2-equivalents/output in NOK million

Increased cooperation within the industrial sector and platforms for cooperation between industry and government make important contributions to sustainable industrial growth. An important initiative launched in a recent white paper (titled *A greener, smarter and more innovative industry*) is a forum for cooperation in the Norwegian processing industry called Prosess21. The final Prosess21 report is expected in 2021, though the forum also provides ongoing strategic advice and recommendations.

Technology and knowledge play a key role in facilitating the transition to a low-emission society. The Government will promote expanded use of clean and environmentally sound technology and industrial processes by strengthening its focus on relevant research and development (R&D). The Government also attaches importance to ensuring that the public sector contributes by using and promoting new environmentally sound and climate-friendly solutions.

Norwegian development of zero-emission propulsion systems combining hydrogen and batteries

Fiskerstrand Holding, situated on Norway's western coast, is an innovative shipbuilding company. In conjunction with SINTEF, Hexagon, Nel and ABB, Fiskerstrand sees export opportunities for Norwegian technology and products based on a national green strategy. The consortium has received Government funding to construct the world's first HYBRIDship zero-emission propulsion systems, using hydrogen and battery technology. Potential markets for emission-free propulsion systems include ferries and fjord cruise vessels, high-speed passenger ferries, aquaculture vessels, coastal cargo vessels and supply and service vessels for the offshore oil and gas industry.



Concept sketch of the hydrogen ferry, powered by fuel cells and batteries

As a share of GDP, R&D expenditures in Norway (indicator 9.5.1) amounted to 2.09 per cent in 2017, an increase from 1.93 per cent in 2015 and 2.03 per cent in 2016. In absolute numbers, total R&D spending in the private and public sectors combined rose from NOK 63.35 billion in 2016 to NOK 69.18 billion in 2017 (Target 9.5).

In 2018, the Norwegian Government launched a revised Long-term Plan for Research and Higher Education 2019–2028 in which the UN Sustainable Development Goals provided guidance and constituted an important framework.

Per 1 million inhabitants, the number of full-time equivalents (FTEs) working on research and development in Norway grew from 8 210 in 2015 to 8 423 in 2016, then reached 8 897 in 2017 (Indicator 9.5.2). The growth in FTEs in absolute numbers from 2016 to 2017 was 6.5 per cent, considerably higher than general population growth.

International level

Norway supports strengthening of national and regional research capacities in developing countries. In 2018, Norway entered into five-year agreements totalling USD 18,2 million with six research institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa. Two of the research institutions, the African Economic Research Consortium and the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology, work specifically towards economic development (Target 9.b).

Norway also funds capacity-building programmes in higher education institutions, including projects that enhance research capacity. Among outputs are the establishment of master and doctoral programmes in renewable energy, with student research on solar power and bioenergy (Targets 9.b and 12.a). In 2018, 850 Ph.D. students, 84 post-doctoral researchers and more than 12 000 master-level students were enrolled in the higher education programmes. Support to higher education and research totalled USD 14,7 million in 2018.

Through the Basic Internet Foundation, Norway supports digital inclusion for all through free access to information on the Internet ("Internet Lite") in a project currently being piloted in Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Target 9.c).

Further, Norway supports digital public goods for end users in developing countries by sourcing, for example, two open-source self-learning smartphone games for reading and writing through the EduApp4Syria contest (one game translated to 40 languages). The Global Digital Library collects openly licensed early-grade reading books, now available in 23 languages, and Norway supports development of the open-source District Health Information Service (DHIS2) software (now in use in 100 countries, with a global footprint of 2.3 billion people). Norway also supports access to open weather data and openly licensed software for notification and information services on plant diseases and pests for use in developing countries (Target 9.c).



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.

National level

Economic inequalities between countries have decreased in recent decades. But inequalities within many countries, including Norway, have increased. Even so, Norway still has relatively small differences in income and a high living standard.

A large percentage of the population participates in income-generating work, and minimum wages are relatively high. The tax and transfer systems redistribute wealth to individuals and households with low income. For example, the social security system provides compensation for loss of income due to illness, disability, old age, unemployment etc. The national and local governments also provide free universal access to education and health services, and cheap access to nursing and care services, among other services. The equalising effect of such service provision is significant but is not included in the Gini calculations reported in Figure 1.

The number of persons with persistent low income is relatively low in Norway. However, in the past two decades there has been a significant increase in the percentage of children living in families with low income. A high proportion of these families have an immigration background. Increased work participation increases earnings in low-income groups and is the most important means of reducing persistent low income. The employment rate is lower among immigrants, especially those from poor countries, than in the majority population. Good macroeconomic management, an active labour market policy and coordinated wage formation contribute to high labour market participation and low unemployment, and by extension to less income inequality.

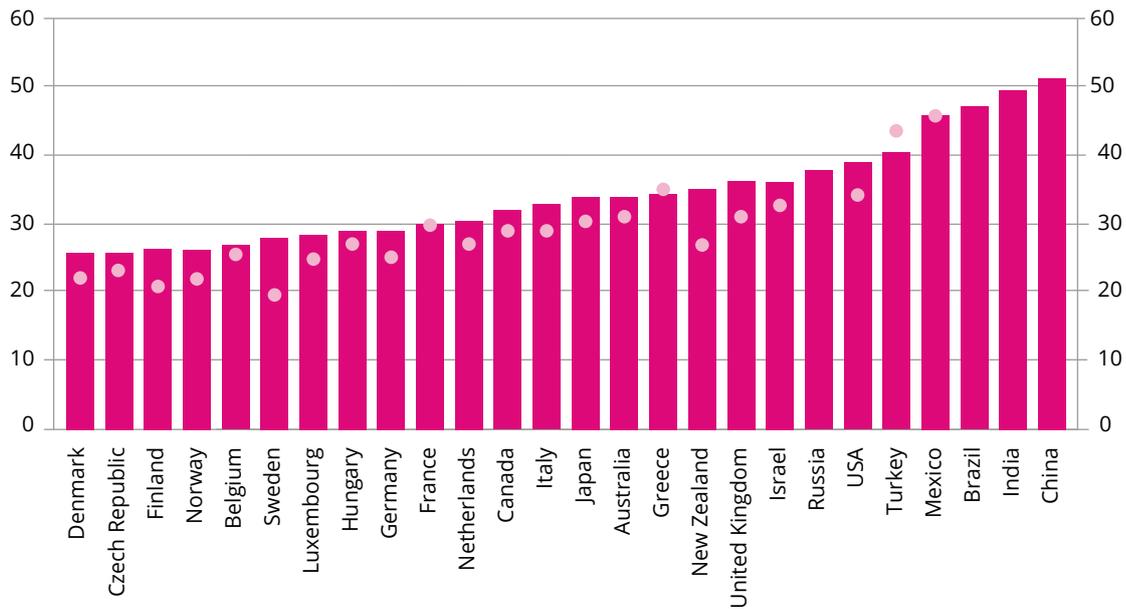
Women on average have lower incomes than men, and the difference increases with level of education. Among full-time employed persons in 2017, the average income was 12 per cent lower for women than for men. This difference was 3 percentage points lower than in 2000.



Photo: Getty Images

Figure 1: GINI Index for household income after tax, 1985 to 2016

● 2016 or last available years ● 1985 or first available years Source: OECD.





Telenor and Big Data

A new study using Big Data in the fight against drug-resistant malaria, finds that combining malaria genetic data with human mobility data from mobile networks can help map and predict the spread of drug-resistant malaria. The study, *Mapping imported malaria in Bangladesh using parasite genetic and human mobility data*, was conducted by Telenor Group, the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Mahidol Oxford Research Unit and the National Malaria Elimination Programme in Bangladesh. It is one of the largest initiatives to quantify human mobility patterns that spread disease.

By combining epidemiological data, travel surveys, parasite genetic data, and anonymised mobile phone data from Telenor's local operator Grameenphone, the study was able to measure the geographic spread of different malaria parasites in southeast Bangladesh. The aim is to help local health authorities track and contain this emerging threat to health in Southeast Asia. It shows how data in aggregate form can be deployed for the good of society.

To reduce inequality in the longer term, our educational system must give children and young people appropriate skills. We must also ensure that the labour market works efficiently. Both the tax system and benefit schemes must encourage value creation and high labour force participation. New rules have made it easier to combine disability and work. Rapid integration of immigrants in the labour market is particularly important.

The level of foreign aid Norway provides as a share of national income is among the highest in the world. Most of Norway's assistance goes to the world's poorest countries, to help reduce inequality in partner countries. Norway gives preferences to the least developed countries in our foreign trade. By consistently emphasising free international trade, Norway promotes international growth and a more equal distribution of income between countries.

International level

In 51 out of 91 countries, the income level per capita for the 40 per cent of the population with lowest income rose more rapidly than the national average. This growth helped to reduce inequality.

The multilateral development banks are among Norway's most important long-term development partners. Norway's active engagement and substantial financial support contribute to the World Bank Group's twin goals: ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity by increasing the income of the poorest 40 per cent in all countries (Target 10.1).

Norway took active part in the negotiations leading up to the adoption of the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) and joined the Compact when it was adopted by the General Assembly in 2018.



Photo: Geirtrud Asetfer

The World Bank's International Development Association (IDA) is the largest source of concessional finance for the world's 77 poorest countries. Norway's core grant contribution to IDA 18 for 2017–2018 is NOK 2.75 billion (approximately USD 340 million). Norway also supports several of the World Bank's trust funds in different thematic areas that address inequality. Norway provides predictable, long-term core funding to the Africa Development Fund, which targets more inclusive and green growth in Africa's low-income countries. Norway is among the fund's 10 biggest donors (Target 10.b). Norway also contributes to the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) fund for lower-income developing countries. Norway's and other donors' support to the 11th replenishment of the fund, for 2017–2020, allows the ADB to boost grant operations in the poorest countries, especially vulnerable and conflict-affected countries.

Vulnerable and conflict-affected countries are given increased priority in the resource allocation of these funds. The banks are deepening their strategic involvement in addressing vulnerability and fragile-country situations. The funds help to strengthen domestic financial markets while deepening financial inclusion and addressing gender inequalities in the production and financial sectors. They provide risk capital, equity investments and long-term debt funding to support entrepreneurship, trade and infrastructure projects.

Norway supports the UN's human rights-based approach and works actively through the boards of UN organisations and multilateral finance institutions to develop instruments that better target minorities, marginalised populations and the situation of women when dealing with issues relating to equality and equal opportunities.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

National level

Sustainable, inclusive, liveable and attractive cities and other urban areas are important priorities for the Norwegian Government. Many municipalities and counties are implementing SDGs in their regional and local planning.

About 80 per cent of Norwegians live in cities and other urban settlements, and the trend is towards more and more centralisation. Norway is dominated by forest, mountain and moorland areas. Only about 2 per cent of Norway is built-up land, and agriculture accounts for 4 per cent.

Most people in Norway have a high standard of living and more than 80 per cent of the population own their own home. Basic services are overall of high standard. Norwegian cities and other urban settlements are regarded as relatively safe and secure places to live.

There are no areas in Norway that can be defined as slums, but some larger cities have areas that require special attention. The Government is cooperating with four municipalities on integrated area-based urban regeneration programmes.

The Government has a universal design strategy to promote equality for individuals with reduced functionality by removing existing disabling barriers and preventing new ones from emerging. For the last 10 years this has been an overall strategy to avoid segregation based on functionality and to ensure full participation in Norwegian society.

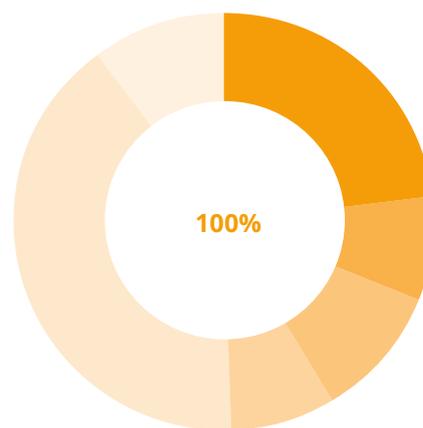
A key aim of Norway's National Guidelines for Dwellings, Land Use and Transport Planning is to prevent urban sprawl. The guidelines emphasise that the land use and transport planning process is to include sustainable localisation of dwellings.



The goal for major urban areas is no growth in climate gas emissions. To achieve this “zero growth goal”, growth in passenger traffic should be achieved by public transport, cycling and walking. Four urban areas have committed to the goal by signing urban growth agreements. The agreements between municipalities, counties and the state include a reward scheme for public transport. The Government will begin negotiations for five more urban areas. The purpose of these agreements is to focus on transport and land use as means to reduce car emissions and congestion.

The Norwegian Government also has a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from private cars, and electric cars subsidies are one important tool. In the past year alone, 45 per cent of private cars purchased were electric. Norway’s goal is for all cars purchased in 2025 to be electric. In March 2019, 76.6 per cent of cars sold in Oslo were electric, making Oslo the electric vehicle capital of the world.

Proportion of built-up areas by category, 2017



Source: Statistics Norway

- Residential areas 23%
- Recreational areas 8%
- Built-up areas for agriculture and fishing 10%
- Industrial, commercial and service areas 8%
- Road 40%
- Other built-up areas 10%

Norway supports the global BreatheLife campaign, which mobilises communities around the world to take action to reduce air pollution and limit climate change.

Local air quality in Norway has improved in recent decades due to technological development of vehicles, cleaner wood-burning stoves and a variety of policy measures. Norway generally has a low level of air pollution, and the number of early deaths due to road traffic emissions is also among the lowest in Europe. The most important sources to local air pollution are road traffic (including electric cars), wood burning (especially during the winter) and long-range pollution.

The local pollution authorities can implement a variety of measures including low-emission zones, fees for studded tire use, road tolls differentiated by vehicle emissions or traffic intensity, reduced speed limits and increased cleaning of the roads.

International level

Norwegian support for SDG 11.b is channelled through UN-Habitat to assist in implementing the New Urban Agenda. Much progress was achieved on the road to sustainable urban development, including support provided to governments and city authorities to identify and implement laws that regulate land use, urban planning, taxation, housing, infrastructure and safety. Good examples are supportive work for legal reform processes, for housing, land and property rights laws in Afghanistan, for planning and development laws in Cameroon and for legal and institutional frameworks for spatial planning in Haiti. Norway has worked actively in the Global Land Tool Network to assist in securing land and property rights for ordinary people (Target 11.b).

UN-Habitat's housing and slum upgrade work promotes the right to adequate housing, an essential component of adequate living standards for all. Strategies in this regard include increasing the supply of adequate and sustainable housing, upgrading existing slums and preventing the formation of new slums. The strategic approach being applied places housing at the centre of city and urban policies, with a special focus on women, youth and vulnerable groups. Thirty-five countries now have improved housing policies, strategies and programmes aligned with the acclaimed Global Housing Policies. Programmes also assist refugees with housing needs in their countries of refuge and upon return to their countries of origin (Target 11.c).

Norway supports efforts to reduce ambient and household air pollution in developing countries and thereby improve human health and well-being (SDG 3) through cooperation with bodies such as the World Health Organization, the World Bank, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves and Slum Dwellers International. There is an urgent need for increased awareness about air pollution, which according to WHO is responsible for more than 7 million deaths every year. Norway supports the global BreatheLife campaign, which mobilises communities around the world to take action to reduce air pollution and limit climate change (Target 11.6).



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production.

National level

Norway provided financial support and expertise to the UN 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP) (Target 12.1). The sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources is promoted nationally through a combination of regulations and incentives.

Regarding Indicator 12.1.1, the Norwegian Government considers it important to develop a green, circular economy, so it will create a national strategy to support a transition to a circular economy. We believe transitioning to a circular economy is a key to protecting the environment, reducing climate gas emissions and consuming sustainably while maintaining financial growth and Norwegian industrial competitiveness.

Food and food waste are of particular concern in the national implementation of SDG 12 (as well as in the national implementation of SDGs 2 and 14). In 2017, five Norwegian Government ministries and 12 food industry organisations signed an agreement committing to halve food waste across the food value chain in Norway by 2030. The agreement is pioneering work

and unique in a global context. From 2010 to 2016, food waste was reduced by 14 per cent per inhabitant in Norway. This shows that we are on track. Following up on the agreement, Norway is developing a detailed reporting system for the entire food value chain that will provide a basis for more precise statistics.

The impact of chemicals and waste on health and the environment is in decline, and while the amount of waste continues to grow in step with GDP growth, hazardous waste is collected and treated separately in accordance with environmentally sound management. With regard to Indicator 12.4.2, in 2017 289 kg of hazardous waste (including industrial waste) was generated per capita. The proportions of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment, were 18.5 per cent recycling, 23 per cent incineration with energy recovery and 58.5 per cent landfill and other end treatment. Material recovery has increased dramatically in recent decades, thus reducing the environmental footprint of waste. Norway is considering additional measures to further increase material recovery of waste. As to Indicator 12.5.1, the recycling rate in 2017 was 34.57 per cent. A national waste prevention programme is now under development (Targets



Photo: Getty Images

12.4, 12.5). Norway is following up on international obligations stemming from relevant multilateral agreements and is reporting accordingly.

All Norwegian companies are expected to pursue corporate social responsibility. The Government is maintaining its engagement to promote development of international reporting requirements that are transposed into national law (Target 12.6).

Regarding Indicator 12.7.1, public entities are obliged by law to pursue green public procurement strategies (Target 12.7). Public procurement procedures allow for more flexibility for green procurers, including award criteria for contracts that address environmental aspects of a procurement, such as operational lifetime, environmental impacts and related costs. The Government has recently decided to develop an action plan to further enhance green public procurement.

Of relevance to Indicator 12.b.1, the Government offers a Sustainable Destination certifications scheme for tourism destinations. The scheme enhances

destinations management and ensures long-term progress on environmental, social and economic issues. In 2018, 15 destinations were certified and another 23 were enrolled, though not yet certified. A monitoring system tracks progress using 108 indicators. The standards employed are internationally recognised through the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC). Each of the 15 certified destinations has developed action plans for implementation. A monitoring database is made available and is regularly updated by the destinations. Environmental education, referred to in Indicator 12.8.1, has been part of the Norwegian school curriculum for many years.

In an international perspective, Norway imposes high taxes on the use of fossil fuels. More than 80 per cent of Norway's greenhouse gas emissions are priced through the EU Emissions Trading System and/or by means of a CO₂ tax. The CO₂ tax differs somewhat between sectors. Norway is actively involved in international efforts to promote the phasing out of fossil fuel subsidies.



International level

The Norwegian Government is committed to international efforts to phase out fossil fuel subsidies in order to ensure a transition to sustainable consumption. Programmes supported by Norway help developing countries to create a clean and efficient energy sector to avoid locking their development to fossil fuel-based systems.

Norway provides financial and in-kind support to developing countries through multilateral environmental agreements that help them to improve technical capacity and strengthen institutions. Sustainable consumption and production patterns are quite dependent on a country's level of technical expertise and the capacity of its national institutions. Norway provides financial and in-kind support to partner countries using a number of channels, including the Millennium Ecosystem

Restarters Oslo (University of Oslo)

When it comes to using and disposing of electronic devices, Norwegians outdo everyone else in Europe. That is why it is necessary to change the way we consume and produce electronics.

Master student Kaja Ahnfelt's interest in the growing amount of electronic waste in the world triggered the establishment of Restarters Oslo. It triggered a wave of local interest in device repair and maintenance. Restarters Oslo arranges "fix parties", where fixers repair anything from toasters to mobile phones free of charge to all who drop by. By focusing on the practical needs of local people, Restarters Oslo changes our relationship to electronics. The result: we throw less away. That's good for the environment and saves people money. For her work, Kaja Ahnfelt received the Oslo Environmental Prize in 2017.



Assessment, the Global Green Growth Institute and the UN Partnership for Action on Green Economy. These programmes support developing countries in the creation of green economy strategies that translate into sector specific policies, laws and budgets. For example, partner countries can receive support to develop and improve their waste management and recycling systems.

The Vision 2030 mechanism established in 2015, provides support for innovative Norwegian solutions to address SDGs in developing countries, with a particular focus on SDG 3 and 4. The mechanism supports projects in which the private sector collaborates with civil society and/or research institutions. For the 2016–2019 period, the mechanism has a budget framework of USD 17,3 million (Target 12.6).

13 CLIMATE ACTION

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

National level

Regarding indicator 13.2.1, Norway has introduced a broad set of policies and measures to reduce emissions. Estimates in Norway's third Biennial Report (2018) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat shows that greenhouse gas emissions would be around 40 per cent higher than projected emissions in 2020 without climate policies and measures. In 2017 a new Climate Change Act was adopted. It establishes by law Norway's emission-reduction targets for 2030 and 2050 (Target 13.2).

Norway's climate target for 2030 is to reduce emissions by at least 40 per cent from 1990 levels. The intention is to cooperate with the European Union to fulfil the target. In its political platform, the Norwegian Government has stated that it will reduce Norwegian emissions not covered by the EU Emission Trading System by at least 45 per cent compared to 2005 levels. The Government's ambition is for this reduction to take place through domestic reductions, and it will plan for this.

The Climate Change Act establishes for Norway to become a low-emission society by 2050. The target is to achieve reductions of greenhouse gas emissions of

the order of 80 to 95 compared to 1990. In its political platform, the Government has stated that it wants to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions by 90 to 95 per cent compared to 1990 (Target 13.2).

New incentives have been put in place, including a strengthening of the Climate and Technology Fund and a ban on the use of mineral oil for heating of buildings from 2020. The Norwegian Government is promoting a green tax shift, an example of which is an exemption from import tax and VAT for buyers of plug-in electric cars. Increased levies on fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions have been employed in combination with a reduction in taxes applicable to other sectors (Target 13.2).

Another important measure is developing cost-effective technology for carbon capture and storage (CCS). Support is also provided to wetlands restoration schemes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from drained soils and to schemes that increase forest uptake of CO₂ by means such as fertilisation (Target 13.2).

Under Norway's Climate Change Act, the Government shall submit to the Storting (Norway's parliament) updated information on progress towards climate targets



and on Norwegian preparations for and adaptations to climate change. This is relevant for Indicators 13.2.1 and 13.3.2. In 2018 the knowledge base on climate change impacts in Norway was updated. According to the report, knowledge has been strengthened, but our understanding of climate change and effective adaptation practices needs improvement, as highlighted in the Government's Long-Term Plan for Research and Higher Education (2015–2024) (Targets 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3).

International level

In 2018 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) presented its report on the consequences of 1.5 degrees C and 2 degrees C of global warming (Target 13.a). Low-income countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are the most vulnerable to climate change. Norway is scaling up its climate support for mitigation, adaptation and building resilience in developing countries.

The largest single programme is Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI), which supports efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD+). Since its inception in April 2008, NICFI has established a series of ground-breaking partnerships

with key forest countries. The budget for NICFI is approximately USD 345 million annually. The Government has confirmed Norway's intent to continue to finance REDD+ annually at least at current levels until 2020.

Norway has supported the regional climate- and environmental efforts through The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD). Through this initiative research and pilot testing has led to development of new policies and regional and bilateral cooperation within climate, biodiversity, air pollution, natural crisis management and poverty reduction.

The largest single channel for multilateral support is the Green Climate Fund. Norway so far has disbursed USD 271 million to the fund (Indicator 13.a.1). Norway is planning to double its contribution to the fund in the coming years. The UN system and the World Bank are other important channels for Norwegian support to climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction (Target 13.1). At country level, Norway is supporting climate-smart agriculture and the strengthening of climate services (Targets 13.1 and 13.3). The agricultural support includes special programmes to strengthen poor female farmers.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and maritime resources for sustainable development.

National level

Norway's extensive use of the ocean and its resources creates a responsibility to manage ocean areas in a long-term and responsible manner. Norway bases use of the ocean on the sustainability principle and ecosystem-based approaches. Integrated ocean management is implemented through integrated management plans for three Large Marine Ecosystems. The purpose is to provide a framework for value creation while maintaining ecosystem productivity and diversity. A cross-sectoral factual basis has been prepared for update and revision of the management plans in 2020.

Coastal areas are managed with the objective of achieving good ecological and chemical status for all water bodies by 2021. To this end, 11 regional water management plans have been adopted. Monitoring of the ecological and chemical status of coastal waters has been substantially increased.

The MAREANO program is mapping the seabed in Norwegian waters. This activity has provided valuable new knowledge on habitats and species as well as the pressures and impacts of human activity. This knowledge is used to improve marine area management.

Efforts to establish new marine protected areas (MPAs) in Norwegian territorial waters are ongoing for a number of areas.

Efforts to establish new marine protected areas (MPAs) in Norwegian territorial waters are ongoing for a number of areas.

The Norwegian Government continues to develop additional measures to prevent and reduce marine litter and microplastics from identified sources. A national competence centre has been established in the Lofoten archipelago, in northern Norway. It will focus on knowledge acquisition as well as cost-effective and environmentally friendly technologies and methods for oil recovery operations and reduction of marine litter.

Approximately half of all area under Norwegian fisheries jurisdiction is subject to other area-based management measures. Stocks targeted directly by commercial fishing are all within safe biological limits and the fisheries are sustainable from this perspective. Assessing regulations pertaining to human impacts on vulnerable bottom habitats in the northernmost waters has been a priority. Stricter regulations have



been adopted. Some areas containing vulnerable habitats are closed to all fishing.

Norway was one of the countries proposing the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030), and work is now being carried out to make Norway an active and constructive partner in planning the decade. Norway is investing heavily in research, infrastructure, mapping and monitoring, and has designated the ocean as one of its top research priorities, as reflected in the Long-Term Plan for Research and Higher Education.

International level

Sharing experience and knowledge gained from its system of integrated marine management plans is one important way Norway can contribute to integrated and ecosystem-based management internationally.

Plastic waste in the oceans is a pressing global concern. The fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly, in March 2019, decided to strengthen actions to help realise the vision of zero plastic litter emissions into the ocean. Strengthening scientific and technological knowledge, with a specific emphasis on developing indicators, is one

such action. The Norwegian development aid programme to combat marine litter and micro plastics in developing countries was increased in 2019 to NOK 400 million (about USD 48 million).

Norway supports the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. The implementation of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Flag State Performance is an important part of this. Norway also supports the fight against transnational organised fisheries crime both at home and abroad. This includes crimes such as illegal fishing, tax and customs fraud, corruption, money laundering and human trafficking in connection with slave labour on illegal fishing vessels. Norway and eight other countries took the initiative in October 2018 for an international political declaration on transnational organised crime in the global fishing industry. 15 states have endorsed the declaration to date. Norway provides support to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in the fight against transnational organised fisheries crime (through the Global Container Control Programme



Surveys by the Norwegian seabed mapping programme "Mareano" (in the Exclusive Economic Zone incl some international waters Banana hole). Detailed terrain models of the seabed exist for the green areas. Terrain models are based on data from surveys with multi beam echo sounders from surface vessels.

and the Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime) as well as to the INTERPOL General Secretariat and INTERPOL's Fisheries Crime Working Group.

On 23–24 October this year, the Our Ocean Conference in Oslo will bring together leaders of governments, businesses, civil society organisations and research institutions around the globe to commit to action for clean, healthy and productive oceans.

Last year, Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg invited 13 world leaders to join her in a High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy. The aim of this panel is to build a shared understanding of the need for ocean health and wealth, with an eye to achieving the SDGs. At the United Nations Ocean Conference next year, the panel will deliver an action-oriented report with a set of recommendations for a sustainable ocean economy.

Norway also promotes ocean-related issues in our bilateral and regional relations. This take the form of dialogues, both at the political and expert level, and concrete cooperation in areas such as marine litter, aquaculture, fisheries management etc. Norway has shared its experience and expertise in sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for many years with a view to build capacity in our partner countries. Knowledge-based partnerships on fisheries and aquaculture management, including partnerships with the private sector, have produced good results in many countries. In addition, the Oil for Development Program has for many years offered assistance to developing countries in their effort to manage petroleum resources in a sustainable manner.



Photo: Martin Litwicki, Scream Media

15 LIFE ON LAND

Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

National level

Norway has started implementing a National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP). The plan aims to ensure that Norway's nature management regime is sustainable and that ecosystems retain good ecological status despite pressure from human use.

Good ecological status is defined as a condition in which only small deviations from intact nature are accepted. Once the management objectives for ecological status have been established, the Government will devise policy instruments that will either maintain ecological status in accordance with the agreed objective or improve it in areas where ecological status is below satisfactory level. A management system based on clearly defined objectives for ecological status is to be in place by 2020.

Forests cover 37 per cent of total land area in Norway (Indicator 15.1.1). Forest area is increasing despite the fact that some areas are being reclassified for residential and business use, holiday homes, public infrastructure etc. The increase is primarily due to forestation through natural succession of former agricultural and grazing land.

The Government's sustainable forest management policies and measures are outlined in a white paper delivered to the Storting in 2016. Ten per cent of Norwegian forest area should be protected in nature reserves and national parks. At present (April 2019) about 4.8 per cent of total forest area and about 3.6 per cent of productive forest area is protected. A forest management plan covers 600 000 hectares of Norwegian forest, and 700 000 hectares are certified under a certification scheme (Indicator 15.2.1).



15 LIFE ON LAND



Photo: Getty Images

The Government will prioritise environmental concerns in forestry by making use of instruments introduced in the Nature Diversity Act and other forest sector policy instruments, including environmental inventories, knowledge development and application of the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard (Target 15.2).

At the international level, Norway actively supports international cooperation for sustainable forest management. Globally, this includes support for FAO in its efforts to promote and implement sustainable forest management and it includes support for the United Nations Forum on Forests. Regionally, Norway is part of the pan-European high-level process on forest policy cooperation, FOREST EUROPE

Approximately 34 per cent of Norway's mountain ecosystems are protected areas (Indicator 15.4.1). The target of protecting a representative selection of mountain habitat types (Target 15.4) has largely been achieved. The Planning and Building Act and the principles of environmental law set out in the Nature Diversity Act are the

most important instruments for land-use planning in mountain areas and for ensuring sustainable development outside protected areas. The intention of the Planning and Building Act is to ensure sound land-use management and to balance conflicts of interest in mountain areas generally and in the zones outside protected areas. Since 2007, a system of regional plans for integrated management of mountain areas of vital importance to wild reindeer has been in place. Ten such national conservation areas have been designated.

With regard to traded wildlife, the police made 25 confiscations in 2018 (Target 15.7). So far in 2019, there have been nine confiscations. The number is dependent on the resources available, especially at border controls.

A new Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) regulation entered into force on 1 July 2018. The Government is currently working on a strategy to strengthen efforts to combat environmental crime, including wildlife crime. The SDGs have been an important incentive for this strategy.





Norway provided USD 329 million of international development funding for sustainable forest management in 2018.

The target pertaining to invasive alien species has been identified as a particular challenge for domestic follow-up in Norway (Target 15.8, Indicator 15.8.1). The legal framework to combat such species consists of The Nature Diversity Act (2009), the Regulations relating to alien organisms (2016), the Regulations relating to ballast water management on ships and mobile offshore units (2017) and the Regulations on the planting or sowing of foreign tree species for forestry purposes (2012). Only a few harmful alien species are currently controlled or eradicated. More efficient measures are therefore needed. A national action plan for eradicating, containing and controlling invasive alien organisms will be published in 2019.

International level

Norway provided USD 422 million of international development funding for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and ecosystems in 2018. This includes part of the funding provided through the International Climate and Forest Initiative (Indicator 15.a.1).

Norway provided USD 329 million of international development funding for sustainable forest management in 2018, mainly through the International Climate and Forest Initiative (Indicator 15.b.1).

Norway provided USD 6 million of international development funding for projects to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species within the funding for biological diversity and the International Climate and Forest Initiative. There are plans to scale up these efforts in the coming years (Indicator 15.c.1).



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

National level

Norway is a comparatively peaceful society with accountable and open governments, constraint on governmental powers and just laws. In the World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index from 2019, Norway was ranked second best, based on the experience and perception of the general public and in-country experts.

The population of Norway in general feels safe. Statistics from 2018 show that only 6 per cent of the population reported a feeling of insecurity around the area where they live. In 2004, the figure was 7.9 per cent.

The homicide rate in Norway is approximately 0.6 per 100 000 inhabitants per year, a relatively low figure globally. However, also in 2018, 25 per cent of homicides in Norway were intimate partner homicides. This indicates a challenge of great concern. In October 2018, the Norwegian Government established a commission on intimate partner homicide. The commission will review a selection of intimate partner homicides as part of the country's efforts to develop better preventive measures.

Another priority for the Government is combating violence and sexual abuse of children. The Escalation Plan against Violence and Abuse (2017–2021) provides an

overview of the current situation, and measures for combating violence and abuse while describing the main challenges associated with violence and abuse. The plan contains both short-term and long-term measures and strategies for meeting the challenges. The primary goal is to reduce the prevalence of violence in close relationships, with particular emphasis on children and young people.

In Norway the principle of non-discrimination is enshrined in the Constitution. The new Equality and Anti-Discrimination Act, in force since January 2018, prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender, pregnancy, parental leave in connection with childbirth or adoption, care responsibilities, ethnicity, religion, belief, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and age or a combination of these factors.

International level

With an annual budget of approximately 50 million US dollars dedicated to facilitating and assisting dialogue initiatives and peace processes in various conflicts in the world, Norway works in close contact with UN organisations and programmes, the World Bank and civil society organisations to promote peaceful and inclusive societies. Transitional justice and inclusiveness remain key pillars in this long-term engagement.



Norway focuses its development efforts on 16 partner countries, six of which are in highly fragile contexts. Measures supported by Norway include stabilisation efforts in Iraq, South Sudan, Somalia and the Sahel. Norway also supports assistance to Lebanon and Jordan in addressing the needs of Syrian refugees. Eleven per cent of Norwegian development assistance was allocated to governance in 2017. The UN Development Programme (UNDP) is a key partner, especially with regard to inclusive peace, inclusive governance, social contracts and peaceful transitions.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the UN special representatives on violence against children and on children and armed conflict are important partners.

Support is given to rule-of-law efforts through bilateral and multilateral channels within areas such as constitution building, justice reform, police and correctional systems.

Norway promotes international development and implementation of norms, rules and operative measures to combat corruption, tax evasion, financial crime and illicit financial flows. The Government supports international

cooperation on transparent capital flows between countries and more efficient and just taxation of global companies. Supported by Norway, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) will host its second expert group meeting on large-scale corruption in Oslo in June 2019.

A knowledgebank is in place to provide technical assistance on demand in areas where Norway has particular expertise, such as natural resource management (oil and fish), taxation, gender equality, statistics and registers, clean energy, higher education and research. Anti-corruption efforts and good governance are integral parts of the technical assistance provided. We also contribute to the Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance's (IDEA's) worldwide support for building, strengthening and safeguarding democratic institutions at all levels, based on inclusive, responsive and accountable processes.

Norway works actively to enhance public access to information and safety for journalists through partnerships with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), multilateral forums and civil society organisations.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

The SDGs are interlinked and mutually reinforcing each other. They call for new partnerships and cooperation within and across sectors to support and achieve the ambitious 2030 Agenda. Cooperation based on innovative and strategic partnerships within government, with non-state actors and with the international community are principal parameters for successful implementation. The previous pages of this report display important national and international multi-stakeholder partnerships. In addition and particular to SDG 17, emphasis is on resource mobilization, technology, capacity and knowledge transfer, policy coherence and trade issue.

Tax for Development

The Tax for Development programme, which is a part of the Knowledge Bank, aims to strengthen domestic resource mobilisation (Target 17.1). Living up to the commitments of the Addis Tax Initiative will require a substantial scaling up, both bilaterally and multilaterally, of Norwegian tax-related development cooperation towards 2020. Norway is on track to fulfil the promise to double its tax-related development assistance one

year ahead of time. By the end of 2019 it will have initiated two or three institutional twinning projects between Norwegian tax authorities and sister institutions. In the past year it has also signed agreements with several multilateral organisations (World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and United Nations) for capacity building in partner countries. This upscaling is taking place in cooperation with academia, civil society and the private sector.

The Technology Bank

The overarching objective of the Technology Bank is to support our development partners in building the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) capacity they need to promote structural transformation of their economies, eradicate poverty and foster sustainable development. Norwegian support helped make the Technology Bank operational in 2017 by providing a NOK 9 million (USD 1.1 million) grant towards the first year of the Technology Bank's operations (Target 17.8).



Photo: Getty Image

Knowledge Bank

The objective of the Knowledge Bank is to enhance the competence and capacity of public institutions to carry out measures in support of the SDGs and to promote North-South-South cooperation. Knowledge sharing is to be demand-driven and to focus on sectors where Norway has particular experience and expertise (Target 17.9). Chr. Michelsen Institute research in Tanzania on tax issues is a good example. The project has contributed to increased domestic revenues mobilization and strengthened Norwegian development policy on the issue. *Tax for Development* is now an important part of the Knowledge Bank – an initiative to bring Norwegian relevant competence to selected developing countries.

Multilateral Financing Institutions

Norway works through the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to strengthen monitoring of financial markets and to implement regulations making financial markets more robust and efficient. Norway contributes SDR 600 million to the IMF's special lending facilities for low-income countries through two SDR 300 million bilateral loan agreements. The most recent of these was signed in 2016.

Similarly, Norway supports voice reform in the World Bank with an eye to equitable voting power as envisaged in the 2010 International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) shareholding framework, through a regular, open process guided by a dynamic formula that includes measures to protect the smallest poor countries.

Norway advocates for and supports efforts by the multilateral development banks and the IMF to combat illicit financial flows. Norway is a member of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and provides core funding to its international secretariat, thereby supporting transparency efforts such as promoting country-by-country reporting for multilateral companies (Target 17.1).

The multilateral development banks provide debt sustainability analysis and debt management to indebted countries (Target 17.4) and are supported in turn by core contributions from donor countries including Norway.

The Norwegian Government's policy platform (2019) identifies Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) as a key success factor for achieving the SDGs

Policy Coherence for Development

The Norwegian Government's policy platform (2019) identifies Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) as a key success factor for achieving the SDGs. Because a country's development prospects are tied to multiple policy areas, the Government has committed to embark on a policy coherence reform. The centrepiece of this reform is a Policy Coherence Forum where the private sector, civil society organisations, academia and labour unions meet with relevant government ministries. The forum advises the Government, the Storting (Norwegian parliament) and the public on possible obstacles to a more coherent approach to Norwegian international development cooperation, and how they can be overcome. The annual report to the Storting, prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is thematic in nature. For 2019, the theme is climate and the environment. The Policy Coherence Forum will play an important advisory role in preparing this report.

Trade

Norway is committed to cooperating with developing countries in their efforts to achieve economic growth and poverty reduction through increased participation in international trade. All countries benefit from open, predictable and enforceable trade rules. Maintaining the World Trade Organization (WTO) as the relevant forum for a rules-based multilateral trade regime is Norway's top trade policy priority (Target 17.10).

Norway has a comprehensive, generalised system of preferences for imports from developing countries (Target 17.11). Through this system, Norway offers duty-free and quota-free market access to the least developed countries and other low-income countries (Target 17.12). Most countries of lower-middle income are classified as GSP+ in the Norwegian system. These GSP+ countries also benefit from preferential treatment and, with some exceptions, are offered 20 percentage points of preference above other middle-income countries.



Abbreviations and acronyms

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ADB	Asian Development Bank
AfDB	African Development Bank
ADRA	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
CASA	Conflict Affected States in Africa
CEPI	Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
DHIS	District Health Information System
DJN	Debt Justice Norway
DNT	Norwegian Trekking Association
EEA	European Economic Area
EITI	Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GAVI	Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization
GFATM	Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
GFEMS	Global Fund to End Modern Slavery
GFF	Global Financing Facility for Women and Children's Health
GSTC	Global Sustainable Tourism Council
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
IDA	International Development Association
IDEA	Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LDCs	Least developed countries
LNOB	Leave no one behind
MBDs	Multilateral development banks
MPA	Marine protected areas
NAD	Norwegian Association of Disabled
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan

NICFI	Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative
NIFU	Nordic Institute for Studies in Innovation, Research and Education
NNO	Norwegian Nurses Organisation
Norad	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
NordGen	Nordic Genetic Resource Centre
Norec	Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation
Norfund	Norwegian Investment Fund for Developing Countries
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PISA	Programme for International Student Assessment
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SAIH	Students' and Academics' International Assistance Fund
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
TJNN	Tax Justice Network Norway
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS
UN DESA	UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIO	Confederation of Unions for Professionals
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlement Programme
UNODC	UN Office on Drugs and Crime
UN Women	UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UHC	Universal health coverage
UWWTD	Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive
WHO	World Health Organization
WWF	World Wildlife Fund





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