



Norwegian Ministry of Finance
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Report

One year closer 2018

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



THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development



BÆREKRAFTSMÅL 3:

Sikre god helse og fremme
livskvalitet for alle, uansett alder.



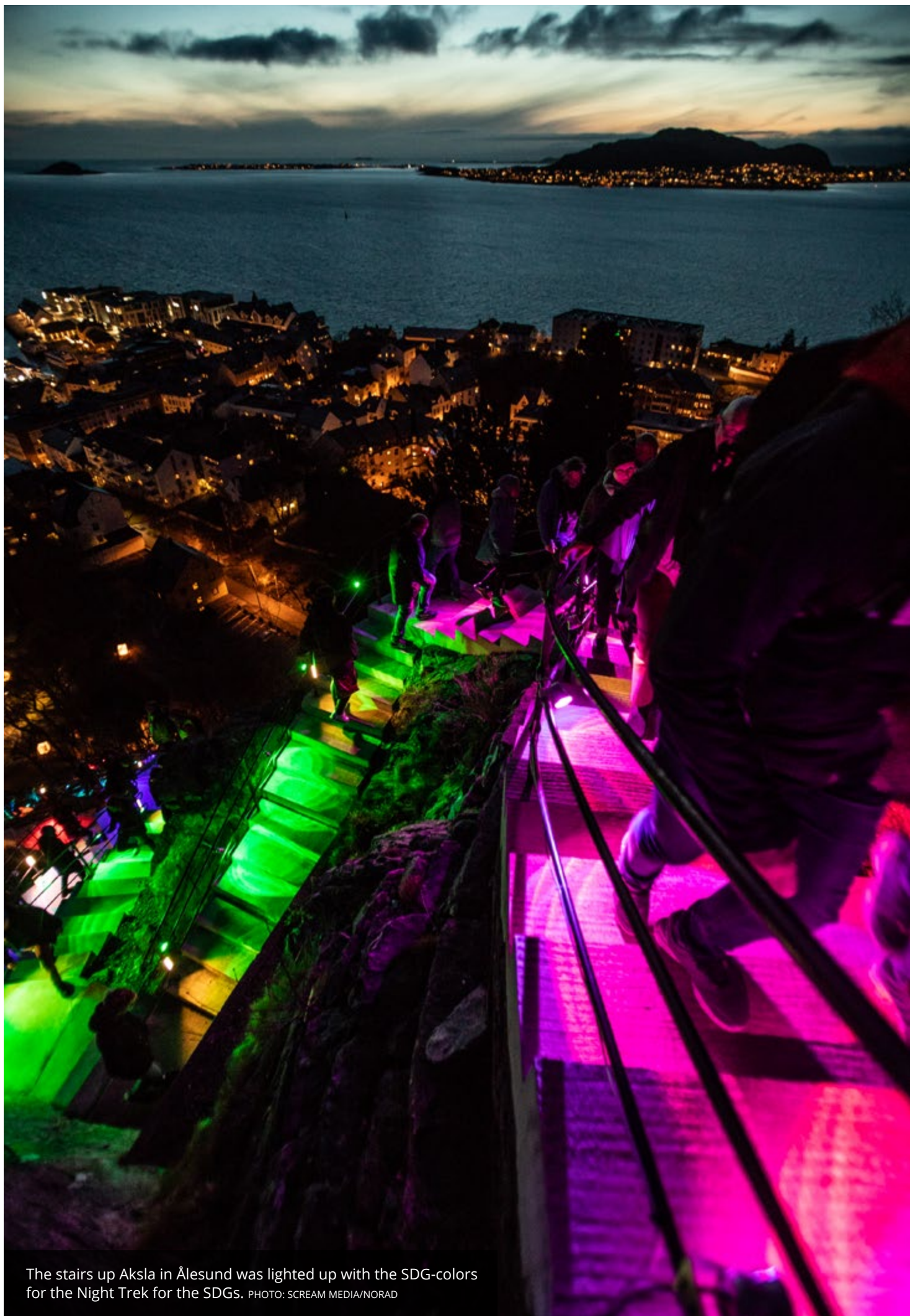
VI GÅR SAMMEN FOR
BÆREKRAFTSMÅLENE

LES MER PÅ [NORAD.NO](https://www.norad.no)

Norad and the UN Foundation Norway arranged an educational trek for the SDGs as a part of the Norwegian SDG campaign. Children in primary school learned in an interactive way about the SDGs. PHOTO: SCREAM MEDIA/NORAD

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The stairs up Aksla in Ålesund was lighted up with the SDG-colors for the Night Trek for the SDGs. PHOTO: SCREAM MEDIA/NORAD

Preface

This annual report on Norway's follow-up of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development testifies to the high level of commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), at both national and international level. Our engagement is based on the principles of democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

The decision made by all UN member states to adopt the 2030 Agenda in 2015 was a radical one. Never before has the international community been clearer or more resolute in calling for global transformation. The SDGs are a universal call for inclusive development policies that respect the limits of the planet while promoting environmental sustainability. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (2015), which established a foundation for the financing of the 2030 Agenda, underscores the importance of domestic resource mobilization for achieving the SDGs.

This report shows that although Norway is still in an early phase of implementing the 2030 Agenda, it is on track to reach most of the SDGs and targets at the national level. However, globally the picture is bleaker.

One in ten people still live in fragile situations, or close to areas affected by conflict and fragility. The depletion of natural resources and climate change are having a particularly adverse impact on vulnerable populations. Time and again, we have seen humanitarian and security crises develop as a result of conflict and poverty. These crises then often lead to large flows of refugees and migrants. However, and as this report makes it clear: It is still possible for us to make a difference. Norway is playing a leading role in a number of areas, including ocean management, global health, education, and anti-corruption.

Good ocean management is crucial for reaching the SDGs. Prime Minister Solberg has launched a High-Level Panel on Building a Sustainable Ocean Economy to focus on this issue. In addition, Norway has taken the initiative

to establish a multi-donor trust fund to improve ocean waste management and prevent marine litter.

Every year, lack of access to affordable healthcare leads to more than six million deaths from preventable causes. Norway is a strong supporter of the Global Financing Facility (GFF), an innovative health financing mechanism that helps countries develop their health systems and make the most of their existing resources. Norway will host the GFF replenishment conference in November 2018.

We know that a combination of global and domestic financing is required if we are to ensure that all children have access to a quality education. Norway has pledged more than NOK 2 billion to the Global Partnership for Education for the period 2018-2020. At the same time, we are encouraging our partner countries to increase allocations to education to 20 % of their national budgets.

Corruption and illicit capital flows undermine inclusive development, and they pose a serious threat to security. We need to act swiftly, decisively and coherently, in cooperation with our partners to address these issues. The Knowledge Bank for technical cooperation launched this year and the Tax for Development programme are two concrete Norwegian initiatives in this area.

The 2030 Agenda underlines the fact that coherent national policies can enhance the quality of development cooperation. To this end, the Government has established a Policy Coherence Forum, with members from civil society, academia, the private sector and trade- and employers' unions. The Forum will foster a solution-oriented dialogue on policy coherence.

Inclusive development opens up opportunities for the most vulnerable. Norway, together with its partners, remains committed to ensuring that the SDGs are successfully implemented across the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development.



Ine Eriksen Søreide
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
PHOTO: UTENRIKSDEPARTEMENTET



Nikolai Astrup
MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL
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PHOTO: FOTOGRAF STURLASON/
UTENRIKSDEPARTEMENTET



Siv Jensen
MINISTER OF FINANCE
PHOTO: RUNE KONGSRO

Executive summary

When world leaders committed to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), they also committed to annually report on the results they achieved, both at home and abroad, leading up to 2030. This report presents Norway's implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for the year 2017 at both the national and international level.

Norway presented its first National Voluntary Review in 2016. A status report is presented to Parliament and the public on an annual basis. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has drafted and coordinated the 2018 report in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance. Stakeholders from civil society, business and industry, local government and academia have provided input on their contributions to promoting the 2030 Agenda both nationally and internationally. In addition, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Finance held interdepartmental meetings and other relevant stakeholders prior to preparing this report.

Norwegians enjoy universal access to drinking water, clean energy, a low crime rate and universal health care. Inequality is low and the economy is stable. All of these elements contribute to the achievement of the SDGs at home. Nevertheless, Norway also faces challenges at the national level regarding drop-out rates in the education system (SDG 4), and plastic waste in the Barents Sea that threatens the Norwegian fishing industry, one of the country's most important export industries (SDG 14). At an international level, the progress continues in reducing maternal, child mortality, and the transmission of infectious diseases.

That climate change is affecting water and waste management at a national level (SDG 6), illuminates the interconnectedness of the goals. That same came

be said for SDG2 on food- and nutrition security; SDG3 on health, SDG5 on gender equality, and so forth: Unless the goals are pursued in an integrated and holistic manner, the Agenda will fail.

Norway is a comparatively peaceful society in a world that is experiencing a number of conflicts. Seven of the largest partner countries receiving Norwegian aid in 2017 were affected by conflict and crisis. Eleven per cent of Norwegian aid was allocated to governance in 2017, in support of SDG 16.

Also documented in this report is the finding that public awareness of the 2030 Agenda is relatively high in Norway. The Government will continue to prioritise awareness raising in the coming year. The Agenda in general and the SDGs in particular, are increasingly being referred to as the steering principles of companies, organisations, local government and academia. At the same time, the government is under scrutiny from stakeholders urging Norway to acknowledge the remaining challenges and to move away from "business as usual" in order for the Agenda to have the intended transformative effect.

This report does not aspire to give a comprehensive description of the state of affairs. Its purpose is to provide status of implementation, a snap shot of achievements nationally as well as internationally and pointing at challenges that needs to be addressed while moving towards 2030.

The report consist of three main parts. It firstly describes the global leadership role of Prime Minister Erna Solberg; it gives credit to important domestic partnerships and the importance of Leaving No One Behind. It continues with an overview of follow-up of the 17 SDGs at national and international levels.





Mexico City April 2018: Norwegian Prime Minister with Jayathma Wickramanayake, UN Secretary General's Youth Envoy for the 2030 Agenda, Sri Lanka. Photo: Héctor García

Prime Minister Solberg's global role as co-chair of the UN Secretary General's SDG Advocacy Group

Prime Minister Solberg holds the position of co-chair of the UN Secretary General's SDG Advocacy Group, together with the President of Ghana, Mr Akufo-Addo. The mandate of the co-chairs is to put the world on a swift and steady course towards implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

"Long-term and sustained efforts are called for if we are to combat the challenges of tomorrow. Eradicating poverty in all its forms, unemployment, pollution, particularly in our oceans, conflicts and extremism, migration and a rapidly changing climate, will require our full attention for years to come," says Erna Solberg.

The 17 global goals should not be considered an add-on to an already hectic work situation. On the contrary, the Prime Minister takes every opportunity to promote the 2030 Agenda, and views its global legitimacy and integrated approach as a unique pathway towards sustainable development for all.

Successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda will require sustained efforts from a multiplicity of actors, including national and local leaders, business leaders, civil society organisations, labour union members, academics, and the involvement of every citizen.

[Norwegian Prime Minister speaking at the 2018 SDG Bergen Conference.](#)



High awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals

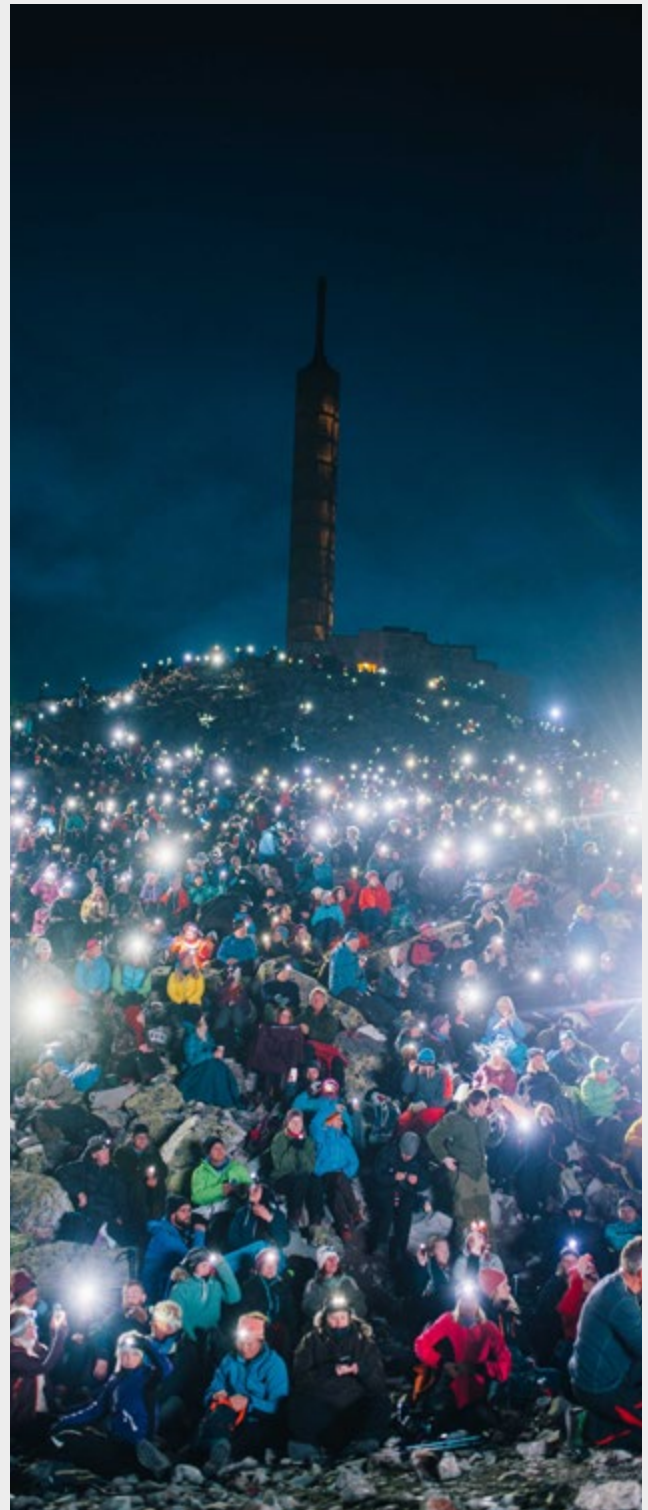
Half of all Norwegians now know that the SDGs exist, and that it is within our power to reach them

In 2016, only 35 per cent of Norwegians knew about the existence of the Sustainable Development Goals. Low awareness makes it harder for the government to implement the SDGs nationally, and to create support for development policies based on the SDGs. On this basis, Norad initiated an information campaign in August 2016 to raise public awareness of the 2030 Agenda.

Collaboration and innovative partnerships are key approaches for reaching the SDGs. Inspired by the Norwegian national hiking culture, the campaign organised the world's first SDG summit hike on one of Norway's most popular hiking mountain (Gaustatoppen – 1883 m.a.s.l.). Since then, several other hikes have been arranged. To prove the point that the impossible is possible, the hikes were organised in the dark of night. A number of the pictures in this report are from these hikes.

More than 20,000 people have so far participated in the night treks. Local municipalities, the Red Cross, the Norwegian Trekking Association and hundreds of volunteers were key partners in shaping these events. Seventeen information points along the trails invited the hikers to learn more about some of the most important messages of our time: the world with all her resources is under stress. Only by working together can we attain a sustainable future. Together, the participants formed spectacular human light chains that became powerful symbols of what we can achieve if we join forces.

From the summits, the message was spread through social media via bloggers, musicians, UN agencies, as well as Norway's prime minister and ambassadors. The campaign has so far generated over 100 media stories including coverage in all major national media outlets. The films from the events have been viewed over 5.5 million times in social media. Most importantly, though, awareness of the SDGs increased. Currently, 50 per cent of the Norwegians now know that the SDGs exist and that it is within our power to reach them.



National partnership

Prime Minister of Norway Erna Solberg presented the first National Voluntary Review to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in 2016. Since then, annual status reports have been presented to the Norwegian Storting (Parliament) and to the general public.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs issues the report in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance. Contributions from ministries with particular responsibility for pursuing one or more goals, civil society, business and industry, local government and academia, are included in the report.

Thanks to targeted efforts implemented by the government, civil society, academia and the private sector, public awareness of the 2030 Agenda is relatively high in Norway (see Box 1). The Government will continue to prioritise awareness raising in the coming year. The Agenda in general and the SDGs in particular, are increasingly being referred to as a new platform for business operations and governance by companies, non-governmental organisations, local government and academia.

However, the government is under scrutiny from other stakeholders, urging Norway to acknowledge the remaining challenges and the need to move away from “business as usual”, in order for the Agenda to have the intended transformative effect. To harness the strength of constructive dialogue on policy dilemmas that may hinder a coherent international development policy, the Government has established a Policy Coherence Forum. The state secretary for international cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs chairs the forum, in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Climate and Environment, and the Ministry of Health and Care Services. Its members are recruited from the private sector, civil society organisations, employers’ and trade unions and academia. The Forum will serve to foster a solution-oriented dialogue on policy coherence, in an advisory capacity to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It will play a central role in preparation of the annual report on Policy Coherence to the Parliament.

Civil society

Civil society is a dynamic and important part of the Norwegian democracy. It provides a platform for

civic participation in and collaboration with the public sector. At the same time, these organisations also serve as watchdogs by holding the authorities to account. They give a voice to groups and causes that may be affected by the decisions of both the public and private sector. The Norwegian model promotes dialogue between all involved parties, and civil society is instrumental to that end.

The Norwegian Forum for Development and Environment (ForUM) represents more than 50 Norwegian civil society organisations. It is an important partner in the national and global follow-up of the 2030 Agenda. ForUM’s report “17 goals, one future” draws a road map on how the international community can achieve the SDGs.

In 2017, the national branch of Plan International campaigned to raise the legal minimum age of marriage from 16 to 18 years in Norway – in line with Target 5.3 of the SDGs. This campaign engaged more than ten thousand Norwegian youths. It resulted in a renewed dialogue with the Norwegian Ministry of Children and Equality as well as Norwegian parliamentarians on how to speed up legal reform ensuring that no child is married off until she or he turns 18.

Collaboration between civil society and the Norwegian government resulted in the speeding up of a legal reform ensuring that no child is married off until she or he turns 18

Leaving No One Behind is the ultimate goal of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The goal strikes at the heart of the Norwegian branch of the catholic relief organisation Caritas’ new policies on inclusion, climate and gender equality. Consistent with Leaving No One Behind, Caritas has enhanced the role of advocacy in its programmes to secure rights for vulnerable groups, favouring a bottom-up approach and grassroots initiatives to ensure ownership.

Labour organizations and unions

The collaboration between labour organisations and unions and the state is the backbone of the Norwegian labour market model. The collaborations are based on mutual respect and are intended to



Children and schools are an important target group for the Norwegian SDG campaign. PHOTO: SCREAM MEDIA/NORAD

promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth as well as full and productive employment and decent work for all. Several unions have adopted the SDGs as an integral part of their strategy. The Confederation of Unions for Professionals (UNIO) will include the principle of Leaving No One Behind in its next communique for the Bologna Process in May 2018. UNIO seeks to harmonize academic degree standards and quality assurance standards throughout Europe.

Private sector

A well-functioning private sector is a prerequisite for creating decent jobs and economic growth. It is also a prerequisite for attaining the SDGs. The Norwegian private sector is not a recipient of government development funding. However, partnerships with the private sector are of strategic importance for the realisation of the SDGs. One example is the Norwegian Shipowners' Association, which promotes a proactive and ambitious vision of zero harmful emissions to air and sea. The objective is to prevent Norwegian shipping and offshore installations from producing environmentally harmful emissions or discharges. The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) has developed a global and binding regulatory framework for safety and the environment at sea. In close cooperation with the Norwegian authorities, the Shipowner's Association contributes to IMO's efforts to identify safe, cost-effective and environmentally friendly solutions for international shipping.

Academia

Developing policies based on research is essential to achieving the SDGs. Combatting climate change, ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns, and sustainable use of the oceans and marine resources are key themes that trigger involvement by Academia in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

Universities are gradually institutionalising the SDG Agenda. At the SDG Bergen Conference in February 2018, the University of Bergen (UiB) launched a university-wide strategic initiative in Norway to engage a wide range of stakeholders in the Sustainable Development Goals. Prime Minister Solberg delivered the key message. A national committee in which the five largest universities are represented, is now formed. It is chaired by the

University of Bergen. One of its main purposes is to integrate the 2030 Agenda with the SDGs into the institutions' learning and research programmes.

The University of Oslo established the Oslo SDG Initiative in 2017. The goal is to initiate dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders and promote interdisciplinary research and learning that addresses challenges associated with the 2030 Agenda, both in Norway and abroad.

Partner institutions in academia are particularly interested in to what extent domestic SDG-related policies can balance social, economic and environmental objectives. This includes a better understanding of how policy measures addressing one SDG may strengthen or undermine other SDGs, how domestic policies can affect other countries, and how short-term objectives can be aligned to long-term policy objectives.

The Research Council of Norway (RCN) administers more than a quarter of public research funding in Norway to research and innovation. As part of their strategy Research for Sustainable Societal and Industrial Development, the RCN highlights the need for a new approach, in which research on themes such as migration, integration, inequality, poverty, development, democracy, security and conflict are of paramount strategic importance to ensuring a knowledge-based policy approach.

Local communities

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is global and universal. Yet, people live in local communities. Throughout 2017, the municipality New Asker has worked on how to localise the SDGs and has developed a methodology intended to ensure that the SDGs will frame the ongoing municipal planning processes. By contextualising the SDGs to the physical, social and cultural environment of New Asker, they provide direction and substance to the municipal planning.

All of the municipality's primary and lower secondary schools have integrated the SDGs in their educational programmes. On the UN Day this year (24 October), the municipality will host the Asker Youth Conference. The conference will focus on youth participation in achieving the SDGs. It will be conducted in cooperation with UN Habitat, thereby

HOW A RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE MODEL PROMOTES THE 2030 AGENDA

FK Norway is a public grant management agency under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Its prime task is to run exchange programmes for professionals and volunteers in partner countries. The exchange of professionals and volunteers is a virtuous civic engagement mechanism. The FK model harnesses the ingenuity of people in addressing the challenges of sustainable development.

The participants, being embedded in local communities, build strong, personal and working relationships with local partners. The programme shapes new understanding based on the individuals' experiences, skills and networks, and generates solutions that are locally owned and sustained. The FK reciprocal exchange model responds very well to the universality principle of the 2030 Agenda.

merging the global and the local perspectives on sustainability.

Harnessing the power of data for sustainable development

Delivering quality statistics is a tall order for all countries. Global meetings of the statistics community throughout 2017 highlighted the need to strengthen national statistical offices and national statistical systems' ability to report on the SDGs. Statistics Norway (SSB) has in 2017 shared experiences and principles for capacity building between statistical organisations. Important arenas are the first World Data Forum in Cape Town under the auspices of the 48th UN Statistical Commission, as well as work on Capacity Development with PARIS21 (the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century) and the UNECE Task Group on Capacity Development.

SSB participates in the national interdepartmental dialogue led by the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The purpose of the dialogue is to explore how progress can be measured by national and global SDG indicators.

In 2017, SSB undertook a mapping of the relevance of the global SDG indicators to Norway. It found that although Norway has an advanced domestic reporting system, there are still areas related to the 2030 Agenda where official statistics fall short. So far, approximately half of the global indicators are applicable to the Norwegian context.

A national reporting platform will facilitate information on implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Norway. To this end, SSB is well positioned to coordinate and compile the statistical indicators. However, the Agenda can benefit from stronger cooperation and partnerships in the whole data

ecosystem, where academia, decisions makers, the private sector and civil society also play a role.

Leaving no one behind

Norway acknowledges that ensuring that no one is left behind is the overarching goal of the 2030 Agenda. With its emphasis on reaching out to marginalized groups, it underlines the people-centred nature of the Agenda. The goal implies that all shall be given equal opportunities to make choices that can improve their own lives. Furthermore, no one should have to live in extreme poverty or be discriminated against on the basis of their ethnicity, race, religion, gender, sexual identity or disabilities.

As this report shows, Leaving No One Behind is deeply embedded in Norwegian national policies. The number of persons with persistently low income is relatively low in Norway. However, over the past two decades there has been a significant increase in the share of children living in families with low income. More than half of these families have immigrant background. Increased work participation will rise earnings in low-income groups and is the most important means to further reduce number of people on low income. Good macroeconomic management, an active labour market policy and coordinated wage formation contribute to high labour market participation and low unemployment, thereby also lowering income differences.

Norwegian development aid can be recognised by its long history of trying to reach the marginalized and less privileged. Committed and local project support to health, education, fisheries and agriculture programs, through both civil society organizations and public partners commenced more than 60 years ago. The motivation at that time was to ensure elevation of the poorest to a more decent and self-governed livelihood.



5500 trekkers went up the Aksla Mountain in Ålesund on the Night Trek for the Sustainable Development Goals. PHOTO: SCREAM MEDIA/NORAD

That commitment still permeates the support Norway offers through the five key priorities and the cross-cutting issues. However, the modality through which support is provided has changed dramatically over the past decades. The 2030 Agenda places the responsibility for inclusive development entirely on the national authorities. That also includes groups of people side-lined by non-inclusive national policies.

With the 2030 Agenda defining Leaving No One Behind as an overarching goal, national authorities are obliged to pursue the needs of these groups. Hence, our role as partners is not to retreat to the modalities of the past, with direct project support to these groups, but rather to engage in dialogue with partner countries that commits national policies and resources to the needs of these groups. The support allocated to health and education are two good examples of how our cooperation can promote the Leaving No One Behind in practice.

Norwegian Save the Children Study

The Overseas Development Institute (ODI) recently carried out a study entitled “How can Norway implement ‘Leave No One Behind’ as a guiding principle, in its aid and development policy. The study was commissioned by Norwegian branch of Save the Children. The study commends Norway for allocating a larger share of its aid budget to countries that are severely off track in meeting the SDGs, (see box). While the study recognises that much is done right when it comes to Leaving No One Behind, it also challenges Norway to more systematically mainstream this goal into all its programming.

Leave No Country Behind: Ending poverty in the toughest places

In a recent study commissioned by Norad, Brookings Institution found that 31 countries are projected to have poverty headcount ratios of at least 20 per cent in 2030. These are considered ‘severely off track countries’ (SOTCs). According to the study, “their poverty rates are decreasing very slowly, if at all; we estimate that by 2030, four out of five people living in extreme poverty will be in these 31 countries. Thus, the advances and setbacks of these countries will determine global success in achieving SDG 1.” In its analysis, Brookings looked at the underlying obstacles to development that contribute to persistent poverty in the SOTCs. Brookings offers a number of suggestions as to how changes in practice in SOTCs can maximise development effectiveness.



Goal 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere





Goal 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

The majority of the population in Norway has a high standard of living. From an international perspective, the incidence of poverty in Norway is limited, but there are still national challenges such as children growing up in low-income families.

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, 10 per cent of the population live in households with a persistent low income. These households have a disposable income significantly below the average income. Persons in these households are particularly at risk of not being able to take part in society on equal terms or maintain an average standard of living due to economic constraints.

The general income level has increased over a long period. Low-income groups have also benefited from the rise in real income, but the increase has been lower than for the rest of the population. In the few past years, the income increase for Norwegian households has weakened. Some groups, such as families with small children and lone parents, have experienced a decrease in their real income.

The number of children growing up in low-income families is increasing, and has risen over the past 10–15 years. The increase is to a great degree explained by population growth, mainly due to immigration. Around 100,000 children live in low-income families, which accounts for 10.3 per cent of all children. Children with immigrant backgrounds make up over half of this figure. The number of ethnic Norwegian children living in low-income households has also risen.

The increase in child poverty is of special concern to the Government due to the negative consequences on the children's quality of life, and due to the potential negative effects on opportunities and living conditions later in life. Since 2015, the Government has implemented a wide range of cross-sectoral measures to reduce the negative consequences of child poverty. The main aim is to give children in economically disadvantaged families equal opportunities to participate in learning, and leisure

and holiday activities. The measures also target vulnerable parents and families facing multiple problems in order to prevent the intergenerational transmission of poverty.

High employment rates, a compressed wage-structure and universal welfare schemes have contributed to less inequality and a limited share with very low income in Norway. Universal and free access to health, education and welfare mean that the situation for low-income groups in Norway is better than in other countries that do not have these structures in place.

Low income and poverty in Norway are mainly associated with being outside the labour market. Participation in the labour market is the main key to combat poverty for individuals, families and the society at large. However, some groups face difficulties entering the labour market, including persons with health-related problems and others with reduced work capacity, and persons who lack work experience and work references. This year, the Government launched a nationwide labour market inclusion effort. The aim is to mobilise all stakeholders, employers, social partners, NGOs and social entrepreneurs, along with the public sector, in order to promote inclusion for all in the labour market.

There are huge differences in participation in the labour market between natives and immigrants with low educational attainment or lack of Norwegian language skills. In order to prevent long-term poverty in the immigrant population, integration policy will be more orientated towards getting people into work.

International level

The overall aim of Norwegian aid is to fight poverty. SDG 1 sums up the entire purpose of the 2030 Agenda. It seeks to ensure social protection for poor and vulnerable people, to increase access to basic services and to increase preparedness to tackle climate-related disasters. Close to 10 per cent of the global population live in extreme poverty (less than USD 1.90/day) compared to 35 per cent in 1990. This means that an estimated 767 million people live below the poverty line, down from 1.7 billion people

in 1999. This progress is expected to slow down over the coming years. East Asia and the Pacific have experienced the greatest decline in extremely poor people in the period (from 60 to just 4 per cent).

The greatest challenges are found in Sub-Saharan Africa, where the poverty reduction has been much less in the same period (from 55 to 41 per cent). The advances and setbacks these countries experience will determine global success in achieving SDG 1. This region is a priority region for Norwegian international development cooperation, including major partnerships addressing sectors such as health, education, food security, climate and energy.

The number of developing countries with social safety nets doubled in the last two decades from 72 to 149 countries

There is agreement across party lines to maintain the official development assistance (ODA) spending level at 1 per cent. Norwegian development assistance for 2017 reached 0.99 per cent of GDP in 2017. After several years with reductions in the proportion of aid to LDCs, 2017 saw an increase to 50 per cent of aid distributed by country, from 47 per cent in 2016. Five of the ten largest recipient countries in 2017 were in the LDC category, with Afghanistan, South Sudan and Somalia receiving the most aid. In 2016, Norway provided 0.27 per cent of ODA/GNI to LDCs (1.A, 10.B, 17.2), and in 2017, Norway gave NOK 4.37 billion (approximately USD 500 million) in development assistance to 28 of the 31 countries that are considered to be severely off track in relation to meeting the SDGs.

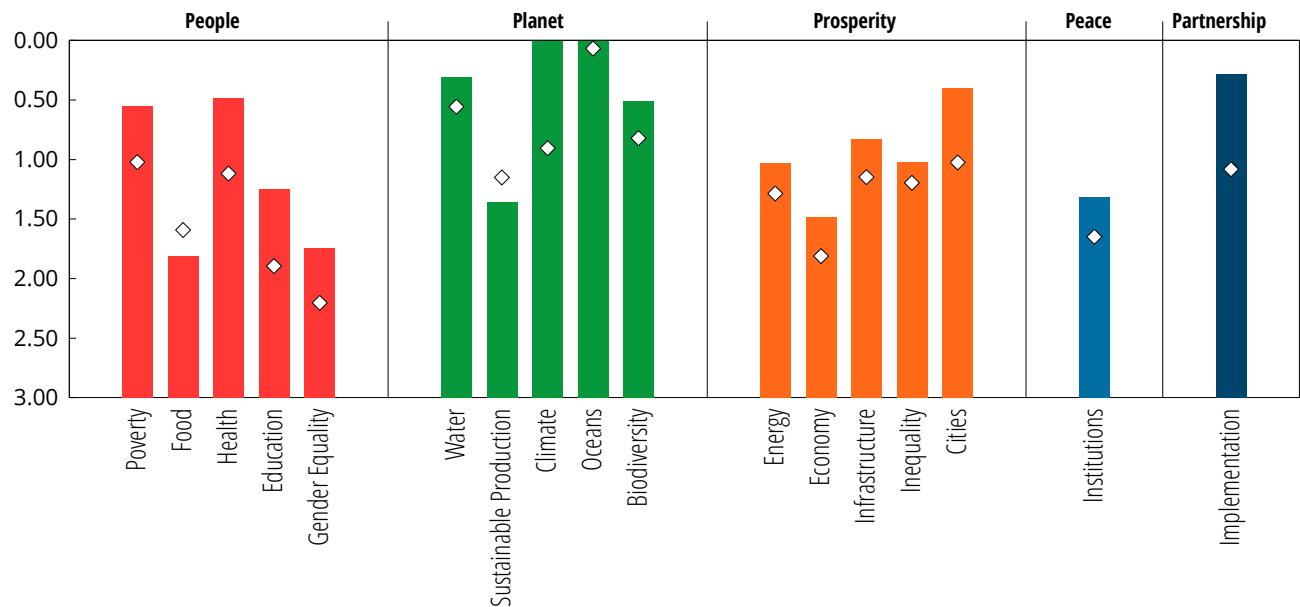


Figure1: Norway’s current distance from reaching the goals and the 5Ps of the 2030 Agenda, compared with the OECD average. MEASURING DISTANCE TO THE SDG TARGETS, AN ASSESSMENT OF WHERE OECD COUNTRIES STAND, JUNE 2017.

Norway will increase the use of cash transfers as an aid mechanism, as the number of developing countries with social safety nets doubled in the last two decades from 72 to 149 countries. This means that almost every developing country in the world has social safety net programmes. Yet, around 55 percent of the world’s poor still lack access to such

safety net coverage, especially in lower-income countries and in urban areas.

Norway is among the ten largest contributors of voluntary support to the United Nations Development System, and nearly 40 per cent is core contribution.



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



PHOTO: EIVIND SUNDGOT OSKARSON/ NORAD



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

National level

The main pillars of Norwegian food security policy are continuous food production on land and at sea, sustainable management of resources for food production, and a well-functioning and fair trading system. These policies ensure that Norway has a sustainable food supply at the national level. The fact that Norway has national political goals for food and agriculture contributes to achieving SDG 2.

The nutritional status of people living in Norway is generally good, but a lack of physical activity and unhealthy diets triggering obesity remain a challenge. The Government has launched a cross-sectorial national action plan for healthier and better diets (2017–2021) (Target 2.2), which includes measures and initiatives for schools, kindergartens and the health services. Collaboration with the food industry is key. It is crucial to recognise the links between healthy diets, food production and sustainable development.

Environmental degradation and climate change challenge food production. The agricultural sector's

ability to adjust to changes in the decades to come will be of key importance in order to maintain sustainable food production systems in Norway. The Government has decided that Norway is to reduce its emissions of greenhouse gases by at least 40 % by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. Emissions from the agricultural sector are included in this ambitious goal, and agriculture must therefore carry out its share of reductions as far as possible. As food production is not possible without greenhouse gas emissions, it is essential that total greenhouse gases emissions from agriculture are reduced.

International level

Close to eight hundred million people suffered from under- and malnutrition in 2017. Most of these people live in Sub-Saharan Africa. Climate change and protracted conflicts and crises are key constraints on food security. A fast growing population calls for increased food production, but this must go hand in hand with adaptation to climate change.

In its effort to find solutions to sustainable food production, Norway supports the Global Crop Diversity Trust's Crop Wild Relatives project, which identifies and collects the wild relatives of 29 crops essential to food security. The climate change adaptive traits of the wild breeds are analysed for possible future use of their genetic material in agriculture. So far, about 4,000 wild food crop varieties have been identified, and seeds from 2,600 of those have been collected and stored at the gene banks of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), and at the Svalbard Global Seed Vault. Norway supports agricultural research and innovation through the CGIAR system and contributes to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture under the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) (Target 2.5).

Through the New Program for African Development (NEPAD), Norway supports the process of preparing communities to employ climate-smart agriculture, with a particular focus on women's participation in this transition from traditional farming methods. In addition, support is provided for climate change adaptation among smallholder farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa through the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) (Target 2.3). Through its core contributions to the African Development Fund, Norway supports the Fund's efforts in promoting agriculture as an enterprise and supports agricultural value chain development in low-income countries in Africa (Targets 2.3, 2.4).

Climate change adaptation calls for systematic and long-term climate information being provided to food producers. Hence, Norway renewed its support to programmes under the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) in 2017.



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

National level

Health in Norway is generally good, with a life expectancy of 84.2 for women and 80.6 for men (2016). At the national level, the Norwegian government prioritises Targets 3.3, 3.4, 3.5 and 3.9.

There is a steady decrease in the prescription and use of antibiotics in the population. If this trend continues, the goal of a 30 per cent reduction will be reached by the end of 2020. The Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH) established an antimicrobial resistance (AMR) centre in 2017.

Reporting on Indicator 3.3.1 shows few new infections of HIV – 42 female cases and 97 male cases in 2017 (2016: 63 and 157, respectively). The introduction and availability of pre-exposure prophylaxis is important to prevent sexually transmitted diseases. Introducing medication for Hepatitis C and efforts to diagnose potentially infected patients is also critical for achieving Target 3.3.

The quality of drinking water is generally good, but water-borne diseases that mainly cause gastro-

intestinal infections do occur. New regulations on drinking water and a 24/7 national help desk for water treatment plants were implemented in 2017 to ensure the quality of the water supply.

As regards Target 3.4, there has been a 18 per cent reduction in premature mortality due to non-communicable diseases (NCD) from 2010 to 2015. However, halting the rise in obesity has proved challenging. An indicator team on NCDs published its first results in 2017.

Eleven per cent of the population smoke on a daily basis, and tobacco is still the single most important cause of disease burden in Norway. The use of snuff is increasing, with 12 per cent of the population using snus daily. Norway introduced plain packaging on tobacco products in 2017, and it is continuing its efforts to implement the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

Harmful use of alcohol and the use of illegal substances are important risk factors for the disease burden that contribute to health inequalities. The fifth Norwegian Public Health Policy Report (2018)



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



Better regulation of antibiotic use

When used correctly, antibiotics are important in combating infections. Among other things, over- and misuse of antibiotics leads to antibiotic resistance. Globally, antibiotic resistance causes 700,000 deaths per year. It is therefore urgent to establish knowledge and develop national guidelines and systems that can prevent this trend.

Through the Norwegian Program for Capacity Development in Higher Education and Research, Norway has contributed to national cooperation on antibiotic resistance across sectors in Malawi and Mozambique. This entails a collaboration between health authorities, universities and representatives from agricultural and veterinary authorities on regulation of antibiotic use.

therefore offers advice on social determinants and lifestyle choices.

In 2017, the Norwegian Directorate of Health launched a project that provides guidance on how to develop and follow-up on alcohol and drug policy in the workplace.

As regards Target 3.9, there has been a gradual improvement in air quality over the past decades. However, periods of high air pollution in certain cities still occur. To further improve air quality, the limit values for particles in the Pollution Control Act have been made more rigorous, and more ambitious national goals for air quality have been set. In relation to hazardous chemicals and other pollutants, there is a need for continued allocation of resources and initiatives to further national and international policies, with an emphasis on EU/EEA regulations and global agreements. Of particular importance are research, assessments and other knowledge building, the continuation of reliable national inspections, further work on contaminated sites, and efforts at the municipal level.

International level

Global health challenges such as HIV/Aids, malaria and tuberculosis are being pressed back. At the same time, status varies between regions. Sub-Saharan Africa still has a significantly higher prevalence than other regions. Infant mortality deaths remains high (216 per 100,000) globally, and only half of all births are supervised by qualified personnel.

Nevertheless, progress continues in reducing maternal and child mortality and in the transmission of infectious diseases. Teenage pregnancies have also steadily declined in almost all regions. However, the rate of improvement is not sufficient to meet the SDGs, and the improvement varies greatly, measured by country and region. This has important implications for equity.

Major shifts in the global health architecture are now underway, with a shift in emphasis from vertical target-oriented programmes towards supporting the development of national health systems. The most recent reports estimate that over half the world's population does not have adequate access to essential health services and each year, out-of-pocket health expenditure drives over 100 million people into poverty. The question of how to encourage greater domestic leadership and financing is now a major priority, and Norway is deeply engaged in rethinking global health action.

Supporting health care is one of the five priorities in the Norwegian Government's official aid policy. Norway provided NOK 5.12 billion (approximately USD 625 million) in health aid in 2017, an increase of NOK 417 million compared to the previous year. Investments in global health are primarily made through multilateral channels. These include the Global Financing Facility for Women and Children's Health (GFF), the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), the Global Fund for Aids TB and Malaria (GFATM), and CEPI, which aims to develop new vaccines against outbreaks of dangerous diseases that already cost the world USD 60 billion per year.

The GFF expanded its investments from 16 to 26 countries in 2018. Norway will host a major replenishment event for the fund in 2018. GAVI negotiated a price reduction for the HPV vaccine (to prevent cervical cancer). This will allow the poorest countries access to HPV vaccines at a significantly reduced price. Norway renewed its commitment to SRHR (including family planning) by pledging an additional USD 86.6 million in 2017–2020 (Target 3.7).

Norway is also working on new strategies for food security and the promotion of good nutrition. Approximately NOK 50 million (USD 6.1 million) will be invested in 2018 in new nutrition-related programmes to enhance health and education outcomes.



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



PHOTO: MARTE LID/NORAD



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

National level

The overall status in relation to reaching the targets and indicators for SDG 4 is very good. Norway spent 6.2 per cent of GDP (2017) and 13 per cent of total public expenditure (2014) on primary to tertiary education in 2017. Most targets under SDG 4 have been met, but some challenges remain.

In relation to Indicator 4.1.1, on completion of lower secondary school, 84.7 per cent of girls and 81.2 per cent of boys achieved above the minimum proficiency level in mathematics in 2015. While the difference is minimal for mathematics, the gender gap in favour of girls was more distinct for reading: 90.8 per cent of girls and 79.5 per cent of boys achieved sufficient proficiency in reading. Within the OECD, Norway's gender gap has been wide for reading, although it has narrowed since 2009. Both girls and boys have progressed in recent years, but the boys have on average, experienced greater improvement.

Several actions have been taken to counter these inequalities. In 2017, the Government appointed an independent expert committee to investigate why gender differences in school performance occur and to identify the most effective counter measures. There are also some differences that occur on the basis of

more favourable socio-economic backgrounds. Some examples are that 15-year-old girls report a higher level of school-related anxiety than boys, and that Norwegian boys are more likely than girls to feel a greater sense of belonging in school. Only 15.9 per cent of children from less favourable socio-economic backgrounds compared with 27.1 per cent of those from more favourable socio-economic backgrounds expect to complete tertiary education.

As regards Target 4.3.1, participation rates in upper secondary school remain a challenge. In 2016, only 58.3 per cent of those enrolled in upper secondary school completed their programme on time, with vocational programmes at 39.9 per cent and general programmes at 75.7 per cent. In 2016, the completion rate for boys was, on average, 8.3 and 15.3 percentage points below that of girls for general and vocational programmes, respectively. The share of upper secondary school students that completed within five years increased from 69 per cent of the cohort starting in 2008 to 73 per cent in 2011.

Challenges in Norwegian classrooms and disturbing statistics on enrolment in education in developing countries are on the Norwegian government's agenda.

United Nations Association of Norway

The United Nations Association of Norway has developed an interdisciplinary digital learning resource on sustainable development and the SDGs, named "Sustainability". The target groups are students at primary, and lower and upper secondary levels. The material includes animation movies (including "What is sustainable development?")

and learning activities built to engage, challenge and inspire students to understand sustainability and the correlation between social, economic and environmental development. The SDGs constitute a useful framework for demonstrating to students how the different aspects of sustainability are interconnected.

International level

Alarming statistics illustrate that in order to reach SDG 4 globally, the world community must continue to push for and support increased access to and quality of education.

While the number of out-of-school children declined remarkably during the first years of this millennium, recent data show that progress in the last decade remains at a standstill, with 9 per cent of children of primary school age remaining out of school, the same as in 2008. At primary and secondary school levels, more than 260 million children and youth are not enrolled in education. Six out of ten children do not reach minimum standards in reading and maths, even though millions of them have taken several years of schooling. Conflict, poverty, discrimination and disability are obstacles to both access and learning.

Although the main responsibilities for achieving SDG 4 rest with the countries themselves, efforts are needed in relation to prioritising the countries furthest from reaching SDG 4, and improving coordination and increasing external funding through efficient partnerships.

The SDG Education 2030 Steering Committee, under the reign of UNESCO, coordinates and supports countries in the implementation of SDG 4. Norway has co-chaired the Steering Committee for the past four

years and was recently reappointed for a third term as member of the Committee.

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) is one of Norway's key partners in promoting universal primary and secondary education (4.1), early childhood development and universal pre-primary education (4.2) and gender equality and inclusion (4.5). GPE also contributes to more effective learning environments (4.A). This international partnership supported more than 13 million children in 2015–16, and 65 per cent of partner countries have seen improved learning outcomes. UNICEF and UNESCO are other strategic partners to Norway, contributing to the same targets.

Norway co-chairs the International Teacher Task Force, which developed a new strategy in 2017 (4.C). The strategy seeks to create a one-stop shop for research and policy-guides on teaching. It continues to engage countries in reforming their teaching professions and advocates for putting teachers high on the education agenda. Norway has also initiated a programme to strengthen cooperation on the development of teaching policy that currently supports work with several partners in four Sub-Saharan African countries.

In 2017, the Education Cannot Wait fund, supported by Norway and others, initiated activities in 13 countries affected by crises and emergencies.



Goal 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

National level

Norway enjoys a high level of gender equality. In 2017, 40.8 per cent of the members of Parliament were women, up from 39.6 per cent after the 2013 election. This is the highest proportion of women in parliament in history. The Sami Parliament comprised 44 per cent women in 2017. In 2015,

women constituted 44.1 per cent of the county councils, and municipal councils comprised 39 per cent women the same year, which is an increase of 1.5 percentage points. A total of 28 per cent of the chairmen in Norwegian municipal councils are women. This is an increase of 6 percentage points from the 2011 election.



Goal 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

The Government gives high priority to efforts intended to prevent and combat violence and sexual abuse, including by implementing a wide range of action plans in this field. A plan for intensifying efforts to reduce the incidence of domestic violence and strengthening measures to address the needs of children subjected to violence and abuse was presented in October 2016. A governmental action plan to prevent and combat rape will be presented in 2018. Recent research shows that Sami women are more often subjected to violence than women in the population at large. Sámediggi (the Sami Parliament) and the Government have initiated research on this topic. A report on this was presented in March 2017 and will be followed up in 2018.

International level

Experience from Norway suggests that integrating gender and equality issues in school curricula has great normative value in general, and in relation to the roles of women in society in particular. Measured at global level, women constitute only 23 per cent of all parliamentarians. In some partner countries in the south, the ratio is substantially lower (from 0 to 15 per cent). Out of the 193 UN member countries, close to 150 of them have laws and regulations that discriminate against women and girls. More than 60 of these countries have more than five or more such laws and regulations.

The gender equality for development programme “LIKE” was launched in 2016. This prioritises capacity building for development and implementation of policies and legal frameworks for women’s rights and gender equality in partner countries. In 2017, Norway established dialogue with Ethiopia and Nepal regarding a potential institutional cooperation between the governments of the three countries. LIKE will make use of Norwegian expertise on strengthening women’s rights and gender equality, and Norwegian experience with institutional development cooperation.

Gender equality by 2030 requires urgent action to eliminate the many root causes of discrimination that still curtail women’s rights in the private and public spheres. To ensure the realisation of the SDGs, Norway is a strong supporter of the UN Women’s mandate and contributes to women’s rights and gender equality both globally and at country level. UN Women received NOK 188 mill (USD 22 million) in 2017.

Economic empowerment of women is a critical factor to attaining the sustainable development goals and

targets. In 2017, Norway supported NEPAD in organising a continental conference in Africa on “Women in Agribusiness”. The theme of the conference was “Practical Steps into Entrepreneurship”.

Stark gender disparities remain in the economic realm, especially in developing countries. Norfund’s gender strategy commits the institution to three goals: promoting equal opportunities for women and men in its investee companies; encouraging female participation in management and on boards; and supporting women’s enterprise and self-employment by improving access to financial services. At the end of 2017, the financial institutions in Norfund’s portfolio had provided 11.7 million loans to microfinance and retail clients, 70 per cent of which went to female clients.

In 2017, Norway supported women’s inclusion in all peace processes the country was involved in. This includes processes where Norway has played a formal role, such as in Colombia and the Philippines, as well as in South Sudan, but also 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 taken to support women’s influence in peace and reconciliation processes in a number of countries, such as in Mali.

The idea of a global network of women mediators was conceived in 2017, and preliminary consultations were held in the autumn, leading up to a first meeting of all regional networks of women mediators in Oslo in March 2018. The purpose was to increase the number of women appointed to mediation processes, enhance local women’s participation and influence in peace and reconciliation processes, as well as encourage gendered outcomes of peace processes.

In New York in 2017, Norway and Jordan launched the Group of Friends of Preventing Violent Extremism, with a strong focus on women and youth. The Global Solutions Exchange platform ensures that policy makers hear voices from the ground. Support provided for informed decisions was expanded beyond the Women’s Alliance to include other stakeholders as well. This initiative also includes regional dialogue forums.

Women’s rights are under pressure everywhere, in particular sexual and reproductive health and rights. Norway is stepping up its efforts to combat sexual violence against women both at home and abroad.

Women's rights are under pressure, particularly sexual and reproductive health and rights. Women's organisations play a key role in maintaining and strengthening women's rights, including sexual and reproductive rights. The Mexico City Policy, reduced funding to UNFPA, and changing priorities in the US imperil many programmes. From July 2016 to July 2017, the use of modern contraception prevented 84 million unintended pregnancies, 26 million unsafe abortions, and 125,000 maternal deaths. It is still estimated that 214 million women of reproductive age in developing regions who want to avoid pregnancy do not have access to modern contraceptive methods. Disparities among countries in contraceptive and maternal and newborn health care follow economic lines.

Through its core contributions to multilateral development banks (MDBs), Norway supports the banks' efforts to enable more equal female participation in the economy by providing women with funding and technology (Target 5.A).

Women's full participation in the labour market is a key success factor for reaching the Sustainable Development Goals. Norway has supported the Women's Entrepreneurship Finance Initiative, which aims to advance women's entrepreneurship and help women in developing countries to increase their access to the funding, markets, technology and networks necessary to start and develop a business. The initiative will have strong focus on financial inclusion, and the development of new tools and products to address the significant credit deficit affecting women-owned businesses.



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. Nevertheless, further efforts will be necessary to deal with the increasing impacts of climate change, such as changes in

temperature, higher precipitation, more frequent extreme weather events and the spread of new pathogens (6.1; 6.). Water and sewage pipes are aging and the renewal rate has been inadequate. An increased renewal rate is the main Norwegian target under the WHO/UNECE Protocol on Water and Health.



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

Extensive support has been offered for developing institutional capacity in the water sector in Laos, and infrastructure investments and capacity building for water supply, sewage and waste in Vietnam. These projects are now coming to a close and have started delivering results for local residents. Women and children's issues are of particular concern. A lack of safe, separate and private sanitation and washing facilities in schools is one of the main reasons for

high dropout rates among girls. It places them at a disadvantage compared to boys and limits their opportunities later in life. This underscores the importance of including relevant water and sanitation components in education and health programmes (6.1; 6.2). This constitutes part of Norway's support to UNICEF and to the Global Sanitation Fund under the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC).

Norway has strict regulations concerning emissions of hazardous substances and water pollution, particularly for sources of drinking water. Dumping of waste has been virtually eliminated in Norway and there are national waste management systems and legislation in place for the protection of water from contamination. Most wastewater and sewage is treated. Since 2008, the remaining untreated wastewater and sewage has been reduced by around 20 per cent (6.3). In general, there is sufficient water in Norway for everyone and therefore little need to increase water-use efficiency on grounds of scarcity (6.4). The EU Water Framework Directive has been implemented through national legislation, and the first river basin management plans, including all water bodies covered by the Directive, were adopted in 2016. In line with these plans, measures to secure status for most water bodies by 2033 or earlier will be initiated in due course. Water-related ecosystems will also be further protected and restored in accordance with the 2016 Norwegian Action Plan for Biodiversity (6.5; 6.A).

Norway enjoys universal access to drinking water, but climate change represents a challenge for universal access everywhere.

International level

In 2015, 5,3 billion people had access to safe drinking water, and 2,1 billion people had access to safe sanitary facilities. That means that 1 in 9 people lack access to safe water and 1 in 3 people lack access to a toilet. Due to high population growth, the number of people having access to piped water at their property, is increasing. South Asia and Sub-Sahara Africa are falling most rapidly behind.

Norway provides about NOK 26 million USD (Approximately 3,1 million USD) in support to SDG6 related activities. Most of the support is provided through components in sector programmes, such as health, education, rural development, and humanitarian assistance, rather than through independent activities and programs.

Norway seeks to foster cooperation on transboundary water resources and on improving water resources management, also with a view to developing hydro-power resources. Furthermore, Norway assists in establishing cooperation on the joint management of transboundary water resources, especially in the Nile and the Himalaya regions (. Support is also given to activities for better integrated water resources management through the Global Water Partnership. (6.5).

UN-environment provide better wastewater treatment and management in developing countries through Norwegian support. In addition, Norway plays an active role in the European cooperation under the WHO/ UNECE Protocol on Water and Health. Training modules are provided on water related disease surveillance and capacity building workshops on water-related diseases and outbreak management in several countries. In 2017 this was carried out in Kyrgyzstan. These workshops will continue based on interest from parties to the Protocol. Norway is also active in the field of drinking water quality surveillance under the Protocol; currently working on developing a guidance document on risk-based surveillance of drinking water quality and planning different capacity building support activities.



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



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

National level

Securing an efficient and climate-friendly energy supply requires that the security of supply, climate change and economic development are considered together. Norway has secured universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services for all. This means that virtually all of the 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).

Norway has a very high proportion of renewable energy in its energy mix compared to other countries, due to a combination of policy and natural conditions. Almost all

of our electricity production (99 per cent) comes from renewable energy sources, mainly from hydroelectric power generation. The share of renewable energy in Norway's total energy consumption (including transport) is around 69 per cent. Policies targeting 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. These include new energy requirements for house construction, infrastructure and industry (Target 7.3).

The golden thread

Former Secretary General Ban Ki-moon stated that access to energy is "the golden thread that connects economic growth, social equity and environmental sustainability".

Norway supports other countries' efforts to provide modern energy for all through international cooperation and investments. The energy sector accounts for a major share of climate gas emissions and growth in energy use and production increases emissions. By supporting clean and renewable sources of energy, Norway contributes to reducing the growth in greenhouse gas emissions.



Former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the Camilo Ortega Wind Park in Rivas during a visit to Nicaragua, 29 July 2014. UN PHOTO/MARK GARTEN.

Rehabilitation of the Mount Coffee hydropower plant

A part of these efforts has been Norway's contribution to the rehabilitation of the Mount Coffee hydropower plant in Liberia. Until recently, the country was dependent on fossil fuels. The plant is now the main source of electricity production and supplies approximately 50,000 customers. Due to more stable supply and lower production costs, the price of electricity could be halved, allowing businesses to connect and reduce their use of diesel aggregates. However, challenges remain since almost 90 per cent of the population still lack access to electricity.



Clean electricity at home and investing in renewable energy sources abroad.

International level

Access to energy is paramount for sustainable development to take place. More than 1.1 billion people are denied such services, especially those living in non-urban areas. However, the gap is closing every year and coverage in cities and towns is now at 96 per cent. About 3 billion people do not have clean stoves in their homes. Although Sub-Saharan Africa tops the tables, the trends for that region are in fact positive. In low-income countries, about two thirds of the total private investments were in energy production, and globally, the share of renewable energy is about 18 per cent.

In 2017, Norway committed more than USD 65 million (NOK 532 million) in bilateral and multilateral development assistance to projects providing access to energy and to renewable energy projects (Targets 7.1; 7.2). The Norwegian Development Finance Institution, Norfund, committed more than USD 255 million (approximately NOK 2 billion) to the energy sector.

Through its core contributions to multilateral development banks, Norway supports the banks' efforts to ensure access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services. The banks are supporting

transformation of the energy sector in developing countries, including the development of renewable energy resources (Target 7.1). In 2017, 100 percent of the African Development Bank's new lending on energy was in renewables.

Norway co-facilitated the multi-stakeholder SDG 7 Technical Advisory Group convened by UN DESA to support HLPF's review process. The group brought together representatives from governments, UN entities, international organisations and other stakeholders. As part of its Global Agenda, the Group prepared 27 policy briefs on SDG 7 and its interlinkages with other goals for Accelerated SDG 7 Action. The policy briefs will frame the discussions in the HLPF and serve as a foundation for concerted action on the part of governments and other stakeholders to reach the SDG 7 Targets.

Norfund is Norway's main instrument for investments in energy production in low- and middle-income countries. Clean energy is Norfund's largest business and at the end of 2017, Norfund had an energy portfolio of NOK 11 billion (USD 1.3 billion). Norfund's power investments in Sub-Saharan Africa (excluding South Africa) produced 8 TWh, an amount equivalent to 40 per cent of industrial consumption in the seven countries involved.



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

National level

Over the past 25 years, Norway has enjoyed higher economic growth, a higher employment share and lower unemployment than most other advanced

economies. Good macroeconomic management, a flexible labour market and favourable changes in the terms of trade have supported this development. Until 2014, the Norwegian economy received



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



PHOTO: SCREAM MEDIA/NORAD

significant stimulus from petroleum activity. After a significant decline due to the fall in the oil price in 2014 and 2015, investments in the sector have stabilised and showed some indications of modest growth. However, in the long term, mainland industries will probably need to find their basis for growth in other markets.

Experience suggests that high economic growth and full employment is best achieved with a high degree of openness to international markets, strong competition, good and stable conditions for business, and incentives for work effort and competence building. A simple tax system with broad tax bases also supports innovation and value creation. Transfer schemes should be designed to provide incentives for education and work.

The Norwegian labour market is quite flexible. We have managed to sustain relatively high employment

and low unemployment in an international context, also in periods with substantial relocations between sectors. The labour market model protects rights and promotes a stable working environment for all. This is supported by regulations and a long-term commitment to cooperation between labour unions, employers' organisations and the Government.

Long spells 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 to enter and remain in employment. Young people, immigrants, the long-term unemployed and those with reduced work capacity are given priority in labour market programmes.

Target 8.8 is about facilitating migration and mobility in a systematic manner. While well-organised

The Nordic Model

In Norway, tripartite cooperation has a long tradition. The origin of tripartite cooperation is our system for wage formation with centralised collective bargaining between a few big unions and employers' organisations. An important feature of the Norwegian system for wage formation is often referred to as the "frontrunner model" (frontfagsmodellen). In short, it means that the sector most exposed to foreign competition is the first to enter the collective bargaining round. The level for wage increases that the parties in the sector agree on sets the norm for the other sectors to follow later on.

Given their size, unions have an incentive to take into account the impact of wage increases on unemployment. This also facilitates an emphasis on

common interests and a relatively equal distribution of income. In combination with strong institutions, comprehensive income insurance schemes and active labour market policies, it has contributed to a more flexible labour market and a climate of trust. Ambitious welfare and family policies have been instrumental in supporting the participation of women in the labour market.

Collective bargaining, social dialogue and tripartite cooperation have secured influence, decent working conditions, social justice and predictability. What has become known as the Nordic Model has also proved its strength in times of crisis, paving the way for wage restraint and for successful reform of welfare policies and institutions.

migration 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.

Over the past decade, work participation rates have been trending down, both in Norway and in other industrial countries, partly driven by the ageing of the population. In Norway, the 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 year, the labour market has improved. In the beginning of the first quarter of 2018, the unemployment rate was at 4.0 per cent of the labour force.

Creating jobs as a key to achieving goal number 8 everywhere.

International level

Although global productivity rose by 1.9 per cent from 2009 to 2016, major regions are still lagging behind. A total of 60 per cent of the global youth population under 24 years of age (22 per cent of the global population) are outside the labour force. Studies confirm that children living in low-income households may end up in a similar predicament.

Hence, it is 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 Trust Fund, in support of the bank's Jobs for Youth in Africa Strategy. The 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 employable skills and create 25 million jobs by 2025 (Target 8.6.1).

With nine out of ten jobs in developing countries being in the private sector, there is significant potential for increased tax revenues, which can be used for investments in infrastructure, services, health and education.

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. The MDBs promote private sector development in low-income countries by providing technical assistance and supporting programmes to stimulate investment. The MDBs are increasingly providing guarantees and new financial instruments in order to promote private sector investment and attract additional financial resources (Targets 8.1; 8.2).

Norway supports the G20 Compact for Africa Initiative, which aims to improve regulatory frameworks and increase investments from domestic businesses as well as 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, job creation and employment, including a fund for Conflict Affected States in Africa (CASA) and the Umbrella Trust Fund for Jobs.

Norway also works towards sustainable economic growth and full employment by promoting free international trade. 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.

Good governance is a key factor for achieving economic progress. Norway works to promote good governance through various channels and

partnerships, for instance through core support to 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. Furthermore, Norway is contributing to the elimination of child labour through its global education initiative, and has launched a national action plan to follow up 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 the universal ratification of the ILO's eight core conventions



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

National level

The current government has made transportation one of its key priorities. One of its main objectives is to implement the highly ambitious National Transportation Plan 2018–2029, and to develop a transportation system with emphasis on promoting value creation, enhancing safety and contributing

to a low-carbon society. Never before has the level of funding for road and railroad maintenance been as high as now, and nor has the level of funding for new investments been higher. These record high investments will benefit the whole country and will result in more efficient daily commutes, safer transportation and increased mobility.



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

The Norwegian economy will continue to benefit from the petroleum sector, but Norwegian businesses need to change and adapt. The process of adjustment has already started, and the Government will facilitate businesses, ensure robust institutions, rules and regulations, and ensure a broad knowledge base.

In the Government's view, upgrading infrastructure and retrofitting industries to make them sustainable (SDG 9.4) is challenging. In spring 2017, The Norwegian Government presented a white paper on industry, which describes framework conditions and policies for greener, smarter and more innovative industry. Two important initiatives that were launched in the white paper are a forum for cooperation in the Norwegian processing industry, and a top executive forum for digitalisation in the industrial sector as a whole. Increased cooperation within the industrial sector and platforms for cooperation between industry and the Government constitute important contributions to sustainable industrial growth.

As laid out the strategy for green competitiveness, the Government will base its policy for promoting green competitiveness on seven principles. These include the Government facilitating stable framework conditions and being a driving force in the transition to a low emission society. The polluter pays principle is also important and a price on emissions will stimulate the development of new environmentally sound technology. Technology and knowledge will 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 R&D and the development of such technology. The Government also attaches importance to ensuring that the public sector contributes by using and promoting new environmentally sound and climate-friendly solutions.

The Government has received an Official Norwegian Report (NOU 2018:5) on businesses' access to capital. The report is a follow-up of the white paper on

industry. The main assessment is that the Norwegian capital market is largely well-functioning. The majority of profitable businesses, or businesses that are expected to become profitable, have access to funding at a cost that reflects their risk. Nevertheless, the commission offers several suggestions for improving the efficiency of the capital market and the allocation of available capital. The Government is currently reviewing the commission's report and recommendations.

The Government will continue to prioritise research and education and will facilitate innovation. Expertise and the development of new and better technology will help Norway to fulfil the sustainable development goals.

Infrastructure, industrialisation and innovation coupled with good governance are key determinants in the development of any state.

International level

Norway has set up a grant scheme for risk-reducing, early-phase support to individual companies for investment preparation. Supported activities include feasibility studies, partner searches, trial production, training of local staff, and the strengthening of local suppliers and local infrastructure. The grants are intended to reduce risk prior to an investment decision. Norway also offers a grant scheme to improve framework conditions for the private sector in developing countries. A key instrument in this area is strategic partnerships that address specific bottlenecks in the value chains of developing countries. These employ a holistic approach and include vocational training, access to funding, increasing the volume and quality of products, and incubation and acceleration facilities.

There is also a focus on research and education in developing countries, including twinning Norwegian universities and universities in developing countries with a view to promoting cooperation (Target 9.B). This takes place under the auspices of the Norwegian Programme for Capacity Development in Higher Education and Research for Development

One example of support to private sector development is the facilitation of employee exchange between Høst – Verdien i Avfall AS in Norway and Høst Asia Ltd in Vietnam. The focus of the project is waste

handling and production of bio-fertilizers, responding to increased demand for organic fertilizers in both countries. The project has the long-term view to establish a production facility in Vietnam.

(NORHED) in the fields of Energy and Petroleum (EnPe). The cooperation through the EnPe programme includes a scholarship programme for training academic staff, developing new and relevant master's degree and PhD programmes, upgrading scientific and research infrastructure, and stimulating research cooperation.

Through its core contributions to multilateral development banks, Norway supports the banks' extensive portfolios in infrastructure, including cross-border roads, transport corridors, transnational railways and regional power pools. The banks also provide a wide range of related "soft" input to improve governance and ensure sustainable results in the sector (Target 9.1).



Goal 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

National level

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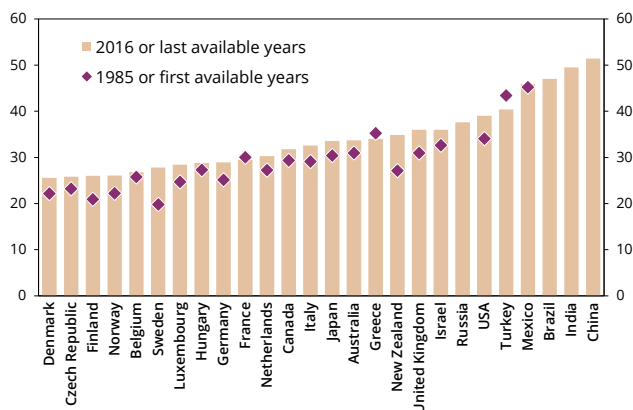


Figure 2: Gini-index for household income after tax 1985 to 2016. Source OECD

International level

In 49 out of 83 countries, the income level per capita for the 40 per cent with the 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).

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 is NOK 2.748 billion (approximately USD 340 million) (2017–2018). Norway also supports several of the World Bank's trust funds in different thematic areas that address inequality. Norway provides predictable and 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 ten biggest donors (Target 10.B). Norway also contributes to the Asian Development Bank's (AsDB) fund for lower-income developing countries. Norway and other donors' support to the eleventh replenishment of the fund for 2017–2020 will allow AsDB 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, as agreed during the replenishment processes concluded in 2016. The banks are deepening their strategic engagement in addressing this vulnerability. The funds contribute to the strengthening of domestic financial markets, as well as 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.



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

National level

The majority of the world's population live in cities, and the global urban population continues to grow. Cities are becoming separate social, economic and political players that both have an impact on, and depend on, their regional, national and global surroundings.

The Planning and Building Act is the main tool for making Norwegian cities, towns and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. National authorities provide legislation, guidelines and economic frameworks to ensure implementation of national and international policies in local and regional planning.



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



PHOTO: MARTE LID/NORAD

In 2017, the growth in the number of dwellings was the highest registered since the statistics were introduced in 2006. Norway's urban areas have seen the highest growth, and particularly the cities of Oslo, Bergen and Trondheim. Detached houses dominate the dwelling stock, but for the first time in a decade, less than half of all new dwellings were detached houses, with an increase in the number of flats. This may indicate that our cities are becoming increasingly densified, entailing more sustainable land use.

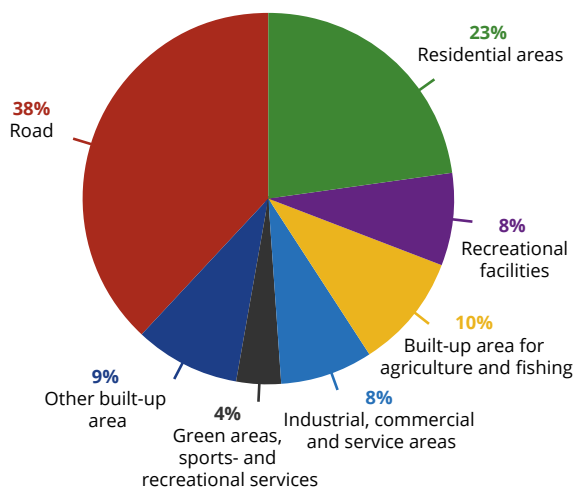


Figure 3: Proportion built up by category. The whole country. 2016. Percent.

Local air quality in Norway has improved over the past decades due to the technological development of vehicles, cleaner wood-burning stoves and a variety of other measures. In general, Norway has a low level of air pollution and the number of early deaths due to road traffic emissions are among the lowest in Europe. The most important sources of local air pollution are road traffic, wood burning (especially during the winter) and long-range pollution. To counter air pollution, the municipalities, which are the local pollution authorities, can implement different measures such as low emission zones, fees for use of studded tires, road tolls differentiated by vehicle emissions or rush hours, reduced speed limits or increased road cleaning. The measures implemented can vary between permanent and temporary in order to accommodate both long-term reduction of local air pollution and acute episodes, as well as the different air polluting agents, such as particulate matter and NO_2 .

The goal for major urban areas is to ensure that all growth in passenger traffic is achieved by public transport, cycling and walking, which is referred to as the zero growth goal. Nine urban areas have committed to this zero growth goal through what are known as urban environment agreements,

urban growth agreements and the reward scheme for public transport, entered into between municipalities, city councils and the state. The process of negotiating urban growth agreements, which will replace urban environment agreements and the reward scheme, will start in 2018. These agreements focus on both transport and land use as a means of reducing emissions and congestion from passenger traffic by car.

International level

Statistics from recent years confirm that more than 50 per cent of the global population now live in cities. In a comparison of global figures and those of Sub-Saharan Africa, the rate of urbanisation in the region supersedes the global figure by a factor of 1:2.

Growing urbanisation constitutes a challenge for policymakers, in particular in developing countries experiencing rapid urban growth. Norway has endorsed the New Urban Agenda (11.B) and provides funding to this agenda through UN Habitat, the

focal point for sustainable urbanisation and human settlement matters in the UN system.

Norway supports the issue of improved air quality (11.6) through cooperation with the World Health Organization, the World Bank's Pollution Management and Environmental Health programme, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, Slum Dwellers International, and the Energising Development programme. With Norwegian funding, the Global Alliance for Clean Cook stoves in Nepal has carried out studies of urban ambient air pollution and its relationship to household air pollution caused by cooking. The studies support the Government of Nepal in its efforts to achieve smokeless kitchens and a reduction of ambient air pollution in its cities.

Norway supports several initiatives on climate adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction. The Green Climate Fund and Global Fund for Disaster Risk Reduction are important vehicles, in addition to other multilateral and bilateral programmes.



Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

National level

Norway provided financial support and expertise to the UN 10-Year Framework of Programmes (10YFP) on sustainable consumption and production patterns (12.1). The sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources is promoted nationally through a combination of regulations and incentives. It is in this context sobering to note that we would need more than two planet Earths if everyone were to have the same consumption patterns as the average Norwegian.

Food and food waste is of particular concern in the national implementation of SDG 12 (as well as in the national implementation of SDGs 2 and 14). A staggering 355,000 tonnes of edible food is wasted every year in Norway, most of it by consumers, but

also by the food industry and retailers.

The impact of chemicals and waste on health and the environment is in decline and while the amount of waste continues to grow at the same pace as GDP, hazardous waste is collected and treated separately. In addition, material recovery has increased dramatically over the past decades, thus reducing the environmental footprint of waste. A national waste prevention programme is now under development (12.4; 12.5).

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

The Enterprise Federation of Norway (VIRKE) represents more than 21,000 entities with close to 225,000 employees in the private sector and civil society. The organization encourages the use of the Sustainable Development Goals as part of an overall business strategy. VIRKE believes inclusive global trade is a

prerequisite for sustainable economic growth. The organisation entered into an agreement with the Government on reduction of food waste in June 2017. It follows up Target 12.3, the purpose of which is to reduce food waste by 50 per cent by 2030: www.matsvinn.no.



Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



Public entities are obliged by law to pursue green public procurement strategies (12.7). Public procurement procedures allow for more flexibility for green procurers, including an award criteria for contracts that address the environmental aspects of the procurement, such as operational lifetime, environmental impacts and related costs.

Environmental education has been part of the school curriculum for many years. The Government also promotes a national sustainable tourism certification for sustainable destinations (travel and tourism). Norway is actively involved in international efforts to promote the phasing-out of fossil fuel subsidies.

International level

The global material footprint increased from 8 MT in 2000 to 10 MT in 2010. Australia and New Zealand are at the top with 35 MT per inhabitant. In developing countries, more than 500 kilocalories per inhabitant are lost every day in the value chain – before food reaches the consumer. The loss is about the same in the northern hemisphere, but here, the majority of food waste takes place after it reaches the consumer. Due to rapid industrialisation, East and South Asia now consume more than 40 per cent of the global material production. Sustainable consumption and production patterns are closely connected to efforts aimed at combatting climate change.

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 provide developing countries with the possibility of developing a clean and efficient energy sector, so they can avoid locking their development to fossil fuel-based systems.

Norway provides financial and in-kind support to developing countries through multilateral environmental agreements in order to help them improve their technical capacity and strengthen their institutions. Sustainable consumption and production patterns are to a significant degree 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 through a number of channels, including the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, the Global Green Growth Institute and the UN Partnership for Action on Green Economy. These programmes support developing countries in the development of green economy strategies translated into sector specific policies, laws and budgets. For example, partner countries can receive support to develop and improve their waste management and recycling systems.



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

National level

Norway was among the first countries to ratify the Paris Agreement. Since last year, Norway has substantially raised the level of ambition in its national climate policy. This is necessary to stay on track for meeting our goal of cutting emissions by at least 40 per cent by 2030 in relation to the 1990 levels. This goal is embedded in the first Norwegian Climate Act. The Act aims to promote Norway's transition to a low emission society by 2050. This will entail an 80–95 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (Target 13.2).

Nationwide hydroelectric power coverage requires innovation in our approach to sources and methods of domestic cuts in emissions. New incentives

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

Norway and Sweden have a common market for certificates for renewable electricity production, with an overall target of 28.4 TWh by 2020. Another important measure is developing cost-effective technology for carbon capture and storage (CCS). Norway aims to have at least one full-scale CCS



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

demonstration plant in operation by 2020. Support is also provided to schemes aimed at restoring wetlands to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from drained soils, and schemes to increase CO₂ uptake in forests, for example through fertilisation.

In terms of climate change adaptation, the Government has substantially increased national investments in the prevention and mitigation of damage from flooding and avalanches. The Government will present a strategy for green competitiveness in the second half of the year. This is an important move forward in the transition to a sustainable economy, while maintaining high welfare levels (13.1).

International level

So far, 170 countries have ratified the 2015 Paris Agreement and more are following, with the intention of building resilience against natural disasters. More than 1.6 million people died in natural disasters in the period 1990–2016. Most of these lived in low-income countries and small island states. In 2016, global warming stood at 1.1 degrees, and low income countries are most vulnerable to such climate variations.

Norway offers support to climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience in developing countries.

The largest single programme is Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative, with an allocation of USD 350 million in 2018. Some of this amount also supports the climate initiatives of civil society to raise awareness and capacity, in the order of USD 150 million from 2015 to 2020 (13.3).

The largest single channel for multilateral support is the Green Climate Fund, to which Norway has so far disbursed USD 158 million. Norway buys emission reductions under the Clean Development Mechanism, supports development investments, and is a dedicated partner in several partnerships that help to build capacity for green and inclusive economic development (13.3).

Norway offers support to climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing countries through bilateral and multilateral partnerships (Target 13.1). The largest single programme is Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative, which has been given an allocation of NOK 2.9 billion for 2018. Out of this amount, Norway also supports non-governmental mechanisms such as civil society to improve awareness raising and capacity with NOK 1.5 billion (USD 190 million) for the years 2015–2020 (Target 13.3).



Goal 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

National level

As a nation that has always been reliant on resources from the sea, Norway has taken a leading role globally and regionally to combat marine litter. We are also considering the development of a recycling scheme based on "Fishing for litter", which would allow delivery of litter collected at sea at no extra fee. Norway monitors and records marine litter including plastic and micro plastic in our three oceans. In the Barents Sea, Norway and Russia annually record plastic litter from pelagic and bottom trawls.

The latest status report on eutrophication (2016) classifies Norwegian offshore and outer coastal areas as non-problem areas. Inner coastal areas in Skagerrak are considered problem areas, but their status has improved since the previous report (2007).

More susceptible to ocean acidification than temperate waters, the pH surface layer of the Norwegian Sea has decreased by 0.13 pH units the past 30 years, compared to the global average of 0.1 pH units. Norway will continue to monitor ocean acidification and increase knowledge on its effects.

The Norwegian Economic Zone is managed through integrated ecosystem-based management plans, which are updated every four years and revised at least every twelve years. The work on new marine protected areas (MPAs) is expected to progress in 2018.

Approximately half of all areas under Norwegian fisheries' jurisdiction is subject to other area-based management measures, such as bottom trawling regulations, that limit the fisheries' activities.

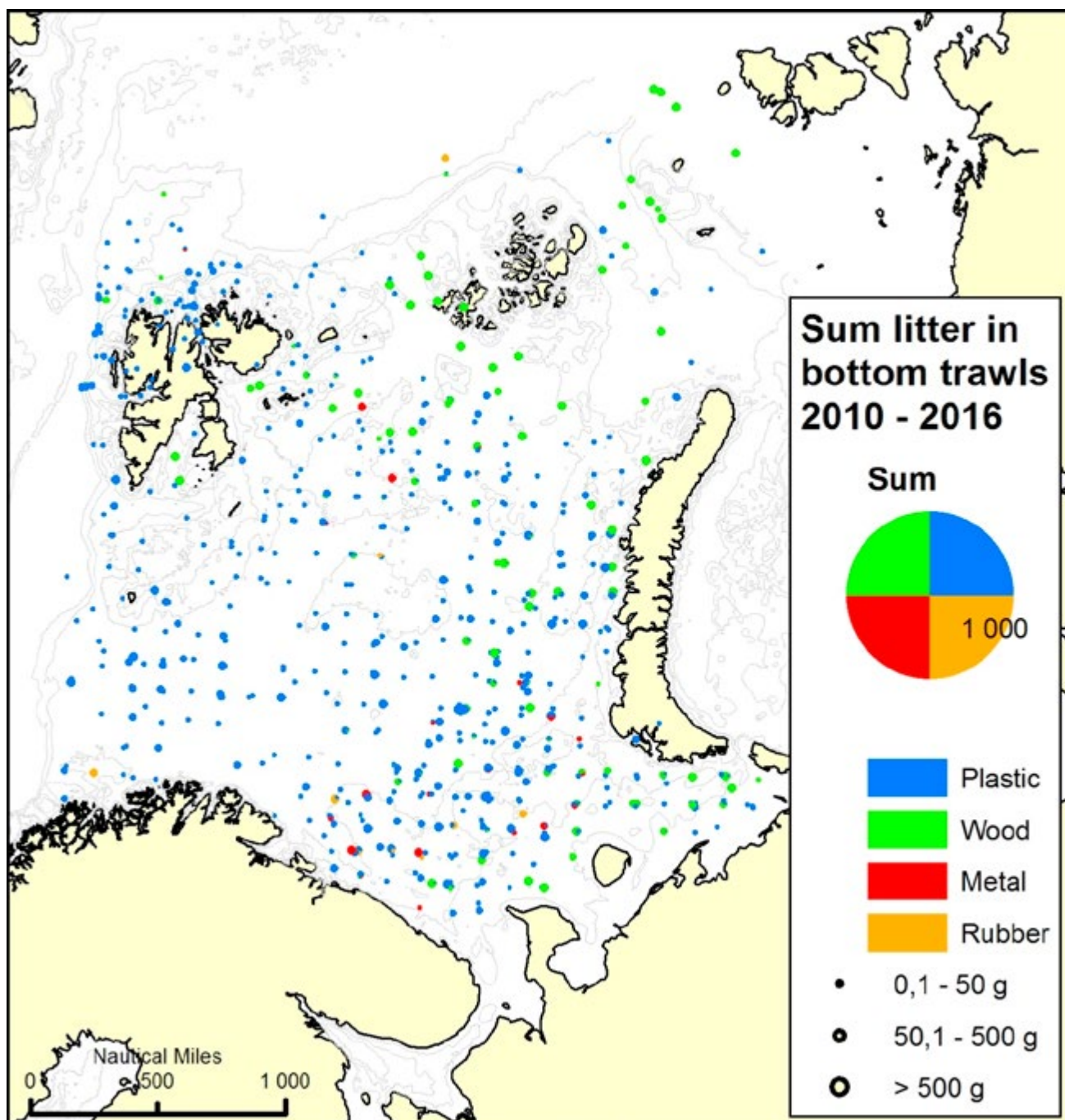


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Fisheries in Norwegian waters are managed through ecosystem-based approaches, and all commercially important fish stocks are subject to regulations that ensure a sustainable outtake. None of these stocks are currently in a rebuilding or recovery stage. However, long-term management plans have been developed that include implementing recovery and rebuilding measures if warranted.

On Norway's initiative, the Nordic Council of Ministers issued a joint statement in 2017 on transnational organised fisheries crime, which was the first of its kind. In 2017, the Arctic coastal states and five other major parties concluded an agreement to counter unregulated fishing in the Arctic Ocean. Furthermore, Norway is one of the co-organisers of the annual Symposium on Fisheries Crime hosted by UNDP. Norway was one of the countries that



The map shows litter registered in the Barents Sea during the joint Norwegian–Russian scientific ecosystem survey, which takes place every year in August – September.

proposed the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) under the aegis of IOC. In 2017, Norway received the IOC prize for developing human resources in ocean science, being the country with the most ocean researchers (in relative numbers) in the world.

International level

Plastic waste in the oceans is a pressing global concern. An important milestone was reached in December 2017 when the UN Environment Assembly, through a resolution put forward by Norway, agreed on a vision for zero emission of plastic into the ocean. The resolution established an expert group that will look into how we can

strengthen international cooperation with the aim of preventing marine waste. In 2018, Norway allocated approximately NOK 150 million (USD 18.5 million) to combatting marine litter and microplastics in the oceans of developing countries (Target 14.1).

In January 2018, Prime Minister Erna Solberg announced the establishment of a High-Level Panel on Building a Sustainable Ocean Economy to increase global awareness of the relationship between clean and healthy oceans, sustainable use of ocean resources and economic growth and development.

The Norwegian capacity programme Fish for Development seeks to reduce poverty through

economic development in partner countries. This includes promoting food security, sustainable management of resources and profitable business activities. The Nansen Programme (2017–2021) is a collaboration between the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research and partner countries, with Norwegian funding. The aim of the programme is to assist the fisheries authorities to manage marine resources based on the ecosystem approach to fisheries. The research vessel, Dr. Fridtjof Nansen provides on-the-job training for scientists across national borders (Target 14.A). The research conducted is aimed at answering management needs in partner countries in order to lay the foundation for sustainable harvesting of marine resources.

Norway supports the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and transnational organised fisheries crime both at home and abroad (Target 14.4). This includes implementing the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, providing support to the UNODC in the fight against transnational organised fisheries crime through the Container Control Global Program and the Global Program on Combatting Wildlife and Forest Crime, as well as the INTERPOL's Project Scale

and INTERPOL's Fisheries Crime Working Group.

Millions of people in the small-scale fisheries sector in developing countries depend directly and indirectly on the sector for employment, food security and nutrition. Women make up half of this workforce. Norway supports FAO's Global Assistance Programme for the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the context of food security and poverty eradication. In 2017, awareness-raising activities relating to the guidelines were organised in several countries.

Norway played an active role in negotiations in the World Trade Organization on fisheries subsidies. A Norwegian proposal at the December 2017 WTO Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires laid the basis for a formal mandate that reflects the objectives in SDG 14.6: Adopting, by the next Ministerial Conference in 2019, an agreement on comprehensive and effective disciplines that prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing and to eliminate subsidies that contribute to unregulated (IUU) fishing. Further, WTO members are committed to strengthening transparency with respect to fisheries subsidies.



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

In 2016, the Government presented a white paper on national forest policy to the Storting (Parliament). Forests provide local ecosystem services and play a role in solving global challenges. Through sustainable forest management and a competitive forest and wood industry, we can increase the forests' role in providing welfare and employment, climate change mitigation, safeguarding biodiversity and other environmental and cultural values of the forest. The forest and forestry industry in Norway can also provide significant contributions to the emerging bioeconomy.

Norway has begun the implementation of a National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP). This

plan is our principal instrument to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the SDGs are highly complementary.

A main goal of the action plan is to ensure that nature management regimes are sustainable and that pressure from human use is kept within limits that allow the ecosystems to maintain "good ecological status". This will bring us closer to realising the Aichi Targets. In 2016, an expert committee was established to develop scientifically-based criteria to determine good ecological status. The expert committee defined good ecological condition as a condition where only small deviations from intact nature are accepted. A management system based on clearly defined



PHOTO: CHRISTOFFER KROOKNORAD



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

objectives for ecological status will be in place by 2020.

A representative selection of mountain ecosystems has already been protected. Norway is continuously working to ensure that the conservation value of existing protected areas in the mountains is maintained or, if necessary, restored. The preparation of management plans is an important tool in this context. Invasive alien species (Target 15.8) are one of the main pressures on biodiversity. SDG 15.8 concerning invasive alien species has been identified as a target that poses a particular challenge for domestic follow-up in Norway. The provisions on alien organisms in the Nature Diversity Act, together with new Regulations relating to alien organisms, entered into force on 1 January 2016.

International level

The Norwegian Government's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI) is Norway's main contribution to the global effort to limit climate change, as well as addressing SDG 15 on terrestrial life. Norway has established partnerships with tropical forest countries with a view to paying for

emission reductions from reduced deforestation and forest degradation. Protecting natural forests in order to maintain their carbon storage capacity, biodiversity and the livelihoods of indigenous peoples and other forest dependent communities, is one of three main goals for the initiative.

So far, more than NOK 20 billion (USD 2.4 billion) has been disbursed to tropical forest countries, as payments for emission reductions, or in support of policies, reforms and programmes intended to reduce emissions from forests and land use changes. The initiative also supports clarification of land tenure and participatory land use planning, as well as fighting forest crime and illegal deforestation.

Supporting tropical forest countries' capacity to map, monitor and report emissions from deforestation and degradation of forest is necessary to enable payments for emission reductions. Private sector cooperation is particularly important with regard to enabling commodity production without further deforestation.

Norway is also working to achieve a close and committed international cooperation in order to address challenges relating to transboundary forest policy and ensure sustainable management of forests worldwide. Norway endorses the global goals and targets of the UN strategic plan for forests.

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The Regulations relating to invasive alien species are intended to prevent the import, release and spread of alien organisms that have or may have adverse impacts on biological or landscape diversity. The Norwegian Black List (updated in May 2018) is the primary information source for the implementation of measures and decisions. In 2017, national research institutions commissioned additional risk assessments for many species.



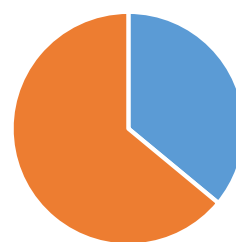
Goal 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

National level

Norway is a comparatively peaceful society. The country once again topped the Economist Intelligence Unit's Democracy Index global ranking in 2017. Democracy and respect for human rights and the rule of law mean that the rights and privileges of all citizens are protected. However, a number of challenges must be overcome if SDG 16 is to be successfully implemented at the national level.

The homicide rate in Norway is currently 0.6 per 100,000 inhabitants per year. This is a relatively low figure compared to the overall worldwide situation. However, in 2017, over 30 per cent of the total number of homicides in Norway were intimate partner homicides (Indicator 16.1.1). This is a challenge of great concern.

Norway ratified the *Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence* in July 2017. The convention entered into force in November 2017, on the understanding that violence against women is a form of gender-based violence committed against women because they are women. The convention will be an important tool in the further work towards combatting violence against women and preventing domestic violence.



■ Intimate partner homicides
■ Other categories of homicides

Proportion of population that feels safe living in their neighbourhood was 92 per cent in 2017 (16.4.1)

Until 31 December 2017, Norwegian discrimination laws were enforced by the Equality and Anti-Discrimination Ombud. The Ombud's statements could be appealed to the Equality - and Anti-Discrimination Tribunal. Below is an overview of the complaint cases handled by the Ombud in the period 2009–2017. In 2017, the Ombud handled 106 complaints about discrimination, 46 of which concerned discrimination on the basis of disability (16.B.1).

International level

Armed conflicts have been a major cause of disruption across the humanitarian landscape in the past decade. Since 2006, the number of political conflicts worldwide has increased from 278 ongoing conflicts in 2006 to 402 in 2016 (OCHA).

An important share of Norwegian development assistance in 2017 was assigned to activities in countries and regions affected by conflict and



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

vulnerability. Seven of the largest partner countries for Norwegian aid in 2017 were affected by conflict and crisis, and 11 per cent of Norwegian aid was allocated to governance in 2017. UNDP is a key partner, particularly as regards inclusive peace, inclusive governance, social contracts and peaceful transitions.

At the Seventh Conference of the States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption in December 2017, Norway spearheaded a United Nations resolution on preventing and countering corruption involving vast quantities of assets. Norway actively supported the resolution initiated by Nigeria on illicit financial flows at the UN Second Committee.

Norway remains committed to the fight against money laundering and the Government recently proposed a new act on anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism. More stringent rules will strengthen the ability to combat corruption.

Through the Corruption Hunters Network, Norway provides an arena for prosecutors and investigators from both developed and developing countries to meet, discuss and exchange knowledge and experience.

Norwegian aid is rights based. Norway supports national human rights institutions in partner countries through our support for the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights as well as through bilateral support at country level (16.A). Norway also places particular emphasis on the protection of female human rights defenders.

Norway, as a member of the Community of Democracies' Executive Committee, works to promote and encourage adherence to the key principles for inclusive, participatory and representative democracy embedded in the Warsaw Declaration within and outside the Community.

Initiatives in support of birth registration include legal and policy reform; civil registry strategic planning, capacity building and awareness-raising; the

integration of birth registration into other services, such as health and education; community-based registration and social mobilisation campaigns.

Support is provided for the establishment of and capacity development for civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) through the Global Financing Facility (GFF). GFF supports CRVS and initiatives that improve health care for women, children and adolescents, and currently covers 26 low and middle-income countries. Norway is the largest contributor to the facility with NOK 600 mill (USD 75 million) per year.

Access to information and the protection of journalists and media workers, as well as human rights defenders in a broader context, are key priorities in Norway's foreign policy and in the MFA's current strategy on freedom of expression and independent media.

The 2030 Agenda does not include targets that explicitly mention LGBTI persons. The right not to be discriminated against, however, is a basic right that belongs to everyone. Norway participates in international initiatives and networks to include LGBTI persons in the implementation of the SDGs.

Norway works to support indigenous peoples' rights multilaterally and bilaterally. In addition to normative efforts within the UN, the Norwegian Climate and Forest Initiative is an important platform for supporting indigenous peoples' rights relating to participatory forest management and the implementation of national REDD strategies.

Norway works to promote the rights of persons with disabilities through both multilateral and bilateral efforts. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is the normative basis for this work. The inclusion of persons with disabilities and their organisations is crucial in order to identify challenges and adopt appropriate measures to address them. Norway is one of the main contributors to the United Nations Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities' multi-donor trust fund. Norway also participates in the Global Action on Disability Network.

In 2016, 98 new victims of human trafficking were identified in Norway. In total, 262 victims of human trafficking received assistance. Of these, 188 had been exploited in prostitution, 59 in forced labour

and the remainder reported a combination of the two or other categories. The main proportion of registered victims are women.



Goal 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development



Goal 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

In 2017, Norway decided to establish a Knowledge Bank whose purpose is to strengthen the capacity of the public sector in our partner countries. This type of knowledge sharing is to be demand-driven and pertains to sectors where Norway has particular experience and expertise (17.9).

The Tax for Development programme, which is a part of the Knowledge Bank, aims to strengthen domestic resource mobilisation (17.1). Living up to the commitments of the Addis Tax Initiative means a substantial upscaling of Norwegian tax-related development cooperation towards 2020, both bilaterally and multilaterally. This scaling up is taking place in cooperation with academia, civil society and the private sector.

The overarching objective of the Technology Bank is to support LDCs in building the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) capacity that they need to promote the structural transformation of their economies, eradicate poverty and foster sustainable development. Norway participated in the operationalisation of the Technology Bank through a grant of NOK 9 million (USD 1.1 million) in 2017, for the first year of the Technology Bank's operations (Target 17.8).

Norway established the Vision 2030 financing mechanism in 2015 to stimulate innovative solutions and partnerships in the area of health and education (17.8). A total of 11 projects were initiated during 2017. Several projects directly contribute to enhancing the use of enabling technology, for example through innovative models for the provision of renewable energy, and ICT for schools, clinics and individuals in off-grid areas. Other examples are teaching and learning technology, technology that can reduce infant mortality and technology that enables inclusive education.

Norway works through the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to strengthen monitoring of financial markets and on implementing regulations that make 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, aimed at equitable voting power, as envisaged in the 2010 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 the multilateral development banks and the IMF's efforts to combat illicit financial flows. Norway is a member of EITI (Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative) and provides core funding to its international secretariat, thereby supporting its work on transparency, including promoting country-by-country reporting for multilateral companies (Target 17.1).

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

The Government's policy platform (2017) makes it clear that Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) is a key success factor for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To this effect, and in recognition of the fact that most areas of Norwegian policy have an impact on other countries' development opportunities, the Government has decided to institute a policy coherence reform. A Policy Coherence Forum with membership from the private sector, civil society organisations, academia and labour unions is the centrepiece of this reform. The main tasks of the forum will be to advise the Government, the Parliament and the public on how to address Norwegian policy dilemmas that may stand in the way of a more coherent international development cooperation. An external evaluation of the Norwegian approach to policy coherence argues that reform is also necessary to quality assure the annual report on PCD submitted to Parliament by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Norway has a comprehensive generalised system of preferences for imports from developing countries (Target 17.11). Through this system, we offer duty-free and quota-free market access to least developed

and other low-income countries (Target 17.12).

Being able to trade on a level playing field makes a difference. Norway is therefore committed to cooperating with developing countries in their efforts

to achieve economic growth and poverty reduction through increased participation in international trade. Maintaining the WTO as the relevant forum for a rules-based multilateral trade regime is Norway's top trade policy priority (Target 17.10).

Abbreviations

CEPI – Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations	NDCs – Nationally Determined Contributions (to cutting climate emissions)	UNESCO – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
CSOs – Civil Society Organisations	NGOs – Non-Governmental Organisations	UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund
CTCN – Climate Technology Centre and Network	NIFCI – Norway's International Forest and Climate Initiative	UNODC – United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
EEA – European Economic Area (may also refer to European Environment Agency)	NOK – Norwegian Kroner	UNSC – UN Statistical Commission UIB university of Bergen
EITI – Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative	Norad – Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation	VET – Vocational Education
ESMAP – Energy Sector Management and Assistance Program	Norfund – Norway's Development Finance Institution	VNR – Voluntary National Review
EU – European Union	NORHED – Norwegian Programme for Capacity Development in Higher Education and Research for Development	WBG – World Bank Group
FAO – Food and Agriculture Organisation (of the United Nations)	NORPART – Norwegian Partnership Programme for Global Academic Cooperation	WHO – World Health Organisation
GAVI – GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance (previously Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization)	ODA – Official Development Assistance	LNOB – Leave no one behind SOTC-
GDP – Gross Domestic Product	OECD – The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development	CGIAR – Consultative Group for International Agriculture Research
GFF – Global Financing Facility	OECD NCP – OECD National Contact Point	NEPAD – New Program for African Development
HLPF – High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development	PISA – Programme for International Student Assessment (study by the OECD)	NIPH – The Norwegian Institute of Public Health
IDA – (The World Bank's) International Development Association	PM – Particulate Matter (also known as Atmospheric Particulate Matter or simply particulates)	NCD – Non communicable diseases
IEA – International Energy Agency	R&D – Research and Development	HPV – Human papilloma virus
IFAD – International Fund for Agricultural Development	RCN – Research Council of Norway	GFTAM – The Global Fund fir Aids TB and Malaria
ILO – International Labour Organisation	SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals	UNESCO – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
IMF – International Monetary Fund	SeforAll – Sustainable Energy for All	LIKE – The Gender Equality for Development programme
IMO – International Maritime Organisation	SREP – Scaling up Renewable Energy in Low-Income Countries Programme	WSSCC – The Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council
Interpol – the International Police Organisation	SSB – Statistics Norway (Statistisk Sentralbyrå)	CASA – Conflicted Affected States in Africa
IOC- – The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	TCAF – Transformative Carbon Asset Facility	EnPe – The Norwegian Programme for Capacity Development in Higher Education and Research for Development within the fields of Energy and Petroleum
IUCN – International Union for Conservation of Nature	TTOs – Technology Transfer Offices	10YFP – 10 year framework of programs on sustainable consumption and production patterns
LDCs – Least Developed Countries	UN – United Nations	VIRKE – The Enterprise Federation of Norway
LMICs – Low and Middle-Income Countries	UNDP – United Nations Development Programme	CCS – Carbon capture and storage
MDBs – Multilateral Development Banks	UNECE – United Nations Economic Commission for Europe	CRVS – Civil registration and vital statistics
MDGs – Millennium Development Goals	UNEP – United Nations Environment Assembly	
MPA – Marine Protected Area		
NBSAP – National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan		



The stairs up Aksla in Ålesund was lighted up with the SDG-colors for the Night Trek for the SDGs. PHOTO: SCREAM MEDIA/NORAD



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