

Donor engagement with Agenda 2030

How government agencies
encompass the Sustainable
Development Goals



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B | Center for
**Sustainable
Development**
at BROOKINGS

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How government agencies encompass the Sustainable Development Goals

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This report documents how various government donors utilize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in their international development programs. It is based on documentation that could be found online and further information that was provided by embassy development councilors. It is intended as a reference point for how agencies and organizations can build the SDGs into their strategies, policies, programs, and reporting.

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Overview

In 2015, all members of the United Nations adopted an ambitious agenda known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals. The agenda consists of 17 development goals to be achieved by 2030. This report examines how government donor agencies encompass SDGs in international development cooperation, covering 20 of the 30 members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC). It reviews how they propose to incorporate the SDGs at the level of strategy and policy, programs, and reporting of outputs and results. Eighteen of the 20 members (excepting the United States and the European Union) have produced at least one Voluntary National Review (VNR). Although principally aimed at reporting on national progress on the SDGs, some VNRs cover international development cooperation and so are specifically noted. This review is based on how each country presents its engagement with the SDGs and does not assess the extent to which those policies and plans are translated into practice.

All the government donors surveyed here have to varying degrees endorsed the SDGs at the level of policy and strategy, ranging from expression of support at a very general level to embedding the Global Goals in policies and strategies or building strategies around the goals. Some countries address commitments to the SDGs in a comprehensive manner with a single strategy covering both domestic activities and development cooperation, even as a unitary commitment, although distinguishing separate priorities for each. A number of countries follow the SDG pledge to “leave no one behind” and employ some or all of the “5 Ps”—People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership—that show the integrated nature of the goals.

At the program level, a few donors tie each program, and even budget levels, to the relevant goals but most use the SDGs only as a general reference point. Only a few donors actually report against the SDGs.

At least five countries have established a central government mechanism for policy coherence on Agenda 2030. In [Germany](#), the Federal Chancellery has the lead on SDG implementation, with responsibility extending across the government and coherence provided through ministry secretaries serving on the State Secretaries’ Committee for Sustainable Development. In [Finland](#), the prime minister’s office coordinates SDG implementation, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is represented on the coordination secretariat. In [New Zealand](#), the Treasury develops a Wellbeing Budget. The [Swedish Government](#) has a National Coordinator for the 2030 Agenda,¹ and multiple Swedish governmental agencies, including the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), form the DG Forum to work jointly on the global goals. In [Australia](#), a senior

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¹ Email from the Swedish Embassy development counselor, April 20, 2021.

officials group co-chaired by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade provides coordination on the 2030 agenda, both domestically and internationally.

Briefly, the SDG engagement of the 20 DAC members include:

Australia embraces an SDG strategy in its domestic and development cooperation policies that is integrated across government departments. It aligns its foreign assistance budget directly with each of the SDGs. In 2018 it issued a Voluntary National Review (VNR) covering both domestic and development cooperation activities.

Belgium uses Agenda 2030 as an overall framework for its development cooperation. It incorporates the SDGs into certain programmatic areas and maintains a website that allows the user to sort projects by various categories, including the SDGs. Its 2017 VNR includes reporting on its development cooperation activities and provides links not just to SDGs but also to SDG targets.

Canada is noted for having incorporated the SDGs in its Feminist International Assistance Policy. In early 2021 it commenced an exercise in Global Affairs Canada to integrate the SDGs across all of its business functions. Canada used the 2018 VNR to report on both domestic and international activities.

Denmark builds its development cooperation program on the SDGs and links each activity to the relevant SDGs. It sorts partner countries into one of three categories by level of development, each linked to specific SDGs. Denmark requires that the appropriation note for each activity identify the relevant SDGs. Denmark has established an SDG investment fund.

The European Union embraces the SDGs in its development cooperation at the levels of strategy/policy, program, and reporting. It maintains an interactive website that tracks EU work toward achieving each SDG and a website that provides data on EU assistance, including by SDG.

Finland presents its domestic and development cooperation approach to Agenda 2030 in a common strategy. It creates a comprehensive approach in its international development cooperation programs through linking objectives, theory of change, and results reporting to the relevant SDGs.

France has integrated the SDGs in its development strategy and links them to its two principal objectives, 100 percent compliance with the Paris agreement on climate change and to its social link² interventions. It has issued SDG bonds to finance development activities.

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2 Social link references “fair and inclusive policies that reduce inequalities, particularly gender inequality, and increase access to essential education and health-related services.” Towards a World in Common: AFD Group 2018-2022 Strategy (2018), page 5.

Germany issued a strategy, with several subsequent updates, that explains its approach to each SDG in both domestic and development cooperation policies. For development cooperation, it links priorities and program areas to the relevant SDGs.

Ireland incorporates the SDGs in its domestic and international development cooperation policies and reporting. It has an extensive program for educating the Irish people about development cooperation.

Italy embraces the SDGs in both its domestic and development cooperation policies and reports on both together. It structures its priorities on specific SDGs under the fifth P of Partnership.

Japan comprehensively incorporates the SDGs in its development cooperation strategies/policies, programs, and reporting. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has a video on its website that explains its approach to the SDGs. It has issued social bonds linked to the SDGs.

South Korea places achievement of the SDGs as one of four strategic goals for the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). The mission of KOICA is “Leave no one behind with People-centered Peace and Prosperity”.

The Netherlands integrates the SDGs in its development cooperation strategies/policies, programs, and reporting. Its country development strategies use the SDGs as the narrative. Several websites present the goals, programs, and reporting on its development activities structured on the SDGs.

New Zealand utilizes Agenda 2030 as the overall frame for its development program. It uses the SDGs as the measure of progress for its partner countries in the Pacific, which is the principal focus of its development cooperation program. It explains that it tracks its contribution to the SDGs but that aligning official development assistance (ODA) with SDG outcomes is conceptually and empirically challenging.

Norway sets Agenda 2030 as the overarching frame of its development cooperation program and integrates the SDGs in strategies/policies, programs, and reporting. Its strategy includes communicating with the Norwegian people about the global goals.

Spain uses Agenda 2030 for the frame for its development cooperation. Its 2018 VNR calls for an SDG impact analysis on legislative initiatives to assess their external and global impact on the SDGs.

Sweden sets Agenda 2030 as the overarching frame for its development cooperation program. It publishes strategies on specific development programs and how they incorporate the SDGs, both for geographic regions (e.g., the Middle East and North Africa) and specific program areas (e.g., capacity building). SIDA works with investors and the private sector to advance the SDGs.

Switzerland incorporates the SDGs in its development cooperation strategy. A draft 10-year strategy has completed the phase of public consultation. Switzerland publishes factsheets

for priority countries that connect its development activities to the SDGs. Results linked to the SDGs are reported on a website.

The U.K. uses the SDGs as the overall frame for its development cooperation program and incorporates them into partner country profiles. The 2019 VNR reports on progress on each global goal.

The United States has supported Agenda 2030 but has not brought the SDGs into its domestic or international development policies and programs.

Table 1. Documented country engagement with the SDGs

Country	SDGs referenced in strategy/policy	Completed VNR	SDGs referenced in programs	SDGs referenced in reporting on results ³
Australia	X	X		X
Belgium	X	X	X	
Canada	X	X		X
Denmark	X	X	X	
EU	X		X	X
Finland	X	X		X
France	X	X		
Germany	X	X	X	
Ireland	X	X		X
Italy	X	X		
Japan	X	X	X	X
Korea	X	X		X
Netherlands	X	X	X	X
New Zealand	X	X		X
Norway	X	X	X	X
Spain	X	X		
Sweden	X	X	X	
Switzerland	X	X	X	X
United Kingdom	X	X	X	X
United States	X			

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³ This column includes reporting documents other than Voluntary National Reviews.

Australia

Overview

Australia embraces the SDGs in both its domestic and international development programs, at the level of strategy and through linking the ODA budget to specific SDGs and reporting in its Voluntary National Review.

Strategy/Policy

A) [Australian Official Development Assistance 2030 Agenda: Sustainable Development Goals \(DFAT Expenditures, 2019 – 2020\)](#)

Australia puts its foreign assistance budget in the framework of the SDGs, as illustrated by the graphic below.

Figure 1. Australian Development Assistance 2030 Agenda: Sustainable Development Goals, Primary Intent, 2019-20 (a)

Figure 12: Australian Official Development Assistance 2030 Agenda: Sustainable Development Goals, Primary Intent, 2019-20 (a)



TOTAL AUSTRALIAN OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE: \$4,070.0 million

Source: [Australian Official Development Assistance 2030 Agenda: Sustainable Development Goals \(DFAT Expenditures, 2019 – 2020\)](#)

B) [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee \(2019\)](#)

The report presents findings from submissions to the committee and provides recommendations, including: “The committee recommends that the Australian Government continue to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals throughout the international development program and prioritise the commitment to leave no one behind” (p.153).

Voluntary National Review

A) [Report on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals \(2018\)](#)

Australia’s responsibility for the SDGs starts at the highest level of government and is integrated across government departments and across domestic and international development activities.

“Since the SDGs were formally adopted, the Australian Government has convened an inter-departmental group of senior officials with portfolio responsibilities that link to one or more of the SDGs and separate across government groups on specific aspects such as data or communications. The senior officials group, co-chaired by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), provides coordination on how to best give effect to the 2030 Agenda, domestically and internationally, including for the drafting of this Review” (p.7).

Interlinkages between the SDGs provide strategic points of opportunity for the Australian government. A government-funded research agency, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), “has been at the forefront of work in Australia, and internationally, taking a systems change approach to the SDGs and in particular emphasising the interactions among the SDGs, the Targets and Indicators” (p.15).

Australia’s development assistance program (administered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)) follows a “cross-sectoral approach that integrates aspects of ‘leave no one behind’ through disability-inclusive development and gender equality targets” (p.17). A human rights approach is at the core of Australia’s approach to agenda 2030. The report notes, “Australia takes a human rights-based approach to sustainable development, emphasising the need for countries to respect, protect and promote human rights, in line with international human rights law, in the implementation of all SDGs. This will support the international rules-based order and help ensure the most disadvantaged benefit from development.” (p.10)

Australia’s 2018 voluntary review reports on actions for the SDGs, for both the domestic arena and abroad. For each SDG, there is a separate section on international development (called either “Regional and Global Action” or “International Action”) that outlines key development priorities and actions contributing to that specific SDG. The Report references various international cooperation efforts. For major priorities the report captures the relevant SDGs. For example:

Figure 2. Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development



Source: [Report on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals \(2018\)](#)

The description of the Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development initiative notes, “The focus on leadership, economic empowerment, ending violence against women and enhancing agency emphasises a number of the SDGs, while the anticipated outcomes are also evident across a range of the SDGs” (p. 17).

Programs

Note: no documents found.

Reporting

A) [2018 - 2019 Annual Report, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#) (2019)

The section on international development assistance has brief references to the 2018 VNR and Australia’s commitment to the SDGs, but otherwise the report does not link to SDGs.

B) *See Voluntary National Review above.*

Belgium

Overview

Belgium does not have a comprehensive strategy for its development cooperation but does overall use the SDGs as an overall frame. Strategies are written for specific [programmatic areas](#). Some of these directly incorporate the SDGs as an overarching framework; others do not.

Strategy/Policy

A) [Annual Report 2018](#)

According to this report, the 2030 Agenda is an overarching framework of Belgian development cooperation.

“In the context of the implementation of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals, increasing importance is being attached to maximizing policy coherence for sustainable development as part of a coherent and efficient foreign policy. Particular attention is paid to: ensuring synergy and complementarity between the actions of the various government departments in the field of sustainable development in developing countries; continuing to reflect on the most efficient cooperation and organisation of the various advisory bodies; following up relevant work within the EU and OECD, in particular in the context of the OECD network of Policy Coherence for Development Focal Points; focusing on interconnections and coherence between the SDGs in the context of the policy supporting research ‘SDGs as a compass’” (p.11).

“Part 2” of this annual report, entitled “Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals,” goes SDG by SDG, detailing policy approaches and in-country examples of how Belgian development cooperation incorporates the SDGs.

B) [EXPOSÉ D'ORIENTATION POLITIQUE: de la ministre de la Coopération au développement, chargée des Grandes villes](#) (2020)

This report on development policy to the parliament references the SDGs as the basis for development priorities but does not link to individual SDGs.

Voluntary National Review

A) [Pathways to Sustainable Development: First Belgian National Voluntary Review on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda](#) (2017)

The Voluntary National Review reports on Belgium’s progress towards meeting the SDGs, going SDG by SDG. Although there is no specific section within each SDG dedicated to global action, Belgium’s international cooperation efforts are discussed extensively. Specific examples are linked not only to goals, but to the appropriate SDG targets. For example, the section on SDG 4 notes: “As our institutional partners in this area, UNICEF and the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) are provided with multi-year un-earmarked federal funding in support of their missions, while the Flanders region partners with UNESCO. This reflects the importance Belgium attaches to the global efforts to deliver high quality education to all girls and boys 18, while prioritizing the poorest, most vulnerable and those living in fragile and conflict-affected countries (4.1, 4.2, 4.5)” (p.21).

Programs

A) [Belgian project database](#)

This project-level website allows the user to sort projects by various categories, including by SDG.

B) [From Subsistence to Entrepreneurship: Strategic policy note “Agriculture and Food Security” for the Belgian Development Cooperation \(2017\)](#)

This document provides an example of Belgium’s program-specific strategies. It uses the SDGs as an overarching framework and outlines Belgian policy towards achieving SDG 2. Within this broad lens, “the strategy of the Belgian development cooperation is based on two policy priorities, specifically sustainable and inclusive economic growth, and a human rights-based approach” (p. 2). This document includes a matrix that shows how Belgium’s fields of action and cross-cutting themes within agriculture and food security contribute to the 2030 Agenda.

Figure 3. Contribution of the fields of action and cross-cutting themes to the Agenda on Sustainable Development



Source: [From Subsistence to Entrepreneurship: Strategic policy note “Agriculture and Food Security” for the Belgian Development Cooperation \(2017\)](#).

Reporting

Note: See Voluntary National Review above.

Canada

Overview

Canada is committed to implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and has begun a strategy development process to integrate the SDGs across all its development cooperation activities. The 2018 Canadian Voluntary National Review reports on domestic and international commitments and activities on each SDG.

Strategy/Policy

A) [Achieving a Sustainable Future: A Sustainable Federal Sustainable Development Strategy for Canada, 2019 - 2022](#) (2019)

This environment-focused document establishes 13 aspirational goals for Canadian national sustainable development. Canada maintains a website dedicated to domestic progress on the SDGs.

The strategy does not track the 13 goals to specific SDGs, but Canada's efforts within this strategy do broadly support progress towards the SDGs on a global scale, as indicated by the "Canada in the World" sections throughout the report.

Global Affairs Canada contributes to the Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (FSDS) via a Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy (DSDS), through which the department provides annual reports.⁴

B) [2020 - 21 Department Plan, Global Affairs Canada \(2020\)](#)

This planning document covers Canada's engagement in the world: diplomacy, development, peace, and trade and development. It states: "Canada's commitment to the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals is the foundation for prosperity and peace for Canadians today and for generations to come." It does not link objectives in the plan to the SDGs.

C) [Achieving a Sustainable Future: Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy 2020 to 2023](#), Global Canada (2020)

Global Affairs Canada has a 2030 Agenda Implementation Strategy, "aimed at aligning efforts across its mandate in support of achieving the SDGs, anticipated to launch in fall 2020" (p.1).

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⁴ This information came from conversations with officials in the Canadian government (April 2021).

Global Affairs Canada “is strongly committed to advancing sustainable development at home and abroad” and to working to “accelerate progress on all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development” (p. 1). According to the strategy, it does this through:

- the Feminist International Assistance Policy
- the Feminist Foreign Policy
- Canada’s inclusive approach to trade
- the UN Decade of Action

D) [Canada’s Feminist International Assistance Policy](#) (2018)

The links between Canada’s development policy and specific SDGs are found in the Feminist International Assistance Policy. It specifically targets SDG 5 and by inference (through use of SDG icons rather than text) eleven other SDGs.⁵

The policy states that “Sustainable Development Goal 5—achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls—is at the heart of Canada’s approach to implementing the 2030 Agenda because it will drive progress toward achieving the other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” (p.7).

“The Policy is strategically aligned with the 2030 Agenda. By using SDG 5 as an entry point, the Policy aims to effect progress across all 17 SDGs through six action areas: gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (core action area); human dignity, including health and nutrition, education, and humanitarian action; growth that works for everyone; environment and climate action; inclusive governance; and peace and security.”⁶

The Feminist International Assistance Policy uses [KPIs](#) (Key Performance Indicators) aligned with the SDGs to track its implementation.

E) Internal Departmental Strategy

In February 2021, Global Affairs Canada launched an internal departmental strategy for implementing the 2030 Agenda.⁷ This departmental strategy aims to integrate a sustainable development lens across all business lines and to increase effectiveness, coherence, and impact in support of the SDGs. The departmental strategy outlines deliverables that will create greater alignment with the SDGs in communications, advocacy, tracking, and reporting so that Global Affairs can better articulate its work to Canadians and the international community.

⁵ This information came from conversations with officials in the Canadian government (April 2021).

⁶ This information came from conversations with officials in the Canadian government (April 2021).

⁷ This information came from conversations with officials in the Canadian government (April 2021).

Voluntary National Review

A) [Canada's Implementation of the Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)—Voluntary National Review (2018)

Canada's VNR covers both domestic and international arenas, as Canada seeks "to help create a more equal, more prosperous and more inclusive country and world" (p. i). The Canadian strategy emphasizes leave no one behind, human dignity, diversity, equity, and partnership. It puts gender equality "at the heart" of its approach to Agenda 2030 (p. 6).

The VNR has a separate section for each SDG. Each section first reports on developments within Canada and then on "Canada and the World" (international development). The information covers the state of the SDGs, Canadian policies and commitments, and actions taken.

Programs

Note: No documents found. However, through its Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy, Global Affairs Canada will explore innovative ways in which the SDGs can be built into results-based management frameworks and project tracking, including ensuring the [Project Browser](#) is aligned with the SDGs.⁸

Reporting

A) [Canada's Preparedness to Implement the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals, Office of the Auditor General, 2018](#)

The 2018 audit of the five government agencies with lead responsibility for Canada's implementation of the SDGs, which includes Global Canada, concluded they were not adequately prepared to implement the goals, finding there was no appropriate government structure or plan.

B) [Report # 1 – Implementing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, Office of the Auditor General, 2021](#)

The 2021 audit found that the agencies had taken some steps toward implementing the SDGs, but that the government did not have an implementation plan to clearly define the roles of all government departments and agencies and they lacked the tools for coordinating their work.

C) [Report to Parliament on Canada's International Assistance](#)

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⁸ This information came from conversations with officials in the Canadian government (April 2021).

This report provides information on how the international assistance envelope (IAE) is spent each fiscal year. It addresses the SDGs, however, the document is aligned to report against the Feminist International Assistance Policy rather than the SDGs themselves.

A new [Supplementary Information Table](#) (SIT) was added to the Departmental Plan template to increase the integration of the SDGs into the Departmental Results Framework. The table provides examples of how the department is implementing the 2030 Agenda through its policies and programming. Further work is planned to better integrate the SDGs into departmental reporting mechanisms.⁹

D) *Note: See Voluntary National Review above.*

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⁹ Ibid.

Denmark

Overview

Denmark builds its development program on the SDGs, prioritizing specific ones. The SDGs are built into programs with every activity linked to the relevant SDGs. Denmark has established an SDG-based investment fund.

Strategy/Policy

A) [The World 2030: Denmark's strategy for development cooperation and humanitarian action \(2017\)](#)

"The vision of Denmark's development policy is a more secure, free, prosperous, sustainable and just world where each individual, now and in the future, is able to take charge of his/her own life and provide for himself/herself and his/her family. Denmark will work to realise this vision through active development cooperation that contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals for everyone by 2030" (p.5).

Denmark's development program is built on the SDGs. This document notes, "The Sustainable Development Goals make up the platform for Danish development cooperation" (p.6). Denmark approaches the SDGs in a joined domestic/international frame, "working to further Danish foreign and domestic interests at the same time" (p.1).

"We will fight poverty, promote sustainable growth and development, economic freedom, peace, stability, gender equality and a rule-based international order. When doing this, we will, at the same time, counter threats against our own security and way of life, create a launch pad for trade, economic diplomacy and commercial interests and promote the principles, values and human rights upon which our own open, democratic society rests" (p. 1).

With the SDGs as a "starting point" and through a "whole-of-society" approach, Danish development cooperation seeks to "help free the individual and his/her potential in the developing countries" (p.1). According to the document, there are four strategic aims behind Denmark's development policy: security and development; migration and development; inclusive, sustainable growth and development; and freedom and development (democracy, human rights, and gender equality).

Within its strategic aims, the Danish government prioritizes particular SDGs. Goals 16 and 17 (peace, justice, and institutions and partnerships, respectively) are considered the "connecting thread" of Danish development policy (p.7). Additionally, five SDGs serve as Denmark's global development policy key issues. These are: Goal No. 5 (gender equality), Goal No. 7 (sustainable energy), Goal No. 13 (climate), Goal No. 16 (peace, justice, institutions), Goal No. 17 (partnerships).

Denmark's development policy is differentiated into three categories based on level of country development and a category of global public goods. The targeting of SDGs by category, based on Danish priorities, is presented by the following graphic.

Figure 4. Prioritized Sustainable Development Goals, by country category and global public goods

2.6 Figure 1 – prioritised Sustainable Development Goals, by country category and global public goods



Source: [The World 2030: Denmark's strategy for development cooperation and humanitarian action \(2017\)](#)

The Danish government's "whole-of-society" approach encourages many actors to be partners in promoting the SDGs. This includes, but is not limited to, businesses, foundations, civil society groups, and investors and financial institutions, as well as encouraging public-private partnerships (p. 12-13). The EU is a "key platform" for Denmark's development policy (p. 14).

B) [The Government's Priorities for Danish Development Cooperation \(2021\)](#)

This document does not delve in depth into the SDGs. However, in the introductory framing, the document states that progress on the SDGs is slow. Water is one area where the Danish government plans to support progress towards achieving the SDGs. Energy is also explicitly mentioned as being a crucial issue in the fight against climate change. In both areas, Denmark's focus is Africa.

Voluntary National Review

A) [Report for the Voluntary National Review: Denmark's implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) (2017)

The VNR reiterates that "Denmark's global engagement contributes to realising the SDGs – a world without extreme poverty and with sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – where no one is left behind" (p. 8). The report notes that, internationally, Denmark contributes "to peace and security through, inter alia, active participation in UN-mandated peacekeeping operations. Denmark gives significant contributions to long-term economic development in developing countries as well as assistance to crisis-afflicted areas" (p. 12). The "Global Level" section of the report (page 27) describes Danish policy commitments globally towards the SDGs, including through development cooperation. The development priority areas as defined in the VNR match those outlined in the strategy documents in policy document in A) above.

The VNR advocates for UN reform as necessary to realizing the SDGs. It notes, "[R]eform of the United Nations is crucial in order to maximise coherence among UN agencies in delivering on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and in order to foster greater collaboration, especially at country level, so that the UN as a whole delivers flexible and efficient solutions needed at the individual country levels to meet the SDGs." (p. 30).

Programs

A) Appropriation Cover Note

In the implementation of development programs, Denmark requires that the appropriation note for every project be connected to the relevant SDGs, per the following format:

Figure 5: Appropriation Cover Note

[Insert title of programme/project]

Key results: <i>[Examples of key result planned to be achieved at the end of programme:]</i> 	File No.							
	Country							
	Responsible Unit							
	Sector							
	<i>DKK mill.</i>	2020x	2021x	2022x	2023x	2024x	2025x	Tot.
	Commitment							
	Projected ann. Disb.							
	Dumtion							
	Finance Act code.							
	Head of unit							
Desk officer								
Reviewed by CFO	NO / YES: Name of CFO							
Justification for support: <i>[Why is this support necessary and relevant, how does it relate to Danish and partner country priorities:]</i> 	Relevant SDGs <i>[Maximum 5 – highlight with grey]</i>							
	<div> <div> No Poverty </div> <div> No </div> <div> Good Health, </div> <div> Quality </div> <div> Gender </div> <div> Clean Water, </div> </div>							
	<div> <div> Affordable </div> <div> Decent Jobs, </div> <div> Industry, </div> <div> Reduced </div> <div> Sustainable </div> <div> Responsible </div> </div>							
	<div> <div> Climate </div> <div> Life below </div> <div> Life on Land </div> <div> Peace & </div> <div> Partnerships </div> </div>							
Strategic objectives:								
<div> <div>[Text]</div> </div>								
Thematic objective 1: [text]								
Engagement	Partner	Total thematic budget: [mill.]						
[Title of engagement 1]		[Budget engagement 1]						
[Title of engagement 2]		[Budget engagement 2]						
[Title of engagement 3]		[Budget engagement 3]						
[Title of engagement 4]		[Budget engagement 4]						
Thematic objective 2: [text]								
Engagement	Partner	Total thematic budget: [mill.]						
[Title of engagement 1]		[Budget engagement 1]						
[Title of engagement 2]		[Budget engagement 2]						
[Title of engagement 3]		[Budget engagement 3]						
[Title of engagement 4]		[Budget engagement 4]						
Thematic objective 3: [text]								
Engagement	Partner	Total thematic budget: [mill.]						
[Title of engagement 1]		[Budget engagement 1]						
[Title of engagement 2]		[Budget engagement 2]						
[Title of engagement 3]		[Budget engagement 3]						
[Title of engagement 4]		[Budget engagement 4]						
		Programme support						
		Budget for Programme Support						
Total		[insert total budget]						

Source: Email from Danish embassy official 12/11/2020.

B) [SDG Investment Fund](#)

The Danish SDG Investment Fund is a public-private partnership, designed to fulfill, in particular, SDGs 1, 2, 6, 7 and 9, which focus on poverty alleviation, ending hunger, ensuring clean water and renewable energy, and industry, innovation and infrastructure. According to the Fund's webpage, the Fund "offers advice and share capital to investments in developing countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and parts of Europe."

The fund supports projects in climate, agribusiness and food, the financial sector, water, and production and infrastructure. The Fund requires companies to "live up to their social responsibilities," meaning that investments "will also contribute across a number of the other SDGs on economic growth, decent work conditions, education, and health."

"The total capital commitment to the Danish SDG Investment Fund is close to DKK 5bn. Nearly DKK 3bn was committed by Danish pension funds and private investors. The remaining DKK 2bn was committed by IFU, including DKK 100m from the state development aid and a DKK 800m loan from the Nationalbank, guaranteed by the Danish state. Total investments are expected to amount to DKK 30bn once the fund is fully invested. IFU is the manager of the Fund."

Reporting

A) Even as Denmark is currently linking all development programs to SDG's at a project level, there is currently no overall or public reporting on Danish development cooperation's achievements linked to SDG's or overall reporting on the SDGs. There is currently work underway to change this. The suggestion is that instead of only linking to SDG's at a project-level, they would be linked at the output/outcome level, thus at the stage of reporting. The discussion will be presented to management in 2021 and would be implemented in the online platforms and reporting systems, which would create the opportunity to have a system for communicating significant development results linked to SDGs in 2022. The reporting would concurrently be published at OpenAid.um.dk.^{10 11}

B) See *Voluntary National Review* above.

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10 The OpenAid platform is also currently being changed – a revised version is expected in Q3 2021

11 This information on reporting came from conversations with officials in the Danish government (April 2021).

European Union

Overview

The European Union (EU) has embraced the 2030 Agenda across all its policies, including as the framework for its collective development work. This is the case in policy, programming, and reporting.

Strategy/Policy

A) [European Consensus on Development](#) (2017)

This document was adopted in response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The consensus is structured around the '5 Ps' framing the 2030 Agenda: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership. The image below is a visual of how the 2030 Agenda fits in the broader EU development framework.

Figure 6: What has changed since 2005 and why do we need a new European development policy?



Source: [European Consensus on Development](#) (2017)

B) [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (webpage)

This interactive webpage allows visitors to explore how the EU is working towards achieving each SDG in its development cooperation programs. It provides a summary of priority areas within each SDG, along with examples of impact and other related tools and documents.

C) [Policy coherence for development](#)

“The EU and its member countries have committed to policy coherence for development (PCD). Through PCD, they seek to take account of development objectives in policies that are likely to have an impact in developing countries. PCD aims at minimising contradictions and building synergies between different EU policies. It aims at increasing the effectiveness of development cooperation, to the benefit of our partner countries.”

Policy coherence for development was first introduced in EU law in 1992 and was updated in 2017 as part of the European Consensus on Development (see A above). PCD was specifically adapted to align with the 2030 Agenda. Its webpage notes: “The 2030 Agenda implied a new perspective for PCD and, consequently, the Commission adapted its approach to PCD and also its reporting thereon to align with this paradigm shift in development cooperation, ensuring that PCD remains relevant in such an evolving policy framework.” More details on PCD can be found in the 2018 external report on PCD’s evaluation [here](#) – the report discusses the SDGs in detail. PCD’s impact on the SDGs is of primary concern in the report. A newer report from 2019 is available [here](#).

Voluntary National Review

Note: not applicable.

Programs

A) [Priorities \(webpage\)](#)

The EU outlines five categories (shown below) as its principle priorities for development cooperation. This webpage provides detailed information about the EU’s development cooperation programs, including examples of specific activities. Three of the five priorities are linked to specific SDGs.

Figure 7: Our Priorities



Source: [Priorities \(webpage\)](#)

B) [The EU External Investment Plan](#)

The EU's External Investment Plan guides how the EU provides financing, expertise, and investment climate support to neighboring countries. The 2030 Agenda is a key framework behind this plan. The graphic below summarizes how the plan works in support of the 2030 Agenda.

Figure 8: EU External Investment Plan



Source: [The EU External Investment Plan](#)

Reporting

A) [EU Aid Explorer](#)

This tool allows one to view EU aid by donor, including aid given directly by the European Commission. It includes an estimate of expenditures contributed to each SDG (shown below for the European Commission). The amounts visualized for each SDG cannot be summed together. This resource allows one to explore projects funded by the European Commission and each EU donor.

Figure 9: Sustainable Development Goals



Source: [EU Aid Explorer](#)

Finland

Overview

Finland's domestic and international development programs are built around Agenda 2030. The SDGs are the frame for Finland's development program and for reporting on impact.

Strategy/Policy

A) [Finland's Development Policy: One world, common future: toward a sustainable future](#) (2016)

This policy document states: "Finland's development policy and development cooperation are guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." (p.12) It establishes four priorities, in the form of results, for the Finnish development program (p.15):

- the rights and status of women and girls are strengthened
- developing countries' own economies generate jobs, livelihood opportunities, and well-being
- societies become more democratic and better-functioning
- food security and access to water and energy improve, and natural resources are used sustainably.
- Each of the priorities is linked to the relevant SDGs, and the priorities are declared "mutually reinforcing and mutually supportive" (p.15).

B) [Theories of Change and Aggregate Indicators for Finland's Development Policy 2020](#)

This document graphically lays out a theory of change and indicators (with identification of relevant SDGs) for four priority areas:

- Rights of women and girls - SDG 1, 3, 4, 10
- Sustainable economies and decent work - SDG 5, 8, 9, 12, 17
- Education and peaceful democratic societies - SDG 1, 4, 16, 17
- Climate and natural resources - SDG 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 15

C) [2030 Agenda – Sustainable Development Goals](#), website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

This webpage provides a broad overview of Finland's approach on the SDGs, with a particular focus on its development cooperation policy. Finland strives to consistently support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in all its actions both at home and internationally. The priorities of Finnish development policy are in line with the SDGs and promote their implementation.

Voluntary National Review

A) [National report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development \(2016\)](#)

Finland's 2016 VNR has a domestic focus, although it does reference a National Commission on Sustainable Development as well as a Development Policy Committee. According to the VNR, national implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires an external dimension, and "development policy and development cooperation are the key instruments of the external dimension of Finland's national implementation" (p. 31). Page 33 lists priority areas of Finnish development policy, which are the same as those reflected in the strategy/policy documents above.

B) [Finland report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development \(2020\)](#)

As with the 2016 VNR, this second VNR has a largely domestic focus. Incorporation of the 2030 Agenda into Development policy is lumped with integration into Foreign and Security and Trade policy (p. 66). In terms of development policy, the VNR outlines the same priority areas outlined in the strategy/policy documents above. The VNR further specifies that Finnish development policy's geographic focus is on Africa (p. 79).

The "Promotion of the [Leave No One Behind] principle in external policies" section of the 2020 VNR provides concrete examples of Finnish development policy supporting the 2030 Agenda (see p. 79 onwards). Sub-sections covering each of Finland's four priority areas in development policy reference specific SDGs and provide concrete examples of results, as in the following example.

Figure 10: What is Finland doing to enable developing economies to offer more jobs, livelihoods and well-being? SDGs 1, 8, 9 and 12.

What is Finland doing to enable developing economies to offer more jobs, livelihoods and well-being? SDGs 1, 8, 9 and 12

Finland focuses on four result objectives: 1) A higher number of people, especially women, young people and those in vulnerable positions and situations, have their right to decent work, livelihoods and income fulfilled, 2) The private sector is growing, is responsible and supports sustainable development, 3) Developing country Governments promote responsible business and a solid business environment for innovations, and 4) The international community promotes responsible business and innovations to benefit poor people, especially young people and women.

Examples of results in 2016–2020

1. Finland supported 106 trade unions and initiated programmes to advance the rights to sustainable livelihoods of 560 000 workers and small farmers.
2. Finnpartnership and Finnfund helped to employ over 105 000 persons and enhanced local economies by EUR 125 million in salaries, corporate responsibility programmes and local taxes, and by purchasing locally produced goods and services.

Source: [Finland report on the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development \(2020\)](#)

The 2020 VNR tracks Finnish progress on the SDGs goal by goal. While these are mostly domestic in scope, there is a “global responsibility” section within each goal’s write-up that broadly outlines international initiatives and relevant international priorities. See the example below from SDG 5’s progress write-up (p. 114).

Figure 11: Implementing global responsibility

Implementing global responsibility: Finland’s foreign and security policy is based on human rights. Its key objective is to systematically promote gender equality and full realisation of the human rights of girls and women. Finland places particular emphasis on sexual and reproductive health and rights, which are currently being challenged on a global scale, including within the European Union. Likewise, strengthening the role of women in mediation processes as part of the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 is among Finland’s long-standing priorities. Finland is also paying attention to emerging themes, such as the equality impacts of new technologies and innovations.

Source: [Finland report on the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development \(2020\)](#)

Programs

Note: no documents found.

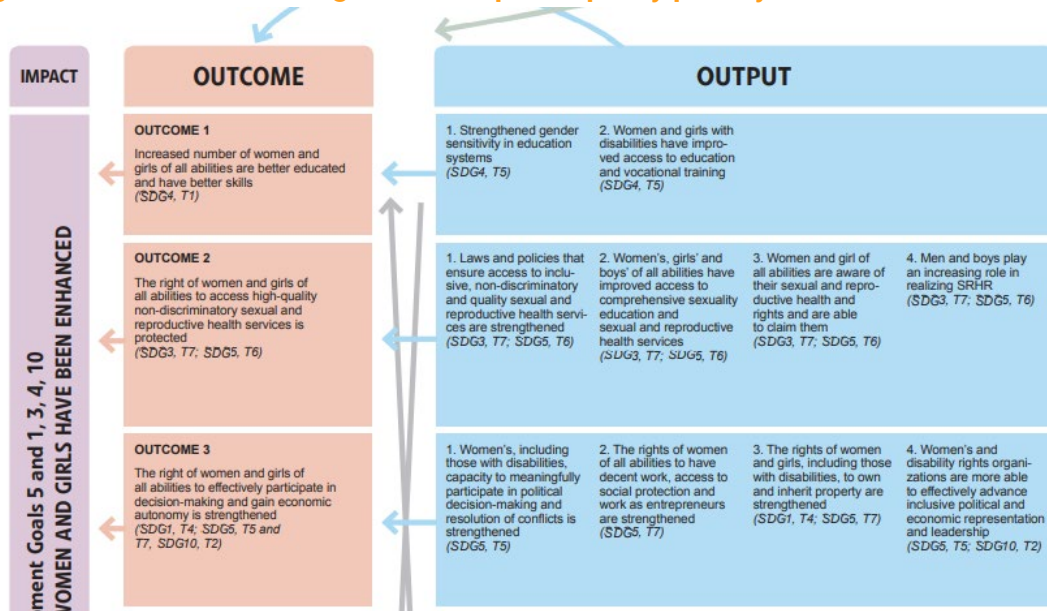
Reporting

A) [Finland’s Development Policy Results Report](#) (2018)

This document states: “Finland’s development policy and development cooperation are based on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” It reports on the results of the priorities of Finland’s development program with icons showing which SDGs are linked to each priority.

Theories of change in the appendixes link each priority area to specific SDGs in outputs and outcomes. The graphic below is from the “women and girls” action area.

Figure 12: Theories of change of development policy priority areas



Source: [Finland's Development Policy Results Report](#) (2018)

B) [Theories of Change and Aggregate Indicators for Finland's Development Policy 2020](#)

This document presents the expected outcome and the SDG indicator and targets for each of the SDGs connected to each of the six priorities for Finnish development program. These theories of change differ slightly from those included as appendixes in the result report above in A), although the same overarching content is covered.

C) [Results Based Management in Finland's Development Cooperation: Concepts and Guiding Principles](#), Ministry of Foreign Affairs

This document lays out the methodology for Finland's results-based approaches and how its activities contribute to achieving the SDGs.

D) See *Voluntary National Review* above.

France

Overview

The SDGs are integrated into France's development strategy. France issues SDG-linked bonds for finance development activities.

Strategy/Policy

A) [Towards a World in Common: AFD Group 2018-2022 Strategy \(2018\)](#)

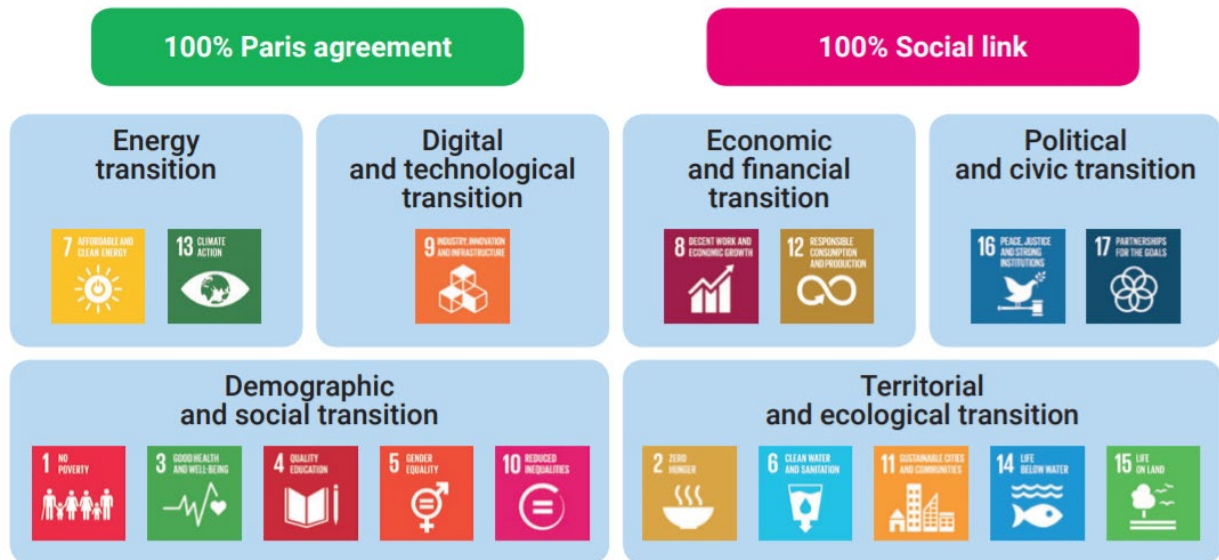
The framing vision of the French Development Agency (AFD)'s strategy is "towards a world in common." The strategy emphasizes the interdependence that characterizes our world, noting that while France seeks to support countries in the Global South, it too can learn valuable lessons from the South. President Macron says, "We are all interdependent. We are all neighbors... France will remain active and be mindful of peace, of the balance of power, of international cooperation; it will keep its commitments [both] to development and to fight global warming" (p.4). The strategy puts focus on interdependence, mutual learning, and growth, as well as on how France can help the Global South while also learning from those experiences.

The 2030 Agenda serves as an integral framework in AFD's strategy. Together, the SDGs and the Paris Agreement "define [the] frame of reference" for the strategy (p. 6).

"We are all developing countries now, each beginning at a different starting point but heading toward a common goal – the Agenda 2030; each of us has something to learn from the others." (p.4)

As shown in the graphic below, the AFD Group strategic vision and organizational structure aligns with its reading of the 17 SDGs, grouped into six "transitions": (1) social and demographic, (2) energy-related, (3) territorial and ecological, (4) digital and technological, (5) economic and financial, and (6) political and civic. The Agency "further synthesizes these six transitions into two of its principal objectives: 100 percent Paris Agreement compliant and 100 percent Social link interventions. Although simplifications, these aims underscore the cross-cutting nature of the Agenda 2030, since each SDG may contribute to several different transitions" (p.22).

Figure 13: Sectoral Focus – Six Major Transitions



NB: While each SDG may contribute to several transitions, this figure illustrates the primary transition affiliated with each of the 17 SDGs.

Source: [Towards a World in Common: AFD Group 2018-2022 Strategy \(2018\)](#)

B) [France’s 2030 Agenda Roadmap, “Taking action for a more sustainable and inclusive world” \(2019\)](#)

As represented in the visual below, various elements of the 2030 Agenda Roadmap leaflet are linked to the SDGs. The SDGs as the framework for France’s development cooperation are referenced in item 6 in the graphic. According to the Roadmap, “The French approach aims to launch momentum for tangible action to achieve the SDGs. The 2030 Agenda is now the go-to reference for sustainable development in France and engages all stakeholders” (p. 1).

Figure 14: Challenges, Priorities, and Implementation



Source: France's 2030 Agenda Roadmap, "Taking action for a more sustainable and inclusive world" (2019)

C) AFD SDG Bond Framework (2020)

*"This new SDG Bond Framework represents for AFD a decisive step in order to take into account the targets of the UN 2030 Agenda within the projects it finances and through the dialogue with its counterparties. The eligibility of the loans to these sustainable bonds will depend on their direct contribution to the SDGs."*¹²

This new bond framework "is aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals [and through it,] AFD will be able to obtain financing in the capital markets in furtherance of the activity it carries out with its clients and partners" (p. 3).









The SDG Bond framework includes a description of the "sustainable development analysis – Conducted by the "project team" during the appraisal phase, it consists of a detailed description of the identified impacts on each of AFD's six sustainable development dimensions based on a scoring from -2 to +3." According to the note, "the [sustainable development] opinion can be favorable, favorable with recommendations, reservations-expressed or negative [and it] makes possible in-depth discussions on how to mitigate or offset negative impacts and optimize positive impacts."

¹² See "AFD UNVEILS NEW SDG BOND FRAMEWORK," 2020. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/afd-unveils-its-new-sdg-bond-framework>.

According to the framework, there are three categories of bonds that may be issued by the AFD Group: climate bonds, social bonds, and sustainable bonds. A loan is eligible if it satisfies three conditions: 1) contribution to the SDGs, 2) theme-based and technical eligibility, and 3) Interlinkages between SDGs. The visual below provides a summary eligibility approach for the SDG Bond program.

Figure 15: Summary eligibility approach for the SDG Bond program

*Table 2: Summary eligibility approach for the SDG Bond program**

UN Sustainable Development Goals	The AFD Group's Six Transitions	ICMA SBP/GBP categories	Target populations	Issue-based & technical eligibility
 	Energy transition	Renewable energies, energy efficiency	Entire population (including populations with costly and/or discontinuous access to energy)	Complies with at least one eligibility criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme-based eligibility: The nature or purpose of the activities or projects • Climate performance eligibility: The minimal climate performance level of projects or their contribution to adaptation to climate change • Transformation eligibility: Conditioned on reaching sustainable development results
	Demographic and social transition	Access to essential services (health, education)	People living under the poverty threshold, People who are victim to lack of access to essential goods and services, Sick, elderly or vulnerable persons, Under-schooled persons, Women and/or sexual minorities	
	Digital and technological transition	Essential infrastructures	People who are victim to lack of digital infrastructure or that is computer illiterate	
	Economic and financial transition	Job creation, access to essential services and fighting poverty, socio-economic development and promotion	People who are victim to lack of access to essential goods and services and productive resources, People excluded from economic life	
     	Territorial and ecological transition	Food safety, essential infrastructures, preservation of terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity, clean transportation	People who are victim to lack of access to essential goods and services, essential infrastructures, public spaces or socio-collective urban equipment, vulnerable rural populations, family farms transitioning to agro-ecology systems, People living in recurring flood zones	
	Political and civic transition	Socio-economic development	People without access to fair and effective public institutions;	

**It should be noted that the mapping of SDGs by transition was carried out on the basis of the principal SDG of the transition in question. Certain transversal SDGs, such as SDGs 1, 5, 13 or 17 for example, could apply to several transitions.*

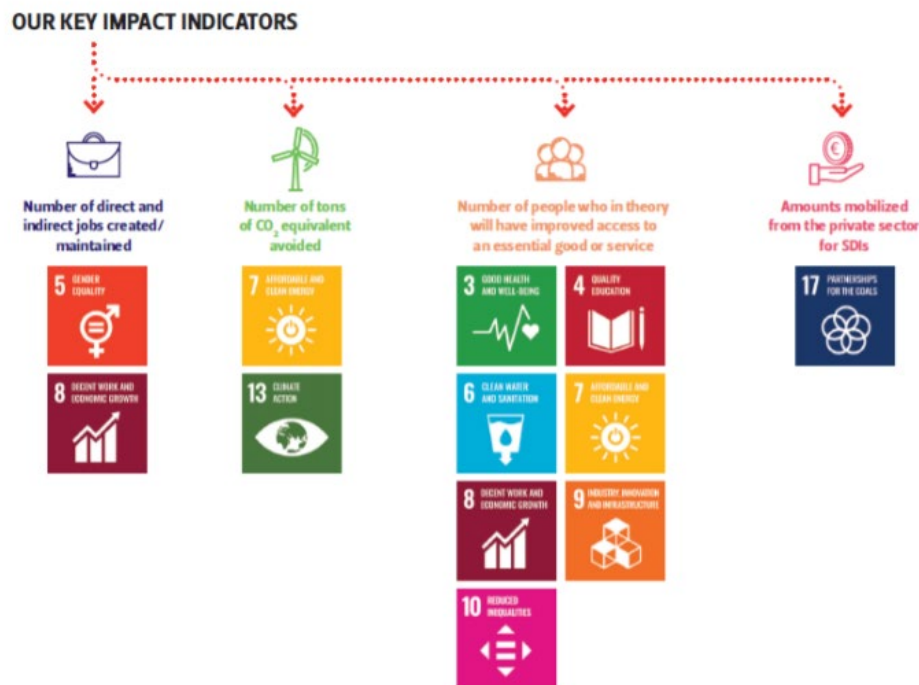
Source: [AFD SDG Bond Framework \(2020\)](#)

The framework outlines reporting on sustainable development benefits. “Until the SDG Bonds mature, the AFD Group undertakes to report on the sustainable development benefits

and impacts that are reasonably associated with the eligible loans” (p.54). The figure below summarizes the key indicators used to measure anticipated impacts.

Figure 16: Key indicators used to measure anticipated impacts

Figure 8: Key indicators used to measure anticipated impacts



Source: [AFD SDG Bond Framework \(2020\)](#)

Voluntary National Review

A) [Report on the Implementation by France of the Sustainable Development Goals \(2016\)](#)

The VNR reports goal-by-goal on implementation of the SDGs by France. This goal-by-goal reporting is split into two sections – first on developments within France and then internationally. The information covers French policies and commitments as well as actions taken towards each respective SDG.

Programs

Note: no documents found.

Reporting

Note: See Voluntary National Review above.

Germany

Overview

Germany links its development strategy to the SDGs. It connects its priorities and program areas to the SDGs.

Strategy/Policy

A) [German Sustainable Development Strategy \(2016\)](#)

This strategy sets forth Germany's approach to Agenda 2030, both nationally and internationally. For each SDG, it presents Germany's approach and activities, highlighting "Measures In Germany" followed by "Measures By Germany" and "Measures with Germany", with the latter two categories covering international activities, including development cooperation.

B) [German Sustainable Development Strategy \(2018 update\)](#)

This update is a general overview on how Germany is progressing on implementing Agenda 2030, principally on activity within Germany and with a brief section on development cooperation. A new edition is under review and will be available later in 2021 [here](#).

C) [BMZ Reform Strategy: New Thinking – new direction \(2020\)](#)¹³

The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) development strategy sets sustainability as the frame. There are five core areas and ten initiative areas, one multilateral area, and six quality criteria, each linked to the relevant SDGs.

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¹³ English version of document shared in an email 12/15 from German government official. French and Spanish available at this link.

Figure 17: Detail of New Areas

FIVE CORE AREAS	
Peaceful and inclusive societies SDG 16	Areas of intervention: (1) Good governance (democracy, justice and a functioning state, anti-corruption, domestic resource mobilisation, local authority structures, social protection) (2) Peacebuilding and conflict prevention (3) Displacement and migration
A world without hunger SDG 2	Areas of intervention: (1) Food security (2) Rural development (3) Agriculture (including soil protection)
Training and sustainable growth for decent jobs SDGs 4, 8, 9 and 17	Areas of intervention: (1) Technical and vocational education and training (2) Private sector and financial sector development (3) Trade and economic infrastructure
Responsibility for our planet – climate and energy SDGs 7, 11 and 13	Areas of intervention: (1) Climate change mitigation and adaptation (2) Renewable energy and energy efficiency (3) Sustainable urban development (mobility, circular economy and waste management)
Protecting life on Earth – the environment and natural resources SDGs 6, 14 and 15	Areas of intervention: (1) Biodiversity (2) Forests (3) Water

Source: [BMZ Reform Strategy: New Thinking – new direction \(2020\)](#)¹⁴

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¹⁴ English version of document shared in an email 12/15 from German government official. French and Spanish available at this link.

Figure 18: Initiative Areas and Quality Criteria

TEN INITIATIVE AREAS	
<p>The initiative areas are a means with which to visibly and actively put a special development policy focus on a specific area for a defined period of time.</p> <p>They also incorporate successful initiatives undertaken over recent years.</p>	
(1) Marshall Plan with Africa	all SDGs
(2) Health, pandemic response and the One Health approach	SDGs 2 and 3
(3) Sustainable supply chains and “Grüner Knopf” (Green Button)	SDG 12
(4) Population development and family planning	SDG 3
(5) Digicenters and digital technology	all SDGs
(6) Returning to New Opportunities	SDGs 4 and 8 (and others)
(7) Development and Climate Alliance	SDG 13
(8) Green people’s energy	SDG 7
(9) Synthetic fuels	SDGs 7 and 9
(10) Sport, media and culture	SDGs 8, 11, 16 (and others)

MULTILATERAL AREA	
Basic education (Global Partnership for Education, Education Cannot Wait, etc.)	SDG 4

SIX QUALITY CRITERIA	
<p>Our quality criteria are a mark of what defines development cooperation as value-based, sustainable and forward-looking. The quality criteria apply to all measures.</p>	
(1) Human rights, gender equality and disability inclusion	all SDGs
(2) Anti-corruption and integrity	SDG 16
(3) Poverty reduction and inequality reduction	SDGs 1 and 10
(4) Environmental and climate impact assessment	SDG 13 (and others)
(5) Conflict sensitivity (Do No Harm approach)	SDG 16 (and others)
(6) Digital technology (“digital by default” approach)	all SDGs

Source: [BMZ Reform Strategy: New Thinking – new direction \(2020\)](#)¹⁵

D) [BMZ Development Policy 2030 \(2018\)](#)

BMZ's Development Policy 2030 defines four principal goals: a world without hunger; the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; the implementation of the Paris climate agreement; and the implementation of G7 and G20 policy. The 2030 Agenda is an overarching framework of BMZ's Development Policy, but specific SDGs are not referenced.

Voluntary National Review

A) [Report of the German Federal Government to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2016](#)

Germany's VNR from 2016 outlines three levels of policy implementation around the SDGs – two of these are international, as outlined below.

"To this end, national implementation approaches have been defined in all policy areas at three levels: firstly, with regard to implementation and impacts in Germany; secondly, with regard to impacts in other countries and on global public goods – i.e. on global well-being; and thirdly, with regard to supporting other countries through international cooperation. The German Government has identified measures for achieving each of the SDGs at all three levels." (p. 3)

The VNR outlines German commitments to increased support for international cooperation efforts, including a commitment to "the goal of dedicating 0.7 percent of GNI to ODA within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda" (p. 4).

The "International cooperation for sustainable development" section (beginning on page 15) details specific elements of Germany's international cooperation work as they relate to the SDGs. These descriptions are broad in scope and do not outline specific interventions.

The VNR reports on progress and initiatives SDG-by-SDG. Each SDG's reporting includes a "global responsibility" section that provides general information about Germany's global work supporting each respective SDG, including key priority areas under each SDG.

Programs

A) [A Sustainable Path to the Future – the 2030 Implementation Agenda \(2019\)](#)

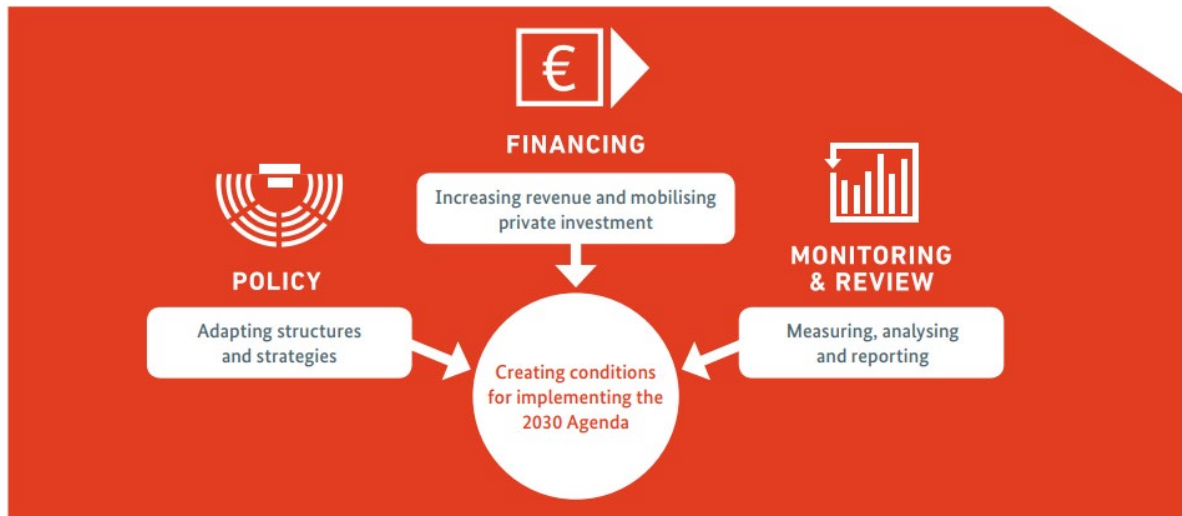
The 2030 Implementation Agenda identifies sustainability and the 2030 Agenda as the overall frame for assisting countries. The document reports on activities BMZ is undertaking in individual countries to implement Agenda 2030 but does not link them to specific SDGs.

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15 English version of document shared in an email 12/15 from German government official. French and Spanish available at this link.

According to this agenda, support to partner countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda occurs at three strategic levels:

Figure 19: Creating conditions for implementing the 2030 Agenda



Source: [A Sustainable Path to the Future – the 2030 Implementation Agenda \(2019\)](#)

Reporting

See Voluntary National Review above.

Ireland

Overview

Ireland incorporates the SDGs in its domestic and international development cooperation policies and reporting. It has an extensive program for educating the Irish people about development cooperation.

Strategy/Policy

A) [A Better World: Ireland's Policy for International Development \(2019\)](#)

The SDGs are the overarching framework for Ireland's international development policy. The SDG color wheel with the 17 SDG colors are used throughout the policy as visual indicators of the 2030 Agenda's centrality in Irish development policy, as reflected in the title of the policy.

Figure 20: A Better World title



Source: [A Better World: Ireland's Policy for International Development \(2019\)](#)

With its ambassador having co-chaired the final negotiations on the SDGs, Ireland played a central role in their development. Beyond its efforts domestically, "Ireland's foreign policy values compel [the country] to contribute to global efforts by supporting countries with the least resources to meet the SDGs, including through development cooperation" (p. 2). The SDGs express the Irish government's national, international, and humanitarian priorities (p. 3).

According to the policy, Ireland's specific focuses are:

- Prioritizing gender equality
- Reducing humanitarian need
- Climate action
- Strengthening governance

In addition to these priorities, Ireland focuses its interventions on protection, food, and people (p. iv). This collective strategy is summarized in the figure below.

Figure 21: Furthest Behind First



Source: [A Better World: Ireland's Policy for International Development \(2019\)](#)

The three clusters of interventions (protection, food, and people) are each tied to specific SDGs. Protection is linked to SDGs 1 and 13, food is linked to SDGs 1, 2, 5, 8, 13, 14, 15, and 16, and people is linked to 1, 4, 5, and 10 (p. 24, 27, and 19 respectively).

In addition to the SDGs, “The United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations’ core Human Rights Treaties set the framework for Ireland’s international relations, including development cooperation” (p. 2). Additionally, “Ireland engages with and is guided by the implementation of the European Consensus on Development. Aligned with the SDGs, this is a shared vision and framework for action for development cooperation for the European Union and its Member States, including Ireland” (p. 3).

B) [Women as Agents of Change: Towards a Climate and Gender Justice Approach](#)

This policy brief “draws on lessons from [Ireland’s] international development cooperation programme, Irish Aid, and aims to raise awareness of the urgency of reflecting gender in efforts to address climate change” (p. 3). The brief focuses explicitly on SDGs 5 and 13.

With regard to the SDGs, the brief outlines how the Irish government will “champion gender and climate as key factors in achieving the SDGs” (p. 7):

- *“Champion gender at the UNFCCC, and support the Gender Action Plan in all its elements including strengthening civil society and grassroots organisation, especially of women*
- *Use [Ireland’s] voice at the UN, the EU, and other multilateral fora to champion the rights of the most marginalised and vulnerable; and to challenge the status quo constraining women from making their full contribution, including to climate action*
- *Ensure that [Ireland’s] partnerships at global and bilateral levels are characterised by a clear focus on gender and climate change*
- *Support a generation of evidence and learning about what works in gender responsive climate action*
- *Work to improve coherence on gender and climate in [Ireland’s] domestic and international resources” (p. 7)*

C) [Sustainable Development Goals \(IrishAid website\)](#)

This page on the Irish Aid website provides information on the SDGs as they pertain to Irish policy. The information is general but illustrates the SDGs’ centrality to Irish strategy.

Voluntary National Review

A) [Ireland: Voluntary National Review 2018 \(Story Map webpage\)](#)

Ireland’s 2018 VNR is available in an interactive “Story Map” format. The “Story Map” reporting on some SDGs includes a “Supporting SDGs Globally” section that outlines international actions towards the SDGs. The written format of the VNR, available [here](#), includes the “Supporting SDGs Globally” section under each SDG.

Programs

Note: no documents found.

Reporting

A) [Government of Ireland Official Development Assistance Annual Report 2019](#)

This annual report uses the SDGs as a key framework for reporting on the impact of Ireland’s Official Development Assistance. Many sections of the report mention the SDGs. Most notably, “Our Partnerships” section of the report (beginning on page 54) ties specific SDGs to Ireland’s development partnerships, as represented below.

Figure 22: Ireland in partnership with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

Ireland in partnership with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)



Source: [Government of Ireland Official Development Assistance Annual Report 2019](#)

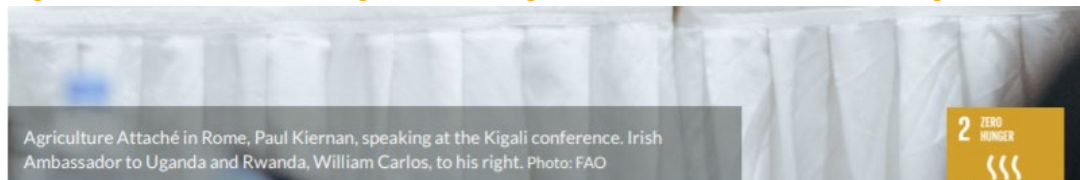
Figure 23: Working with International Financial Institutions

Working with International Financial Institutions



Source: [Government of Ireland Official Development Assistance Annual Report 2019](#)

Figure 24: The Food and Agriculture Organization and World Food Program



The Food and Agriculture Organisation and World Food Programme

Ireland's partnership with the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and World Food Programme (WFP) is led by the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine (DAFM).

Hosted in Kigali, Rwanda the workshop provided executive coaching for African Public Sector and Food industry leaders on sustainable national food systems

Source: [Government of Ireland Official Development Assistance Annual Report 2019](#)

This annual report also mentions domestic initiatives supported by Irish Aid that serve to educate the public in Ireland on the SDGs. This includes the "SDG Challenge," which aims to "support a national network of community leaders and adult and community education

(ACE) practitioners who are knowledgeable about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)", as well as the "Our World Irish Aid Awards" competition, which aims to promote awareness in primary schools around Ireland's international development programme and the SDGs (p. 51). Irish Aid also supports workshops for schools and colleges on Ireland's development cooperation programmes and the SDGs, offered at the primary, post-primary, and tertiary levels (p. 52).

B) [Ireland's Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\) data hub](#)

This website is a platform for reporting on Ireland's progress towards the goals and for sharing information on related initiatives. Progress on each respective SDG can be explored via this tool. While most SDGs provide only domestic data, some like SDG 2 provide insights into Ireland's impact globally. The website also includes a "Stories and Applications" section that highlights SDG achievements in story form (primarily domestic in scope).

C) See *Voluntary National Review* above.

Italy

Overview

Italy embraces the 2030 Agenda at both the domestic and international level. Goal 17, “Partnerships,” is the defining goal of Italy’s development cooperation.

Strategy/Policy

A) [Three-year programming and policy planning document \(2017 – 2019\)](#)

This planning document links Italy’s development cooperation directly to the 2030 Agenda, which serves as an overarching framework. Some programmatic areas are linked to specific SDG targets. For example, “The fight against HIV, malaria and tuberculosis still requires a massive cooperative effort, for the joint development of public healthcare programmes and healthcare training and education programmes, designed to identify innovative strategies and implement pure and operational research programmes dedicated to the achievement of SDG Targets 3.3 and 3.b” (p.17).

Voluntary National Review

A) [Italy and Agenda 2030 at a Glance; VNR/National Sustainable Development Strategy](#) (2017)

This VNR is a strategy document, not a reporting document. It provides an introduction to Italy’s engagement with the SDGs. While the focus is largely on Italy’s domestic policy, international cooperation is also covered. Contributing to SDG implementation throughout the world is the “external dimension” of Italy’s work.

Italy’s National Sustainable Development Strategy is organized according to the 5 Ps: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership. According to this document, “the former four areas mainly cover the domestic dimension; the latter covers principles and purposes of international cooperation” (p. 3). The principles and purposes of Italy’s development cooperation are:

- *“Eradicate poverty and reduce inequality, improve people’s living conditions, and promote sustainable development;*
- *Protect and affirm human rights, self-dignity, gender equality, equal opportunities, and democracy principles and rule of law;*
- *Prevent conflicts, support peacekeeping processes, reconciliation, post-conflict stabilization, and democratic institutions building and strengthening.” (p. 85)*

All 17 SDGs are considered to be relevant to Italy’s international cooperation. Specific goals are outlined within the sub-sections of the “Partnerships” area. For example:

Figure 25: Governance, Rights, and Combat Inequalities

GOVERNANCE, RIGHTS AND COMBAT INEQUALITIES	Strengthen good governance and democracy	   
	Provide support to national and local institutions, social networks, social protection systems, trade unions, Civil Society Organizations	
	Improve the interaction between State, intermediate bodies and citizens in order to promote human rights and transparency	
	Promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and enhance the role of women in development	
	Combat gender violence and discrimination against women: improve access to and use of health services, education and training systems, economic and social independence	
	Improve young people and minors’ living conditions, combating: trafficking of young people, women, children and adolescents; work exploitation of children; new forms of slavery; juvenile crime; disabled minors; minors’ sexual exploitation; all forms of abuses, among which sexual mutilations; sexual violence; sexual diseases (HIV AIDS); discriminations on the citizenship rights	
	Encourage youth and children participation to make them “actors of change”, promote social integration, inclusive education and training	

Source: [Italy and Agenda 2030 at a Glance; VNR/National Sustainable Development Strategy](#) (2017)

Italy’s sustainability strategy has “sustainability vectors,” which are cross-cutting fields of action (p. 91). The vectors were developed with the 2030 Agenda in mind. The five vectors are: common knowledge; monitoring and evaluating policies, plans, and projects; institutions, participation, and partnerships; education, awareness, and communication; and modernizing public administration and restructuring public expenditure.

Programs

Note: no documents found.

Reporting

Note: no documents found.

Japan

Overview

Japan's development cooperation incorporates the SDGs across policies, programs, and reporting. Japan uses video to present its SDG commitment and activities, and it provides SDG training programs.

Strategy/Policy

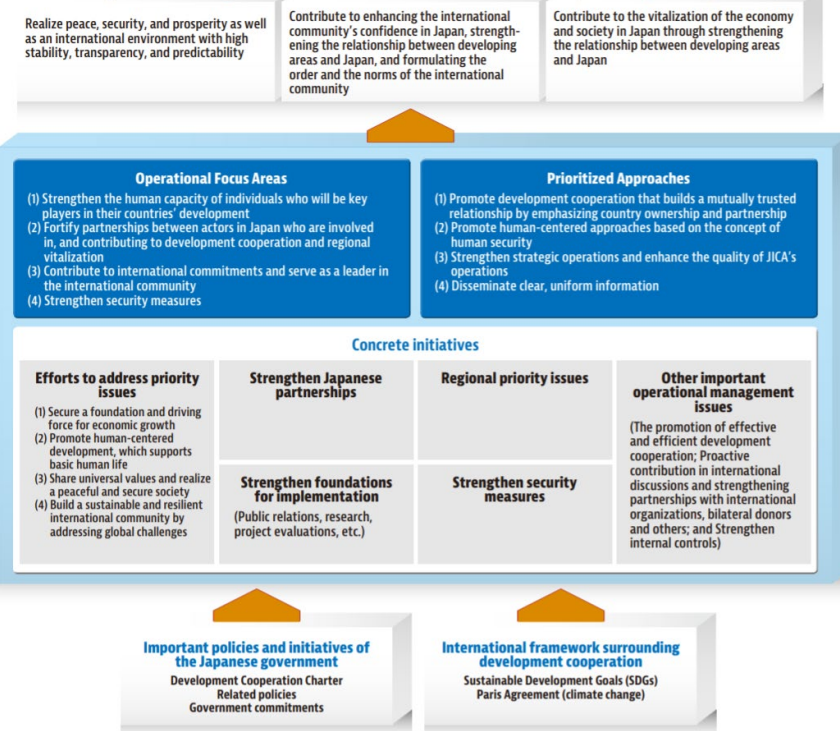
A) [JICA Strategy \(2020\)](#)

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan's development agency, operates on five-year plans, the most recent spanning 2017-2021. This strategy document outlines both the five-year plan's overarching goals as well as specific priorities for FY 2020. The document considers the SDGs an integral framework for Japan's development cooperation policy. The graphic below, taken from the strategy, outlines the Japanese government's overall approach.

Figure 26: Outline of the 4th Medium-Term Plan

Outline of the 4th Medium-term Plan

Address development issues and global issues and contribute to national interests in Japan through development cooperation



Source: [JICA Strategy \(2020\)](#)

In seeking to address the medium-term plan's priorities, there were four principal directions for JICA's development activities in FY2020. These include:

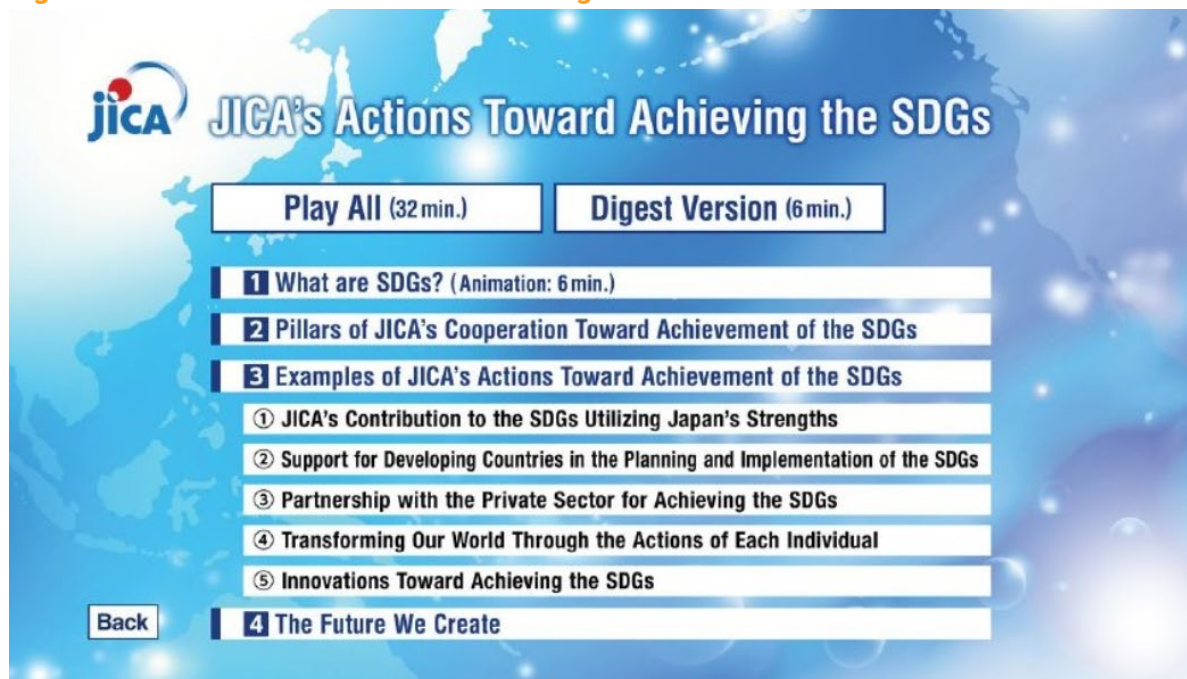
- promoting a "free and open Indo-Pacific"
- realizing "Human Security 2.0" to establish a more dignified society
- strengthening multicultural coexistence and regional economic revitalization in Japan
- designing and implementing projects that meet the latest needs

The last of these categories (designing and implementing projects that meet the latest needs) places particular focus on allocating JICA resources towards "activities appropriately accommodate the SDGs and aid needs in the developing world that are always changing with the times" (p. 2). Specific SDGs, however, are not referenced.

B) [JICA's Actions Toward Achieving the SDGs \(video\)](#)

JICA has published videos outlining its actions towards achieving the SDGs. There is an extended, 32-minute version that delves in-depth, as well as a 6-minute "digest version." The topics outlined in the extended version are as followed:

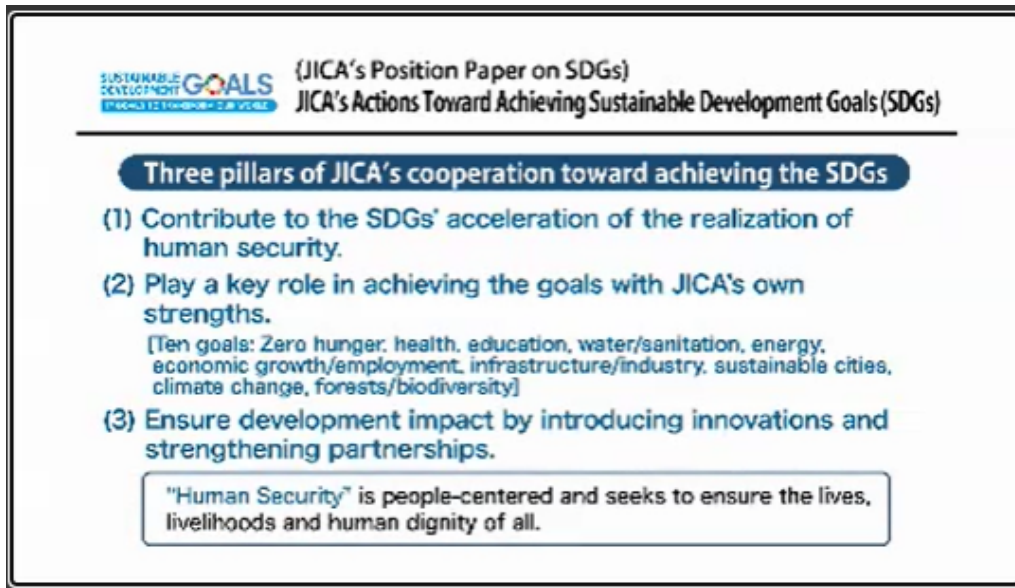
Figure 27: JICA's Actions Toward Achieving the SDGs



Source: [JICA's Actions Toward Achieving the SDGs \(video\)](#)

The videos offer examples of JICA's work as it contributes to the SDGs. The three pillars of JICA's cooperation toward achieving the SDGs are shown in the graphic below from the video. JICA focuses on ten SDGs which it considers to be aligned with its strengths.

Figure 28: Three pillars of JICA's cooperation toward achieving the SDGs



Source: [JICA's Actions Toward Achieving the SDGs \(video\)](#)

C) [Position Paper on the SDGs](#) (2016)

JICA's Position Paper on the SDGs, referenced in the video screenshot above in B), highlights that JICA's mission of ensuring human security and quality growth closely aligns with the SDG's core vision to "leave no one behind." The figure below, taken from the Position Paper, outlines JICA's scenario toward achieving the SDGs.

Figure 29: JICA's scenario toward achieving the SDGs



Source: [Position Paper on the SDGs](#) (2016)

Voluntary National Review

A) [Japan's Voluntary National Review: Report on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals](#) (2017)

This VNR is organized according to priority areas that encompass both domestic and international initiatives. For each priority area, the VNR outlines both “domestic issues and efforts” as well as “international cooperation.” The eight priority areas all capture at least one (but in most cases multiple) SDG, and the relevant SDGs are represented by their icon beneath the priority area title (see below).

Figure 30: Priority Area 6



Source: [Japan's Voluntary National Review: Report on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals](#) (2017)

Programs

JICA integrates the SDGs extensively into the information that it publishes about its programming. This primarily takes the form of targeted SDGs being marked/highlighted as a visual summary alongside written descriptions of programs. A) and B) below provide examples.

A) [Activities and Initiatives: part of the web-based annual report publications \(example of materials from 2020\)](#)

The “Activities and Initiatives” materials in JICA’s annual report are published on JICA’s website in an easy-to-access format, broken down into two categories: by region and by issue.

For “Activities and Initiatives by Region,” SDG integration comes in the form of relevant SDGs being tagged for specific activities. In the example below, the logos of SDGs 9, 11, and 12 are shown, indicating that those SDGs are targeted by the activity.

Figure 31: Full line operation increases convenience; Training continues for securing operational safety



Source: [Middle East and Europe: Achieving Regional Stability and Quality Growth through Human Resources Development \(2020\)](#)

For “Activities and Initiatives by Issue,” SDG integration comes in the form of relevant SDGs being tagged on the cover page of each issue document. In the example below, the logos of targeted SDGs for the JICA’s Poverty Reduction portfolio are shown at the top of the document’s cover page.

Figure 32: Poverty Reduction – Helping to Address Complex Challenges Facing the Poor



Source: [Poverty Reduction Helping to Address Complex Challenges Facing the Poor \(2020\)](#)

B) [Japan Brand ODA: Brochures on JICA’s website \(various\)](#)

JICA publishes brochures spanning a range of topics. It calls these “Japan Brand ODA,” signaling that they are key JICA strengths. As above in the “Activities and Initiatives” documents, the SDGs are used as an overarching framework. On the cover page of each of the brochures, “strongly associated” SDGs within each programmatic area are marked. Below is an example—from the bottom of the cover page from the “Maternal Health” brochure.

Figure 33: Maternal and Child Health cover page



Source: [Maternal and Child Health](#) (2016)

JICA has also published a single brochure that summarizes how its activities contribute to the SDGs, including examples of specific projects. This two-page brochure is available [here](#).

Figure 34: JICA's Actions Toward Achieving the SDGs



Source: [JICA's Actions Toward Achieving the SDGs](#) (2018)

C) [SDGs Global Leader program](#)

JICA has established a long-term training course, called the “SDGs Global Leader” program, designed to nurture and invest in the next generation of government officials and scholars from partner countries who may later serve as lead policymakers that help accelerate global socioeconomic development. As part of the program, participants will be offered the opportunity to hone their skills through graduate studies at universities in Japan.

D) [JICA as a Social Issuer](#) (Bond Framework)

JICA Bonds have been developed and deployed to catalyze private sector financing and crowd in investments for developing countries. According to JICA’s website, the proceeds from issuing JICA bonds are:

- “allocated to JICA's Finance and Investment Account, and used to establish basic infrastructure, social services and others in developing countries through sovereign loans and private sector investment
- used for projects that are in line with the Cabinet's decision "Development Cooperation Charter of Japan," which is linked to the SDGs.”

Reporting

A) [Annual Reports \(various\)](#)

The annual report referenced in A) under Programs above also contains reporting on select activities and their connections to relevant SDGs. For example, JICA's 2020 Annual Report provides examples of JICA projects and illustrates JICA's contributions toward achieving the SDGs, as shown in the excerpt below.

Figure 35: JICA at a Glance

JICA at a Glance

JICA's Contributions in Figures

Contributing to the achievement of the SDGs

JICA addresses wide-ranging global issues to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). On issues which developing countries are facing, including COVID-19, JICA focuses on synergy effects in three dimensions—economic, environmental, and social—as well as the Five Ps: people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership, toward a world in which no one will be left behind.



Source: [JICA 2020 – Japan International Cooperation Agency Annual Report \(2020\)](#)

B) See *Voluntary National Review* above.

South Korea

Overview

South Korea places achievement of the SDGs as one of four strategic goals for its development program. Its midterm strategy is built around the SDGs.

Strategy/Policy

A) [KOICA's Mission](#)

KOICA's mission is "Leave no one behind with People-centered Peace and Prosperity." Achievement of the SDGs is one of KOICA's four strategic goals and one of four management objectives.

B) [Annual Report \(2018\)](#)

The 2018 KOICA Annual Report notes key shifts with regards to KOICA's strategy and the SDGs. In 2018, KOICA "redefined [its] organizational mission and vision to reflect the core values of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) –People, Peace, and Prosperity (3Ps) – more faithfully while basing [its] development cooperation efforts solidly on humanitarianism" (p. 5). KOICA pays particular attention to the achievement of SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) (p.5).

C) [Mid-term Sectoral Strategy 2016-2020](#) (2017)

The Mid-term Sectoral Strategy is built around ten areas, each one of which is linked to relevant SDGs as shown in the graphic below.

Figure 36: Vision and Mission and SDGs

03 Vision & Mission & SDGs

Area	Vision	Mission	SDGs
 Education	Inclusive development through quality education	To ensure rights to education for all by strengthening education systems in partner countries and encouraging the participation of diverse stakeholders	
 Health	Ensuring healthy life and dignity for all	To contribute to the achievement of universal health objectives by improving access to quality health and medical services and care for all	
 Governance	Effective and inclusive governance	To contribute to sustainable development and poverty reduction through the support of developing a system based on responsibility, inclusiveness and effectiveness	
 Agriculture & Rural Development	Securing the comprehensive well-being for rural people	To contribute to the enhancement of the quality for all through the inclusive and sustainable rural and sustainable development	
 Water	Water as a natural right	Contributing to sustainable development and the strengthened resilience of developing countries through reliable water supply, more efficient use of water and climate change-caused disaster risk reduction	
 Transportation	Connecting people and driving the economy forward	To promote inclusive growth by assisting partner countries to lay a sustainable transport system	
 Energy	Promoting sustainable development through energy	Contributing to CO ₂ reduction through sustainable energy and realizing inclusive growth	
 Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)	Mobilizing an innovation-based economy that developing countries can facilitate through their own efforts	To support securing future growth engines for developing countries based on STI	
 Gender Equality	Society with gender equality and women's dignity	Contributing to accomplish gender equality and sustainable development of the international society, based on the SDG's spirit of equity and universality	
 Climate Change Response	Improving the quality of life in developing countries	Contributing to building capacity for the climate change response of developing countries	

Source: [Mid-term Sectoral Strategy 2016-2020](#) (2017)

Voluntary National Review

A) [Year One of Implementing the SDGs in the Republic of Korea: From a Model of Development Success to a Vision for Sustainable Development](#) (2016)

Section 2.2 of the VNR, “National Frameworks for International Implementation” (p. 12), provides relevant international policy considerations in an otherwise domestically-focused document. This section outlines the Korean policies relevant to international development cooperation.

Programs

Note: No documents found.

Reporting

A) [Annual Report \(2018\)](#)

KOICA’s 2018 annual report makes numerous references to the SDGs, but results are not reported against specific SDGs.

B) *See Voluntary National Review above.*

The Netherlands

Overview

The Netherlands integrates the SDGs in its development cooperation. This is the case at all levels of strategy/policy, programs, and reporting. The Netherlands organizes its development cooperation activities into themes which encompass the SDGs. These themes are utilized across Dutch development policy.

Strategy/Policy

A) [Dutch policy](#) (webpage)

The SDGs are noted as being the “guiding principle of Dutch development cooperation policy.”

The webpage includes a section entitled “[Development cooperation in themes](#)”. The Dutch cabinet “has embraced the SDGs as an international framework for its theme-based policy.” Dutch development cooperation is organized into themes, each of which captures multiple SDGs. New themes are being continually added as needed. A presentation of the connection of each of the SDGs to which of the themes is found [here](#): the themes are listed in the graphic below.¹⁶

Figure 37: Dutch development themes



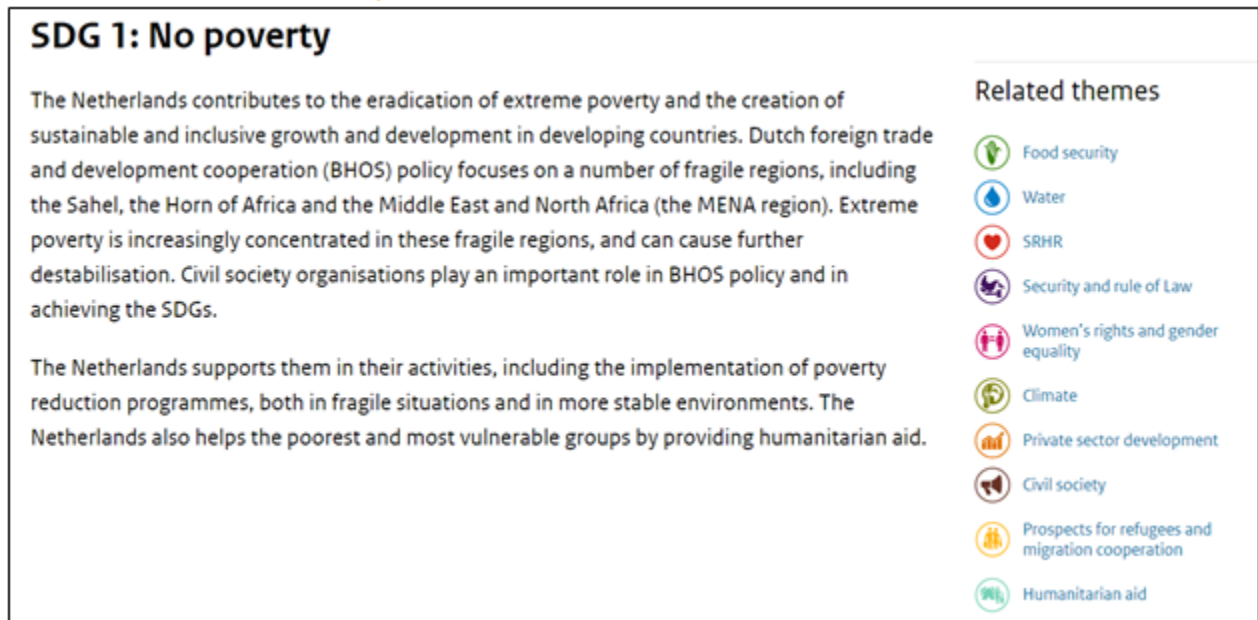
Source: [Dutch development themes \(webpage\)](#)

Below is an example of how each SDG is captured by various themes.

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¹⁶ “Education” was recently added as a theme – hence, it is not shown in the linked presentation. See <https://www.dutchdevelopmentresults.nl/2019/themes>.

Figure 38: SDG 1: No poverty



Source: [Sustainable Development Goals \(webpage\)](#)

B) [Investing in Global Prospects: For the World, for the Netherlands \(2018\)](#)

This policy document outlines four objectives for Dutch Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation (BHOS) policy: preventing conflict and instability; reducing poverty and social inequality; promoting sustainable and inclusive growth and climate action worldwide; and enhancing the Netherlands' international earning capacity (p. 8). Gender equality and improving the position of women and girls is a cross-cutting goal of BHOS policy. This policy document uses the SDGs as an important framework.

"The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030, as agreed by the United Nations, are the international guiding principles for BHOS policy. Together they constitute the ultimate prevention agenda, in the sense that working towards them helps prevent conflict and instability, which is a key goal of the new policy. The SDGs promote human rights and the rights of women and girls and seek to improve the lives of the most disadvantaged (under the motto 'Leave no one behind'). The SDGs also constitute an agenda for innovation and provide businesses with an opportunity to tap into new markets by developing innovative solutions for achieving them. Finally, for the first time, the SDGs offer a universal agenda for international cooperation" (p. 9).

This quote articulates the extent to which Dutch policy places the SDGs as a critical framework for international cooperation. In addition to providing an overarching framework, individual SDGs serve to provide context of impact for specific areas of policy discussion. Below is an example.

Figure 39: Freedom of choice and improved access to contraceptives

Freedom of choice and improved access to contraceptives



The Netherlands is investing in freedom of choice in matters of sexuality, health and family size. In West Africa in particular we intend to contribute more resources to improving access to contraceptives for women and girls.



Freedom of choice in matters of sexuality and family size allows women to control their own futures

In developing countries, 214 million women who wish to avoid pregnancy have no access to modern contraceptives. As a result of this unmet need,³⁸ they cannot decide to postpone their first pregnancy or avoid a rapid succession of pregnancies.

Moreover, women and girls are unable to adequately protect themselves against HIV. All in all, they have fewer opportunities to organise their lives in a way that allows them and their children to develop their full potential.

Source: [Investing in Global Prospects: For the World, for the Netherlands \(2018\)](#)

Investing in Global Prospects anticipates a revised action plan (described in C below) emphasizing areas where the Netherlands can make a difference in helping developing countries achieve the SDGs (see p. 53).

C) [Letter of 13 July 2018 from the Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation to the House of Representatives on the revised action plan and annual progress review on policy coherence for development](#)

In **Investing in Global Prospects** (the document in B above), the government committed to present a revised action plan emphasizing where the Netherlands can make a difference in helping developing countries achieve the SDGs. This letter presents the revised plan which is built on areas in which Dutch policy and practice affect developing countries, specifically in the areas of trade, investment, tax, and climate. Progress on the action plan is reported annually to the House.

"The shifts in emphasis outlined in this letter reduce the number of themes in the action plan from eight to five. These themes are primarily ones that determine the capacity of developing countries to achieve the SDGs and on which the Netherlands has influence. The themes are: development-friendly trade agreements, a development-friendly investment regime, tackling tax avoidance/evasion, combating climate change, and making trade and production more sustainable (including voluntary agreements). This shifts the emphasis to the means to implement the SDGs (SDG 17)."

D) [New assessment framework helps civil servants make policy and legislation SDG-proof \(2019\)](#)

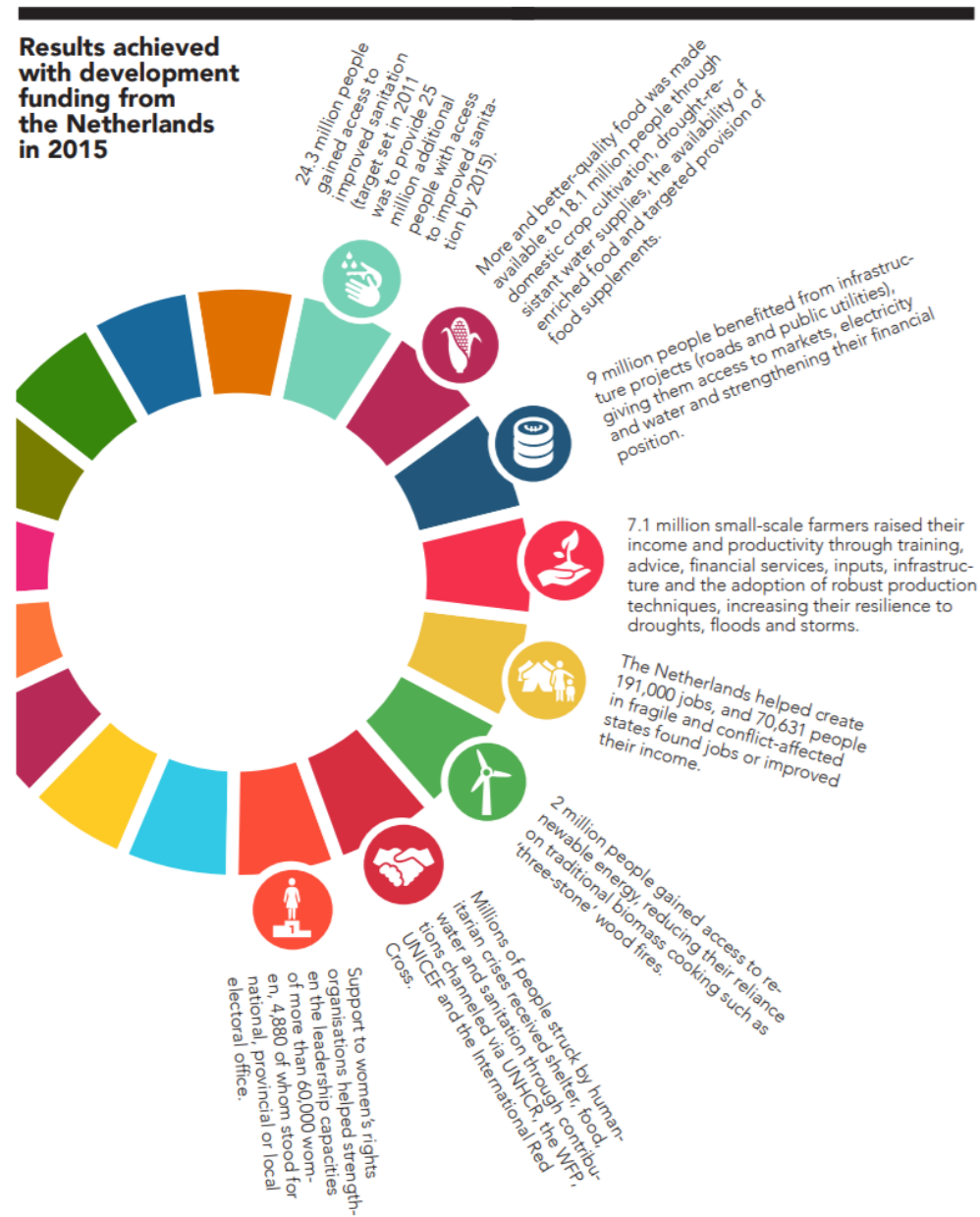
This blog reports on extending the Integrated Assessment Framework (IAK), which serves as a check on the formulation of policy and legislation, to the SDGs, to ensure that consideration of national and international policy and programs account for possible implications for developing countries' ability to achieve the SDGs.

Voluntary National Review

A) [Report on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals \(2017\)](#)

“The Kingdom in the World: Our Contribution to the SDGs Worldwide” (beginning p. 11) outlines internationally-focused initiatives towards the SDGs. Sub-sections include “Leaving no one behind,” “Combined policy of aid, trade, and investment,” “Targeted aid efforts,” and “Policy coherence.” The image below provides a snapshot of results achieved through Dutch development funding.

Figure 40: Results achieved with development funding from the Netherlands in 2015



Source: [Report on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals \(2017\)](#)

The VNR goes SDG-by-SDG to outline current Dutch policies with an impact on SDG achievement. Each SDG write-up includes a section called “Abroad” which outlines international initiatives.

Programs

A) [Dutch efforts in the Sahel](#) (2020)

“The policy note is based on the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which constitute the ultimate prevention agenda. Progress towards these goals can remove the breeding ground for conflict and radicalisation, help to restore trust between citizens and the state, and thereby build more resilient states and societies” (9).

The SDGs serve as an overarching framework in this document. When specific projects are highlighted, the SDGs targeted by the project are identified by their logos. For example:

Figure 41: Natural resource management



Source: [Dutch efforts in the Sahel](#) (2020)

B) [Country strategies](#)¹⁷

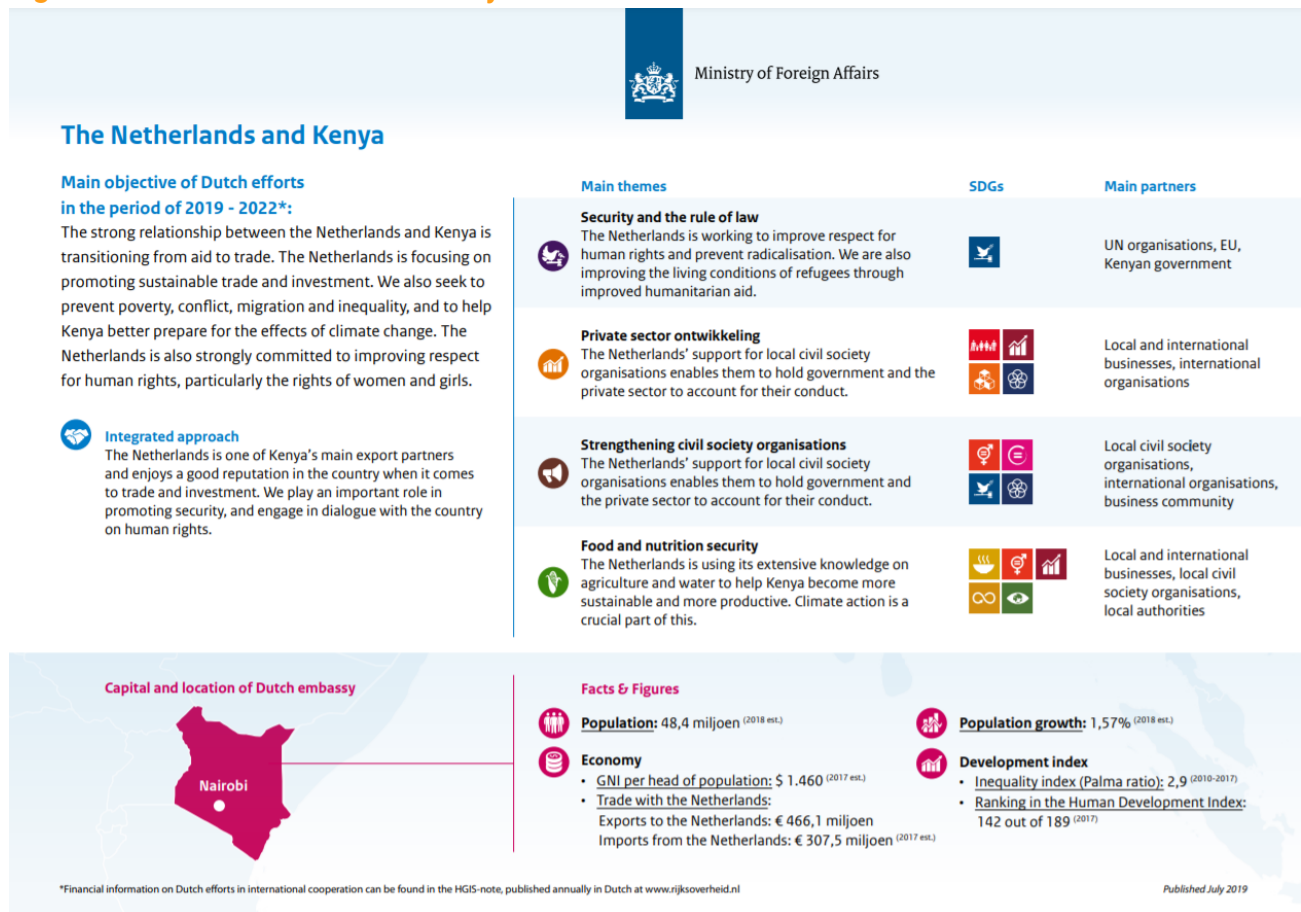
The Dutch government publishes country strategies that utilize the SDGs as a key framework. The strategies span 2019-2022 and are organized in part by the same development cooperation themes outlined in A) under Policy/Strategy above. See below for

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¹⁷ The country strategy document names come in the format of “The Netherlands and (country name),” and are searchable in the Dutch government’s online portal. These documents are published under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

the Kenyan example; relevant SDGs are listed along with general information about the overall Dutch approach.

Figure 42: The Netherlands and Kenya



Source: [The Netherlands and Kenya \(2019\)](#)

C) [33 Showcases, Digitalisation and Development: Inspiration from Dutch development cooperation \(2019\)](#)

This document provides examples of Dutch efforts to introduce digital solutions to development challenges. The SDGs serve as a key framework, and each showcase lists the SDGs that are formally associated with the thematic area. See example below. It is also noted “that many interventions have an additional direct or indirect impact on other SDGs” (p.8).

Figure 43: Project: Digital Security Helpline

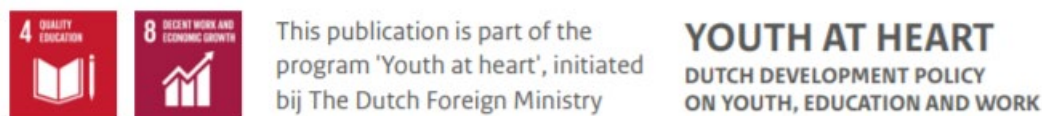


Source: [33 Showcases, Digitalisation and Development: Inspiration from Dutch development cooperation \(2019\)](#)

D) Program snapshots (various)

The Dutch government's website publishes snapshots of its work globally. These snapshots integrate the SDGs as an overarching framework. As an example, the document outlining an initiative supporting young people in Jordan is accessible [here](#). As shown below, the bottom of this document includes a visual summary of the activity's connection to the relevant SDGs.

Figure 44: Young Graduates in Jordan lifted by MyStartUp



Source: [Young Graduates in Jordan lifted by MyStartUp \(2019\)](#)

Reporting

A) [Dutch Development Results 2019 in Perspective](#), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (online)

This website is a comprehensive resource for Dutch development cooperation reporting. Results toward the SDGs are their own subset of reporting on the website, available [here](#). The website presents results by theme, including an interactive map, which is available [here](#).

B) See *Voluntary National Review* above.

New Zealand

Overview

New Zealand's development cooperation policy emphasizes the importance of the 2030 Agenda as an overarching framework, although it does not delve into specific SDGs. New Zealand's development cooperation is particularly focused on the Pacific region. SDG progress in its partner countries in the Pacific is used as a gauge of New Zealand's development cooperation impact.

Strategy/Policy

A) [Policy Statement: New Zealand's International Cooperation for Effective Sustainable Development](#)

New Zealand's policy statement outlines New Zealand's approach to international cooperation.

Figure 45: Policy Statement title



Source: [Policy Statement: New Zealand's International Cooperation for Effective Sustainable Development](#)

As shown above, the SDG logo is displayed next to the name of the document, signaling the 2030 Agenda's importance to New Zealand's international cooperation policy. This policy statement is a short, brochure-like document that outlines the key elements of New Zealand's policy. The fourth of the 17 points presenting New Zealand's approach to development cooperation affirms its support for the 2030 Agenda.

B) [New Zealand's International Development Principles](#)

This document presents the four underlying principles of New Zealand's development policy - New Zealand aims to "ensure that all of [its] international development cooperation is effective, inclusive, resilient and sustained." The SDGs are not explicitly mentioned in these principles.

C) [Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade website](#)

This page on the MFAT website on the SDGs outlines New Zealand's foreign policy and development cooperation commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Voluntary National Review

A) [HE WAKA EKE NOA: Towards a Better Future, Together: New Zealand's Progress Towards the SDGs](#) (2019)

The 2019 VNR includes a section on New Zealand's international cooperation policy. According to the report, New Zealand "cooperates for sustainable development across three key spheres": cooperating for global solutions to global challenges; supporting sustainable development in developing countries; and working for Pacific achievement of the SDGs (p.14). New Zealand's international development cooperation focuses on the Pacific region. Specifically, "New Zealand works with Pacific Island countries and the region to support progress against the [Pacific Islands Forum's] Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development" (p.15).⁵

"Our recently announced Pacific Reset signalled a lift in New Zealand's strategic ambition and investment in the region. The Reset aims to build deeper and more mutual partnerships with Pacific countries, enhance coordination with other key partners and institutions and improve the coherence between New Zealand's policies – whether domestic or foreign policy – that have a bearing on the Pacific and its people. An additional \$714 million in overall aid funding announced in Budget 2018 will be drawn on to tackle priority issues for the Pacific, in particular economic resilience, climate change, health, education, gender, human rights and youth" (p.15).

Programs

Note: no documents found.

Reporting



A) [Strategic Intentions 2020-2024](#)

New Zealand uses SDG progress in Pacific Island countries as "indicators to help measure success" (p.23). See below.


Figure 46: Indicators to help measure success

Indicators to help measure success:

Outcome 1

- ↑ Measures of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) progress in Pacific Island countries
- ↓ Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training (SDG: 8.6.1 )
- ✓ Amount and percentage of official development assistance resources spent on Aid for Trade (SDG: 8.a.1 )

Outcome 2

- ↑ New Zealand responses to natural disasters in the Pacific that are launched within mandated timeframes
- Proportion of key tuna fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels, in the Pacific (SDG: 14.4.1 )
- ↑ Government Effectiveness Index in bilateral partner countries

Outcome 3

- ✓ Evidence of partnerships between New Zealand and Pacific bilateral partners strengthened

 Sustainable Development Goal indicator

Source: [Strategic Intentions 2020-2024](#)

B) [New Zealand's International Development Cooperation 2019-2020](#)

This report does not delve into specific SDGs. It does note, "New Zealand's ODA priorities are supportive of individual country needs to promote sustainable development, and are aligned to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) pillars of: People, Planet, Prosperity and Peace. New Zealand seeks effective, inclusive, resilient, and sustained outcomes, and works in line with international development effectiveness principles" (overview).

C) [Departmental report and draft recommendations for FADTC](#)¹⁸, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 2020

This document explains New Zealand's approach to and the complexity of reporting against the SDGs.

"Tracking our contribution to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): [New Zealand's International Cooperation for Effective Sustainable Development] confirms New Zealand's support for Agenda 2030, and frames New Zealand's approach to development cooperation on four pillars of sustainable development (people, planet, prosperity and peace) which are taken from the 2030 Agenda. The Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development is the Pacific Island Forum's roadmap for achievement of the 2030 Agenda, and sets out a subset of 132 indicators from the SDG framework which are relevant to the Pacific. The Forum reports against this roadmap every four years. In addition, individual Pacific Island countries report on their progress towards achieving the SDGs through Voluntary National Reviews. New Zealand aligns to and supports these priorities via our country strategies and four-year plans.

Since the adoption of the SDGs in 2015, both donors and developing countries have highlighted the need to monitor and measure the contribution of ODA to the achievement of the SDGs. Some donors have started to develop internal tracking systems to report their financing towards the SDGs. However, aligning outcomes (as articulated in the SDG goals and targets) to ODA is both conceptually and empirically challenging, due to the cross-cutting nature of the SDGs. For example, SDG 1 (no Poverty) is an underlying objective of all ODA, raising the question of how the portion of ODA targeted to this goal should be measured without double counting" (p. 24).

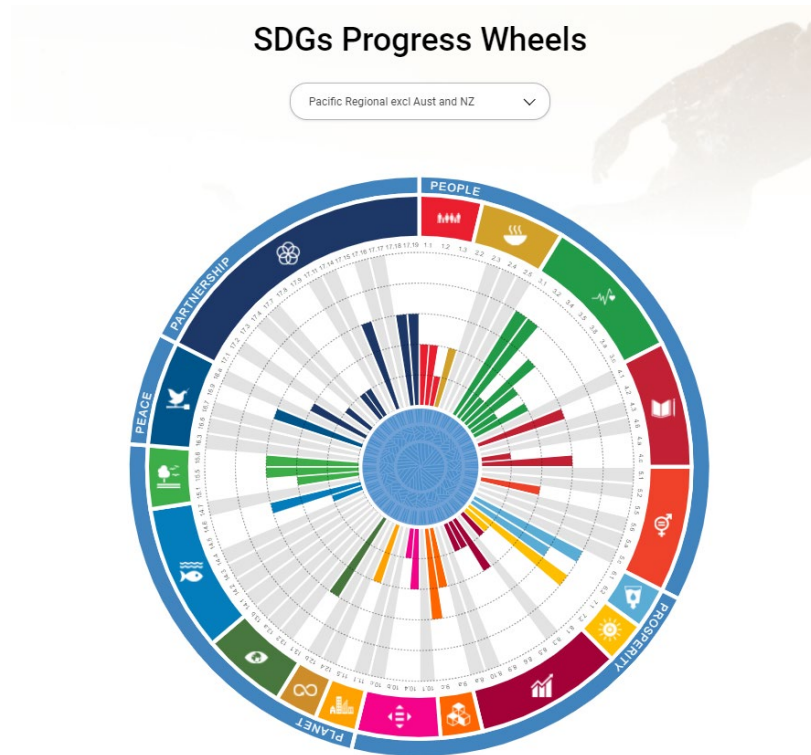
D) [Pacific SDG Dashboard](#)

This dashboard, part of the [Pacific Data Hub](#) which New Zealand supports, reports on how Pacific Island countries are making progress on the SDGs.

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18 Foreign Affairs Defense and Trade Committee

Figure 47: Pacific SDG Dashboard



Source: [Pacific SDG Dashboard](#)

E) See *Voluntary National Review* above.

Norway

Overview

The 2030 Agenda is the overarching framework for Norway's development policy. The SDGs are imbedded in its development cooperation, strategy, programs, and reporting.

On June 2, 2021, the Minister of International Development and the Minister of Local Government and Modernisation will host a conference designed to shed light on opportunities and challenges linked with the efforts to achieve the SDGs, and illustrate the connection between Norwegian efforts nationally and internationally¹⁹.

Strategy/Policy

A) [Common Responsibility for Common Future \(White Paper, 2016 - 2017\)](#)

This White Paper outlines the role of the SDGs in Norway's development policy. The SDGs "reflect the fact that the framework conditions for international cooperation and aid have changed [and the] white paper describes how [Norway's] policy on international development needs to be adjusted accordingly" (p.10).

Looking at the implications of the SDGs on Norwegian development policy, key points outlined in the White Paper are (p. 9, 10):

- The relative importance of aid is falling as other flows of capital increase
- Moving away from donor-recipient relations to more equal partnerships
- Low-income and least developed countries will be prioritized
- Stronger focus on countries affected by conflict
- Common challenges require common solutions
- Aid is to be used more as a catalyst
- The private sector is a driver of development

Priority areas are: education, health, private sector development and job creation, climate, renewable energy and the environment, and humanitarian aid. Cross-cutting areas are: human rights, women's rights and gender equality, climate change and environment, and anti-corruption (p. 11).

Fostering partnerships and the role of civil society are important to Norway's development policy. Also central is the importance of a longer-term perspective on humanitarian aid and

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¹⁹ Information provide in a May 3, 2021, email from a Norwegian Government official.

greater flexibility in long-term development aid, as well as the importance of defending international rules and values.

B) New White Paper

A new White Paper presenting a national plan of action for the SDGs is currently being drafted under the leadership of the Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation.²⁰

C) [Complementary White Papers \(various topics\)](#)

In addition to the “Common Responsibility for Common Future,” there are multiple Storting²¹ White Papers that mention the SDGs in reference to specific policy areas.

[“Norway’s Role and Interests in Multilateral Cooperation,”](#) for example, refers extensively to the SDGs. The 2030 Agenda is the framework that guides Norway’s development policy, and multilateral cooperation is necessary to achieving the SDGs. Norway’s human rights-centered approach to development and the SDGs is also clear in this document. The White Paper states: “The 2030 Agenda with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals has opened up new avenues to integrate human rights into global and national policies [as] most of the Sustainable Development Goals are based on human rights” (p. 47).

As another example, [“The place of the oceans in Norway's foreign and development policy”](#) opens with the SDGs as an overarching framework, noting that “Norwegian foreign and development policy can be used to safeguard Norway’s ocean interests and promote the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” (p. 5). Supporting progress towards the SDGs is a necessary component of Norwegian foreign policy, which aims to “promote Norwegian energy interests to governments and other actors in the countries of operation, in a way consistent with Norwegian petroleum policy and UN Sustainable Development Goals” (p. 44). SDGs 1, 2, and 14 are explicitly mentioned as being relevant to policy on oceans and freshwater areas, with progress on goal 14 having the potential to support progress on goals 1 and 2 (p. 74).

Voluntary National Review

A) [Voluntary National Review \(2016\)](#)

The section “A commitment to international solidarity to eradicate poverty and protect planetary” captures international initiatives:

“Effective implementation [of the SDGs] (...) requires financing in the form of domestic resource mobilisation and tax collection, as well as business and private sector investments. Norway will continue to promote technology and knowledge transfer; open trade and market

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²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Storting is the Norwegian parliament.

access; and capacity building to ensure effective and accountable governance institutions and respect for the rule of law and human rights.

Gender equality and rights for women and girls, access to education and health for all, and a human rights-based approach, are crucial factors for reducing extreme poverty and creating equal opportunities for all, including people with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and marginalised groups. These policies are essential if we are to “leave no one behind” in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda” (p. 3).

The VNR provides specific examples of Norwegian priorities and partnerships that further the SDGs internationally. SDG 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions) is highlighted as a key cross-cutting goal of particular relevance to the fight against global poverty. The VNR also reports goal-by-goal on implementation of the SDGs by Norway. This goal-by-goal reporting is split into two sections—first on progress within Norway and then internationally.

B) Voluntary National Review (upcoming presentation during 2021 HLPF)

During the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in July 2021, Norway will for the second time present a Voluntary National Review (VNR)²².

Programs

A) [Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation’s \(Norad\) Support to Civil Society: Guiding Principles](#) (2018)

“The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are our shared vision for the future. They emphasise the role of the state in terms of responsibility, national ownership, review and follow-up of the implementation process. The SDGs also call for the “intensive engagement” of civil society. The underlying principles of the SDGs of “leaving no one behind” and “realising human rights for all” are the backbone of Norad’s civil society support” (Preface).

Achieving the SDGs is the overarching goal that necessitates the development of the guiding principles. Specific SDGs are not mentioned within the context of each guiding principle—rather, the SDGs are referenced as a collective framework that guides Norad’s²³ civil society engagement strategy. According to this document, “each guiding principle is defined and discussed within the context of civil society” (p. 2). The Guiding Principles are: Sustainability; Inclusion; Partnership; Legitimacy; Accountability; Cost-effectiveness; and Context sensitivity.

B) Internal development policy analysis hub (UPAN)

In an effort to strengthen the analytical capabilities of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), the internal development policy analysis hub (UPAN) has been established.

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²² Ibid.

²³ The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) is a directorate under the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs responsible for quality assurance of Norwegian development cooperation

UPAN consists of individuals at the MFA who provide development policy analysis in areas of relevance to Norwegian development policy, which, given the overarching Norwegian policy priorities, is closely linked with the SDGs.

Reporting

A) [One year closer 2019: Norway's progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)

The annual progress report describes Norway's progress towards achieving each SDG, while also setting out key principles that guide Norwegian development cooperation. The reporting on each goal's progress is split across two levels—national and international. The international level outlines development assistance activities and strategies that contribute to each respective SDG. In many cases, these are key programmatic priorities (for example, universal health coverage under SDG 3, or transboundary water resource management under SDG 6).

The principle of "Leave No One Behind" is central to Norway's sustainable development strategy. The Norwegian government adopts a human rights-centered approach to LNOB, as this helps "draw attention to the structural reasons why certain groups, individuals or countries remain excluded from the benefits of an inclusive development" (p. 9).

The interconnectedness of the SDGs, which "stimulates cross-disciplinary cooperation" (p.11), is a central point of Norway's sustainable development strategy. Civil society's role is especially important in addressing the SDGs' interconnectedness. Notably, the report outlines that the interconnectedness of the SDGs can present both a risk and an opportunity (progress on one goal can support or hamper progress on another), signaling the importance of incorporating the SDGs into "all [Norwegian] planning, monitoring and evaluation practices" (p.8).

Multilateral cooperation is important to Norway's development approach, especially with regards to the SDGs. According to the report, "The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) underpin Norway's involvement in the multilateral system.

Norway has a defined strategy for ensuring that the general public is aware of the SDGs, rooted in a belief that achieving the SDGs requires public awareness. This communication strategy is rooted in Norway's common values. See the image below (p.17).

Figure 48: Norad—Communicating the SDGs in Norway



Source: [One year closer 2019: Norway's progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)

B) [Statistics Norway: SDG Portal](#)

This website allows visitors to explore Norway's progress on the SDGs. The website is organized by SDG. This data, however, is national, and as such does not provide insight into Norway's international cooperation efforts.

C) See Voluntary National Review above.

Spain

Overview

Spain's development strategy is centered on the 2030 Agenda.

Strategy/Policy

A) [Post-2015 Agenda: Spain's Position](#)

This document outlines Spanish development strategy in light of the 2030 Agenda. The document synthesizes the Spanish approach to “the road to dignity by 2030 to ending poverty, transforming all lives, and protecting the planet” as having six essential elements—dignity, people, prosperity, planet, justice, association. Spain's priorities are: poverty eradication; reduction of inequalities; sustainability in all its dimensions; rights-based approach; gender approach. It identifies 12 goals that mostly track with the relevant SDGs (p. 1).

B) [5th Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation](#), 2018 - 2021²⁴

Spanish cooperation incorporates the SDGs into its Strategic Goals. Within this broad framework, Spanish cooperation prioritises areas associated with the first 16 SDGs. It also pursues SDG 17 in the importance of building alliances.

Voluntary National Review²⁵

A) [Spain's Report for the 2018 Voluntary National Review](#)

Spain's VNR reports principally on domestic progress towards the SDGs but also contains information about the role that its international cooperation plays in Agenda 2030. It is organized according to SDGs, with examples of relevant international cooperation activities included under each goal. There is no comprehensive list of relevant international activities in the VNR.

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24 Per 6/4/2021 email from a Spanish government official: “In mid-2018, the newly-elected Government expressed its firm intention to place the 2030 Agenda at the centre of its vision for the State, of its “National project” and of government action. The Agenda, therefore, would constitute an essential point of reference for Spanish foreign activities.”

25 Per 6/4/2021 email from a Spanish Government official, “Spain will have its second Voluntary National Review in July 2021, in which will be presented the 2021-2030 National Strategy for Sustainable Development, prepared for the 2030 Agenda by the Secretary of State. This Strategy addresses three dimensions: domestic policy, foreign policy and foreign action (in which development cooperation plays a central role), and will promote their coherence with the SDGs, as is also reflected in the 2021-2024 Strategy for Foreign Action.”

Under “Aligning the 2030 Agenda and the National Reforms Plan,” the “Policy coherence for sustainable development” section outlines the role of Spain’s global responsibilities to achieving the SDGs. The document notes, “Within the 2030 Agenda, it is essential to provide the necessary support to countries and communities facing the most severe difficulties, through international cooperation, as well as to prevent national development from having a negative impact on progress towards the SDGs in other countries (whether directly, or a result of negative impact on global public goods)” (p. 122). Three specific actions are recommended to ensure policy coherence for sustainable development within Spanish policy. The proposed measures are:

“1) An SDG impact analysis will be incorporated into legislative initiatives, so that the analysis of their external and global impact on the SDGs will be a required part of the compulsory impact analysis reports, as expressed in transformative measure IX: “Establishing compulsory SDG impact reports in legislative activity”;

2) The impact of Spanish foreign policy on the SDGs, on a global scale and in third countries, will be stepped up in the mechanism for preparing, designing, and monitoring Spanish Cooperation’s Country Partnership Frameworks; and

3) The analysis of policy coherence (impact of national policies on third countries and on global public goods) will be incorporated into the Spanish Parliament’s accountability mechanism, and the annual progress report on the 2030 Agenda.” (p. 123)

A “Special Support Office for the High Commissioner for the 2030 Agenda” position was created within the Presidency of the Spanish Government to further engagement on the SDGs in Spanish policy (p. 124).

Programs

Note: no documents found.

Reporting²⁶

See Voluntary National Review above.

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²⁶ Per 6/4/2021 email from a Spanish Government official: “Spanish Cooperation is developing a new INFO@DS platform that is almost complete. This platform will provide effective support and improve coordination among all areas of Spanish Cooperation, enhance compliance with its priorities and help create sustainable systems, in accordance with the criteria and principles of the OECD DAC Directives. This platform will incorporate the entire project cycle, enabling much more agile reporting and monitoring of all initiatives and providing more frequently updated data.

Sweden

Overview

The SDGs serve as the core framework for Sweden's national and international development strategy and is imbedded in its programs.

Strategy/Policy

A) [Policy for Global Development in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda \(2018\)](#)

This document establishes the 2030 Agenda as the overarching frame that guides Swedish policy for global development (PGD). The Swedish government “views the 2030 Agenda as a dynamic framework which globally opens up new possibilities for all societies and parties, both nationally and internationally” (p. 5). Policy coherence is seen as essential to achieving the SDGs. The policy goes goal-by-goal, listing examples of how Sweden's PGD will contribute to each SDG, including on the international level.

“Two perspectives guide Sweden's PGD work. The perspective of the poor as regards development means that it is their needs, interests and conditions which must serve as the starting point in the work of achieving fair and sustainable global development. The rights perspective entails that human rights, democracy and due process principles must be regarded as fundamental for development. Gender equality and the full enjoyment by all women and girls of human rights are a prerequisite for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in Sweden and globally” (p. 5).

B) [Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda \(2020\)](#)

In December 2020, the Swedish Parliament approved a Government bill which sets out a clear goal for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, both nationally and internationally. The goal states that the 2030 Agenda should be implemented through policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD). The bill reflects a continuation of Sweden's policy for global development (PGD), introduced in 2003. The goal states that implementation should be characterized by the fundamental principle of the 2030 Agenda of “Leaving no one behind”. For Sweden, the leaving no one behind principle means that all efforts should be guided by two perspectives: a rights perspective and poor people's perspective on development.

“The perspective of the poor as regards development means that it is their needs, interests and conditions which must serve as the starting point in the work of achieving fair and sustainable global development. The rights perspective entails that human rights, democracy and due process principles must be regarded as fundamental for development. Gender

equality and the full enjoyment by all women and girls of human rights are a prerequisite for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in Sweden and globally.”²⁷

C) [Swedish Government Agencies Working Together for the 2030 Agenda: Joint Letter of Intent \(2020\)](#)

A number of Swedish governmental agencies came together to form a forum called the “DG Forum – Swedish government agencies working together for the 2030 Agenda,” with intentions to join their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency is a signatory of the Joint Letter of Intent for the DG Forum.

“The 2030 Agenda is universal, and its goals are mutually reinforcing and collectively form a whole. The goals encompass the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. The 2030 Agenda is an approach and in many respects a question of governance, which will permeate all policy and activity in Sweden and internationally. Everyone can contribute to a better future where no one is left behind.

Through this letter of intent and with due respect for the various missions and activities, the government agencies within the DG Forum wish to signal the start of a closer partnership in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda” (Joint Letter of Intent).

Voluntary National Review

A) [Sweden and the 2030 Agenda—Report to the UN High Level Political Forum 2017 on Sustainable Development](#)

The VNR’s introduction states, “Sweden’s focus is on an equitable and sustainable global development. The Government pursues an ambitious policy coherence that gives a central place to the rights perspective and the perspective of poor people. The Policy for Global Development was adopted by the Riksdag (parliament) in 2003 and has been applied with increasing strength since 2014” (p. 4). This policy is referenced above in strategy/policy. Otherwise, the strategic discussions in the VNR are primarily domestic in scope.

The VNR provides updates on progress goal-by-goal. There is no separate section for international discussions within these write-ups; however, the end of each section includes a brief description of relevant international initiatives.

Programs

A) [Examples of how targeted strategies incorporate the SDGs: Palestine](#) (2020)

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²⁷ The summary and quote from this Swedish-language document was provided by an official of the Government of Sweden in an April 20, 2021 email.

This document is an example of how Swedish development incorporates the SDGs in a specific context. The document is organized into three sections: direction, country context, and activities. The “direction” section is structured according to broad objectives; the “activities” section references SDGs that relate to specific activities. In the case of Sweden’s actions in Palestine, they are noted as being “particularly relevant to ... no poverty (SDG 1), gender equality (SDG 5), decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), climate action (SDG 13), and peaceful and inclusive societies (SDG 16)” (p. 5).

B) [Strategy for Sweden’s regional development cooperation with the Middle East and North Africa 2021–2025 \(2020\)](#)

This document is an example of a description of Sweden’s development policy in a particular region. The document is structured similarly to that above, but instead of taking a country lens, it takes a regional approach to outlining Swedish development policy. Specific SDGs tackled by the particular regional strategy are explicitly outlined. As above, the SDGs serve as the overarching framework.

“The activities’ contribution will be particularly relevant to the following sustainable development goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda: no poverty (SDG 1), zero hunger (SDG 2), gender equality (SDG 5), clean water and sanitation (SDG 6), affordable and clean energy (SDG 7), decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDG 9), responsible consumption and production (SDG 12), climate action (SDG 13), life below water (SDG 14), life on land (SDG 15), peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16) and partnerships for the goals (SDG 17). Strategy reports to the Government will also include references to how activities contribute to implementation of the 2030 Agenda in relation to the strategy’s priorities. Swedish development cooperation as a whole will contribute to poverty reduction in the Middle East and North Africa, better conditions for democratic development and respect for human rights, and increased gender equality” (p. 5).

C) [Strategy for capacity development, partnership and methods that support the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development \(2019\)](#)

This document outlines Swedish development policy in a particular programmatic area. As in both examples above, the SDGs serve as an overarching framework. Four core objectives for the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)’s work are:

- capacity development
- collaboration and partnership
- innovative methods and forms of working for development cooperation
- a broad Swedish resource base

Of the four objectives, all but one (innovative methods and forms of working for development cooperation) include explicit references to the 2030 Agenda as sub-objectives. Broadly speaking, the 2030 Agenda is an integral part of SIDA’s strategy for capacity development, with numerous references throughout the document. Goals 16 and 17 are seen as particularly relevant to capacity building activities.

“The 2030 Agenda makes clear how important it is that all parts of society – public institutions, universities and other higher education institutions, business, civil society, etc. – are engaged and take joint responsibility for the future. In accordance with Sweden’s Policy for Global Development, development assistance is one of several policy areas that is to contribute to the 2030 Agenda, and it both can and should play a catalytic role in mobilising new resources for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the associated financing process within the framework of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Capacity at various levels is necessary if partner countries are to be able to meet the development challenges of today and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The 2030 Agenda has among other, in Goal 16, a focus on peaceful and inclusive societies, and in Goal 17, stronger implementation mechanisms and partnerships for sustainable development is highlighted.” (p. 4-5).

D) Investing for Sustainable Development

Sweden is involved in multiple initiatives to promote investment in sustainable development. These include:

- [Swedish Investors for Sustainable Development \(SISD\)](#): According to its website, Swedish Investors for Sustainable Development (SISD) explores the role of investors in the Global Goals for Sustainable Development and directly contributes to SDG 17 on partnerships. The partnership consists of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and 20 of Sweden’s largest financial actors. SISD has six working groups: Goal 5 (Gender Equality), Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), Goal 8 (Economic Growth and Decent Work), Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities), Goal 13 (Climate Action), and Goal 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions).
- [SIDA and the Private Sector](#): The principles for SIDA’s collaboration with the private sector are: catalytic partnership; social and environmental responsibility; sustainable results through cost and risk sharing; sustainable and systemic change in markets; and better results together than apart. Catalytic partnerships, in particular, are noted as helping “accelerate the implementation of the SDGs.”
- [Global Investors for Sustainable Development \(GISD\)](#): GISD is a global alliance that brings together investment and business community leaders from around in world in order to help achieve the SDGs. SIDA provides support for the initiative’s website. According to its website, GISD works to align business operations, finance, and investment with the 2030 Agenda.

Reporting

See *Voluntary National Review* above.

Switzerland

Overview

The international cooperation strategy of Switzerland fully incorporates the SDGs. It has reporting tools that trace the impact of its international cooperation on the SDGs. The government is in the process of completing a new 10-year sustainable development strategy.

Strategy/Policy

A) [Switzerland's International Cooperation Strategy 2021-24](#) (2020)

"International cooperation is an expression of "the solidarity that is one of the principles governing Switzerland's relations with the international community and reflects [...] the interdependence that exists between the various parts of the world. It [is based] on mutual respect for the rights and interests of partners" (Art. 2 of the Federal Act of 19 March 1976 on International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, hereinafter referred to as the 'IDC-HA Act'). The objectives of international cooperation (section 3.3) meet the interests of the Confederation, including its sustainable development commitments, as underscored by its adherence to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (section 3.2)" (p. 5).

The strategy presented in this document, the draft of which was subject to public consultation, outlines four objectives to Switzerland's international cooperation strategy (p. 4):

- Contributing to sustainable economic growth, market development, and the creation of decent jobs (economic development)
- Addressing climate change and its effects and managing natural resources sustainably (environment)
- Saving lives, ensuring quality basic services, especially in relation to education and healthcare, and reducing the causes of forced displacement and irregular migration (human development)
- Promoting peace, the rule of law, and gender equality (peacebuilding and governance)

According to the strategy, these objectives are of equal importance and together contribute to the overarching frame of poverty reduction and sustainable development. The strategy states that "Switzerland will support developing countries in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda" (p. 17). Annex 2 of the strategy details how these objectives feed into the SDGs. The following example from Annex 2 addresses the first of the above objectives:

Figure 49: Contributing to sustainable economic growth, market development, and the creation of decent jobs (economic development)

A) Contributing to sustainable economic growth, market development and the creation of decent jobs (economic development)

Sub-objective 1: Strengthening framework conditions for market access and creating economic opportunities (link with SDGs 5, 8, 9, 10, 17)

International cooperation aims at strengthening the framework conditions for stability and economic governance through the promotion of an environment conducive to private initiatives as well as sound management of public resources, balanced trade policies and an investment-friendly environment.

Sub-objective 2: Promoting innovative private sector initiatives to facilitate the creation of decent jobs (link with SDGs 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 17)

International cooperation facilitates access to capital markets and sustainable financing to promote financial inclusion. It works on market mechanisms to enable businesses and producers to benefit from globalisation, integrate into global value chains and contribute to resolving global challenges. International cooperation works in support of entrepreneurship, health systems, basic education and vocational skills development geared to the changing needs of the labour market and financial inclusion. It helps to create decent work and other adequate income-generating activities for all, with a particular focus on disadvantaged populations and young people. In addition, it engages with the private sector to strengthen standards and promote good practices with respect to sustainability, gender equality and respect for human rights.

Source: [Switzerland's International Cooperation Strategy 2021-24](#) (2020)

In addition to the four objectives, Switzerland's strategy outlines criteria for the strategic approach of Switzerland's international cooperation. The criteria do not discuss the SDGs explicitly. They are shown in the figure below, where the intersection denotes where "the best results can be achieved" (p. 17).

Figure 50: IC Strategy 2021 - 24



Figure 4: Criteria for the strategic approach of Switzerland's international cooperation

Source: [Switzerland's International Cooperation Strategy 2021-24](#) (2020)

B) [Sustainable Development Strategy 2016-2019](#)

Every four years since 1997, the Swiss government has published a Sustainable Development Strategy. The strategy is mainly domestically focused, but the 2016-2019 version includes a section on international engagement, which includes examples of both international cooperation activities and sectoral foreign policies. This section is broken down by SDGs. The entire document uses the 2030 Agenda as its overarching framework.

C) [2030 Sustainable Development Strategy](#)

With this draft document, the Federal Council presents how it intends to implement the 2030 Agenda over the next ten years. At a meeting in November 2020, the Federal Council approved the strategy for public consultation. The Council is scheduled to take final action in June 2021.

The 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy sets out the guiding principles of its sustainable development policy. It is framed over a ten-year period instead of four, as was previously the case. It establishes sustainable development as an important requirement for all areas of federal government policy. The strategy draws on the 2030 Agenda as a frame of reference.

The strategy “defines priorities in those policy areas in which there is a particular need for action and coordination between policy areas at federal level to implement the 2030 Agenda.” It identifies the three topics of 'sustainable consumption and production', 'climate, energy, biodiversity', and 'equal opportunities' as priority issues, and sets goals for the period up to 2030, as well as strategic domestic and foreign policy guidelines for federal government policy.

Voluntary National Review

A) [Switzerland’s initial steps towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development \(2016\)](#)

The VNR notes, “The Swiss Federal Council decided in December 2015 to keep [a] high level of engagement and contribute in a meaningful way to implementing the 2030 Agenda – both in domestic and foreign policy” (p. 5). The Sustainable Development Strategy (referenced in strategy/policy above) guides this integration.

The “Swiss Foreign Policy” section describes the significance of the SDGs to Switzerland’s international cooperation. It references the Dispatch on International Cooperation 2017–2020, through which “the Federal Council applies for framework financing facilities and determines the instruments that will be used to implement the SDGs as part of Switzerland’s international cooperation activities”. The VNR outlines seven objectives of focus for Swiss international cooperation for the period of 2017-2020 (p. 6).

The VNR provides examples of initiatives supporting the SDGs (both domestically and internationally), not according to specific SDGs, but rather according to specific programmatic activities. Targeted SDGs are identified. For example, “More Coffee with Less Water – Towards a Reduction of the Water Footprint in Coffee Production,” a project in Vietnam, is identified as contributing to SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 12, 15, and 17 (p. 13).

B) [Switzerland implements the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Switzerland's Country Report 2018](#)

The VNR summary notes, “The 2030 Agenda is an important reference framework for Switzerland’s international cooperation, which aligns its activities with the SDGs. It will continue to support partner countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda and in achieving the SDGs globally” (p. 5).

“The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) is an important guiding framework for Switzerland. The Federal Council has set out corresponding political priorities in its Sustainable Development Strategy for the 2015–2019 legislative period. The objectives set out in the Dispatch on Switzerland’s International Cooperation 2017–2020 are also based on the 2030 Agenda” (p. 6).

This second VNR presents goal-by-goal reporting on progress towards the SDGs by Switzerland. This goal-by-goal reporting is split into two sections – first on progress domestically and then at the international level. Domestic progress is qualified against specific SDG indicators, whereas international progress is described through descriptions of relevant activities and priorities.

Programs

A) [State Secretariat for Economic Affairs \(SECO\): Economic Cooperation and Development \(cooperation programs webpage\)](#)

Switzerland publishes factsheets for its priority countries in the South²⁸ that incorporate the SDGs. This incorporation occurs on the “results monitoring” pages of the factsheets. Below is an example from the Indonesia factsheet.

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28 Note: Switzerland separates its cooperation programmes by region, with an “Economic development cooperation in the South” approach and a “Transition cooperation in the East” approach, where “South” countries include Colombia, Egypt, Ghana, Indonesia, Peru, South Africa, Tunisia, and Vietnam, and “East” countries include Albania, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Tajikistan, and Ukraine.

Figure 51: Thematic Priority 1 (Fostering effective public institutions, particularly in urban areas, through efficient use of resources) Theory of Change (Indonesia cooperation program)



Source: [Indonesia Cooperation Programme 2021 - 24](#)

The same webpage also has a factsheet from Swiss transition cooperation in the East. These fact sheets take a slightly different format, although they still incorporate the SDGs. This incorporation is primarily in the “Results Framework” annex. Specific country development outcomes in the results framework are identified with relevant SDGs.

Reporting

A) [State Secretariat for Economic Affairs \(SECO\): Economic Cooperation and Development \(results webpage\)](#)

This website includes a “results” section that divides results into monitoring, evaluation, and impact. The “impact” section includes a link to the most recent SECO Final Report, spanning 2017-2020. The report uses the 2030 Agenda as an overarching framework but does not report on individual SDGs.

Individual annual reports are also available [here](#) on SECO’s website. These reports do not report on individual SDGs.

B) [Switzerland’s international cooperation is working. Final report on the implementation of the Dispatch 2017–20](#)

This document, reporting on the results of the Swiss international cooperation program, references Agenda 2030 but does not link activities or results to specific SDGs. It states: “In the interests of effectiveness, it is important that Swiss international cooperation actions dovetail with the key concerns of priority and partner countries and are embedded in an international framework. Such a universal framework is provided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” (p. 3)

C) See *Voluntary National Reviews* above.

United Kingdom

Overview

The UK uses the SDGs as a guiding framework for its development cooperation program and incorporates them into policies, programs, and reporting. It publishes partner country profiles that link to the SDGs, provides an online report that details how the UK approaches achieving each of the SDGs, and maintains an online database that tracks data on UK development assistance to the SDGs.

Strategy/Policy

A) [UK aid: tackling global challenges in the national interest](#) (2015)

This 2015 strategy was published following ratification of the 2030 Agenda. The strategy emphasizes that development assistance is in the UK's national interest and outlines the UK's assistance spending approach moving forward.

"This year, the world agreed the new UN Global Goals, which the UK helped to shape. The new goals focus on eradicating extreme poverty forever and finishing the job of the Millennium Development Goals in key areas like health, nutrition and education. But they also go further, recognising that economic development, good governance, job creation, peace and security, and the fight against climate change are vital to sustainable development. Addressing all of these issues will also benefit the UK's security and prosperity." (p. 7)

The 2030 Agenda serves as a frame in this document. The SDGs are explicitly referenced in the list of the government's 2015 "manifesto commitments": "Push for new global goals to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030 and promote human development, gender equality and good governance" (p. 11). The 2030 Agenda is directly referenced at other points throughout the document. For example, "The government will lead the world in implementing the Leave No One Behind Promise agreed by the Prime Minister and other world leaders in September 2015" (p.17). The document notes: "the UK will drive progress towards the Global Goals – both through our own action and through our leadership in the international community" (p. 10).

B) [Agenda 2030: The UK Government's approach to delivering the Global Goals for Sustainable Development - at home and around the world](#) (2017)

This report reiterates the UK's commitment to the SDGs and reports on both domestic and international efforts on each of the SDGs. The report provides general information on a few focus areas and accomplishments for each SDG over several years prior to 2017, as well as priorities for the coming years. The document is an example of a single comprehensive strategy that blends both international and domestic priorities. It notes, "Departments will

report progress towards the Goals through their Annual Reports and Accounts, and [the] Cabinet Office will continue to have a role in coordinating domestic delivery of the Goals through the SDP (Single Department Plans) process” (introduction).

C) [Department for International Development single department plan](#), corporate report (2019)

The report is structured around the 5 Ps of Peace, Planet, Prosperity, People, and Partnership, identifying DFID’s approach to these objectives and the sub-objectives under them and to which SDGs they are connected. It reports on budget allocations to each objective and broad metrics on results.²⁹

D) [Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals](#), corporate report

Per the single department plans, this web report lists the specific activities of the cross-government UK development cooperation that departments will take to achieving each of the 17 global goals (in 2019).

E) [Letter from the Foreign Commonwealth & Development Secretary to the Chair of the International Development Committee, House of Parliament](#) (2020)

The letter states that “The SDGs offer a framework for building back better from the COVID-19 pandemic: recognizing the connection between healthy lives, healthy societies and a healthy environment.” It links specific priorities to the relevant SDG – climate change (SDG 13), biodiversity loss (15), girls’ education (4 & 5), and productive, sustainable economies (8 & 17).

F) [Global Britain in a Competitive Age: the Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy](#) (2021)

The Integrated Review, an articulation of the UK’s national security and international policy, sets forth three fundamental national interests – sovereignty, security, and prosperity – along with a commitment to democracy, universal human rights, the rule of law, freedom of speech and faith, and equality. The publication provides a broad commitment for the UK development cooperation to Agenda 2030 but no specificity on individual SDGs. The document states that a new UK international development strategy for 2022 and beyond will be closely aligned with this strategy.

Voluntary National Review

A) [Voluntary National Review of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, June 2019](#)

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²⁹ This annual report was paused in 2020 and is scheduled to recommence in 2021.

For the purposes of the VNR, each SDG chapter had a UK government department assigned to lead on the drafting, drawing in other departments as necessary. The Department for International Development (now merged into the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office) led the overall process, coordinated the international elements of each chapter, and led on Goal 17: Partnerships

The VNR provides updates on progress goal-by-goal. Each goal is split into a UK section and an “around the world” section. “Activity snapshots” provide concrete examples of UK-led initiatives, public and private sector, that support specific SDGs. Following is an example of a snapshot under SDG 6.

Figure 52: Activity Snapshot

Activity snapshot:

The South Asia WASH (Water, Hygiene and Sanitation) Results Programmes (SWARP) is operated by a consortium led by **Plan International UK** and funded by DFID. The other members of the consortium are **WSUP** (Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor), **WEDC**, **WaterAid**, **Unilever** and **Ipsos**. The seven-year programme (2014-21) aims to deliver sustainable access to safe water and sanitation and encourage the adoption of basic hygiene practices in Pakistan and Bangladesh. To date the programme has: improved water access for 359,475 people; reached over two million people with improved sanitation; and delivered access to soap and improved handwashing for over seven million people.

Source: [Voluntary National Review of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, June 2019](#)

Programs

A) [DFID Profiles of Development Work, by country](#)

For each country to which it provides assistance, the UK publishes a profile. According to the UK Government’s website on which the profiles are published, they set out:

- Why the UK is investing in a country
- What UK aid has achieved
- What UK aid expects to achieve looking ahead
- How [the UK is] supporting countries to transition from aid
- What is being achieved for the UK
- Who [the UK is] working with
- [The UK’s] spending plans over the financial years 2018/19 to 2019/20

Each profile includes a section on contributions to the Global Goals and other government commitments. Below is an example from the Iraq profile.

Figure 53: Contribution to the Global Goals and other government commitments (achieved as at March 2018)

Contribution to the Global Goals and other government commitments (achieved as at March 2018)
We are working to build peace, justice and strong institutions in Iraq (Global Goal 16) by helping local government to plan reconstruction, supporting the rehabilitation of vital infrastructure such as schools and water treatment facilities, and encouraging inclusion of all communities and reconciliation. Throughout our work in Iraq we promote Global Goal 5, gender equality.

Source: [DFID Iraq profile](#)

B) [DFID's Disability Inclusion Strategy 2018 to 2023](#) (2018)

This document is an example of how the UK Government approaches aid in specific programmatic areas. The SDGs serve as a key framework in the Disability Inclusion Strategy. The document notes that delivering on the SDGs without including people with disabilities is impossible, hence the importance of the strategy (from the foreword). The “political appetite” brought about by the development of the SDGs is seen as a key indication that now is the right time to fight for disability inclusion (p.7). However, specific SDGs are not referenced in the strategy – rather, the goals serve as an overarching frame.

Reporting

A) [Statistics on International Development: Final UK Aid Spend 2019](#)

This document provides details on UK Governmental spending on development assistance in 2019. The document does not have a focus on the SDGs beyond a few isolated references.

B) [SDG Portal](#)

This website tracks data on the UK's performance against development assistance to the SDGs.

C) See *Agenda 2030* (B under Strategy/Policy) above.

D) See *Voluntary National Review* above.

United States

Overview

The United States has supported Agenda 2030 but has not brought the SDGs into its domestic or international development policies and programs.

Strategy/Policy

A) Obama administration

*"I am committing the United States to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals."*³⁰

The Obama Administration participated actively in the creation of the SDGs and endorsed Agenda 2030 upon its adoption by the U.N.

*"Indeed, the United States strongly supports the vision and ambition of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. We are committed to their implementation. The Agenda is global, aspirational, and provides for taking into account different national realities, capacities, and levels of development, and respecting national policies and priorities."*³¹

B) [Taking a Holistic View of the Sustainable Development Goals \(webpage\)](#)

The U.S. government has 22 agencies implementing foreign assistance. Some policies reference the SDGs, but they are not built into policies and programs. This USAID website (dated September 2016) says, "The United States is working to implement the Sustainable Development Goals – known as the SDGs or Global Goals – both domestically and abroad." The webpage further states that to help achieve the SDGs, the United States "will continue to partner with countries and communities around the world to tackle some of the most intractable problems such as child and maternal death, hunger, gender inequality and climate change" and will do so in a way that "leaves no one behind."

C) Trump administration

During the Trump administration U.S. policy was to express general support for the SDGs as "aspirational" but not to embrace them in its policies or programs.

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30 Remarks by President Obama on Sustainable Development Goals, September 27, 2015

31 "Explanation of Position Upon Decision by the UN General Assembly to send the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Forward for Adoption by the Summit." Tony Pipa, U.S. Special Coordinator for the Post-2015 Development Agenda, September 1, 2015.

*"The United States recognizes the 2030 Agenda as a global framework for sustainable development that can help countries work toward global peace and prosperity. We applaud the call for shared responsibility, including national responsibility, in the 2030 Agenda and emphasize that all countries have a role to play in achieving its vision. The 2030 Agenda recognizes that each country must work toward implementation in accordance with its own national policies and priorities, and we will interpret calls that reaffirm the 2030 Agenda or call for the full implementation of its Sustainable Development Goals to be aspirational."*³²

D) Biden administration

President Biden endorsed the SDGs during his presidential campaign and the administration reportedly is reviewing its position on Agenda 2030.

Voluntary National Review

Note: no documents found.

Programs

Note: no documents found.

Reporting

Note: no documents found.

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³² Jesse Walter, Advisor for Economic and Social Affairs, U.S. Mission to the United Nations, November 18, 2020. <https://usun.usmission.gov/general-statement-in-a-meeting-of-the-second-committee/>.

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