

# Finland's Development Policy Results Report 2018

## Summary

# The development policy and cooperation of Finland generate results

**T**he Development Policy Results Report 2018 presents results of Finland's development policy and development cooperation that were reported between 2015 and 2018. Finland and its partners are achieving the development policy objectives quite well. Finland is generating positive results, which contribute to global stability and wellbeing. Finland has relevant expertise, experience and resources.

The results are produced through cooperation with developing countries, development financing institutions and organisations as well as with other partners. The priority areas of Finland's development policy are anchored in the Sustainable Development Goals of the Agenda 2030 adopted by the United Nations. The results data in the report is grouped in accordance with the four priority areas of Finland's development policy.

The work is most impactful when the financial support provided by Finland is combined with political dialogue, expertise and influencing efforts. This approach produces also most sustainable results. An example of such achievements is the successful support for national education systems. In particular, Finland has made its mark in areas where it is promoting equality, inclusion and non-discrimination, in line with its own core values.

Women and girls are more empowered to make decisions concerning their own bodies: About 1.5 million women have access to contraception and other sexual and reproductive health services. Through its development cooperation, Finland has supported communities in adapting to climate change, while humanitarian assistance provided by Finland has helped people to cope with conflicts and disasters. With Finland's support, about 2.5 million people had access to clean water supplies and nearly six million people had access to adequate sanitation.

Many of the results presented in the report are linked to the influencing efforts by Finland, which is difficult to measure in numbers. It may produce significant policy results, for example by ensuring that multilateral organisations or society at large are focusing their efforts on issues considered important by Finland. The opportunities to influence may at times be determined by Finland's funding share.

Achieving results has been most challenging in re-

gions where partnerships have been weakened by different kinds of instability.

More consideration should be given to these risks. In fragile environments, being able to sustain progress already made or avoiding reverse for worse may be considered a good result as such.

Financial investments and loans have been introduced as new development policy instruments during this government term. Their purpose is to strengthen the economic resilience of developing countries and to help them build a solid tax base. Most of this funding has been channelled towards climate change mitigation and adaptation. No result reports are yet available in regards to this new instrument. Together with grant funding, financial investments allow for enhancing cooperation with the private sector, while mobilising private funding needed to support sustainable development. Substantial broadening of the funding base is essential for achieving the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

The substantial cuts made in official development assistance funding in 2016 have reduced the results of Finland's development policy. The reductions, which were put into effect within a short period of time, mainly affected multilateral development cooperation, civil society partnerships and the human resources allocated to development cooperation. The climate finance of Finland reduced substantially.

One of the key messages of this report is that Finland should focus on a limited number of consistent themes and interventions. Effectiveness requires long-term approach both in terms of resources as well as policy priorities. Development policy can be successful only if it is able to continuously renew its approach and monitor new knowledge on results and effectiveness.

The ability of Finland to set realistic targets and objectives and to analyse and manage risks that are inherent in the field of development policy has been and is improved on the basis of critical evaluations and reviews. Misappropriation of funds always leads to action.

Positive results build societies, wellbeing and global stability. They further Finland's foreign policy objectives and the implementation of international commitments. Development cooperation is an important way to contribute to solving the greatest challenges of humanity.

# Important results

WOMEN AND GIRLS

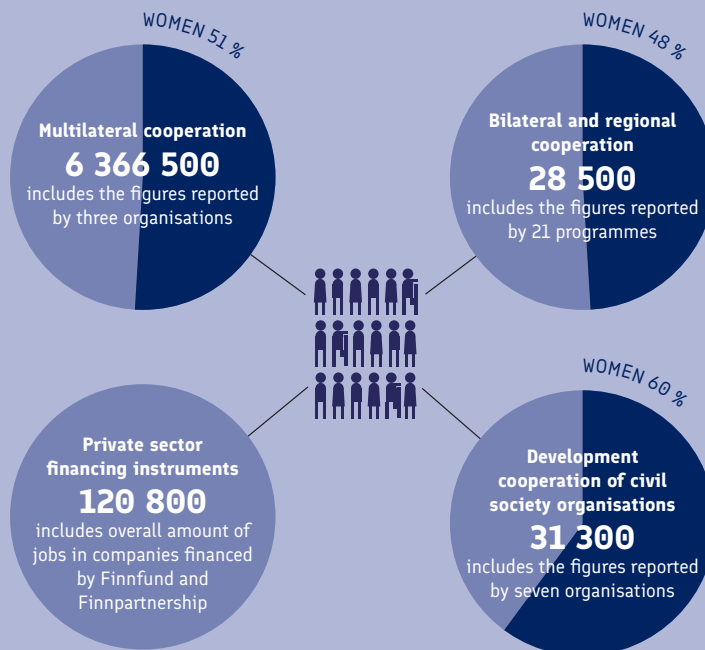
## More women have access to contraception

Over **1.5 million** women and girls have used sexual and reproductive health services through the support of Finland's bilateral cooperation (2015–2018)

Over **56 million** women used contraception through EU support in 2014–2016

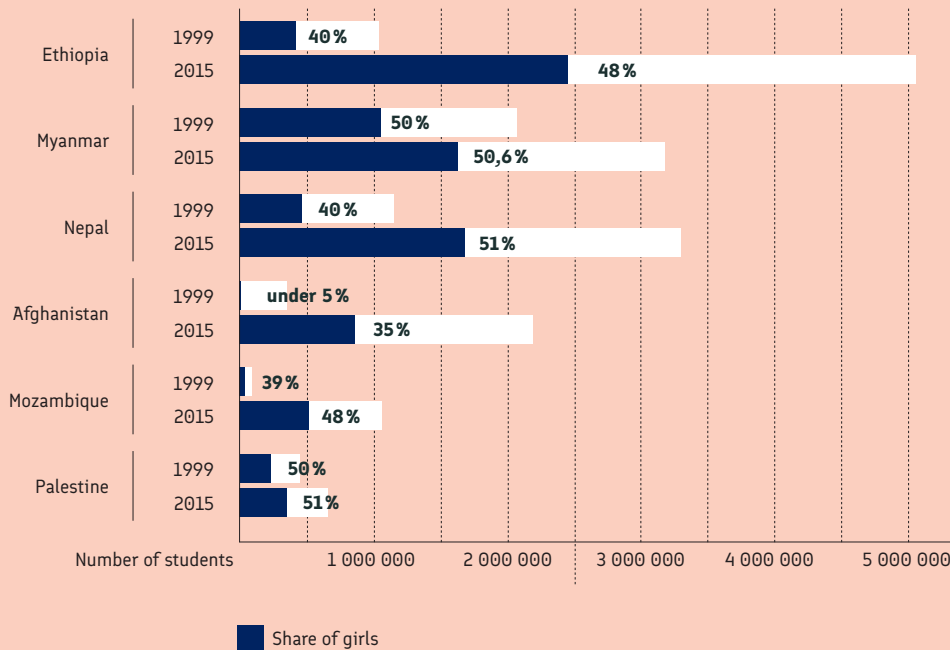
ECONOMY AND JOBS

## Jobs especially for women



**WELL-FUNCTIONING SOCIETY**

## More children attending secondary school in Finland's partner countries



SOURCE: UM/UNESCO

**NATURAL RESOURCES**

## Better food security and clean water for millions

### SMALLHOLDERS SUPPORTED BY FINLAND



NUMBER OF SMALL-HOLDER FARMERS

433 270



SHARE OF WOMEN

54 %



TOTAL NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES, INCL. FAMILY MEMBERS

2 062 200

CIVIL SOCIETY COOPERATION

SOURCE: UM

### PEOPLE WITH ACCESS TO WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION

Number of people benefiting from the results



WATER SUPPLY

2 466 700



SANITATION

5 940 500



WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION IN SCHOOLS

661 380

BILATERAL COOPERATION

SOURCE: UM

## Assistance to record-breaking humanitarian needs

IN 2017

More than **12 million** refugees and nearly 36 million internally displaced people supported through the UN refugee organisation UNHCR

Food security of **91 million** people in 83 countries enhanced by the WFP

Finland's humanitarian assistance is channelled through UN organisations, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and six Finnish non-governmental organisations.

## Conclusions

1

Finland should focus its resources towards the most important objectives

2

Results require long-term commitment and responsiveness

3

Adhering to values makes the policy more impactful

4

Fragile states and countries affected by conflicts must be supported to get on their feet

5

Reforms in development cooperation practices and development financing need to continue

6

A more comprehensive approach leads to better development results

