

# FINLAND'S DEVELOPMENT POLICY

## One World, One Future: Toward sustainable development

Finland's development policy has been outlined in the **Government Report on Development Policy, published in February 2016**. The report takes account of the current situation in developing countries, the goals of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the binding climate convention, the present refugee situation, and the resources available in Finland.

*A stable and safe world is in Finland's interests.*

It is crucial to consolidate the economic base in developing countries to enable them to advance in their development. Jobs, new livelihoods, and strengthening national tax bases all play a key role. Finland will step up funding to support sustainable development and employment and strengthen developing countries' taxation capacity and public finances.



Development policy is an integral part of Finland's foreign and security policy. By pursuing the policy of burden-sharing, Finland also strengthens its own international role.

*Finnish companies are encouraged to offer commercially viable development-enhancing solutions to developing country markets.*

During the current government term, Finland will support international efforts to mobilise investments for sustainable development in developing countries with over EUR 0.5 billion.



The goal of Finnish development policy is to reduce poverty and inequality. Our action draws upon the inherent values and underlying principles of Nordic societies, the implementation of human rights being a key objective. Finnish development policy strives to strengthen the rights of the most vulnerable, promote gender equality, and improve climate change preparedness and mitigation.

Corporate social responsibility will be enhanced through collaboration between companies, organisations and public authorities. Finland considers it important that businesses operate responsibly and that all their activities strengthen sustainable development.

Finland works coherently to promote development-enhancing choices. It will strive to influence policies within the EU and multilateral organisations as well as in developing countries more strategically and more actively. The EU provides an important channel for Finland to wield its influence in international climate, environmental and economic issues so as to ensure that the decisions adopted will improve conditions in poor countries.

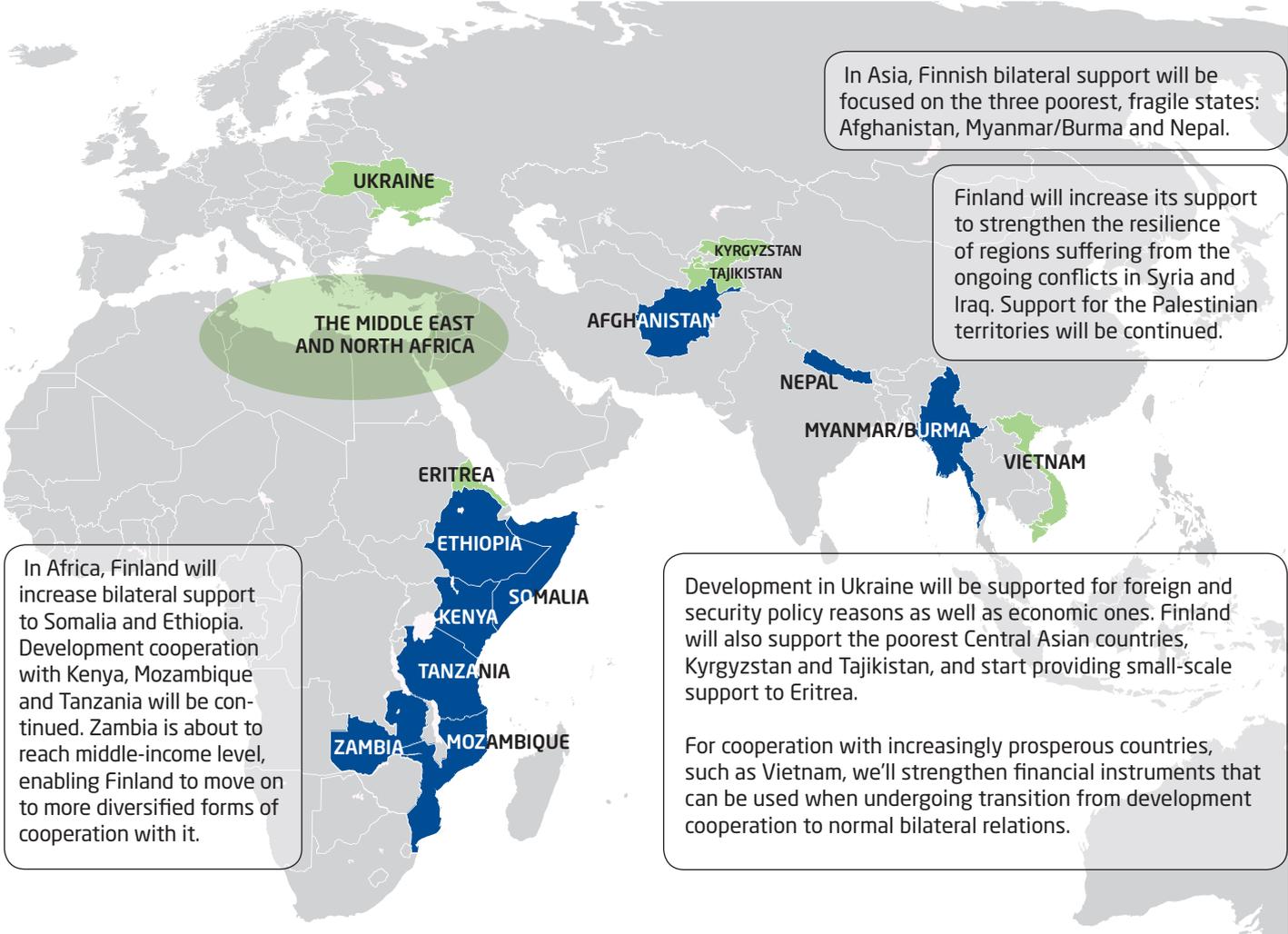
The Finnish Government is reviewing its development policy practices. In the coming years, Finland will be implementing development cooperation with more limited appropriations and fewer human resources. The available resources will be targeted more clearly in support of the set goals. We will be more effective in our activities and step up the management of risks as well as the measuring, reporting and evaluation of results and impacts. It is also important to communicate transparently and actively on Finnish development policy and pursue global education.



### Finland's development policy has 4 priorities:

1. The rights of women and girls
2. Reinforcing developing countries' economies to generate more jobs, livelihoods and well-being
3. Democratic and well-functioning societies, including taxation capacity
4. Food security, access to water and energy, and the sustainable use of natural resources.





In Asia, Finnish bilateral support will be focused on the three poorest, fragile states: Afghanistan, Myanmar/Burma and Nepal.

Finland will increase its support to strengthen the resilience of regions suffering from the ongoing conflicts in Syria and Iraq. Support for the Palestinian territories will be continued.

In Africa, Finland will increase bilateral support to Somalia and Ethiopia. Development cooperation with Kenya, Mozambique and Tanzania will be continued. Zambia is about to reach middle-income level, enabling Finland to move on to more diversified forms of cooperation with it.

Development in Ukraine will be supported for foreign and security policy reasons as well as economic ones. Finland will also support the poorest Central Asian countries, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, and start providing small-scale support to Eritrea.

For cooperation with increasingly prosperous countries, such as Vietnam, we'll strengthen financial instruments that can be used when undergoing transition from development cooperation to normal bilateral relations.

**The focus in our bilateral cooperation will be on the least developed countries and fragile states**, which clearly have the greatest need for Finnish funding. The departure, transit and receiving countries of refugees will receive more resources. The developing countries' own responsibility, ownership and will to develop will form the foundation for this work.

**It is important that the Finnish civil society participates** in the strengthening of civil societies in developing countries. Civil society support will mainly be focused on multi-annual programme support for experienced NGOs. A moderate number of NGO projects and, selectively, the activities of international NGOs and developing country civil society actors will also be supported.

**Among international organisations, those UN agencies that strive to strengthen the position of women and girls** – notably UN Women, UNFPA and UNICEF – will be Finland's main partners. Cooperation with several UN actors will continue in the defined priority areas. The development banks and the European Union will remain our key cooperation partners.

**Collaboration among companies, organisations and higher education institutions will be supported.** Higher education institutions, scientific and research communities, expert institutions and local authorities will be encouraged to participate in development cooperation.

*This summary is based on the Government Report on Finnish Development Policy, adopted on 4 February 2016.*



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF FINLAND