

Exceptional times highlight the importance of development policy

In recent years, the pandemic, conflicts and climate change have slowed down positive development. However, Finland's long-term development cooperation has produced significant results that promote Finland's foreign policy objectives.

This results report presents the results of development policy and cooperation for 2019-2021. The period has been exceptional: the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts, increased authoritarianism and climate change have turned the previously positive trend. The share of people living in extreme poverty increased for the first time in 20 years. In some result areas, crises have slowed down Finland's development cooperation and hampered the achievement of results.

World changes have underlined the importance of development policy as a key instrument of foreign and security policy. By participating in solving global problems, Finland will also strengthen its own position. Development policy has proven to be a predictable and crisis-resilient solution for promoting Finland's objectives globally. For example, a significant part of Finland's support to Ukraine has been funded through development cooperation funds.

The report shows that despite the difficult period, Finland has succeeded in achieving notable results through long-term cooperation based on its own values and strengths. Together with its partners, Finland has improved resilience and the ability of people and societies in developing countries to function. Finland strengthens the multilateral rules-based system with value-based cooperation.

The best results are achieved by focusing on Finland's own strengths and competence. For example, Finland has persistently promoted gender equality through both funding and policy influence. As a result of Finland's policy influence, the ADB Ventures Investment Fund has committed to ensuring that 75 per cent of its investments contribute to advancing gender equality.

A good example of long-term development cooperation that is able to respond to changing conditions is Finland's

cooperation in Nepal, which began in the 1980s. The country has faced civil war and natural disasters, but in spite of these, poverty has decreased, literacy has risen and clean water is available to almost everyone. Nepal has provided a great deal of funding to joint programmes, which demonstrates the country's own commitment to the objectives.

A growing share of development cooperation is allocated to fragile countries and situations. This requires greater risk management and anticipation, along with closer collaboration between development cooperation, humanitarian assistance and peace actions. The new Risk Management Policy in Development Cooperation facilitates more effective practices by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and its partners and obliges them to develop risk management.

Development cooperation is a means, not the goal. The report notes that Finland's objective is to support developing countries so that in future, they can be responsible for the well-being of their citizens and the stability of their society. Finland must diversify its relationships with countries that are graduating from the group of least developed countries to that of lower middle income countries.

The report also describes the change in development cooperation. Traditional projects managed by Finland itself have decreased and cooperation through international organisations, financial institutions and the EU has increased. For this reason, a large part of the results presented in the report includes results achieved by multilateral actors, with Finland contributing as one partner.

New operating methods, forms of funding and changes in the operating environment require new kinds of planning, policy influence and the continuous development of risk management mechanisms.

Key results

GENDER
EQUALITY AND
NON-DISCRIMINATION

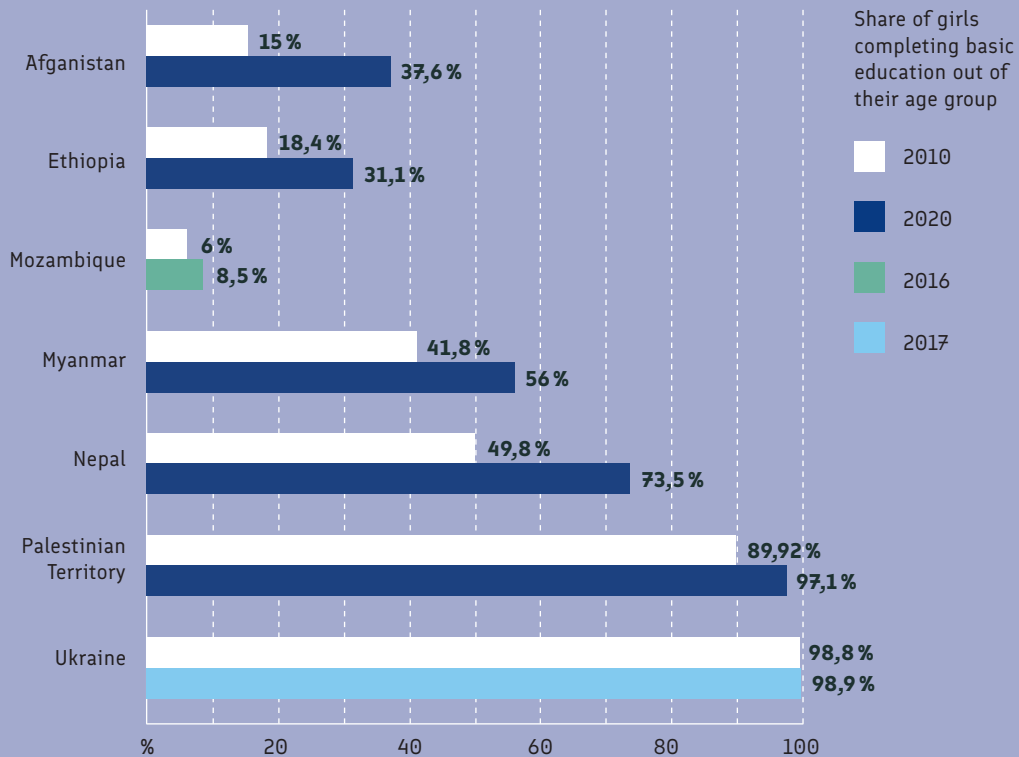
Comprehensive sexuality education for **92 million young people**

in cooperation with the International Planned
Parenthood Federation

Comprehensive sexuality education improves the opportunities of women and girls to make decisions about their own bodies and future. This increases the well-being of society as a whole.

EDUCATION

AN INCREASING NUMBER OF GIRLS COMPLETE BASIC EDUCATION IN FINLAND'S PARTNER COUNTRIES



Education provides girls the opportunity for a profession and a better future. When girls attend school, there are fewer child marriages and this benefits society as a whole.

**ECONOMY
AND JOBS**

**2.4 MILLION NEW JOBS CREATED
WITH FINNISH SUPPORT**

1 020 600

Multilateral cooperation

847 300

Development banks

4 900

Bilateral cooperation

425 000

women 36 %

Private sector
financial instruments

84 800

Civil society
development cooperation

Decent jobs secure livelihoods and enable people to live in their own living areas. At the same time, they create sustainable economic development and stable societies.

**DEMOCRACY
AND PEACE**

FINLAND HAS SUPPORTED PEACE PROCESSES IN 20 COUNTRIES



Finland has ensured in particular that the voices of women and young people are heard in peace processes. Broad participation contributes to achieving lasting peace.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND
NATURAL RESOURCES

Improved weather and climate services help up to **500 million people** adapt to climate change

Better forecasting of weather and natural disasters helps safeguard crops and save lives. Weather services help people prepare for extreme weather events caused by climate change.

HUMANITARIAN
ASSISTANCE

Emergency relief for more than **100 million people** in 56 countries through UN organizations.

Humanitarian aid saves human lives and reduces human suffering.

Conclusions

1

Development policy and funding promote the objectives of Finland's foreign and security policy

2

Longevity brings about results and enables diversification of relations

3

Values and human rights must be at the heart of development cooperation

4

Effective development cooperation requires a strategic, adaptive and agile approach

5

Reforms in development cooperation practices should continue



Foreword

Quality education, renewable energy, tax revenue for developing countries and legislation strengthening the status of women. Finland's Development Policy Results Report illustrates that long-term development policy and cooperation based on Finland's strengths and values will produce significant impact and results.

Section 1 of the Constitution states that Finland shall participate in international cooperation to protect peace and human rights and to develop society. Development policy is part of Finland's foreign and security policy, and through international cooperation we influence the direction in which the world develops. Our own security is strengthened when we act for an equal, fair and sustainable world. For example, a significant part of Finland's support for Ukraine, which was illegally invaded by Russia, comes from development cooperation funds.

The previous development policy results report was submitted to Parliament in 2018. The world is now a more unstable place, and poverty has begun to rise for the first time in decades. The COVID-19 pandemic weakened economies, shut down schools and entire societies as well as connections between countries in an exceptional manner. Many of our partner countries suffer from new or prolonged conflicts. Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine has brought a war to Europe, along with additional global implications for food security and other issues.

We have adjusted our cooperation to respond to the rapidly changing circumstances. The increased need for assistance brought about by crises has demonstrated the importance of our development cooperation priorities, while the results achieved show the flexibility of our procedures. We have continued to support the resilience and well-being of societies in our partner countries, which will help countries attain their own goals and cope with crises. In the midst of crises, the world needs extensive solutions and the ability to bring actors together across traditional sectoral boundaries. Technologies and innovations such as distance learning and weather observation systems improve the possibilities for solving development problems.

Thus, Finland can be especially influential globally in these sectors.

Finland's most important channel for influencing development policy is the EU, whose international role has grown with renewed external relations funding and closer cooperation between Member States. The EU has played a key role in the global distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. Cooperation with UN organisations, development banks, civil society organisations, partner countries, the private sector and other actors is equally important. Everyone's contribution is needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The objectives will not be achieved with only public funding. For this reason, Finland has significantly increased private sector cooperation during the reporting period. At the same time, investment and trade opportunities are created for Finnish companies.

Cooperation between Nordic Development Ministers has been exceptionally close during the reporting period. The COVID-19 pandemic provided an initial impetus for more frequent discussions on each country's own and common Nordic objectives and positions. The support and reconstruction of Ukraine and the global discussion on the impact of development cooperation will also emphasise this need in the future.

The Report on Development Policy Extending Across Parliamentary Terms adopted by Parliament in spring 2022 confirms the principles, values and objectives of Finland's development policy. The report was prepared by a wide range of actors and thus forms a solid shared vision to act as a basis for strengthening the effectiveness of Finnish development cooperation also in coming government terms. Continuing our work on the basis of this report will strengthen the effectiveness of Finnish development cooperation also in coming government terms.

Helsinki 9 November 2022

Ville Skinnari

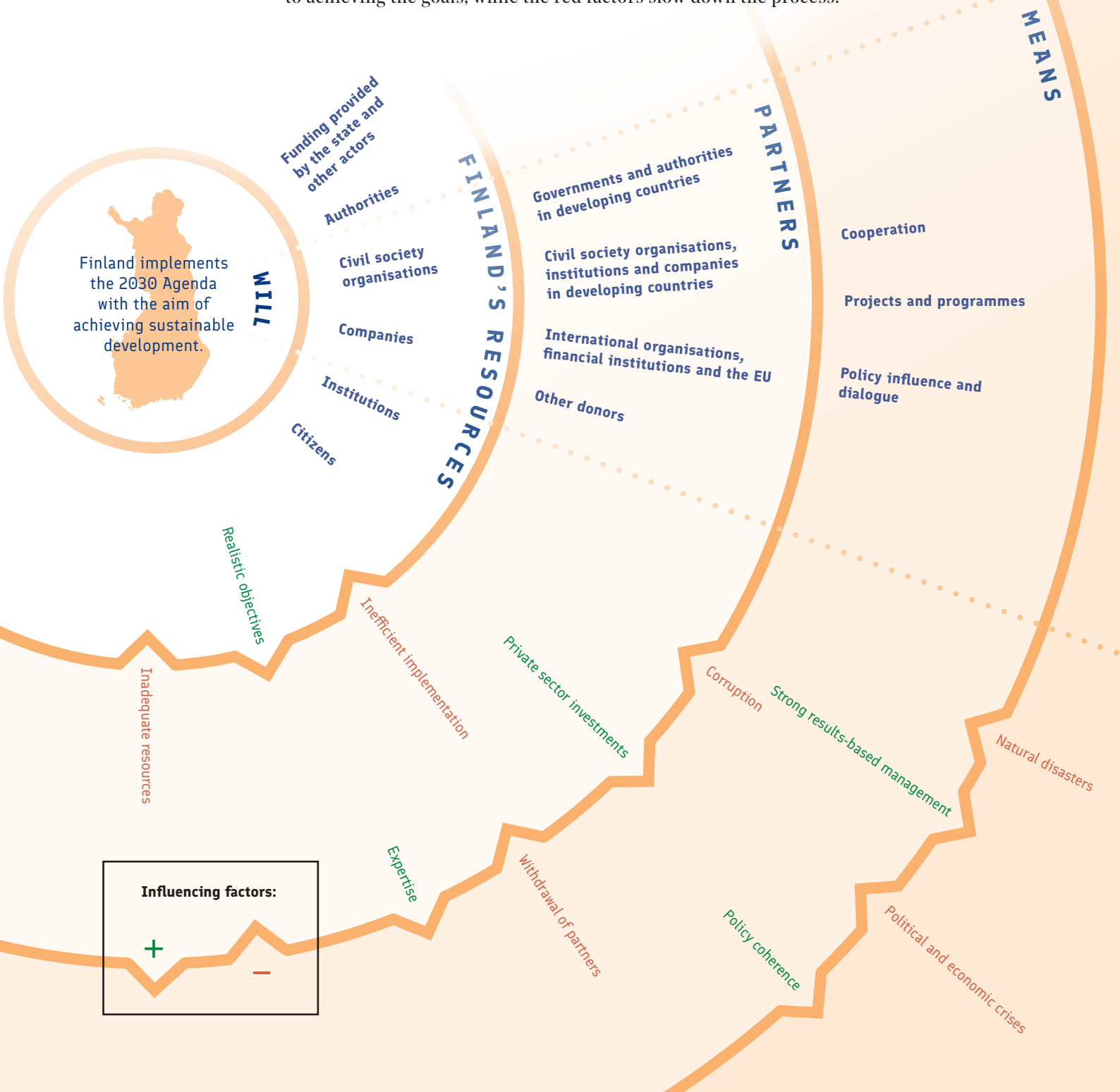
Minister for Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade



Towards sustainable development

Finland's development policy aims at producing results in cooperation with the partners both in the short and in the long term. The ultimate goal is to contribute to broad societal impacts and sustainable development in global scale.

This figure illustrates the path from Finland's policy outlines to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The green factors contribute to achieving the goals, while the red factors slow down the process.



OUTPUTS

- Enhanced expertise
- A new well, stove, land use plan
- Approved legislation
- A new system
- Improved system
- A created enterprise
- Humanitarian aid delivery

- Developing countries' own action
- Good leadership
- Capital flight

Pandemics

International cooperation

Wars and other conflicts

OUTCOMES

Gender equality and non-discrimination
 Women and girls participate in education
 Sexual and reproductive health and rights
 Equal participation in political and economic life
 Freedom from violence and exploitation

Education
 Quality of learning and competent teachers
 Right to education, in particular for girls and persons with disabilities
 Youth work and life skills

Economy and jobs
 Decent work
 Flourishing economy
 Trade rules supporting responsible business conduct
 Innovations supporting sustainable development

Democracy and peace
 Democratic political institutions
 Equal public services
 Freedom of speech and civil society

The climate and natural resources
 Safe and nutritious food
 Safe water, sanitation and hygiene
 Affordable renewable energy
 Sustainably managed natural resources

Humanitarian assistance
 Shelter, food and health care
 Services made available
 Early recovery from crises
 Protection and prevention

Rights and status of women and girls have improved

Quality education is realised for all: from inclusive and equal primary and secondary education to lifelong learning opportunities.

The economies of developing countries have created more jobs, livelihood opportunities and wellbeing

Societies are more democratic and better-functioning

Food security has improved, the access to water and energy have improved, and natural resources are used more sustainably

Human lives have been saved, distress has been alleviated and human dignity maintained.

BROAD SOCIETAL IMPACTS

- 1 NO POVERTY
- 2 ZERO HUNGER
- 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
- 4 QUALITY EDUCATION
- 5 GENDER EQUALITY
- 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
- 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
- 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
- 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
- 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
- 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
- 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
- 13 CLIMATE ACTION
- 14 LIFE BELOW WATER
- 15 LIFE ON LAND
- 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
- 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS