



Norwegian Ministries

Action plan

# Food, People and the Environment

The Government's action plan on sustainable food systems  
in the context of Norwegian foreign and development policy

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# Foreword

More than 820 million people in the world do not have enough to eat, and in sub-Saharan Africa a quarter of the population is undernourished. Worldwide, one in five children under the age of five is stunted. This situation is totally unacceptable and is a tragedy for both individuals and whole communities. Hunger undermines people's future prospects. **Ensuring access to sufficient, safe and healthy food is a prerequisite for a good education, good health and economic development.**

According to the World Bank, growth in the food-producing sectors is more than twice as effective for reducing poverty as growth in other sectors.

The world has signed up to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The deadline for achieving the goals – 2030 – is just over 10 years away. **Much more needs to be done if we are to reach all the goals.** And when it comes to SDG 2 on ending hunger, there is still an alarmingly long way to go. After several decades during which we saw a decline in the number of people suffering from hunger and undernutrition, the trend is now moving in the wrong direction. More and more people worldwide are going to bed hungry.

The Norwegian Government is therefore highlighting the importance of SDG 2, and is stepping up its efforts to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable food production. That is why we are now launching this action plan under the title *Food, People and the Environment*.

The challenges we face are major and complex. The task of ensuring that all people have access to enough, safe and nutritious food is closely linked to efforts in a range of other areas, including private sector development, climate change, biodiversity, human rights, gender equality, governance, health and nutrition. For example, food production is under threat from climate change, and current agricultural production practices are leading to forest degradation and higher greenhouse gas emissions. Few other sectors are as dependent on well-functioning ecosystem services as the food-producing sectors.

Lifestyle diseases associated with unhealthy diets are on the rise. Food shortages and increasing competition for land that is suitable for food production are among the root causes of armed conflict and migration.

The Government will therefore take an integrated approach to the implementation of this action plan. **Food is an issue that cuts across the full breadth of Norway's foreign and development policy.** The cross-cutting nature of this issue is captured in the concept of 'sustainable food systems'.

Through this action plan, **we will intensify our efforts to increase sustainable food production, improve nutrition, enhance job and value creation, and promote capacity building and good governance.** We will target our efforts towards small-scale farmers and fishermen, with a particular focus on the least developed countries and sub-Saharan Africa.

Norway cannot do everything alone. We will **build on what we are already doing**, and this means strengthening our cooperation with global partners. We will draw on the expertise of the Norwegian research community in areas where this expertise is sought after, for example under the new Agriculture for Development programme, which is to be established under the Knowledge Bank. We will also expand the Fish for Development programme. In addition, we will work with relevant Norwegian actors through a reference group for sustainable food systems made up of representatives of civil society, the private sector and the research community.

The main responsibility for reversing the current negative trend, where the number of hungry and malnourished people is rising, lies with the individual countries concerned. Nevertheless, **we must recognise that we will not be able to achieve SDG 2 and its targets without increased international cooperation.**

Everyone – the authorities, multilateral organisations, civil society, research institutions and the private sector – must play a role.

**Norway is well placed to do its part.** We are playing a leading role internationally in the efforts to promote clean and healthy oceans and sustainable resource management. A large number of Norwegian organisations and research groups have valuable expertise to share. This action plan provides a framework for shaping and strengthening Norway's international efforts in this area. Our ministries have all been involved in drawing up the plan.

Ensuring that the world's growing population has access to sufficient, safe and healthy food that is produced in a sustainable way is a global challenge. To address this challenge and achieve the action plan's overall objective, we need to take an integrated approach to *food, people and the environment.*

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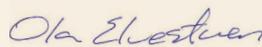
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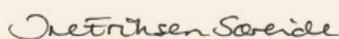
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# Food, People and the Environment – an integrated approach

**Ensuring that all people have access to sufficient, safe and healthy food that is produced in a sustainable way is a key global challenge today.** According to the UN, more than 820 million people had limited or uncertain access to food in 2018, and the number has been rising steadily since 2014. War, conflict and climate change are the main drivers behind this negative trend.

The total number of people who are malnourished, which includes both people who are undernourished and those who are overnourished, has risen. Today, around two billion people are overweight due to excessive or unbalanced diets and low levels of physical activity.<sup>1</sup> The proportion of people suffering from some form of malnutrition is increasing in both developing countries and industrialised countries.

There is enough food in the world today to feed the current world population. But **due to uneven distribution, access and economic opportunities, many people are not able to get hold of sufficient, safe and healthy food at a price that they can afford.** The right to food is a universal human right. Both individuals and societies must have access to and be able to buy food.<sup>2</sup>

However, the way in which food is produced can cause major climate and environmental problems, such as deforestation, land degradation, pollution, and loss of biodiversity. This exacerbates challenges relating to development, poverty and malnutrition. At the same time, national authorities are responsible for ensuring that people have access to sufficient, safe and healthy food.

In 2015, the international community adopted three key political frameworks: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement on climate change. The SDGs are an integrated set of goals - they are all inextricably linked to one another. **In order to achieve the SDGs, we need to think along new lines and take a holistic approach.** Climate change adaptation and exchange of knowledge and experience are key elements of the Paris Agreement. These three political frameworks place obligations on all nations, including Norway.

This action plan places the food value chain in a broader *food system*. In a food system, factors such as climate, environment, infrastructure and institutions are linked to the food value chain.

1 FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO (2018): The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2018. Building climate resilience for food security and nutrition

2 FAO (2005): Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the context of National Food Security



Food systems encompass all aspects of – and activities related to – food production, processing and distribution, and the sale and consumption of food, as well as their socioeconomic and environmental impact.<sup>3</sup>

**Sustainable food systems deliver food security and nutrition for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental foundation for ensuring food security and nutrition for future generations are not compromised.**<sup>4</sup> The concept of sustainability, i.e. meeting current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs, is at the heart of this plan.

**The overall objective of the action plan is to ensure increased food security through the development of sustainable food systems.** Food security exists when all people have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences and enables them to lead active and healthy lives.<sup>5</sup>

A **stronger focus on food security** is vital for combating poverty and promoting development. Most of the world's poorest people depend directly or indirectly on agriculture for their livelihoods.<sup>6</sup> The World Bank has estimated that investing in the food producing sectors (agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture, etc.) is two to three times more effective for fighting poverty than other poverty reduction efforts, and that it is the poorest who benefit most from growth in these sectors.<sup>7</sup>

This action plan will be a useful tool to achieve SDG 2 on ending hunger, while also supporting efforts to reach the other 16 SDGs. By taking a food systems approach, we can make progress towards several goals at the same time. There are clear links between the areas of food security, health, climate and environment.<sup>8</sup> This action plan recognises these links. It is designed to strengthen Norway's efforts to improve food security and make this work an integral part of Norwegian foreign and development policy.

3 CFS (2017): Nutrition and food systems. HLPE report no. 12

4 FAO (2018): Sustainable food systems. Concept and framework

5 World Food Summit (1996) <http://www.fao.org/WFS/>

6 World Bank (2008): World Development Report: Agriculture for Development.

7 World Bank (2018): Agriculture and food

8 The Lancet (2019): Food in the Anthropocene: the EAT-Lancet Commission on healthy diets from sustainable food systems

# Framework

Food systems are affected by a range of external factors at the local, national and international level that also have implications for Norway's priorities and the effectiveness of Norway's efforts. Some of the main factors that affect, and are affected by, Norwegian foreign and development policy, are described below.

According to UN forecasts, the **world's population** will be close to 10 billion by 2050.<sup>9</sup> While population growth is declining in most Western countries, it remains high in a number of African countries. As a result, the populations in these countries are very young; over 50 percent are under 25 years of age.



In 2017, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) calculated that the production of nutritious food, feed and biofuel will need to increase by 50 percent by 2050 if we are to produce enough nutritious food for all, while taking into account the impacts of population growth and climate change.<sup>10</sup> Access to food could, however, be considerably increased by reducing food waste and by increasing sustainable productivity in the food producing sectors.

Today, **climate change** is altering the conditions and opportunities for food production, and is threatening to reverse much of the progress made in the fight against poverty. Poor small-scale farmers and fishermen are already severely affected by changing climatic conditions, and this in turn is increasing humanitarian needs. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimates that extreme weather events, such as drought, flooding, storms and heatwaves, will increase in frequency and intensity and sea levels will continue to rise over the next few decades. More people will be forced to leave their homes as a result of natural disasters, and this trend will be further exacerbated by the impacts of climate change.

<sup>9</sup> UN (2017): World population projected to reach 9.8 billion in 2050, and 11.2 billion in 2100, News

<sup>10</sup> FAO (2017): The future of food and agriculture: Trends and challenges

At the same time, sustainable food systems are dependent on **biodiversity** and well-functioning **ecosystems**. Today, the capacity of many ecosystems to meet human needs has been reduced as a result of human activity. This is primarily due to habitat loss and fragmentation, over-exploitation of natural resources, pollution, and the impacts of climate change.<sup>11</sup>

**Protracted conflicts and wars**, combined with climate change, are the key causes of the increase in the number of people suffering from hunger and undernutrition in recent years. These factors are having a profound impact on food systems and are increasing the vulnerability of people in the areas concerned.

Predictable rules for **international trade** adopted by the World Trade Organization (WTO) are important for ensuring that the global food system functions well. Some 80 percent of products from small-scale producers are sold in local markets,<sup>12</sup> but these producers are not isolated from global markets and prices. Global food prices and price fluctuations also affect them.

The **political and economic framework at the national level** is also highly significant. Food security is a national responsibility. Lack of access to sufficient land for producing food and uncertainty over property rights are major barriers for many food producers, not least for women. Through agricultural and fisheries policies, the authorities can help to ensure that small-scale farmers have access to land, and that farmers and fishermen have access to the necessary inputs, extension services, markets and banking services. In certain countries, national subsidies are an important tool for increasing or adapting food production. Effective water management at the national level is vital for both food production and access to clean drinking water. In addition, national health policies provide a basis for ensuring access to health services and to information on health and nutrition.

11 IPBES (2019): Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

12 Barron, J. et al (2013): Drivers and Challenges for Food Security. CAB International

# Key development policy priorities

Norwegian development policy focuses on five thematic priority areas:

- **Health**
- **Education**
- **Private sector development, agriculture and renewable energy**
- **Climate change, environment and oceans**
- **Humanitarian aid**

These thematic areas all have relevance for promoting sustainable food systems, and the follow up of this action plan will therefore be linked to efforts in these five thematic areas.<sup>13</sup>



<sup>13</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs annual budget proposal (Prop. 1 S (2018-2019)) (Norwegian only)

Good nutrition, especially in early childhood, provides the basis for good physical and mental **health** and increases resilience to illness. Malnutrition is a key cause of lifestyle diseases and poor physical and mental development. Insufficient access to food and an inadequate diet can reduce **education** opportunities and learning outcomes.

At the same time, schools are an important arena for providing information about diet and health. Universities and tertiary education institutions, including vocational colleges, can provide young people with knowledge and insight that can contribute the development and maintenance of food systems in the future.

Food assistance accounts for a considerable part of Norway's **humanitarian aid**.

In addition to helping to meet emergency food needs, humanitarian food assistance enhances food preparedness at the local level and increases resilience to nutrition-related diseases.

**Private sector development** and efforts to strengthen the private sector are vital for increasing food production and building effective value chains and markets. Increased value creation leads to economic growth, higher incomes and the creation of more jobs. It is vital that the private sector ensures responsible practices throughout the supply chain so that food production contributes to food security, economic growth and poverty reduction.<sup>14</sup> Access to **clean energy** is important at all stages of a food system. In addition, the **key role of women** in food systems must be recognised.



14 OECD-FAO (2016): Guidance for Responsible Agriculture Supply Chains

**Sustainable management of natural resources** based on sound knowledge is vital for increasing food production. It also requires a fight to combat the illegal exploitation of resources. The oceans are a priority area for Norway and will be increasingly important in the context of food systems. Our work in this area will include strengthening the role of seafood in improving food security and nutrition. In the future, food systems will have to be developed in line with agreed international climate and environmental targets. Long-term development efforts to improve food security can **increase resilience to crises** and thus reduce the need for humanitarian aid.

Through its **International Climate and Forest Initiative (ICFI)**, which is due to run until 2030, Norway is the world's largest donor to tropical forest conservation in low- and middle-income countries. The Climate and Forest Initiative is designed to promote early action to achieve cost-effective and verifiable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions through the conservation of tropical forests, and to promote development in forest countries. Under this initiative, Norway has entered into partnerships with a number of key forest countries concentrated around the world's three largest rainforest basins: in the Amazon, the Congo basin/ Central Africa, and Indonesia. Establishing deforestation-free supply chains for foodstuffs such as soya, palm oil and beef and promoting cooperation with the private sector are important elements of this work.

There are also four cross-cutting issues in Norwegian development policy: climate change and environment; women's rights and gender equality; human rights; and anti-corruption. In order to avoid any unintended negative consequences, these four cross-cutting issues must be taken into consideration in the work to promote sustainable food systems.

### **Leaving no one behind**

Ensuring that no one is left behind is at the core of the SDGs. In the time ahead, foreign and development policy will have to be designed with this principle in mind. It is the most vulnerable and most marginalised people who tend to get left behind.

These include people with disabilities, children, young people, women, indigenous peoples, religious and sexual minorities, people living in war zones, refugees and internally displaced people. The Norwegian Government will therefore target its efforts towards the most vulnerable and marginalised groups.

The Government will also seek to strengthen fundamental human rights, including the right to food and the right to health. There is a great need for better data and statistics in order to identify the most vulnerable and marginalised groups in a particular context. The Government will work to ensure that Norway's partners consider the needs of marginalised groups in all projects and programmes supported by Norway.

## Partner countries

Norway's long-term development aid is to be targeted towards selected thematic and geographical areas in order to ensure that it is effective and reaches those in greatest need. In order to achieve lasting results, Norway's aid efforts are concentrated on a limited number of countries. Under the partner country initiative, which was launched in 2018, Norway has identified various categories of countries with which it intends to establish closer cooperation.

Part of the funding provided by Norway to promote sustainable food systems will be channelled through multilateral organisations. Bilateral funding, on the other hand, will be used to support projects and initiatives in Norway's partner countries, often with civil society organisations as partners. All categories of partner countries will be included in our work on sustainable food systems: partners for long-term development cooperation, partners for stabilisation and conflict prevention efforts, and partners in the efforts to address global challenges.

Priority will be given to regions and groups that are especially vulnerable to hunger and where access to nutritious food is poor, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. At the same time, it is important that the partner countries themselves step up their engagement in this area and contribute to the efforts to develop sustainable food systems.

## Sustainability

The concept of **sustainability** is at the heart of this action plan. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>15</sup> builds on the definition of sustainability set out in 1987 by the Brundtland Commission: 'Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'.<sup>16</sup> Like the Brundtland report, the 2030 Agenda also highlights the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental.

The **environmental** dimension of sustainable development is about combating climate change and protecting the natural environment as a renewable resource. The **economic** dimension is about ensuring economic security for people and societies, and the **social** dimension is about enabling people to lead dignified lives.<sup>17</sup> These three dimensions are inextricably linked to one another.

The three dimensions of sustainability are integral to our efforts to promote sustainable food systems. In order for a food system to be sustainable, all three dimensions must be properly taken into account.

15 UN General Assembly (2015): Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, A/RES/70/1

16 *Our Common Future*, Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (the Brundtland Commission), 1987

17 United Nations Association of Norway <https://www.fn.no/Tema/Fattigdom/Baerekraftig-utvikling> (Norwegian only)

# Four thematic focus areas

This action plan focuses on the four key components of sustainable food systems:

- **Food production**
- **Value creation and markets**
- **Nutrition and diet**
- **Policy and governance**

There are a number of links between these areas, as well as links to other factors that affect the efficiency and sustainability of food systems. This section of the action plan provides an overview of the main challenges in these four areas, and the next section discusses Norway's priorities.





# 1: Food production

## OBJECTIVE

**Increased sustainable, climate-resilient food production and increased productivity from agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture sectors.**

Products from agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture form the basis of the value chain from the soil and the sea to the table. Increasing sustainable production and productivity in the food producing sectors (including by reducing food waste) is crucial for improving food security, and will also raise incomes and reduce poverty for a large number of small-scale food producers.

Women play a key role in ensuring that their families have access to food, but they face many obstacles. In the agricultural sector in Africa, women often bear the main responsibility for producing food, but are not entitled to own land. They also have fewer opportunities for education and training. Norway will therefore work to strengthen women's rights and their role in food production. Women must be enabled to take part in the formal economy to a greater extent.

Indigenous peoples in many countries do not have formal rights to areas that they have traditionally used and occupied, and face a range of challenges when it comes to ensuring their own food production.

Through ICFI, Norway supports the right of indigenous peoples to own and use their land and to maintain their sustainable local food systems.

### Small-scale food production

The vast majority of food producers in low income countries<sup>18</sup> are small-scale farmers and fishermen, and around half of them are women. Agriculture and fisheries are the most important source of food and income for people living in rural areas. It will not be possible to achieve SDG 1 on ending poverty or SDG 2 on ending hunger without improving conditions for small producers. Support for small-scale food production is therefore a priority for the Norwegian authorities.

Small-scale producers, whether farmers, pastoralists or fishermen, are among the groups that are the worst affected by climate change. It is therefore important to help them increase profitability and efficiency in a way that also protects the climate and the environment.

<sup>18</sup> The term 'low-income countries' is used throughout this action plan. In this context, it includes all ODA-approved countries

Small-scale food producers often have limited knowledge of and poor access to information about weather conditions and climate change that is relevant for them and easy to understand. They have little opportunity for long-term planning and are vulnerable to large fluctuations in temperature and rainfall patterns. In addition, they often lack access to risk reduction mechanisms such as social security systems and insurance schemes. The Government will therefore promote digitalisation and the use of technology, both new innovations and adaptations of existing solutions, among small-scale producers and other actors in the food system.

### Agriculture

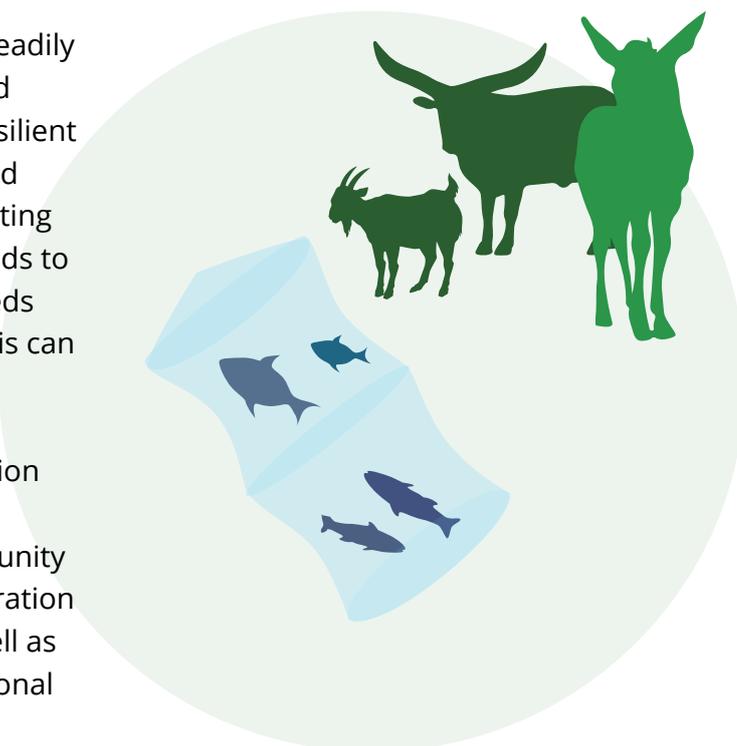
In many low-income countries, agricultural production levels are persistently low. This may be due to soil degradation, inadequate access to inputs such as appropriate fertilisers and seeds, or under-developed irrigation systems. In many places, the situation is exacerbated by poor access to sound agronomic knowledge. Productivity is also affected by climate change.

Greater crop diversity and better agronomic knowledge can make crops and livestock more resilient to environmental and climate change, diseases and economic fluctuations. This in turn can lead to a wider choice of food in the market and better nutrition.

Establishing sustainable food systems also entails limiting the negative climate and environmental effects of food production as far as possible, for example by minimising the expansion of crop land into forests. This means that productivity per unit area must be increased and the conservation of both crop land and forests must be strengthened.



Global food production is based on a steadily decreasing number of crop varieties and livestock breeds. Introducing climate-resilient seed systems and enhancing species and genetic diversity are important for adapting agriculture to climate change. More needs to be done to ensure that good quality seeds are available to the poorest farmers. This can be achieved by breeding new varieties and promoting local seed production. Norway is contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic diversity, for example through support for community seed banks, the establishment and operation of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, as well as active participation in relevant international forums.



Pesticides used to control pests and weeds, can have adverse impacts on human and animal health and the environment. Inadequate protective equipment combined with inadequate systems for dealing with pesticide residues and packaging exacerbate the risks. It is vital to ensure that these substances are used correctly and that alternatives, such as integrated plant protection systems, are developed and made known.

Nomadic herdsmen tend to pasture their animals on land that is unsuitable for growing crops and would not otherwise be used. Conflicts between herdsmen and farmers over resources are nevertheless a familiar problem in parts of Africa. These conflicts may escalate as conditions become more difficult due to environmental degradation, climate change, political and economic marginalisation and population pressure.

### **Animal husbandry, fisheries and aquaculture**

Animal husbandry, fisheries and aquaculture are important in many low-income countries, both because they provide vital nutrients in people's diets, and because they are good source of income for small-scale producers. However, in many areas, animal husbandry is not very productive, partly due to a lack of systematic breeding programmes and scarcity of feed. Poor animal welfare is also a problem in many countries. It is important to find sustainable sources of animal feed that do not compete with foods for human consumption.

Diseases in farm animals and fish are a significant risk factor in food production. A number of infectious farm animal diseases can be transmitted between animals and humans, and the spread of disease among animals can lead to huge economic losses. A lack of or inadequate extension and veterinary services is a widespread problem in several of our partner countries.

The emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance have been recognised as a global problem, and unregulated use of antibiotics in animal husbandry and aquaculture is one of the causes. Sound farming practices, systematic breeding programmes, good hygiene, and access to vaccines can reduce the need for antibiotics while making it possible to maintain or increase productivity levels.

In the fisheries and aquaculture sector, there is insufficient knowledge about resource management, about relevant legislation and about adverse impacts of environmental changes. The increasing amounts of plastic waste and microplastics in the oceans are a serious threat. Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU fishing) and other fisheries crime are widespread problems that are leading to the loss of important resources and potential income, in particular in low-income countries. This is having a negative effect on food security and on living conditions for coastal communities.

Extreme weather caused by climate change is a growing risk for both livestock farmers and small-scale fishermen.

Norway's efforts to promote clean and healthy oceans, includes the sharing of knowledge about sustainable management of fish stocks and safe and healthy seafood. The EAF-Nansen programme under the FAO and the Fish for Development programme under Norway's Knowledge Bank are key channels for our efforts in this area. As of 2018, food security has been included as a separate topic in the EAF-Nansen programme. Our work to combat fisheries crime is being continued under the Blue Justice initiative. In addition, in its report to be presented in 2020, Prime Minister Erna Solberg's High-level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy will make recommendations on how to achieve increased and sustainable use of ocean resources.



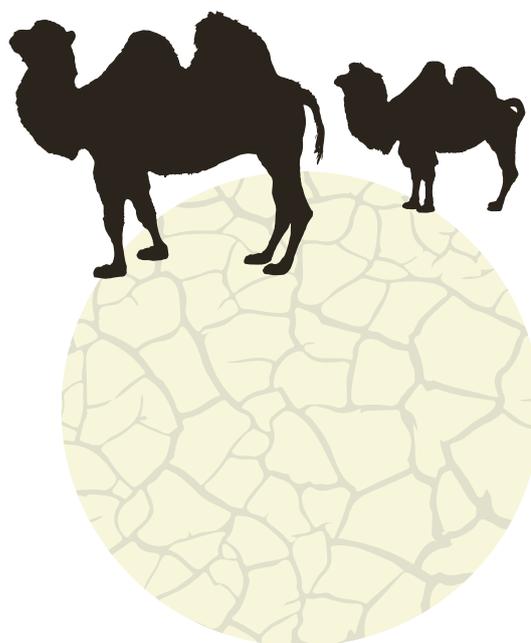


### Disaster risk reduction – a coherent approach

The rise in the number of people who have limited or uncertain access to food is mainly due to an increase in war and conflict, greater and more unpredictable variations in weather and rainfall patterns, and more frequent natural disasters. The growing problem of food insecurity as a result of drought and other climate change impacts could trigger or intensify conflicts and migration flows. The situation in sub-Saharan Africa has become particularly difficult.

Most hunger crises are slow-onset crises with clear warning signs; a great deal can be achieved through preventive efforts and early action. The underlying factors that make some population groups more vulnerable to shortages of food and poor nutrition include unsustainable resource management, market failure, abuse of power and discrimination. Close cooperation within the UN and in the multilateral development banks is important for addressing slow-onset food crises early on, thus reducing humanitarian needs, as well as for increasing national and local resilience.

It is important that more development actors become engaged in protracted humanitarian crises at an earlier stage, as they can provide both long-term development expertise and more sustainable financing.<sup>19</sup> This means that there is a need for greater tolerance of risk and greater flexibility in long-term development efforts in countries and regions affected by fragility. In particular, this applies to the risk of not achieving the desired results. Long-term aid to states and regions affected by conflict and fragility sometimes has to be altered or discontinued at short notice, which can mean that the results are undermined or even reversed.<sup>20</sup> Norway will promote a coherent approach and closer coordination between humanitarian action and long-term development cooperation in its efforts to promote sustainable food systems.



19 Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2018): Norway's Humanitarian Strategy. An effective and integrated approach

20 Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2017): *Strategisk rammeverk for norsk innsats i sårbare stater og regioner* (strategic framework for Norway's engagement in conflict prevention, stabilisation and resilience building in countries and regions affected by conflict and fragility – Norwegian only)



## 2: Value creation and markets

### OBJECTIVE

**Increased sustainable value creation and private sector development in the food sector that ensures stable access to healthy and safe food and reduces food waste.**

A steadily increasing proportion of the population are settling in towns and cities far away from the areas where farming and fishing take place. This means that food has to be transported to the markets. In low-income countries, this transport is often carried out by a chain of small- and medium-sized enterprises. For farmers, fishermen and those engaged in the food processing industry, the market is where income is generated. For consumers, the market is where food is made available.

Food is most nutritious when it is fresh. The biological degradation starts immediately after harvest, slaughter or catch. If food is to be kept for any time or transported over any distance, it has to be treated in some way, for example by drying, heat treatment, cooling or freezing. These processes often require access to electricity and the necessary infrastructure. Good preservation processes and other forms of food processing prevent products from being spoiled or becoming unsafe to eat, and ensure that the nutrients are preserved as far as possible. Our aim is to ensure that as much nutritious food as possible is available to as many people as possible, and that markets offer people the chance to enjoy a healthy and balanced diet.

FAO has estimated that a third of all food is lost on its way from producer to consumer.<sup>21</sup> This leads to a considerable loss of income for food producers and reduces the amount of food available for consumers; it also increases the pressure on natural resources. Food waste in low-income countries is mainly due to economic, organisational, structural and technical limitations in food value chains.

<sup>21</sup> Gustavsson, J., et al. (2011): Global food losses and food waste, extent, causes and prevention. FAO report

Developing and improving value chains requires a comprehensive approach. By working in partnership, the private sector, financial institutions and civil society can identify bottlenecks and find solutions. Civil society organisations and the authorities can provide valuable insight and expertise and can help secure the involvement of small-scale producers, thus promoting private sector development and contributing to poverty reduction.

In most low-income countries, women predominate in the food markets, both as sellers and buyers. However, women often do not have the same rights and opportunities as men. It is important that women have access to the means of production, paid work, and the opportunity to profit from the value chain.

In low-income countries, the proportion of young people tends to be high. For many of these young people, small-scale food production will not offer a satisfactory future. Job creation along sustainable food value chains is one way of making use of this important source of labour.

Food may contain harmful or pathogenic substances if it is not handled properly. Under the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the World Health Organization (WHO) and FAO are working together to develop food safety standards that can be applied in the international food trade. These standards are a means of ensuring that safe food production benefits the population. They also help the authorities to meet export requirements.

The way food is marketed affects people's diets. Marketing can provide useful information, but it can also be misleading and unethical. It is important that the rules and systems for food marketing take proper account of consumer interests, including issues relating to health. The Codex Alimentarius Commission has developed standards in this area.

Access to clean water and energy are crucial for many activities along food value chains. Efforts to ensure supplies of clean water and energy can therefore contribute to private sector development and job creation.

Norfund, Norway's development finance institution, has a mandate to promote private sector development and job creation in the private sector in low-income countries through profitable and sustainable investments. As an active, responsible minority investor that can provide equity, loans and risk capital, Norfund can help to establish enterprises that contribute to development and growth in areas of importance for food systems.





# 3: Nutrition and diet

## OBJECTIVE

**Improved nutrition and sustainable consumption patterns due to improved knowledge and access to healthy and varied diets, safe food and clean drinking water.**

The UN defines a sustainable diet as a diet that has a low environmental impact and contributes to food and nutrition security and to a healthy life for present and future generations; in other words, a diet that takes into account health, environmental, economic and social factors. A large number of people cannot afford to meet their family's basic food needs. At the same time, cheap, industrially processed and unhealthy food is becoming more widely available. This has led to an unacceptably high prevalence of malnutrition.

New consumption patterns that are compatible with sustainable food production and a healthy diet will be crucial for achieving the SDGs and the climate targets and for meeting the needs of a growing world population.

Marginalised groups are particularly vulnerable to malnutrition.<sup>22</sup> From the date of conception, there is a 1000-day window of opportunity to prevent undernutrition causing irreversible impairment of a child's cognitive and physical development. If this window of opportunity is missed, there is a higher risk that the child will be caught in a cycle of poverty due to recurrent illness, learning difficulties, and fewer development opportunities and lower income.

Malnutrition in childhood increases the risk of obesity and diet-related chronic diseases in later life. This can have serious consequences for society. It has been estimated that stunting among children accounts for a reduction in gross domestic product in Africa of up to 11 percent.<sup>23</sup>

Teenage mothers are more likely to have children with low birth weight, which in turn increases the risk of undernutrition at a later stage. It is important to take a comprehensive approach to the issue of teenage pregnancy that includes a focus on nutrition.

<sup>22</sup> Save the Children (2016): Unequal Portions

<sup>23</sup> AU, NEPAD, WFP, UN: The Cost of Hunger in Africa

– Social and Economic Impact of Child Undernutrition in Egypt, Ethiopia, Swaziland and Uganda

When women delay their first pregnancy and have good nutritional status, this helps to break the negative spiral where under-nutrition is passed on from one generation to the next.

Breastfeeding should be promoted and facilitated in order to give children the best possible start. Breast milk provides babies with the nutrients they need for healthy growth and development, and exclusive breastfeeding is recommended for the first six months.<sup>24</sup> It is important that comprehensive health services are available and provide information about breastfeeding, nutrition and diet.



Eating fish and other food from the oceans and inland waters can have important health benefits. Fish provide minerals, vitamins, and high-quality protein that is easily absorbed by the body. A varied diet that includes fish is important for addressing both undernutrition and the increasing prevalence of obesity. Small fish that are consumed whole are particularly nutritious, because they are rich in minerals that are otherwise in short supply in the diets of large population groups. The Government will work to strengthen the role of seafood in improving food security and nutrition.

Other healthy foods, such as fruit, vegetables, legumes and nuts, should also make up a larger part of people's diets.

Efforts to promote healthy diets and good nutrition must be based on knowledge, including data and statistics on the population's diet, information on the nutritional value and analyses of the foods that are available.

Non-communicable diseases reduce the life quality of those affected and their families, place a huge economic burden on national health budgets, and lead to a reduction of the potential labour force. Although the main problem in low-income countries remains a lack of sufficient nutritious food, these countries are also seeing a growing trend towards consumption of unhealthy food, especially in the expanding urban areas. The fact that a diet based on industrially processed food may be cheaper but less nutritious than a diet based on local foods and traditions is a problem that has implications for the fight against poverty. Efforts to preserve good local food traditions are important in light of marketing of unhealthy foods and drinks.

24 WHO Health topics: Breastfeeding



### **Nutrition programme**

Norway is stepping up its efforts to combat all forms of hunger and malnutrition, and will develop a 10-year nutrition programme (2019–2028) in connection with this action plan.

The main objective of the nutrition programme will be to reduce stunting. It will focus on maternal, infant and young child health, with particular emphasis on the first 1000 days after conception. Reducing stunting is one of WHO's global targets for improving maternal, infant and young child nutrition.<sup>25</sup>

Good nutrition also depends on good water supplies and sanitation, good hygiene and the absence of disease. Unsafe water and poor hygiene and sanitation can cause diseases and malnutrition. Drinking water is our most important nutrient, and access to clean water is a crucial factor for food security.

Public health depends on good animal and plant health and on safe food. Some of the most serious infectious animal diseases can be transmitted between animals and humans.

As many as 2.8 billion people worldwide do not have modern cooking stoves, and have to prepare their food using wood, charcoal or coal. This leads to serious health problems as daily exposure to toxic smoke from traditional cooking stoves can cause illness and death. In addition, there are environmental consequences – as trees are cut down to provide fuel. There are also social consequences – as women and children spend many hours a day collecting wood, and when they move far from home, they can also be at risk of abuse.

The nutrition programme will also look at the links between the various forms of malnutrition, and at the direct and indirect causes of this problem. The programme will complement Norway's development efforts in the fields of agriculture, health and education. It will involve political advocacy as well as concrete measures to address the needs of the most vulnerable groups. In connection with the programme, Norway will also take part in relevant global forums where nutrition is discussed.

More information about the programme will be published on the Norad (Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation) website.

25 WHO (2014): Comprehensive implementation plan on maternal, infant and young child nutrition



# 4: Policy and governance

## OBJECTIVE

**Sustainable food systems are promoted at national, regional and global levels, and strengthened through institution building.**

Political leadership and good governance are essential for establishing sustainable food systems.<sup>26</sup>

Policies related to agriculture, fisheries, trade, private sector, environment and climate, education, and health and nutrition all play a part in developing sustainable food systems. However, coordinating various policy areas within a sustainable framework that also improves food security and nutrition is a challenging task.

### **Global and regional efforts and commitments**

Norway has made commitments at the global level in several areas of importance to food systems, and we are contributing to the development of guidelines on food systems in many different forums. In certain areas, we are also cooperating with regional organisations.

The 17 SDGs all have relevance for our efforts to promote sustainable food systems. SDG 2 on ending hunger is obviously of crucial importance, as are SDG 1 on ending poverty and SDG 3 on good health. However, these goals cannot be seen in isolation from the other goals.

Intensifying the focus on nutrition is in line with the SDGs, the Rome Declaration on World Food Security, the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, and other commitments under multilateral organisations such as WHO and FAO. Implementing global environmental and climate agreements, such as the Paris Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity, is vital. Working to achieve the goal and targets in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction is also of great importance.

26 CFS (2017): Nutrition and food systems. HLPE report no 12.

The multilateral system is playing a key role in the efforts to achieve the SDGs, particularly in low-income countries. Norway intends to support multilateral organisations in their reform efforts to ensure that these organisations are relevant, have legitimacy and achieve results.<sup>27</sup> Multilateral agreements and frameworks safeguard the rights of small countries to their natural resources, and ensure that they have access to international markets to sell their goods.

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in the UN is an important forum for policy development, and brings together stakeholders from civil society, private sector, multilateral organisations and research institutions. Among the CFS's main products are voluntary guidelines and recommendations for policy formation in a range of areas. Today, there are guidelines and policy recommendations for several relevant areas, such as the right to adequate food, land tenure, different agricultural systems, and fisheries governance. In 2019, the CFS is in the process of developing guidelines on sustainable food systems.

Goals set at the regional level will also be important in our work to promote sustainable food systems. For Norway's partner countries, the goals set by the African Union (AU), including the commitments and call for action set out in the 2014 Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth<sup>28</sup> will be particularly important.

### **National efforts – a holistic approach**

National authorities are responsible for national food security. Norway wants to contribute to efforts to improve food security in relevant countries, through dialogue with the authorities and capacity-building measures to enable them to implement their policies.

Food systems encompass a number of traditional sectors. Coordinating work in these various sectors can be challenging. At the same time, food systems are undermined when different sectors pull in different directions. Energy, infrastructure, irrigation, fuel, machinery and transport are all elements that need to be coordinated for food systems to be effective.

Global, regional and national policy goals must be translated into concrete measures that can be implemented at national and local level. This requires effective systems and institutions. A number of low-income countries need to strengthen their capacity to develop and implement national policy to support food systems. Norway can play a part by supporting education and institution building.

Civil society organisations can drive these efforts, at both local and national level, and can also play an important advocacy role. Support for local organisations is important in order to build up their capacity. In some cases, it may be useful to establish closer cooperation between local organisations and Norwegian actors.

27 Meld. St. 27 (2018-2019). Norway's role and interests in multilateral cooperation.

28 NEPAD (2014): Malabo declaration on accelerated agricultural growth



### **The right to food and the rights of marginalised groups**

For several decades, Norway has been at the forefront of efforts to establish the right to food as a universal human right. Recognition of the right to food is essential for establishing sustainable food systems.

Women make up a considerable proportion of the workforce that is engaged in food production and food systems in low-income countries, but they do not have the same opportunities and rights as men. In many countries, local customs and traditional gender roles only allow women access to land through the men in their family. Women tend to have less access to productive resources, extension services, training, credit, organisations and markets. Supporting efforts to strengthen women's rights and opportunities can bring considerable benefits to women, and can enhance economic development and increase the self-sufficiency of low-income countries. Norway is providing precisely this type of support in cooperation with a range of different actors.

Indigenous peoples account for less than 5 percent of the world's population, but make up 15 percent of the world's poorest. They make use of and manage large areas of land, but often do not have formal ownership rights to this land. Supporting indigenous peoples' right to land and to preserve traditional food systems in tropical forests and other vulnerable ecosystems contributes to increased food production, the fight against hunger and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Norway is helping to put indigenous peoples' rights on the agenda in a number of international forums and through cooperation at country level.

Young people make up a large part of the population in many low-income countries, but are often not properly listened to or included in processes that affect them and their future. Norway intends to strengthen its cooperation with youth organisations, with a view to increasing youth participation along the food value chains.

### **The Knowledge Bank**

In 2018, Norway established the Knowledge Bank to support technical cooperation between government institutions in Norway and equivalent institutions in partner countries. This cooperation will include institutions working in the areas of food security, agriculture, food from the oceans and inland waters, and nutrition and food safety. Norway has expertise in these areas that is in demand internationally, and that will now be made available to low-income countries. With this in view, a new Agriculture for Development programme is being established under the auspices of the Knowledge Bank.

# Partners

Norway cooperates with a wide range of partners on the implementation of Norwegian policies. The Government is seeking to strengthen this cooperation with a view to promoting food security through the development of sustainable food systems.

The chances of success are greater when measures are backed up by knowledge, including insight into the local context, and tolerance of financial risk. It is therefore important that Norway's efforts to promote sustainable food systems make use of a range of channels that encourage cooperation between the various actors.

## **Civil society, research institutions and the private sector**

Both Norwegian and local civil society organisations are important partners in Norway's aid efforts. These organisations are often familiar with the situation on the ground. They tend to have extensive local networks and are often good at finding solutions.

Due to their presence in the country concerned and their local partners, these organisations are often able to reach parts of the population that, for geographical, economic or social reasons, can be difficult to reach through large-scale national programmes.

In addition, some civil society organisations give marginalised groups a voice and play an important advocacy role vis-à-vis the authorities at local, national or international level.

Norwegian development policy aims to be based on knowledge. Norway has strong centres of expertise in fields relating to food systems that can carry out relevant research. Norway has also supported the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)<sup>29</sup> for many years, and we will continue to do so.

29 CGIAR is made up of the following research institutions: Africa Rice Center, Biodiversity International, Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), International Potato Center (CIP), International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), World Agroforestry (ICRAF), WorldFish

At the same time, it is important to ensure that research results are translated into practice. Participation in research projects and cooperation between research institutions in Norway and our partner countries are important in this respect. Together with relevant research institutions, we will seek to ensure that food producers have access to knowledge and that broad, interdisciplinary cooperation is established.

With regard to innovation and digitalisation, there is a need to give small-scale food producers access to both existing and new technology, with a view to testing this technology, identifying effective solutions and making them more widely available.

Facilitating cooperation between the public and private sector is important for developing supply chains, value chains and markets, and for strengthening the private sector in low-income countries. The private sector can help to promote commercial food production. Norway supports the Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU), a public-private initiative that helps countries to identify their comparative advantages and develop strategies for exporting and importing food. The situation will vary considerably between countries due to differences between their natural conditions.

### **Bilateral and regional cooperation**

Through bilateral cooperation, Norway establishes closer contact both with the authorities and target groups, and can improve project management in cooperation with its partners in the country concerned.

In their efforts to promote economic growth and reduce poverty, partner countries are putting more emphasis on private sector development and foreign investment rather than traditional development aid. In this context, there is considerable interest in technical cooperation and in capacity and institution building.

Regional organisations are increasingly important partners in Norway's development cooperation. They play a key role both at the normative level and on the ground. For example, the African Union (AU) plays an important role in regional cooperation and the development of markets. Norway is already cooperating with the AU in various areas related to food systems.

### **The multilateral system**

The multilateral system, in which Norway takes an active part, plays a crucial role in global normative processes and international policy development. Around half of Norway's aid is channelled through multilateral actors. Some of the multilateral actors that are particularly important for promoting sustainable food systems are described below.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) has a mandate to achieve food security for all as well as end hunger and malnutrition. FAO develops global norms for sustainable food systems, and collects and analyses statistics to provide status and identify development trends in food security and biodiversity. It also works to develop agriculture, forestry and fisheries, particularly in low-income countries.

The World Food Programme (WFP) is an important partner in the field of humanitarian aid, in efforts to promote economic and social development and in the work to strengthen the links between these areas. WFP has a dual mandate: 80 percent of its efforts focus on humanitarian aid, while the remaining 20 percent focus on building resilience through measures to improve food security and nutrition, for example school feeding programmes.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is a UN specialised agency that functions as an international financial institution. Its aim is to reduce poverty by providing low-interest loans and grants for rural and agricultural development.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is the UN specialised agency for health, and both nutrition and food safety are among its fields of expertise. WHO plays a normative role, for example through its science-based recommendations for effective health measures, which include advice and measures to promote breastfeeding and good infant nutrition, healthy diets and safe food.

Codex Alimentarius was established by WHO and FAO to develop global food standards. Codex Alimentarius is referred to in World Trade Organization agreements, as are the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

Global health funds are important for promoting targeted efforts. Norway is working to ensure that these funds strengthen national health systems in the countries where they are active. The Global Financing Facility for Women, Children and Adolescents (GFF) is an important private-public partnership in this context. The GFF also supports efforts to improve nutrition.

The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) plays an important part in the implementation of programmes that focus on children and young people. In order to achieve the best possible results, UNICEF takes an integrated approach to the areas of health, clean water, hygiene, nutrition and education. It has its own programmes on early child development and nutrition.

Norway also supports UN Environment (UNEP), the world's leading environmental authority. A healthy environment is a prerequisite for long-term food security. UNEP also promotes sustainable production and sustainable consumption of food.

Predictable rules for international trade adopted by the World Trade Organization (WTO) provide a vital framework for ensuring that the global food system functions effectively. Free trade is crucial for global food security. It makes it possible for foods to be produced in the countries where the conditions for production are best. This in turn leads to growth and value creation in the countries concerned. Norway actively supports and promotes free trade. We will continue to work to develop a fair global trade regime under the WTO and will encourage more countries to open up their markets to goods from low-income countries. It is important that the WTO's trade regime and Norway's free trade agreements take climate change and environmental considerations into account. The international trade regime can play a role in facilitating more environmentally sound and climate-friendly development, by promoting increased trade in environmental goods and services and by reducing unnecessary barriers to this trade.

International trade and investment can promote more climate-friendly and environmentally sound development and encourage the location of different forms of production in areas where they will put the least pressure on the environment. In principle, there is no contradiction between an open world trading system and a sound climate and environmental policy. The multilateral development banks, including the World Bank and the African Development Bank, play an important part in the efforts to increase food production and develop more profitable agriculture. The development banks are also working to improve food distribution, develop basic infrastructure, create jobs in the agricultural sector, and secure the involvement of the private sector with a view to strengthening financing and cooperation.

Through its support to the multilateral system, Norway is helping low-income countries to reach the SDGs, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and gain access to international markets. In this way, Norwegian aid is also making a difference in countries with which we do not have a bilateral partnership.

# Objectives and targets

Norway will intensify its efforts to reach SDG 2 by working to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable food systems. This action plan sets out how this work will be carried out.

Our overall objective is to ensure **increased food security through the development of sustainable food systems**. We have identified four subsidiary objectives to support this overall objective:

- Increased sustainable, climate-resilient food production and increased productivity from agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture sectors.
- Increased sustainable value creation and private sector development in the food sector that ensures stable access to healthy and safe food and reduces food waste.
- Improved nutrition and sustainable consumption patterns due to improved knowledge and access to healthy and varied diets, safe food and clean drinking water.
- Sustainable food systems in place that are promoted at national, regional and global level, and strengthened through institution building.

Over the next five years, the Norwegian Government will work to achieve the following eight targets, by implementing the action points set out below each of them:

## **1. The knowledge and technology needed for sustainable and climate-resilient food production has been developed, made accessible, is applied and scaled up**

- Promote the development and use of technology that can enhance sustainable food production and increase productivity in the food producing sectors. This must be done in cooperation with small-scale farmers and fishermen and local partners. Measures must be designed to meet the needs of small-scale food producers, including women producers and producers from marginalised groups.
- Strengthen the knowledge and skills needed for sustainable food production at local, national and global level. This will include improving extension services and vocational training in areas related to food systems, and strengthening knowledge in the fields of agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture.
- Increase access to the necessary inputs for food production and to information about the correct use of these inputs. Integrated pest management is important in this context, as is the development and use of alternatives to chemical pesticides.

- Promote the creation of jobs relating to food systems, including the development of attractive opportunities for the increasing proportion of young people in Africa.
- Facilitate the use of digital solutions and other appropriate technology to support food systems.

## **2. Biodiversity in food production has increased**

- Strengthen the management of genetic diversity of crops, livestock and fish at local, national and global level.
- Increase small-scale producers' knowledge about plant varieties and animal breeds, and provide access to a greater variety of both.
- Strengthen plant and animal breeding at both local and national level.

## **3. Food production has become more sustainable and climate-smart**

- Reduce pollution levels and releases of pollutants to air, soil and water through better agronomy and sustainable use of inputs.
- Conserve biodiversity through sustainable management of agricultural land and areas used for aquaculture.
- Contribute to prevent the deterioration of ecosystem services and an increase in food insecurity as a result of loss of biodiversity, climate change and land degradation.
- Contribute to reduce deforestation caused by food production supply chains, particularly in tropical areas.

## **4. Food producers and their local communities are better equipped to deal with natural disasters and other adverse impacts of climate change**

- Support the development of social security systems, forecast-based financing for risk reduction measures, and insurance schemes for vulnerable food producers and other vulnerable groups.
- Strengthen the development of weather and climate services for farmers, pastoralists and fishermen, and help to ensure increased access to, and use of, these services.
- Increase knowledge about climate change, natural disasters, and disaster risk reduction among food producers.

## **5. Sustainable value chains from source to market have been developed and strengthened**

- Provide support for small- and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurs in the areas of business development and access to financing, and help to put in place risk-mitigation instruments for businesses that are starting up.
- Help to strengthen cooperation between food producers and other stakeholders in food value chains, and to build competence in the field of food processing. It is important that appropriate technology is made available for these actors.
- Foster partnerships between the private sector, financial institutions, educational and research institutions, civil society organisations and the authorities with a view to developing efficient, sustainable food value chains.

- Promote corporate social responsibility throughout the supply chain, with a view to ending slavery, forced labour and human trafficking in connection with food systems.
- Link efforts to promote renewable energy to food value chains.
- Contribute to reduce food waste and improve the utilisation of resources in food value chains.
- Contribute to ensure that more women are able to engage in the full range of business activities along food value chains, by providing start-up support to women entrepreneurs, supporting the establishment of women's groups, and promoting women's access to loans and credit.

## **6. Food safety, and animal and plant health in partner countries have been improved**

- Support national authorities in the development and implementation of policies on food safety and animal and plant health and the fight against antimicrobial resistance.
- Contribute to strengthen institutions and legislation of relevance to food safety, including legislation on pesticides and animal and plant health, and increase knowledge about this legislation throughout the food value chain. Health and consumer interests must be a primary consideration.
- Disseminate information about the production, harvesting, storage and preparation of safe food and on the prevention of food- and water-borne diseases.

## **7. Information and guidance on maternal and child health have been enhanced and measures to improve nutrition for schoolchildren, young people and adults have been implemented**

- Intensify efforts targeting children under the age of five, with a particular focus on the first 1000 days after conception, with the aim of reducing stunting. Efforts to improve nutrition are to be more closely linked to our work in the fields of food production, health and education. This work will include dissemination of information about maternal health, breastfeeding and nutritious diets.
- Improve access to safe and healthy food that is affordable for all.
- Support school feeding programmes, giving priority to varied locally produced food, and help to ensure that schools teach children about good nutrition and healthy diets.
- Contribute to improve nutritional status, efforts to promote good nutrition and the provision of information about healthy diets through strengthened, comprehensive health services and vocational training related to food systems.
- Support the development and communication of information about diet-related diseases.
- Contribute to improve access to technology (such as cooking stoves) that do not cause indoor air pollution.

## 8. Global and regional frameworks for sustainable food systems, as well as national policies and governance structures for these systems, have been developed and strengthened

- Play a leading role internationally in the efforts to promote sustainable food systems. This will include taking an active part in multilateral arenas and platforms where policy guidelines and standards for sustainable food systems are developed. Norway will seek to strengthen the focus on marginalised groups, and will champion the right to food.
- Actively promote free trade; this will include working to ensure a fair global trade regime under the WTO and encouraging more countries to open up their markets to goods from low-income countries.
- Strengthen national expertise on the development and implementation of policy relating to sustainable food systems, and strengthen relevant institutions, through technical cooperation, South-South cooperation, and exchanges.
- Cooperate with relevant countries on ensuring compliance with national legislation and international commitments relating to sustainable food systems, including nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement.
- Help to strengthen women's rights and increase their opportunity to influence decisions relating to sustainable food systems at national and international levels.
- Contribute to the development of sustainable financing for food systems.
- Promote sustainable fisheries, aquaculture and seafood in connection with the work to improve food security and nutrition, and intensify the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and other fisheries crime, for example through the Blue Justice initiative.
- Strengthen national and global efforts to combat environmental crime that undermines food systems, including efforts to stop illegal hunting and illegal land clearing.
- Continue and further develop existing Norwegian initiatives that support sustainable food systems, for example Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative and the Global Action Network on Sustainable Food from the Oceans and Inland Waters for Food Security and Nutrition.
- Establish a new Agriculture for Development programme under the Knowledge Bank. Secure the involvement of relevant institutions in projects within their respective areas of expertise. The programme is to be coordinated with the Fish for Development programme and a new Ocean for Development programme.
- Support national authorities in developing nutrition plans and to strengthen public services so these plans can be implemented.

# Implementation

It is not envisaged that any single project will be able to cover the whole food system, but our partners are expected to consider the links between the economic, social and environmental aspects of their work. In order to develop and maintain a system-wide approach, the Norwegian Government will:

## **Policy**

Include the issue of sustainable food systems in international negotiations, and include efforts in this area in relevant policy documents from the various ministries, such as the strategies on antimicrobial resistance, on renewable energy in developing countries (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), on climate change adaptation, resilience and the fight against hunger (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), on environmental crime (Ministry of Climate and Environment), on hazardous substances (Ministry of Climate and Environment), and on non-communicable diseases (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), as well as the white paper on digitalisation in development policy (Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

The ministries will follow-up the action plan within their respective areas of responsibility.

## **Interministerial cooperation**

Hold regular interministerial meetings to discuss the implementation of this action plan, with particular focus on institutional cooperation and efforts under the Knowledge Bank. The interministerial working group that developed this action plan will remain active throughout the time period covered by the plan.

## **Reference group**

A reference group for the action plan, made up of representatives of civil society, the private sector and the research community, has been established. Meetings with the reference group will be held twice a year. The aim is to maintain a close dialogue on progress, and on opportunities and challenges associated with the implementation of the action plan.

## **Portfolio development and results-based management**

Ensure that Norway's aid portfolio is developed in line with the priorities set out in this action plan, and take steps to ensure effective results-based management. At present, Norway does not have any partners, projects or programmes that can cover whole food systems. The action plan is to be implemented through projects and programmes of different sizes and through political dialogue that can promote results in parts of a food system. Results-based management will mainly be carried out at project and programme level.



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