



Quality education:

Almost all children in the world start comprehensive school, but the challenge is often a poor quality of education. Very often, girls

do not stay in school for a long time.

Finland has a strong reputation as an expert in the field of education and as a promoter of inclusive education. In Ethiopia, Finland’s support has opened up opportunities for children with disabilities to attend school and promoted reforms in the education sector, which shows in more than 30,000 schools every day. In Mozambique, Finland has supported children’s opportunities to start learning in their own mother tongue.



Gender equality:

It is estimated that approximately 225 million women in the world would like to use contraception but do not have access to it. One out of four

mothers has to give birth to her child without the support of a midwife.

Over 1.5 million women and girls benefited from Finland’s bilateral support and used sexual and reproductive health services in 2015–2017. In 2014–2016, the EU’s support provided 56 million women with access to contraception. Finland also strongly supports UN Women’s work and different CSO activities to improve the status of women and girls.



Clean water and sanitation:

Globally, 866 million people live without access to clean water and 2.3 billion live without a toilet.

Finland has a long history of participation in development cooperation projects in the water sector. These include improving water management, access to toilets and hygiene practices in homes, schools and health centres. In 2014–2017, nearly 6 million people were provided with water and sanitation services through this support, including 660,000 schoolchildren. In total, 10 million people have gained access to clean water through Finnish development cooperation.



Climate action:

The poorest countries in the world are hardest hit by climate change.

Finland has forest expertise that benefits the planning and monitoring of sustainable use of forests also globally. Finland has participated in private-sector cooperation that focuses on clean energy solutions, in particular. Additionally, Finnfund, a development finance institution, is one of the financiers of Africa’s largest wind farm. Development cooperation in the agriculture and water sectors will support small farmers’ adaptation to changing conditions.

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)



Finland contributes to the global efforts to reach the goals



What is the 2030 Agenda?

The UN Sustainable Development Goals and 2030 Agenda aim to eradicate extreme poverty and to safeguard the environment in a sustainable manner. There are 17 goals and 169 targets in all. The UN Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda in 2015. The Agenda guides the promotion of sustainable development until 2030.

Sustainable development

Sustainable development involves implementing changes in society to ensure opportunities for a good life for present and future generations. This means that the environment, people and the economy are given equal weight in decision-making and activities.

Three dimensions:

- 1) Environmental sustainability
- 2) Economic sustainability
- 3) Social sustainability

What is Finland doing?

The primary responsibility for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda lies with governments, but achieving the SDGs requires broad participation from cities and municipalities, businesses, organisations and private individuals. The pledge to 'leave no one behind' (LNOB) is a central element of the 2030 Agenda.

Examples of the key actions in Finland include promoting sustainable consumption and production and reducing inequalities. Globally, Finland promotes the SDGs particularly through development policy. Climate policy, foreign and security policy, trade policy, and action through the EU are also important.

Monitoring of objectives

The UN measures progress by means of over 200 global indicators, supplemented by governments' national indicators. Finland is among the first countries to have drawn up its national objectives, which include implementing measures and the monitoring and assessment of results. The United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) meets annually to assess progress.

To support the assessment, the UN Secretary General appointed an Independent Group of Scientists, which released its first follow-up report in 2019. *The Global Sustainable Development Report* identified inequality, climate change and environmental problems as key barriers to sustainable development. Researchers also proposed a number of targeted interventions to promote the necessary changes in global systems.

More information:

Ministry for Foreign Affairs: um.fi/agenda2030/en
Prime Minister's Office: kestavakehitys.fi/en
Society's Commitment to Sustainability: sitoumus2050.fi/en



Ministry for Foreign
Affairs of Finland

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

