



An introduction to
**the European Union's
International Cooperation
and Development policy**

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What is ‘sustainable development’?

Ending poverty has always been the main aim of the European Union’s development cooperation with partner countries around the world. While this remains our number one goal, we also need to ensure that progress we make to meet today’s needs does not come at the expense of future generations’ needs.

This means focusing on the economic, social and environmental aspects of development: generating economic growth, while maintaining our natural resources and protecting the rights of the most vulnerable. It also means going beyond aid alone, by cooperating with partners to improve governance in line with our shared values, and raising regulatory standards in order to promote investment, both within partner countries and in Europe.

In this way, we can make development truly sustainable for many generations to come.

How is the European Union helping to achieve sustainable development?

The European Union and its Member States together make a larger financial contribution to sustainable development than all other countries combined.

Not only is our financial commitment strong, the European Union has also played an active part in pushing for ambitious sustainable development goals, and we are equally determined to help deliver them by 2030, both internally and in our external action.

The new European Consensus on Development, signed in 2017 at the highest political level by representatives of all European Union institutions and Member States, provides a common policy framework ensuring our development work is always focused on helping our partners to achieve the sustainable development goals.

Through this consensus, the European Union and its Member States are showing that by working together, we can achieve more and better results.



What are the ‘sustainable development goals’?

The 17 sustainable development goals are the core of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development agreed on by world leaders at a United Nations summit in 2015. They form an ambitious plan to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development by 2030.

The sustainable development goals have replaced the millennium development goals, which achieved ground-breaking results by 2015, including lifting over a billion people out of poverty since 1990.

The sustainable development goals seek to build on this success by broadening our efforts to include all aspects of sustainable development and for the first time are applicable to all countries at all levels of development. Like human rights, the sustainable development goals are universal.

What are the ‘5Ps’?

The ‘5Ps’ are the five key themes that underpin the European Union’s sustainable development work.

They were first outlined to describe the five main areas targeted by the sustainable development goals.

The European Union’s development projects come in all shapes and sizes, and focus on different parts of the world — but all of them focus on at least one of these five themes.

Over the next few pages, you will see examples of our projects in each of these five areas, and how they have affected the lives of real people. You will also see the results that we have helped to achieve for sustainable development, and the scale of our work and our impact.

People. End poverty and hunger in all forms and ensure dignity and equality.

Planet. Protect future generations from environmental destruction and resource depletion.

Prosperity. Ensure prosperous and fulfilling lives in harmony with nature.

Peace. Create peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

Partnership. Implement development work through a solid global partnership.

People

• Policy overview

The European Union's work to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development is focused above all on PEOPLE — women and young people in particular — to ensure they have what they need to live a life of dignity and equality: education, good health, social protection and the respect of their basic rights.

• Story

Country: Uganda

Project: Support programme for refugee settlements in northern Uganda (SPRS-NU)

When conflict broke out again in her region of South Sudan, **Josephine** decided she had to escape, and after a long journey she arrived at the Bidibidi refugee settlement in northern Uganda.

With the support of the European Union, Josephine helped to set up the Manjoora women's group, of which she is the treasurer.

After receiving training, the group plans to start a soap-making business serving their zone of the Bidibidi settlement, and to use this as a platform for providing financial support to other women outside of their group.

Josephine says the skills she gained from her training have had a transformative effect. Despite being victims of the South Sudan conflict they have put their tragic tales aside to work and support each other in these difficult times.



After escaping South Sudan, my life is finally changing for the better. Working together with my women's group to make soap, and being able to trade and sell at the market, gives us a great opportunity to learn new things and to secure some financial stability.



• Context

As exiles continue to flee the fighting in South Sudan, Uganda now hosts more refugees than any other country in Africa and, with its 270 000 inhabitants, the Bidibidi settlement is the largest of its kind in the world. The European Union targets its efforts at the most vulnerable among these people, helping to create communities of mutual support and offering skills training for women, girls and young people.

The European Union has changed millions more lives like Josephine's ...

European Union-funded interventions completed between 2013 and 2017
contributed to the following results in partner countries.

• Food security and nutrition

11 976 000 women of reproductive age and children under five benefiting from nutrition-related programmes

14 159 000 food-insecure people receiving assistance through social transfers

• Education

47 763 000 children enrolled in primary education

21 087 000 children enrolled in secondary education

613 000 teachers trained

• Health

19 211 000 births attended by skilled health personnel

13 253 000 one-year-olds immunised

57 302 000 women using any method of contraception

11 000 000 people with HIV receiving antiretroviral therapy

601 000 000 insecticide-treated bed nets distributed

• Employment and social protection

882 000 people who have benefited from vocational education and training (VET)/skills development and other active labour market programmes



Planet

• Policy overview

The ecosystems that rely on our atmosphere, oceans and land must be nurtured to ensure a better world for us and for generations to come. The European Union works to protect our PLANET by improving natural resource management, promoting clean energy and helping to manage and prevent the effects of climate change.

• Story

Country: Fiji

Project: Building safety and resilience in the Pacific

In 2016, the powerful tropical cyclone 'Winston' had a devastating impact on hundreds of thousands of peoples' lives in Fiji. Among them were the inhabitants of Tukuraki village, who saw their homes engulfed by a landslide.

The villagers fled in panic and fear, and with nowhere else to go, their chief, **Simione**, led them to shelter in a cave. As part of its response to the cyclone disaster, and in order to lessen the impacts of extreme weather in the future, the European Union funded the reconstruction of the entire village in a safer location inland.

Now that Simione and the people of Tukuraki have a new home that is safe from the effects of climate change, they have been able to slowly rebuild their lives, without old fears to hold them back.



We were very afraid, sitting in the cave for months. We remember what happened in the landslide. When I first saw the new village, I saw the new houses here, Fijian houses. I am very happy.



• Context

If we don't address climate change, we are likely to see rising seas, as well as more frequent and more severe natural disasters — to which small islands like those in Fiji are particularly vulnerable. Those who live on the coast see their shorelines receding, while those who live inland continue to be vulnerable to storms and landslides.

The European Union protects our planet in many other ways ...

European Union-funded interventions completed between 2013 and 2017 contributed to the following results in partner countries.

• **Natural resources, environment and climate change**

100 countries/regions with climate change strategies being developed and/or implemented with EU support

46 572 000 hectares of protected areas being managed

• **Energy**

4 541 000 people provided with access to sustainable energy services

11 000 km of transmission/distribution lines built or upgraded



Prosperity

• Policy overview

Hope for a better life begins with PROSPERITY. The European Union invests in inclusive and sustainable economic growth by helping to create jobs, providing vocational training, building infrastructure, increasing access to finance and promoting business and trade.

• Story

Country: Uganda

Project: GET FIT Uganda — Soroti power plant



Power outages have been a part of life in rural Uganda for many years, regularly forcing businesses like **Richard's** to close their doors to customers. And that's not his only worry: without a decent electricity supply, 90 % of Uganda's energy comes from burning wood and charcoal ⁽¹⁾. As a result, the forests in Richard's area are disappearing, and the air he breathes is getting dirtier.

In 2016, the European Union funded the construction by local workers of a 10-MW solar plant in Soroti. The biggest in east Africa, it supplies electricity to 40 000 homes, schools and hospitals in Richard's area, and has changed many more lives in the process.

Now Richard's community can go many months without a single blackout, giving him the confidence to grow his business and contribute to the local economy, while helping to protect the environment.

“

Before we got the solar plant, we had problems with the power going on and off. Sometimes we would go an entire week without power. Without power we're not in business.

”

• Context

Only 27 % of Uganda's population has access to electricity and in rural areas that drops to 18 % ⁽²⁾. Access to energy plays a fundamental role in development, which is why the European Union is aiming to connect 30 million Africans to reliable and affordable energy by 2030. Making sure this energy is clean is vital to combating climate change and managing precious resources both at home and abroad.

⁽¹⁾ Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, Government of Uganda, 2015.

⁽²⁾ World Bank.

The European Union helps economies grow in many other ways ...

European Union-funded interventions completed between 2013 and 2017 contributed to the following results in partner countries.

• Trade and private sector development

19	countries whose capacity to trade across borders has improved
37 000	firms with access to credit
1 500	quality certifications issued
29	countries where the business environment has improved
27 000	micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) applying sustainable consumption and production practices

• Sustainable agriculture

3 675 000	agricultural and pastoral ecosystems where sustainable land management practices have been introduced (in ha)
3 841 000	people receiving rural advisory services
815 000	people who have secure tenure of land

• Transport

43 000	total length of road constructed/rehabilitated/maintained (km)
20 975 000	people with access to all-season roads



• Policy overview

There can be no genuine development without PEACE, and no lasting peace without sustainable development. The European Union is working with partner countries to prevent conflict, improve human security, fight crime and ensure justice, freedom and good governance for all.

• Story

Country: Dominican Republic

Project: Proyecto de cooperación sobre crimen y seguridad en República Dominicana

In the Dominican Republic, security and prosperity are threatened by the grip of illegal drug trafficking. The drug trade is the fuel for gang activity in the country, leading to violence and corruption, and putting ordinary citizens in the crossfire.

The European Union is helping to tackle this problem by supporting a training programme for canine police units, known as 'binomios', run by the National Drug Control Directorate.

Karla graduated from this programme in 2018, and together with her dog will be tasked with detecting smugglers passing through the country's ports, airports and border posts, as well as in field operations.

Karla is among the 25 % of her graduating class who are women, up from 5 % when the programme started. Together with her canine companion, she is hoping to build a more peaceful and inclusive society in the Dominican Republic and beyond.

• Context

Much of the European Union's development work is conducted through close cooperation with national authorities in partner countries, allowing it to have an impact across a whole country as well as in specific regions. Even beyond that, by tackling the drug trade in the Dominican Republic we hope to create positive outcomes for its neighbour, Haiti.



The European Union builds peace in many other ways ...

European Union-funded interventions completed between 2013 and 2017 contributed to the following results in partner countries.

• Good governance

138 000 human rights defenders who have received EU support

38 elections supported by the EU where the electoral process is perceived by independent observers as free and fair

459 000 individuals directly benefiting from justice, rule of law and security sector reform programmes funded by EU external assistance programmes

1 682 000 people directly benefiting from legal aid programmes

• Conflict prevention

2 789 000 individuals benefiting directly from EU-supported programmes that specifically aim to support civilian post-conflict peace building and/or conflict prevention

• Public finance management

30 countries where overall public financial management has improved



Partnership

• Policy overview

Our development challenges are too great to tackle alone. The European Union works in PARTNERSHIP with its Member States, partner countries, organisations and ordinary citizens, to make sure that development is sustainable and can work for everyone.

• Story

Country: Worldwide

Project: EU–UN Spotlight Initiative

At 17, **Champadolma** left Myanmar/Burma to work as a nanny in Thailand, where she had little legal protection and was highly vulnerable to abuse in the homes where she worked. After 24 years of domestic work, she dedicated herself to protecting the rights of other women like herself, eventually rising to become the president of the Network of Migrant Domestic Workers in Thailand.

Stories like Champadolma's inspired the European Union and the United Nations to launch the Spotlight Initiative in 2017, joining forces to end all forms of violence against women and girls. The initiative will bring together international organisations and civil society to protect vulnerable women and survivors, but also to raise awareness and change mindsets in communities everywhere, so we can finally end this scourge in our society.

To tackle global problems, we need global movements that bring together institutions and activists like Champadolma. Together, we can ensure that all women and girls can truly shine.



Women like Champadolma give a voice to the voiceless and shine a spotlight into the darkness, where violence continues to thrive. They are a testament to the change that every one of us can make when we stand up and speak out for a brighter future for all.

Commissioner Neven Mimica

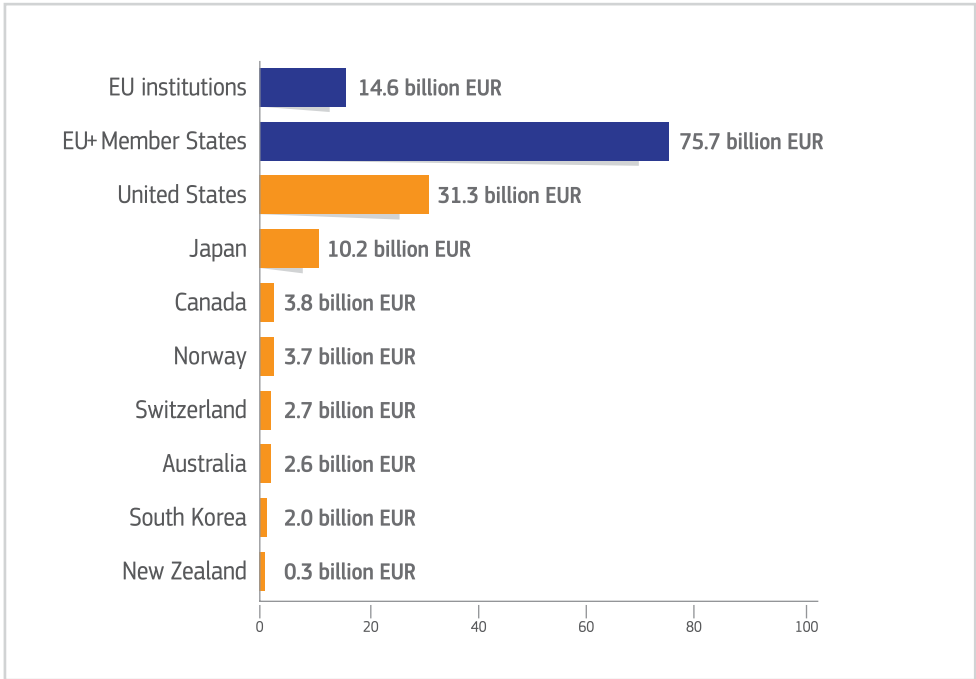
• Context

The global, multi-year Spotlight Initiative was launched in 2017 by the European Union and the United Nations, and backed by a EUR 500 million commitment from the European Union. The 'Safe and Fair' programme to protect female migrant workers in south-east Asia is just one branch of this initiative, and is organised together with the International Labour Organisation, governments, community organisations, civil society and local service providers.



About the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

The EU and its Member States are the world's leading donor of official development assistance, with EUR 75.7 billion in 2017, according to the latest figures from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC).



Source: OECD-DAC preliminary data published 9 April 2018.
Amounts converted from USD to EUR using the 2017 DAC exchange rate.

The European Union manages its projects in partner countries through the Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development.

Its mission is:

- reducing poverty in the world;
- ensuring sustainable economic, social and environmental development;
- promoting democracy, peace and security.

DG International Cooperation and Development
operates under the guidance of:

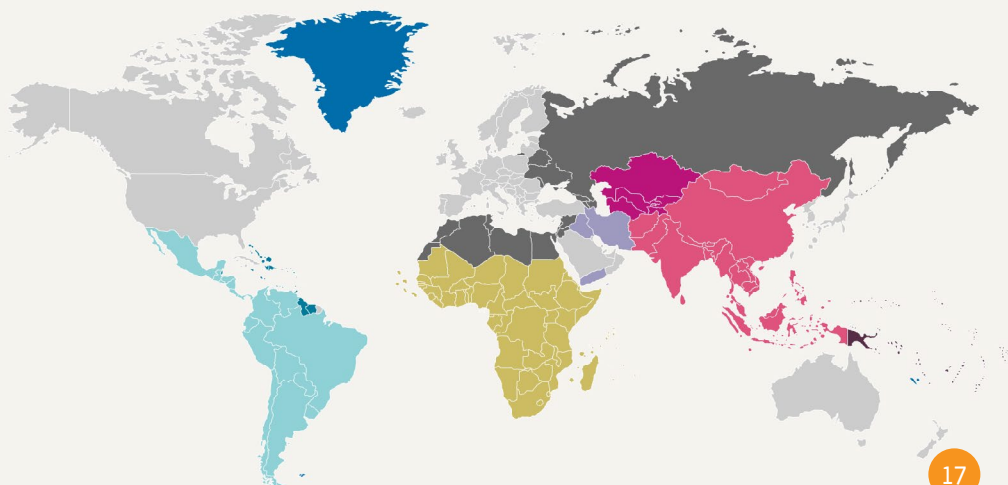


Neven Mimica
Commissioner for
International
Cooperation
and Development



**Stefano
Manservigi**
Director-General
of DG International
Cooperation
and Development

DG International Cooperation and Development cooperates with 150 partner countries in Africa, central and Latin America and the Asia-Pacific area and works through 140 EU delegations in partner countries and to international organisations.





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