

2019-2021



Working together. For our world.

Three-Year Programme

on Austrian Development Policy
2019–2021

 **Federal Ministry**
Republic of Austria
Europe, Integration
and Foreign Affairs



Imprint

Three-Year Programme on Austrian Development Policy 2019–2021
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Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs
Directorate-General for Development
Minoritenplatz 8, 1014 Vienna, Austria
Tel.: +43 (0)501150-4454
Fax: +43 (0)501159-4454
abtvii4@bmeia.gv.at
www.entwicklung.at

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List of abbreviations

ADA	Austrian Development Agency
ADC	Austrian Development Cooperation
BMNT	Bundesministerium für Nachhaltigkeit und Tourismus/ Federal Ministry Sustainability and Tourism
CFS	Committee on World Food Security
CSO(s)	Civil society organisation(s)
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
EDF	European Development Fund
ERP	European Recovery Program
EU	European Union
EU GAP II	EU-Gender Action Plan II
EUTF Africa	EU Trust Fund for Africa
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FDF	Foreign Disaster Fund
FMEIA	Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs
FMF	Federal Ministry of Finance
GNI	Gross National Income
IFI(s)	International financial institution(s)
ILO	International Labour Organization
LDC	Least Developed Countries
MADAD	EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OeEB	Oesterreichische Entwicklungsbank (Austrian Development Bank)
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe
SDG(s)	Sustainable Development Goal(s)
SIDs	Small Island Developing State(s)
SME(s)	Small and Medium Enterprise(s)
UN	United Nations
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNSC(R)	United Nations Security Council (Resolution)
UN GS	UN General Secretary
WHS	World Humanitarian Summit

Foreword by the Federal Minister



Today, we face growing global challenges, such as climate change, natural disasters and prolonged crises; with enormous impacts on all countries in the world that we can only master together. In response to these, 193 nations adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals under the auspices of the United Nations in September 2015, which then paved the way for the 2017 European Consensus on Development.

Based on these internationally concerted agendas, Austrian Development Cooperation will focus in the next three years on altogether five whole-of-government priorities: poverty reduction, sustainable management, environmental and climate protection, peace and security and equal rights for all members of society.

A particular concern of mine here is the status of women in today's world. Women make up half the world's population and account for a third of all gainfully employed people, but earn only a tenth of global income and are in possession of only one hundredth of all the world's assets. Gender equality is therefore essential for a socially equitable and economically sustainable society and I see combating discrimination against girls and women as a keystone of our development cooperation. We want to see an end to violence against women and the practice of female genital mutilation and shall act as advocates for women's health and family planning. Austrian development policy will also continue to place a focus on the issue of women, peace and security.

To put our financial resources to efficient use, we shall concentrate in the present programme on three country categories: cooperation with the poorest developing countries in Africa, our neighbours in East and South-East Europe and crisis regions and fragile states, where the closer combination of humanitarian aid with medium-term and long-term development cooperation is playing a growing role.

The present Three-Year Programme is a whole-of-government strategy that has been framed together with all relevant ministries and the active involvement of business and industry, the academic community and civil society.

In 2022, we shall not just measure our success by the thematic priorities outlined in this Three-Year Programme, but above all by their successful implementation.

I would also like to express my gratitude here to all those who took part in drafting the new Three-Year Programme.

Dr Karin Kneissl

Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs

Vienna, September 2018

On the present programme

The Austrian Federal Government is committed to efficient development cooperation geared to interests. In response to ongoing pressure to migrate and in the event of wars, famine and natural disasters, it is important to provide local aid to those in need and help them build a future in their own country. Development cooperation is therefore also a means of advancing Austria's rational self-interest by alleviating the causes of irregular migration and forced displacement. The general concern of all development cooperation must be to reduce extreme poverty in pursuance of UN directives.

There are economic, environmental and social facets to poverty. Its eradication, especially extreme poverty, poses the greatest global challenge and is essential for sustainable development and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda Goals.

Development policy is about affording populations in the respective partner countries opportunities for the future. It aims at improving local, political, economic and social prospects. We want to achieve sustainable development that reaches people.

The present Three-Year Programme sets out the guiding principles that all programmes and projects must adhere to. These include the human-rights-based approach, partnership, ownership and efficient and effective multi-lateralism.

Our aim is to act coherently in a whole-of-government approach, which is why we also specified the five priority issues for implementing the SDGs: poverty reduction, sustainable management, environmental and climate protection, peace and security and equal rights for all members of society. In all these, we attach special importance to women's development.

The efficient allocation of funds also calls for geographical concentration. We will adopt a differentiated and targeted approach, seeking to reduce extreme poverty in the poorest developing countries, boost the economies in neighbouring countries and provide humanitarian aid and help for stabilisation and promote peacebuilding cooperation in crisis regions, especially where there are major migration and refugee movements. More efficient funding, however, also means placing a closer focus on outputs, outcomes and impacts in the results chain of the resources assigned.

All contributions, programmes, projects and activities under the present Three-Year Programme will be carried out subject to the available budgetary funds.

Goals, principles and actors

Meeting challenges together

The goal of the Austrian Federal Government is to pursue an active and responsible development policy. As stipulated in the Federal Development Cooperation Act¹, poverty reduction is the focus of Austrian Development Cooperation. Austrian actors are committed to help the most severely disadvantaged people in partner countries. We seek to advance freedom and security and afford people the opportunity to lead a self-reliant life, while taking environmental protection and gender equality into particular account and pursuing these as aims in their own right.

The United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)² provides the international operational framework. The aim of the Agenda is with the collaboration of all nations to jointly meet today's global and complex challenges, such as poverty, hunger, inequalities in and among countries and climate change and to leave future generations with a world worth living in.

As Austrian development policy is pursued as a whole-of-government task, its measures also seek to make a contribution to a whole-of-government migration policy.

Development policy is a whole-of-society and whole-of-government task and an imperative of joint responsibility, as the Federal Government states in its commitment to development cooperation as part of its coalition agreement 2017–2022.

Guiding principles

Based on the OECD Policy Guidelines for Donors in particular, Austrian development policy is obliged to adhere to guiding principles when implementing its programmes and projects. These are:

ADOPTING THE HUMAN-RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

Austrian Development Cooperation attaches fundamental value to promoting, protecting and implementing human rights. This is why we take a human-rights-based approach in all programmes and projects and in policy dialogue, with particular emphasis on the rights of women, children, older people and persons with disabilities. At the same time, we focus on particularly disadvantaged population groups, such as religious and ethnic minorities, indigenous peoples, refugees and migrants.

¹ Federal Development Cooperation Act as amended in 2003 (Federal Law Gazette I No. 65/2003)
² <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS BASED ON PARTNERSHIP AND OWNERSHIP

Partnership can only thrive if we treat each other as equals and plan and carry out projects together for the benefit of people in developing countries and in Austria alike. Our partnership is based on ownership, mutual accountability and inclusion and we align our actions with the objectives of partner countries and regions, their specific conditions for development and the needs of the population.

ACCOUNTING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE PROTECTION AND GENDER EQUALITY THROUGHOUT

A major operational aim is to take continuous account of environmental and climate protection and gender equality at all levels, from planning to evaluation. We also conduct separate programmes and projects in both areas.

ENHANCING MANAGEMENT FOR RESULTS

Management for results, transparency and mutual accountability are major principles of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation that go into the planning and implementation of Austrian Development Cooperation. Also relevant are the directives of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing Development.³ We are also looking to align the monitoring and evaluation of Austrian Development Cooperation with the following central elements:

- The anticipated outcomes and impacts of the Federal Government in Austrian Development Cooperation⁴
- Specific indicators in country and regional strategies

In keeping with international commitments, indicators are continually upgraded and applied along the lines of the SDG targets.

IMPROVING EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE MULTILATERALISM

Austria is committed to strengthening efficient and effective multilateralism. As a host state to the UN and other international organisations, Austria attaches importance to a robust international development-policy engagement. The 2030 Agenda, the UN Paris Agreement, the Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy and the 2017 European Consensus on Development⁵ are guiding directives for Austrian development policy. Balanced development cooperation is based here on the two pillars of bilateral and multilateral cooperation, which have reciprocal effects and deploy complementary financial instruments.

Development cooperation in the European Union

As a member state of the European Union, which provides more than half of total funding for development cooperation worldwide, Austria forms part of the largest donor group. It advocates raising efficiency through simpler administrative procedures in EU development cooperation and takes part in the EU's joint programming. Women and development, sustainable energy supply and harnessing opportunities through innovation and digitisation were a focus of EU development cooperation during the Austrian EU Presidency in 2018 and will be pursued further by Austria in the EU framework in the years ahead.

3 <http://www.oecd.org/dac/peer-reviews/peer-review-austria.htm>.

4 https://www.oeffentlicherdienst.gv.at/wirkungsorientierte_verwaltung/wirkungsziele/index.html.

5 EU Global Strategy, <https://europa.eu/globalstrategy/en/global-strategy-foreign-and-security-policy-european-union>; Consensus, <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2017/06/07/joint-strategy-european-consensus-development/pdf>.

United Nations Development Group

The UN development system will be largely concerned with implementing the SDGs up to 2030 and beyond. Austria is actively engaged in the related comprehensive repositioning. Envisaged are more efficient coordination in the field, placing more emphasis on addressing national priorities, greater accountability and a more sustainable financial basis.

International financial institutions

International financial institutions (IFIs) make up part of the global multilateral system and are financed by almost all nations in the world. They deploy pooled resources worldwide, multiplied through leverage on the financial markets for the concerted purpose of achieving the SDGs. Austria holds shares in a number of IFIs, which are administered by the Federal Ministry of Finance (FMF), which pursues a detailed strategy for the development-policy and financial approach in IFIs that also takes account of the priorities of Austrian development policy.

IFIs must perform the following strategic functions:

- Financing: multiplying development finance on the international financial markets in keeping with Addis Ababa Action Agenda
- Implementation: supporting the planning, implementation and supervision of development programmes and also complex, transformational projects
- Compiling, systematising and disseminating development-policy knowledge
- Assisting global structural policy, propagating international standards, helping in the sustainable use of global/regional public goods
- Crisis prevention and management

ADVANCING AUSTRIAN INTERESTS AND PUTTING ITS CORE COMPETENCIES TO USE

With Austrian know-how, we can make a specific contribution to developing the poorest countries, but also in crisis regions and fragile states. Under the auspices of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, our development policy also aims at improving the welfare of people locally, while also advancing Austrian interests worldwide.

MEETING CURRENT CHALLENGES, ABIDING BY PREDICTABILITY AND LEGAL CERTAINTY

Austrian Development Cooperation takes account of current developments and also sets priorities accordingly. It is, for example, exploring possible synergies with responsible migration policy.

Achieving objectives efficiently, taking a whole-of-government approach

WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH AND POLICY COHERENCE

Efficient cooperation with other policy fields enhances the local effectiveness of development cooperation. The whole-of-government approach calls for interministerial strategies and their joint implementation. The following strategies of the Federal Government and other actors of relevance to development cooperation cater for the priorities of the Three-Year Programme on Austrian development policy with the aim of taking coherent action to raise efficiency, just as the Three-Year Programme in turn takes their objectives into account. These strategies are:

- Climate Finance Strategy⁶
- Austrian Security Strategy⁷
- Strategic Guidelines for International Financial Institutions⁸
- Strategic Focus of the Oesterreichische Entwicklungsbank (Austrian Development Bank)⁹
- Foreign Trade Strategy for 2018
- Austrian Migration Strategy

Where possible, their expiry dates will also be harmonised to improve planability.

ACTORS IN AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT POLICY

- The whole Federal Government, particularly the Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs (FMEIA)
- Parliament
- Federal provinces, cities and municipalities
- Austrian Development Agency (ADA)
- Oesterreichische Entwicklungsbank/Austrian Development Bank (OeEB)
- Austrian civil-society organisations (CSOs)
- Private sector/Austrian businesses
- Social partners and chambers
- Scientific and educational institutions
- Citizen volunteers
- EU and UN development cooperation
- International financial institutions

FMEIA is in charge of the interministerial coordination of development policy, accounting for the priorities set by the Federal Government as part of Austrian foreign policy. The thematic and geographical priorities defined by the whole of government are implemented by the respective competent ministries under their own purview. Country, regional and thematic strategies, for peace, security and development or environment and development, for example, specify major operational directives. As the operational unit of Austrian Development Cooperation, ADA implements the priorities of the Three-Year Programme in its fields of activity.

⁶ https://www.bmnt.gv.at/umwelt/klimaschutz/internationales/int_klimafinanzierung/strategie_berichte.html.

⁷ <https://www.bundestkanzleramt.gv.at/sicherheitsstrategie>.

⁸ <https://www.bmf.gv.at/wirtschaftspolitik/int-finanzinstitutionen/oe-und-ifis.html>.

⁹ <https://www.oe-eb.at/en/about-oeeb/our-focus.html>

Focus

EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN AND PROMOTING THEIR DEVELOPMENT

Gender equality is essential for economic, social and sustainable development. Since the adoption of the EU Gender Action Plan II in 2015, the issue has come to constitute a major pillar of European external policy. The ADC Gender Policy (December 2017) sets out the cornerstones for its implementation in Austrian international cooperation.

In our bilateral and multilateral cooperation, we are engaged in women's development above all in the following areas:

Women and society:

- Reducing gender discrimination and inequality
- Systematically mainstreaming women's rights and equality issues in bilateral and multilateral as well as multi-donor development-policy dialogue

Women and health:

- Combating sexual and gender violence as well as female genital mutilation, especially in crisis regions and fragile states
- Conducting family planning measures for self-determination

Women in armed conflicts:

Measures for implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and ensuing resolutions:

- Protecting women in all phases of conflict resolution
- Accounting for the special needs of women in forced displacement and migration
- Accounting for the special role and participation of women in peace processes

Economic empowerment of women:

- Budgeting efficiently for gender at national, regional and municipal level
- Ensuring equal access to decent work, social protection, economic resources and financial services as well as creating incentives for gender equality measures in collaboration with the private sector

Women and education:

- Conducting (dual) vocational training for female apprentices
- Providing training/education in the higher education sector and political education

Women and their voice in public life:

- Strengthening the participation of women in decision-making procedures
- Supporting and including women's rights organisations

Inclusive societies can only be established and advanced through women's development and guaranteeing equal rights for all.

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND MIGRATION

In this Three-Year Programme, the Federal Government will place a heavier focus on the issue of migration, with a greater commitment to local assistance. This will contribute to alleviating the structural causes of forced displacement and irregular migration, while ensuring a more effective allocation of public funds; resources deployed locally can help far more people than in Austria.

Development cooperation aims at affording people prospects and opportunities for the future by improving their political, economic and social conditions. This way, it makes a contribution to facilitating orderly, safe, regulated and responsible migration and mobility (SDG Target 10.7) while also assisting refugees and host communities in partner countries. Aligning humanitarian aid for refugees and displaced persons with long-term development cooperation paves the way for the rapid and sustainable stabilisation of the situation.

Austrian Development Cooperation adopts a trilateral approach:

- 1. Rule-of-law institutions and good government**
- 2. (Dual) Vocational training and capacity development, above all in the youth sector**
- 3. Private sector development, including business partnerships/industrialisation and technological development**

Austrian Development Cooperation is aware of the importance of mutual responsibility and obligation, which is why it strengthens the ownership of stakeholders in partner countries by helping to establish functioning rule-of-law institutions, including the security sector, but also in the fight against organised crime and human trafficking. This contributes to alleviating the causes of irregular migration and smuggling and trafficking in human beings and to improving conditions for the reintegration of returnees and with that can also make partner countries more willing and able to cooperate effectively in meeting their readmission commitments. The aim of concerted policymaking as in the whole-of-government approach is to locate synergies between development-policy measures and those for returnees to support both them and also the local population and internally displaced persons.

Development cooperation can also have the same impacts in home and transit countries that are not included in our portfolio of priority countries, not least in those of special relevance to Austrian migration policy. Where we lack our own representative organisations, we seek to step up efficient international cooperation in development policy with EU and UN institutions, OSCE, civil society and other donor countries. Austria also takes part in the relevant activities of the EU, which is a leading donor for refugees, internally displaced persons and their host communities. So far, it has also made contributions of EUR 11.5 million (2015/16, term open) to the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis (MADAD Fund) and altogether EUR 45.6 million to the EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey for the period 2016–2019 and EUR 6 million to the Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa (EUTF Africa). This is not meant to exclude bilateral initiatives.

Austrian Development Cooperation links up with active integration policy and harnesses the resultant potential of immigrants already living in Austria. This enables it to step up synergies and make use of the knowledge of the diaspora (communities) for relevant developmental activities in their home countries.

Thematic priorities under the 2030 agenda

*Leave no one behind is the new development agenda.
(UN GS Ban Ki-moon 2015)*

Austrian Development Cooperation has set five thematic priorities to define its profile for the planned term. These are outlined below.

1. ERADICATING POVERTY – MEETING BASIC NEEDS

– Focus in energy/water/food/health/education

- Help supply the population with clean water and sanitation, high-quality food and sustainable and affordable energy
- Expand (forms of) sustainable energy
- Focusing on vocational training/higher education and science
- Promoting and securing access to general health care
- Reducing poverty through improved access for disadvantaged groups to basic services



Access for all people to natural resources and basic services lays the foundation for a decent and a self-reliant life. Poverty reduction as the means to meet basic needs is therefore of foremost importance for Austrian Development Cooperation.

WATER, ENERGY AND FOOD SECURITY ARE CONNECTED

The 2030 Agenda sets separate goals for water, energy, food security and sustainable agriculture, but these sectors are closely interconnected (nexus) and are especially important for least developed countries (LDCs) as well as the small island developing states (SIDs).

Sustainable development requires us to take account of guiding socio-environmental principles. These are:

- Low resource consumption and environmental pollution
- Equal access to and use rights for natural resources and participation in decisions on water, energy and land issues (inclusion)
- Conserving biodiversity and protecting ecosystems

This will also reinforce resilience against the impacts of climate change and global trends, such as resource overuse due to increasing population growth. As the mounting risks show, **disaster risk management and prevention** are of increasing importance in development cooperation. The intention is to make local actors in particular more resilient. Austrian Development Cooperation is also concerned with supporting sustainable and inclusive urban planning to help counter the adverse impacts of rural exodus and urbanisation on human security.

Austria views the social and ecological services provided by **agriculture and forestry** as especially effective for development. Where new forms of land grabbing endanger traditional rights and livelihood and food security, the local population needs to be involved in planning and decision-making procedures.

Clean water and sanitation facilities are also essential for a healthy life. Austria will therefore promote measures for the following:

- Secure supply to the population
- Renewable energy use, resource-saving irrigation technologies and sustainable use of river ecosystems and settlements
- Wastewater avoidance, clean disposal of wastewater and its productive use for food security and small-scale industrial manufacturing
- Flood protection

Global **energy supply deficits** and the rapid rise in power demand call for sustainable energy use and higher energy efficiency. Establishing a global network of regional energy centres together with the UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) will help disseminate alternative technologies.

EDUCATION FOR ALL

Education has been established as a human right and public good in Article 26 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. As the basis for personal opportunities, particularly for girls and women, and for economic and social progress, it is also a fundamental development goal.

As an essential factor for poverty reduction and sustainable development, education can make a key contribution to social, economic, political and cultural development. Educational systems must therefore be designed for inclusion. Austria is engaged in inclusive education, employable vocational training, higher education and science and research.

A basic prerequisite for successful Austrian development cooperation policy is a well-informed population that is also aware of the need for and the opportunities afforded by development cooperation and the 2030 Agenda. This requires adopting a systematic approach and upgrading development communication and education in Austria.

Equal access to vocational training and higher education will help the economic empowerment of women in particular and contribute to leading a self-reliant life.

HEALTH FOR ALL

Health is a key factor for the social and economic development of individuals, societies and countries. It has therefore been specified as a condition, goal and indicator of sustainable development under the 2030 Agenda, particularly for women, children and youth, and is regarded as indispensable for a decent life and the eradication of poverty.

A central instrument for this is the promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights, including family planning. Austria will also actively engage in promoting and securing access to general health care and infrastructure and to sexual health care, including birth control, information and education.

Promoting the health of women goes well beyond the targets of SDG 3 and is also cited in other SDGs, such as access to clean drinking water and sanitation facilities.

SOCIAL PROTECTION AND EMPLOYMENT FOR ALL

Employment and social protection are among the most effective instruments for reducing poverty and inequality. Women, children, older people, persons with disabilities and socially disadvantaged groups are particularly severely affected by poverty. Over 70 per cent of people worldwide lack access to inclusive social protection.

To implement SDG 1 and SDG 10, Austria has expertise and practical experience at its disposal for strengthening social protection measures and promotes productive employment and decent work.

2. SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Contribution to inclusive and sustainable economic growth**
- Strengthening quality education and inclusive institutional and capacity development at all levels
- Promoting a sustainable private sector and decent work for all
- Instigating processes for inclusive and sustainable institutional development in rural and urban areas
- Reducing production losses, solid waste and pollutants



Socially and environmentally sustainable economic development is essential for improving the conditions of life for people and reducing poverty and inequality in developing countries. It encompasses broad parts of the working population. Production and consumption must take account of the planetary limits, that is, the available global resources, and should not overexploit these. Austrian Development Cooperation therefore conforms with the objectives of Articles 55 and 56 of the UN Charter. A special concern of Austria in this connection is the economic empowerment of women and their effective participation in economic life. The SDGs precept of leaving no one behind is a guiding principle for us.

PRIVATE SECTOR AS PARTNER

Austria accords a decisive role to the local private sector, local and regional markets, the productivity and competitiveness of local business and industry, especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and their inclusion in international value chains. Successful private enterprises produce goods and services in demand, drive innovation and generate tax revenue. Above all, though, they create productive and decent jobs, which are one of the most effective instruments for poverty reduction and promoting sustainable economic development.

Greater emphasis will be placed on the private sector and harnessing its potential, with a special focus on taking corporate social responsibility by complying with human-rights and social and environmental standards, especially also in transnational supply and value chains. Austria adheres here to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises as the international policy framework and supports observance of the Decent Work-Agenda and compliance with the ILO core labour standards.

As the location for the specialised UNIDO, Austria assists its partner countries in pursuing their own economic and industrial policy goals, which can be supported by generally accessible infrastructure, an operational financial sector, economic-policy options, an appropriate legal framework and good governance. Moreover, the formalisation of the informal sector is a development, employment and social policy concern of Austria in partner countries. Also important is a supportive international framework.

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

To help developing countries to achieve sustainable economic development, Austria provides particular support for projects in rural and urban areas that focus on renewable energy sources, resource and energy efficiency and the reduction of production losses, solid waste and pollutants.

Cities are playing an increasingly central role in global value added and economic growth for securing sustainable development. At the same time, poverty, inequality and greenhouse gas emissions are on the rise in urban centres. To counter this development, Austria supports processes of inclusive and sustainable urban development and value-added systems.

USING DIGITISATION

The whole issue of digitisation has taken on a new momentum in developing countries that affords scope for greatly improving the conditions of life, including those of the poorer rural population, and facilitating access to education, health or financial services. Austrian Development Cooperation sees these developments as an opportunity and will devote more attention to projects that include an aspect of digitisation.

STRENGTHENING TAXATION SYSTEMS

Supporting capacity development and strengthening taxation systems in partner countries for domestic resource mobilisation is an important issue for Austrian Development Cooperation.

3. PROTECTING AND PRESERVING THE ENVIRONMENT

- **Accounting for the principle of environmental sustainability in all projects**
- Catering for climate protection in all relevant measures
- Promoting sustainable resource management and higher resource efficiency
- Adopting an integrated structural development scheme as a sustainable contribution to urban and rural development



As natural resources and a functional environment are essential sources of livelihood, they make up elementary pillars of sustainable development. The urgent need to cooperate worldwide for the protection and conservation of the environment and climate is highlighted in the 2030 Agenda, which takes account of these issues in almost all the SDGs.

Principles for protecting the environment

- Effectively addressing the causes of poverty by harnessing synergies between environmental protection and poverty reduction
- Catering for the interactions among environmental, economic and social factors by giving precedence to adopting integrated, multisectoral approaches
- Fostering local ownership, know-how and natural resource management by involving the local population
- Taking account of the distinct impacts on men and women and their different roles in conducting measures
- Ensuring that policymakers attach foremost priority to environmental issues by stepping up close policy dialogue and mainstreaming environmental and climate protection in national, regional and local development plans, policies and strategies
- Enhancing the contribution of environmental protection measures to development goals by raising awareness and developing capacity
- Promoting international cooperation and contributions to implementing environmental conventions in response to the global challenges
- Making use of the experience and know-how of Austrian environmental expertise

The Strategic Guideline on Environment and Development in Austrian Development Policy¹⁰ sets out the relevant goals, principles and specific priorities.

MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

While greenhouse gas concentrations continue to rise, global warming is causing long-lasting changes to the climate, with irreversible consequences. These will become all the more severe, the longer no suitable counter-measures are taken. Emission abatement and measures for adaptation are both essential.

Climate change is often a causal factor in food insecurity and forced migration. Sustainable development cooperation must also take account of the inevitable impacts of climate change on future development.

Poor people in rural areas and conurbations are exposed to adverse social and economic conditions, environmental risks and extreme weather events, which is why Austria particularly supports local and regional adaptation activities. At the same time, it needs to step up measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It takes account of climate protection in strategies, programmes and activities to pave the way for a low-carbon, climate-resilient future.

GREATER PROTECTION OF ECOSYSTEMS

The conservation, rehabilitation and sustainable use of ecosystems, such as forests, wetlands, arid areas and mountains are key for sustainable development and make up an integral component of Austrian Development Cooperation.

The poorest and most vulnerable population groups, especially local, rural communities, are most heavily dependent on natural resources. Land degradation, water shortage and pollution, deforestation and loss of biodiversity have a direct effect on the food security, health, income and livelihoods of the population. Urgent measures must therefore be taken to reduce the loss of natural habitats, ecosystems and biodiversity.

¹⁰ <http://www.entwicklung.at/en/media-centre/publications/programmes/>

RESPONSIBLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Resources are not in unlimited supply. Primarily in industrialised and newly industrialised countries, the world population currently consumes more resources than the ecosystems can deliver. This is exacerbated by climatic and topographical factors and increasing consumption and population growth. There is therefore an urgent need to raise efficiency.

We must seek to decouple economic growth from the consumption of natural resources. Sustainable development requires us to make careful and efficient use of resources and avoid the adverse socio-environmental consequences of resource consumption as far as possible. Investments also need to be made and development measures taken in resource efficiency, modernisation, innovation, clean technologies and industrial processes in other thematic clusters, such as urban development, transport and building infrastructure.

4. COMMITMENT TO PEACE AND SECURITY

- **Attaching priority to peace-support measures and state-building**
- Giving precedence to conflict prevention and planning peace processes for sustainability
- Contributing to protecting the civilian population and greater human security for vulnerable groups in conflict situations
- Carrying out humanitarian aid measures, taking account of the nexus with development and peace consolidation
- Contributing to social peace through dialogue and inclusion and with measures against radicalisation and extremism
- Making contributions to eliminating factors that cause forced displacement and migration as well as to building sustainable protection capacities and finding lasting solutions for refugees and internally displaced persons



PEACE, SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Along with human rights, development, peace and security are pillars of the UN Charter. The 2030 Agenda reaffirms this consensus and has made peace into one of its goals as a major foundation for development. Ensuring peace and human security also makes up one of the three primary goals of Austrian development policy. Whole-of-government responsibility at the interfaces of development policy with peace, security and migration policy enhances the sustainability of the measures taken.

THEMATIC PRIORITIES

With local measures for peace, security and development, Austria seeks to establish and maintain global peace. Building sustainable, responsible, rule-of-law institutions and inclusive and resilient societies helps to do this. This is where the whole-of-government approach and coherent, complementary and coordinated action taken by all Austrian stakeholders (3C Approach¹¹) plays a particularly important role.

Greater account will be taken of the nexus among humanitarian aid, development and peace consolidation with a clearer division of labour between government and non-governmental actors. We also intend to place a focus on conflict prevention. The protection of women in armed conflicts, but also in the post-conflict phase and their participation in peace processes and reconstruction are a particular priority of Austrian Development Cooperation in crisis regions and fragile states.¹²

The Strategic Guideline on Security and Development in Austrian Development Policy¹³ sets out the relevant goals, principles and specific priorities.

HUMANITARIAN AID

The aim of international humanitarian aid is to save lives, alleviate human suffering, protect and care for all the people afflicted in a humanitarian crisis and also to pave the way for a return to decent conditions of life. The increasing number of protracted crises pose Austrian development cooperation policy with the challenge of aligning emergency humanitarian aid better with long-term development cooperation.

The principles of independence, neutrality, non-discrimination and impartiality and the outcomes of the first UN World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in May 2016 in Istanbul are key guidelines for humanitarian aid. Particular attention is paid to vulnerable groups and their specific needs in humanitarian crises, including women, children and youth, older people, persons with disabilities or members of minorities. Resort is only made to concerted international humanitarian aid with partners if adequate, requisite assistance cannot be organised by local civil society or government and other relevant actors (subsidiarity principle). Austria also advocates the consistent implementation of and compliance with international humanitarian law, the protection of the civilian population in armed conflicts and civilian-military collaboration.

In response to protracted and recurrent humanitarian crises, the nexus of humanitarian aid with development cooperation and peace consolidation needs to be reappraised, with prime importance attached to strengthening resilience against foreseeable crises and emphasising disaster risk reduction, stabilisation, peacekeeping, conflict prevention and resilience. Aligning humanitarian aid better with long-term development cooperation calls for greater flexibility and adaptability in development programmes to unforeseeable situations and changes in the needs of the afflicted population in prolonged crises. Other actors and policies need to be engaged in addition to official development assistance, including financial instruments that go beyond ODA to supplement the Foreign Disaster Fund.

¹¹ Fragile situations require a coordinated, complementary and coherent approach by all actors in the field. The 3C Approach is about concerted action by government agencies in diplomacy, development cooperation policy, the armed forces, financial and economic policy, police and judiciary and non-governmental organisations engaged in development cooperation, humanitarian aid, the protection and promotion of human rights and promoting peace, particularly civil peace services. This entails specific qualities, procedures, operating principles and intervention points at different levels, <http://www.fao.org/3/a-au866e.pdf>

¹² UN Security Council Resolution 1325, [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1325\(2000\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1325(2000)).

¹³ <http://www.entwicklung.at/en/media-centre/publications/programmes/>

5. BUILDING INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES AND PROMOTING WOMEN

- **Priority: equal rights at all levels**
- Strengthening progressive democratisation in partner countries and the political participation of disadvantaged groups ('Leave no one behind')
- Promoting the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the population
- Gender equality: promoting individual self-determination through equal participation in public and political life/ contributing to the eradication of discrimination on grounds of gender/implementing the EU Gender Action Plan II/enhancing the role of women in peace processes (UN Security Council Resolution 1325)
- Equal participation of persons with disabilities and improving accessibility in keeping with the objectives of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Involving civil society and the private sector as partners
- Consolidating good governance, establishing rule-of-law institutions
- Promoting development communication and education in Austria to inform the public and raise their awareness



INVOLVING EVERYONE

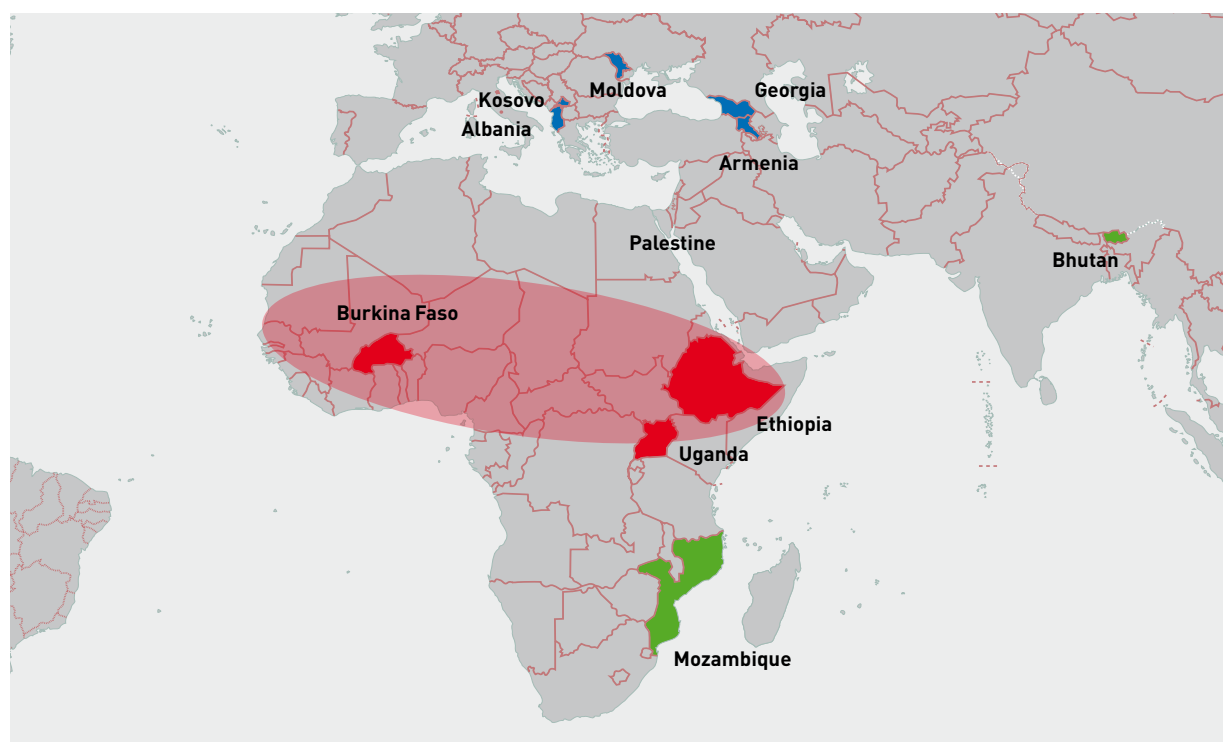
In all its programmes and projects, Austrian Development Cooperation pays special attention to implementing human rights. Primarily, we want to reach people that are particularly severely affected by poverty and inequality, including women, children, older people, persons with disabilities, minorities and disadvantaged social groups. Fostering inclusive societies is also an answer to radicalisation and violent extremism. SDGs 10 and 16 call for a commitment to justice, equal rights, access to justice for all and the establishment of efficient, accountable, inclusive and transparent institutions. Good governance is crucial for the sustainable implementation of human rights.

Geographic priorities, approaches and instruments

BASIC TYPES OF PRIORITY COUNTRIES AND KEY REGIONS

Austrian Development Cooperation relies on trust and partnership. Resources must be put to efficient use in our selected priority countries and key regions. We pool interests and expertise in three country categories, where we take a different approach and apply different instruments in cooperation with our partners, particularly the EU and partner countries:

1. The least developed countries (LDCs): poverty reduction, especially in Africa
2. South-East European/South Caucasian countries: focus on sustainable economic development
3. Crisis regions and fragile states: peace and security, stability and reconstruction, capacity development



Key¹⁴

■ Key region LDC ■ Key region South-East Europe/South Caucasus ■ Assessment of engagement

¹⁴ As crisis regions and fragile states belong to a global category, they are not depicted on the map.

Austria needs suitable local capacities to implement the priorities of its Three-Year Programme.

Development cooperation capacities in priority countries and key regions	
LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCS)	West Africa: Ouagadougou/Burkina Faso East Africa: Addis Ababa/Ethiopia Kampala/Uganda Southern Africa: Maputo/Mozambique Thimpu/Bhutan
SOUTH-EAST EUROPE/ SOUTH CAUCASUS	Pristina/Kosovo Tirana/Albania Chisinau/Moldova Tbilisi/Georgia Yerevan/Armenia
CRISIS REGIONS AND FRAGILE STATES	Ramallah/Palestine Global: management from Vienna

CRITERIA FOR PROCEDURES AND INSTRUMENTS

Austrian Development Cooperation attaches importance to the following criteria for our approaches in the respective country categories:

- Selecting specific instruments, depending on the political, economic and social climate
- Ensuring the predictability of Austrian Development Cooperation, while remaining responsive to changes
- Being responsive to development-policy challenges

Outline of major instruments	
LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCS)	Long-term strategic partnerships with countries or regional organisations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Longer-term development of public institutions, but also civil society – Private sector development, business partnerships, higher education and research collaborations – Focus on grants and microloans – Humanitarian aid measures in response to acute crises – OeEB loans and equity investments – Soft loans – Debt reduction and relief – Multilateral cooperation, including cofinancing, delegated implementation of EU programmes and cooperation with other donors

GEOGRAPHICAL PRIORITIES

Outline of major instruments	
SOUTH-EAST EUROPE/ SOUTH CAUCASUS	Longer-term Technical Cooperation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Developing institutional capacities, know-how transfer, including inclusive education, (dual) vocational training and higher education and research collaborations – Priority attached to economic cooperation: business partnerships, private-sector development – Promoting civil society – OeEB loans and equity investments – Soft loans – Multilateral cooperation, especially cofinancing, delegated implementation of EU programmes and cooperation with other donors
CRISIS REGIONS AND FRAGILE STATES	Limited-term engagement in short-term and medium-term conflict prevention/ post-conflict rehabilitation (Palestine: longer-term engagement): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Emergency relief measures in crises and the nexus among humanitarian aid, development cooperation and peace consolidation – Development cooperation support for stabilisation and peace missions – Peace-building, state-building and institutional and capacity development – Cooperation with civil society and the private sector – Conflict prevention – Support for returnee programmes – Focus on grant elements – Debt reduction and relief – Multilateral cooperation, particularly cofinancing arrangements, delegated implementation of EU programmes and cooperation with other donors – Measures to support the local population and prospective returnees
INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (IFIS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Investment finance – Budget support, balance of payments assistance, pre-funding – Institutional cooperation and capacity development – Knowledge products and advice

ASSESSING AND FOCUSING OUR ENGAGEMENT

During the term of the present Three-Year Programme, Austrian Development Cooperation will respond to current developments and make the necessary adjustments:

- **Bhutan – Focus on two thematic clusters:** renewable energies and capacity development in the public sector (especially the justice sector) and application of the water-energy-food security nexus approach with the aim of completing the engagement of Austrian Development Cooperation when Bhutan advances to the status of a middle income country
- **Southern Africa and Mozambique Region** – Focus on the water-energy-food security nexus and appraising the engagement of Austrian Development Cooperation before the end of 2021
- **South-East Europe** – Strategic alignment as part of the EU enlargement process and the EU Strategy for the Western Balkans

Forecast scenario 2017–2022¹

[EUR millions]

Total ODA		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
		Results					Forecast					
1. Bilateral ODA		417	409	480	705	892	738	1040	1047	1043	508	516
1.1 Total ADC/ADA		75	94	87	85	90	101	100	111	116	121	126
Budget for operational measures		59	77	69	65	72	84	83	93	98	103	108
ERP funds		7	7	8	9	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
ADA administrative costs		9	9	10	10	9	9	9	10	10	10	10
1.2 Other official donors		342	316	393	621	802	637	940	936	927	387	390
1.2.1 Federal government – grants		320	274	346	463	580	462	861	857	848	308	311
Bilateral programmes and projects (FMEIA, FMF, OeEB)		50	41	24	24	48	25	31	26	25	25	25
Donor-tied technical assistance		113	104	108	115	123	115	115	115	115	115	115
of which:												
imputed students' costs		89	77	79	94	100	95	95	95	95	95	95
Debt relief		82	34	82	1	7	9	560	577	565	22	23
of which: interest-rate reductions		5	2	2	1	7	0	0	0	1	1	1
of which: other debt reductions		78	31	81	0	0	9	560	577	564	21	22
Grants for loan finance		11	32	30	28	26	30	19	5	5	5	5
Humanitarian aid		11	10	10	13	22	25	23	21	25	28	30
of which: FDF		4	7	5	5	10	20	15	15	20	23	25
Administration (FMEIA, FMF)		15	16	16	18	19	18	18	18	18	18	18
Asylum seekers ²		27	29	49	251	323	230	85	85	85	85	85
Other grants		10	9	25	13	12	10	10	10	10	10	10
1.2.2 Federal provinces & municipalities²		24	25	41	153	221	160	64	64	64	64	64
1.2.3 Bilateral loans and equity investment		-1	17	7	5	1	15	15	15	15	15	15
2. Multilateral ODA		445	473	451	488	587	513	591	583	583	583	583
2.1 Contributions to UN agencies		19	38	18	19	37	15	15	15	15	15	15
of which: FMEIA voluntary contributions to UN agencies		8	16	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
2.2 International financial institutions		197	205	191	190	233	248	240	230	230	230	230
2.3 Other organisations		15	5	6	37	18	5	5	5	5	5	5
2.4 EU		214	225	236	241	299	245	331	333	333	333	333
2.4.1 of which: budget ³		144	147	157	159	216	149	216	216	216	216	216
2.4.2 of which: EDF		70	78	79	82	83	96,2	115	117	117	117	117
3. Total ODA		862	882	930	1,193	1,479	1,251	1,631	1,630	1,626	1,091	1,099
as % of GNI		0.27	0.27	0.28	0.35	0.42	0.35	0.42	0.40	0.39	0.25	0.24
GNI in EUR millions		317,440	323,410	327,120	338,520	353,117	360,650	387,718	403,064	418,624	434,784	449,474

1) The figures cited here are without prejudice to provisions to be made by the National Council under financial law.

2) Owing to volatile migration movements, the estimates in this area are subject to a high degree of uncertainty.

3) Since the financial framework as of 2021 has not yet been set, the forecast figures can be higher or lower.

Mission Statement

Whole-of-government consensus for development policy

MISSION STATEMENT

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy and the European Consensus on Development make up the policy framework for our global cooperation and form part of our international commitments. Austria is committed to ensuring that people worldwide can live in prosperity, dignity and the best possible health as well as in freedom and peace.

Extreme poverty, hunger, climate change and conflicts pose some of the greatest obstacles to development, but prolonged crises, natural disasters, transboundary health hazards, irregular migration and forced displacement are also global challenges that can only be mastered together. This is why combating poverty and inequality, human security, good governance and the preservation of an environment worth living in are key items on the agenda of Austrian development policy. Austria remains committed to the international target of providing 0.7 per cent of gross national income for development cooperation.

In our developmental work, we want to intervene where Austria has special strengths: the specific know-how of our business and industry and our scientific, research and (higher) education system, experience with social partnership and our public administration and the engagement of our civil society. A well-informed public and development education work in Austria also play a key role in our efforts.

To achieve our goals, we set the following priorities:

- **Focusing on people, their needs and rights:** We are committed to helping population groups that suffer most from poverty and live in particularly precarious situations, with a special focus on the status of women, children, older people, persons with disabilities and other especially vulnerable groups. In high-growth societies, this calls for good governance – including legal certainty, political participation, the equitable distribution of wealth and enabling people and organisations to take ownership at local level.
- **Sustainable management:** We are committed to inclusive and pro-poor economic growth and decent work that reduces poverty in the long term and creates jobs to international environmental and social standards. This is how we want to make a contribution to sustainable development, social equity and a fair global economy.

- **Developing and using capacities:** We invest in education, qualification and capacity development for good governance, in public agencies and the private sector, with Austrian business and industry and civil society playing a special role.
- **Environment-friendly planning and implementation:** We are committed to environmentally clean development, the sustainable use of natural resources and the protection of habitats in urban and rural areas. This is why we promote situational approaches that combine modern technologies and local skills.
- **A world without fear:** We set up efficient crisis management capabilities and are dedicated to securing peace, stabilisation, dialogue and building viable state institutions and conflict prevention. Humanitarian aid is a major component of Austria's international engagement.

How we intend to put these priorities into practice:

- Act in partnership – strengthen ownership
- Work together for a coherent development policy
- Enhance effectiveness, management for results, efficiency and transparency

...because development policy brings people together throughout the world and there can be no future without global partnership.

This mission statement was prepared together with all stakeholders of Austrian development policy in 2012 and updated for the present Three-Year Programme.

FIELDS OF ACTIVITY

The following fields of activity have been defined by all the stakeholders of Austrian development policy.

Eradicating poverty – Meeting basic needs

Sustainable water management and sanitation

- Improving equal access to and the use of water supply and sanitation facilities and fulfilling the human right to water by implementing supply schemes
- Promoting integrated and sustainable water resource management (groundwater and surface water) through participatory involvement of the population and accounting for conflicts over use
- Protecting water-related ecosystems, such as wetlands, rivers, lakes, etc. by conducting measures for watercourse development

Affordable, reliable and sustainable energy

- Facilitating access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy for all population groups
- Promoting sustainable energy solutions and energy efficiency for environmentally sustainable economic and social development in partner countries for the benefit of all
- Fostering regional cooperation, e.g. networks and regional energy centres, and promoting investments in sustainable energies and energy efficiency, involving the local population and accounting for current use conflicts to help advance sustainable economic and social development
- Improving and setting up local value chains by empowering local actors

Food security through sustainable agriculture

- Raising food security through locally/regionally produced and consumed food (food sovereignty) and fulfilling the human right to food
- Increasing income and improving local content by raising productivity, preventing harvest and post-harvest losses and facilitating market access
- Planning for sustainable, inclusive land use by promoting environmentally sustainable production
- Guaranteeing property and use rights for the local population, especially by adhering to the voluntary FAO guidelines and the CFS Principles¹⁵

Educational collaborations with partner countries

- **Conducting measures in education as a public good and a whole-of-society/whole-of-government task:**
 - Strengthening and developing modern, inclusive educational systems (including greater permeability among educational tiers and formal and non-formal training/education)
 - Improving equal opportunities and the associated access to education, especially for poor and marginalised sections of the population, ethnic and religious minorities and persons with disabilities
 - Accounting for education in humanitarian aid and in the subsequent transition to long-term support for people in crisis situations
- **Conducting vocational training measures to raise and ensure the quality of education in all areas:**
 - Supporting reform processes in the vocational training sector
 - Raising the labour-market relevance, practical focus, inclusivity and quality of vocational training both at school and company level and combined courses and/or establishing new, modern vocational training courses that are institutionalised or approved in the educational system
 - Fostering entrepreneurship
 - Promoting and establishing institutions for sustainable cooperation among education, business and industry, social partners and other relevant actors in civil-society
 - Providing career advice and occupational guidance services and interfacing training with the labour market
 - Helping to retain skilled personnel in the country and prevent a brain drain
- **Conducting measures in the tertiary sector**
 - Assisting reform processes in higher education, science and research
 - Strengthening institutional and human resources in academic teaching, research and management
 - Funding programmes of study that are relevant to the labour market, based on needs, inclusive and meet high quality standards
 - Promoting regional and international collaboration in the tertiary education sector (especially Austrian participation in and support for South-South cooperation)
 - Promoting the mobility of students and academic teachers (preventing brain drain/stimulating brain circulation)
 - Promoting broad, inclusive access to higher education, especially for poor and marginalised sections of the population
 - Assisting academic research and teaching in the tertiary sector in Austria on issues of global development

¹⁵ Voluntary Guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security, FAO 2012, <http://www.fao.org/docrep/016/i2801e/i2801e.pdf>, Principles for responsible investment in agriculture and food systems, CFS 2014, <http://www.fao.org/3/a-au866e.pdf>.

Health

- Preventing and controlling non-communicable diseases, including fostering mental health through intersectoral measures with socio-economic and environmental health determinants
- Promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Combating female genital mutilation, adopting an inclusive and socially-sensitive approach
- Improving drinking water supply and sanitation – preventing water-transmitted diseases
- Improving health infrastructure under the FMF Soft Loan Programme
- Providing emergency health care for women, girls, children, youth and other vulnerable groups, especially in humanitarian aid

Building a sustainable economy

Sustainable economy

- Strengthening vocational qualification and training with a focus on young people and dual training at educational system and company level in the partner country, including through know-how transfer (Austrian expertise) and study visits to Austria
- Facilitating access to long-term finance for productive investments, especially for SMEs, through Austrian engagement in the international financial institutions and the operations of OeEB (loans, guarantees, equity investments)
- Improving functional markets through inclusive market system development; analysing the assimilation and/or dependency of especially poorer population groups on and in various markets – for work, information, goods and services – with the aim of remedying dysfunctional or distorted markets through systemic reform
- Supporting and propagating the main internationally harmonised agreements on corporate social responsibility, that is, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Supporting measures in sectoral, industrial and financial sector development in collaboration with IFIs and UNIDO by imparting and contributing Austrian know-how and expertise in IFI projects, also for capacity development, including government institutions
- Consistently pursuing environmental and social safeguards in IFIs
- Promoting the establishment and expansion of sustainable and resilient infrastructure accessible to all, especially in the course of collaboration with IFIs, using Austrian know-how
- Supporting projects/programmes in fair trade and measures aimed at its inclusion in international supply and value chains to raise local content
- Stepping up measures for disseminating information on and raising awareness of sustainable development
- Supporting measures for the economic empowerment of women
- Promoting innovation and innovative processes in partner countries
- Assisting partner countries in projects/programmes for the broader application of modern environmental and energy technologies to strengthen the recycling economy for resource conservation and efficiency

Protecting and preserving the environment

Environment and climate mainstreaming

- Raising the ratio of environmental measures in programmable official development assistance to 45 per cent
- Increasing the Austrian contribution to international climate finance within the upper limits of the respective Federal Budgeting Framework Act
- Supporting finance for measures to reduce greenhouse gases
- Ensuring the prevention of irreversible environmental damage through consistent adherence to the precautionary principle when assessing the impact of possible disruptions as a starting point; subsequently ruling out measures such as geo-engineering
- Ensuring an effective and transparent allocation of funds for environmental measures to be able to cope effectively with environmental and climate challenges, even with limited funds, while mobilising more private finance for environmental and climate protection
- Consistently conducting regional and situational analyses (environmental and social impact assessments and safeguards) in all programmes and projects to identify and prevent more adverse impacts on the environment and maximise the beneficial effect (systematic decoupling of development measures and adverse environmental impacts)
- Maximising the prevention of activities that are harmful to the environment and climate, including the exclusion of high-carbon forms of energy
- Consistently applying the mitigation hierarchy¹⁶ and ranking environmentally sustainable programmes and projects in order of priority, while excluding those whose adverse effects can only be prevented with environmental offsetting
- Strengthening environmental legislation and its implementation, also in combating environmental crime
- Supporting socio-economic development measures by incorporating environmental aspects
- Reinforcing the resilience of local communities and mitigating the ensuing impacts of environmental disasters through capacity development
- Guaranteeing effective environmental mainstreaming through capacity development and support in establishing the institutional framework

¹⁶ If possible adverse consequences are identified in environmental and social impact assessments, a phased procedure will be adopted in keeping with mitigation hierarchy. In an initial step, the projects and programmes must be carried out or redesigned to fully prevent adverse effects. If this is not feasible, they must then seek to minimise possible repercussions and remedy these with recultivation measures. Persistent impacts or losses must be mitigated in a final step with environmental offsetting measures.

Combating climate change and its impacts

- Helping to mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Enhancing the resilience of national and local communities, particularly in risk areas, through adaptation to the impacts of climate change
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and minimising the impacts of climate change in urban areas, also by applying green technologies and framing sustainable strategies in transport and mobility; developing capacity for enhancing resilience, especially among poor and vulnerable population groups
- Upgrading the information base and knowledge on anticipated climate changes through improved access to climate and meteorological data at all levels

Protection of ecosystems

- Combating soil degradation and biodiversity loss while improving the food and income security of local populations, especially the poorest sections
- Promoting biological, environmentally adapted, multifunctional agriculture and organic farming
- Raising global awareness of genetically modified organisms and promoting their careful use with the aim of preventing their consumption in the long term worldwide
- Assisting groups that are particularly vulnerable to political and social discrimination, such as indigenous communities, by securing land and use rights and implementing sustainable, long-term land use planning
- Securing protected areas and promoting innovative incentive measures for resource conservation with the involvement of the local population
- Promoting sustainable forest and timber management to help prevent the loss and degradation of forest ecosystems and maintain the food and income security of the local population
- Promoting integrated water resource management that contributes to the sustainable use and conservation of the aquatic ecosystems and wetlands

Responsible use of natural resources

- Promoting resource efficiency and a recycling economy through the sustainable use of resources
- Supporting safe handling of, trade in and disposal of chemicals through compliance with internationally agreed regulations throughout the whole lifecycle
- Strengthening institutions and capacities to promote sustainable waste management and curtail food losses
- Promoting sustainable production and consumption to minimise adverse impacts on all ecosystems as far as possible

Commitment to peace and security

Peace, security and development

- Laying the foundations for the peaceful and inclusive reconciliation of interests and a functioning democracy by supporting states in fragile situations to build their institutions (peacebuilding, state-building, transitional justice and resilience)
- Fostering social cohesion at all levels by stepping up civil-society, intercultural and intergenerational dialogue, primarily on human rights
- Supporting durable peace through measures for mediation, building confidence and underpinning peace processes
- Conducting measures against radicalisation and violent extremism by fostering peace and tolerance
- Combating human trafficking and other forms of transnational organised crime
- Achieving lasting peace by strengthening and supporting women in all phases of conflict resolution (in pursuance of UNSCR 1325 and ensuing resolutions)
- Protecting the civilian population in armed conflicts (in pursuance of UNSCR 1894) through active civil-military engagement, e.g. participation in missions for the protection of the civilian population by the Austrian Armed Forces and reinforcing civilian components in mandated, peacekeeping measures
- Protecting the rights and addressing the needs of children and youth in particular as a prerequisite for the peaceful co-existence of future generations
- Promoting a democratically controlled security sector and preventing armed conflicts by expanding early-warning and response systems
- Supporting sustainable institutions for peace by developing capacity and strengthening and promoting local as well as regional organisations and networks

Migration

- Improving the conditions of life and creating prospects in home countries, primarily through measures in the migration-sensitive areas of labour-market, social and education policy with a special focus on youth, laying the foundation for a socially and environmentally sustainable economy and supporting private-sector development and decent work
- Supporting dual training (especially for youth and young adults) as a contribution to preventing brain drain
- Adopting an integral, whole-of-society approach among all actors of relevance to migration policy at national level to coordinate it at whole-of-government level
- Stepping up cooperation at bilateral, regional and global level (EU and UN) to harness synergies between development-policy measures and regular migration

- Combating human trafficking to eradicate the inhuman practices of organised crime (National Action Plan)
- Promoting the process for the sustainable reintegration of returnees and mobilising their potential in the home regions with development cooperation measures, focusing on a community-based-approach and with the involvement of the local population; conducting measures to step up information to returnees about their opportunities at home
- Carrying out informational measures with a focus on preventing misinformation, including educational work on the risks of irregular migration due to human trafficking and organised crime
- Financing indirect study place costs in the higher education sector if requirements have been met
- Taking measures that benefit both the local population and prospective returnees

Forced displacement

- Engaging at whole-of-government level to prevent the causes of forced displacement
- Protecting and supporting refugees and internally displaced persons with humanitarian aid and assisting in developing capacity for refugee protection in partner countries
- Creating alternatives for refugees to stem human smuggling and trafficking
- Supporting the local population in host countries to cope with the humanitarian, social and development-policy challenges posed by displaced persons in the region

Humanitarian aid

- Advocating adherence to international humanitarian law and access to humanitarian aid and the protection of the civilian population in armed conflicts¹⁷
- Strengthening international protection for internally displaced persons and raising awareness of their special needs
- Ensuring gender equality and the inclusion of disadvantaged groups in the whole project/programme cycle and the participation of affected groups in local decision-making, supervisory and responsibility mechanisms
- Assisting persons with disabilities in the event of crisis and disaster, e.g. through planning for accessibility and communication
- Ensuring the implementation of the Inclusion Charter in all humanitarian measures
- Enhancing resilience and conflict prevention through complementarity and paying joint attention to measures for humanitarian aid, development and peace consolidation as well as disaster risk reduction
- Stepping up support for resilience, especially in chronic crisis regions to raise the resilience of individuals, communities and local systems and take preventive action in anticipation of recurrent threats (expanding disaster risk reduction)
- Engaging in different ways in various types of humanitarian crises, especially prolonged, complex and forgotten ones, by accounting for the humanitarian aid-development-peace consolidation nexus
- Stepping up support for local actors as first responders and involving them systematically as partners in planning humanitarian measures; improving direct access to financial humanitarian aid for local actors
- Recognising the potential of cash transfer to afflicted populations (cash transfer programming), wherever local conditions permit
- Framing programmes for the security of Austrian civilian personnel in crisis and conflict situations, especially training and coaching as well as communication and information exchange before and during assignments
- Taking measures to protect refugees and migrants in camps and on escape routes from radicalisation trends and recruitment by violent, extremist groups and victims of violent extremism in adherence to the do-no-harm principle

Building inclusive societies and promoting women

Human rights and democracy

- Promoting individual self-determination, equality and the prevention of violence by protecting and advancing the rights of women and vulnerable groups, such as children and youth, older people, persons with disabilities, ethnic and religious minorities and persons who are discriminated against on grounds of their sexual orientation and gender identity as well people who are subject to multiple discrimination
- Improving equal opportunities by implementing economic, social, political, civil and cultural rights
- Strengthening diverse civil society organisations in partner countries (also via dialogue with diaspora organisations) and promoting human-rights education to enhance resilience and prevent conflict
- Mainstreaming the principles of non-discrimination, participation and inclusion in all fields of Austrian development policy in adherence to the SDG principle of leaving no one behind and social cohesion as the basis for every society
- Providing tangible assistance for measures in partner countries to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (particularly in priority countries)
- Supporting quality reporting and local and community-based analogue and digital media for raising awareness; facilitating public access to information and improving the security of journalists in partner countries for freedom of speech and information

¹⁷ Here, Austrian Development Cooperation complements Austrian efforts towards the consistent implementation of international humanitarian law and support for initiatives to raise compliance with it, including respect for persons and locations defined as protected; greater engagement for the elimination of explosive weapons with a wide-area effect in populated areas consistent with commitments under international humanitarian law; enhanced engagement for banning anti-personnel mines with the aim of a mine-free world, including the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (Ottawa Treaty, Federal Law Gazette I p. III. No. 38/1999).

Rule of law and good governance

- Strengthening good governance and rule of law/accountability through institutional and capacity development (e.g. parliaments, ombuds agencies, supreme audit institutions, judiciary) and decentralisation in favour of local institutions
- Supporting parliamentarianism through interparliamentary cooperation with partner countries, also to prevent possible trends towards increasing autocracy and militarism; helping to enable equal access for all to justice, particularly disadvantaged groups and human-rights institutions, through effective legal redress, complaints and compensation mechanisms as well as transparency, accountability and anti-corruption with the involvement of civil society
- Consolidating the human-rights-based approach in corporate social responsibility and multilateral institutions, applying the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (Ruggie Principles) for the effective implementation of environmental, social and labour standards and achieving social peace
- Enabling fair access to public goods and services in rural and urban areas

Gender

- Systematically mainstreaming women's rights and gender equality issues in bilateral, multilateral and multi-donor development-policy dialogue
- Promoting specific measures for consolidating women's rights and eradicating gender discrimination in the project and programme management cycle (gender mainstreaming) based on gender analyses and accounting for the institutional framework and the three thematic clusters of EU GAP II: combating all forms of violence against women, strengthening the social and economic rights of women and girls and increasing their say and participation
- Raising the ratio of projects and programmes as part of international development cooperation with an OECD gender marker of 1 or 2 to meet the EU GAP II target of 85 per cent of programmable assistance by 2020 by incorporating the gender-equality perspective in all ADC priorities
- Combating sexual and gender-based violence as well as female genital mutilation, particularly in crisis zones and fragile states
- Raising the ratio of transformational gender-based programmes, also to address the underlying causes of inequality (formal and informal laws, standards and practices that restrict access to justice and resources and limit the scope for empowerment)
- Promoting efficient gender budgeting at national, regional and municipal level
- Ensuring a systematic gender perspective in social protection
- Accounting for gender equality aspects in ADC-financed climate-protection and renewable-energy measures
- Enlarging the participation of women in decision-making procedures and protecting them against gender-based violence in all phases of conflict resolution by supporting measures for implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and ensuing resolutions
- Empowering women in economic life by pursuing the following objectives – equal access to decent work, economic resources and financial services – and by creating incentives for gender-equality measures in cooperation with the private sector and mainstreaming the UN Global Compact's Women Empowerment Principles in enterprises
- Supporting and involving women's rights organisations
- Protecting activists for women's rights and against discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity as well as human rights defenders
- Including men and boys in gender equality work (projects and programmes, events, awareness measures)

Development education work and public relations in Austria

- Portraying the social, environmental and economic aspects of development, especially with a view to the 2030 Agenda as well as highlighting the opportunities and benefits of development cooperation for Austria, while also making a critical appraisal
- Discussing Austria's global networking and the attendant scope and challenges, particularly related to the Sustainable Development Goals
- Organising voluntary, quality-assured stays abroad (activities under the Foreign Volunteer Service Act 2015 and others that contribute to development education in Austria)
- Advancing global learning/global citizenship education for modern general education (in schools, universities, out-of-school work with children and youth and also adult education)
- Fostering dialogue, cooperation and strategic partnerships together with institutions, organisations and businesses outside the development-policy sector
- Promoting civil-society projects and strengthening tried and tested institutions
- Supporting campaigns for reinforcing relevant thematic clusters
- Advancing arguments for the impacts and benefits of development policy to the Austrian public







