



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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# STRATEGY FOR ICELAND'S DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION 2013-2016

*A proposal for a parliamentary resolution on a Strategy for Iceland's Development Cooperation 2013-2016 was adopted by Althingi on March 21, 2013. The Strategy is in accordance with Act no. 121/2008 on Iceland's International Development Cooperation. A key objective of the Act is to take a holistic approach to Iceland's development policy. Accordingly, the Strategy covers multilateral and bilateral cooperation, humanitarian assistance and peace-building efforts.*

## Principles and Values

The Strategy identifies international development cooperation as one of the key pillars of Iceland's foreign policy. It furthermore confirms Iceland's commitment to reaching the goal of allocating 0.7% of GNI to ODA. The guiding principles for development cooperation are responsibility, credibility and results. Iceland's development policy is rooted in the fundamental rights of all people as set out in the Charter of the United Nations, emphasising tolerance, justice, solidarity and cultural diversity. The Strategy builds on the Millennium Development Goals, focusing on the fight against poverty and hunger, as well as highlighting human rights, gender equality, democracy, peace and security.

## Priority Areas

Iceland's ODA has three priority areas: Natural resources, social infrastructure and peace-building. Within those areas the focus will be on fisheries and renewable energy, education and health, good governance and reconstruction. Furthermore, special emphasis will be given to gender equality and environmental considerations as cross-cutting themes.



Photo: GSaf

## Geographic Priorities

Bilateral partner countries are Malawi, Mozambique and Uganda, where the Icelandic International Development Agency (ICEIDA) operates. Special attention is also given to peace-building in Afghanistan and support to Palestinian refugees by means of contributions and secondments of experts to international organisations.

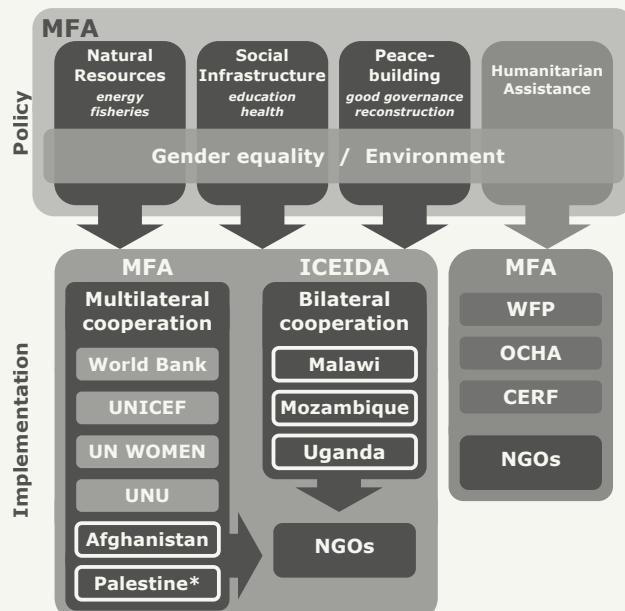
## Institutional Focus

Four multilateral agencies are identified as key institutions: The World Bank Group, UNICEF, UN Women and the United Nations University. Humanitarian assistance represents an increasingly important element in Iceland's development policy, focusing on the work of non-governmental organisations, the World Food Programme, the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).



## Development Effectiveness

Iceland became a member of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) on March 14 2013. The Strategy emphasises international agreements on results and effectiveness, such as the Paris Declaration, the Accra Agenda for Action and the Busan Partnership Agreement. Furthermore, joint working groups of experts of the ministry and ICEIDA have been created to increase harmonisation and effectiveness of Iceland's international development cooperation. Opportunities for a stronger role of the private sector will be identified, a strategy on monitoring and evaluation formulated and an overview of possibilities regarding policy coherence laid down.



\* Occupied Palestinian Territory

## The United Nations University in Iceland

The United Nations University (UNU) was established in 1973 with the mission to finding solutions to global problems through research, capacity building and transfer of knowledge, particularly in developing countries.

Iceland hosts four UNU training programmes.

**The UNU Geothermal Training Programme**, created in 1979, assists developing countries with significant geothermal potential to build capacity in geothermal exploration and development.

**The UNU Fisheries Training Programme**, operating since 1998, has the objective to support developing countries achieve their developmental goals in fisheries through training, education and building institutional capacity.

**The UNU Land Restoration Programme** became a part of the UNU network in 2010 and has the mission to fight land degradation, soil erosion, unsustainable land use and desertification.

**The UNU Gender Equality Studies and Training Programme** is the newest member of the UNU family in Iceland, but it became a part of the UNU network in 2013. The objective of the Programme is to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in developing countries and post-conflict societies through education, research and training.

The UNU programmes offer six months post-graduate training for practicing professionals from developing countries. The programmes also offer short courses in partner countries and scholarships towards post-graduate degrees at Icelandic universities. The training programmes are funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and constitute a significant part of Iceland's development cooperation.