

# Finland and the 2030 Agenda

– A follow-up report by CSOs

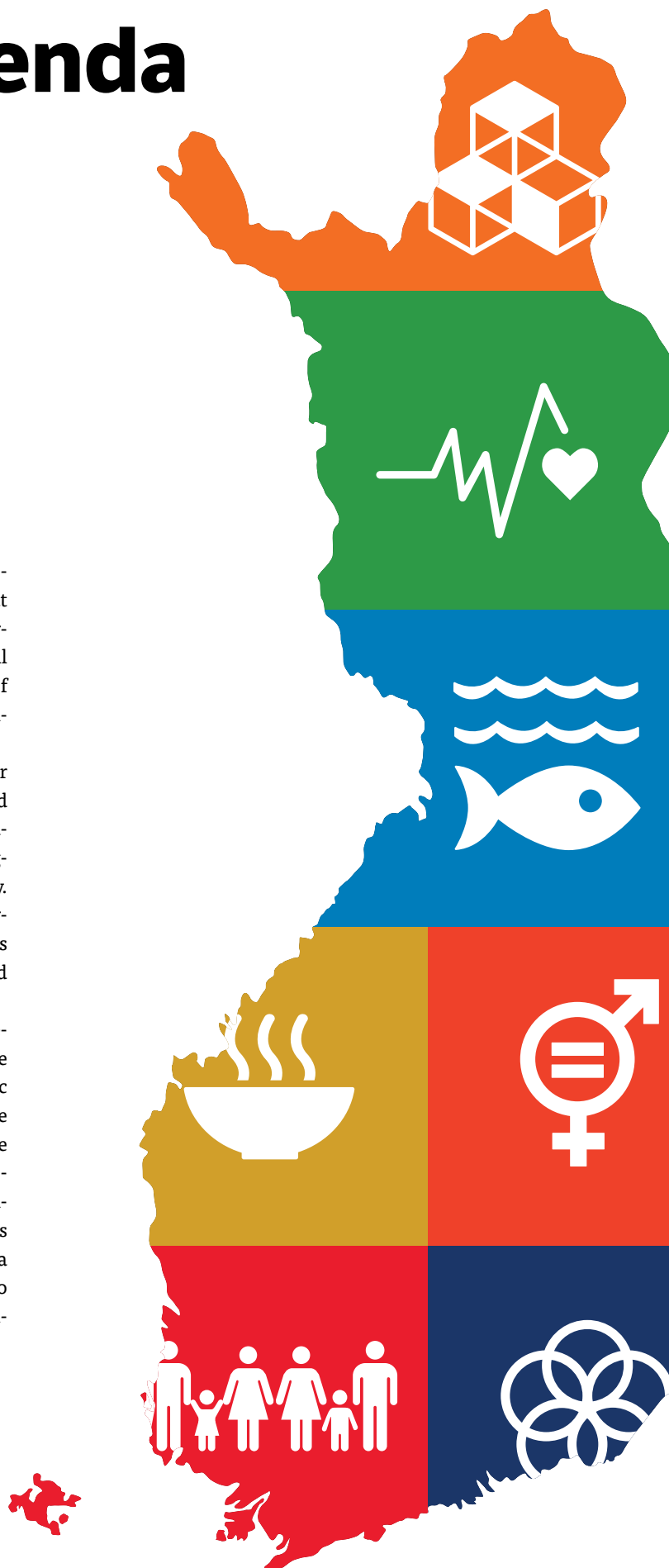
2017

## Is Finland still the model country for sustainable development?

**FINLAND HAS A STRONG REPUTATION** as a leader in sustainable development. International comparisons show that Finland is doing well on many indicators. Our society is fairly equal, inequality is relatively rare, and most Finns are well educated. In addition, public healthcare and a wide range of cultural and sports services ensure our well-being in a manner that many countries cannot even dream about.

However, our relatively good situation is no reason for us to rest on our laurels. The world is changing, and Finland must keep up with the changes. Because of our good situation, we are well positioned to address the national challenges in sustainable development and take global responsibility. Global problems affect Finland, and our actions have international effects. We are closely connected with the earth's 7.5 billion people, 2 million animal species, five oceans and six continents.

The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires all countries to take ambitious measures to improve social justice, the state of the environment and economic sustainability – nationally and internationally. An extensive international programme for ensuring conditions where all life can thrive is a great achievement in itself. The programme includes 17 goals, which makes it the most comprehensive endeavour of its kind in history. The purpose is to ensure that future generations have opportunities for a sustainable life. The 2030 Agenda offers an opportunity to change society and the international community significantly, provided that there is the political will to do so. >>





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## More ambitious implementation is needed nationally

The state has the main responsibility for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. At the beginning of 2017, the Prime Minister's Office published a plan<sup>1</sup> for Finland to address the new goals for sustainable development.

The preparation of the plan began with an extensive stakeholder consultation. CSOs were delighted to have the opportunity to influence the implementation. We drew up recommendations for the Government of Finland and municipalities<sup>2</sup> for achieving each goal. However, the implementation plan published by the Prime Minister's Office in February 2017 was a disappointment. It was an opportunity to create an ambitious long-term plan for sustainable development and to apply new approaches. Instead, we were presented with a short-sighted programme that offered nothing new when compared with the programme of Prime Minister Sipilä's Government.

It is alarming that the Government of Finland is not considering the international effects of our national policies. In the spirit of the 2030 Agenda, the report highlights the importance of consistency and global partnerships as one of three policy principles of the implementation plan. However, the report fails to mention consistency when it comes to political areas of focus and practical policy measures. The global dimension is discussed separately from national policies, and there is practically no mention of the more extensive effects of national measures on global development.

The best aspect of the implementation plan is a follow-up system that extends beyond the Government's term of office and offers an opportunity for extensive public discussion. The implementation plan was published as a Government Report, which was something that the CSOs had hoped for, as this ensured an extensive discussion about the plan in Parliament. Representatives of civil society have actively participated in the public discussion about sustainable development and issued statements to encourage political decision-makers to commit to promoting sustainable development in Finland and globally.

Finland has created indicators for monitoring progress in terms of achieving the goals for sustainable development. A broad-based monitoring group was established for this purpose, with representatives from ministries, research institutes, trade organisations and CSOs. Creating effective indicators is not a simple task, and it involves making choices between areas of focus. Insufficient resources are adding to the challenge. A reluctance to ensure sufficient resources for this work is an indication of an unfortunate lack of commitment. It would make a great difference to have a bit more full-time resources to coordinate the work, creating an overview and finding new monitoring methods. The lack of

resources threatens the monitoring of all such information which would be relevant regarding the sustainable development and relatively easily gathered.

However, it is excellent that Finland has taken measures to implement the 2030 Agenda. Finland is one of the first countries in the world to have prepared a national interpretation of the programme and an action plan. In addition, Finland was one of the first countries to voluntarily report on its progress at the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) 2030 Agenda meeting in July 2016. Finland's delegation also included civil society representatives. The role of sustainable development in decision-making has also been enhanced by strengthening the roles of, and the cooperation between, the National Commission on Sustainable Development and the Development Policy Committee. Representatives of civil society have had relatively good opportunities to participate in the discussion about the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Finland. At the same time, however, it is often difficult for organisations to get their voices heard and have their views considered until the final decisions.

Organisations hope for a deeper commitment from decision-makers to the implementation of sustainable development and a more long-term view of the international effects of our national policies. To remain a leader in sustainable development, Finland must make bold decisions to reduce inequality and respect the carrying capacity of the globe.

## Proposals for implementing sustainable development

This follow-up report examines the current state of the implementation of sustainable development in Finland and provides Finnish decision-makers with concrete tools for achieving the goals for sustainable development. The report includes policy recommendations for global policies, national decision-making and work at the level of municipalities and regions.

It covers the seven goals that will be discussed at the HLPF of 2017. The High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development convenes annually to monitor progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in different countries and to share information. The meeting focuses on a specific set of goals each year. The following goals will be discussed in July 2017: no poverty (Goal 1); no hunger (Goal 2); health and well-being (Goal 3); gender equality (Goal 5); sustainable industry, innovation and infrastructure (Goal 9); oceans, seas and marine resources (Goal 14); and cooperation and partnerships (Goal 17), which is discussed every year.

This report was prepared by ten organisations, with each being responsible for its respective area of expertise. Other organisations have also contributed to this report. Kepa compiled the report and is responsible for the content related to Goal 17 (cooperation and partnerships). This report will be published in English at the HLPF, as part of the international Social Watch network's Spotlight series of reports.

1 Prime Minister's Office (2017). Government Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Sustainable Development in Finland – Long-term, Coherent and Inclusive Action. VNS 1/2017.

2 Recommendations by Finnish civil society organisations for Finland's 2030 Agenda implementation plan. 2016. <https://www.kepa.fi/tiedostot/agenta-2030cso-recommendationsfinland.pdf>



# Goal 1: No poverty

– Everyone is entitled to a life of dignity

Save the Children Finland<sup>3</sup>

**GLOBAL RECOMMENDATION:** The development cooperation funding provided by Finland must be targeted at the poorest people. This is achieved by targeting at least 50 per cent of the funding at the least developed countries. Reducing extreme poverty and ensuring human rights are the main goals for Finland's development policy and must guide all operations. Finland must support an inclusive poverty-reduction policy, with a special focus on the most vulnerable people and social security in developing countries.

**CURRENT SITUATION:** Poverty is not only a lack of money or property. It means multidimensional scarcity with regard to basic needs and well-being. Dominant economic indicators do not measure the many dimensions of poverty.

Reducing poverty is the primary goal for Finland's development policy. Its high-quality implementation calls for stability and a long-term perspective. Some European countries have drawn up development cooperation laws or binding programmes that do not change according to the composition of the government.

In Finland, Prime Minister Sipilä's Government implemented significant cutbacks in the funding for development cooperation, which is now 0,39 per cent of gross national income. The proportion of funding targeted at the poorest countries has decreased to 0.16 per cent, which is clearly below the international goal of 0.2 per cent.

Finland has made a commitment to improve the rights and living conditions of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people.<sup>4</sup> Neither the targeting of development cooperation work at the poorest people nor the effects of this work have been evaluated extensively.

**THE FINLAND OF TOMORROW:** The global reduction of poverty and inequality is at the core of Finland's development policy.

## Finland must:

- ✓ Make reducing poverty the primary goal of its development policy. Finland must publicly commit to achieving the international goal of 0.7 per cent and prepare a schedule accordingly. At least 50 per cent of Finland's development funding must be targeted at the least developed countries, and ensure that the funding for the poorest countries represents at least 0.2 per cent of gross national income.
- ✓ Evaluate the results of all work supported by means of development cooperation funding, including private-sector projects, in terms of improvement in the standard of living of vulnerable groups and the poorest people and the availability of services for them.
- ✓ Increase its support for measuring well-being, developing social security systems and helping the poorest countries to produce information about inequality.
- ✓ Continue to develop the tax systems of its partner countries and make an international impact to increase the transparency of business operations, reduce capital flight and improve trust among members of the public.
- ✓ Reduce poverty, coherently. Consistency must be one of the principles guiding national decision-making and Finland's commitments in the EU. When making trade policy decisions, Finland must assess their effects on the lives of the poorest people.

## Examples of the work carried out by organisations

Save the Children, the Finnish Association of People with Physical Disabilities (Invalidiliitto) and UNICEF are working together with local partners and governments to reduce poverty by supporting the development of social security systems in different parts of the world. Through its programme of child-friendly social security, Save the Children is developing existing forms of social security in cooperation with the local authorities, to include children more effectively and ensure that the support is used to benefit the child.

Invalidiliitto is supporting livelihood and food-security groups for the disabled members of its partner organisation in Zambia, where most of the population is living in poverty. The disabled participants of the project have benefited from the new form of social security developed and supported by Finland for the poorest people.

UNICEF cooperates with governments and other operators by supporting the development of child-friendly and gender-sensitive social security systems. Inclusive, integrated social security systems are an effective way to reduce intergenerational poverty and promote equality.

<sup>3</sup> Material was collected at a workshop with representatives from Save the Children Finland, the Finnish Association of People with Physical Disabilities, The International Solidarity Association, Finnish Committee for UNICEF and Finland National Committee for UN Women.

<sup>4</sup> Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (2016). Finland's Development Policy. One world, common future – Towards sustainable development. Government report to Parliament, 4 February 2016, p. 13.



# Goal 1: No poverty

– Everyone is entitled to a life of dignity

SOSTE Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health

**NATIONAL RECOMMENDATION:** For Finland to achieve its goal of reducing the number of people living in poverty by at least 50 per cent, the living conditions of the more than 900,000 people who are at risk of poverty or social exclusion must be improved significantly. **The reduction of poverty requires a systematic social policy: improving the employment rate and reducing long-term unemployment, increasing the production of reasonably priced housing for rent, ensuring strong social security and equal education, and improving the level of basic social security.** The introduction of a sufficient basic income would reduce poverty. Poverty statistics must be presented in a gender-sensitive and an age-sensitive manner.

**CURRENT SITUATION:** Almost 17 per cent of people in Finland – or 904,000 people – were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2014. Through its goals for the Europe 2020 strategy, Finland is committed to reducing this number of people to 770,000 by 2020.<sup>5</sup>

Of the people living in Finland, 11.7 per cent – or 631,000 people – belonged to the low-income group in 2015. Their income was less than 60 per cent of the median, income. In 2015, this meant an income of less than EUR 1,185 per month for single-person households. The low-income rate has decreased slightly over the past few years. It was at its highest in 2008, at 13.9 per cent.<sup>6</sup> The minimum budget standard indicates that 8 per cent of the population of Finland – or 440,000 people – are living in poverty. The minimum budget standard indicates a level of poverty that is deeper than relative poverty.<sup>7</sup> Even though the proportion of the population on a low income has decreased slightly, the number of people living on basic social security has increased by 50,000 since 2010. Of the people living in Finland, 4.3 per cent – or 243,232 people – were part of a household where

basic social security benefits constituted more than 90 per cent of the household's gross income in 2015.<sup>8</sup> Of the children living in Finland, 5 per cent lived in a family relying entirely on basic social security in 2014.

In February 2017, the number of unemployed jobseekers was 332,200. Of this total, the number of the long-term unemployed was 117,300. The number of unemployed people has decreased recently, and long-term unemployment began to decrease in February 2017. However, the number of people who have been unemployed for more than two years has continued to increase. This group is considered to be the most difficult to employ.<sup>9</sup> In 2015, the number of people receiving social assistance was 400,225 – or 7.3 per cent of the population. This represents an increase of 1.8 per cent year-on-year. Nearly one-third of the people belonging to this group receive support over the long term.<sup>10</sup>

“ Even before the cutbacks were implemented, the European Committee of Social Rights stated in its decision that the level of basic social security was too low in Finland. ”

The high cost of living is a key reason for difficulties to reach sufficient livelihood. Within the low-income group, housing allowances have increased more rapidly than prices in general, and the level of housing support is lagging behind.<sup>11</sup>

When evaluating the level of basic social security, it has been found that, with the exception of pensioners, the current level is not sufficient to cover expenses arising from reasonable minimum consumption. Basic social security for an unemployed person living alone currently covers 72 per cent

5 Official Statistics of Finland (2016). Income distribution statistics. Income, housing and housing expenditure 2014 (published on 25 May 2016). Statistics Finland, Helsinki.  
6 Official Statistics of Finland (2016). Income distribution statistics. Income inequality (international comparison) 2015 (published on 21 December 2016). Statistics Finland, Helsinki.  
7 National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) (2016). Perusturvan riittävyys ja köyhyys. Suomen sosiaalinen tila 3/2016; Tutkimuksesta tiiviisti 23, October 2016. THL, Helsinki.

8 Official Statistics of Finland (2015). Total statistics on income distribution. Income inequality 2015, 4. A total of 243,000 people were relying entirely on basic security in 2015. Statistics Finland, Helsinki; Karvonen, Sakari & Minna Salmi (eds.) (2016). Lapsiköyhyys Suomessa. Työpäperi 30/2016. THL, Helsinki.  
9 Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment (2017). There was a total of 332,200 unemployed jobseekers in February. Employment Bulletin, February 2017. Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, Helsinki.  
10 National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) (2016). Social Assistance 2015. Official Statistics of Finland. THL, Helsinki.  
11 SOSTE Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health (2016). Sosiaalibarometri 2016. Eryisikatsaus toimeentulosta ja sote-uudistuksesta. SOSTE, Helsinki.

of reasonable minimum cost.<sup>12</sup> The cutbacks on nearly all social security benefits that were implemented in 2016 and will continue to be implemented in 2017 are making the situation more difficult for the low-income group. The cutback was 0.4 per cent in 2016 and 0.85 per cent in 2017. In addition, the standard index increases to the benefits will not be made in 2018 or 2019. Even before the implementation of these cutbacks, the European Committee of Social Rights found the level of basic security to be too low in Finland.<sup>13</sup>

**THE FINLAND OF TOMORROW:** The employment rate has improved, unemployment among young people has decreased and the number of long term unemployed people has decreased. As a result of reformed employment services and an active employment policy, everyone has equal opportunities for employment, including people who are partially disabled. CSOs are playing a key role in providing employment and services that promote employment. The production of reasonably priced homes for rent has increased. The level of basic social security benefits has improved, and the need for long-term social assistance has diminished. The number of poor people has decreased. The social security system has been adjusted to support employment, meaning that it is always profitable to accept all employment, including short-term work. The social security system has been streamlined to make it easier for people to receive the services and benefits that they are entitled to.

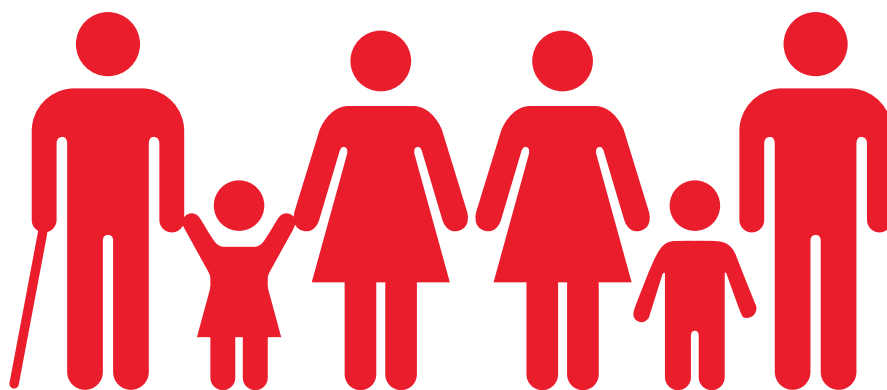
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## Finland must:

- ✓ Increase the level of basic social security. It is necessary to ensure that there is a sufficient level of primary benefits to reduce dependency on social assistance. Finland must invest in reducing poverty among families with children, in order to prevent intergenerational poverty. Basic social security must be simplified and further develop to better consider the fragmentation of work and enable people who are partially disabled to find employment.
  - ✓ Increase the level of investment in the production of reasonably priced homes for rent. In addition, a reasonable level of housing allowances must be ensured.
  - ✓ Make employment the primary goal of macroeconomic policy. Employment services must be reformed in a customer-focused manner, and equal services for all ensured. Finland must invest in an active labour policy, and increase the employment appropriations significantly. The role of CSOs as employers and providers of services that promote employment must be acknowledged.
  - ✓ Expand the target group for the basic income experiment and increase the size of the sample. A more extensive experiment would allow for bolder solutions to remove incentive traps with regard to housing allowance, for example. Taxation must be included in the experiment.
- 

12 National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) (2016). Perusturvan riittävyys ja köyhyys. Suomen sosiaalinen tila 3/2016; Tutkimuksesta tiiviisti 23, October 2016. THL, Helsinki.

13 On 12 February 2015, the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR) issued its decision on the complaint filed by the Finnish Society of Social Rights (SSOS). According to the Committee, the level of basic security in Finland does not meet the requirements of the European Social Charter of the Council of Europe. See, e.g. <http://www.eapn.fi/sosiaalisten-oikeuksien-komitea-pitaa-suomen-vahimmaisturvantasoa-riittamattomana/>





# Goal 1: No poverty

## — Everyone is entitled to a life of dignity

SOSTE Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health

**LOCAL RECOMMENDATIONS:** The Constitution of Finland ensures that everyone is entitled to a minimum income and sufficient social and health services. Municipalities and regions must ensure that high-quality social and health services are equally available to all.

**Customer fees and deductibles must not prevent or hinder the availability of services.**

**CURRENT SITUATION:** The basic principle of Finnish social and health policy is to provide everyone with sufficient, high-quality services, regardless of their socio-economic status, financial conditions or place of residence. However, the availability and quality of treatment vary according to socio-economic status, with higher social groups being in a more advantaged position. Vulnerable groups, in particular, are at risk of being left without the services they need.

Research has shown that healthcare operations do not necessarily reduce health inequalities. Instead, they may even increase them. Structural factors related to healthcare affect the availability and quality of services. Such factors include the decreasing ability of municipalities to provide outpatient services and the three-channel (healthcare centres, occupational healthcare units and private services) structure of outpatient services, which may also affect the use of hospital services through referral practices. There is room for improvement in the quality of treatment for the most disadvantaged people, in addition to advice and guidance for the elderly.<sup>14</sup>

The share of households of healthcare expenses is higher in Finland than in the other Nordic countries. In 2014, this share was 19.1 per cent in Finland, 15.5 per cent in Sweden, 14.5 per cent in Norway and 13.8 per cent in Denmark.<sup>15</sup> Customer fees have increased over the past two years. They were increased by 9.4 per cent in 2015 and nearly 30 per cent in 2016. Some municipalities considered these increases to be unreasonable and implemented them only partially or not at all. Around 60 per cent of municipalities implemented most of the increases in full.<sup>16</sup> Customer fees put Finns in an unequal position.

The reform of health and social services in Finland may add pressure to increase fees. This is an unsustainable trend, which has a particularly strong effect on low-income households in need of services and support. The expenses arising from illness may multiply if people choose not to seek help in matters related to health and welfare because of high fees. The fees have caused many people to become indebted. A comprehensive examination of the legislation related to customer fees in social and healthcare services began in early 2017.

“ Customer fees put Finns in an unequal position. ”

**THE FINLAND OF TOMORROW:** The reform of health and social services has improved the availability, accessibility and quality of services. Health and well-being differences have narrowed, and equality has improved. At the same time, services have become more cost-effective. Customer fees for health and social services are at a level that does not prevent people from accessing those services. The practices for not collecting customer fees and for making the fees more reasonable are clear and consistent.

### Municipalities and regions must:

- ✓ Implement the reform of health and social services through practical measures to decrease inequalities in health and well-being. High-quality services must be made available for all. Ensure services for disadvantaged special groups, enhance basic services and make investments in promoting well-being and health.
- ✓ Implement the free-choice system in a manner that promotes equality and accelerates access to treatment and care, particularly at the basic level.
- ✓ Determine customer fee levels in a manner that enables people to access services regardless of their financial position. The grounds for the fees must be consistent across the country. Ensure that the decree on, and practices for, not collecting customer fees and making them more reasonable are clear and consistent. Customers must be actively informed about this option.

14 THL <https://www.thl.fi/fi/web/hyvinvointi-ja-terveyserot/eriarvoisuus/palvelu-jarjestelma/terveyspalvelut>

15 OECD Health Statistics

16 Differences in increases to customer fees are undermining equality (SOSTE), <https://www.soste.fi/ajankohtaista/erisuuruiset-asiakasmaksujen-korotukset-na-kertavat-yhdenvertaisuutta.html?p42=15>; Municipalities have implemented increases to customer fees in social and health services (Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities), <https://www.kuntaliitto.fi/tiedotteet/2016/kunnat-korottaneet-sosiaali-ja-terveydenhuollon-asiakasmaksuja>



## Goal 2: No hunger

– All people are entitled to sufficient, safe and nutritious food. Local food production supports sustainable development.

Save the Children Finland<sup>17</sup>

**GLOBAL RECOMMENDATION: Support for small farmers and land-use rights is a priority in developing food safety and sustainable agriculture.** Finnish CSOs have strong expertise in this respect, and their expertise must be utilised. Finland must promote fair trade rules that enhance food security as part of all international negotiations.

**CURRENT SITUATION:** One in every nine people in the world – or a total of 795 million people – is suffering from malnutrition. The number of people suffering from malnutrition is particularly high in Africa and South Asia.<sup>18</sup> Seventy per cent of all food globally is produced by small producers. They often live in poverty and are especially vulnerable to shocks, such as conflicts and price fluctuations, in addition to natural disasters, which will increase with climate change. Female small farmers are in a particularly unfavourable position.

Land-ownership rights and rights to use natural resources are nearly always violated in conjunction with major land investments.<sup>19</sup> The goal of the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy is to strengthen the influence of human rights assessments on policy planning. According to CONCORD, the impact assessments carried out by the EU have not sufficiently considered the effects on the poorest countries, meaning that the Treaty of Lisbon has not been adhered to.<sup>20</sup>

Food security, the availability of water and energy, and the sustainable use of natural resources are the areas of focus of Finland's development policy. However, there is no comprehensive strategy or action plan to consider food security in the policies guiding it. Support for the agricultural and food security sector has weakened.<sup>21</sup>

The pilot project on food security proves carried out by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in practice that Finland's actions to promote food security are affected by a large number of factors. The project increased awareness of the need for a broad-based perspective and the importance of cooperation. The Food Policy Report<sup>22</sup> states that, with regard to the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda, Finland considers the combined effects of various policy areas on food security in Finland and globally.<sup>23</sup>

**THE FINLAND OF TOMORROW:** Finland plays a key role in implementing global food security and comprehensively promotes food security by means of development cooperation, trade policy and other political influences.

22 Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (2013). Food security in developing countries can be enhanced through an interplay of policies. Food security pilot carried out as part of the implementation of Finland's Development Policy Programme. Executive summary. Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Helsinki.

23 Other sources: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) (2014). Building Resilience for Food & Nutrition Security: Highlights from the 2020 Conference. IFPRI, Washington; Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) (2012). Smallholders and Family Farmers. FAO, Rome; European Union (2015). Briefing: The European Year for Development: Food Security.

### Finland must:

- ✓ Continue to promote consistency in food-security policy, based on the experiences gained in the food-security pilot project.
- ✓ Support the implementation and validity of the rules provided by the Committee on World Food Security for land-use and land-ownership rights and for the participation of local civil society in the political discussion about land ownership. In conjunction with land-ownership rights, it is particularly important to protect people who are promoting human rights.
- ✓ Promote the organisation of small producers and their participation in the decision-making that concerns them and, in particular, civic activity among female farmers and their participation in value chains.
- ✓ Support local, regional and national markets in developing countries to enhance food security, also through humanitarian aid (e.g. cash assistance in food-aid programmes).
- ✓ Invest development cooperation funds only in projects that have a positive effect on local food security.
- ✓ Promote binding international agreements that encourage the transparency of companies' supply chains and cooperation between civil society and companies with regard to land-use rights, human rights and supply chains.

17 Material was collected at a workshop with representatives from Save the Children Finland, the Finnish Association of People with Physical Disabilities, The International Solidarity Association, Finnish Committee for UNICEF and Finland National Committee for UN Women.

18 Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) & World Food Program (WFP) (2015). The State of Food Insecurity in the World. FAO, Rome.

19 Working Group on Monitoring of the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) (ed.) (2016). Synthesis report on civil society experiences regarding use and implementation of the tenure guidelines and the challenge of monitoring CFS decisions. FAO, Rome.

20 CONCORD (2016). Sustainable development – the stakes could not be higher. Report, CONCORD, Brussels.

21 Development Policy Committee (KPT) (2015). Kehityspolitiikka käännekohtassa: Suomen kehityspolitiikan tila 2015. KPT, Helsinki.





## Goal 2: No hunger

– All people are entitled to sufficient, safe and nutritious food. Local food production supports sustainable development.

The Finnish Blue Ribbon<sup>24</sup>

**NATIONAL RECOMMENDATION: Tax policy solutions must be implemented to support equal opportunities to healthy, nutritious food for everyone.**

Ecologically sustainable agriculture and local production must be enhanced, and food waste must be reduced. A law must be prepared in Finland to donate edible food products that have been removed from sale to non-profit operators for food-aid distribution.

**CURRENT SITUATION:** The food-aid queues, community meal services and distribution operations that emerged during the recession in the 1990s, in addition to food vouchers issued by municipalities and parishes, have become established practices. Population research<sup>25</sup> shows that, during 2013, one in every ten Finns aged 18–79 had experienced a situation in which they did not have enough money for food. Of the people covered by the study, 2.3 per cent had received food aid.

“ *The Finland of tomorrow has no food-aid queues, and the amount of food waste is continuing to decrease.* ”

The number of operators providing food aid was estimated at 400 in 2013. Around 12,600 people seek food aid on a regular basis and around 9,500 seek food aid on an irregular basis – at least once a year. Food-aid operators have 1.7 million visits annually.<sup>26</sup>

The food provided to those in need of help is mainly surplus food from retailers, wholesalers and production plants. The annual weight of such surplus food is estimated at 65–75

million kilos<sup>27</sup>. In addition, food aid is provided through the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD)<sup>28</sup> at least until the end of 2020. Surplus food from schools and day-care centres is also provided to those in need. Ruoka-Nyssa in Tampere and Shared Table in Vantaa, among other operations, have proven to be good models that also seek to enhance participation and a sense of community.

**THE FINLAND OF TOMORROW:** The Finland of tomorrow has no food-aid queues, and the volume of food waste is continuing to decrease. The operators that used to provide food aid are engaging in operations that enhance participation and a sense of community while also making use of food waste.

27 Silvennoinen, Kirsi & Heta-Kaisa Koivupuro & Juha-Matti Katajajuuri & Lotta Jalkanen & Anu Reinikainen (2012). Food Waste Volume and Composition in the Finnish Food Chain. Final report of the Foodspill 2010–2012 project. MTT, Jokioinen.

28 Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD). See, e.g. <http://tem.fi/vahavaraisten-avun-rahasto-fead-2014-2020>. About food aid provided by the EU: Ohisalo, Maria (2012). EU:n ruoka-apuohjelman vaikutus ruoka-avun vakiintumiseen Suomessa. Mikko Niemelä & Juho Saari. Huono-osaisten hyvinvointi Suomessa. Teemakirja 10, Kela, Helsinki, 146–170.

### Finland must:

- ✓ Prepare a law primarily intended to reduce food waste throughout the food chain and ensure that the operators providing food aid are capable of handling the waste in a sustainable way.
- ✓ Reduce deprivation by means of practical social work, debt counselling, medical examinations for the unemployed, guidance on accessing services and employment, retraining for the unemployed and improvements in basic security.
- ✓ Enhance participation and a sense of community; for example, by supporting opportunities for people to gather together to cook and enjoy a meal.
- ✓ Promote the use, distribution and affordable sale of food waste through food bazaars, for example; and reduce the stigma and shame associated with receiving food aid.
- ✓ Create opportunities for high-quality logistics and food safety for food waste.
- ✓ Rely on the opportunities offered by digitalisation in food-distribution logistics and the prevention of food waste.

24 Information was also collected during the seminar held by the Finnish Blue Ribbon and the Blue Ribbon Foundation on food aid in Helsinki on 29 November 2016, with Service Supervisor Hanna Kuisma (Shared Table project), researcher Maria Ohisalo (University of Eastern Finland) and Executive Director Kristian Vilkmann (ViaDia) as the speakers.

25 Lehtelä, Kirsi-Marja & Laura Kestilä (2014). Kaksi vuosikymmentä ruoka-apua. Marja Vaarama & Sakari Karvonen & Laura Kestilä & Pasi Moisio & Anu Muuri (eds.), Suomalaisen hyvinvointi 2014. National Institute for Health and Welfare, 270–281, p. 270.

26 Ohisalo, Maria & Niko Eskelinen & Jonna Laine & Sakari Kainulainen & Juho Saari (2013). Avun tilkkutäkki. Suomalaisen ruoka-apukentän monimuotoisuus. Finland's Slot Machine Association, Espoo, p. 17, 37–38.



## Goal 2: No hunger

– All people are entitled to sufficient, safe and nutritious food. Local food production supports sustainable development.

The Finnish Blue Ribbon<sup>29</sup>

**LOCAL RECOMMENDATION:** Municipalities and regions must ensure that the surplus food at educational institutions and nursing homes, for example, is reused locally. Municipalities and regions must also support business and industry in making use of surplus food. With regard to community meals, municipalities must comply with the national nutrition recommendations. Schools and day-care centres must be guided to make ethical food choices.

**CURRENT SITUATION:** Disadvantaged people in different parts of Finland suffer from hunger or a lack of food. Of the people using food-aid services, 20–25 per cent have suffered from hunger in the past 30 days. According to a survey of people receiving food aid, 82 per cent feel that the aid is necessary for coping (“completely agree” or “somewhat agree”).<sup>30</sup>

**THE FINLAND OF TOMORROW:** The Finland of tomorrow has no food-aid queues, and the volume of food waste is continuing to decrease. The operators that used to provide food aid are engaging in operations that enhance participation and a sense of community while also making use of food waste.

<sup>29</sup> Information was also collected during the seminar held by the Finnish Blue Ribbon and the Blue Ribbon Foundation on food aid in Helsinki on 29 November 2016, with Service Supervisor Hanna Kuisma (Shared Table project), researcher Maria Ohisalo (University of Eastern Finland) and Executive Director Kristian Vilkmán (ViaDia) as the speakers.

<sup>30</sup> Ohisalo, Maria & Juho Saari (eds.) (2014). Kuka seisoo leipäjonossa? Ruokapu 2010-luvun Suomessa. Research publication No. 83, Foundation for Municipal Development (Kaks), Helsinki.

“ Of the people using food-aid services, 20–25 per cent have suffered from hunger over the past 30 days. ”

### Municipalities and regions must:

- ✓ Increase practical social work, guidance on using services, medical examinations for the unemployed and opportunities for employment, in addition to streamlining the employment process. Some of these measures will later become regional responsibilities.
- ✓ Coordinate activities that enhance participation and a sense of community while also making use of food waste, in cooperation with various operators.
- ✓ Provide vacant facilities for food-aid purposes.
- ✓ Encourage companies and local food producers to participate in the provision of food aid by supporting restaurants, cafeterias, staff canteens and other establishments with food-waste logistics.
- ✓ Reduce the stigma and shame associated with food aid and enhance comfort and a sense of community in food-aid facilities by hiring a coordinator for this purpose.





# Goal 3: Health and well-being

– The promotion of physical and mental health is a prerequisite for sustainable development.

The Finnish Red Cross<sup>31</sup>

**GLOBAL RECOMMENDATION:** Finland must support CSOs in their work to promote health, which is a significant way to support education, working capacity and comprehensive well-being. Finland is one of the few countries to have promoted sexual and reproductive health globally. Finland must continue to promote these causes strongly.

**CURRENT SITUATION:** Cutbacks on development cooperation funds have forced to discontinue humanitarian and development cooperation programmes abruptly. Finland has determined four areas of focus for its development cooperation policy. Health promotion is not one of these areas, even though it is one of the basic requirements for human rights and sustainable development, in addition to eradicating poverty, hunger and inequality.

“ *The work of CSOs carrying out humanitarian and development cooperation is key to upholding people’s right to health.* ”

War and conflict increase the need for disaster relief and health work. The work of CSOs carrying out humanitarian and development cooperation is key to upholding people’s right to health. More than 65 million people in the world have been forced to leave their homes, and there are more than 21 million refugees. Supporting the humanitarian work carried out by organisations is one of the duties of any government.

Improving maternal and sexual health is important in terms of global health promotion. Around 300,000 women die during pregnancy or childbirth each year. Finland has the expertise required for the global promotion of maternal and sexual health.

The materialisation of the most probable causes of climate change will have adverse effects on health. The preparation for and prevention of these effects must be included in health-promotion programmes. Preparation is also needed to prevent new global epidemics and respond to them. Access to healthcare services, the provision of accurate information, early diagnoses and the prevention of the spread of epidemics play key roles.

**THE FINLAND OF TOMORROW:** As health is an overarching theme, its promotion also supports the achievement of the other 2030 Agenda goals. Health promotion has been integrated into all the measures aimed at the eradication of poverty and inequality.

With the funding cutbacks, cooperation between various operations is increasingly essential. In addition to including overarching themes, global health promotion calls for long-term commitment and an aspiration to strengthen healthcare service chains and local communities. Special attention has been paid to making vulnerable people and communities more resilient to catastrophes.

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## Finland must:

- ✓ Make health promotion one of the focus areas of development policy while also supporting the effective achievement of the other 2030 Agenda goals.
  - ✓ Support the availability of healthcare services, particularly for people who are in a vulnerable position.
  - ✓ Make sexual and reproductive health one of the key themes of health promotion.
  - ✓ Stress the importance of addressing the health effects of climate change.
- 

<sup>31</sup> Material was collected at a workshop held 8.2.2017 with representatives from The Finnish Red Cross, Finnish Olympic Committee and SOSTE Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health, and The Family Federation of Finland.



# Goal 3: Health and well-being

– The promotion of physical and mental health is a prerequisite for sustainable development.

Finnish Olympic Committee and SOSTE Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health<sup>32</sup>

**NATIONAL RECOMMENDATION:** To ensure comprehensive, high-quality and equal health and social services for all, we must cooperate and network across administrative boundaries. **Promoting active lifestyles throughout people's lives improves well-being and prevents illness.** The amount of public funding for prevention and encouragement must be increased. Decision-making must be based on information about perceived well-being.

**CURRENT SITUATION:** Health and well-being services are one of Finland's strengths. The present system must not be dismantled. Instead, it must be reformed. People's need for services throughout their lives must be considered when planning the reorganisation of health and social services.

“ *The challenges include an increase in inequalities in well-being between various groups of people, which increases inequality in terms of other social indicators.* ”

Specific challenges in Finland include problems related to mental health and emotional well-being. Mental disorders have increased among students, for example, even though the use of alcohol and tobacco products has decreased at the same time.

The challenges also include an increase in differences in well-being among various groups of people, which also increases inequality in terms of other social indicators. For example, the fact that marginalised people and people without documentation are excluded from health services and statistics is alarming.

There is a great deal of information available about the prerequisites for a healthy lifestyle and well-being, in addition to a wider understanding of broad-based health promotion. However, this information is not being used to a

sufficient degree. Also organisations have important duties related to social and health services, such as blood services, substance-abuse work, first-aid teams, peer-support groups and services that prevent loneliness.

**THE FINLAND OF TOMORROW:** Better use is made of scientific information about Finns' lifestyles and needs in the planning and provision of health and well-being services. The health and social services reform serves to ensure that the reorganisation will not increase inequality. Instead, it will reduce inequalities in health and prevent people from being excluded from services.

Investment in lifelong activity and comprehensive well-being is increasing. The ageing population is seen as a resource: pensioners are healthier and more active than ever before.

Illness prevention is cost-effective work that is not immediately reflected in gross domestic product. The cost of health and social services is decreased by means of low-threshold, preventive services provided by experienced and agile organisations. Investment in the well-being of people and communities is increasing. At the same time, favourable conditions are being created for economic development.

## Finland must:

- ✓ Create and clearly express a model for organisations, public operators and companies to create social, health and well-being services together in the future.
- ✓ Ensure that there are sufficient resources for the prevention and treatment of mental disorders.
- ✓ Invest in preventive services and programmes that promote perceived well-being, working capacity and lifelong activity.
- ✓ Prevent inequality with regard to people being excluded from services in society (e.g. people without documentation).
- ✓ Ensure that action plans on health promotion are implemented and monitored at the national level.

<sup>32</sup> Material was collected at a workshop held 8.2.2017 with representatives from The Finnish Red Cross, Finnish Olympic Committee and SOSTE Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health, and The Family Federation of Finland.



## Goal 3: Health and well-being

– The promotion of physical and mental health is a prerequisite for sustainable development.

Finnish Olympic Committee and SOSTE Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health<sup>33</sup>

**LOCAL RECOMMENDATION:** Municipalities must ensure favourable conditions for active lifestyles by providing cultural and sports services, for example.

Municipalities must also encourage residents and communities to promote their own well-being. The prevention of diseases of affluence, mental illness, substance abuse and social exclusion require rapid responses and a gender-sensitive approach.

**CURRENT SITUATION:** When compared internationally, municipal social and health services continue to be one of Finland strengths. With regard to health services, for example, Finland ranks among the top nations in the world while also maintaining a high competitive ability. The current health and social services reform has a justified purpose: it aims to further develop services and ensure equal availability.

The increasing inequality among people and areas is presenting problems in Finnish municipalities. This problem is enhanced by the ageing population and the ensuing decrease in the dependency ratio. Ageing also has positive effects: an active population of elderly people is a resource for organisations, for example.

Addressing these problems has been on the agendas of several governments. The health, social services and regional government reform, employment targets and projects to promote health and well-being are examples of responses to the challenges. Finnish municipalities have established good practices, such as sports service chains.

**THE FINLAND OF TOMORROW:** After the reform of health, social services and regional government, municipalities are playing a key role in promoting health and well-being. To make this possible, municipal and regional decision-makers have access to a systematic preliminary assessment of the effects of operations intended to promote health and well-being.

“ By international comparison, municipal health and social services continue to be one of Finland’s strengths. ”

The promotion of health and well-being is also a significant part of the duties of municipalities and regions. This includes a description of how service chains work between municipalities and regions. In addition, the promotion of health and well-being is part of strategic planning and monitoring in regions and municipalities.

To ensure the optimal use of all operators’ resources, the various operators must be included in the planning, implementation, monitoring and assessment of the promotion of health and well-being. Closer cooperation between sectors also ensures better responses to various challenges.

To promote sexual and reproductive health, municipalities offer free contraception to all people aged under 25.

### Municipalities and regions must:

- ✓ Maintain and further develop the quality of social and health services and make them more equally available.
- ✓ Promote cooperation between organisations and the public sector. Municipalities have good models for the integration of immigrants, for example.
- ✓ Make better use of existing scientific information.
- ✓ Create better indicators for well-being.
- ✓ Build services for various stages of people’s lives. With regard to exercise, for example, the cooperation between organisations and the public sector is lacking in terms of services and encouragement for young people. Services must be provided in a more human-centred manner: the need for services must guide the system, instead of the service structure guiding people’s behaviour.

<sup>33</sup> Material was collected at a workshop held 8.2.2017 with representatives from The Finnish Red Cross, Finnish Olympic Committee and SOSTE Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health, and The Family Federation of Finland.



## Goal 5: Gender equality

– Gender equality must be comprehensively reflected in the achievement of all goals for sustainable development.

Plan International Finland<sup>34</sup>

**GLOBAL RECOMMENDATION: Finland's commitment to the promotion of gender equality and women's and girls' rights must be implemented in practice in all development policies, and its implementation must be monitored and assessed.** Equality must be considered systematically in all forms of funding for development cooperation, including corporate funding. The role of civil society in long-term work to promote equality must be acknowledged, and the necessary resources must be allocated to this work.

**CURRENT SITUATION:** For several decades, Finland has sought to further the inclusion of women and, subsequently, the rights of women and girls, including sexual rights, in development cooperation work. Since 2001, the promotion of gender equality has been regarded as a key aspect of the development cooperation work carried out by Finland, and women's and girls' rights have been crosscutting objectives for Finland's development policy since 2004. The Government Report on Development Policy determines the strengthening of the rights and position of women and girls as its first area of focus, which is a significant achievement in terms of promoting gender equality. This commitment to gender equality is also evident in the Government Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Despite these long-term commitments, numerous reports and evaluations have paid attention to shortcomings in the promotion of gender equality in planning, implementation and reporting related to Finland's development cooperation. The commitment that is evident in speeches and guidelines has not been put into practice to a sufficient degree, in terms of the provision of funding and expert resources for work to promote gender equality or in the monitoring of such work. The term of office of the present Government has already reached its midpoint, but clear guidelines on the practical implementation of the focus area of women's and girls' rights are still missing. In early 2017, the Government decided to focus on organisations promoting sexual and

reproductive health and rights in its provision of funding for international CSOs, in response to budget cuts in this area in the United States. This a welcome development in the right direction.

Rapidly implemented cutbacks on funding for development cooperation and a shift of focus towards supporting the corporate sector have not promoted the implementation of the focus area. The effects of development cooperation through companies on gender equality are unclear. In addition, the mainstreaming of equality work seems to be progressing slowly. The achievement of global gender equality requires coherent policy measures beyond those related to development policy.

“ The effects on gender equality of development cooperation through companies are unclear. ”

When reported in accordance with the OECD gender equality policy marker, 37 per cent of the development cooperation work carried out by Finland considered gender-equality effects in 2015. However, only 6 per cent of the work focused on promoting gender equality. The cutbacks implemented by Finland on funding for UN organisations that promote gender equality are weakening Finland's opportunities to influence within these organisations. CSOs have carried out valuable work to promote gender equality. This work has suffered from the drastic cutbacks in development cooperation, particularly with regard to communities and families.

**THE FINLAND OF TOMORROW:** The commitment to promoting gender equality and the rights and position of women and girls plays a key role in all development cooperation work carried out by Finland and Finnish development actors. The work to promote equality has clear guidelines and extends beyond the terms of office of governments, and its implementation is supported by sufficient financial and staff resources. The effectiveness of gender equality work is monitored systematically.

The effective promotion of gender equality requires simultaneous work on many levels. In addition to increasing

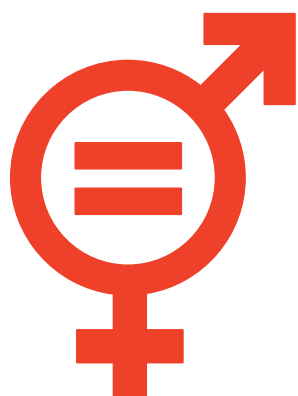
<sup>34</sup> The following organisations have supported in drafting the chapter: Finland National Committee for UN Women, Finnish Committee for Unicef, International Solidarity Foundation and Disability Partnership Finland.

awareness and changing attitudes and behaviours, work must be carried out to adjust structures and legislation, both nationally and internationally. For this reason, Finland provides many types of funding for gender equality work.

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### Finland must:

- ✓ Increase the share of funding for development co-operation work that aims to promote gender equality and women's and girls' rights. In this respect, Finland must meet the requirements of the EU's commitment by 2020: 85 per cent of all development cooperation work must have gender equality as the primary goal or a significant goal (OECD DAC gender marker 2 and 1).
  - ✓ Create clear guidelines and instructions for the implementation of the focus area of women's and girls' rights and the practical implementation of gender equality as a crosscutting objective for development cooperation work, including the work carried out by the private sector.
  - ✓ Systematically monitor the effectiveness of gender equality work by creating specific, relevant indicators for this purpose.
  - ✓ Strengthen its support for the promotion of the rights and inclusion of the most disadvantaged women and girls, such as women and girls with disabilities, taking into account the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security.
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### Examples of the work carried out by organisations:

In 2016, Plan International started a new type of broad-based cooperation project to monitor the achievement of the goals for sustainable development until 2030 relating to women's and girls' rights. Bringing together organisations and companies, the Equal Measures 2030 project collects information, monitors and analyses progress in terms of key goals and indicators related to gender equality, addresses shortcomings in the collection of information, and carries out qualitative research to complement the information collected using official indicators. Based on more comprehensive information, the project aims to make governments accountable for their commitment to sustainable development, in cooperation with other women's and girls' movements. For governments, the project offers a way to target investments accurately and effectively.

Each year, around a billion children in the world experience some form of violence. Together for Girls is a partnership between the UN, Canada, and governments and the private sector in developing countries that aims to prevent sexual violence towards children, particularly girls. In terms of sustainable development, the partnership promotes Goals 5 and 16 in particular. It combines the expertise of and funding for various operators and sectors to promote child protection and gender equality and to eradicate violence and the HIV epidemic. The Together for Girls project is in progress in 21 countries in Africa, Asia, South America and the Caribbean. Different actors have together collected data and introduced and begun to implement action plans to reduce violence towards girls in particular. One of the civil society actors is UNICEF.

Prevention of female genital mutilation and domestic violence in the Nyanza region of Kenya: The local partner organisations of the International Solidarity Foundation in the Nyanza region in Kenya have implemented a programme consisting of three projects to encourage a more open discussion about, and action against, female genital mutilation and domestic violence.



# Goal 5: Gender equality

– Gender equality must be comprehensively reflected in the achievement of all goals for sustainable development.

The Finnish League for Human Rights<sup>35</sup>

**NATIONAL RECOMMENDATION:** The UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women obligates Finland to promote gender equality through active operations and monitoring. **In decision-making in society, the effects of decisions on gender equality must be assessed in advance and reported publicly.** Legislative reforms are also needed, such as a reform of the family leave system in accordance with the 6+6+6 model, with an increase in leave earmarked for fathers; a reform of the sex offences legislation; the criminalisation of forced marriages in accordance with the Istanbul Convention; and a reform of the Act on Legal Recognition of the Gender of Transsexuals to ensure human rights for gender minorities. The compulsory military service for men only must also be examined critically.

**CURRENT SITUATION:** The Government programme for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda extends beyond the Government's term of office. However, the implementation of Goal 5 is considered to be based on the programme of Prime Minister Sipilä's Government. The Government's gender equality programme is less extensive and more modest than that of the previous Government, and the resources allocated are so scarce that the 6+6+6 model for parental leave is not progressing and the Istanbul Convention<sup>36</sup> is not being implemented to a sufficient degree.

The decisions made during the recession, such as changes to the subjective day-care right, the extension of working hours and the cutbacks on holiday bonuses and concerning pensioners, may jeopardise the favourable development of gender equality. Despite critical public discussion, the effects of these legislative reforms on gender equality were not assessed before the implementation.

The Istanbul Convention has attracted more attention to the subject of violence towards women. The provision of funding for women's refuges has been transferred to the state, a free 24/7 hotline for victims of violence from their intimate partner has been established, sexual harassment has been included in the Criminal Code of Finland, and the

Ministry of Justice has asked the Institute of Criminology and Legal Policy to investigate forced marriages. The criminalisation of forced marriages and effective national work against female genital mutilation are still waiting to be implemented.

The reform of the Act on Legal Recognition of the Gender of Transsexuals is not progressing, even though the background work started during the previous Government. There has been no public discussion about compulsory military service for men.

The cutbacks on funding for CSOs have reduced opportunities for members of the public to participate in the development of gender equality and human rights, which endangers the monitoring of the national situation and international agreements.

**THE FINLAND OF TOMORROW:** The genders have equal opportunities in Finnish society, which is being developed systematically, based on scientific research, respect for human rights and for the goals for gender equality.

With the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, violence towards women has decreased dramatically. Comprehensive services are available for victims of violence committed by their intimate partner. The needs of high-risk groups, such as women with immigrant backgrounds, women with disabilities and the LGBTI community, have been considered.

Poverty among pensioners has been eliminated. Salary equality has been achieved between genders, even among minorities.

Immigrant women and their special needs are actively considered from the beginning of the integration process, and they are genuinely treated as equal citizens. Women and girls grow up without fear of harassment or hate speech.

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## Finland must:

- ✓ Carry out advance assessments of the effects of gender equality on the various levels of decision-making.
  - ✓ Reform the Equality Act to facilitate the comparison of salaries.
  - ✓ Reform family leave by increasing the leave earmarked for fathers and considering family diversity.
  - ✓ Reinstate the subjective right to full-time day care.
  - ✓ Implement the Istanbul Convention effectively and ambitiously.
  - ✓ Restart the work to reform the Act on Legal Recognition of the Gender of Transsexuals.
  - ✓ Ensure sufficient funding for organisations promoting gender equality and women's rights and for gender research.
  - ✓ Take the gender perspective into account when developing its immigration policy.
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<sup>35</sup> Material was collected at a workshop held on 16 January 2017 with representatives from the Finnish League for Human Rights, the Multicultural Women's Association (MONIKA), the Coalition of Finnish Women's Associations (NYTKIS), Plan International Finland, the Finland National Committee for UN Women and the Family Federation of Finland.

<sup>36</sup> The Istanbul Convention came into effect in Finland on 1 August 2015. It is the first broad-based global convention on the prevention of violence towards women and domestic violence.





# Goal 5: Gender equality

– Gender equality must be comprehensively reflected in the achievement of all goals for sustainable development.

The Finnish League for Human Rights<sup>37</sup>

**LOCAL RECOMMENDATION:** Under many international agreements and the legislation of Finland, municipalities are obligated to implement gender equality and equality in general in their operations. For this reason, it is necessary to make gender-impact assessments on all municipal decisions on and to ensure that equality is achieved. Municipalities are significant employers in low-salary sectors dominated by women. Municipalities also play a decisive role in preventing violence towards women. **In addition, municipalities provide early childhood education and other education that, at its best, eradicates gender segregation in the Finnish education system and changes attitudes.**

**CURRENT SITUATION:** The reform of health services, social services and regional government that is in progress will transform working life in ways that affect women in particular. More than 200,000 employees in the health and social services sector will change employers, transferring from municipalities and joint municipal authorities to regions. More than 90 per cent of municipal employees in the health and social services sector are women. This change may have a significant effect on gender equality in working life. In addition, there may be changes in the availability of services for various groups, particularly elderly women in sparsely populated areas.

Recent positive changes in education include the curriculum reform concerning basic education. Its effects include the integration of human rights into all aspects of the curriculum and the extension of the equality planning requirement to cover comprehensive schools. With equality planning, schools are gradually becoming increasingly aware of sexual and gender harassment and its prevention.

However, sex education is not equally available for children and young people in all municipalities. Furthermore, gender and sexual diversities are not considered to a sufficient degree in sex education or by sexual health services. Sex education could also be used to discuss harassment issues, which are connected to lower levels of satisfaction with school among girls.

In public discussion, much attention has been paid to learning results becoming weaker and dropout rates becoming

higher among boys. There has also been discussion about the effects of socio-economic backgrounds and regional differences. Less attention has been paid to the fact that the difference in literacy between girls and boys is exceptionally high in Finland and should be addressed more effectively.

**THE FINLAND OF TOMORROW:** The members of each gender choose their fields of education based on their interests and abilities, unaffected by gender norms. Gender does not guide or define learning or career paths. The number of school dropouts has decreased significantly. The level of learning and literacy is very high across the country, including the level of functional literacy. Schools and other educational institutions support everyone's learning and are harassment-free zones.

Gender distribution among regional and municipal decision-makers is balanced, and the assessment of gender effects has become an integral part of all decision-making. The health and social services provided by the regions are equally available for all groups of people.

The right to unpaid childcare leave is distributed evenly between genders. Municipal decisions systematically support the equal division of care.

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## Municipalities and regions must:

- ✓ Implement gender equality in terms of salaries and career development in conjunction with the reform of health and social services and, more generally, promote the development of gender equality.
- ✓ After the reform of health and social services, municipalities and regions must monitor the availability of services from the gender perspective and pay special attention to the accumulated, gender-specific effects of the cutbacks on social security and benefits.
- ✓ Sign the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life.
- ✓ Develop the work to prevent violence in municipalities.
- ✓ Provide further training for teachers and early childhood education employees on gender-sensitive education and on addressing and preventing harassment.
- ✓ Develop sex education to ensure it is pupil-oriented, encourages participation and takes sexual diversity into account.
- ✓ Implement information-based assessments of the gender effects of decisions.

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<sup>37</sup> Material was collected at a workshop held on 16 January 2017 with representatives from the Finnish League for Human Rights, the Multicultural Women's Association (MONIKA), the Coalition of Finnish Women's Associations (NYTKIS), Plan International Finland, the Finland National Committee for UN Women and the Family Federation of Finland.



# Goal 9: Sustainable industry, innovation and infrastructure

– Equal and universal availability of information enables societies to make use of people’s full potential.

The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation

**GLOBAL RECOMMENDATION:** Finland is a society of innovation and the development of new technologies. We are well placed to support small businesses, innovation and basic infrastructure in developing countries. **The development of infrastructure and the availability of information must primarily reduce inequality, be accessible to everyone and be sustainable.**

**CURRENT SITUATION:** Many communities are fighting against industrial and infrastructure projects that threaten the environment, biodiversity and indigenous land rights. Mines, the drilling of oil and gas, the spread of settlement, and infrastructure projects are posing a threat to biodiversity all around the world. The North Dakota oil pipeline, the mine projects in Madagascar and the major dams funded by Finnfund in Laos are examples of projects in which environmental aspects have been neglected and the voices and rights of local communities have not been respected.

“ Mines, the drilling of oil and gas, the spread of settlement, and infrastructure projects are posing a threat to biodiversity around the world. ”

Funding continues to be provided for fossil fuels and other unsustainable projects. Environmental organisations have been criticising the way in which the European Investment Bank, for example, provides funding: 10 per cent of the funding is used for mines and a markedly smaller share for water and sanitation projects. No funding is provided for education or the health sector.<sup>38</sup>

<sup>38</sup> The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation (SLL) (2015). Kaivannaisten maailmantalous: Kultakuumeesta luonnonvarakriisiin. SLL, Helsinki.

**THE FINLAND OF TOMORROW:** Rights-based development is promoted by strengthening the rights of local communities and increasing the information they have about the management of renewable natural resources in accordance with the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the guidelines provided by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN. This also supports the ecologically responsible use of non-renewable natural resources while also safeguarding values related to biodiversity. Governments and companies comply with the guidelines provided by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in autumn 2016 for discontinuing mining operations and other projects that pose a threat to the environment in all conservation areas.<sup>39</sup> Industrial projects are not jeopardising the rights, income or cultural heritage of local communities. In addition to the availability of information, genuine participation in projects and opportunities to influence their implementation are indicators of sustainable industrial policies. The projects funded by development banks comply with high environmental standards.

<sup>39</sup> International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) (2016). IUCN Resolutions, Recommendations and Other Decisions. IUCN, Gland. See guideline WCC-2016-Rec-102 at: [https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/res-recfiles/WCC\\_2016\\_REC\\_102\\_EN.pdf](https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/res-recfiles/WCC_2016_REC_102_EN.pdf) (13 April 2017)

## Finland must:

- ✓ Demand compliance with international and national environmental regulations.
- ✓ Promote the development of environmental regulations in line with the guidelines provided by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.
- ✓ Demand that all projects to be funded or implemented have criteria for ensuring that human rights, labour rights and land rights are respected; that free, prior and informed consent is obtained from the affected communities; and that they have opportunities to influence.



# Goal 9: Sustainable industry, innovation and infrastructure

– Equal and universal availability of information enables societies to make use of people’s full potential.

The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation

**NATIONAL RECOMMENDATION:** The development of new, ecologically and socially sustainable innovations plays a key role in reforming the welfare state. **Making use of sustainable research in decision-making, product development and industrial renewal calls for sufficient resources for education and science and support for multidisciplinary cooperation.**

**CURRENT SITUATION:** Finland is a resource-intensive economy that consumes large amounts of material. Its high GDP is based on much more extensive use of natural resources than that of Sweden, Austria, Germany or Belgium is.<sup>40</sup> According to Eurostat, the return on Finnish natural resources is around EUR 1 per kilo, while the average in the EU is EUR 2 per kilo.<sup>41</sup>

Resource-intensity is evident in many industries. In the forest sector, the Government aims to increase logging. However, the methods used by the forest industry have an adverse effect on the environment, and Finland has failed to achieve the international conservation goals.

The mining industry and other projects are posing a threat to dozens of conservation areas in Finland. Ore prospecting alone endangers the integrity of conservation areas, and acts of negligence in conservation areas jeopardise environmental values. Most metal mining operations violated their environmental permits in 2014. Shortcomings in Finnish tax legislation allow mining companies to mine without having to pay proper compensation.<sup>42</sup>

Energy-intensive industries are characteristic of Finland and supported by the state through tax relief, free emission rights, indirect compensation for emissions trading expenses and tax refunds. Direct and indirect public subsidies for energy consumption total around EUR 2 billion annually, despite having mostly an adverse effect on the environment.

Finland ranks high in terms of expenditure on research and development.<sup>43</sup> In 2015, expenditure on research and development totalled EUR 6.1 billion, or nearly 3 per cent of GDP. The average in the European Union is 2 per cent. However,

research expenses have decreased in recent years, particularly in companies, sectoral research institutes and public institutes.<sup>44</sup> The number of employees in research and development operations decreased by 7 per cent between 2005 and 2013. Funding for research and education decreased by hundreds of millions of Euros in 2015. In addition to higher education institutions, the cutbacks affected the Finnish Funding Agency for Innovation (Tekes) and the Academy of Finland, which provide funding for patents and basic research.

**THE FINLAND OF TOMORROW:** Finns’ consumption habits have become more reasonable, and energy consumption and total consumption of natural resources has decreased. Rare minerals are being replaced with more common ones, and the recycling and reuse of minerals has increased. The integrity of conservation areas is respected, and the level of environmental protection has improved. Industrial innovations are developed based on multidisciplinary research and from the perspective of the wise and economical use of natural resources. Finland has achieved its goal of a conservation rate of 17 per cent, and has improved its forest-management methods. Industrial projects and land-use plans are prepared in close cooperation with citizens and stakeholders.

44 Statistics Finland (2016). Research and development 2015. (27 October 2016.) Statistics Finland, Helsinki.

## Finland must:

- ✓ Shift from being a resource-intensive society to being a service society and towards high-value-added products.
- ✓ Foster diversity in research. Finland must increase its research and development expenditure again.
- ✓ Discontinue subsidies having adverse effect on the environment and implement a mining tax on the use of minerals.
- ✓ Ensure a sufficient number of conservation areas. Mining operations, ore prospecting and other industrial projects in conservation areas must be prevented.
- ✓ Ensure that local residents have opportunities to influence industrial projects and land-use planning, and safeguard the rights of the Sami people.

40 Statistics Finland (2016). The need for material decreases slowly. (23 November 2016) Statistics Finland, Helsinki.

41 Vahvelainen, Simo (2016). Materiaalivirtoja maasta taivaaseen. Tieto&Trendi 1/2016 (22 March 2016).

42 Finnwatch (2016). Kaivosverotuksen kehitysmää. Selvitys metallimalmeja louhivien kaivosyhtiöiden veronmaksusta ja verosuunnittelusta Suomessa. Finnwatch, Helsinki.

43 Eurostat (2017). Share of enterprises that had product innovations, 2012–2014.



# Goal 9: Sustainable industry, innovation and infrastructure

– Equal and universal availability of information enables societies to make use of people’s full potential.

The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation

**LOCAL RECOMMENDATION:** Municipalities and regional administration must support innovation and industry that promote sustainable development; for example, by means of land-use planning. **Consistent, ecologically sustainable practices must be applied to permit issues related to the extractive industry, among other sectors.** Sufficient resources and expertise must be ensured for the local authorities that are processing and monitoring industrial projects. Their independence of the interests of business and industry must also be ensured. Citizens must be able to comment openly on information about industrial projects.

**CURRENT SITUATION:** Public transport, renewable energy and information and communication technology, for example, represent sustainable investments in regional infrastructure. Access to public transport varies considerably by area. In cities and towns that are leading the way, the intention is to increase public transport that runs on electricity or biogas. However, access to public transport is practically non-existent in some other areas.

The practices of coordinating environmental protection and industrial operations vary by area. For example, swamp areas intended to be protected in the regional plan have been considered for peat production, which does not represent sustainable industrial operations in terms of the environment or climate. According to the Supreme Administrative Court, the Regional Assembly of Central Finland made an illegal decision with regard to several peat-production areas when it accepted the third regional phase plan.<sup>45</sup> In some regions, the regional council has planned operations that pose a threat to existing conservation areas. This is the case with, for example, the Regional Council of Lapland and the Kemiharaa retarding basin and the Salla ski slope. In some industrial projects, such as the Talvivaara/Terrafame mine, members of the local community have lost trust in the authorities and entrepreneurs.

<sup>45</sup> Supreme Administrative Court (2016). Other decision 755/2016. The case concerning the approval of the third regional phase plan for Central Finland. Date of issue: 9 March 2016. File copy 755.

“ In recent years, the number of people employed by the Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (ELY Centres) has been reduced significantly, which has posed additional challenges for the appropriate management of permit practices. ”

Finland is in the process of reforming regional environmental administration. In recent years, the number of people employed by the Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (ELY Centres) has been reduced significantly, which has posed additional challenges for the appropriate management of permit practices.

**THE FINLAND OF TOMORROW:** In land-use planning and the planning of business and industry, operations are coordinated in a manner that cherishes the ecosystem services and biodiversity. Pedestrian and bicycle routes are attractive. Public transport by rail, running on renewable energy, is part of day-to-day life. The environmental authorities in the municipalities and regions are independent of industrial policy interests, and consistent permit practices ensure a high level of environmental protection.

## Municipalities and regions must:

- ✓ Ensure environmental protection and environmental expertise through sufficient resources and education.
- ✓ Favour public transport and pedestrian and bicycle traffic in terms of transport solutions and ensure sufficient maintenance.
- ✓ Encourage sustainable innovation through procurement.
- ✓ Make land-use decisions mainly through planning processes, instead of making individual decisions.
- ✓ Make announcements of statements and decisions available in electronic format.
- ✓ Designate areas that are valuable in terms of environmental protection as conservation areas.



# Goal 14: Oceans, seas and marine resources

– Coastal ecosystems need to be protected in Finland and abroad. Marine-conservation areas are important for ensuring biodiversity and food security.

WWF Finland

**GLOBAL RECOMMENDATION:** Finland must promote the establishment of marine conservation areas by means of international agreements – even in Arctic areas. **Fish-stock protection must be promoted by discontinuing subsidies that facilitate exhaustive fishing.** The creation of well-functioning waste management systems and the reduction of agricultural emissions serve to prevent pollution, such as the accumulation of plastic waste in seas, which poses a threat to biodiversity.

**CURRENT SITUATION:** Only 5.1 per cent of the world's seas are protected. Areas where fishing is prohibited constitute 1.23 per cent of the world's seas. More than 90 per cent of the world's fish stocks are either overfished or fully utilised. The volume of fish wasted because of overfishing, inefficient

“ Up to 80 per cent of the waste ending up in the world's seas is plastic. ”

fishing administration and the disposal of hauls is equal to the volume of fish consumed by more than a billion people. Finland is not an active player in global fishing policy. The Common Agricultural Policy is in conflict with the environmental targets of the EU. Up to 80 per cent of the waste that ends up in the world's seas is plastic.

**THE WORLD OF TOMORROW:** Finland has promoted the global goal to protect 30 per cent of the world's seas. Finland has globally promoted a more responsible fishing administration and the sustainable use of hauls. Finland has actively worked to ensure the diversity of the agricultural environment of the EU by facilitating a shift from a volume-based subsidy system to a system based on ecosystem services. Finland has actively worked to reduce the amount of plastic ending up in seas and to ensure that effective methods are in place to collect and reuse plastic waste.

## Finland must:

- ✓ Use its presidency of the Arctic Council to create an ecologically consistent network of conservation areas, with a focus on particularly valuable sea areas (EPSA).
- ✓ Promote the establishment of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs) in Arctic areas.
- ✓ Promote fishing administration based on ecosystems, scientific research and the precautionary principle, and the sustainable use of marine natural resources nationally, within the EU and in other international contexts.
- ✓ Demand that the European agricultural policy is steered in a more sustainable direction in terms of the environment.



# Goal 14: Oceans, seas and marine resources

– Coastal ecosystems need to be protected in Finland and abroad. Marine-conservation areas are important for ensuring biodiversity and food security.

WWF Finland

**NATIONAL RECOMMENDATION: Sea-bottom areas with a rich biodiversity must be protected by expanding the network of marine national parks in Finland.** The nutrient load from agriculture and forestry is managed by means of targeted environmental protection measures and by significantly increasing the share of vegetable-based foods in Finns' diets. The alarming development leading to fish becoming endangered must be reversed.

**CURRENT SITUATION:** Finland has protected 9.9 per cent of its sea areas, but the network is not ecologically consistent and it does not comprehensively represent various biotopes. Finland ranks 69th on the Ocean Health Index, with a slightly negative trend. The index compares the state and sustainable use of marine and coastal areas in different countries. A usage and management plan has been prepared

“ *In terms of health and the environment, Finns consume unsustainable amounts of meat.* ”

for only one-third of Finland's marine conservation areas. Environmental protection measures in agriculture are not sufficient or appropriately targeted. The nutrient load from agriculture has not decreased in line with national and international targets. Finland has 12 endangered fish species or forms, of which eight are marine. Most of the marine species are migrant. In terms of health and the environment, Finns consume unsustainable amounts of meat.

**THE FINLAND OF TOMORROW:** The good ecological state of the sea and the waterways running into the sea has been achieved in accordance with the Marine Strategy Directive and the Water Policy Framework Directive and is maintained actively. Biodiversity has been ensured by protecting one-third of the total area of each marine biotope. This also ensures the renewal of marine natural resources while also creating opportunities for the sustainable development of the blue economy. The nutrient load from agriculture is effectively managed by means of accurately targeted environmental measures. Endangered fish stocks<sup>46</sup> have been revitalised. Finns have considerably decreased their consumption of meat and other animal-based products.

46 The 2010 Red List of Finnish species. <http://www.environment.fi/redlist>

## Finland must:

- ✓ Implement its action plans on water protection and marine conservation and the related strategies in full and on schedule.
- ✓ Complement its network of marine national parks in line with the Finnish Inventory Programme for the Underwater Marine Environment (VELMU).
- ✓ Complete management and usage plans for all of its marine conservation areas and assess their effectiveness from the perspective of underwater conservation.
- ✓ Promote the establishment of an ecologically consistent network of conservation areas that covers the entire Baltic Sea within the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM).
- ✓ Target the measures of the environmental programme for agriculture at the areas that generate the largest nutrient loads.



# Goal 14: Oceans, seas and marine resources

– Coastal ecosystems need to be protected in Finland and abroad. Marine conservation areas are important for ensuring biodiversity and food security.

WWF Finland

**LOCAL RECOMMENDATION:** The various forms of sea usage that are the foundation for the blue economy must be integrated by means of regional marine-area planning. The best available technology must be used to enhance the efficiency of wastewater treatment in coastal municipalities. Opportunities for migrant fish for their natural life cycles must be restored by removing obstacles, for example.

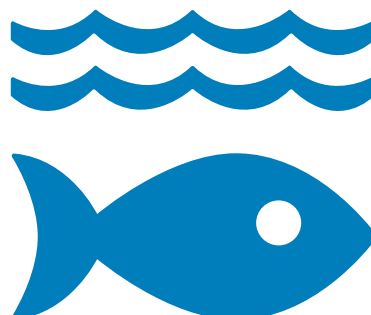
**CURRENT SITUATION:** Marine area planning has begun in Finland only recently. The legislation confirming national marine area planning came into effect in autumn 2016, but it only sets out a loose framework for practical implementation. However, the legislation states that achieving a good ecological state for the sea must be one of the goals of marine area planning. Finland's official goal is to become a model country for nutrient recycling by 2020. Most of the rivers where migrant fish breed have been dammed, and fish stocks are mainly surviving by means of planting.

**THE FINLAND OF TOMORROW:** Different ways of using the sea are no longer seen as conflicting, and conservation is gaining ground. The blue economy and the circular economy have become cornerstones of sustainable development in Finland. Point and non-point source pollution are not posing a threat to the good ecological state of waters and the sea that has been achieved. Obstacles to migrant fish have been removed or bypassed in significant waterways, and breeding areas have been restored.

“ Most of the rivers where migrant fish breed have been dammed, and fish stocks are mainly surviving by means of planting. ”

## Municipalities and regions must:

- ✓ Allocate resources to the implementation of local water management plans to achieve a good state for the waters.
- ✓ Firmly include stakeholders in marine area planning.
- ✓ Consider the information generated using the Finnish Inventory Programme for the Underwater Marine Environment in marine area planning and coastal land use, or apply the precautionary principle if such information is not available.
- ✓ Remove unnecessary dams and other obstacles to migrant fish.





# Goal 17: Cooperation and partnership

– Achieving sustainable development requires that everyone participates and sufficient resources are available.

Kepa

**GLOBAL RECOMMENDATION:** Finland must promote consistency in the implementation, monitoring and assessment of policies that support sustainable development. The achievement of goals calls for partnerships and cooperation between various operators. **Finland must allocate 0.7 per cent of its gross national income (GNI) to development cooperation in line with its international commitment.** Finland must ensure on its part that the global economy and various streams of funding support sustainable development.

**CURRENT SITUATION:** The amount of funding for actual development cooperation work will be approximately EUR 535 million in 2018. The total funding for development cooperation will be around EUR 870 million. As an average the ODA level is estimated to remain at 0.39 per cent of Finland's gross national income for this government term.<sup>47</sup> The share of development cooperation for the poorest countries is decreasing significantly, from 0.22 per cent of GNI in 2015 to estimated 0.16 per cent in 2017. The significant cutbacks are affecting the lives of millions of the poorest people. They are also undermining Finland's reputation for bearing global responsibility. Actions speak louder than words. Finland reduced its aid during the worst humanitarian crisis in history, which compromised our ability to address problems where they arise. Systematic development cooperation work over the long term is now more important than ever. Sudden major changes in the resources available for, or the focus areas of, development cooperation work jeopardise the quality and effectiveness of the operations.

Finland is far behind its commitment of 0.7 per cent – the level that Norway, Sweden and Denmark reached and exceeded a long time ago and have maintained, even in times of economic difficulty. Even though the Government is committed to the goal of 0.7 per cent over the long term, its current policy of cutbacks is shutting Finland out of the Nordic reference group.

Finland's development policy is increasingly focusing on reinforcing the financing base in developing countries. Tax

and Development, Finland's action programme on development and tax for 2016–2019, was published in August 2016. The programme highlights the important role of civil society in increasing accountability. However, by not favouring the confirmation of the UN Tax Committee's mandate Finland is not supporting the equal participation of developing countries in decision-making concerning international taxation. On the positive side, Finland is promoting partnerships by supporting the implementation of the EITI standard for the mining and oil industries. The EITI ensures transparency and accountability about how a country's natural resources are governed.

The Government proposes that the revenue from emission allowances auctions to be directed back to energy-intensive industries as a compensation. Finland is committed to ambitious climate measures. At the same time, however, it is reducing its international climate funding as part of

“ *The commitment of various sectors to the systematic implementation of sustainable development and to the related dialogue is far from its desired level.* ”

its development cooperation budget and steering funds to polluting industries. Attracting companies to participate in development cooperation work and emphasising commercial interests have become the focus areas for Finland's development policy. The Government is hoping that public development cooperation funding for companies will bring additional resources for sustainable development. However, there is no certain proof of this being the case, and the Government's estimates of the number of Finnish companies interested in development cooperation seem overly optimistic. The private sector is a more natural fit for development cooperation in growing economies and middle-income countries.

The commitment of various sectors to the systematic implementation of sustainable development and to the related dialogue is far from its desired level. Work is still needed to understand interdependencies and for example the global of municipal decision-making.

<sup>47</sup> Government's Budget proposal 2017. [http://budjetti.vm.fi/index/tae/2017/valtiovarainministerionKanta\\_tae\\_2017.jsp](http://budjetti.vm.fi/index/tae/2017/valtiovarainministerionKanta_tae_2017.jsp)



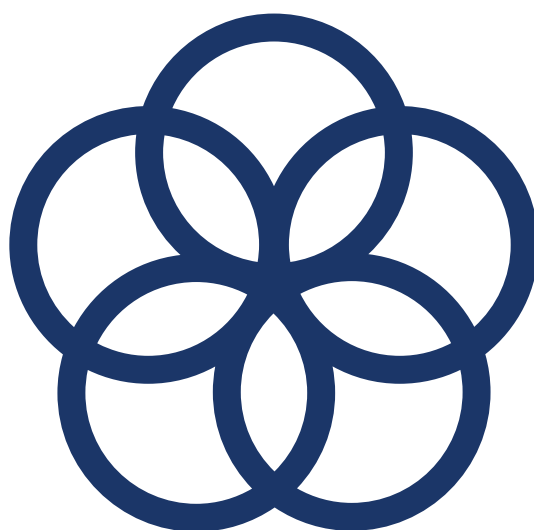
**THE FINLAND OF TOMORROW:** Policy actions support one another and enable the achievement of the goals for sustainable development. They consider the social dimension, the environment, the economy, administration and culture in a balanced manner. The advance assessment of policy effects considers policies' possible effects on the carrying capacity of the environment and the preconditions for other nations and future generations achieving and maintaining elements of sustainable development. Finland adheres to policy consistency that supports sustainable development, its funding for development cooperation is based on the needs of the partner countries, and companies are obligated to operate in accordance with the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

Public funding for development cooperation strengthens partnerships and cooperation between operators and enables a diverse civil society to promote sustainable development globally.

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### Finland must:

- ✓ Publish a practical plan and schedule for increasing its funding for development cooperation to 0.7 per cent of its GNI and commit to implementing the plan.
  - ✓ Direct at least 0.2 per cent of its GNI to the poorest countries, i.e. to least developed countries (LDCs), through development cooperation in line with its international commitments.
  - ✓ Ensure that the same development policy goals and rules for effective operations – that is, openness and accountability – concern all operators, including the private sector.
  - ✓ Assess the development effects of investments made using public funding and the criteria guiding such investments, and provide information about these.
  - ✓ The civil society space has shrunk alarmingly. The Finnish government must, in Finland and globally, safeguard the enabling environment of the civil society and actively support its work.
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# Goal 17: Cooperation and partnership

– Achieving sustainable development requires that everyone participates and sufficient resources are available.

Kepa

**NATIONAL RECOMMENDATION:** In Finland, the public sector and civil society engage in continuous dialogue. **Finland must continue to ensure the operations of an independent, competent and active civil society.** The assessment of the goals for sustainable development must systematically be included in all legislative work and the implementation of decisions. The monitoring must develop and make use of indicators of well-being that are based not only on GDP but also on other aspects.

**CURRENT SITUATION:** Funding for CSOs has been reduced extensively. For example, human rights work and peace work are at risk of running out of funding. The discontinuation of funding concerns organisations that engage in peace education, provide anti-racism training for teachers and youth workers and serve as experts in the implementation of human rights agreements in Finland. Sufficient support through public funding for organisations generating social benefits is an integral part of the Nordic welfare state model, which has proudly been offered as an example for countries where favourable conditions for civic activity are not seen as a common benefit in society. A critical civil society, participation, and the direct accountability of decision-makers to citizens have been part of our national success story – our development from a poor agrarian society into a country with a high and reasonably equal standard of living.

In terms of sustainable development, Finland is currently operating inconsistently in many respects: borders are being closed, development cooperation funding is targeted at companies, and the boom in the bioeconomy is decelerating the fight against climate change and accelerating the process of forest species becoming endangered. Finland is also exporting arms to questionable countries, such as Turkmenistan.

Finland is not yet using well-being indicators other than those based on GDP. Sustainable development has not yet been systematically included in the monitoring of decision-making.

“ Human rights work and peace work are at risk of running out of funding. ”

**THE FINLAND OF TOMORROW:** Sufficient resources have been allocated to ensure an ambitious, feasible system for monitoring the achievement of the goals for sustainable development. The development of comprehensive well-being indicators has continued, and the system for monitoring the goals for sustainable development is used to test the indicators.

The accountability of Parliament and the Government for the implementation of sustainable development is monitored closely by means of public reports prepared midway through and before the end of each Government's term of office. The Finance Committee and the Commerce Committee, which affect the allocation of resources in particular, play a key role in the implementation of the goals for sustainable development.

The important work carried out by CSOs in various sectors of sustainable development is supported financially.

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## Finland must:

- ✓ Include the assessment of the effects of sustainable development in all political decision-making at the municipal, regional and national levels.
  - ✓ Include the goals for sustainable development in the state budget.
  - ✓ Actively deconstruct inconsistent decisions and examine the effects of decisions already made on sustainable development.
  - ✓ Ensure the participation of civil society and stakeholders in the implementation of sustainable development by ensuring that there are sufficient resources and opportunities for participation. The evaluation of the monitoring of sustainable development must be discussed as a report in Parliament to ensure extensive, multi-voiced discussion.
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# Goal 17: Cooperation and partnership

– Achieving sustainable development requires that everyone participates and sufficient resources are available.

Kepa

**LOCAL RECOMMENDATION:** Various groups of people across the country must be provided with information about the goals for sustainable development and their implementation. The role of local residents in the implementation and monitoring of goals in municipalities must be strengthened at the individual and local levels.

**CURRENT SITUATION:** Public procurement by municipalities plays a significant role in promoting sustainable development. Concrete purchases, such as school meals, trees and plants, and the organisation of events, are all major choices. Taking sustainable development into account in this respect requires extensive expertise and increased resources, at least in the initial stages, in addition to standard competitive bidding processes.

“ Concrete purchases, such as school meals, trees and plants, and the organisation of events, are all major choices. ”

Finland is not free from corruption: The monitoring of the independence of the authorities and the openness of information related to industrial and land-use planning projects ensures the strengthening of resident participation at the local level in municipalities.

The Government's current policy of budget cuts is also evident in municipalities: drastic cutbacks have been implemented in education, for example, which affects the achievement of the goals for sustainable development.

Civil society plays a particularly important role in providing citizens with information about sustainable development. Communication is an integral part of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and sufficient resources must be ensured for this purpose.

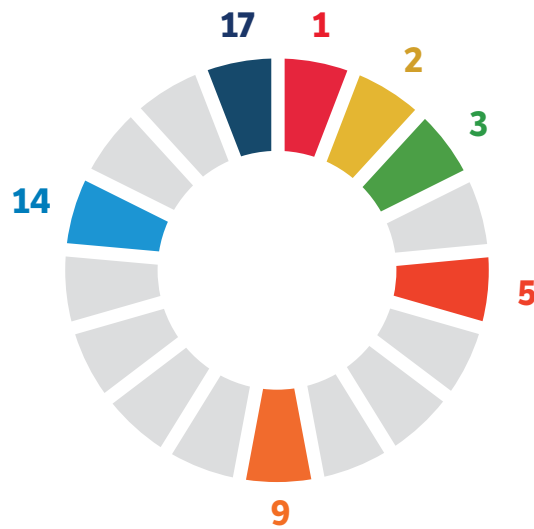
**THE FINLAND OF TOMORROW:** The 2030 Agenda is making every municipal resident aware of the fact that we are part of a shared world and that we can affect the state of that world, even through municipal decision-making. An awareness of sustainable development is evident at all levels, from decision-making to the operations of schools and day-care centres. Promoting sustainable lifestyles and participation is part of the curricula and implementation of all education, including early childhood education and continuing education.

Finnish municipalities are excellent partners for local administration in developing countries. The goals for sustainable development offer better opportunities for interaction and for sharing good experiences.

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## Municipalities and regions must:

- ✓ Make sustainable development an integral part of their strategies for the future.
  - ✓ Include the goals for sustainable development in the municipality budget.
  - ✓ Enable the operations of an independent, competent and active civil society by providing free facilities and establishing a start-up fund that makes it possible even for small associations and groups of citizens to apply for funding for projects that promote sustainable development.
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**The first part of the civil society report covers the following goals:**

Goal 1: No poverty

Goal 2: No hunger

Goal 3: Health and well-being

Goal 5: Gender equality

Goal 9: Sustainable industry, innovation and infrastructure

Goal 14: Oceans, seas and marine resources

Goal 17: Cooperation and partnerships

