

DEMOCRATIC AND EFFECTIVE SOCIETIES

Finland's core values and practices in supporting development

In international cooperation, Finland values the promotion of stability, democracy, human rights and the development of the rule of law. Finland has first-hand experience of the importance of these factors in achieving peace and development.

In Finland's experience, high-quality services which reinforce equality can be achieved through effective taxation. Finland is involved in creating global tax provisions and in strengthening the status of taxation and the management of public finances.

People-centric sustainable development is underpinned by civic engagement, free **civil society, inclusive decision-making and respect for the freedom of speech.**

Fragile states receive 57 per cent of Finland's country-specific bilateral aid. Finland wholeheartedly endorses peace, justice, security and development as laid out in SDG 16 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Sustainable development is more likely to be achieved in peaceful and democratic societies governed by the rule of law where efficient taxation is used to generate public services and education for all.

Finland's actions strive to promote that:

Political institutions are functioning more democratically and citizens' equal opportunities to influence political decision-making have increased.



Public administration and the judiciary provide better public services, including educational services, and people have increasingly better access to them.



Taxation is more efficient, allowing the funding of public services.

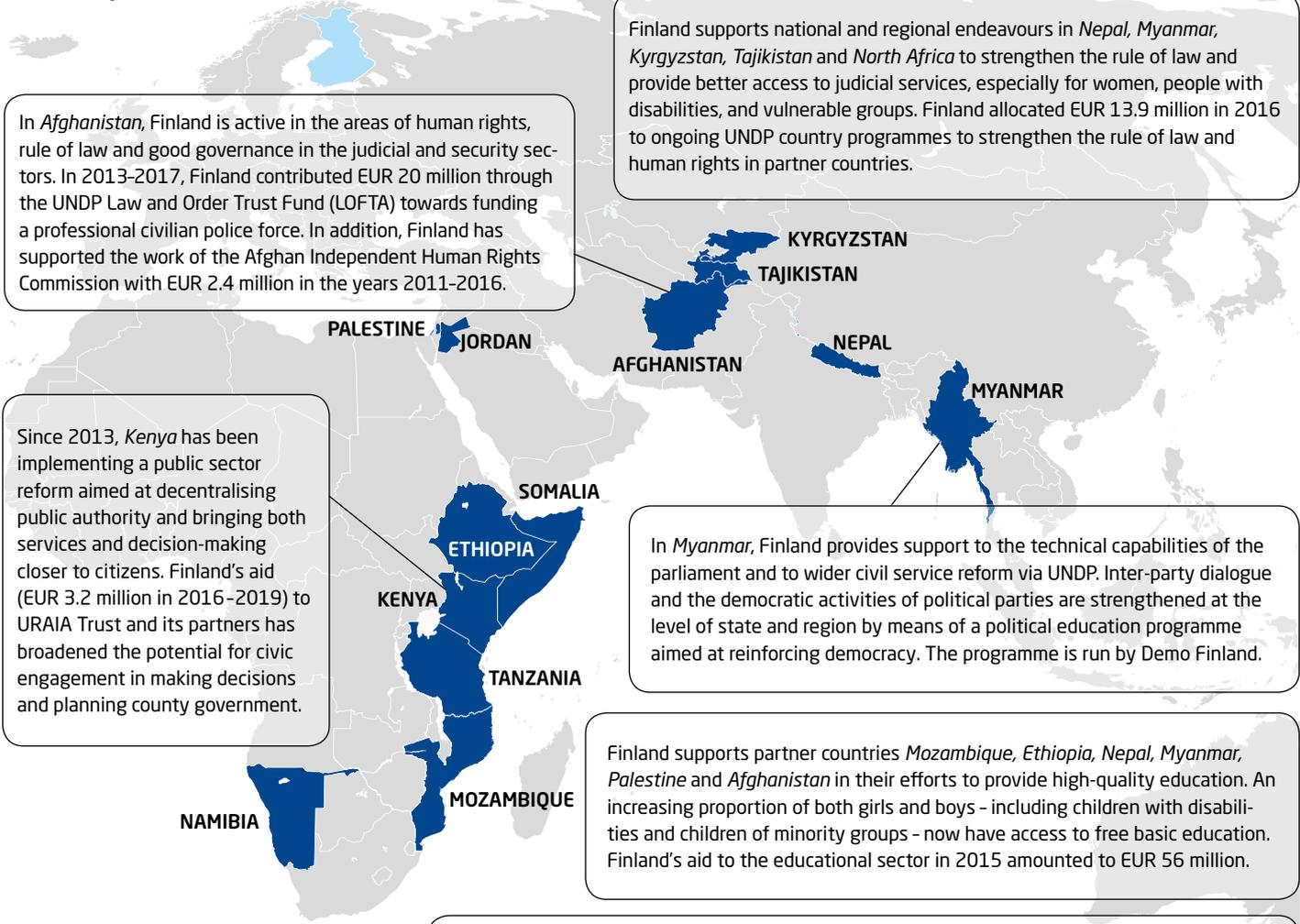


The enabling environment for civil society to function and the freedom of speech have improved.





Examples of Finland's actions:



Audits have proved the most effective tool for boosting tax revenues. Finland provides support to the tax authorities in *Namibia* via the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) in order to enhance the monitoring of corporate taxation. Finland also funds Global Financial Integrity (GFI) which strives to stem flows of dirty money in countries such as *Myanmar*. Finland supports the strengthening of public finances management and taxation also in *Tanzania*, *Kenya* and *Somalia*.

In cooperation with civil society organisations (CSOs), Finland seeks to strengthen civil society in developing nations and to boost the role of citizens in this development. Each year, Finland provides aid of EUR 65 million to development cooperation carried out by CSOs. This aid allows e.g. CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation to build up the ability of civil society to enforce social responsibility and the implementation of the UN SDGs.



Finland supports the implementation of SDG16, which involves the promotion of peaceful societies, justice and strong institutions. Finland supports international peacebuilding and statebuilding as well as the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States. Finland takes part in political dialogues in sharing experiences of justice and democracy, with the understanding that there are no 'one-size-fits-all' approaches to development. Finland provides support to CSOs such as the Finnish Crisis Management Initiative (CMI), Finn Church Aid and the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission as they foster dialogue, combat violence and promote peaceful conflict resolution in countries such as *Syria*, *Jordan*, *Somalia*, *Palestine* and *Myanmar*.



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

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