

FOOD SECURITY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, INCLUDING ACCESS TO WATER AND ENERGY

Cornerstones of sustainable development

Finland has provided long-term support for the developing countries' efforts to attain better food security and to promote sustainable management and use of natural resources.

To improve **food security**, Finland supports developing countries' agricultural growth and related value chains. In addition, Finland promotes agricultural research and supports farmers' organizations. The aim is to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, focusing on women and youth. Investments in food processing create new jobs and improve the quality and safety of food products.

As hygiene-related diseases are among the most serious health risks for people living in developing countries, Finland supports its partner countries in developing safe and reliable **water and sanitation** services. Finland is a forerunner in the development of community-led approaches, which shows in a high level of ownership, cost-efficiency and improved sustainability.

In the energy sector, Finland supports renewable **energy solutions**. Solar energy and bioenergy provide sustainable sources of power even outside the electric grid, whereas clean cooking solutions reduce smoke-related illnesses

and the application of modern technology in electricity systems improves the efficiency and reliability of services.

Natural resources serve both as a basis for all development, and also as a source of income. Sustainable management of water and land resources is a prerequisite for industrial **forestry** and for domestic use of forest products. To promote sustainable forest management, Finland supports biomass and carbon inventories, national forest programmes and good sector governance, strengthening land rights and fair sharing of forest-based benefits as well as sustainable value chains, production and use of forests.

Sustainable management of natural resources is fundamental to all development.

The impacts of **climate change** affect most severely developing countries and the poorest people. Severe droughts and increasing flooding threaten the livelihoods and lives of billions of people living in flood-prone areas, like delta regions, and in arid and semi-arid environments. Therefore, Finland supports mitigation of and adaptation to climate change at all levels: from international policy making to individual projects at grass-root level. In addition to climate-specific actions, all development cooperation supported by Finland must be climate proof and climate smart.

Through its actions, Finland promotes:

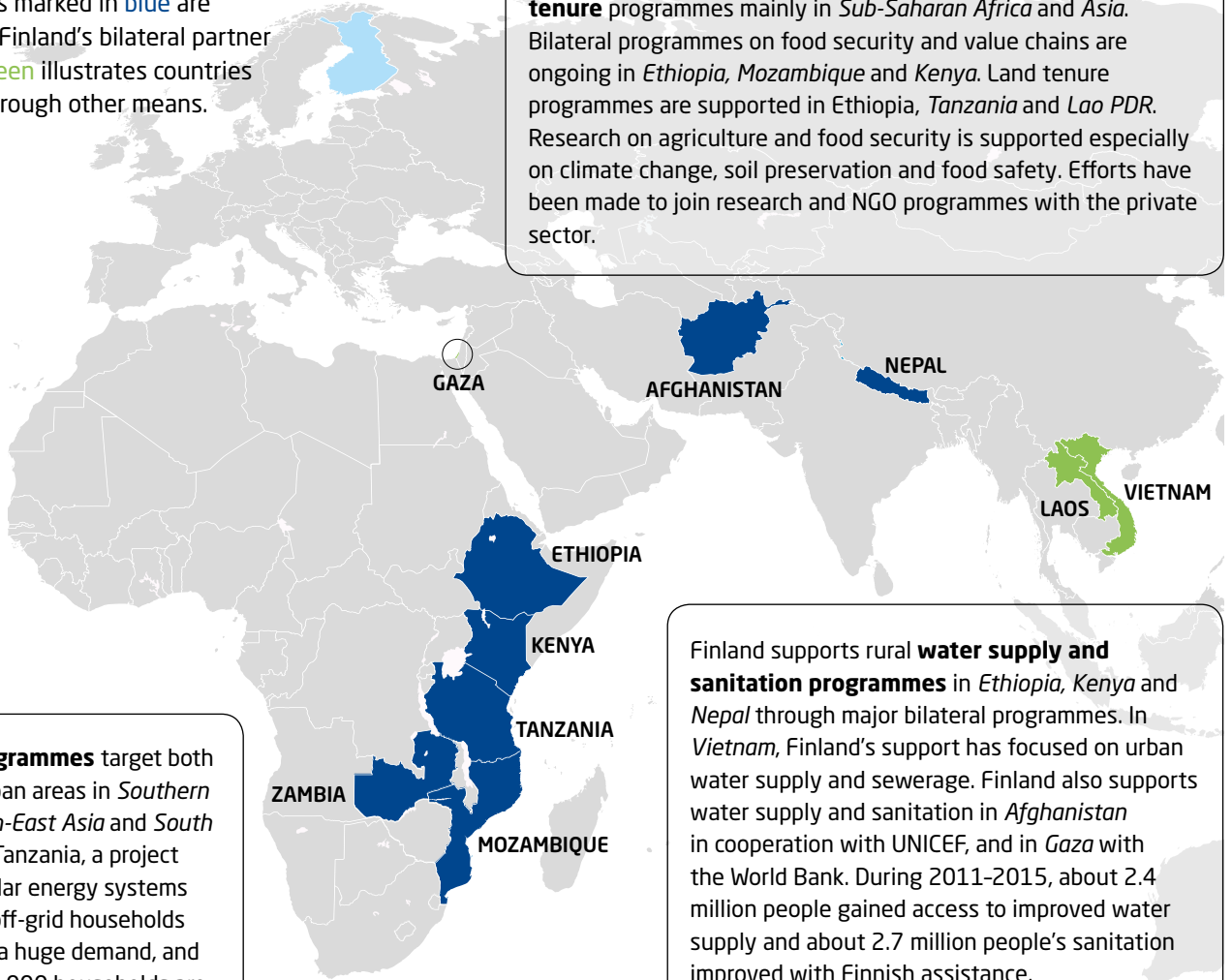
- **People's improved possibilities to produce or buy food.**
- **Better access to high-quality water supply and access to and use of decent toilets.**
- **Developing countries' investments to sustainable energy solutions, growing use of renewable energies and decreasing use of fossil energies.**
- **The sustainable management, use, protection and control of renewable natural resources and ecosystems, such as forests and water bodies.**





Examples of Finland's actions:

The countries marked in blue are examples of Finland's bilateral partner countries. Green illustrates countries supported through other means.




Finland supports **rural development, food security and land tenure** programmes mainly in *Sub-Saharan Africa* and *Asia*. Bilateral programmes on food security and value chains are ongoing in *Ethiopia, Mozambique* and *Kenya*. Land tenure programmes are supported in *Ethiopia, Tanzania* and *Lao PDR*. Research on agriculture and food security is supported especially on climate change, soil preservation and food safety. Efforts have been made to join research and NGO programmes with the private sector.

Energy programmes target both rural and urban areas in *Southern Africa, South-East Asia* and *South America*. In *Tanzania*, a project providing solar energy systems for 10,000 off-grid households has created a huge demand, and now over 50,000 households are connected each month to the developed service. As an example from urban areas, the electric grid in Dar Es Salaam was modernized with Finnish technology to offer more reliable and cost-efficient electricity to businesses and households.

Finland supports rural **water supply and sanitation programmes** in *Ethiopia, Kenya* and *Nepal* through major bilateral programmes. In *Vietnam*, Finland's support has focused on urban water supply and sewerage. Finland also supports water supply and sanitation in *Afghanistan* in cooperation with UNICEF, and in *Gaza* with the World Bank. During 2011–2015, about 2.4 million people gained access to improved water supply and about 2.7 million people's sanitation improved with Finnish assistance.

Finland has supported **forest and carbon monitoring and information systems** in *Nepal, Vietnam, Tanzania, Kenya, Zambia* and *Peru*. In *Lao PDR* participatory, **community-based forestry** provides income from timber sales. In *Tanzania*, farmers and tree growers' organizations engage in value chains through tree planting for livelihoods and sales for local industries.

 **Climate actions** are mainstreamed into natural resources projects, especially into water, forestry and rural development projects. Finland is also a significant supporter of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Development of meteorological services is supported in several countries in *Africa, Central Asia* and *Pacific Regions*. The aim is to deliver high-quality weather and climate services, and thus, to respond to the challenges posed by climate change and extreme weather events.



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