

Portfolio plan

Version of December 2021

Global Development and International Relations

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2 Outlook

This chapter will be developed following the open consultation.

3 The scope of the portfolio

The Portfolio plan for Global Development and International Relations covers the Research Council's overall efforts for the responsibility areas of the Portfolio Board for Global Development and International Relations. The portfolio encompasses all projects funded by the Research Council and the EU framework programmes for research and innovation as outlined within the four dimensions of the portfolio:

Disciplines and methodological approaches

The research within this Portfolio is inherently interdisciplinary. This portfolio plan is developed on the understanding that the broad thematic priority areas are interrelated, demanding cooperation across national borders, sectors, and disciplines. The Portfolio encourages a wide range of methodological approaches to ensure that new knowledge and practises are based on sound and appropriate research.

Thematic priorities

A robust knowledge base that considers geopolitical shifts is a prerequisite for sound management of Norway's international relations and global ambitions. The Norwegian international development agenda aims at promoting implementation of human rights, economic development, democratisation and rules-based governance, and action that will address the needs of the most vulnerable people and help reduce world poverty. The primary objective of Global health research is to promote health equity by supporting high-quality research that can contribute to sustainable health improvements for disadvantaged populations¹ in low- and lower-middle income countries (LLMICs). The overarching thematic priority areas are consequently:

- Safety and security
- Development and inequality
- Global health

Each of these areas has several thematic priorities. In addition, there are several cross-cutting priorities, as shown in the figure below.

¹ Disadvantaged populations include children, and socially and economically disadvantaged groups, such as people living in poverty, rural populations, and disadvantaged minorities.



Figure 1: Schematic representation of the portfolio's priorities.

Norway is committed to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its principle of Leaving No One Behind. Norway is dedicated to playing a leading role in international development policy, and the development policies must adapt quickly to new, demanding, and rapidly changing situations globally. In creating a new landscape for development, the SDGs necessitate research across scales from local to global. There is a multitude of feedback processes between the work on the individual SDGs that need to be understood if they are to be achieved efficiently. Interdisciplinary approaches and new modes of communication beyond the scientific community will thus be important to the portfolio on global development and international relations. To reach the SDGs, new actors, agents, and modalities for aid - including non-state entities and novel financial mechanisms - are required. Global power balances are shifting, and new emerging actors and agents of development are playing an increasingly significant role in shaping development policies as well as in impacting on the meanings, practices, and forms of development.

Area of application of the research

Research relevant for policy making and public administration, especially the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, The Ministry of Health and Care Services and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) are important priorities. The Portfolio has a large part of its funding from the Official Development Aid budget, which must be used for economic development and welfare of low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Thus, research relevant for policy makers, services, the public sector, and business in LMICs is highly prioritized. Other ministries, public agencies, businesses, and NGOs will also benefit from the research funded by the Portfolio.

The Research Council seeks direct as well as indirect interaction with policymakers and other stakeholders to ensure the highest possible degree of policy relevance. We will use the established communication channels with the ministries and establish meeting platforms involving policymakers and researchers.

R&D value chains

An important task for this portfolio is to promote research with the purpose of informing policymaking. The Portfolio will seek to cover the entire range of research: from basic research to innovation and piloting, although with a strong emphasis on applied and implementation research.

The priority application types in call for proposals will be Researcher Projects and Collaborative and Knowledge-building Projects. Implementation research is key to the effective deployment and scaling-up of efficacious health interventions and will also be prioritized. There is also a use of Coordination and Support Activities for minor projects like conferences, research schools and networks. Innovation projects are also part of the Portfolio's funding instruments. To ensure future recruitment to the research field, applications for PhD positions as well as post-doctoral fellowships should normally be included in the projects.

4 Investment goals

The investment goals are anchored in the Research Council's strategy and consist of societal goals and user goals. The measures initiated by the Research Council shall result in some expected outcomes and societal impacts in accordance with an intervention logic model (see Figure 2). See Appendix 1 for a schematic representation of this portfolio's intervention logic model.

The government's priorities for research and higher education are stated in the Long-term plan for research and higher education 2019-2028. This Portfolio will have a particular responsibility towards the Long-term plan's priority area *Societal security and social cohesion in a globalised world*.

The Portfolio's overall goal is to foster excellence and to advance the frontiers of research within the relevant thematic areas, to encourage recruitment and development of leaders in research and to strengthen capacity both in Norway and internationally. The Portfolio will both contribute to relevant high-quality knowledge and raise competence in Norwegian research environments, making them capable of anticipating and meeting needs for new knowledge. New and innovative research on development is required to contribute to develop an updated and relevant development policy. The research funded by this Portfolio will contribute to secure evidence and actionable knowledge concerning Norway's foreign and security policy, its economic interests, its international development agenda, and to identify appropriate actions to fight poverty and promote sustainable development in LMICs.

The portfolio will foster cooperation across the Norwegian research community as well as promote international collaboration with research institutions and individual research groups abroad. An important priority of the portfolio is to ensure fair and equitable partnerships with LMICs to strengthen their research capacity and ability to meet global challenges. Such partnerships will also strengthen the understanding and competence of development and global health issues in Norway. In line with the Government's EU-policy there is a strong emphasis on encouraging and enabling Norwegian researchers to participate in the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

The basic ambition of this Portfolio is to promote research enhancing understanding of:

- the challenges, opportunities and alternative options facing Norway in the pursuit of its national interests and values;
- the impact and management of global challenges in LMICs;

- the foreign, security and international development policies of countries that are particularly significant in terms of their impact on Norwegian interests;
- the international system, international cooperation and conflict, and the global and regional institutions as well as Norway's place therein.

A priority aim for this Portfolio is to oversee and ensure the development and delivery of innovative research, in support of global efforts towards the SDGs, in line with the Research Council's commitment to underpin the Norwegian government's adoption of the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

The investment goals provide direction and scope for the Portfolio Board's more concrete goals and priorities, which are laid down in the investment plans - the three-year plans for the Portfolio's call for proposals, and other measures.

4.1 Societal goals

The efforts outlined in this portfolio plan will contribute to realising the main goals of the Research Council of Norway's executive strategy, [Empowering ideas for a better world](#) (2020 – 2024), in particular the goal on *Sustainable development*. The efforts will also contribute to the strategic area *Cohesion and globalisation*. The Research Council is also committed to realizing national strategies

The investment goals are anchored in the Research Council's strategy and consist of societal goals and user goals in accordance with The Norwegian Agency for Public and Financial Management². The measures initiated by the Research Council shall result in several expected outcomes and societal impacts in accordance with an intervention logic model (see Figure 2). See Appendix 1 for a presentation of this portfolio's intervention logic model.

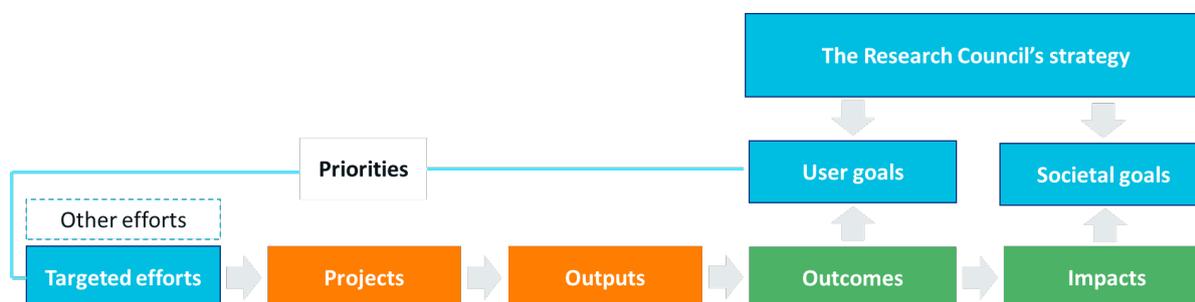


Figure 2. Schematic illustration of the investment logic model upon which this portfolio plan is based.

The societal goals correspond to the societal impacts towards which the research and innovation efforts are to be directed. The world is lagging behind schedule in its ambition to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The corona pandemic has exacerbated the social and economic state of citizens in many LMICs. Tensions within the multilateral system are rising and the rule of law is under pressure. This portfolio's investments in research are twofold; promoting new knowledge to help tackle complex challenges by contributing to solving root causes and to dampen the impacts of these challenges.

To underpin the executive strategy of The Research Council, the portfolio plan for global development and international relations sets forth the following societal goals:

1. Norway contributes effectively to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

² [The Norwegian Agency for Public and Financial Management](#)

2. Norway is aware of the challenges, opportunities, and alternative options it is facing in the pursuit of its interests and values;
3. The Norwegian society is robust and informed.

4.2 User goals

A prerequisite for realizing the society's goals is a well-functioning research and innovation system. The Research Council shall bring together the actors in the research institutions, the business community, the public sector, and civil society to produce ground-breaking and useful research and innovations that are a requirement for being able to achieve the goals of society. In the Portfolio for global development and international relations the Ministry of foreign affairs, the Ministry of health and welfare, the Ministry of law and preparedness and the Ministry of defence and these ministries subordinate agencies are of particular importance. Key actors in achieving the user goals are researchers, Norway's embassies abroad, Norwegian delegations to international organisations (IGOs) and the civil society.

This portfolio plan has established the following user goals:

1. The Government has a good understanding of the international system, international cooperation and conflict, and the global and regional institutions and Norway's place therein;
2. The Norwegian foreign administration uses research for framing foreign and security policy and for underpinning Norway's commitment in contributing to achieving the SDGs;
3. Norwegian development and humanitarian policies, and corresponding efforts, are effective and foster progress and relief in low- and middle-income countries;
4. Norwegian global health research contributes to sustainable health improvements for disadvantaged populations³ in low- and lower-middle income countries;
5. Research institutions and researchers on the areas of development, global health, foreign and security related research are highly competitive and of international standing;
6. The R&D environment interact with and transfer knowledge to users of research.

5 Priorities

The priorities of the Portfolio for global development and international relations are based on several key documents. The most significant are

- [Meld. St. 4 \(2018-2019\) Long-term plan for research and higher education 2019–2028](#) (With particular relevance to cross-cutting perspectives related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the priority area *Societal Security and Social Cohesion in a Globalised World*)
- [Meld. St. 27 \(2018–2019\) Norway's Role and Interests in Multilateral Cooperation](#)
- [Meld. St. 36 \(2016–2017\) Setting the course for Norwegian foreign and security policy](#)
- [Meld. St. 24 \(2016–2017\) - Common Responsibility for Common Future](#)
- [The research strategy for the Ministry of foreign affairs and The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation 2017 - 2024](#)
- [Strategy for research and development for the defense sector](#) (Only available in Norwegian)

³ Disadvantaged populations include children, women, and socially and economically disadvantaged groups, such as people living in poverty, rural populations, and disadvantaged minorities.

- [Health and Care 21-strategy](#) (Only available in Norwegian)
- [Better Health, Better Lives - Combating Non-Communicable Diseases in the Context of Norwegian Development Policy \(2020-2024\)](#)
- [Meld.St.17 \(2017-2018\) Partner Countries in Norway's Development Policy](#) (summary)
- [Meld.St.35 \(2014-2015\) Working together: Private sector development in Norwegian development cooperation](#)
- [Norway's Humanitarian Strategy](#)
- [Strategic framework for Norwegian efforts in vulnerable states and regions](#) (Only available in Norwegian)
- [Meld. St. 22 \(2016-2017\) The place of the oceans in Norway's foreign and development policy](#)
- [The Norwegian government's action plan on sustainable food systems \(2019-2023\)](#)
- [The Norwegian coalition government's programme declaration](#) (Only available in Norwegian)

In addition, this Portfolio will also take into account the annual allotment letters from the ministries.

The realisation of the Portfolio's goals is dependent on cooperation with other funding schemes including, but not limited to, the EU framework programmes, Nordic Research Cooperation (NordForsk), Belmont Forum, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP), Global Research Council and other international R&D-funding organisations and multi- and bilateral initiatives.

5.1 Disciplines and methodological approaches

The disciplinary priorities of this Portfolio are strongly related to the thematic priorities, mainly the social sciences and medicine and health sciences. There is an emphasis on the contribution from the humanities within the Portfolio, in accordance with the ambitions in the Government's white paper [Meld. St. 25 \(2016–2017\) The Humanities in Norway](#). A central aim of the white paper is to contribute to greater mutual curiosity, exploration and proximity between the humanities and other subject areas and areas of society.

Interdisciplinary and transformative research is gaining attention both in Norway and globally as the emphasis on tackling complex real-world problems and conducting high quality ground-breaking research means that traditional monodisciplinary approaches are, in many cases, no longer suitable. To be able to address complex challenges, there is a need to ensure a stronger emphasis on innovative interdisciplinary research, across a wide range of disciplines, and this Portfolio will encourage and support researchers intending to adopt interdisciplinary and transformative ways of working.

Implementation research has its origins in different disciplines and research traditions. The portfolio will support a range of different methodological approaches, from experimental or quasi-experimental studies to evaluations and policy analyses. The portfolio will encourage and reward interdisciplinary collaboration where such collaboration more effectively answers the research question.

A new emphasis is placed on methodology using shared data, artificial intelligence, and modelling. New communication strategies are needed with better use of innovative technology and approaches to ensure new knowledge learned is shared with all the relevant stakeholders using effective and relevant approaches and strategies.

5.2 Thematic priorities

The Portfolio of Global Development and International Relations is developed on the understanding that international relations research, development research, and global health research are interrelated. A number of significant issues are cutting across and impacting on the thematic priority areas, especially socio-economic inequality, inequity, migration, and violence and conflict. The following broad areas are of particular interest:

5.2.1 Safety and security

Following a period of steadily increasing global cooperation and relative stability, most indicators now point towards a more turbulent and unpredictable world. Although the world from an overall point of view is more prosperous and peaceful than it used to be, global challenges that relate to structural and political changes in the international sphere; to the climate and environment; technology; migration; and inequality may generate intra-state and inter-state conflicts. In a world that is increasingly interconnected, it is imperative to ensure that we have a sound basis from which to study global trends, conduct comparative studies, and do research on transnational networks and phenomena.

5.2.1.1 World order and the multilateral system

The international order is changing. Growing inequality puts new pressure on the multilateral system. There is more competition between superpowers and more tension between developed countries. This entails challenges and restraints, but also offers new opportunities. It is important to identify, understand, and elaborate both.

Norway has a major stake in a rules-based and stable world order and open and free markets. A functioning multilateral system is also of importance if the SDGs are to be reached. Hence, research is needed on ways to strengthen multilateral cooperation and the institutions in which it takes place, with a view to enhancing the effectiveness and representativity of key organizations, such as the UN.

New knowledge is required to understand how heightened competition between major powers is contributing to further challenge the established world order and its institutions, and how this development creates a new, more challenging, and less predictable context for international cooperation on matters related to security, trade, commerce, and the world economy, as well as development issues.

An increasing number of regional institutions are established. It is important to research on the intentions behind and consequences of these new institutions. Do these institutions help to fill a vacuum and offer public goods that are not otherwise available, or do they compete with existing institutions and regimes?

4.2.1.2 Foreign and security policy

Foreign- and security policies concern the behavior of individual countries. These policies are of course affected by systemic impulses that impinge upon the individual country. Security policy, for example, is affected by Great Power relations and behavior, and by alliance memberships. But the foreign and security behavior of states is also a product of domestic factors; the mind-set and ambitions of key decision-makers, the political constellations of the nation, the character of its bureaucracy, economic and military capabilities, and national culture and ambitions. Security policy is about the survival of the nation state and the safety of its citizens. Ultimately, security concerns can trump all other foreign-policy considerations.

Transnational crime, international terrorism, and cyber threats are placing societies, including Norway, under pressure. Hacking of critical infrastructure, fake news, disinformation campaigns, and

other external meddling: these are all parts of a complicated new threatening situation, thus adding further complexity to the challenges posed by the traditional threats to the nation's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence.

Obviously, some countries, regions, and institutions stand out as particularly significant and deserving of attention from a Norwegian point of view. These countries may be important for Norway's foreign relations or may be global drivers because of their economic and military strength and/or their technological impact. At the same time, however, it is essential to carry out research on themes, countries, and areas other than those that appear most immediately important, both because this helps us to understand new developments and changes in international relations, and because it gives us access to knowledge that may be useful in contingency situations. Of particular importance are Russia, The High North and the Arctic, Europe and the European Union, Asia, and the Middle East.

4.2.1.3 System of government, democracy, and human rights

Democracy as a system of government has been expanding geographically since the mid-20th century, but now this trend seems to have been reversed, or at least stalled. Authoritarian government is on the rise in many parts of the world. There are many reasons why people are losing faith in democratic governments. Inequality, a decline in relative or absolute living standards, and globalisation are but some examples. One common feature, however, is a forceful political rhetoric built on antagonism towards existing political elites. This is often expressed in demands for 'strong man' or military rule, a weakening of the rule of law, and the emergence of independent power centres. Many of today's anti-democratic movements also challenge ideas of gender equality, women's bodily autonomy, and minority rights. Democratic principles and individual human rights are thus under forceful pressure.

The global shift in power, is affecting development towards democracy in new ways. How does this affect the possibility of supporting human rights and democracy in these countries? Stability in the world is also being challenged by stronger identity conflicts, ethnic as well as religious. Knowledge about tensions of this type, and, not least, how different actors and countries utilise them, is important if we are to understand not only local conflicts within and between countries, but also more general challenges to stability.

4.2.1.4 People living in a time of conflict

The past ten years the number of forcibly displaced people has doubled to 82,4 million⁴. Large migration flows have significant and complex impacts on the development of the countries of origin, on transit countries, and on recipient countries, and not least on the individual migrant. New knowledge is needed on the entire migration chain, from causes of migration, the effects of migration on countries of origin, transit countries, and recipient countries, to provide better prospects of meeting the challenges.

Migration comes in different forms. There is regional labour migration that grow despite difficult working conditions and limited access to welfare benefits. There is large scale internal migration in countries with migration to the big cities that lead to major changes in the composition of population, the labour market, the economy, and the environment. It also poses challenges related to for example pollution, poverty and crime, welfare schemes, urban development, and social and economic inequality. Going forward, it will be important to monitor how migration in all its forms

⁴ [UNHCR - Figures at a Glance](#)

affects international and regional cooperation, governance policies, economies, social structures, and societal values.

New and inexpensive digital platforms and the social media have enabled extensive and rapid exchange of information. New digital technology is being used to access to information about people's personal lives. This threatens universal rights relating to elections and freedom of expression, as well as minority rights intended to protect against discrimination.

Severe incidents that are serious threats to society, such as natural disasters, conflict, terrorism, or pandemics, normally trigger extraordinary measures and regulations by the authorities. There is a need to understand the wider consequences of such measures, like emergency laws and infliction of severe restrictions, on human rights. There is also a need to understand how changing geopolitical priorities and intensifying great power rivalry changes the conditions for human rights advocacy.

5.2.2 Development and inequality

5.2.2.1 Poverty reduction and inequality

After years of progress, extreme poverty has increased in several regions from 2020 onwards. Approximately 120 million people have been pushed into extreme poverty due to the Covid-19 pandemic, mostly in LMICs, as the slow-down of economic activity has caused significant increase in unemployment⁵. New knowledge is needed on how poverty is interlinked with trends on a local, national, and global level. It is further necessary to ensure the development and upscaling of innovative solutions to promote poverty reduction by use of new digital opportunities and new types of partnership. A better understanding of how to effectively engage and include local communities in decision making processes, and how to ensure robust long-term results from the perspective of poverty reduction is important. Further, it is important to understand how public-private partnerships can contribute to poverty reduction, without impacting negatively on the authority and accountability of international and national public actors engaged in development work.

Inequality, both socio-economic and gender-based, is of major concern, as inequalities are increasing both between and within populations. The significant disparity between extreme poverty and extreme wealth is a symptom of failing policies to ensure fair distribution of economic resources, which further impacts the distribution of power. The research efforts on inequality must provide new insight into which structures create economic, social, and political inequality and which schemes can contribute to reducing inequality.

5.2.2.2 Labour-markets and employment

In many parts of the world the unemployment rate is surging, particularly among the youth. In Africa as a whole, employment has expanded far below the growth in labour force over the last decade, albeit the differences between countries are significant. Research is needed to resolve the urgent need for job creation, particularly for young people in the context of high population growth and increasing urbanisation in parallel to persistent, extreme, rural deprivation. The Covid-19 pandemic has, meanwhile, raised awareness of the significance of welfare provision for the poorest and most vulnerable, as well as of new understanding of global macroeconomic instruments of support in such conditions. Widespread discrimination against women and numerous ethnic groups is prevalent in many labour markets. More knowledge is needed on how new jobs with decent working conditions

⁵ [Sustainable Development Report 2021 \(sdgindex.org\)](https://sdgindex.org)

can be created as well as about how increasing globalisation of trade, services, capital, and information facilitate and constrain employment and income opportunities.

5.2.2.3 Education and skills

Education with good learning outcomes is essential for reducing poverty, creating new jobs, stimulating business, improving health, fulfilling human rights, and achieving peace and democracy. In addition, it is important that children and young people receive education also in conflict and crisis situations. Because of sustained efforts and investment on the part of national governments, communities, and development partners, many more children are in school. However, despite considerable progress in increasing educational access in recent years, millions of children still have no access to formal education and, where they do, learning levels remain very low. There is therefore a need to reorient education systems away from focusing exclusively on expanding access towards additionally improving learning outcomes and the overall quality of education for all children.

Skills and education of the work force play an increasingly important part in countries' ability to compete for work in the global value chains, which risks excluding countries with a poor educational system from the global economy. Furthermore, the green transition and technological advances within robotics and AI are expected to render a large number of labour-intensive jobs obsolete. This underlines the necessity to ensure well-functioning educational systems that qualifies new generations to enter into a more demanding labour-market, and that helps ensure adults to retain employment in high quality and stable jobs.

5.2.2.4 Taxation and capital flows

Corruption, tax evasion and other forms of economic crime exacerbate inequality and poverty and threaten democracy. Corruption and tax evasion is an important reason for why many LMICs are suffering poverty. Illicit financial flows from poor countries, as well as the use of tax havens and other international structures, means that huge amounts of money are siphoned off instead of advancing economic development for the common good. How tax revenues are raised can be equally important as raising revenue, and a legitimate and efficient tax system can contribute to reducing inequality and building a social contract between state and citizens.

How tax revenues are raised may be as important as raising revenue, and a legitimate and efficient tax system can contribute to reducing inequality and building a social contract between the state and citizens. Countries with weak tax systems are often faced with a multitude of challenges related to both tax policy and tax administration, at the subnational and national level. Increased capital mobility has weakened the opportunities of developing countries to use the tax system to redistribute the gains from low-priced imports / lower wages. New challenges of the global economy, in particular digitalization, creates both risks and opportunities, potentially eroding the tax base, creating new trade-offs in tax policy, but also expanding tax authorities' toolbox on compliance and taxpayer services.

5.2.2.5 Peace, violence, conflict, and state fragility

Violence and conflicts have an impact not only on security, but also on political and economic conditions, health, and general law and order. Human rights violations are more widespread in times of conflict, and often persist long after a conflict has ended. The number of armed conflicts characterised by extreme brutality and complexity has increased in recent years. In addition, non-war violence, which is a problem throughout the world, however, more than 90 % of violence-related deaths occur in LMICs. Combined with natural and other disasters, and partially exacerbated by the

consequences of climate change, these create immense challenges for the international community and an unprecedented need for humanitarian assistance.

Violent conflicts change people's lives, and women, men, and children are affected in diverse ways. The underlying causes and dynamics of conflict must be better understood and addressed, and knowledge on efficient conflict transformation should be increased. Research must provide knowledge on how conflicts affect development, and vice versa, result in uneven distribution of development benefits, globally, regionally, and locally, and how this is linked to creating new or extending ongoing conflict, thus increasing poverty, exclusion, and marginalization. The effect of extractive industries on conflict, and particularly how such industries best can impact conflict levels and development positively rather than negatively, should be further examined.

LMICs often suffer one or more fragilities in core functions of the state, hence the state's ability to control violence, the state's ability to provide basic public services, and the state's legitimacy. Violence and conflicts, both within a country and in neighbouring countries, have the power to destabilise or even subvert governments and significantly weaken core state functions.

5.2.2.6 Humanitarian Efforts

Armed conflict, climate change, natural disasters, disease outbreaks, and persistent poverty in fragile countries and regions are creating complex crises that last longer and affect more people than before. The humanitarian caseload is a growing concern for development and has direct impact on the SDGs, as there is a lack of resources and a need for reform to respond more adequately to humanitarian challenges. This Portfolio intends to include and support research which will respond to the knowledge needs set out in [Norway's Humanitarian Strategy](#).

Humanitarian issues are interlinked with conflict and climate changes, which can cause migration, and research is needed to assist the international community in finding appropriate ways of linking humanitarian assistance with long-term development and responding to root causes of vulnerability. This includes the roles of local, national, and international actors in a humanitarian response and how social and political factors influence root causes of vulnerability and marginalisation processes, as well as accountability to affected populations and reaching the most vulnerable.

5.2.2.7 Climate change adaptation, food security, and green transition

Climate changes pose an important risk on a societal, economic, and security dimension. The impact of flooding, disease, and famine - resulting in migration on an unprecedented scale in areas of already high tension, e.g., drought and crop-failure, leading to intensified competition for food, water, and energy, in regions where resources are already stretched to the limit. This could lead to a breakdown in established codes of conduct, and even to outright violent conflict within and between nations, with a potential to escalate further.

There is a need for new insights that can help strengthen food production, especially in small-scale agriculture in consideration of sustaining a well-functioning ecosystem. It is important to stimulate the use of innovative technology and input factors that can increase productivity in agriculture in a sustainable way, with consideration to climate adaptation, including climate-resilient agriculture and various risk-reducing measures, as well as measures to ensure food security in areas with war and conflict. Improving nutrition in LMICs is paramount, particularly among women and children.

In many locations, ecosystem services are threatened by degradation of habitats, loss of biodiversity, pollution, and climate change. Small-scale farmers, herders, and anglers in LMICs are often seen as the major victims of environmental degradation, but they are also critical actors in terms of reducing

risks. Sustainable natural resource management practices have the potential to secure vital ecosystem services and prevent natural hazards from becoming crises. Food security is under threat from climate change and under- and malnutrition are on the rise globally, where the poorest countries are the hardest hit. [The Norwegian government's action plan on sustainable food systems \(2019-2023\)](#) has been launched to increase sustainable food production, improve nutrition, and enhance job and value creation. More research is needed to gain a better understanding of how farmers adapt to climate change and more importantly, which adaptation strategies are most effective. As detailed in the government's [Strategy on climate adaptation, prevention of climate-related disasters and the fight against hunger](#)⁶, key priority areas include climate-adapted agriculture, warning systems and climate services, risk financing, and disaster risk management.

The threats facing the oceans are many-faceted, including rising temperatures and sea levels, acidification, bleaching of corals, degradation of mangroves, and marine pollution and littering. Marine plastic waste is mainly caused by lack of waste collection and waste management on land, whereby most of the plastic enters the oceans via rivers. Many LMICs foresee increased economic growth within the blue sectors. Diversification and new economic activities are needed but may compete with existing activities, such as those of small-scale fishing communities. It is thus important that the consequences for those who live by and off the sea are considered both in facilitating new economic activity and when implementing conservation measures.

Access to energy is fundamental for improving quality of life and is a key imperative for economic and social development. It is also vital to a country's ability to generate income, provide jobs and stimulate trade and development. In LMICs, energy poverty is still rife as more than 800 million people have no access to electricity. Understanding the energy needs of societies, energy use, energy sources, technological solutions for energy supply and distribution, their implementation, financing, effects on societies and long-term sustainability is a priority. Knowledge is needed on the effects of renewable energy sources on poverty alleviation, climate, and job creation, as well as on the role of the private sector. With strong population growth and a shift away from traditional use of bioenergy, Africa is emerging as a driver for growth in demand for oil, gas, and renewables. The transition to a carbon-free energy supply must therefore be fast and affordable enough to be able to serve the growing demand.

5.2.3 Global health research

The primary objective in global health research is to promote health equity by supporting high-quality research that can contribute to sustainable health improvements for disadvantaged populations⁷ in LLMICs. The societal impact of submitted research proposals should be assessed in terms of their potential to: (1) contribute, directly or indirectly, to substantial reductions in disease burden in LLMICs; (2) promote health equity in LLMICs, and (3) produce higher level insights of relevance to policy and practice beyond the specific setting and context where studies are carried out, i.e., by closing current evidence gaps and thus informing future guidelines and policies. These three criteria must be seen together to evaluate the potential for impact.

Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity and is recognized as a fundamental right. Health research includes research on the intersecting social, economic, political, and cultural determinants of health status and access to and provision of health services. A holistic approach that recognizes the physical, psychological (or

⁶ Only available in Norwegian.

⁷ Disadvantaged populations include children, and socially and economically disadvantaged groups, such as people living in poverty, rural populations, and disadvantaged minorities.

mental) as well social components of health, and that these are inter-related should be applied. The focus on equity in global health research also involves pursuing research on these broad determinants of health. Promoting equity will also favour research that focusses on values that are indirectly linked to health equity, e.g., voice, agency, and accountability of citizens in health systems.

5.2.3.1 Priority to implementation research

The portfolio will prioritize implementation research⁸ The priority to implementation research reflects its significant potential to advance sustainable and equitable health improvements in LLMICs by catalysing the integration of evidence-based approaches into practice. Prioritization of implementation research does not exclude funding of high-quality projects from other research fields, such as basic science, epidemiological, diagnostic, and clinical research if they address questions that are of high relevance to global health.

Research for effective implementation should be understood broadly to include research on interventions with proven efficacy as well as programmes and policies with the potential to substantially reduce disease burden and promote health equity. It encompasses assessment of "real world" impact of interventions, including on health outcomes such as illness, survival, physical growth, and cognitive development. It also focuses on acceptability, adoption, appropriateness, feasibility, fidelity, cost, coverage, scalability and/or sustainability of interventions, programmes, and policies. It may also include the broad range of determinants and overarching aspects impacting health and health equity in LLMICs.

5.2.3.2 Disease burden

Disadvantaged populations in LLMICs contribute disproportionately highly to the global burden of disease and experience excessive mortality, morbidity, and disability due to a range of communicable and non-communicable diseases. The portfolio will support and encompass research that can contribute to continued progress on reducing burden from communicable diseases, maternal and child health, non-communicable diseases (NCDs)⁹, population-based public health interventions that can prevent major health risks, and all other health issues reflected in the SDG 3 targets. The spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) will stall the progress in fighting infectious diseases, and research on all aspects of AMR in a LLMIC-setting is therefore supported by the portfolio.

Focusing on issues that contribute to the greatest disease burden is important to identify areas where research can contribute to the greatest impact. However, the portfolio has a broad approach to thematic areas covered by global health research to capture important parameters that effect health equity (distribution of disease burden, generating knowledge on effectiveness, feasibility, and sustainability of interventions etc.) Thus, the portfolio covers research on the adverse interaction of diseases of all types in a LLMIC-setting, referred to as the syndemic approach¹⁰.

⁸ For definition of implementation research, please consult the publication *Implementation research: new imperatives and opportunities in global health* [https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736\(18\)32205-0.pdf](https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736(18)32205-0.pdf)

⁹ The 2018 UN Political Declaration on NCDs promotes a 5 x 5 NCD agenda, focusing on five core diseases (cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory disease, cancer, diabetes, and mental and neurological conditions) and five core risk factors (unhealthy diet, tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, physical inactivity, and air pollution). The inclusion of air pollution demonstrates the growing attention to environmental risk factors that contribute significantly to the burden of disease in LLMICs.

¹⁰ Syndemics involve the adverse interaction of diseases of all types (e.g., infections, chronic noncommunicable diseases, mental health problems, behavioral conditions, toxic exposure, and malnutrition) and as a result of such interaction produce an increased burden of disease in a population. Syndemics advance under health disparity, impacted by poverty, stress, structural violence or conflicts. The syndemic approach departs from the biomedical approach to diseases to

5.2.3.3 Pandemics, health systems and health services

Emerging and re-emerging communicable diseases with epidemic or pandemic potential are a persistent threat to global health security, to public health and socioeconomic development in many LLMICs. This has been underscored by the COVID-19 pandemic, clearly demonstrating that for one country to be safe, all countries must be safe. The goal of attaining strong health preparedness to promote global health security, as reflected by several targets in the SDGs, has the potential to accrue benefits to all countries. However, the portfolio's thematic priority on global health will only support research on this topic insofar the focus is on health needs and health systems in LLMICs.

Research that can help strengthen health systems to deliver high-quality health services, ensure health preparedness, promote equity, and meet health needs of LLMIC populations is necessary. WHO's definition of Universal health coverage (UHC) is: "that all people have access to the health services they need, when and where they need them, without financial hardship. It includes the full range of essential health services, from health promotion to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care"¹¹. Relevant to global health research supported by the portfolio is the influence of global-level institutions and policy processes, and global governance and financing mechanisms, which often shape the parameters for health improvement in LLMICs. This includes research on public health interventions that span across sectors, including addressing health challenges through intersectoral collaboration at the nexus of human, animal, and environmental health (e.g., One Health) or responding to the health and health systems impacts of climate change¹².

5.3 Prioritized areas of application

The Portfolio targets Norwegian research organisations, but the public sector, business and society at large must benefit from the research results. Research relevant for policy making and public administration, especially the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, The Ministry of Health and Care Services and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) is an important priority. Other ministries, public agencies, business, and NGOs will also benefit from the research funded by the Portfolio. The Portfolio also prioritises research relevant for policy makers, services, the public sector, and business in LMICs. Global health research is to be conducted in line with the principles of equitable partnerships where projects should seek close cooperation with relevant local partners and the public health sector to secure relevance and benefits for the users.

Calls that demand participation of users, include criteria regarding dialogue and dissemination of findings to key stakeholders and encourage interaction with society at large will be promoted by the portfolio. User involvement refers to the involvement of end-users of research findings, during different stages of the research process, from defining the research priorities and questions to interpreting the implications of the research for policy and practice¹³. It is likely that many research proposals will carry the potential for informing Norwegian investments and participation in global

diagnostically isolate, study, and treat diseases as distinct entities separate from other diseases and independent of social contexts.

¹¹ [UN Universal Health Coverage](#)

¹² Watts N, Amann M, Arnell N, Ayeb-Karlsson S, Belesova K, Boykoff M, et al. The 2019 report of The Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: ensuring that the health of a child born today is not defined by a changing climate. *Lancet*. 2019 16;394(10211):1836–78.

¹³ Relevant users may include community members, patients, public sector officials, and bureaucrats in ministries, politicians, other collaborative partners and officials in international organizations and local and international NGOs and social movements.

health initiatives with a sound evidence-base.

Many research proposals will carry the potential for informing Norwegian investments and participation in global initiatives and arenas. The portfolio will seek direct and indirect dialogue with Norwegian policymakers and other Norwegian stakeholders to ensure policy relevance. We will use the established communication channels with the government ministries and take initiative to establish regular meeting places involving policymakers and researchers.

Research conducted in communities in LMICs should be sensitive to community needs and have plans for engaging fairly with community structures when the proposed research involves interventions and data collection that carries the risk of disrupting the daily lives of individuals in the communities. Researchers should articulate how they hope to engage with community structures, how they plan to create value for communities where the research will be carried out, and how disruptions to local people's daily lives will be minimized. Researchers should also explain the sustainability of interventions and efforts made after the duration of a research project.

5.4 Structural priorities

This portfolio will underpin the ambitions related to open research. With open research, the way research is carried out, shared, and evaluated changes. The potential for high quality research and its impact in society increases. Open research will be included in the development of the portfolio's instruments, e.g., through measures that provide better access to research data, development of methods, utilization of research results in research and innovation, and by means of user participation and involvement.

5.4.1 International collaboration

No single funding agency can achieve the goal of solving grand challenges on its own. The portfolio will work actively to support international collaborations that aim to reduce fragmentation, facilitate coordination, and increase impact of research investments.

The strategy to strengthen collaboration within research and higher education with prioritized countries outside of the EU, the [Panorama strategy](#), is of particular importance to this portfolio. The countries included in the strategy are USA, Canada, Brazil, India, China, Japan, Russia, South-Korea, and South-Africa. The strategy aims at facilitating a more comprehensive and long-term cooperation with these countries in higher education and research, with a view to more cooperation in areas of particular interest to Norway.

Further, this portfolio will mobilize the research community to exploit the opportunities in the Research Council's particular funding schemes for collaboration with the countries mentioned above. These schemes are aiming at establishing long-term international partnerships on an institutional level, as well as cooperation on research on the SDGs with the countries in the Panorama strategy.

5.4.2 Fair and equitable partnerships

This portfolio will promote equitable research partnerships between Norwegian research institutions and academic institutions or other research institutions in LMICs in all relevant areas. Such partnerships can also involve governments or NGOs, and regional networks and institutions. Strong partnerships with academic institutions in LMICs are pivotal for research of high quality and securing the relevance of the research to the context being studied.

As part of a broader movement to decolonize the global research agenda, there is an increasing emphasis on the limitations of focusing solely on capacity building and the benefits of moving towards fair and equitable research partnerships that promote the agency of partner institutions in LMICs with equitable sharing of funding, institutional costs, and credits. An important part of equitable partnerships is ensuring that LMIC institutions and researchers are genuinely involved in defining the scope, relevance, and priority questions of collaborative research proposals. The allocation of funding to respective LMICS partners should be commensurate with their expected responsibilities and the capacity-strengthening goals, from scientific leadership to grant management. Collaboration agreements governing the partnerships should, among other things, stipulate the responsibilities of Norwegian and LMIC researchers, as well as other partners in managing the grant and developing research studies, and how they collaboratively will manage data handling, scientific analysis, intellectual property rights and authorship.

Research projects carried out in LMICS should demonstrate co-leadership of the proposed scientific agenda with investigators from LMIC institutions and strive to include opportunities for mentorship and/or research training for junior researchers from Norway and LMIC partners. The Research Council requires that a Norwegian institution be “project owner” with overall administrative and scientific responsibility. Projects implemented in one or more LMIC should include institutional partner(s) in the relevant country or countries, and these should, where possible, hold senior responsibility within the project as co-project manager, work package leaders or as project managers if employed in part by the Norwegian project owner.

Proposals should include concrete plans for how the project will contribute to strengthening both individual and institutional capacity in the collaborating institutions, thereby enabling researchers from the LMIC institution to take on responsibility as project managers in the future. Research projects should not be funded if a Norwegian institution simply intends to subcontract all centrally involved research entities in LMICs to implement research after which the data are exported to Norway and analyzed and presented from a Norwegian research organization.

5.4.3 Ethics

The Research Council expects all researchers to abide by national, European, and international standards of research integrity. Researchers must ensure that their research is conducted according to appropriate ethical, legal, and professional frameworks, obligations, and standards. This includes seeking ethical approval for research where appropriate. Researchers are also expected to treat colleagues with integrity, honesty, and collegiality, including the fair provision of references and peer review.

Within health and medicine, all research and innovation must conform to basic ethical principles and comply with the Health Research Act. Research in the medical and health sciences is closely regulated in national and international laws, regulations, and conventions. Research projects designed to produce new knowledge about health and disease and that involve human subjects must be assessed and approved by the Regional Committees for Medical and Health Research Ethics (REC). The projects must also be ethically approved in the countries where they are implemented, and sometimes in the countries of project partners. These approvals must be obtained to ensure that scientific and medical progress is not achieved at the expense of the rights and integrity of the individual, and to regulate the obligations of researchers. RECs Research ethics guide on Medical and

health research in low- and middle-income countries¹⁴ should be consulted.

Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) has emerged as an important approach in international research and innovation policy. Overall, RRI includes approaches to research and innovation that aim to anticipate and assess potential effects and societal expectations, with the goal of creating inclusive and socially responsible research and innovation. RRI's main approaches to democratization of research and innovation through participation are an important dimension. The Research Council is testing various approaches to RRI.

5.4.4 Gender balance and gender perspectives

The Portfolio follows the Research Council's policy for 'Gender balance and gender perspectives in research and innovation'. The policy states that the Research Council will work more systematically to promote gender balance within research projects, by striving to achieve the goal to increase the proportion of female project managers and women in senior academic positions.

A gender perspective in research implies that biological and social gender is reflected in research content. A growing number of studies show that diversity, including gender balance and gender perspectives, helps to enhance the scientific quality and social relevance of research. Gender perspectives will be integrated in all research activity funded by the Research Council. Gender perspectives in research are especially relevant to the Portfolio for Global Development and International Relations.

These initiatives emphasize paying attention to asymmetries in power, privilege and resources that might affect gender inequities and motivate reflection on the role of research in addressing such issues. Gender also intersects with different forms of discrimination and marginalization. A focus on gender and its intersectional nature should therefore be embedded in the overall focus on health equity, and the portfolio should motivate global health research into policies, programmes or interventions that focus on gendered impacts.

5.4.5 Innovation

A broad understanding of innovation includes significantly improved goods, services, processes, and concepts as well as ways of organizing and governing that generate value and societal benefits, including new models of governance, financing and delivery of services and public interventions. Innovation should also be about how research is conducted and the portfolio values innovation in research methodology. This aligns well with the goals of the main strategy of the Research Council of Norway - Empowering ideas for a better world and the [Strategy for innovation in the public sector](#).

Innovation in research is not restricted to the development of technologies and products. The portfolio will encourage researchers to think creatively about how their research findings can contribute to innovations with the potential for contributing to all SDGs.

5.5 Priorities concerning the EU framework programme, Horizon Europe

The new objectives for the European Research and Innovation Area (ERA) ensures that Horizon Europe and other EU programs are coordinated to avoid duplication. The coordination of the national and European funding arenas is therefore extremely important. The synergies and interactions between national and European arenas are of importance in the work of achieving the

¹⁴ [Medical and health research in low- and middle-income countries | Forskningsetikk](#)

portfolio plan's investment objectives. There are different strategies for how our investments consider the European and international arena:

Qualify: The national initiatives will help to qualify Norwegian researchers to compete in international arenas.

Strengthen: Through participation in international projects, Norway gains access to world-leading research environments, research infrastructures, knowledge, networks, value chains and markets. The national investments should be designed so that they can build on the results from the international portfolio.

Delay in time: To make the best possible use of the available capacity of Norwegian research institutions, it becomes important to plan slots for national announcements so that they do not overlap in time with possible similar announcements in Horizon Europe.

Division of labour: In some areas, European and other international initiatives may cover Norway's knowledge needs and involve Norwegian actors in such a way that required national competence is ensured. In such areas, portfolio boards may choose to scale down or drop national calls.

The relevance of the structure of Horizon Europe for the Portfolio of global development and international relations is primarily linked to Pillar 2 – Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness. Of particular interest for this portfolio is the inclusion of targeted actions with key non-EU partners, including the comprehensive 'Africa Initiative'. As a strategic partner, the EU seeks to enhance cooperation with Africa to promote actions targeted at finding locally adapted solutions to challenges that are global in nature, but which often hit Africa hardest.

On the area of global health, the EU-Africa Global Health Partnership (often referred to as EDCTP3) is a part of Horizon Europe. EDCTP3 will support international collaborations accelerating the clinical evaluation and implementation of interventions against poverty-related infectious diseases including the neglected ones affecting sub-Saharan Africa. By building research capacity, it will also enhance the ability of sub-Saharan African countries to identify and respond to key infectious disease health challenges. The portfolio has the responsibility to represent Norway in the Partnership. Relevant parts of the global health research supported by the portfolio should align with the strategic research and innovation agenda of EDCTP3.

Horizon Europe will incorporate research and innovation missions linked to key societal challenges and relevant to a broad range of stakeholders as well as to citizens to increase the effectiveness of funding by pursuing clearly defined targets. Missions are a new concept to the EU framework programme and are thereby 'experimental.' They provide a learning lab for policy experimentation with a view to planning and co-creating R&I with all the EU policies concerned but also with concerned stakeholders and citizens. Ultimately, they should deliver European public goods on some of the issues that matter most to people.

This Portfolio will closely follow up on the framework programme's more specific priorities in relevant clusters, and strongly encourage Norwegian researchers and research groups to participate in EU-calls for proposals.

5.6 The Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals are highly important to this portfolio. The SDGs involve multi-faceted, highly complex problems that call for new actions and modus operandi. This entails new forms of co-production, learning and sharing of insight and knowledge across subject fields, thematic

areas, and institutions. New steps must be taken to facilitate cooperation and cultivate more integrated solutions to deal with the challenges. Sustainability efforts thus place new demands on the proficiency and capacity of the research and innovation system. This portfolio must thus contribute to high quality research and sufficient capacity within the relevant areas of the research- and innovation communities.

The thematic priorities of this Portfolio are aligned with and well suited to secure research that will contribute to achieving the SDGs. Albeit all SDGs are of relevance, special consideration is given to SDG 1 No poverty, SDG 2 Zero hunger, SDG 3 Good health and well-being, SDG 4 Quality education, SDG 5 Gender equality, SDG 8 Decent work and economic growth, SDG 10 Reduced inequalities, SDG 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions, and SDG 17 Partnerships for the goals.



Figure 3: The Sustainable Development Goals

6 Actions

To ensure the achievement of the established user goals, several actions must be launched. In deciding upon specific actions available budgets, priorities etc. must be taken into consideration.

User goal 1: The Government has a good understanding of the international system, international cooperation and conflict, and the global and regional institutions and Norway's place therein;

Action: Invest in research which provides updated knowledge and thorough understanding of global health challenges, development traits and trends in international relations and conflicts and how these issues might impact Norway and Norwegian interests.

Portfolio for global development and international relations:

- Invest in high-quality research within the thematic priorities
- Contribute to international cooperation and capacity building within the portfolio's area of responsibility
- Contribute to developing and maintaining relevant research infrastructure within the portfolio's areas

- Invest in projects with international collaboration
- Invest in efforts which contributes to the participation in, or establishment of, international networks

Other portfolios:

- Increase investments in their respective thematic priority areas including international and geopolitical perspectives.

The administration:

- Encourage and support the research communities to participate in the EU framework program.

User goal 2: The Norwegian foreign administration uses research for framing foreign and security policy and for underpinning Norway's commitment in contributing to achieving the SDGs;

Action: Invest in research which provide updated knowledge and thorough understanding of development and trends relating to Norway's foreign and security policy in general, and Norwegian ambitions towards Agenda 2030 in particular, and ensure systematic dialogue and sharing of findings between the research community and key stakeholders.

Portfolio for global development and international relations:

- Invest in high-quality research across the portfolio's thematic priorities
- Invest in efforts which contributes to the participation in, or establishment of, international networks

Other portfolios:

- Increase investments on questions related to Norwegian interests and security and including international and geopolitical perspectives in research related to all 17 SDGs.

User goal 3: Norwegian development and humanitarian policies, and corresponding efforts, are effective and foster progress and relief in LMICs;

Action: Ensure that findings of research are implemented, validated and that new practices based on research are assessed on a regular basis.

Portfolio for global development and international relations:

- Establish arenas for dissemination of research findings and dialogue with key stakeholders, e.g., webinars, seminars, policy briefs, and so forth.
- Monitor and assess outcomes of the research portfolio

Other portfolios:

- Partake in international calls for proposals in relevant areas.

User goal 4: Norwegian global health research contributes to sustainable health improvements for disadvantaged populations in low- and lower-middle income countries (LLMICs)

Action: Invest in research relevant to SDG 3 and its targets that aims to contribute to substantial reductions in disease burden and promotes health equity in LLMICs.

Portfolio for global development and international relations:

- Invest in high-quality global health research
- Require equitable partnerships with partners from LLMICs in all global health projects funded by the portfolio
- Devoting at least 50 percent of available global health research funding to implementation research

- Promoting user involvement in projects and establishing arenas for dissemination of research findings and dialogue with key stakeholders
- Collaborate with other portfolios and international funders to maximize efforts through joint calls.

Other portfolios:

- Increase investments in research related to global health challenges and SDG3

User goal 5: Research institutions and researchers on the areas of development, global health, foreign and security related research are highly competitive and of international standing;

Action: Invest in high-quality research, take part in calls for proposals launched by international funding schemes and provide incentives for international collaboration.

Portfolio for global development and international relations:

- Invest in high-quality research within the portfolio's thematic priorities
- Invest in projects with international collaboration
- Invest in efforts which contributes to the participation in, or establishment of, international networks
- Join in calls for proposals launched by international funding schemes
- Encourage the research community to partake in calls for Centers of excellence and other excellence schemes on areas within the portfolio's thematic priorities.

Other portfolios:

- Partake in international calls for proposals in relevant areas.

User goal 6: The R&D environment interact with and transfer knowledge to users of research;

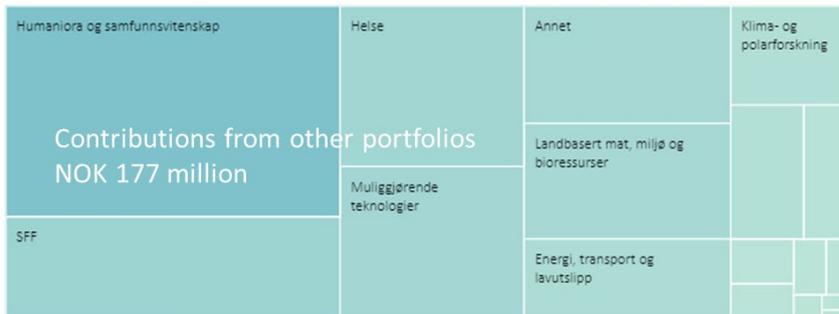
Action: User participation in all phases and dimensions of research, to inform the research questions, develop the research design and ensure a fair and equitable sharing of labour and benefits, whenever relevant.

Portfolio for global development and international relations:

- Launch calls for Competence building and collaborative projects

Figure 3 displays the contributions from the different portfolio boards and the EU into the Portfolio for global development and international relations. The figure shows that the portfolio for global development and international relations contributes with approximately 35 % of the portfolio whereas the EU contributes with 30 % of the portfolio. The largest contributions from the other portfolios come from the Portfolio for the humanities and social sciences; Centers of excellence; Portfolio for health; and Portfolio for enabling technologies.

Portfolio for global development and international relations
NOK 181 million



Contributions from the EU's framework programmes
NOK 155 million

7 Anticipated outputs, outcomes, and impacts

To secure that the targeted efforts contribute to reaching the goals and objective set for this Portfolio, the following desired corresponding outputs, outcomes, and impacts are established:

7.1 Expected outputs

The funded projects are expected to result in several different outputs. The design of the calls will seek to ensure better publications, both scientific and more wide-ranging and user-focused; strengthened research capacity and increased recruitment; scientific renewal throughout methodological diversity and theoretical scope; relevant use of trans- and multidisciplinary; extensive collaboration across research institutions, both nationally and internationally; user involvement in research and collaboration between researchers and users; targeted communication and dissemination, including user dialogue; gender balance regarding the projects principal investigators. The Research Council will further seek to expand the portfolio's 'toolbox' with a greater variety of research tools and resources.

The portfolio will be analyzed annually regarding monitoring the achievement of the portfolio's various outputs, as a basis for future calls. If one or more of the outputs mentioned above are not advancing as well as expected, the calls will be adjusted to encourage better progress.

7.2 Expected outcomes

Based on the outputs from the funded projects, we anticipate a number of outcomes to benefit the Norwegian government, policy makers, NGOs, global partners, and society at large. Through funding decisions, extensive user-dialogue and dissemination of research to all relevant stakeholders we seek to ensure the following outcomes from this portfolio: Norwegian contribution to international agendas within the Portfolio's priorities is based on research; sectors within politics, administration, business and civil society base their decisions on new and updated knowledge; an expanded knowledge base enables policy and management, working life and civil society to better deal with global challenges and issues related to the foreign- and security area; Norwegian researchers and their international partners contribute directly to policy development; strong, sustainable research institutions and research groups at an international level. The Research Council will on a regular basis assess the various outcomes of this portfolio, monitoring and analyzing both quantitative and qualitative data by mixed methods assessment projects. These assessments will serve as a basis for future revisions of this portfolio plan.

7.3 Expected societal impacts

For this portfolio it is a prerequisite that the investments made by the funding ministries will have societal impacts. This is of particular importance for the funds from the Official Development Aid-budget, which are dedicated to target the economic development and welfare of LMICs. Albeit planning for future societal impacts is difficult, this portfolio aims at contributing to the following: Norway is providing significant contributions to achieving the SDGs based on best practise and updated knowledge; Norwegian development and humanitarian policies, and corresponding efforts, are effective and foster progress and relief in LMICs; Norway makes important contributions to securing a global world order based on the rule of law, Norwegian security, values, interests and sovereignty are safeguarded.

Assessments of societal impacts will vary according to subject area. For foreign and security research and, in part, development research, the Research Council will trace the use of research governed by this portfolio in the Government's white papers, national strategies, work programmes for NGOs etc. and the use of researchers within the portfolio's thematic areas in public committees, as advisors to the Government, to policymakers, business, civil society, and so forth. Development research and global health research, both being funded by the Official Development Aid-budget, are subjected to clear expectations to document societal impacts related to advances in their respected priority areas. Examples of this may be improved food-security in LMICs, access to clean water, access to health-care services, new medicine to combat tropical diseases.

8 Funding

The Portfolio for Global Development and International Relations is funded by nearly all ministries, but mainly by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education and Research and the Ministry of Health and Care Services. The ministries commissions research to underpin their different sector responsibilities, and instructions to the Research Council regarding the knowledge needs of the ministries are given in annual allotment letters.

Figure 3 displays the funding sources to the different targeted funding schemes governed by the Portfolio board for global development and international relations.

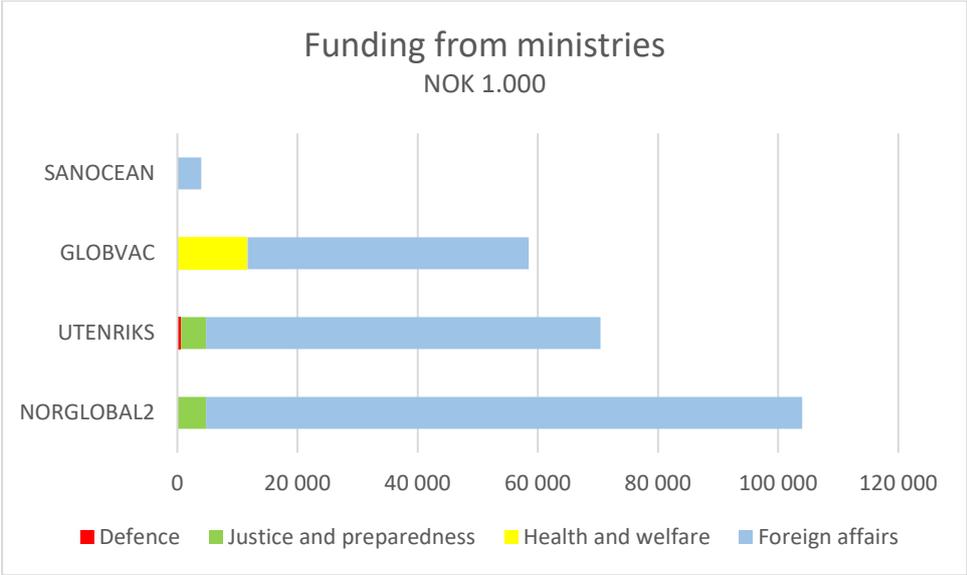


Figure 5: Funding of the portfolio board's targeted investments

Appendix: Illustration of the investment logic model of the portfolio plan

For the sake of clarity, short, key wording formulations have been used in the illustration.

See the text for complete descriptions.

