

Bangladesh



Bangladesh became a main development cooperation partner for Norway in 1973 and is historically one of the largest recipients of Norwegian bilateral assistance (NOK 6 billion in total). Government-to-government assistance is now being phased out.

Education



Together with 10 other donor countries, Norway supported one of the world's largest sectoral programmes in the field of education, encompassing 16 million primary school children. About 90 per cent of children are now starting five-year primary school, with a slight preponderance of girls. Norway also supports NGOs that offer primary education to poor children not enrolled in the state school system. About 235,000 children, of whom 156,000 are girls, received primary or vocational education in 2007 thanks to Norwegian support.

Governance and human rights



Norway supported a UN project to set up a list of voters as part of the preparations for the parliamentary election in 2008. The work done by Norwegian Missions in Development (the

BN) among indigenous peoples has helped 128 families to recover their land. Through its support for the microfinance programme, Sancred Welfare Foundation, Norway has helped unemployed young people with an indigenous background obtain vocational training and raise loans to establish businesses.

Private sector development and energy



Norway continued to support a loans and advice programme for local entrepreneurs which has, so far, created 13,000 new jobs, of which 4,000 were for women. Small and medium-sized businesses were given easier access to credit and attended international trade fairs. Via the Asian Development Bank, Norway reinforced the Ministry of Energy's work on regulating natural resources. Norway supported a UN programme for quality improvement in the textile industry and an EU programme for the inspection of frozen seafood for export.

Anti-corruption activities

The transitional government which took office in 2007 made corruption the main focus of its reform effort, prompting Norway to invite Bangladesh to join the Corruption

Hunter Network, an international network whose secretariat is located in Norad. Norway continued its support for Transparency International Bangladesh.

Humanitarian assistance



Norway granted NOK 10 million for relief work in the wake of the floods in August and NOK 23 million after the cyclone in November. Norway also contributed funds to the international effort to strengthen the tsunami early warning system.

Facts

Estimated population (2005): 156 million

Gross national income per capita (2006): USD 450 (LDC)

Average annual economic growth (GDP) (2000-2006): 5.6%

Economic structure: percentage of GDP by sector (2006): agriculture 20%, industry 27%, services 53%

Malnutrition among children under 5 years of age (2004): 48%. Figures over 30% are considered to be extremely high and are a strong indicator of poverty

Human Development Index (HDI) Level (2004): 0.547. A country with an HDI level between 0.500 and 0.800 is regarded as having a medium quality of life. A change of +0.158 has been registered for Bangladesh in the period 1990-2005, indicating a slight improvement

Child mortality rate per 1000 (2005): 69. Change 1990-2005: -80

Maternal mortality rate per 1000 births (2005): 5.7

HIV infection rate, 15-49 age group (2005): 0.1%

Children in primary education (2006): 88.9%

Illiteracy rate 15-24 age group (2007): 22.9%

Ratio of girls to 100 boys in primary/secondary/tertiary education (2005): 103/103/53

Percentage of women in parliament (2007): 14.83%
Estimated pay for women as percentage of men's pay in the formal sector (2005): 46%

Forested area (change (1990-2005), negative numbers indicate deforestation as a percentage): -1%

Area protected to conserve biological diversity (2005): 2.2%

Percentage of population with access to safe drinking water (2007): 80%

Percentage of urban population living in slums (2005): 70.8%

Corruption Perception Index (TI) (2007): 2.0

The index ranges from 10 to 0, where 10 is totally clean and 0 is totally corrupt.

Fragile state, according to OECD/DAC (2007): No

Defence spending as a percentage of GDP: 1.1%

Aid per capita (2005): USD 9

Aid as a percentage of GDP: 2.1%

Bilateral assistance¹ for Bangladesh, by partner, 2007

Development cooperation partners	NOK 1000	Per cent
Government-to-government, etc. ²	69 169	29,6
International NGOs	33 810	14,5
Local NGOs	27 527	11,8
Norwegian NGOs	40 207	17,2
Nordic research institutions/foundations	800	0,3
Multilateral organisations ³	61 846	26,5
Total	233 360	100,0

1) Includes multi-bilateral assistance

2) Including public institutions, ministries, consultants, the private sector, etc.

3) Earmarked assistance channelled through multilateral organisations (multi-bilateral)

Bilateral assistance¹ for Bangladesh, by sector, 2007

Sectors	NOK 1000	Per cent
Economic development and trade	75 043	32,2
Emergency relief and other unspecified assistance	32 458	13,9
Environment and energy	4 394	1,9
Good governance	38 018	16,3
Health, education and other social sector areas	82 871	35,5
HIV/AIDS	576	0,2
Total	233 360	100,0

1) Includes multi-bilateral assistance