

# The International Development Cooperation Strategy of the Hungarian Government

For the period of 2026-2030

NEFE 2030: „*Hungarian solution in a changing environment*”

The vision of the NEFE2030

The ongoing transformation of the global world order, the increase in international conflicts, wars and natural disasters, the adverse effects of climate change, the energy and food crises, growing inequalities and the rising number of people forced to leave their homes, **has significantly changed the international environment in recent years and the need for humanitarian aid and development financing has increased dramatically**. In view of these significant changes in world politics and the NEFE2025 having expired in 2025, it became necessary to renew our strategy. Thus, **the new strategy on international development cooperation policy of Hungary (NEFE2030)** reflects the new challenges and builds on the results of the previous period. Hungary intends to implement its international development activities through local assistance, while it contributes in a sustainable manner to helping communities and governments in partner countries in crisis areas based on their needs, environmental and social conditions, and to the sustainable development. The „**Hungarian model**” offers partnerships involving local intermediaries and builds on cooperation that seeks to develop and ensure the ownership of developing countries.

Building on the good practices and experience of the Hungarian model, **NEFE2030** meets the needs of the beneficiaries through involving local and domestic partners – and primarily targets development in sectors where our country has comparative advantages. In addition, Hungary bases its activities on cooperation and knowledge transfer – in partnership with the international, and in particular, European donor community.

## **1. Pillar: Hungarian model: Partnership in the spirit of reasonableness**

As an emerging donor country, Hungary will strive to further strengthen its model – which has proven effective in the past and is based primarily on bilateral forms of support. It will continue to implement its international development activities based on **local needs** and through **local partnerships**, involving e.g. local civil society actors and faith-based organizations. It has been proven in the past that the success of the projects can be significantly increased through the local knowledge and community connections of these partner organizations. When

**providing local assistance**, the **Hungarian model** always views the supported communities as active participants, and encourages developing countries to take ownership.

In addition to the prominent role of local partnerships, NEFE2030 aims to ensure that the projects implemented are outstanding in terms of efficiency; sustainable from a professional, operational and financial perspective; and sufficiently flexible when necessary. For this reason, there is a need for continuous, **multifaceted strategic review** of the Hungarian activities, covering every phase from project planning and implementation to the post-project phase. This is facilitated by a programming approach in line with the recommendations of OECD DAC; by learning about various **innovations** that have been proven successful in international practice; and by incorporating new structures into the Hungarian practice, where appropriate.

## **2. Pillar: Promoting peace and stability, mitigating migration**

Hungary is dedicated to support the most vulnerable people, while also bearing in mind the risks associated with mass migration. Under NEFE2030, Hungary is stepping up its activity in **fragile regions**, such as the Sahel region and the Middle East. NEFE2030 pays special attention to these vulnerable areas as it recognises that escalating wars – as well as economic and humanitarian crises – not only affect local communities but also threaten the stability and population retention capacity of **the countries in the neighbourhood of crisis zones**. Within this framework, the objective of Hungary is to expand its country-focused engagement to a regional level, and follow the principle of linking **Humanitarian-Development-Peace** (HDP) Nexus in its activities.

Creation of jobs, support to agriculture and essential social services (e.g., education, healthcare), along with energy- and IT-based developments, directly improve the quality of life of vulnerable communities. Thus NEFE2030 not only contributes to strengthening the self-sustainability of local economies, to the resilience of the societies' against radicalization and to the prevention of violence – such as religious persecution – but also aims to address the root causes of migration locally.

## **3. Pillar: Sectoral focus – humans at the centre**

In order to achieve long-term social and economic stability, it is important to recognize that, in the face of today's complex challenges, **human capital development** can make communities more resilient. Hungary's strategy is **human-centric** and is based on universal solidarity; Christian humanity; and humanitarian principles. As for education, the Stipendium Hungaricum

Scholarship Programme, the Scholarship Programme for Christian Young People, and the joint Scholarship of the Ministry of Agriculture and the FAO provide the participants with knowledge and experience that can be used in their homeland. NEFE2030 supports individuals through vocational training and **job creation** opportunities in their home countries; promotes improvement in **health and social services**, and aids the **preservation of cultural heritage**—with the ultimate goal of creating social balance and reducing the causes of migration.

#### **4. Pillar: International connections and connectivity**

Hungary's priority in the period 2026-2030 is to establish **partnerships** and bilateral cooperation with countries pursuing similar goals and methods. In addition to bilateral partnerships, the goal is to strengthen the international visibility of the **Hungarian model** in multilateral fora – such as those provided by the EU, the UN, and the OECD institutional system.

As a significant milestone, **Hungary Helps Agency (HHA)** successfully completed the EU's pillar assessment process, which guarantees the transparency and accountability of the Hungarian activities and efficient use of resources. Within the framework of the NEFE2030, HHA should seek for opportunities to apply directly for EU funds and to participate in EU programs and tenders, as a member or a lead of **international consortia**. Another strategic goal is to participate in the EU's Global Gateway strategy and in Team Europe initiatives. Furthermore we support **Hungarian SMEs** in learning about international tenders and successfully obtaining funding. In addition, NEFE2030 encourages the corporate and civil sector to participate in European Union development policy tenders.

#### **5. Pillar: Strengthening domestic involvement and asserting Hungarian interests**

We are committed to ensuring that our efforts contribute to promoting **the interests of Hungary**, while also serving the interests of our partners. Within the framework of its international development policy projects, NEFE2030 focuses on domestic comparative advantages (e.g. water diplomacy), which requires closer sectoral **coordination** among public administration actors and the expansion of **strategic relationships** among industrial actors and umbrella organizations. Hungary is committed to supporting **domestic companies** in foreign market acquisition through tied aid loans. Within the framework of NEFE2030, Hungary also encourages the corporate and civil sector to participate in European Union development policy tenders. A further objective is to increase the involvement of the Hungarian academic and scientific community in the implementation of international development projects.

## **6. Pillar: Global attention, targeted action**

Within the guidelines of the HDP nexus, Hungary continues its international development and stabilization activities in **Sub-Saharan Africa** - with particular attention to the Sahel Region-, in the **Middle East**, and in the countries of **Eastern Neighbourhood** and the **Western Balkans**. The purpose of NEFE2030 is to identify needs in priority regions and comparing them with Hungarian competencies. The Africa Strategy is an important tool for implementing the activities' proposed by NEFE2030, along with the HHA office in Chad, which provides additional opportunities to increase efficiency. Despite facing extremely complex difficulties in the Middle East, Hungary supports peacebuilding efforts in addition to its development activities. The HHA office in Jordan provides assistance in addressing diverse regional needs in a targeted manner.