



Photos:

Front page: Copyright: Sofie Nordström.
The textile industry in Bangladesh employs more than two million workers, mostly women, and represents around 75 per cent of the country's export revenues. For Bangladesh the total export value is ten times higher than the total development assistance it receives. Norway's textiles imports from Bangladesh have increased steadily and significantly in recent years. Bangladesh has benefited from Norway's Duty Free Scheme since its initiation.

Back page: Anne Heidi Kvalsøren/MFA Norway.
Roses from East Africa, and in particular from Tanzania, make up a significant part of Norway's imports from LDCs in Africa. The roses are to a large extent imported from Fair Trade certified farms and also marketed as Fair Trade roses in cooperation with Fair Trade Max Havelaar. The Fair Trade label helps producers and workers to achieve fair prices and decent working conditions. Tanzania and the other East African countries are benefiting from Norway's Duty Free Scheme.

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duty- and quota-free
market access to norway



NORWEGIAN MINISTRY
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duty- and quota-free market access to norway

Duty- and quota-free market access for all goods from all the 50 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) was implemented as part of Norway's Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) from 1 July 2002. From 1 January 2008 this scheme was extended to include 14 low-income countries that do not belong to the LDC group.

This means that the following 64 low-income countries are now given duty- and quota-free market access into Norway for all their goods:

Afghanistan	Guinea	Nicaragua
Angola	Guinea-Bissau	Papua New Guinea
Bangladesh	Haiti	Rwanda
Benin	Kenya	Samoa
Bhutan	Kiribati	Sao Tome and Principe
Burkina Faso	Korea D. P. R.	Senegal
Burundi	Kyrgyz Republic	Sierra Leone
Cameroon	Laos	Solomon Islands
Cambodia	Lesotho	Somalia
Cape Verde	Liberia	Sudan
Central African Rep.	Madagascar	Tajikistan
Chad	Malawi	Tanzania
Comoros	Maldives	Timor Leste
Congo (Dem.Rep)	Mali	Togo
Congo (Rep)	Mauritania	Tuvalu
Côte d'Ivoire	Moldova	Uganda
Djibouti	Mongolia	Uzbekistan
Equatorial Guinea	Mozambique	Vanuatu
Eritrea	Myanmar *	Yemen
Ethiopia	Nepal	Zambia
Gambia	Niger	Zimbabwe
Ghana		

(* excluded since 1997)

The changes in Norway's GSP from 1 January 2008 is the result of a comprehensive review undertaken by the Norwegian Government, with the aim of increasing Norway's imports from developing countries and in particular from the LDCs and other low-income countries.

A basic consideration of the review was to develop a consistent GSP based on objective criteria for selecting the countries that are to be included and also for determining which countries are to be given duty- and quota-free access for all their goods. Consequently, it was decided that Norway's list of GSP countries should be based on the OECD's Development Assistance Committee's (DAC) list of recipients of official development assistance, but also taking into consideration the population criteria used by the UN to establish the list of LDCs.

The Government's review also led to a number of simplifications in the GSP scheme, and to increased emphasis on information and development cooperation as a part of Norway's Action Plan on Aid for Trade.

Developing countries, and in particular the countries that are part of Norway's scheme for duty- and quota-free market access, are urged to make use of their trade preferences in order to increase their exports and trade relations with Norway.

Further information can be found on the Norwegian Government's website www.regjeringen.no by selecting "English", "Trade Policy" and "GSP". Information can also be provided by Norway's embassies.