



Migration and displacement

Including migrants and displaced persons in development cooperation

During 2023 seven out of 45 of Sida's strategies for long-term cooperation included specific development goals on migration. The majority of strategy objectives are focused on improving and protecting the human rights of migrants and of forcibly displaced persons. Funding credited to the OECD/DAC migration sector code amounts to SEK 154 million in 2023, which equals 0.6 percent of Sida's total disbursement.

The content of the portfolio is broad and covers many sub-areas, such as migration statistics, income generation for refugees, social services for internally displaced, and labor migrants rights. As such, the portfolio is also relevant to the Swedish implementation of sub-goals in the Global Refugee Framework and the Global Compact on Migration. Including migration and forced displacement in development cooperation means addressing poverty and rights, and applying a systems perspective, to enable inclusive development which results in long-term outcomes for all.



DEVELOPMENT IN THE WORLD

International migration is an important factor for the development of individuals, communities and societies. Some migration is a voluntary decision, but a large part is forced displacement due to violence, crisis and insecurity. Mixed migration movements, with both migrants and refugees, can often be the case in large population movements and in migration corridors. The development effects of migration can include both opportunities and challenges for individuals and societies. It is important to note the different definitions and terminology, since for example the terms 'migrants' and 'refugees' often can be mis-interpreted or mixed.

Migration trends: 281 million people are estimated by the UN to be international migrants. Almost half of them are in low- and middle-income countries. 169 million are (regular) migrant workers.¹ The figures for irregular migration is unknown. According to IOM, migration-related deaths increased in 2023.² The number of displaced people continue to increase. More than 1 percent of humanity are forcibly displaced. As many as 40 percent of the displaced were minors age 0-17 years. The majority are internally displaced due to conflict and violence. As conflicts evolve, the violence can force some people to move several times.³ The number of refugees continue to grow due to new conflicts and lack of durable solutions. The large majority of the world's refugees, reportedly 75 percent, are received and hosted by developing countries.⁴

Irregular migration: Migrants in low-income regions often have few options for safe and regular migration. With no access to visas there is no option but to travel irregularly. Smuggling and trafficking in people is widespread. Migrants and displaced are exposed to protection risks, human rights violations, and sexual- and gender based violence, with limited access to legal protection.

Forced displacement: Refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), often live in overcrowded camps, or informal settlements, with inadequate resources. Many displaced are dependent on humanitarian aid and lack access to basic services, livelihoods or labour markets. Long-term dependency hinder self-reliance and resilience. Poverty rates are commonly high.

Host-communities: Host communities often live in marginalised areas in border regions, affected by climate change and with limited access to services. This affects their capacity for hosting large numbers of displaced people. Investments in local societies for peaceful co-existence which includes host communities and migrants and refugees can prevent tensions as well as further migration or displacement.

Return: Return as a solution to displacement depend largely on peace and human security. Lack of safety and livelihood, issues of property restitution and inability to obtain identity documentation (birth certificates or passports) are other barriers to return. The lack of long-term solutions make many refugee situations protracted, lasting over 5 years.

- 1 UN Migration IOM, World Migration Report 2024, Geneva 2024, p 8.
- 2 UN Migration IOM, World Migration Report 2024, Geneva 2024, p 32.
- 3 IDMC, 2024 Global Report on Internal Displacement, Geneva 2024, p 10.
- 4 UNHCR, UNHCR's 2023 Mid-Year Trends, Geneva 2023, p 5.

THE GLOBAL GOALS

The Global Goals for Sustainable Development include everyone – and we can all contribute. The goals are interdependent and therefore indivisible. Sida's main contribution is to implement development cooperation, thereby reducing poverty and saving lives. Together we can build a better future where no one is left behind.



Results

MAIN AREAS OF SUPPORT

The overarching objective for Sida's development cooperation is to create opportunities for people living in poverty and under oppression to improve their living conditions, including for migrants, internally displaced, refugees, host societies, returnees and communities of origin. The majority of Sida strategy objectives are focused on improving and protecting the human rights of migrants and of forcibly displaced persons. Sida's migration portfolio is focused migration and displacement in low- or middle income countries and regions. When working with migration we make sure to include the host-community.

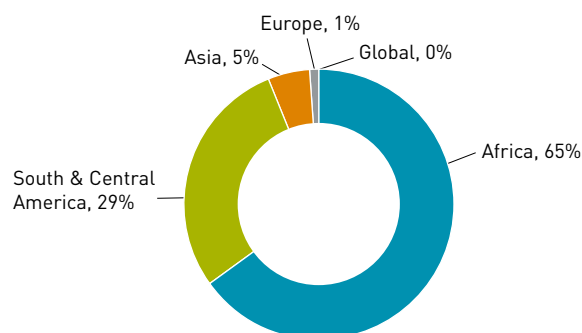
The support includes many different sub-areas; migration statistics, labour migration policy, access to social services, and income-generation for refugees and host-communities. Humanitarian assistance is not included in this portfolio overview since it has its own reporting. But it should be noted that humanitarian action, protecting and saving lives, includes a substantial financial volume of support which benefits large numbers of vulnerable migrants, internally displaced, asylum seekers and refugees in emergency situations.⁵

SIDA'S SUPPORT TO MIGRATION AND FORCED DISPLACEMENT

In 2023 Sida implemented eight migration-specific goals in seven development cooperation strategies; four at regional level (Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Pacific and Syria-crisis Region) and three at bilateral level (Iraq, Uganda and Ukraine). In addition, migration and forced displacement is integrated into the implementation of other development strategy goals. For example, in partner countries with large numbers of IDPs they are often included or targeted in programming, together with the host community or the community of origin.⁶

Funding credited to the OECD/DAC migration sector code is less than 1 percent of Sida's total disbursement 2023 (SEK 154 million). The volume represents a decrease from SEK 256 million in 2022 due to phases in strategy implementation and disbursements in the largest migration programmes. The largest volume of support to migration in 2023 was provided through the 'Strategy for Sweden's regional development cooperation with Africa 2022-2026' (65 percent). Sida's main implementation partners on migration and forced displacement are multilateral organisations (80 percent) such as International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and International Labour Organisation (ILO), followed by Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) (15 percent), such as Save the Children and the Swedish Red Cross.

Figure 1. Geographical distribution of disbursement in 2023 (%)



EXAMPLES OF SWEDISH CONTRIBUTIONS

Support to refugee hosting states and communities

- Clean cooking fuel and innovative technology targeting 100 000 Rohingya refugees and 25 000 host community households in Bangladesh, implemented by three UN agencies; IOM, World Food Programme (WFP) and Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).
- Implementation of national, local or regional plans for hosting refugees, in line with international standards, such as the Refugee Response Plan (RRRF) in Uganda.
- Support to International Labour Organisation (ILO) for Socio-economic integration of migrants from Venezuela through job opportunities.
- Support to Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) for developing capacities for Regional Refugee Management in Africa.

Inclusion of displaced populations in development:

- Economic and financial inclusion for refugees and host communities through access to *small entrepreneurial loans* in Kenya and Uganda through financial guarantees.
- Access to *maternal health and services*, including Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for refugees and host communities, in refugee hosting areas in Bangladesh by UN Women for 'Women's Empowerment in Cox's Bazar 2019-2024'.
- Support to UNICEF and the Jordanian Ministry of Education for a "Catch-up school programme". 2022-2025. The programme is designed for both Syrian refugee children and other children of different nationalities residing in Jordan aged 8-12 who have been outside the formal school system for over three years with the aim to catch up their lost schooling.

Migration systems and migrant's rights:

- **Migration management:** technical and policy support to the regional implementation of labour migration policy in the African Union Member States, by International Organisation for Migration (IOM) UN Migration and International Labour Organization (ILO).
- **Migration statistics:** capacity building of the African statistical authority (STATAFRIC) and publication of statistical reports, by the Swedish Statistical Authority (SCB) and the African Union.
- **Migrant workers' human rights:** IOM's initiative for Migrant workers' human rights 'in the south east Asia region, engaging private companies to adhere to migrant workers' rights.

⁵ Sida, Årsredovisning 2023 'Humanitär bistånd', 2024, p 84-87.

⁶ Sida, Årsredovisning 2023, 2024, p 8, 84-87.