



Migration and displacement

Strengthened synergies between development assistance and migration policies

To address global migration challenges, international collaboration such as development cooperation is required. Safe, orderly and regular migration can drive development forward and requires international cooperation. Options for regular migration are more limited for the poor. Irregular migration increases the vulnerability of migrants and asylum seekers. Long term solutions to migration and displacement are limited. A total of 343 MSEK was disbursed (1,3 per cent of Sida's total budget) during 2024 with 51 per cent to Africa. Multilateral organisations were the main implementing partners (79 per cent). During 2024, Sida supported interventions with the aim to strengthen migration management, to enhance the capacity of host communities and countries, as well as to enable safe and dignified return and reintegration. During the year Sida received a new strategy for 'Sweden's global development cooperation on migration, returns and voluntary repatriation 2024–2028' and 12 development strategies were updated with new goals on reducing irregular migration and increasing returns, repatriation and reintegration. The implementation towards the new goals will have an effect on disbursements for the coming years.



DEVELOPMENT IN THE WORLD

The rapidly changing world order and poly-crisis scenarios affect migration and displacement dynamics. Conflict, violence against civilians and climate-induced disasters drive record levels of forced displacement. Human mobility and international migration is central to global stability and sustainable development. However, options for regular migration are limited for the poor.

According to the UN Migration IOM there are 304 million international migrants and more than half are labour migrants (168 million).¹ Poverty and low income as well as labour demand drive international labour migration, often to the near region.

Irregular migration increases the vulnerability of migrants. Safe, orderly and regular migration requires international cooperation and can drive development forward.

Armed conflicts have led to that 120 million people have been forced to flee, and 3 out of 4 are internally displaced. Among refugees, the vast majority stay in neighbouring countries and 80 per cent are hosted in low and middle-income countries.²

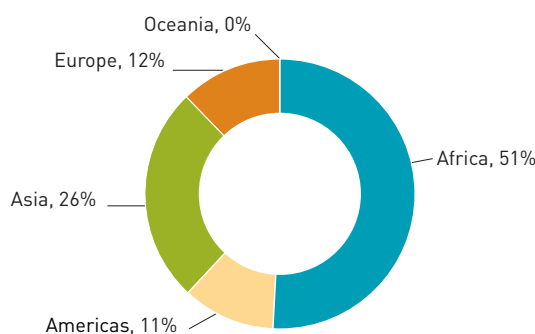
The three durable solutions (resettlement, local integration, and repatriation) are out of reach to most refugees.³ As a consequence, more than half of all refugees are in exile for longer than five years. Durable solutions for migrants, internally displaced

and migration-affected communities largely depend on peace.⁴ Migrants and refugees are generally more vulnerable to crises, have fewer safety nets, and are more affected by poverty.⁵

MAIN AREAS OF SUPPORT

In 2024, Sida increased the work on migration, with the focus on synergies between development assistance and Swedish migration policy. During the year Sida received a new strategy for 'Sweden's

FIGURE 1. GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE SUPPORT TO MIGRATION



1 IOM migration data portal: Migration and human mobility, Key global figures, updated with data available as of 31 January 2025. Accessed on IOMs webpage.

2 UNHCR Global Trends Report, Geneva June 2024., Accessed on UNHCRs webpage.

3 Maple, N., Hovil, L. (2025) Durable solutions: to what and for whom? Journal of Refugee Studies, Published: 07 January 2025. Accessed on Oxford academics webpage.

4 IOM, durable solutions. Accessed on IOMs webpage.

5 World Bank Group (2021). A Multi-Country Analysis of Multidimensional Poverty in Contexts of Forced Displacement. Policy Research working paper Washington, D.C.

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

global development cooperation on migration, returns and voluntary repatriation 2024–2028'. At the same time, 12 development strategies were updated with new goals on reducing irregular migration and increasing returns, repatriation and reintegration. The full programming and disbursements towards the new goals will be implemented during 2025.

In response to the new policy guidance, Sida is supporting enhanced safe, orderly and regular migration and the prospects for voluntary, safe, and dignified return and reintegration of refugees and migrants in Sida's countries' of cooperation. Support to reduce irregular migration and to assist deported migrants is included in the portfolio as well.

The previous focus on including migration and migrants in development cooperation has continued during 2024, in coherence with the Agenda 2030 principle of leaving no one behind in the development process. Sida has also continued to strengthen the capacity of host countries' and displacement affected communities.

SIDA'S SUPPORT

During 2024 (see Figure 2), Sida disbursed 343 million SEK in total towards migration, or 1.3 per cent of the total development budget. The SDG marker shows that most of the migration support is contributing to the global goal of reducing inequalities.

Multilateral organisations are the main implementing partners for migration support (77 per cent). Next is NGO's (16 per cent) followed by public sector institutions (6 per cent) (see Figure 3). Compared to OECD-DAC statistics on the migration sector code 2018-2023, Sida reporting for 2024 shows quite similar distribution trends.

The largest disbursements per geography of the support to migration, are:

- Africa (51 per cent)
- Asia (26 per cent)
- Europe (12 per cent)

The largest contribution in 2024 responds to systems strengthening of migration management:

- Operationalizing a route-based approach to manage mixed migration movements along the West Atlantic Route (UNHCR, 50 million SEK)).

Other examples of support to strengthen the regional capacity for migration management in the African Union through the Regional Africa 2022-2026 strategy are:

- Improved Migration Statistics (Swedish statistics (SCB), 21.6 million SEK).
- Joint Labour Migration Program (IOM, 19.7 million SEK).

In addition, Sida has supported the capacity of host countries' and displacement affected communities, for example:

- Resilience in local governance (RESLOG 2) in Turkey focusing on improved local government capacity to respond to migration-related community needs for Syrian refugees and host communities (The Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions - SALAR, 22.5 million SEK).
- Vivid documentation Iraq 2024-2026 focusing on undocumented internally-displaced persons (IOM, 20 million SEK).

- I improve the protection environment and enable sustainable solutions for refugees and host-communities in Lebanon (UNHCR, 18 million SEK).

In addition, support to social protection for displacement affected communities is key for durable solutions. Support has been delivered through:

- Digital, Inclusive and Accessible (DIA) Service Provision in Ukraine 2023-2027 (12.5 million SEK) for digital identity to internally displaced persons.
- Joint Programme on Social Protection in Uganda 2019-2024 for both host-community and refugee populations (WFP - UNICEF 12 million SEK).
- Social Protection & Education Services for Vulnerable Children in Jordan 2024-2026 (UNICEF, 1 million SEK).

Strengthened preconditions to enable safe and dignified return and reintegration for migrants and displaced persons, includes support to mine action to clear land in return areas, as well as support to deported migrants. Sida has supported:

- Demining phase 2 in Iraq 2021-2024 (UNMAS 10 million SEK) 10 million SEK).
- Response to vulnerable migrants on the Eastern Corridor in Regional Africa 2022-2026 (IOM, 4,7 million SEK).

Figure 2. Strengthening synergies between aid and migration policies disbursements in 2020-2024, by thematic subtitle

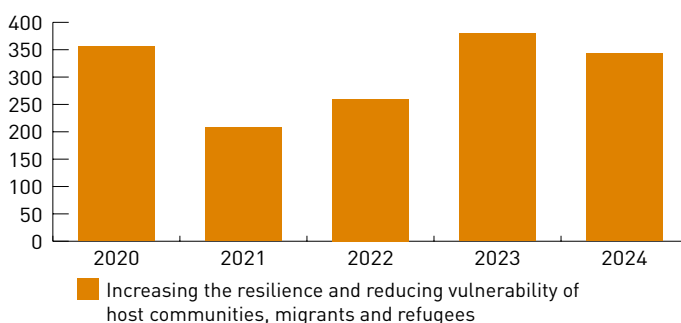


Figure 3. Strengthening synergies between aid and migration policies disbursements 2024, by implementing partner

