



Water and Sanitation

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Water is essential for all life and all ecosystems and the growing threat of water stress and insecurity has far reaching consequences for poor and vulnerable communities. Access to safe drinking water and sanitation is crucial, not only for people's health and wellbeing, but also for poverty reduction and economic development. Sweden promotes efficient, fair and sustainable water use and management as well as improved access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene facilities. Sida's financial support to the water and sanitation sector was approximately SEK 652 million in 2022. This accounts for some 2.7 percent of Sida's total disbursements, a decrease by 40 percent over the last five years.



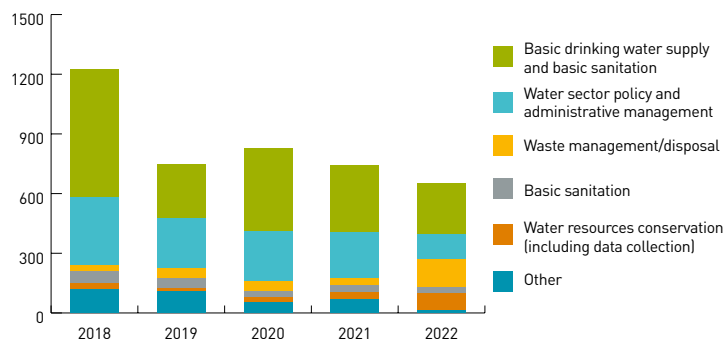
DEVELOPMENT IN THE WORLD

Growing threats of different water pressures has far reaching consequences for poverty eradication. These threats include climate change driven variability in the water cycle¹, decreasing water-related ecosystem areas and biodiversity, increasing pollution and water stress². This negatively impacts economic development, food security, health, ecosystems, energy production and gender equality. On the positive side, 2.4 billion people have gained access to safely managed sanitation services since 2000 and since 2015, 600 million people have gained access to basic water services³.

However, while great progress has been made in the water and sanitation sector, significant challenges remain. For at least 3 billion people, the quality of the water they rely on is unknown and at least 733 million people live in countries with high and critical levels of water stress. Still, in 2020 some 2 billion people around the world lacked safely managed drinking water, 3.6 billion people lacked safe sanitation services, 2.3 billion people lacked basic handwashing facilities at home and the rate of Integrated

Water Resource Management (IWRM) implementation needs to be doubled.⁴ Although significant progress is needed to reach SDG 6, the current investments required to reach the global objectives are insufficient. Nearly 900 million children worldwide lack a basic hygiene service at their school.⁵ Half of health care facilities in least developed countries (LDCs) lacked basic water services in 2019.⁶

FIGURE 1: DISBURSEMENT BY SECTOR WITHIN WATER AND SANITATION 2018-2022 (MILLION SEK)



1 IPCC (2022), Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA, s.555-557.

2 UN (2022), The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022, New York.

3 UN-Water (2021), Summary Progress Update 2021 – SDG 6 – water and sanitation for all, Geneva.

4 UN-Water (2021), ibid.

5 UNICEF/WHO (2018), Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Schools: Global baseline report 2018.

6 WHO (2020), Global progress report on water, sanitation and hygiene in health care facilities: fundamentals first, Geneva.

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

Sida's support is grounded in the fact that safe water and sanitation are essential to the realization of all human rights and is also characterized by poor people's perspectives on development. Sida's support to the water sector focuses on safe drinking water supply, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) as well as support to water sector policy and administrative management (Figure 1). Sida also supports water resources conservation and rehabilitation of waters and prevention of water contamination. Sida's work with provision and access to water and sanitation, aims primarily at improving direct access to services for people living in poverty, and by promoting more democratic and effective institutions. Support to water policy and administrative management focuses on work within legislation, planning and management as well as the transboundary management of water; institutional capacity development and activities in line with the IWRM. Since most of the world's water resources are shared by two or more countries, conflict prevention and cooperation are essential in Sida's work within the sector. The worsening impact of climate change and recurrent water-related disasters make risk reduction, adaptation and enhancing resilience critical and integrated aspects of the water and sanitation portfolio.

SIDA'S SUPPORT

In 2022, Sida disbursed SEK 652 million to the water and sanitation sector (as per OECD DAC definition) through four global-, three regional- and seven bilateral strategies (Figure 2) making up approximately 2.7 percent of Sida's total disbursements. This is a decrease by 40 percent of the share compared to the average of 2018 and 2019. A major change in the portfolio is a large increase from the strategy *Reform cooperation with the Eastern Europe 2021–2027*, mitigating part of the decrease from other strategies to the sector as a whole.

Approximately 55 percent of Sida's overall support to water and sanitation programs in 2022 was distributed through multilateral organizations, approximately 20 percent through non-governmental organizations and civil society and 25 percent of the support was distributed through public-private-partnerships (PPPs), public sector institutions and universities, research institutions etc. In 2022, approximately 71 percent of all contributions had climate change adaptation as a principal or significant objective but lower for gender (62 percent), democracy and human rights (50 percent) and conflict prevention (31 percent) which is also a substantial decrease since 2021.

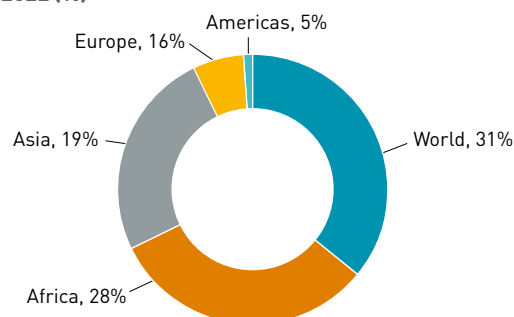
A large part of the decrease in the markers can be explained by the larger proportion of the strategy *Reform cooperation with the Eastern Europe 2021–2027* with contributions having significant lower scores in the markers than the average contribution in the portfolio.

Sida's global support in 2022 to organizations such as the World Bank, UNICEF, Water Integrity Network, and WaterAid; reflects Sweden's strong commitment to joint global efforts for achieving universal access to WASH. This supports improved access to WASH in schools and health care facilities. Lack of access to adequate water and sanitation facilities, can lower attendance and educational achievement in schools. It is impossible to deliver quality health care services without reliable access to safe water and sanitation facilities.

Sida also provided important financial support to organizations working within water resources management, transboundary water management and water governance, such as CIWA, AMCOW, UN-Water, Stockholm International Water Institute, Global Water Partnership Organization, UNDP, EcoPeace, and other global, regional and bilateral organizations. These collaborations all contribute to a better management of our increasingly scarce water resources and water related ecosystems to ensure environmental safety and sustainable development in an increasingly volatile climate.

In addition, Sida's supports organizations outside the water and sanitation sector that contribute to the achievement of SDG 6 and its sub-targets. In 2022, Sida supported organizations in sixteen additional sectors, the two largest being *Emergency response and General environment protection*, that were assessed as being highly relevant for achieving SDG 6 (targeting at least one SDG 6 sub-target).

FIGURE 2: GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF DISBURSEMENT IN 2022 (%)



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