



Migration and Development

Strengthened synergies between development assistance and migration policies

SUMMARY

In 2025 Sida increased its work on migration with an enhanced focus on strengthening synergies between development assistance and Swedish migration policy. During 2025, the level of funding towards migration increased substantially and a total of SEK 681 million was disbursed. Sida implemented the strategy for 'Sweden's global development cooperation on migration, returns and voluntary repatriation 2024–2028' with a total volume of SEK 3 billion, including 350 million SEK for 2025. In addition, 10 other development strategies with migration-related goals were implemented. This has led to an increase in the total number of interventions and new partnerships. Sida mainly collaborated with multilateral partners. New partnerships with civil society and Swedish authorities were also initiated. Sida's development programs on migration were implemented with two main aims: i) to reduce irregular migration through strengthened asylum and migration management, and ii) to enhance conditions for safe and dignified return, voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration.



DEVELOPMENT IN THE WORLD

Multiple migration drivers; conflict, persecution, economic pressure and environmental changes overlap, and affect migratory routes.¹

Regular migration pathways are not available to all individuals. Without safe pathways migrants are pushed into irregular migration with risk of trafficking.²

UN estimated 304 million international migrants worldwide by 2024, including 168 million labour migrants and 37 million refugees.³ In addition, 83 million people were internally displaced inside their country.⁴

In 2025 durable solutions increased, including return and voluntary repatriation. 10 million displaced people returned to their countries or places of origin. Over 8 million of them were internally displaced people.^{5,6} Return in difficult security conditions risk renewed displacement, or re-migration.⁷

MAIN AREAS OF SUPPORT

In 2025, Sida increased its work on migration with a focus on strengthening synergies between development assistance and Swedish migration policy. Sida implemented the strategy for 'Sweden's global development cooperation on migration, returns and voluntary repatriation 2024–2028' with a total of SEK 3 billion for the entire period, including 350 million SEK for 2025.

The implementation was directed to the following countries prioritised by the Swedish Government: Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Iraq, Lebanon, Somalia, Syria, Turkey, and Uzbekistan, and to four migration routes; Central Mediterranean route, Silk Route, Western Balkan route and Eastern Mediterranean route.

In addition, Sida implemented migration-related goals in two thematic, two bilateral and six regional strategies. At the regional level, goals were included in the strategies for Africa, the Syria crisis, the Middle East and North Africa, South East Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe. At the bilateral level, migration goals were included in the strategy for Ukraine and the strategy for Kenya.

Sida's work with the so called 'nexus approach' is particularly important, as it links long-term aid, conflict management, and humanitarian efforts.⁸ This can contribute to creating conducive conditions for return and reintegration.

SIDA'S SUPPORT

The increased number of strategies with migration-related goals has led to a sharp increase in the level of funding and number of partnerships in total for migration. Disbursements to the thematic area of migration increased from SEK 400 million in 2024 to SEK 681 million in 2025 and represents approximately 3 per cent of Sida's total budget. This has led to an increase in the total number of interventions and new partnerships. Sida mainly collaborated with multilateral partners, such as the UN migration organization International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the UN Refugee agency (UNHCR), in priority regions. New partnerships with civil society and Swedish authorities were also initiated.

1 International Organization for Migration (IOM), Apr 20 2026. DTM Global Overview of Migration Routes (2025). IOM, Global.

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

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

4 Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2025 Global Report on Internal Displacement.

5 UNHCR, Global appeal 2026, p. 4. Accessed on UNHCR's webpage 2026-01-07.

6 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.

7 International Organization for Migration (IOM), Apr 20 2026. DTM Global Overview of Migration Routes (2025). IOM, Global.

8 The funding under the Humanitarian strategy for support to protection of refugees, IDPs and vulnerable migrants is not included in this portfolio overview.

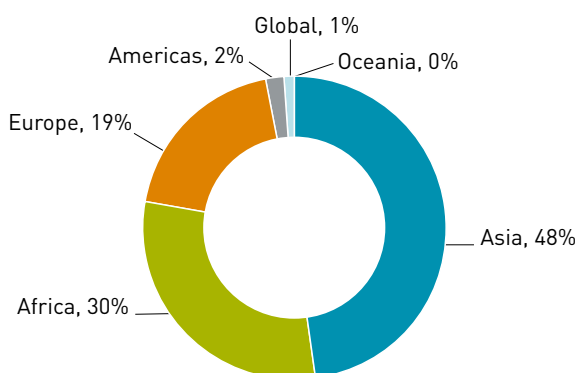
Results

MIGRATION PORTFOLIO

Sida supported a broad portfolio of development programs with the main geographical distribution of disbursements towards Asia, including Middle East.

Development assistance in the area of migration supports capacity building, systems strengthening, involving the local community as well as vulnerable individuals, through a holistic and often multi-sectorial approach.

FIGURE 1. GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE SUPPORT TO MIGRATION



Examples of support:

- **Migration Statistics Programme in Africa** by Swedish statistics (SCB) and STATAFRIC, with the aim to strengthen the capacity of regional and national institutions on migration data as a basis for planning and migration management.
- **Civil Documentation Project in Iraq** by IOM, with the aim to facilitate access to civil and identity documentation as well as housing, land and property rights for internally displaced people and returnees.
- **Management of mixed movements in the MENA region** through a route-based approach by UNHCR, with the aim to strengthen the migration and asylum management capacity across nine countries in the region.
- **Digital, Inclusive and Accessible Service Provision in Ukraine** by UNDP during 2023-2027 for facilitating digital identity and services to internally displaced persons.
- **Conditions for return and resilience in Syria** by IOM supports data collection on movement patterns and housing, land, and property rights, support for displaced persons, returnees and communities focusing on social cohesion, legal advice, civil documentation, and rehabilitation of homes during 2025-2026.

Another key development component in the migration portfolio is the **secondment of senior and junior experts** (JPOs) to IOM and UNHCR, in order to strategically contribute to the work on priority migration routes, with placements in Addis Abeba, Nairobi, Cairo, Geneva and New York.

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