



# Health and SRHR

Improved health for the most vulnerable

Health is one of the seven priorities for the Swedish Government and Sida, where sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and health system strengthening (HSS) are priorities. Investments in health are critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to fulfilling the global commitments of Agenda 2030. The world's global health has improved tremendously in the last century, but progress has stagnated and even regressed in recent years. Armed conflicts and climate change are important factors for these setbacks. Inequalities between women and men are linked to many challenges within global health, such as SRHR, but inequities between and within countries are also pushing progress further away from the SDGs. In 2025, Sida disbursed approximately SEK 1.9 billion on health, including SRHR, which represents almost 8.4 per cent of Sida's total development support. This calculation does not include research around health, nor humanitarian support.



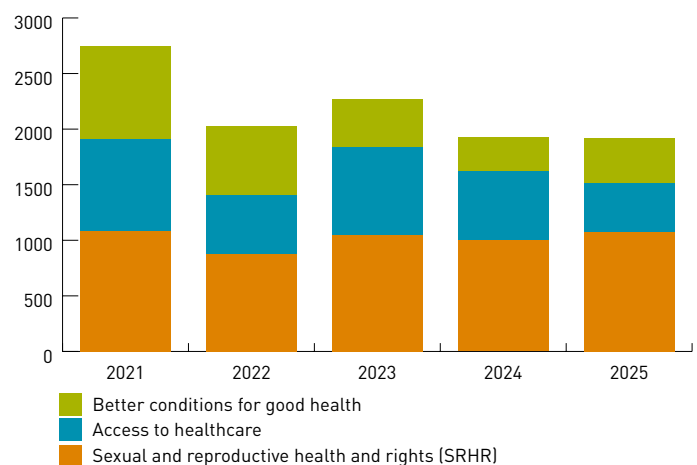
## DEVELOPMENT IN THE WORLD

Over the last two centuries, life expectancy has doubled globally at all ages. In the 1950s, many parts of the world had improved tremendously, while people in other parts of the world were still struggling with poverty, ill-health and high mortality.<sup>1</sup> A wide range of developments have since then reduced the gap between people, many of them directly related to health, others cross-cutting with improvements in education and living standards, poverty reduction and economic growth.<sup>2</sup> Non-communicable diseases are now corresponding to over 70 per cent of global deaths.<sup>3</sup> Due to targeted interventions and investments, maternal and child mortality rates have dropped by 40 and 52 per cent respectively since the year 2000.<sup>4,5</sup>

In parallel, armed conflicts and natural disasters have displaced a record number of people from their homes.<sup>6</sup> Over 4.6 billion people, more than half of the world's population, still lack full access to essential health services.<sup>7</sup> A woman still dies every two minutes from pregnancy or childbirth.<sup>8</sup> Over the last couple of years, opposition and threats against those defending human rights, gender equality, SRHR and LGBTQI persons rights has grown

stronger.<sup>9,10</sup> Simultaneously, air pollution claims a life every five seconds<sup>11</sup> and deaths due to antimicrobial resistance (AMR) are predicted to increase by 70 per cent by 2050 amongst the oldest population.<sup>12</sup>

FIGURE 1. DISBURSEMENT BY SUB-AREA 2025 (MILLION SEK)



## MAIN AREAS OF SUPPORT

Out of Sida's total disbursements 2025, SEK 1.914 million was in support of improved health for the most vulnerable. This amount corresponds to 8.4 per cent of the total disbursements by Sida. Other areas of development cooperation that also contribute to the creation of better conditions for health are not included in this calculation, such as support to health research, and humanitarian support to health, including mental health support and psychosocial support.

1 Max Roser (2018). "Twice as long — life expectancy around the world" Published online at OurWorldinData.org. Accessed 23 March 2026

2 S, Dattani, et al. (2023). "Life Expectancy" Published online at OurWorldinData.org Accessed 23 March 2026

3 S, Dattani, et al. (2023) "Causes of Death" Published online at OurWorldinData.org. Accessed 24 March 2026

4 WHO et al. (2025). Trends in maternal mortality estimates 2000 to 2023: estimates by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank Group and UNDESA/ Population Division. Geneva. p 15

5 UNICEF (2024). Levels & Trends in Child Mortality, Report 2024. Accessed at UNICEF's webpage 25 March 2026

6 ICPD30 and UNFPA (2024), The Future of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. New York: UNFPA. p 5

7 WHO et al. (2025). Tracking universal health coverage: 2025 global monitoring report Geneva: Accessed at the World Health Organisation's webpage 22 March 2026.

8 WHO et al. (2025). Trends in maternal mortality estimates 2000 to 2023: Geneva: World Health Organisation. p 15

9 UNRISD and UN-Women (2025). Understanding Backlash Against Gender Equality: Evidence, Trends and Policy Responses. Geneva: Retrieved 23 March 2026 from UN Women's webpage: knowledge hub on gender equality.

10 Amnesty (2023). Amnesty International and an unstoppable movement: A global call to recognise and protect those who defend the right to abortion. p 3

11 WHO (2024). World Health Day: My Health, My right, Geneva, 7 April 2024. Accessed: 26 March 2026

12 The Lancet (2024), Global Burden of antimicrobial resistance 1990-2021: a systematic analysis with forecasts to 2050. Page 1209,1213

## Results

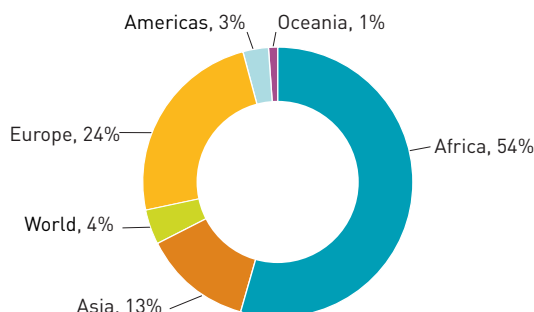
The area Improved health for the most vulnerable encompasses three categories: 1) Access to health care 2) Better conditions for good health and 3) Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). Most funding within the thematic area, 56 per cent, was allocated to contributions for comprehensive SRHR. Contributions to strengthen access to health care – mainly through primary healthcare – were approximately 23 per cent, and contributions towards better conditions for good health, 21 per cent [see Figure 1 on the previous page].

### SIDA'S SUPPORT

In 2025, Improved health for the most vulnerable existed as a thematic area in 11 of the government's 41 strategies with 22 strategic goals. An additional 13 strategies included health or SRHR related sub-goals under goals such as gender equality, democracy and human rights or education. About half of the health funding, 52 per cent, was directed to multilateral organisations, a decrease compared to previous years, in accordance with the Swedish Government's Reform Agenda, adopted in 2023. This is in contrast with disbursements to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), that have increased to 41 per cent, while total support to the public sector, universities, and research institutions have remained below 10 per cent. Flexible support and pooled programmes and funds received 63 per cent of the disbursements, followed by project-support, 36 per cent. In addition, Sida had five guarantees contributing to health and SRHR in 2025.

The implementation of the thematic strategy for health and SRHR (35 per cent) and the regional strategy for SRHR in Africa (33 per cent) contributed to the largest disbursements, followed by the bilateral strategies for Ukraine (18 per cent), Myanmar (3.3 per cent) and DR Congo (2.8 per cent). Geographically, the majority of the contributions for health and SRHR were implemented in Africa, with 54 per cent (Figure 2).

FIGURE 2. GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF DISBURSEMENTS 2025



### EXAMPLES OF SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- Through Sida's support to Frontline AIDS, over 900 people received care in mobile treatment clinics at 36 different locations in Ukraine.<sup>13</sup>
- In war-torn Sudan, with a record high number of internally displaced people, Sida has – through a multilateral partnership with UNFPA in the country – contributed to the provision of lifesaving care through mobile clinics and emergency and healthcare facilities.<sup>14 15</sup>
- Through support to the Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS), over 60,000 men and women have increased their knowledge and awareness about SRHR. Many are now advocating for SRHR.<sup>16</sup>
- WHO and UNICEF have jointly coordinated the work to build the foundation for Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in Bangladesh, by strengthening primary health care. Sida's bilateral support has contributed to a considerable increase in the utilisation of primary health services. Integrated diagnostics, referral management, and digitalisation of medical files have all significantly improved care-seeking behaviour and continuity of care.<sup>17</sup>
- In DRC, with one of the world's highest rates of maternal deaths, access to SRHR has been strengthened through the education of 140 midwives in 2025, with another 55 graduating in the spring of 2026.<sup>18</sup>
- To meet the increased resistance towards SRHR, IPAS were able – through its flexible support from Sida – to expand abortion access in 17 countries through 89 policy changes.<sup>19</sup>

13 Sida (2026) Insats 15553, Frontline AIDS, Beslut om ändring av insats Döx-dokument 22/001052-119

14 Sida (2026). Rapport om verksamhet och resultat för Strategin för Sveriges utvecklingssamarbete med Sudan, 2018-2026 p 13

15 Example from the Strategy for Sweden's humanitarian assistance 2025-2029

16 Sida (2026). Rapport om verksamhet och resultat för strategi för Sveriges regionala utvecklingssamarbete med MENA 2024-2027. p 39

17 Sida (2026) Rapport om verksamhet och resultat för Strategi för Sveriges utvecklingssamarbete med Bangladesh 2021-2025 p 24

18 Sida (2026). Rapport om verksamhet och resultat för Strategi för Demokratiska republiken Kongo 2021-2026. p 18

19 IPAS (2025). Ensuring bright futures. IPAS Impact report 2025, IPAS. p 4

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